



Payson Flycasters & TU Chapter 530 Newsletter



Expanding and Improving
Arizona's Native and Wild
Trout Fisheries

Issue 24

www.paysonflycasters.org

www.gilatroutr.org

August 23, 2020

Welcome to the August, 2020 issue of our newsletter! We hope you are staying safe and at least thinking about fishing. Watch some videos, try to catch a few panfish or bass in Green Valley Lakes. Get in your tube or rent a boat on Woods Canyon and go deep for trout there. Sign into our Saturday, August 29th Zoom meeting and hear what other members of the club and TU Chapter 530 have been catching locally. The log in for the 9 am meeting—which can be accessed by smart phone or tablet-laptop-desktop computer with WiFi is:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84006268306?pwd=ZDI3YIFubWJKT1MzNjdELzlw0pIdz09>

Meeting ID: 840 0626 8306

Passcode: 489848

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,84006268306#,,,,,0#,,489848# US (San Jose)

You can also look for the monthly email which has a link you can click on to join the meeting.

Club News: The August program is a combination of pictures and verbal conversations about fishing the East Verde, Lazy Trout in Greer and any other local or semi local trips. Let's catch up with each other. We also have a video of a Wyoming trip, with especially great dry-fly segments. September's program will feature Jim Strogen sharing about Silver Creek and an update on the National Park Service plans to have an incentivized harvest of Brown Trout on the Colorado River. A week after the meeting, Silver Creek will open up for catch and release fishing. The new pins and patches are in, more info about how to get one coming soon. Remember our plan is to use them to promote our beloved Gila Trout and generate some added cash to support the hatchery and other Gila Trout Restoration projects. Here are the designs. The patches are similar in construction to the Flycasters design. The pins are cast metal.



Patch



Pin

We Are Still Focused Raising Money for the Hatchery and the Potential of an Upper East Verde River Watershed Restoration Project

Remember the pictures from Jim Strogon of the bear tracks, raccoon tracks, and even Blue Heron tracks right near the Gila tank at the Canyon Creek Hatchery? The goal of collecting donations and from potential pin and patch sales is to create an electrified fence \$200, netting \$2,000, and \$4,000 of decking around the big blue tanks. Two raceway feeders at \$850 each and 12 tank feeders at \$250 each are also needed. Those are the main items, but there is always a wish list. If you haven't caught (and released) a Gila yet, give it a try as the forest is open again. Great fun and beautiful fish. Plus, see below in Joe Miller's Conservation Report that he, Jim Strogon and others are continuing to work with AZGFD and with Tonto NF on defining an expansion and continuation of the project work we've done on the East Verde. That will, hopefully, include an expanded area on Dude Creek and on Chase Creek and some small tributaries.

Remember the County Fair—September 10-12 Flycasters & Gila Chapter 530 Will Have a Booth

Gary Bedsworth is organizing our fair booth. We will promote our club and our chapter in a booth at the fair. We will share our positive energy around fly fishing in our beautiful Rim Country. We will tie flies, share Jim Strogon's bug collection, talk about classes we offer through the school program and Payson Parks and Rec and share information about gear and more. Are you up for spending a little time in the booth? See Gary's information and request for volunteers below:

PAYSON FLY CASTERS – NORTHERN GILA COUNTY FAIR SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2020

We will be have a booth at the northern Gila County Fair this year! Please join us Wednesday for setup—see below, Thursday, Friday and Saturday September 10, 11 and 12.

We will have the booth set up prior to Thursday night the 10th but attendance is, typically, very light Thursday night.

- The booth planning is underway, and we welcome participation. We have set up a steering committee that will consider suggestions by email. No meetings.
- New ideas & suggestions will be forwarded to the steering committee for consideration. Please respond with suggestions to: **Gary Bedsworth, gbedsworth@aol.com**.
- Initial planning – continuous video presentations at the booth, Payson Flycasters' brochures, hand-outs of visual material regarding Gila trout, fly tying, an auction for interested visitors, conservation and forest clearing information, if available.
- Auction – two tickets to fishing 101 with Jim Strogon, 2 Payson Flycaster hats, 2 Payson Flycasters tee-shirts.
- Possible sign up for casting lessons after the 101 class or for new members with limited experience. (potential instructors, besides me are needed.)

