



DESERT FLY CASTERS *Forward Casts*

DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB

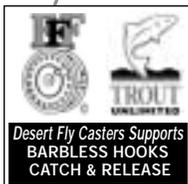


FEBRUARY MEETING:

Wednesday, March 12, 2003
Dinner- 6:00 PM
Meeting- 7:00 PM
American Legion Post #2
2125 S. Industrial Park Ave.
in Tempe

"The woods are made for the
hunters of dreams,
The brooks for fishers of song."

Sam Foss (circa 1900)



President's Report-March 2003

Cinda Howard

It's March and that means spring will be here before you know it. I hope you will be looking to the club to take advantage of some of the trips that we have planned.

We have several changes in the calendar for the next couple of months. We hate to cancel trips or events but sometimes it can't be helped. Things that cause cancellations are; difficulty in finding a trip host, not enough participation, inability to find rooms or campsites, other events going on in the area, etc. Due to one or more of these circumstances, we have postponed the March Rocky Point outing until May. My apologies to anyone that this might effect. But don't worry, we have plenty of stuff planned for this month.

Ted Bounds, our education chairman, has been very busy planning beginner fly tying classes that will start on March 11th and also we will have a casting clinic for the 30th. Look for more information further in the newsletter.

Here are the outings changes:

Our annual Seneca Lake outing will be April 11th-13th and again will be hosted by Doc Nickel and Jim Dixon. These two always do a great job. Those that missed this trip last year missed a really good time! We had about 20 people that came up for the weekend and we caught a lot of fish. I suspect this year will be even better.

Vince Deadmond has planned a trip to Lake Powell to do some striper fishing. This will take place May 2nd-4th. He has already started a sign up sheet so if you want to go, be sure and get with him at the meeting.

The Rocky Point trip is scheduled for May 16th-18th and will be hosted by Dave Weaver and Vince Deadmond. I am hearing that the fishing should be good this time of year. The details are still a little sketchy but should be coming together soon!

June 20th-22nd we will be heading up north for the White Mountain Spectacular. We have a new host this year and it will be Ken Durning. He has been working hard on getting the details worked out and there is more information further in the newsletter. There should be a sign-up sheet coming soon.

Last year's San Juan trip was a blast and I have been asked to host it again. I have made reservations at Rizuto's and am working on getting all the guides booked. There will be more info in the coming months but start saving your pennies now! The dates are set for October 2nd-5th.

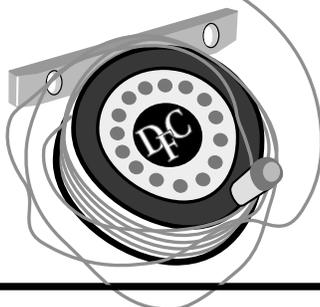
We can always use help with outings and other events. If you see an outing you want to host or if you want to be on the conservation or education committee, please let a board member know. We will direct you to the person you need to speak with.

One other opportunity coming around the bend is the Arizona Game & Fish Round Table Meeting. It will be on Monday, April 7th and is held at the AZG&F Mesa office located at 7200 E. University, just east of Power Rd. At this meeting, anglers have an opportunity to sit down with the game and fish department and voice their concerns or present their ideas. Everyone is welcome.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 12th. Dinner will be served from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with John Rohmer talking to us about bass fishing. I hope to see you there!

Cinda Howard

DFC President



March DFC Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker for March 12th will be *John Rhomer*. He is co-owner of Arizona Flyfishing and also has his own fly tying materials business, John Rhomer Materials. John will speak to the club about the techniques and equipment that he uses for bass fishing in our desert lakes. He will also demonstrate how to tie some of his most effective bass fishing flies. If you are interested in learning more about catching bass on the fly, this program should be very informative

Striper Fishing Lake Powell

The sign up sheet for the Lake Powell Striper was available at the February DFC meeting. We have enough signed up for 2 boats currently. If you want to get in on the fun please contact Vince Deadmond. 480 982 7461 (B) 480 984 4698 (H) or at Vddeadmond@aol.com.

time. If you are not going to be at the March DFC meeting get your deposit in on time. Complete payment needs to be paid at the April 9 DFC Meeting.

