



RAINBOW TROUT/George Andrejko

# HANDS-ON CONSERVATION

It is said that hands-on experience is the perfect teaching companion to classroom discussion and reading. The Trout In the Classroom program is a great example of this.

Started in 2006, the program inspires aquatic and water conservation knowledge in schoolchildren across Arizona.

Partners in the Arizona program include the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the Council and Chapters of Trout Unlimited, and many hunting and fishing clubs across the state. Partial funding is provided by grants from the sales of Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation's Conserving Wildlife specialty license plates.

One of the first programs of its kind in Arizona, Trout In the Classroom provides knowledge to young people (grades four

through 12) as they raise trout from eggs to fingerling-size fish in their classrooms. Teachers and students are trained to feed the fish and monitor tank water quality.

"We equip teachers with the information they need to inspire students to learn and research any questions they have about fish biology," says Trout Unlimited Arizona Council Chair Steve Reiter. "We know there are less young people getting outdoors and so we bring the experience to them."

"In the program, students use STREAM [science, technology, rec-



A Trout in the Classroom workshop was held in August 2019 in Phoenix.

reation, engineering, art and math] approaches, learn about habitats and water resources and gain a valuable conservation perspective," says Jim Walker, chair of the Arizona Trout In the Classroom program.

In 2014, AZGFD's Aquatic Branch Chief Chris Cantrell and Statewide Hatchery Program Manager Geoffrey Rabinovich met with Walker and the Trout Unlimited team to discuss expanding the program from three classrooms into additional schools. The next year, Rabinovich was approached by Cantrell to be the new AZGFD liaison for the program. "I wanted to help provide the tools to facilitate student learning of trout culture, fish biology, conservation and sportfishing," Rabinovich says.

Since the 2014 meeting, the team

has increased participation to 37 classrooms as of last year. The long-term goal is to involve 100 schools statewide.

Department hatchery program staff Bryce Sisson, Trevor Nelson, David Fox, Kyle Tulisak, Wayne Jones and Cindy Dunn are also instrumental in helping coordinate the program.

The Gila Trout Chapter in Payson has been involved with Trout In the Classroom for 10 years. "We are always anxious to educate children about the ecosystem of Arizona streams and lakes," says Dorothy Howell, coordinator of the program and one of the chapter leaders. Howell and her volunteers are the primary contacts with teachers, helping them with equipment and advice about how to maintain healthy trout.

"The students are more involved in their learning because they are active with it, making it a more meaningful experience for both teacher and students," says Kim Hansen, a sixth-grade teacher at Ruth Fisher Middle School in Tonopah.

Each year, the program begins with a teacher workshop, an educational opportunity that still continues today. This year's workshop will be held online and in one-on-one pairings to meet CDC Covid-19 standards.

With the help of volunteers, Trout Unlimited chapters deliver and assemble 55-gallon fish tanks, a chiller to maintain water temperature and all

the supplies and chemicals needed to help the eggs hatch and grow into fingerling-sized trout in each classroom. With an extensive statewide volunteer delivery process to the schools, AZGFD provides the trout eggs and fish food for the program.

"Trout propagated by the Arizona Game and Fish Department are a resource provided for all licensed anglers," Cantrell says. "The Trout In the Classroom partnership with Trout Unlimited and participating Arizona schools provides the department an additional opportunity to broaden our reach into the diversity of Arizona."

When each program ends in May, teachers report their findings to Trout Unlimited. To develop and practice their public-speaking skills, students present program reports to other classes, school officials, local service clubs and nonprofit organizations.

The fish are donated to conservation centers to nourish captive wildlife recovering from illness or injury. In the future, with disease precautions in place, it may be feasible to stock the fingerlings in rivers and streams.

Trout In the Classroom partners also hope the program encourages young people to venture outdoors to further explore nature with their friends and family and consider a career involving conservation.

To learn more about Trout In the Classroom, visit [aztic.org](http://aztic.org).

— Anna Johnson



Students Aven Adams and Shylah Waterman learned about aquatic conservation.



FRY FROM EGGS/Jim Stroger



Students Wyatt Saurage and Jagrav Pate participated in 2019.



SMALL FRY/Jim Stroger

# AZ Sportsmen For Wildlife Conservation GRANT COMPLETION REPORT

**Project Title:** Trout in the Classroom (TIC) Program (August 2022 – June 2023)

**Organization:** Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited (AZTU)

**Event/Project Completion Date:** June 30, 2023

**Project Location** (Include info such as event center, hunting unit, etc.): Schools statewide.

**Submitted By:** Jim Walker

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**Today's Date:** June 29, 2023

**AZSFWC Recognition:**

**AZSFWC Logo and Link to AZSFWC on organization's website?** (attach screen print image) Yes  No

**License Plate Image w/link to MVD on organization's website?** (attach screen print image) Yes  No

**AZSFWC Logo displayed at event?** (attach photo(s)) Yes  No

**AZSFWC recognized in all marketing materials & post event articles?** (attach all samples) Yes  No

**List any social media recognition of AZSFWC** (include all screen print images)

**Was there any media or press coverage?** (attach copies if available) Yes  No

**List any other recognition?** See attached.

**Summarize Project Accomplishments :** See attached summary.

**Measurable Results** (Fill in all that are applicable):

**Attendees** (If project was an event, list total # of participants, excluding staff, visiting parents, etc):

- Over 4,500 students directly

**Visitors** (If the project is an interpretive display, list total # of annual visitors): Over 6,000 (educators, parents, relatives, others.

**Brochures, Pamphlets, etc.** (If the project is a brochure, publication, poster or video, list the total produced and distributed): See attached.

