
NEWSLETTER

Established 1996

We Support Catch and Release

September 2011

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.

"Tight Lines"—President's Column:

(This issue's Tight Lines is submitted by our Vice President as our President is off fishing Waters in the North West.)

August has come to a close and what a great fishing month it was. Sharing at the meeting and when chatting with individuals indicated that there were many different favorite locations to catch large numbers and big fish. That is why we love the White Mountains, so many great opportunities. As we move into September it will only get better. The lowering of lake and stream temperatures tells the fish it is time to pig out and prepare for the winter. The fun is just beginning.

One great way to experience these opportunities is by joining the club outings. They are held at great locations to fish, lunch is always super with the grills burning hot, the super side dishes and deserts everyone brings to share along with the fellowship of folks also caught by the fishing bug. I remember a line from the book "The Earth is Enough" it is "Don't teach that boy to fish! When he catches a fish, the fish will have caught him." I would like to offer special thanks to Ted Lambert who has organized and overseen the outings this year. Ted has done a wonderful job of picking locations and sponsors for the outing. He could use a few more sponsors for the months ahead. Step up and volunteer.

A number of you have mentioned how much you enjoyed the presentation of Jack Houck in August. Georganne will have detail notes from his presentation finalized and in our next newsletter. Jack has offered to give a presentation early next year on fishing for bass in Arizona. I will keep that in our presentation plan.

See you folks at the September meeting and the outing at Sunrise Lake.

Jerry Myers

Vice President

WMFlyFishing.com



2011 WMFFC Board Members

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September 21st Monthly Meeting at 6:30PM

Agenda:

- Social Hour - (5:30PM) (*Buy your Raffle Tickets!!!*)
- Call to Order -- (6:30PM)
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introduction of Guests and New Members
- Committee Reports
- Business
- Fish Tales
- Raffle
- **Program** - Presentation by **Mike Lopez of Arizona Game and Fish** on the **status of the lakes and streams after the Wallow Fire**. Mike will assess the good points and the issues where our club can be of assistance. This will also be a great opportunity to get any of your questions about the Lakes and streams addressed by Arizona Game and Fish. In addition to Mike we will have a short presentation on the White Mountain Lakes Foundation, its goals and objectives. The White Mountain Lakes Foundation has been the organization which has processed the funds donated by our club and others around the state to establish the Lake Host facilities at Becker Lake.

For our October meeting we will have the opportunity to here from **Steve Berry** about the **San Juan River**. As you may already know the San Juan River is one of the top rated fisheries in the western United States. Known for it's consistently cold water and consistently big fish. Steve is a native Arizonan who has worked part time for Arizona Fly Fishing and currently for Orvis. More about the San Juan River and Steve's presentation in our next newsletter.

2011 Outings and & Events...Ted Lambert, Outings Chairman

AUGUST OUTING AT BIG LAKE—Ted Lambert, Outing Sponsor

As the day dawned, it didn't look like a very good day to go fishing. It was overcast and looked like it could start raining at any minute. But, thankfully, it didn't scare many off, because we had a good turnout. It threatened once with dark clouds and thunder at a distance, but it cleared off and never did rain.

AUGUST OUTING (continued)

The fishing wasn't too bad; most everyone caught fish. Some of us just a couple, but then there was Bill Langdon, who caught so many he lost count. I watched Bill quite a bit, and he was fishing in three to six feet of water most of the time. He was using a sinking tip line, with a rather fast retrieve. Most of the time he was using a Peacock Lady with a red tail. In fact, of the couple of fish I did catch, one was on a Peacock Lady that Bill gave me. I did catch one on a Zebra Midge also. Some other flies mentioned that caught fish were Bead-head Brown Woolly Worm with a red tail, Prince Nymph and a Purple Leech.

The crawdad tournament sort of fizzled and was probably my fault. I told everyone how to bait their traps to catch them and it didn't work. After about three hours just sitting there, my trap didn't have a single crawdad in it. The only one I did catch was on my fly line. I also had a real big one on my fly line, but I thought it was a weed and when he came to the surface, he let go of my fly. Those who followed my advice didn't do a whole lot better than me. We ended with the grand total of two crawdads turned in, not even enough to warm up a pot of water to cook them. But still the same, Dick Murphy won First Place and so he is the Crawdad Champion for 2011.