If you would like to go on this trip and you have not signed up call or e-mail your host Vince Deadmond.

sional Brookie. There are fishing environments to challenge all skill levels. This is also a great opportunity to fish nearby X-Diamond ranch, but make your reservations early. In the past the campground hosts have let us set up early, and charge the normal rate per vehicle for the group which is around \$12-\$15, unless it has gone up along with everything else.

We will be having the usual chili and international beer night that has grown to become a club favorite. Bring a serving of chili for the community pot (it's actually quite good), and some beer for the cooler to share with others. The club will provide bowls utensils, cheese, onions, tortillas, etc. You might consider bringing a side or desert if you wish. If you get lucky, you might get to hear Gordon sing some Johnny Cash, or have that Marlin Perkins encounter you've always dreamed about with a cute fuzzy little black bear. I've been going on this trip since '96, and have always had a blast. We generally have a huge turnout, and most everyone gets some fish.

I will have a signup sheet available at the next meeting. There will be a \$15 charge to help cover the cost of the campsites. I hope to see you all there!

Ken Durning

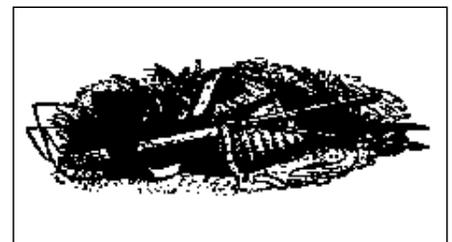
The trip is taking shape. We will be fishing 2 days Saturday, May 3 and Sunday, May 4. Cost will be \$125 per day. That pays for the boat and guide only. Food, lodging, and Utah stamp are all extra. We need to make arrangements to stay in Page.

Equipment you will want to have on board, 6-8 weight rod, reel to match. You may need a variety of line set ups. Floating, intermediate sink, sink tip, and even a full sinking line would be good to have along. Flies to pack: Clousers, Poppers, and Buggars. Have some variety, some you will want to sink quickly, some you will want to float or sink slowly. You may want to fish from the boat, or you may wish to use you float tube.

A \$75 DEPOSIT MUST BE IN BY MARCH 12 DFC MEETING. Make arrangements to get you deposit in on

White Mountains Extravaganza

I recently reserved campground for the White Mountains Extravaganza. This Year it will be during the weekend of June 20th thru 22nd. Once again it will be held at Winn Campground, across from Lee Valley Reservoir. We have reserved both group sites, because of the ever-growing size of this event. If you have never been on this outing, this is one of the best opportunities to fish some of the finest lakes and streams in Arizona. For the tubers and kick-boaters, Big Lake, Crescent, Lee Valley, and the numerous reservation lakes offer the lure of big fish, and tons of fun. For those interested in stream fishing, the Little Colorado, Black River, and White River offer up miles of quality fishing for Browns, 'Bows, Apaches, and the occa-



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NIKE Fly Fishing Just Do It!

By Vince Deadmond

Were has the time gone. It's March already and many of you have not even wet a line this year, or even purchased your fishing permit. One of the great things about Arizona is there is no end to the fishing season. The fishing may not be very good, but you can still go. Several people have discovered Silver Creek this winter, and it would still make a good trip for a carload of anglers.

I have made a couple trips to Puerto Penasco, and that is usually a good trip regardless of the fishing. Good places to eat, friendly people, good friends, and more times than not the fishing is also good. Between Christmas and New Years several DFC members went to Puerto Penasco and fished Bird Island. The group chartered a 36-foot boat and made the ride out to the island in comfort. When we arrived the fish were cooperative and the seals were quite talkative. Some members of the group launched pontoon boats, and others fished from the boat, either way everyone caught fish.

I returned again the last weekend in January, and found Pompano in a playful mood. I am not sure if I have ever had such a good Pompano bite. I caught fish after fish for an hour and a half. I was in my float tube and finally tired of catching fish! I was riding the incoming tide, so I had parked my truck in town, and had taken a taxi back to the RV Park to begin my fishing trip. When I got back to the truck it was lunchtime, so I stopped at a cantina for lunch. Some fishing trips are better than this, but not much better.

