



# NEWSLETTER

wmflyfishing.com

Established 1996

P.O. Box 2187, Pinetop, AZ 85935

August 2015

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## WMFFC Mission Statement:

*The Mission Statement of the White Mountain Fly Fishing Club is: "To assist in the development and maintenance of fly fishing opportunities and to promote and participate in fly fishing in its many forms." We support the practice of "Catch and Release." We support the use of barbless hooks and harmless netting-and-release practices. Fish should never be held out of water for longer than you can hold your breath.*

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## ----- "Tight Lines" ---- President's Column -----

### *Who is this guy who is our new president?*

Most of you know me as your former Newsletter Editor, membership chairman, or board member. Here is a little bit more of my background. I have not been fly fishing all that long ..... 5 years to be exact. I started to fly fish on the same date I moved permanently to the White Mountains (Summer 2000). But I have been trout fishing most of my life. I grew up in California at edge of the Sierra-Nevada Mountains where I had access to 3 great rivers within a 40 minute drive. We would fish bait (worms from the back pasture or live grasshoppers from the garden). Since I have not been fly fishing all my life, I would not call myself an "expert" ... more like an "intermediate". My best friend tried to get me started in fly fishing in California back in the early 1990's, but I didn't get much further than breaking off dozens of flies in my back yard trying to learn to cast. My formal background is Mechanical/Marine engineering. So therefore, I'm right at home using stress analysis or dynamic equations to study fly rod dynamics as much I am at setting the hook. I prefer to fish creeks or rivers, like where I grew up, but here in the White Mountains I have learned to fly fish lakes because there is not much choice.

As far as a direction for the club, I see us keeping up the core fundamentals: Monthly meetings and Monthly outings with the emphasis on getting new / younger members and more women involved. I would like to see us do more in Education or Training. i.e. fly casting lessons at the pond at least 2 times a year, Fly fishing 101 for beginners, along with the established fly tying lessons we already have. Of course we can't do anything new without club member support.

We already have well established Community Service: Project Healing Waters and the San Juan River Trip for Vets. We also have a good Conservation program to support AZ Game & Fish and the White Mountain Lakes Foundation. I am trying to think of ways to spice up the monthly meetings. Any ideas

are welcome.

Lastly, I would like to say the most important reason for me for fly fishing is the comradery of fellow fly fishers. Catching fish is fun ... i.e. "the tug is the drug"... but the most important thing is the new friends I've met through fly fishing. I could tell you countless fishing experiences over the last 5 years while fly fishing here in Arizona or NM, CO, WY, UT, MT, and ID. But the ones that really stick are the friends I met.

..... **Steve Hofmann, President** .....

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## Announcements

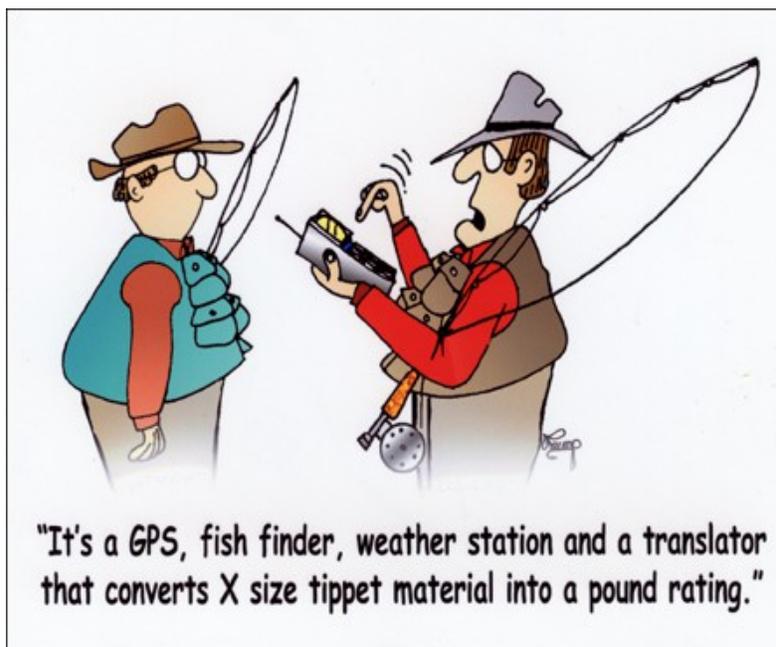
**August Speaker:** Cinda Howard, professional Guide in the White Mountains of AZ. She will be speaking about the streams & lakes of the White Mountains.

**September Speaker:** Dale Tuhlman, a local taxidermist. He will talk about preserving and mounting trophy fish and other game.

