



DESERT FLY CASTERS *Forward Casts*

DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB



JANUARY MEETING:

Wednesday, January 8, 2003
Dinner- 6:00 PM
Meeting- 7:00 PM
American Legion Post #2
2125 S. Industrial Park Ave.
in Tempe

"You must lose a fly to catch a trout."

George Herbert- 1631



Presidents Report- 2003

Happy New Year! What an exciting time to be involved with the Desert Fly Casters. We have some great things planned over the next couple of months. The details on most of the events are further in the newsletter but the highlights are as follows:

For January there is an outing to Silver Creek and it will be hosted by myself and Vince Deadmond, Bill McBurney will be at the meeting talking about Striper fishing at Lake Powell, and don't forget to mark your calendars for the Angler's Round Table meeting.

In February, we are planning a picnic at Desert Breeze Park in Chandler for the 23rd and we will have more information at the meeting and in next months newsletter. Also, there will be a program with Jack Dennis, see Ted Bounds for ticket information.

Of course there will be a lot more outings and activities throughout the year and we will need some help so if you see an outing you want to host or an event you want to help out with be sure and let someone on the board know!

Don't forget to come to the meetings early and join us for dinner. The price is only \$8 and it covers your tip! Also, it is time to pay dues again and because of the increased amount it takes the club to function due to inflation over the past several years, the board voted to increase the amount by \$5 beginning on April 1st. What this means to you is that if you pay your dues for 2003 in January, February or March, you only need to pay \$30 instead of the increased amount of \$35.

I hope to see you soon and wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Cinda Howard
DFC President

January Program:

Striper Fishing at Lake Powell Presented by Bill McBurney

Our guest speaker for January 8th will be Bill McBurney, owner and operator of Ambassador Guide Services. Bill will discuss the equipment and techniques needed to experience the newest fishing in Arizona that offers a saltwater type angling experience. Stripers are a very challenging prey on the fly rod, but when you get one to eat, HANG ON!

Bill was born and raised in what he refers to as "the best state in the Nation: Arizona." He offers guided trips for Rainbows at Lees Ferry and also Stripers on the fly rod at Lake Powell. Bill has over 25 year of experience and as noted by Lefty Kreh, "he is a premier guide and asset to the fisheries of Arizona". This should be a very informative program.

Roy Baker, Program Chairman

Thanks to all who purchased the new DFC Pins at the Annual Banquet. They are as follows: Ted and Ann Bounds, J. Yamagata, G. Walsh, C. Kirkelie, B. Norgard, N. Finkelstein, B. Jackson, R. Perrin, R. Baker, R. Kovac, G. Mack, V. Deadmond, C. Kelly, Dave and Karyn Weaver, Larry Riley (Gift), J. Frye, Eric Hansen, and B. Gehris.

DFC pins on sale at January meeting- profits from these pins will help support our commitment as a club for research studies in reproduction for the Gila trout.



A year in the life

Another year has come and gone. Hair is a little more scarce and what's left is a little grayer. The back is pretty stiff in the mornings but is over ruled by the creaking in the knees. The fifty pounds that I had vowed to lose to relieve the stiff back and aching knees is still looking at me, and seems to be getting closer to my chin as well as my knees at the same time. Ah, the life of a middle aged fly fishing addict.

My back and knees have creaked and moaned their protests for several years, getting a little louder and harder to ignore with each passing year. Ibuprofen is a wonderful drug.

Enough whining. After all, the logo on the DFC T shirts says no whining. This year I will lose the fifty pounds that I have so rudely made my body carry up and down streams with people who are fit and half my age, or people who my age and amazingly fit. I just can't do anything else. I can't or won't give up the exhilaration of getting to a place that is seldom fished and doesn't see many people. I look forward to being able to be the first one on a stream this spring when the wading is a little iffy because of the snow on the banks and the ice still around the slow water in the stream. An angler could take a tumble under these conditions, maybe even get pretty wet and cold, but it is a risk worth taking for me. The promise of a big brown trout is reason enough to place myself in situations that are potentially hazardous, but all of the things that go with the risk are offset by the rewards. I love to be in the mountains in the early spring when the Turkeys are strutting and gobbling, and the deer and elk are coming off a long winter with shaggy hair and looking for some green feed wherever they can find it. During the high water of spring runoff, you can fool an amazing number of Browns with a weighted nymph or streamer. You will be able to catch some fish that you won't see for most of the year, mainly because at this time of the year they won't be able to see you either. When the high flows recede, you can have some very memorable days with a dry fly and a dropper, or just a dry fly if you are a purist like many of my friends. I personally prefer to give myself all the opportunities that I can to catch fish whether on the surface or sub-surface (see Wes Nakata fly fishing 101) Whatever your preference, spring and summer can be spent enjoying casting to and catching trout in our Arizona streams. As Spring turns to summer, we can change nymphs and replace our mayfly pattern with a Grasshopper or Stimulator or Caddis fly which is always a good choice on any Arizona stream. (Again, see Wes Nakata fly fishing 101)