Ever notice that there are a few people in the club who are always going fishing? Well those of us who fish a lot run out of fishing partners. We can't always schedule our fishing with our best fishing buddy. That means there is probably an opening for you on the next unofficial fishing trip. Talk it up with some of the members who fish a lot, and sure enough, they are going again, and soon, and yes, there is room for one more. Get out there and fish, or like the NIKE advertising, Just Do it!

DFC FLY SWAP

Recently while surfing the net, I have noticed several fly fishing and tying groups that do fly swaps. Since my new Wheatley box is empty, I have decided to host a Small Stream Fly Swap. What I will hope to do, is get around a dozen or so tyers to tie up their favorite small stream pattern, one for each person involved in the swap, plus one extra for a raffle box. I would like to keep the patterns varied, but within the small stream

theme. I don't need any salmon flies, streamers, midges, or simi-seal leaches, save those for the lake swap. The patterns will be on a first come first serve basis, so if you want to tie parachute adams, let me know. I want to minimize duplicates, but I might bend if it's a different size. I will need the flies by the April meeting, so I can sort them and get them out by the May meeting.

If you are interested, see me at the membership table, tell me what you wish to tie, and leave your contact information. I will have a paper with the rules of the swap at the meeting as well.

Tight Lines,
Ken Durning



Thanks to all who purchased the new DFC Pins at the February Meeting. They are as follows: Michael Caman, Ron Nemyo, Neal Rapolge, Jerry Myers and Will Maloney (Gift).

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



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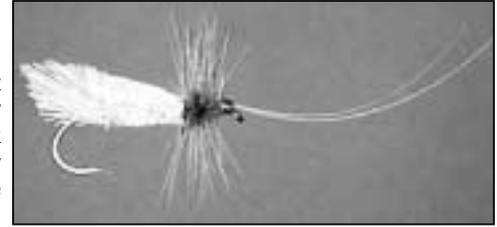
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GODDARD CADDIS

By Bob Bates

It was a dark and stormy night when Opps! That's another story. It was dark, but it wasn't stormy. The wind was blowing, but in Montana the wind often blows. My son gave me a black version of the Goddard Caddis, and after tying it on in the truck headlights we went fishing on a fast stretch of the Madison river. Fish were obviously rising because we could hear splashes up and down river. Occasionally we could see a rise in reflected sky light, but most of the time all we could see was inky blackness.



Tactics were simple, carefully climb down the bank and find the water's edge. If your feet suddenly turned cold you were a little past it. Strip out 20 feet of line, pull some of it through the tip top guide (back casting was prohibited unless you really wanted to tie on another fly) and let it drop into the water. Then start careful roll casts, and hope that you put the fly out in the river.

How did we tell when a fish hit? Easy, if we heard a splash someplace near where we thought the fly was, we just tightened the line enough to feel if it was heavier that it should be. If not, we relaxed and let the fly drift or drag or whatever it was doing a little longer. Many fish (they felt like rainbows and browns) grabbed our flies, were landed and gently released. All were between one and two feet long. Maybe I am exaggerating a little on the two feet but without a tape and light I can only guess.

The Goddard Caddis (G & R Sedge) was developed as a still water pattern by John Goddard, well known English tier and angler. It floats so well that it became a favorite of lake fishermen, and also proved successful for stream anglers. This was years before *The Trout and the Fly*, 1980 by Brian Clarke and John Goddard described the fly. Some authors list others as co-developers, but I cannot find confirming evidence. The pattern described by Clark and Goddard is a little more complicated than what is given below. For one thing we do not have a green, seal-fur underbody.

