

OCTOBER 2001

Desert Fly Casters Forward Casts



DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB



OCTOBER MEETING:

Wednesday • October 10, 2001
Dinner- 6:00 PM
Meeting- 7:00 PM
American Legion Post #2
2125 S. Industrial Park Ave.
in Tempe

"You will find angling to be like the virtue of humility, which has a calmness of spirit and a world of other blessings attended."

Izaak Walton



President's Report-October 2001

Bob Harrison

Hello Everyone. Another month is rolling by. If you weren't at the September equipment swap, you missed a great opportunity for some inexpensive equipment. I managed to get a pair of fins at a bargain price. Another member was less than happy when I beat them to the seller with the money. Then I didn't have enough for the bargain Winston rod and George got a great deal on it. At least one other member picked up a rod (for his wife was the story). All in all, a pretty good exchange again this year.

By the time you get this newsletter, we will have completed the Lee's Ferry tune up at the Salt River (Saturday, September 29th). I can say from an early morning run this past weekend that there is some action right out our back door. Just jump out of bed early on a Saturday or Sunday and make a quick morning run. You can find plenty of space to practice your casting. There are a few fish that can be coaxed out but it take some finesse. It is a great place to sharpen up dead drifting nymphs. And right now it is comfortable enough to we wade.

For October, we have Dillon Kennedy talking about small streams. Gary and Vince will be presenting nominations for the 2002 board members. There have been pictures galore at the last two meetings. I expect that we might be able to get a tale about the big one that didn't get away. Gary also has a reminder on the website that there is a work outing on October 6th. If you can help out, the White Mountains are spectacular this time of year for fishing and sightseeing. You might want to throw in a little warm weather gear as the night time temperatures are crisp. The outing for October is Lee's Ferry. Jack says he has a full part of 20 excited people. As we required payment by mid August to get the deposits paid, all are ready to go. On the off chance that someone can't make it, they will need to find a replacement. The payment has been committed for lodging, food and guides. We can try to help connect with others that have expressed interest.

For those that didn't get in on the Ferry trip, start thinking Rocky Point. November isn't that far away. Doc (and others) will provide details about lodging arrangements, dinners and even fishing. A member or two have been down recently and can provide information on border crossing. For those that can make it down there it is a very good time to fish and socialize. The Old Pueblo TU members will be joining us so there will be a whole new set of story telling.

Hope everyone had a great summer fishing but to let you in on a little secret- it is even better in the fall when the fish are getting ready for the slim pickings during winter months. Get out and go fishing. Just take a little precaution, in case the weather bring a surprise.

Tightlines

Bob Harrison

OCTOBER GUEST SPEAKER

Dylan Kennedy

On fishing small streams

October and early November present the best opportunity of the year to catch a bragging size Brown trout in the small streams of Arizona's high country. Our guest speaker for October will be Dylan Kennedy, owner of Scottsdale Fly Fishing Company. Dylan has put in many days on Arizona's small streams and has developed techniques that work for finding and catching large trout in small water.

If you are a small streams enthusiast or would like to become one, come take in the slide show and ask an expert questions to improve your techniques and have greater success on our mountain streams. *Hope to see you all at the October the 10th meeting.*

LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS BEHIND WHEN WALKING THE PATHWAYS OF OUR ARIZONA ENVIRONMENT

BIG WATER SMALLIES!

by Vince Deadmond

My big summer vacation involves loading up the family and going to northern Wisconsin, where my wife has plenty of relatives, and I find plenty of fishing activity. It has always puzzled me why there seems to be little fishing pressure on the lakes and streams I fish. The best I can tell, the end of July and the first of August must be the worst time to fish this area. Locals don't get excited unless it is the spring or fall steelhead run. I have never had the opportunity to fish the area during the good time of the year. I am however, making plans to return this fall, to see if it is as good as they say it is.

My wife's cousin Ric Allen has been seduced by the fly fishing mistress. Last winter he secured fly fishing equipment, took casting instruction, started tying flies, and probably by now wet a fly line in every stream and lake between his house in Milwaukee and Superior, Wisconsin, which is on the other side of the state. He has even called me to confirm that he was doing the right thing. Of course I may not be the best person to ask about this unnatural act of fly fishing.

Ric called one day and asked, "Would you like to fish Chequamegon Bay, with a guide, and a flats boat?" My lightning quick response was, "When do we leave?" Ric had made arrangements for a full day of fishing with local legend Roger LaPenter guide and outfitter. Roger has guided since he was 15 and he has more gray hair than I do, so he is a genuine old geezer. Roger has had a guide business in Colorado, and in Florida before settling in Ashland, Wisconsin. The fishing guide business must be rough on marital relations. Roger met and married his third wife in Florida, she was from Ashland, Wisconsin, and she wanted to show him her home town and Chequamegon Bay on Lake Superior. The small mouth bass fishing was so good 20 years ago on Chequamegon Bay that Roger decided to stay. Wife number three went back to Florida.

