

Payson Flycasters & TU Chapter 530 Newsletter



*Expanding and Improving
Arizona's Native and Wild
Trout Fisheries*

Issue 37 www.paysonflycasters.org www.gilatroun.org October 24, 2021

Welcome to October's 2021 newsletter.

October 30 meeting is in person at the Library Meeting Room beginning at 9 am. We will be building lanyards and tying flies (especially those that work for Gilas). Maybe a short video or two plus stories about Silver Creek, Woods Canyon and the results of the survey that Jim and Donn put out. Hope to have coffee available.

Other big news from Flycasters this month:

The Blue tee shirts you ordered at the June Meeting are in. They have the Payson Flycasters logo on the chest and "I support Gila Trout in Rim Country" logo on the sleeve. The embroidery is excellent. The cost for these cotton and synthetic shirts (high quality will not shrink and will dry quickly) is \$20 payable to the club. One member asked for an all-cotton and it is in too. Pick up and pay at the meeting if you come in person.

PFC Humane Society Second Semi-annual Fishing Gear Sale Was October 15-16

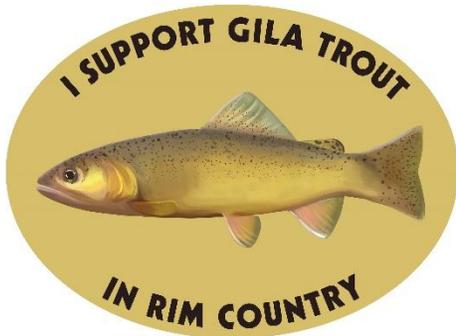
Total receipts were \$636 and will be split between the two organizations. We do better in the Spring. The promotion this time was not as strong. **Huge thank you to all the volunteers!** The shed still has a dozen or so spinning outfits, some waders, tackle boxes and miscellaneous items left over. **We need to fill it again by Spring.** Let Tom or Ric know if you have contributions they can go into the shed anytime.



Members review items for sale.

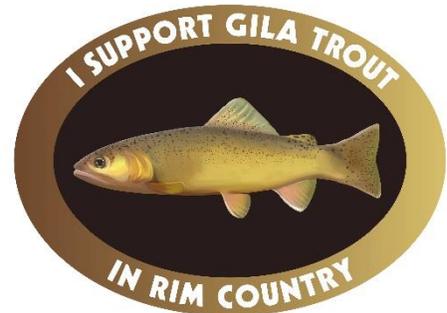
If you find added gear at home or in garage sales—keep your eyes open for fly rods—we just got 7 more used reels. We are still thinking about selling major items on the website—if you have float tubes, upscale rods, etc., send an email with pix and price to richinkie@gmail.com. 50% of the revenue comes back to you, the rest to the club.

Additional Artwork for Future Use



PAYSON FLYCASTERS

These are new designs for us. They feature our own copyrighted fish. They can be used for large scale posters, and other imprints.



PAYSON FLYCASTERS

We have 2” stickers of this one

Fall Fishing for Tigers and Rainbows at Woods Canyon and Willow Springs Lakes

Jim Strogen



Dorothy Howell Tries Woods Canyon

provide a bit more flexibility in fishing options there.

Road closures can be a factor as well, especially with snow or bad road conditions. There comes a point that FR300 is closed, or the turnoffs to Woods Canyon or Willow Springs Lakes are closed for the winter. It is a good idea to call the Black Mesa Ranger District (928-535-7300) to find out current road and access status.

Anglers can certainly continue to fish from small boats or float tubes in the fall, but the cooler water temperatures make that unnecessary. I have caught rainbows and tigers within ten feet of shore on many occasions.

A proven casting strategy is to wade out a bit from shore to help avoid trees that might interfere with back casts, and then make casts parallel to the drop off. Sometimes the trout will be in water less than two feet deep along the drop-off.

I don't spend much time at Woods Canyon or Willow Springs Lakes during the summer. Both lakes are very crowded, and the trout have moved into deep water outside of the range of my fly rod from shore.

That all changes as the fall temperatures help drop the water temperature to comfortable levels for the trout to cruise the shoreline. There can still be an issue with crowds, so weekdays are still the best times to fish these lakes. If the weekend is your only option, I would suggest heading up as early as possible.

An early start often will help you with wind conditions on the lakes as well. They tend to ramp up midday. Whenever I plan a trip to either lake, I check wind direction, speed and overall weather conditions. If the wind is coming out of the north, that makes it much more of a challenge to fish Woods Canyon Lake. The many arms of Willow Springs Lake and the multiple access points

I tend to fan cast an area, then move a little further down the bank. You will sometimes find pods of trout that are actively feeding. The flies that I use are quite varied depending on what the trout are most interested in that day.