The potluck lunch was the best! The food was great, but the fellowship was better. Some of the things we had for lunch was sautéed round steak with onions, polish sausage franks, smoked sausage franks, brats, baked beans, carrot salad, fruit salad, corn bread, cheese and crackers, chips and salsa, applesauce, assorted cookies, muffins and cake.

After lunch everyone just settled in to the conversation and lingered there enjoying the fellowship. A good time was had by all, with lots of fish stories.

Future Outings:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
September 24, 2011	Sunrise Lake	NEED VOLUNTEER!!!
October 22, 2011	Hawley Lake	NEED VOLUNTEER
November 12, 2011	Horseshoe Lake or Scott's Reservoir	NEED VOLUNTEER
December 11, 2011	Christmas Party at Licano's Restaurant	NEED VOLUNTEER

Treasurers Report ... Submitted by Dawn Hewitt, Treasurer

The bank balance as of August 29th is \$12,271.88. This will continue to increase as membership renewals that were due July 1st, keep trickling in.

August 17th Meeting Minutes... Submitted by Georganne Jannenga, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Membership: Dennis introduced new members Jack Nedridge, John and Elizabeth Vincent, Robert Bray, Jack Aldridge, and Tim and Sandi Farrell. Guests Ed Dowell, Bob Beshears & Nick Mees were also introduced.

Secretary's Report: Ross moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Mike seconded the motion. Last month's general membership minutes were approved.

President's Report: Jerry Myers stated that the annual financials were available on display to the general membership this evening. He then sent around the Fishin' Buddy sign-up list. The purpose is to share expenses, gas, etc. and for the newbies to learn how to fish. The Buddy List will be available on our website under "forms." You have to log-in to access for privacy reasons. Jerry asked Craig to make a final call for raffle tickets. There are raffle tickets available for the gun raffle too; to be raffled off at the Oct. 19th meeting. Jerry stated that there was a good turnout for the

August 17th Meeting Minutes (continued)

Reservation Lake outing with about 27 people attending. At the last meeting he mentioned the decals and license plates from High Country Signs. He had samples. The decal is 10 x 10 for \$9.95 and the license plates are \$14.95. You can also purchase smaller decals for cars via special order but don't leave a message on their machine. Jerry also mentioned that we can get our shirts, hats, jackets, etc. embroidered at the embroidery shop for \$7.50. It's in Lakeside and takes about 3 weeks. Jerry has her cards. He also had \$10 off coupons for Sportsman's Warehouse. It was mentioned that the weeds at the casting pond out at Mtn. Meadows need to be cut. There will be casting lessons, per Mike, starting at 3 p.m. on the Wednesday afternoons of our meetings. Dennis went out there today but no one showed up. Jerry then thanked Ken Wolf for his dedicated service to the Club. Ken thanked everyone who supported him the past two years and he gave out trout pins as awards to all the volunteers for their assistance. The various volunteers that were honored were those who helped with the Banquet, Healing Waters, fly-tying, Wildlife Festival, Casting for Recovery, Show Low Days, AZ DG F projects, the ADOT cleanup and for taking the 17 girls from the LDS church fishing. A gift of an engraved framed picture of a fly was then presented to Ken and pictures were taken for the newsletter.

Outings: Ted Lambert noted this coming weekend's trip was to Big Lake. There will be a "crawdad boil" and a prize for whoever brings in the most crawdads. You can get traps at WalMart. You should put your name/address and your fishing license # on a card in a plastic bottle, tied to the trap, like a float marker. For bait, hot dogs and chicken gizzards work well. Crawfish must be checked in by noon to count in the contest. We will boil them up, they turn red and are ready to eat. G & F has traps to check out and Mike also has some extra traps. Put your traps in 6 to 8 feet of water and have your net ready to catch the "stragglers." We will meet at the South Cove past the store on the dirt road. Turn right on the first paved road on the right. The directional signs will be set out. We will meet at the South Cove corner in the ramada. Bring a potluck dish to share. The Club will supply the drinks. There are gas grills. We have openings to host the various future outings.