Due to the covid-19 pandemic:

- Masks will be required of all members and guests at the booth.
- Sanitizer for hands etc., will be available at the booth.

Kn95 masks have been ordered for booth workers. Specs: self-priming filter the same as n95 mask anti covid-19 virus mask surgical face mask anti-fog ffp2 breathing valve protective respirator. “quote from the web-site”, volunteers feel free to wear your own mask if desired.

1. A sign-up sheet is attached, please sign up for fly tying and or working the booth
2. Fill out the form with your name and phone number, save it to a file on your computer. Then send it to me. (your input will fill in lines)
3. I will fill out a master sheet and forward it to all participants the day before the fair.

Fly tyers please contact Gary Altman. Gea500@msn.com

Encourage women and young persons 10-17 to attend the fair and our booth.

Questions - contact Gary Bedsworth At the end of this newsletter is a sign up sheet all on one page to make it easy to print out for you and email or mail it to Gary Bedsworth.

August Fishing in Rim Country

Jim Strogen

Summer temperatures, conditions, and crowds make fishing tougher at this time of year. You can still catch fish, but you may have to adjust your strategies and when you go fishing.

• Rim Country Streams

Most Rim Country streams are under what I call “skinny water” conditions. They are running low and clear. That means that the fish will be much more wary, so stealth will be an important tactic to employ while fishing these streams. Fish from the bank as much as possible and watch for fish in different locations than when the stream is running faster and deeper.

A good example of this is the Upper East Verde. In the UEV what would pass as a pool, may only be a foot or two feet deep, but the fish are often not in the prime feeding locations in those pools. Instead, they are tucked under a rock or log where they can remain hidden from predators, yet lunge out to grab a passing insect only to return to their cover.

Under these conditions, I work on the lightest drop of my fly onto the water. Remember that at this time of year, terrestrials are an important food source for the trout.

Be on the lookout for poison ivy and snakes while moving along the banks. I am always cautious near overturned logs across the path.

The East Verde is the exception for Rim Country streams. Since the flow is controlled by what SRP deems appropriate for release from Cragin Reservoir, we have recently been fortunate to have a great flow in the EVR. I don't know if this is a strategy that SRP is using to maximize flow down the Verde system to avoid the Bush Fire impacted Salt River chain or not. In any case, the flows are great, and the water is cold. That is where you are likely to have the most fun fishing in August.

You can use bigger and heavier flies on the East Verde with the higher flows and the murkier water. Many Club members have caught Gilas on the top, while bead-heads, unweighted and weighted wooly buggers and leeches continue to work for me.

• Green Valley Lakes

There was a large crappie die off about a month ago in Lake 3. It did not impact the other species in the lake. While the town and AZGFD have tried to sort it out, they are still puzzled as to why only crappies were impacted, while pH, temperature, and DO measures all seemed to be at acceptable levels. I have recently caught a few crappies off the big dock in about 8-10 feet of water, so I was happy to see that some survived.

The bluegills have been very cooperative in lake 2 (along the south and west shore) and lake 3 all around the lake. Small bass are grabbing the damselflies and dragonflies right at the edge of the bank especially on the west end.

There are some very large grass carp in lake 2, that might be interested in a well placed fly.

These fish are incredibly skittish, so a careful approach coupled with sinking your fly where they are likely to move to forage is an effective strategy. If you hook one, be ready for the battle of your life. I had one on for 25 minutes that took me around 3/4 of the lake after jumping completely out of the water four times in the first fifty feet. I was way into my backing before recovering my line three times to the leader before the last run against the rocks at the end of the little boat ramp. I don't own a net big enough for one of those carp, so I was thrilled for the extended battle and the sudden departure.

• **Rim Lakes**

I generally avoid the Rim lakes during the summer due to crowds and the fact that the trout are deep in the middle of the day and outside of my range from shore with a floating line. I had fun catching a ton of green sunfish on a foam popper and an unweighted trailer nymph the last time I went with my older grandson to Willow Springs Lake. I also caught a few smallmouth (six to ten inches) on that same rig. I saw one trout the whole time we were fishing, and he was not interested in that rig at all. If you decide to go for trout from shore in the Rim Lakes then early morning or evening fishing will be your best shot at locating trout cruising close enough to shore to cast to. Otherwise a float tube fishing down fifteen feet or more will be your best bet.

