



DESERT FLY CASTERS *Forward Casts*

DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB



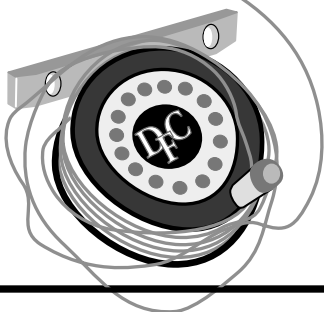
MAY MEETING:

Wednesday, May 14, 2003
Dinner- 6:00 PM
Meeting- 7:00 PM

American Legion Post #2
2125 S. Industrial Park Ave.
in Tempe

"Chasing trout is no less wearing and barely less complicated than chasing women."

John Voelker (Robert Traver, 1964)



President's Report- May 2003

Cinda Howard

This year is flying by and it seems like just yesterday we were at the annual Christmas banquet. It does not seem like I have been President of this club for five months. The year will be gone before you know it. It's May already which means the fishing Gods should be smiling upon us and bringing good fishing. Speaking of good fishing, this month Dylan Kennedy from Scottsdale Flyfishing Company will be speaking to us at the meeting about fishing in Arizona. Look for more information further in the newsletter.

The club continues to have conservation pins available at the meetings. These pins are eight dollars each or two for fifteen dollars. The money that the club makes on these pins goes directly to the Mora Gila Project. This project is an attempt to assist the Gila trout to spawn in the wild. Purchase your pin at the meeting and also buy one for a friend. Starting this month we will have a special raffle drawing at each meeting for all of those proudly displaying their DFC conservation pin.

If you recall the club made a donation earlier in the year to Casting for Recovery in the amount of \$250. We found out that Casting for Recovery has not yet met their goal amount to cover the retreat that is coming up in a couple of weeks so the board decided to donate an additional \$250. By helping this cause we are enabling women with breast cancer to attend a retreat in Pinetop that is designed to promote and support mental and physical healing. This will be the first retreat in Arizona and it sounds like it will be a success. If you are interested in giving an individual donation let me know and I will direct you to the person you need to speak with. The retreat will be taking place May 16th-18th.

By the time this newsletter is printed and gets in the mail the group that went to Lake Powell will be back with a report. If you missed out on that trip, don't fret, there are more opportunities for other upcoming trips. There is a Rocky Point outing in May that Dave Weaver is hosting and don't forget about the White Mountain Spectacular in June. See Ken Durning for the specifics. If you signed up and have not paid your \$15 you should do that to make sure that you have a spot to camp when you get there. Also, later in the year there is the Annual San Juan outing and many other trips in the making. If you are interested in hosting a trip, see Vince Deadmond.

The Annual Seneca Lake outing was this past month and we may have had a record number of attendees. I believe the official count was 36 people. It was a great time. If you are wondering, Doc still makes the best hamburger in the West. Everyone caught fish and it was a very enjoyable weekend.

The meeting this month will be on Wednesday, May 14th. Come early and help pay for the hall by joining us for dinner from 6:00 to 7:00. Hope to see you there!

Cinda Howard
DFC President

May's Meeting Dinner Menu

DFC pays for the rent of the meeting hall by selling dinners before each meeting. By buying a dinner at the meeting, you can help the club pay for the meeting hall. The price of each Dinner is \$8.00, which includes gratuity. Cindy and John of the American Legion Hall plan this month's menu to be a 5oz. Rib Eye Steak, a baked potato, vegetable, salad, and a dessert. Come early and enjoy dinner with your DFC friends! Dinner is served from 6pm to 7pm

MAY DFC Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker for May 14th will be Dylan Kennedy, owner and operator of Scottsdale Flyfishing Company. Dylan's presentation will consist of slides and his personal experiences while fishing some of Arizona's best fishing locations. This will be a great early season primer for lake and stream fishing in Arizona. He will discuss techniques, equipment, and locations to explore. He will also give us information on the outlook for fishing this season. This should be a great presentation and we are looking forward to having Dylan as our guest speaker.

Roy Baker, Program Chairman

911 Alert at Seneca Lake...

Yep. It happened. Eleven of the best fly fishers in the club all fainted or passed out, from shock. Someone tried to call 911, but couldn't get a connection. The reason they all fell out was the sight and strange phenomenon of seeing D & D (Dickles and Doc) actually fishing on the lake at the same time.



Strange things happen around the full moon!