Jerry asked that the members please get involved. Sept. is Sunrise Lake. Oct. is Hawley Lake. November is Horseshoe Lake or Scotts Reservoir, and December is our Christmas party.

Library: Gail said that members can check out library items for one month. There are a few items overdue, but overall cooperation has been good. We have the "Dalton Trail Lodge" and also a good DVD – an "Intro to Flycasting with Terry & Wendy Gunn."

Miscellaneous: Jerry sent a thank-you letter and an inventory of books for a tax deduction for a recent large donation to our Club. It was mentioned that we have a long list of donations and we need to start developing assets for our raffles and banquet but it becomes a storage problem. We have lots of fly-tying materials, etc. but Jerry had to turn down a canoe—no place to store it. Lee's Ferry plans to equalize the water, so September will be a good window for fishing with flows at 12000 CFU's. Fishing should be good because the flows will be down. There should be good wading right on Labor Day. Jerry also mentioned that Lake Powell is up 30 to 40 feet. The upper States determine the level. Every year it will drop by 10 feet.

Fish Tales: Lisle fishes every Tues., Thurs. & Sat. He was at Sunrise and used a bead head with a full sink line. Suggested a 3 to 5 second stutter strip and move it 2 to 3 inches; don't stop; keep the fly moving at all times. There's lots of fish. Ted reported on the Saltery Lake Lodge trip that he won. He spent one week in Kodiak, AK. He brought back six 50 lb. boxes of fish. He can do a future slide show for the Club. Our visitor from Prescott said he caught a 25" Rainbow on the surface using red and silver. Dennis said fish at Crescent are in deep water, caught an 18 ½ " Brook trout. Use Peacock Ladies and Chromies. At Sunrise the fish are shallow. Jerry got his boat out at Canero. Fishing was slow. Fish were in 2 – 3 ft. of water.

Raffle: The raffle was held. We are getting low on items so any donations are welcome. Craig can come pick them up.

Program: Jerry introduced **Jack Houck** from the Orvis Fly Shop in Scottsdale. Jack gave a presentation on the **Rim Lakes** at our August general meeting. Below are some of the highlights of his presentation.

The six **Rim Lakes – Bear Canyon, Knoll, Woods Canyon, Chevelon, Willow Springs and Black Canyon** – are all great for recreational fishing. They produce 250,000 fish a year and are only about an hour's drive from where we are in the Show Low area.

Black Canyon Lake is the only lake that is south of the 260. From Heber you go to 86 and it's 14 miles on dirt road; or take 260 to 300, 3 miles on 300 and then 86 in. Turn left after mile marker 292 on FR 300, and then 6 miles down the 300 rim road. It's a 2 wheel drive road. This is the only lake that died in the Rodeo-Chedeki fire because it had zero free oxygen and there was no way for any of the fish to survive. You can still see the effects of the fire. There is a deep area by the island that holds fish. There was an illegal introduction of bass. The bass are doing well @ 2 to 3 lbs. It's a 76-78 acre lake at 7160 feet elevation. The bass are at the end of the lake; the trout are in deeper water. You can't walk around this lake totally because of the logs. The water quality was poor but is getting better now. It's stocked with trout.

Willow Springs Lake is the second largest of these Rim lakes. It was the last one filled in 1967. It has two arms, an east and a west. Take Forest Service Road 149. It has an improved ramp and dock but no commercial activity. It is a 150 acre lake with lots of fish. There was an illegal introduction of smallmouth bass. Sardine Point divides the lake. Electric boats or 8 or 10 hp. motors are okay, as are float tubes and pontoons. There is a lot of activity from the paved road to the water's edge (i.e. power bait fisherman), but walk across the dam to the east side of the lake and it's a different world. Take 148 to Sardine Point as an alternate route and you can fish either arm. Fish for trout between the points; the fish are deep. There are tons of green sunfish. It is difficult to launch an aluminum boat from the back road though. The water quality is excellent. From mile marker 284 there is a dirt road access; 2 wheel drive is okay. Fish for bass in the stick-ups.