Materials List:

Hook: Mustad 94840, Tiemco TMC 100, Daiichi 1100, or other dry fly hook, 10-16 Thread: A or Kevlar for spinning and brown or orange 6/0 to finish Body: Deer hair Antenna: Brown hackle quills Hackle: Brown

Tying Steps:

There are many ways to tie this pattern from "spin the deer hair body and trim it in a cone shape, larger to rear, and chop it off square in back" to styles with some deer hair pointing rearward. However, when, I watched *Fly Tying, the Angler's Art* with Dave Engerbretson and LeRoy Hyatt, on Public Television, I thought LeRoy's technique produced a more realistic fly. (A note especially for the new tier 'also applicable to us older tiers.' Watch many tiers, try their techniques and pick the one that works the best for you.) As they say "there are many ways to unfrock the feline." No matter what specific motions are used to tie a fly it will probably catch fish.

1. Attach thread near the bend. Cut off a sizable bundle (about the diameter of a wooden pencil for size 10 hook) of deer hair, and comb out under fur and short fibers. Trim off tips.
2. Put bundle on top of hook, add two loose thread wraps around middle of bundle, tighten but don't let bundle spin. Hold bundle on top of hook as you put several more tight thread wraps on top of first two. Wind thread through flared hair and half hitch in front of flared fibers.
3. Cut off an equal size bundle, clean out under fur and trim butts and tips. Position bundle in front of first bunch. Put two loose thread wraps around bundle, tighten thread until hair starts to flair and then turn it loose and let it spin around the hook. Wind the thread rearward into the first bundle; then forward again to front of second bundle. Winding the thread back marries the two sets of flared deer hair and stabilizes the first. Put two half hitches in front of flared deer hair and cut thread. Front of flared deer hair should be near the 1/3rd point.
4. Take fly out of vise and trim bottom hair flat as close to the shank as possible without cutting the thread.
5. Put hook into vise backwards. That is: Hold hook in vise at bend but have the shank and eye pointing over the barrel of the vise. It is easier to trim the cone shaped body so it is narrow at the front and larger to the rear. (A rotary vise is very handy for trimming a round body.) Trim top of wing parallel to the shank and trim the rear of wing sloping toward the bend a little. Then at back of wing trim sides to give the wing a little wedge pointing backward.
6. Put fly into vise correctly, and attach 6/0 thread. Pick thread color to match the small spots of color on your caddis. Strip barbs off of two feathers from an inexpensive (import) neck, and attach stems so the tips stick out over eye more than total length of fly.
7. Select a hackle feather with barbs about 1-1/2 the gap width. Modern genetic saddle hackles are best. Pull off some barbs at the bottom of the feather and attach hackle to hook by the bare stem. Wind hackle forward leaving room to tie off hackle, secure and trim excess.
8. Whip finish over the antennae and hackle tie off. Use a bit of head cement if you like.
9. Trim antennae to match your local caddis. If antennae don't curve the way you want, simply trap one antenna between your thumb nail and your first finger and slide along antenna. The antenna will curve toward the thumb nail. Push harder with thumbnail to make more curve.

The real beauty of a Goddard Caddis, whether black or natural, is that it floats in very rough water, and several copies of different sizes should be in everybody's fly box. It also does a good job when "traveling sedges" (caddis) are moving across the surface of a lake.

Goddard Caddis is "Fly of the Month" from FFF



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MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASING

This is just a quick note to remind everyone that as of April 1st, membership dues are increasing to \$35. Do yourselves a favor and sign up at the March meeting, and save 5-bucks (good for raffle tickets, and or tasty beverages). Stop by and see me at the meeting, or copy the membership form from the website and mail in your check.

Ken Durning

THE MYSTERY OF THE "X" IN YOUR TIPPET

By Jim Smoragiewicz of the Black Hills Fly Fishers in South Dakota

It was a passing thought that I had many times over the years but never took the time to look into it. What does the "X" on packages of tippet and leaders stand for? This was one of the things that I thought everyflyfisher but me knew. As I came to discover, however, most other anglers didn't know the answer to this either, and prompted some research on my part.

A little history on some of our first mass produced tippet material. For some time early in the century, leaders were tied out of a silk strand that came from a caterpillar in Spain. The caterpillars were killed and then processed in chemicals to toughen their silk sacks. The silk sacks or "gut" were then removed from the caterpillar (usually two caterpillar). This packet of silk was then stretched out, usually reaching a length of 12"-15". Lengths of silk longer than this were scarce, and brought a premium price.