I will often start with a weighted wooly bugger and let it sink four or five feet before I start the retrieve. Be ready for a strike as it sinks after the cast, and then I strip in a foot at a time, with a few seconds pause between each strip. Often the strike occurs just after the pause. Colors that work for me include: green, black, brown, and white.



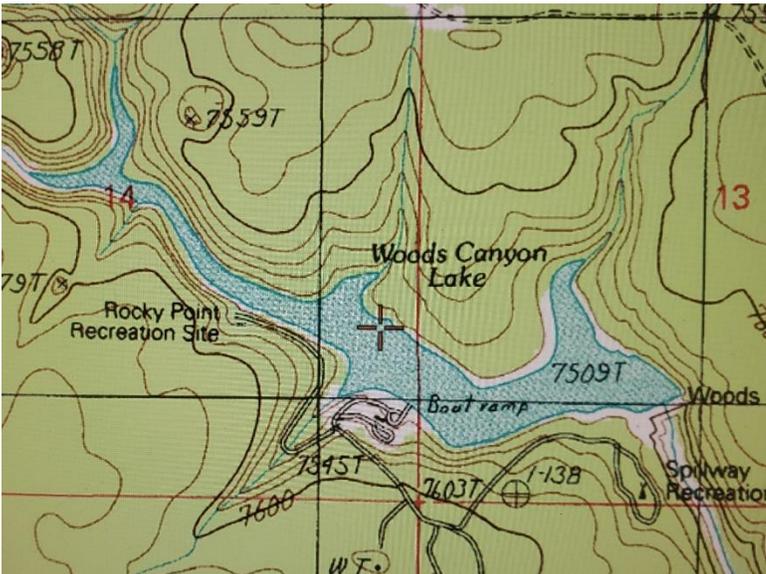
A dropper rig is also a good choice at this time of year. A size 12-14 bead-head a couple feet under an indicator with a size 16-20 zebra midge about three feet below the bead-head works well.

When the trout are especially cooperative, my favorite rig is a dry fly dropper and a small midge trailer. I will use a size 10-12 Stimulator, or a size 12-14 elk hair or Humpy with a zebra midge four to five feet below the dry fly.

As a dedicated wet fly fisher, it always takes me time to slow down my hook set when I dry fly fish. I can't begin to count the number of fish that I missed on the dry that seems to find my now moving midge, after the missed strike, too tantalizing to pass up.

On Woods Canyon Lake, I generally start at the boat ramp itself. You can head either direction from

there, and the shoreline is pretty easy to navigate. I more often head to the left and work my way around to that first cove. It can sometime provide a bit of a wind break too. You can walk all along the shore to the right of the boat ramp to the spillway and the dam breast, but to save time there is a small parking lot near the spillway. There is a fee to park there, but it gives you quick access to a part of the lake that is often productive. It also gets you closer to the path that works around the north side of the lake after you cross the dam.



I generally start my Willow Springs Lake fishing in the cove just to the left of the boat ramp if the wind is favorable. I have caught many fish in the drop-off zone between the dock and that cove too. If the wind is tough, Willow Springs has several options. The point near the satellite parking area that you pass on the way to the boat ramp is good if the wind is out of the northeast. You can also drive farther east on SR260 and park at the small parking area where an arm of the lake approaches the road. A 10-15 minute walk along that arm to the main lake will provide a nice spot that is generally uncrowded. A little further east on SR260 is the dirt road (FR148) to Sardine Point. Both sides of the point are only a short walk from the parking area and give you options to avoid the wind. I have caught trout in all of

these spots, and I enjoy the diverse look of the lake at each area.

I have caught trout until ice-up from shore at both lakes. When the ice clears in the spring, the fish will again be close to shore until the water warms up for the summer.

Both lakes are beautiful and are fun to fish. I would suggest taking a small trash bag with you too. Unfortunately, there is sometimes a lot of fishing line that is a hazard to shore birds, eagles and ospreys in the area.

Lie and Tie Sessions at Tom Herman's—Watch for Emails of the Next One



These are obvious the serious tyers. What does make the rest of us? Starts with L (just a hint). Tom has the gear and the tying materials and is an avid tyer. Others are too and just come to enjoy the social connection. If you are new to tying, that's fine too, lots of help available. Announcements of the dates and times come out in club emails, so keep an eye out or email Tom at Ethanspapa307@yahoo.com.