Payson Fly Casters / Gila Trout TU Chapter Conservation Action Report August 2020

Greetings ALL ! - Hope All are well, and that All members and friends have been able to get out and fish at least a little, or even a Lot, since Tonto NF has reopened. Here's some of the latest on the Conservation side:

AZGFD Proposed Fishing Regulations Changes: PFC and GTTU fully support the Proposed AZGFD Regulation Changes for 2021 - 2022. We've sent a letter to the Department and to the AZGF Commission expressing that support, especially for the Catch and Release Only opening of the Dude Creek Gila Trout fishery. An individual letter/e-mail of support from any member would also be a great idea. They're due before **August 28**.

Payson Town Fire Wise Ordinance and Gila County Fire Restrictions Ordinance: The Town has just passed a Fire Wise Ordinance, Let's give the Fire Department Folks a hand with the implementation of this long-awaited effort. Likewise, Gila County has just updated its Ordinance on Fire Restrictions for when various levels of Tonto National Forest Access and fire restrictions are put in place. The intent is to make restrictions in the county more consistent with the TNF requirements, and also to be able to match different actions on different parts of the TNF.

4FRI: There's much going on, but much the same as last month's report. Aquatics Dialogs still progressing. One significant Change is the long-awaited Announcement of the Results for the Bids on timber thinning under the RFP Process have been delayed from "September" to "Late Fall". We'll keep you posted.

NEW!!! Just Released: Southwestern Region 3 of USFS: Riparian and Aquatic Ecosystem Strategy



Forest Service - Purpose of Strategy: Water is a precious resource in the Southwest. Growing human demand and a changing climate create an urgency to protect these natural resources on the National Forests and Grassland. Riparian and aquatic areas, the places where land and water meet, are home to a unique group of plants, birds, insects, reptiles, amphibians, fish and mammals. These areas are essential to sustain life for millions of people and wildlife and plant species. We are inviting our partners to work with us to implement this strategy which is based on goals and objectives that will help maintain and restore these invaluable areas.

This Strategy may be very important for many of our fisheries here in Arizona. The full Strategy is available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r3/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=fseprd601133>.

September PFC / GTTU Meeting Update on Lees Ferry Rainbow Trout Fishery & Colorado River Glen Canyon Dam Flows Management: Jim Stroger and likely a representative of the NPS will give us an Update on what's happening on the Colorado, Including the very latest on the NPS Brown Trout Control project. Jim will also be presenting on Fishing Silver Creek. It's that time of Year!

And Finally: Upper East Verde River Watershed Restoration Project: We are continuing to work with AZGFD and with Tonto NF on defining an expansion and continuation of the project work we've done on the East Verde. That expanded area will include work on Dude Creek and on Chase Creek and some small tributaries. We'll keep you posted and will be presenting a lot more detail soon. Contact: jamiller101@gmail.com.

**See Next Page for Sign Up Sheet for the Gila County Fair
Flycaster's Booth!**

**PAYSON FLYCASTER SIGN UP – 2020 NORTHERN GILA COUNTY
FAIR THURSDAY-SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10-12**

Email this Sign Up Sheet to Gary Bedsworth at gbedsworth@aol.com

Wednesday – set up 1 pm – 3 PM Gary Bedsworth

PHONE _____

PHONE _____

Personal notes _____

Thursday: 5 pm Gary Bedsworth PHONE: 928-970-1928

5 PM-8PM PHONE _____

Friday 10 am-2 pm PHONE _____

PHONE _____

RELIEF PHONE _____

Person notes : _____

2PM – 6PM PHONE _____

PHONE _____

RELIEF PHONE _____

Personal Notes: _____

SATURDAY 10 AM-2 PM PHONE _____

PHONE _____

PHONE _____

RELIEF PHONE _____

Personal Notes: _____

3 PM-6 PM PHONE _____

PHONE _____

RELIEF PHONE _____

Personal Notes: _____

NOTE: Gary Bedsworth will be there most of the time using an office rod if space permits. We will be located across from the entertainment area past the food area to the left as you enter the Event Center. We will need assistance Wednesday setting up and Saturday evening breaking down the booth. Masks will be provided to booth workers and required for all who work or enter the booth. We will have 5 chairs at the booth and water in a cooler. We will have one Fly tying station set up. Please bring you own equipment if you plan to tie flies. Contact Gary Altman at gea500@msn.com and add a note to your sign up line.