The silk strands were uneven in diameter and needed to be uniform in diameter for use in building a leader. The way this evening process was accomplished was by using diamonds to cut away the excess material. The diamond that had a round hole drilled in it and was polished on one side to form a cutting edge on the hole. The

silk strand was then soaked in a solution to soften it, and then drawn through the hole in the diamond with all excess silk being cut away.

This uniform piece of "silk cat gut" (gut from a caterpillar, and not a house cat) was considered to be 1x in size because it had been drawn through a diamond one time or 1x. Next it was drawn through a diamond with a smaller hole to reduce the diameter even further. This piece of silk was now a 2x in diameter, or drawn through diamonds 2 times. This was continued until a 5x tippet size was reached, the smallest most flyfishers felt was usable at the time.

TAKE A LEAD(ER) FROM THE PROFESSOR OF FLY FISHING

(FFF ClubWire; From Jim Abbs)

In 1934 George Harvey taught the first college level fly fishing and fly tying classes in the U.S. (at Penn State). Over the next 38 years he instructed over 35,000 youngsters and adults in fly tying and fly casting. He has fished with and tied flies for both President Eisenhower and President Carter. With these qualifications, he is the unquestionable "Professor of Fly Fishing."

One of Professor Harvey's contributions to fly fishing is a technique for constructing leaders that simply catch more trout. One of the biggest problems with catching trout on dry flies is drag. Trout simply will not strike a fly that is not moving at the same speed as the surface water.

George Harvey recognized that there was a dilemma between having a stiff nylon leader that was easy to cast and a soft leader that would reduce drag. So in response he designed and constructed a leader with 3-4 stiff butt sections and 2-3 soft terminal sections. The stiff butt sections allow you to control the cast, while the soft terminal sections lay down with some "S" curves, allowing the fly to drift freely.

Here are two of George Harvey's leader formula:

LEADER FORMULA FOR 9 1/2 foot, 4X: Three Stiff Butt Sections - 10 inches-.017, 20 inches-.013, 20 inches.011, followed by Three Soft Terminal Sections- 12 inches of .009, 18 inches of .008, and 22-28 inches of .007

LEADER FORMULA FOR 10 1/2, 5X: Five Stiff Butt Sections - 10 inches of .017, 20 inches of .015, 20 inches of .013, 20 inches of .011, 12 inches of .009, followed by Three Soft Terminal Sections - 12 inches of .008, 18 inches of .007 and 22-30 inches of .006.

These leader formula have been heralded all over the U.S. and George Harvey writes that "Every fly fisherman I have demonstrated this leader design to has become an instant convert,

If you use this design for your dry fly fishing it will increase your catch by at least fifty percent." What else can we say? George is THE Professor!



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CALENDAR UP DATES

We make our calendar, and then we change it. Fly fishing as you know is not always easy. The weather, the fish, and other variables cause us to reevaluate our position and try to have the best trips available. You will notice that we are going to many of the same places, but some of the dates have changed. Take note and pay attention, I can almost assure you that their will be more changes.

March 11,13,18,20,25, & 27 *Fly Tying Classes Host Ted Bounds*

March 30 *Fly Casting Clinic Host Ted Bounds*

April 11-13 *Seneca Lake Host Jim Dickson/Doc Nickle*

May 2-4 *Lake Powell Striper Trip Host Vince Deadmond*

May 16-18 *Puerto Penasco, Mexico Host Dave Weaver/Vince Deadmond*

June 20-22 *White Mtn. Spectacular Host Ken Darning*

June 27-28 *X-Diamond Ranch Host Vince Deadmond*

July 18-20 *Kolob Lake, UT Host needed*

Aug 1-4 *Loreto Baja, Mexico*

Sept 12-14 *Parker Canyon Lake Host Jim Dickson*

Oct 2-5 *San Juan River, NM Host Cinda Howard*

Nov 7-9 *Puerto Penasco, Mexico Host Doc Nickle*

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