Woods Canyon Lake is 55 acres. It was the first lake constructed and even though it is the smallest it gets 40% of the stocking, or 100,000 fish. There are always lots of people on the south bank. Walk across the dam; there is cover on the other side that is great for dry fly-fishing. Use an elk hair caddis or a hopper or an ant. On all the rim lakes leave the dry out there for 3 minutes. Fishing close to the bank is okay. It is a 5 ¼ mile walk around the trail. On the north side there is a deep bank; 10 to 20 feet of water. Get on your hands and knees and cast sideways. Fish the back area early and late; it's dry fly heaven. There is an eagle's nest on that part of the lake which is closed off when there are fledglings, so fish the North side of the lake. You can take the 300 road for five paved miles. This is the only lake with a store with boat rentals. The tail end of the lake is good for dries. This lake fishes well in March, right after ice out and before stocking. Once it's, stocked you'll catch 10 to 11" fish, whereas before stocking you will catch much bigger fish. This lake is a sleeper!

Chevelon Lake is at 6380 feet elevation and is a 200 acre lake. It is the biggest as far as long and narrow. Take the bedrock road to the dam. You can take the 169 off the 300 and it's one mile down to the dam. This is the least accessible lake. Don't go as far as the campground. Take Forest Service Road 119 and when the road splits take 180 to the left; it's about 4 miles on a 4 wheel drive road. Take 180 to the end. There is a trail sign that says 1/4 mile. You can carry your tube down. This lake has special regulations. There is a slot limit; you can't possess fish between 10 and 14 inches. This is the only lake with a size restriction. Use flies and lures only. There are good browns and trout up to 30" long where the creek comes in. Don't take the dam way. There is an unimproved dry campground. There are more fish at this location. Take 119 to 180. The fire did not get to Chevelon.

Bear Canyon Lake is a 60 acre lake. It has less access because it is a long thin lake, but it is a well-developed lake. There is no place to launch a boat except that Game and Fish have a boat ramp at a locked gate. This is a hard bank to walk. Take 300 to mile marker 33 and watch for the fire tower on the right. It's just past the 208. It's 2 wheel drive. It's 1.8 miles from 300 to 208. There is a new message board. Take the trail by the message board, about 300 yards away. It's an easy trail; follow the blue diamonds on the trees. This is Jack's favorite place...the left body of water on the west. Fish by the stand of trees. Even if there is no top water action you can force fish to the surface. Leave your fly out there 1 to 3 minutes. It's not deep; you can wade. Use a 3 weight rod, hoppers, caddis flies; anything that floats. Pack out your garbage. This is a secret area as it's protected from the wind.

Knoll Lake was named because of its knoll. It's a 75 acre lake at 7340 feet elevation. Fish in the arms and the little cove. There are special regulations. From 9/1 to 3/31 there are no possession limits. You can keep all the fish you want. This lake is part of the Clear Creek drainage. The Fish and Wildlife are worried about the fish getting downstream. Take the 300 road to the boat ramp. There are beautiful vistas; you can see Zane Grey's cabin. There is a boat ramp but the road is bad for boats. Fish the cove across from the boat ramp.

Fishing the Rim Lakes – For all of the Rim Lakes, use a 3 to 6 weight rod with floating line or sink tip because they are not very deep. However, early in the year the fish are deep so fish a full sinking line then. Use 9 ft. fluorocarbon leaders, parachute adams, elk hair caddis, indicator ants, or use Jack's buggers with a black body and olive. They look like round tail chubs: size 14 flies and 5X tippet.

Jack finished up his presentation by saying that there are no stand-alone fly shops in the Valley anymore, in spite of the number of fly fishers living there. The Orvis shop in Scottsdale offers some great package trips. Saturday and Sunday a.m. there are free flycasting lessons.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

WMLF has grown to around 80-85 members now. They are always seeking new memberships, individuals, clubs, businesses, etc. If you know of someone who may be willing to help the cause, direct them to the website at www.wmlf.org. All membership fees are tax deductible.

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