## For Sale

**Richard Hegener** – (928) 242-1537

- TFO Lefty Kreh Signature II fly rod – 9' 5wt 2pc asking \$95 (list \$120)
- Echo fly rod – 9' 5wt 4pc asking \$100 (list \$120)
- Both for \$180



## *Little Bear Lake ..... by Mike Styvaert*

We are blessed with places to fish the year around here in the White Mountains. But after the snow melts and more lakes and streams open, serious fishing really starts for most of us. One of the first lakes to become fishable in a conventional way is Little Bear, despite it's nearly 30 foot depth, due to its lower elevation. The steep banks demand some type of water craft for fly fishing. Each fall the lake is planted with Rainbows who grow during the winter into the 10 to 11 inch hold-overs we catch in the spring. Of course the best fishing is shortly after ice out. Later in the summer, the lake becomes packed with campers, but there is usually still a decent evening rise. In the fall, when the campsites are empty, fishing is dominated by the planters destined to become next year's hold-overs. But for those who are persistent, that is the time for targeting the few resident Brown Trout. Do not expect wall hanging trout of any species. The lake receives too much pressure to be a big fish lake. But it can be a source of good action at various times throughout the year.

Spring fishing seems to be best with a olive Stillwater Nymph (Denny Rickards style) or similar fly in size 12 or 14. Go straight north from the launch ramp and work the 15 to 20 foot depth contour along the facing shore with a type 4 or similar sinking line. Work your way east until you are between the north point and the east cliffs. You should find fish suspended from 12 to 20 feet in this deep area.

In the summer, fishing is best during the last hour of light. Most of the boats, canoes, and assorted rafts have returned to their campgrounds to eat dinner. There is a general rise throughout the lake. Some of the better spots however are 50 yards in front of the dam, and the entrance to the shallow cove at the south-east corner. Any good midge dry fly in 18 to 22 works. For others, an unweighted Partridge and Peacock in size 14 or an unweighted Prince Nymph or similar in a size 16, fished right under the surface with a floating line should result in double digit catches. As casting is pretty much to rising fish which are close by, a one weight through 3 weight excels at this. Once again, the fish will be "catchable stockers" by U.S. Fish and Wildlife's standards, so do not expect anything large. But landing 2 dozen fish in an hour so close to home can be very satisfying.

In the fall, you still have "stockers" but that is when the Brown Trout migrate from the depths and prowl the shallows. Most of these are smaller and a 4 pound fish would be a real trophy from here. And unlike unicorns, they do exist. Use a 5 or 6 weight rod with floating line and any large streamer in size 6 or 4 that works for you. The traditional fishing spots are the north corner of the dam and the adjacent shore with the sunken logs, and the mouth of the inlet creek at the extreme upper end over the sunken logs and rocks. Use a leader of 3 feet of 20 pound test and 2 to 3 feet of 10 or 12 pound test. It seems these fish never hit unless you are retrieving alongside a log or rock. And even a 16 inch Brown will tie a double half hitch around any handy object in mere nanoseconds. If you are fortunate enough to hook and land a Brown, just remember to let it go promptly as the population there depends solely on natural reproduction.

Little Bear is a hard fished relatively small and deep lake close to civilization. But it can be rewarding, especially at the above times and places, with the tackle and methods described.

## ***Casting Pond Maintenance ..... by Steve Hofmann***

On August 10<sup>th</sup> a team of 13 volunteers did maintenance on the club casting pond at the Mountain Meadows sports complex. The maintenance included weed eating the water front a couple days before and then laying down a new fabric over the old fabric. We then covered over the new fabric with ~ 22 yards of new wood chips. See the pictures below. We shall be ready for casting lessons at the pond next spring or later in the fall this year. Thanks to the following volunteers: Bob Henry, Bob Bowers, Dennis Jones, Kevin Widner, Wayne Richardson, Chris Rowland, Gary Hall, Richard Dryer, Bob Bowers, Don Gage, Gerry Wiemelt, Ted Lane and Steve Hofmann. (If I missed anyone, please excuse my poor 70<sup>+</sup> memory.)



New fabric being placed



New fabric being nailed down



Wood chips being distributed



Job well done

## *Nature Center*

Steve & Ellen Hofmann set up a table and spoke at the Nature Center “discovery Programs” on July 18<sup>th</sup>. The club sponsored a table at the event. Being a sponsor at the Nature Center was good PR for the Club and there is a potential for new members. Several cub scouts and parents got fly casting lessons. We also showed the public how to remove hooks out of your hand with the plastic fake hands. Below are pics of the event.



## *Project Healing Waters – Round 4*

On July 7<sup>th</sup> club members Bob bowers, Barry Curseaden, Steve Hofmann, and Ted Lambert met with 4 of the vets in the 2015 Project Healing waters program at the club casting pond at the Mountain Meadows sports complex for casting lessons. Ted Lambert brought sandwiches for a picnic before the lessons began. See pics below.



Bob Bowers instructing Jody Reidenhour



Barry and Rob Javey practicing casting

## ***Project Healing Waters – Round 5***

On July 14th club members Barry Curseaden, Bob Henry, Dennis Jones and Steve Hofmann met at the Pinetop Country club for fishing lessons at one of the golf course ponds. Vets Len Croteau and Kevin Widner were present. The pond was loaded with perch and bass. Every one caught fish after fish with dry flies or poppers. After fishing until dark the group had dinner at Len's house near the course. Thank you Len and your wife for hosting for dinner!

The fishing outing for the Vets that was scheduled for the Greer area private ponds was canceled due to bad weather.