**Other** (please explain): See attached.

**Budget** (specifically describe how AZSFWC funds were used; e.g. program promotion, type of equipment, materials and/or supplies, etc.) ATTACH COPIES OF ALL RECEIPTS:

Budget Item	Planned	Actual
** See Attached Summary **		

**Project Cooperator(s)** (please include any in-kind contributions):

<b>Cooperator (no abbreviations)</b>	<b>Amount Contributors \$</b>
<b>** See Attached Summary **</b>	



**Summary Report  
To  
Arizona Sportsmen For Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC)**

**2022 Grant of \$6,000  
Arizona Trout in the Classroom (TIC) Program  
School Year August 2022 - June 2023**

The 2022 - 2023 program began with fewer challenges due to COVID-19.

The program for the 2022 - 2023 school year has been a challenge, due to various supply chain issues to obtain some needed equipment and supplies and the exiting of teachers leaving the profession and retiring resulting with no immediate backfill for schools to continue the program.

The Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited and chapters continue to have a ready supply of volunteers to contribute time, contributions and expenses for travel, monitoring and coordination of the various activities with the 40 schools registered and AZGFD.

Normal delivery and set-up time for new schools was approximately 8 hours per tank and annual hours per volunteer supporting a teacher now ranges from 10 - 20 hours depending upon the experience of the teacher and the additional time spent by volunteers for classroom lectures, class projects and potential field trips.

Acknowledgement of Arizona Sportsmen For Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) and the Conservation License Plate Program has been recognized throughout the past years on chapter websites, at TIC training sessions, slide presentations, announcements, in AZTU Council and chapter newsletters and meetings, in classroom literature and other opportunities. An AZSFWC decal has been provided to each school to be displayed on the classroom aquarium. Recognition of supporters has also been provided to schools, parents, the educational community and communities throughout Arizona. Examples of recognition are attached.

Additional information on the Arizona Trout-In-the-Classroom (TIC) program can be found at <http://www.aztic.org> and [www.az-tu.org](http://www.az-tu.org).

A 3.5-minute video acknowledges and mentions the support and funding by AZSFWC and can be seen at [www.aztic.org](http://www.aztic.org).

The Arizona Council and four Arizona chapters thank the AZSFWC for its continued support of this program.

Any questions regarding the program or this report can be directed to the Co-chairs of the program:

**Steve Reiter**

AZ TU State Council  
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520.820.7485

**Jim Walker**

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602.741.1449

**Arizona Trout in the Classroom (TIC)  
School Year 2022 - 2023**

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
New Equipment: Tanks & Stands (VASCA)	\$ -	\$ -
New Equipment: 2 Water Chiller Units (Tradewind Chillers)	\$ 1,850	\$ 1,425
Replacement: Chemicals & Miscellaneous Supplies (VASCA)	\$ 7,347	\$ 4,461
Replacement: Supplies	\$ -	\$ 472
Replacement: Equipment/Filters (VASCA)	\$ 700	\$ 317
Storage Locker Shared Annual Rental	\$ 550	\$ 680
Equipment - Webcams (5 @ \$95 per unit)	\$ 525	\$ -
Website Management (Annual)	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
AZGFD Spring Expo (Printing & Banner)	\$ 450	\$ 663
Postage Shipping Fees	\$ 78	\$ -
Shipping Fees (FedEx) for eggs	\$ 525	\$ 420
Online Communciation Program (Constant Contact: Annual Shared)	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$ 13,525</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 9,938</u></b>

**In-Kind Expenditures**

AZGFD: Hours: Fish, Preparation and Transport	Unknown	Unknown
AZTU: Trainings & Workshop Materials	\$ 60	\$ 75
AZTU: Volunteer Hours: School and teacher support	650+ Hours	
Administration, coordination and fundraising	625+ Hours	

**Funding**

Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited	\$ 3,025	22%	\$ 1,093	11%
Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation	\$ 6,000	44%	\$ 4,375	44%
US Fish and Wildlife Service	\$ 4,500	33%	\$ 4,500	45%
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 13,525</u></b>		<b><u>\$ 9,938</u></b>	

# Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited

Website: [www.az-tu.org](http://www.az-tu.org)



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Your Conservation License Plate Supports TU Programs thanks to the generosity of the Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC)



## Registration Handout



Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation is a 501-c-3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to educate and inform sportsmen, wildlife conservation organizations throughout the state and the public at large on important issues related to wildlife and wildlife habitat and to provide, via grants or other sources, funding to conserve Arizona's wildlife populations through habitat enhancement initiatives.

The AZSFWC is responsible for managing the conservation license plate program (Wildlife Conservation Habitat Fund).

The fund is derived from the sale of wildlife conservation license plates and member organizations as well as non-member organizations are eligible to apply for those funds.



## Zane Chapter of Trout Unlimited

### Monthly Newsletter Content

(Distribution: 1,800)

## **REMEMBER:** Your Conservation License Plate Supports TU Programs



The Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) license plate fund is derived from the sale of wildlife conservation license plates and member organizations as well as non-member organizations are eligible to apply for those funds.

The Arizona TU Council and Chapters have received funds over the past seven years in support of the Annual Native and Wild Trout Conferences and the Trout-In-the-Classroom programs.

The next time your registration comes up for renewal, choose the conservation license plate option at [registration](#) to show your support for conservation and our projects.

**December 7, 2022**

**Arizona Trout in the Classroom (TIC)**

**Payment to John & Terry Viggers - \$317.79**

**TIC Replacement Supplies for Northern Arizona  
Schools**

# Thank you to our generous sponsors

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