As summer turns to fall, a great opportunity presents itself to us stream fisherman. The Brown trout begin to spawn. We have the opportunity to see really big trout that we don't nor-

...continued on page 4



The Desert Fly Casters presents:

An Evening Fly Fishing Gathering with... **JACK DENNIS**

Author, Lecturer, Friend and Fly Fishing Ambassador.



Map Location:



Wednesday, February 26, 2003

La Casita Recreation Center • 5:30-9:30 PM

\$20.00 Advanced Tickets • \$25.00 Tickets at door.

Ticket price includes dinner and drawings

Come spend an evening with Jack Dennis, and your Desert Fly Caster friends.

Jack will give a presentation along with slides and demonstrations on his love for fly fishing while meandering throughout the many streams he's fished all over the world. Jack will spend time signing his books and talking shop for those who want to catch up with the latest in valuable fishing information. If you need a tip Jack will help in regards to making sure you're loaded for the fishing experiences you'll want for 2003.

Tickets may be purchased at: Arizona Fly Fishing - or - Call: 480-821-5290

Mark your calendar- drop in on us, enjoy the friendship and an evening here in the Valley with Jack Dennis.

Dave & Barbara Foster 1-800-533-7339
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January Tid-Bits

Feliz Navidad! (Merry Christmas)

by Vince Deadmond

In my close circle of friends I am somewhat predictable, so it is no surprise that I would plan a fly fishing trip during the Christmas holidays. Between Christmas and New Year's I usually find myself at some fly fishing destination. Many times I have been at Lee's Ferry, and witnessed some winter storms, and the fishing has been good in the past. This year however, I have turned my attention to Mexico. My wife and daughters are flying out Christmas Day. My plan was to have all of my stuff for Mexico packed and drop the girls off at the airport. The joke at my house was, would I leave early and call a shuttle to pick up my family, or would I actually stay around long enough to drop them off at the airport.

The weekend before Christmas I encounter some challenges. To make a long, sad story short my truck's transmission quit, and my SUV needed some attention, before I make a trip very far from home. Mucho dinero senior. Philosophically I can be happy that this did not happen on the way in or out of Mexico.

With the lure of big Trigger (5 pound) and even larger Grouper (20 pound) I had chartered a boat to Bird Island. Put this in the list of things that I have wanted to do for awhile. I am facing the prospect of not having either of the trucks that can tow my trailer on the road. One thing about my plans, they are always flexible. As usual it demonstrates that in spite of hardships I will go to great lengths to participate in a really good fishing trip.

As of this writing I am down to a rental car, and I may need to borrow my daughter's compact car to go to Mexico, but I still plan to go. I may be the one with a pontoon boat as big as the vehicle, with bungee cords attaching it to the roof. I am dusting off the 10 weight and 12 weight rods, and large reels with deep sinking lines. Imagine a twenty pound Grouper. Some people wonder why I fish!

There is such a rush on this month's newsletter, I will need to get back to you on the actual results of this trip. Dave Weaver who has a lot to do with the newsletter is going fishing on this trip as well. With my flexible planning schedule this should be another great fly fishing adventure. Hope to see you on the water soon.

2002 Christmas Banquet: A Great Success

by Roy Baker

The 2002 Desert Fly Casters Christmas Banquet was a great success. This is DFC's biggest fundraising event of the year. It was a lot of work and it would not have been nearly as successful without the help of many people and businesses. I would like to thank everyone that attended the banquet, without your attendance the banquet would not have been the success that it was. I would also like to thank all the club members who donated prizes to the raffle, solicited prizes from businesses, volunteered their time to set up the hall, assembled prizes, put prizes out for display, sold tickets, and stayed around after the banquet to help clean up.

I have had many people tell me that I did a good job, and I appreciate the compliment, but I could not have done this by myself. I had lots of help. I have purposely not thanked anyone by name, because I know I would forget someone, and there are many, many people that deserve thanks. I would just like to say thank you to everyone, we all made the 2002 Christmas Banquet a fun and successful event.