One of Kevin's many fish



Len with a monster

## ***July Monthly Meeting Minutes; .....Submitted by Ellen Hofmann***

**Meeting called to order:** July 15<sup>th</sup> at ~6:30 by Bob Dennis Jones, President

**Membership Chairman:** Ted Lane was ill. Ellen Hofmann introduced the new members: Ed Hurlbut (has been a member in the past), Mike and Irene Beinholt, Rick Snedden and Joanne Mayo

**President announcements:** Dennis Jones introduced the speaker of the night, club member Dr. Gary Hall.

It was reported that Bob Bowers had successful knee surgery.

**Newsletter:** Any articles or pictures send them to Ted Lane. If you are going to send a newsletter article from a website, please paraphrase it before sending it in and keep it to less than one page.

**Election Committee:** Bob Henry announced there were 30 valid votes casted and all were unanimously for slate presented by the Board.

President: Steve Hofmann

Secretary: Ellen Hofmann

Board Member at Large: Barry Curseaden

Steve Hofmann spoke briefly about what he sees as the future of the WMFFC.

**Treasurer:** Doris Miller announced that 2016 dues were due and they are \$15 until the January meeting in 2016.

**Banquet Report:** Gary Miller announced that he and Doris will organize the Banquet again next year. There were some Fly Tying Bobbins left over from the banquet and will be sold to the club members at the monthly meetings at a very reduced price.

**Project Healing Waters:** Ted Lambert was out of town and Barry Curseaden gave an update of the PHW coming events. There is a fly fishing event planned at Pinetop country club ponds along the golf course. Another fly fishing outing is planned in Greer on July 25<sup>th</sup> at a private location. At the time of the meeting Barry already had enough volunteers.

Barry also gave an update on the planned outing for the "Wounded Veterans" to the San Juan River in October. The event will take place October 12-15. This year besides having it for the Veterans, the WMFFC is trying to make it a club event and have more club members attend.

**Monthly Outing:** The monthly club outing is going to be at Big Lake.

**Library:** We still need a volunteer for the library items. I.e. bring the box of books and CD's to the meetings.

**Conservation Chair report:** Mike Styvaert was not present but Dennis Jones gave an update on the following projects:

1: Tiger Trout: The tiger trout has arrived in Arizona and will be stocked in the spring of 2016 in several lakes. Stay posted on the progress of this project.

2: Restocking small creeks by AZF&G: AZF&G has two Whitlock-Vibert boxes at this time and are looking into using them for restocking small streams. The Vibert boxes were supplied to AZF&G by a club member.

3: Hawley Lake: Repair of the dam is not completed yet and the dam is still closed to all traffic.

4: Inlet canal and outlet pipe valve on dam at Carnero Lake are repaired.

**Casting Pond:** On August 10 after the weekly breakfast at RT Bull's, we need volunteers to help lay out new fabric and wood chips at the casting pond near the Mountain Meadows sports complex. Please consider volunteering.

**Board Meetings:** There was a board meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup> at RT Black Bull's restaurant at ~ 9:00am. The Minutes were already e-mailed to all club members.

**Raffle:** Raffle was conducted

**Fish Tales** were told

**Monthly Speaker:** The meeting was concluded with speaker Dr. Gary Hall talking about fishing the Sea of Cortez around Guaymas, Mexico

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm

***Club Activities planned for 2015 are:***

WMFFC Club Activities for 2015 without monthly meeting/outing	
Month	Dates
March	5
March	12
March	19
March	26
April	6-9
April	11
May	22-23
June	5
Oct	TBD
Dec	TBD
TBD	Various dates

***The Outings Scheduled for 2015 are:***

<u>Month</u>	<u>Designated Lake</u>
<b>March</b>	<b>Horseshoe Cienega</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Rainbow Lake</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Christmas Tree 23rd-24th</b>
<b>June (Banquet)</b>	<b>Silver Creek</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>Big Lake</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>Show Low Lake</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>Reservation Lake</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>San Juan river trip</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Sunrise Lake</b>

## ***2014-2015 WMFFC Board Members***

<b>President:</b>	Steve Hofmann	(623) 262-7491
<b>Past-President:</b>	Dennis Jones	(928) 367-6124
<b>Vice President:</b>	Ted Lambert	(928) 537-2115
<b>Secretary:</b>	Ellen Hofmann	(623) 451-6027
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Doris Miller	(602) 439-3262
<b>Board Member #1:</b>	Barry Curseaden	(623) 398-5242
<b>Board Member #2:</b>	Gary Miller	(602) 478-0883
<b>Board Member #3:</b>	Don Gage	(602) 973-1886
<b>Membership Chairman:</b>	Ted Lane	(520) 465-7789
<b>Conservation Chairman:</b>	Mike Styvaert	(928) 369-0092
<b>Newsletter Chairman:</b>	Ted Lane	(520) 465-7789
<b>Outings Chairman:</b>	Keith Spain	(520) 235-7206
<b>IFFF Representative:</b>	Gary Miller	(602) 478-0883

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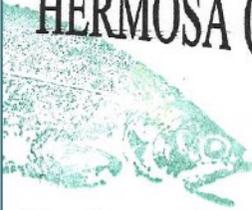
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