Ric and I have a few more phone calls, and soon it is the big day for our fishing trip on Getchegoom. I have to give a fairly close approximation of the truth here because Ric was there, and he has agreed to come out this fall and fish Puerto Penasco with me. We arrive at the Anglers All fly shop early. Pick up a few supplies and hop in the truck with Roger. "Fishing has been different this year," Roger said. "Usually at this time of year you can do some sight casting, I think we'll have to fish deep today," he said. The last time I had fished with Roger it had been a bright sunny day, and we had lots of fish in 4 feet of water. Our day started out calm, and dreary gray. There was a bit of mist in the air, and it seemed wetter than it was, when Roger pointed the 150 horse power Maverick flats boat for the Apostle Islands. We hit some spots with little success. Soon all of the really large fish that I had planned to catch were disappearing faster than a magic trick. It was becoming a tedious situation of casting and not catching. Roger being the veteran guide that he was had a plan B. Bait fishing with minnows, he really wanted to put us on to fish. I was too hard headed to switch from my fly set up, but Ric tried the minnow set up. After about 30 minutes Ric had a hit. We had some hits and break offs. Some of the break offs must have been northern pike. Finally Ric hooks a nice smallie, and lands it. When we lay it on the tape measure on the boat it measured 20 inches. I am not sure who was hyperventilating worse, the fish out of water or Ric. Things are starting to look up and we are in a shameless celebratory mood with high five's and pictures of this good looking fish.

The sun peaks out, and Roger moves in to some shallow water where I hook a petite small mouth. Roger moves the boat again and the fish finder lights up. The fish are about 15 foot deep. I finally get deep enough and hook a good one. When I try to get the fish on the reel he escapes. Roger coaches and says, "Strip'em in." The next one I catch I strip into the boat and land a nice 16 inch small mouth. The average small mouth in this water is 18 inch. Ric has now landed two more 20 inch small mouth using the minnow rig.

Roger said, "Wisconsin DNR guys took some fish scales to be analyzed, and that the 18 inch fish were 20 years old." It takes a long time to grow a quality fishery. Those 20 inch fish are probably 25 years old. I had used up all of my camera film by the time I finally caught a 20 inch smallie and now I am waiting on the pictures from Roger's camera to be developed. At the end of the day Roger looked at his watch and pointed the boat for home, no messing around, he had promised Caroline, wife number 4, he would be home for some event that she wanted to go to. I think Roger has got this marriage thing and fishing thing figured out.

RALLY TO SAVE THE ANIMAS RIVER, NOVEMBER 9 IN DURANGO!

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED...

Dear Colleague:

The support of your group or business is requested for a rally to Save The Animas River, to be held in Durango on November 9, 2001. This event is supported by groups and individuals who have been "in the fight" for many years, including (just for starters) Mike Black of Taxpayers for the Animas River, Steve Cone of electors Concerned about Animas Water, Sage Remington of Southern Ute Grassroots Organization, and many others!

As you may know, Congress last year authorized construction of the Animas-La Plata (A-LP) project. Recently, \$21 million in funding for first-year pre-construction work was approved by the House of Representatives. Action in the Senate could come at any time. **IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO STOP IT!**

We are gathering to send a message to Washington, that the people do not want or need this wasteful, river-killing project. Congress can still do the right thing by not funding the A-LP boondoggle.

[November 9 was set as the date for the project's groundbreaking, but Living Rivers has learned that the ceremony has been cancelled. The rally will occur regardless.]

JOIN US IN DURANGO ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9: The details of the event (time and place) are being worked out, and your input is welcome. We envision a noontime rally in town followed by a march to the river. This will be a peaceful, family-oriented, nonviolent event. Please check Living Rivers' website in coming weeks for details. We will issue updates via email, as well.

BECOME A CO-SPONSOR OF THE EVENT: We want your organization and/or business to sign on as a co-sponsor!



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There is no fee. The more support we demonstrate, the stronger our collective voice will be! Please notify David Orr at Living Rivers via email at david@livingrivers.net so that we can list your group as a supporter.

WHAT YOU CAN DO "TODAY": Send a message to Congress and the Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec)! Now is the time to write to Senators, letting them know that money for A-LP will be money wasted. Especially in this time of looming recession, federal tax dollars should be wisely spent. Write to your Senators, and ask them to "ZERO OUT" the A-LP line item in the appropriations bill. A list of all Senators with their addresses may be found on the Senate's Internet website at:

<http://www.senate.gov/contacting/index.cfm>

Also, write to the Commissioner of Reclamation and ask him to oppose A-LP funding: John Keys, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, 1849 C Street NW, Washington DC 20240-000.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH A-LP? Ridges Basin Dam is a key part of the A-LP project and would store water, only to allow it evaporate. Taxpayers have been soaked for more than \$200 million already, and not a spade of dirt has yet been turned. But conservative estimates peg the cost to the Treasury at well over \$500 million. Some independent experts put it at more than a billion dollars.