The outing was success in every aspect, except for one aspect, the dumb guy who wrote the pre-promoting article didn't know they moved the C-K a mile further up the road and the name of the other one is EXPRESS. Anyway, let's get back to the other aspects! Fish were plentiful and fairly easy to entice to hit a fly. Hooking them a little tougher and keeping them hooked tougher yet. I don't think there was anyone who got skunked. Frisky little fellas at that!

The comradery, help and instruction flowed freely, which is really cool for someone starting out in the sport.

Speaking of flowing, the libations were!! On that note, thanks to Bill and Helen for the monster bottle of champagne and butterscotch schnapps, and kudos to D & D for the Vodka and Kahlua and milk = White Russians. Hope in the future some

other people remember to chip in with some liquid dessert.

All of this, of course, helped the food to taste much better. Monster "trucker" burgers and grilled onions on sesame seed buns. YUMMY!!

I guess I shouldn't have pushed the day trip thing so much, cause we lost about one third of the population before dinner.

All in all it was a great trip whether a day or two or five, like one lucky guy we all know.

Mark it on your calendar for next year as a must do, and bring your barbles hooks. They're a lot easier to extract G!J!!

Doc Nickels

Fishing Around

by Vince Deadmond

You may be reading this while other Desert Fly Casters will be on the Striper Cruise 2003. The crew will be checking into their staterooms May 2, and enjoying beverages, fine dining, exploring Lake Powell, and the ambiance that goes with any fine

cruise. The Striper fishing should heat up with warmer spring temperatures, and we should have a fishing report for you at the next DFC meeting. For those of you who are looking for more adventure Ambassador Guide Service offers a 2 day package, where you camp on the lake at the end of your first day and fish your way back to the marina. This allows for some special fishing opportunities. Spring and fall are the best times for Striper fishing.

The X-Diamond Ranch, in the White Mountains is about 15 miles from Greer. The X-Diamond is probably the best small stream experience in the state. DFC has rented the entire mile and a half of the Little Colorado. A limited number of anglers will be able to participate in this June 27 & 28 outing. Camping will be available at South Fork, and lodging in Greer is also an option. Cost for the 2 day event is \$60. Only a few spots have not been sold. If you have your name in, but not your money get with the program. Call Vince Deadmond for more information: 480-982-7461 (B) or 480 984 4698.

Small Stream Fishing in the Rim Area

by George Geoghegan

It is springtime in the mountains, the perfect time to do a little small stream fishing in the Rim area outside of Payson. A two to two and a half hour drive will get you to a number of small trout streams. This make for a nice day trip to get in six hours or so of fishing and get back in town by nightfall.

I had been up to this area several times in March and early April and every time the high water from the

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snow melt had made fishing difficult to say the least. I had to put in a good number of miles to find water slow and clear enough to coax a few trout into taking my flies. But, as we all know, a tough day of fishing still beats a good day of doing chores in town.

I decided head up to the Rim check out some of the streams on the 20th of April. I had mixed feelings during my commute. On one hand, I hoped the water was running high and fast, and on the other I hoped to get in a little fishing before the area becomes clogged with people in mid-May.

My first stop of the day was at a creek that I had never fished before. I had stopped in the area to scout out some new and hopefully less fished locations on several previous trips. The water had been very high and discolored, so I had always passed and moved on to another location. This time a quick look at the water level revealed a high water level, but the runoff had subsided significantly. I decided to give it a try. After an two of scrambling around a small canyon littered with fallen tree limbs with no rises to my dry fly, I decided to move on to a more familiar stream.

My second stop of the day yielded much more success. The water was much lower there, almost back to the familiar levels of the last few dry years. I was able to tempt some of the resident browns to rise to the bit of feathers at the end of my tippet. This was enough to convince me to return for an encore the next weekend, which is not a difficult thing to do.

I was back in my car traveling north on highway 87 on April 26th, smiling at the thought of fishing while avoiding a day of home improvement jobs. I stopped at the spot I had tried without any success the week before. This time it was a much different story. The water level had dropped and the creek was very clear. I enjoyed on the best days of fishing that I had ever had in the Rim area. The fish were eager to rise to any dry

fly I tied on; I even tried several that I had never used just for kicks. A dropper nymph worked wonders on the few fish who were not interested in rising though the current.

The fish on both trips appeared to be in excellent shape, and the ratio of decent fish to dinks was very good. The hiking and the approaches were more difficult than normal due to a large amount of downed wood deposited along the watercourses. I was able to wet wade on both trips. It was a little cold, but not too unpleasant. The dry fly action was very good and I would expect it to get better as the water levels drop and the current speeds slow. If you enjoy small stream fishing, I would recommend visit the Rim area streams in the near future.