Fly Fishing Northern New Mexico

by Ginger Hackle

A few summers ago, I had the opportunity to fish a beautiful wandering creek in Northern New Mexico -- Costilla Creek up in the Valle Vidal, north of Taos, close to the town of Amalia, almost at the Colorado border. The altitude is 8,500 to 9,900 feet. Irrigation water from Costilla Reservoir is released into Costilla Creek from Sunday night through Thursday night and the stream is usually pretty high. But flows during weekends are generally lower and more suitable for fishing. The best time to fish Costilla Creek is July to late September.

The creek meanders through an open meadow with not much gradient, then through a few trees where the gradient is a little more, then into a canyon section where the gradient increases to quite steep.

Hatches are caddisflies and mayflies. Patterns to use are: Elk Hair Caddis, Adams, Rio Grande King, Hoppers, Woolly Buggers, Stimulators, Pheasant Tail Nymphs, Prince Nymphs, and Stonefly Nymphs. The creek is filled with Rio Grande Cut Throats with a few hybrid cut-bows. The fish are just beautiful! The creek is an easy river to fly fish, as

most of the river is shallow and slow enough for easy wading in hip boots.

I have spent several pleasurable hours fishing this beautiful creek. Not only is the scenery beautiful, but different kinds of wild life are abundant and the fish are very willing. The day just puts a smile on your face. Your cares are soon forgotten as the pleasure of the day works its way into your heart. That's the neat part about fly fishing, it's hard to worry about anything except maybe your back cast!

Anticipation of Bass Fly Fishing

by Foxy Minnow

The Small Mouth Bass bite should be anytime now. And I am eagerly anticipating some small mouth bass action. They are a thrill and quite the jumpers!

Flies that can be used are: Dahlberg Divers, frog patterns, lizard patterns, Clousers, Foxy Minnows, any bait fish pattern, crawdad patterns, and of course, poppers.

My arsenal is two fly rods:

One rod, an 8wt, 9ft. One reel with an 8wt. 200 grain shooting head and an extra spool with an 8wt. float line - in anticipation of some top water action with Dahlberg Diver flies. Another rod, a 6wt, 9ft. With a reel with a 6wt. Lake Type 7 full sink line, and an extra spool with a 6wt. intermediate sink line.

These bass fish are a ton of fun on a fly! And when I hear that they are biting, I want to get my float tube out on the water!!! Hope to see you there too!



Anyone interested in a DFC Club trip this summer to Alaska, and if so please contact me as soon as possible at:
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...continued...A year in the life

mally see during our summer fishing, and also to catch some of them. It requires some stealth and a really good presentation to catch some of these lunkers, but they can be caught. You'll see really big Browns that you didn't know lived in the stream guarding reds in the fall. They will be aggressive to anything that comes close to their red at this time and are subject to being fooled. This is not a high percentage deal, you will spook a lot more fish than you hook and probably this fishing doesn't hurt anything as long as you don't step in the reds and you release all of the fish without playing them to exhaustion. If you happen to be camped in the woods in this time frame, say from late August until late October, you will hear one of the most unbelievable symphonies in nature. The bugling of bull elk. If you have never heard this sound, you owe it to yourself to spend a morning or evening in elk country(which includes most Arizona Trout Streams) just to receive this primeval blast of sound. Better if you can spend the night and get the whole show. As fall turns to winter, you still have a chance at some really big fish. The trout know that cold, hard times are coming, and stockpile fat in the late fall to last through the long cold winter.

When the trout streams freeze over, there are other things to pursue. Smallmouth bass are a great diversion

in our desert lakes, and are great sport on a fly rod. They bite sporadically all winter long, and the desert lakes(Apache in particular) are truly beautiful. But for the small stream fisherman there is nothing that can take the place of a trout stream at any time of the year. Not that I don't enjoy the bass fishing in the winter. I'm glad that we have it and it is a pleasant diversion in the winter. It comes with some great surprises, like a leaping smallie in February. But it will never replace a stream with the promise of a big Brown or a Rainbow. Or seeing a wild wolf or hearing one howl, or a bull elk rubbing the velvet of his antlers. I hope we all have a lot more New Years to make resolutions that we may or may not keep, and friends to share them with and trout streams to fish.

2003 Desert Fly Casters Events

January - Silver Creek

February - DFC Picnic

Scheduled for February 23, 2003
 Sunday • 11:00 - 5:00 PM
 Acacia Pavillion at Desert Breeze Park
 Rural Road & Ray Road (Chandler)
Neal Replogle, Host • 480-970-0475

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