A-LP would pump water more than 500 feet uphill, at great cost in dollars and energy, to store water in a new Ridges Basin Reservoir, that will function as a giant evaporation pond. There is no demonstrated need for the water, except in the river. More water storage is simply an enticement to more sprawling development into southwest Colorado, at the expense of taxpayers and the virtually extinct endangered native fish.

RECLAIMING THE BUREAU: This "Save The Animas River" rally will be the first in a series of public events calling for BuRec reform, as we approach the occasion of the agency's hundredth anniversary on June 17, 2002. Despite former Commissioner Dan Beard's proclamation that "the era of big dam-building is over," the agency appears unable to resist the opportunity to build at least one more useless pork-barrel project. Environmentalists want BuRec to mark its second century with a shift from "reclamation," i.e. development, dams, and diversions, to river restoration, including decommissioning many of the 600 dams built by the agency in its first century.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH BUREC? Across the West, BuRec water projects have left a legacy of damaged ecosystems. The agency's famed engineering prowess has created the most efficient infrastructure ever designed for removing water from rivers, to be used in the most inefficient ways imaginable. BuRec projects have fostered rampant, unsustainable sprawl and development in the desert Southwest for decades. Incongruous golf courses, lawns, and swimming pools of Phoenix and Palm Springs symbolize the "good life" to those who choose to deny the reality of life in the desert.

(.....continued on page 4)

EDITOR'S NOTES AN' RAMBLINGS

I just wanted to take some time here and thank all of you who were concerned about my recent by pass surgery and the show of friendship that was extended to both my wife and me. In my days of recuperation, I divided my time with following the Diamondbacks on TV, writing, starting a new oil painting, tying flies and casting a new bamboo rod made by Jim Harris, in the backyard. Also, I found time to do some reading, by dusting off an old book lent to me before moving here a year ago: **The Song Of The Reel**, by George Fredrick Clark. The book contains stories from the past, camp tales, short anecdotes and a host of characters that Clarke brings to life from memory while living and fly fishing in his native New Brunswick.

Enjoy- I wanted to share this poem with all of you.

It's good to be back...and I'll see you at the next meeting.

Bob McKeon, *Editor- DFC Newsletter*

THE SONG OF THE REEL

I am the song of the reel whose notes rejoice
Be is rain or shine, on lake or brawling stream;
And I sing as must, in soft or raucous voice,
And waken the sleeping forest from its dream.

When the salmon strikes and both sharp hooks bite deep,
And line spins out as it starts its frantic race,
I shriek my song, then pause as it makes its leap
To shatter like breaking glass the river's face.

Then on I sing, exulted and wild and free;
And the kingfisher wonders what strange thing this,
And leaves his perch on the leaning cedar tree.
But what reck I in my golden hour of bliss!

For he who holds me next his throbbing breast,
And the guide behind who paddles the frail canoe,
Are both a-thrill with the carefree wilding zest
The gods confer on only a chosen few.

With anxious, beating heart I sing as they flight;
Now fast, now slow, now muted my notes reveal
My hope and fear and awe as the salmon's might
The bamboo bends in an arc of amber steel.

I sing as I must, nor pause at the very end
When the wide-mouthed net the silver form enfolds,
But deep in my heart I sing, and silently lend
My voice to the good-luck-cheer that the hour holds.

George Fredrick Clark,
(retired dentist) author- 1883-1974
(from his book: "Song of the Reel")



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continued- Save The Animas River

The biggest source of waste is agriculture. With more than 80 percent of diverted water in most Southwestern states devoted to irrigation, the bulk of that water is used to grow alfalfa (cattle feed) and other low-value crops, some of it for export. Few if any incentives for water users to conserve, and there are significant penalties for doing so (loss of water rights). The system of water management and distribution in the West has for a long time been in need of major legal and regulatory reform. Rationality and fairness must play a major role in allocating Western water. Conservation must be rewarded, and all rivers must be allowed to flow. Living Rivers' "Reclaim the Bureau" Campaign is pressing for these essential changes.

RESTORING THE WATERSHEDS: Living Rivers promotes grassroots organizing to restore the watersheds of the

rivers of the Southwestern US and northern Mexico. We are building coalitions of local, regional, national, and international organizations and indigenous groups to ensure that water supplies are distributed equitably to all, and that river ecosystems are respected, protected, and restored to provide a healthy environment for people and wildlife.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have. Please give us a call at 435-259-1063. Whenever you're in Moab, please stop by and see us at Living Rivers' office in the Restoration Creamery, 21 North Main Street.

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS- 2001

- OCTOBER 6TH, 4TH WORK OUTING, LITTLE COLORADO RIVER, WHITE MOUNTAINS
- OCTOBER 19TH, MONTHLY OUTING, LEES FERRY
- NOVEMBER 9TH-12TH, ROCKY POINT, MEXICO
- DECEMBER 12TH, DFC ANNUAL BANQUET

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