DFC Media Resources

I am putting together a few paragraphs to remind everyone of two resources we have available to all club members. The library and the video collection have been getting only minimal use lately. This stuff is really heavy; I need a lighter my load when I leave the meetings.

The book library consists of various titles that span most aspects of fly fishing from tying flies to fish behavior and anything in between. We have books from most well known authors, such as Gary LaFontaine, Jack Dennis, Lefty Kreh, Lee Wulff, and many others. These books are free for members to check out.

The video library has titles ranging across subjects from introductory casting, basic fly fishing, famous locations, advanced techniques, and of course fly tying. These videos require a twenty dollar deposit for check out. I do hold checks and tear them up when the video is returned.

George Geoghegan- Video & Books

Conservation and Education Update (Plus a few fishing notes)

by Ted Bounds

Spring has arrived in Arizona. This is the season that we all look forward to and plan for throughout the winter months. Ice is off the high country lakes and mountain streams are running high and off color. Time to get out and do some fishing. We have the best water conditions in the high country that we have enjoyed in eight years, so get out and do some fishing and enjoy the scenery while you can. Even though we had good moisture this winter, the pine trees still have less than optimum moisture content, and anyone who has been to any of the forests in our state can see the devastation that has been caused by the bark beetles. There are lots of dead standing ponderosa pines and we have the potential to have another devastating wild fire season. Please be extra careful with fire and pray for summer rains.

The introduction to fly fishing class that I mentioned in last months newsletter has been pushed back to September. I will have a sign up sheet at the July meeting. The class will be held on the Salt River and be just in time to go over knots, equipment, and techniques before the club outing to the San Juan River in New Mexico in October. There will be more information on this later.

I got to go to Lees Ferry on April 12th, 13th, and 14th with some of the DFC members. It was a great trip and we enjoyed the best fishing on the walk-in section that any of us had seen in several years. I also tried Willow Springs and Woods Canyon lakes on April 25th. It was a beautiful day to be on the Rim, but fishing was pretty slow. The water is still pretty cold in the lakes, but fishing should

...continued on page 4



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pick up soon with the warmer weather. I have heard reports that the x-diamond is fishing really well (high water-heavy weighted flies and Wooly buggars) and I am going to give it a shot on May 2nd. Hope to see everyone on the water someplace soon.

In closing I would like to encourage everyone to contact your elected officials and let them know that you don't appreciate them robbing the heritage fund money that is supposed to go to our Game and Fish department. G&F are funded from sales of licenses and with money from the heritage fund that is designated to go to game and fish. They don't get any money from the state general fund. The 10 million dollars that the legislature took from G&F this year to try and balance the state budget was designated to buy critical habitat. All the time and effort that was put into making these purchases is negated now, and there is a real possibility that some of these critical areas will be sold to someone else-possibly to have houses built on it. G&F plan their budget on moneys that they think they will have. So if they don't have enough money to operate guess who will get to foot the bill? You and I and everyone else who buys a hunting and fishing license. I look for G&F to ask for an increase in the price of licenses. G&F is understaffed, overworked, and underpaid. With conditions as they are now there is a real possibility that some jobs will be lost. I don't think this is a good formula to retain top quality people no matter how dedicated they are to their jobs. If you don't know how to contact your elected representatives, do a search on the Internet for Arizona State Government and you can get contact information there. *See you all at the May meeting.*



Saga at Seneca

by Georganne Jannenga


Now, in my younger days, I may have been told a time or two that I was a "great catch", but hey now....catching MYSELF...that's another story! I was float tubing at, of course, the furthest-from-the-campground end of Seneca Lake at the Club's recent outing and trying to "tie one on" (no, that was much later at the campsite)....what I meant to say was "tie a different fly on" my tippet, when all of a sudden a blustering wind blast came out of nowhere, whipped my fly line out of my hand, and, OUCH, imbedded the hook, barb & all (which I, bad girl, had failed to pinch down) into the fleshy pad of my left index finger! Oh, boy! After several painful attempts to dislodge the darn thing, I took the advice of a close-by fellow tuber & cut the tippet, leaving about 4" of line, hook attached, lodged in my finger. Not wanting to waste time while paddling all the way back across the lake for assistance, and, being the efficient person I am, I gingerly, and more careful of the wind this time, tied another fly on and proceeded to fish, while dangling my left hand, which by now was throbbing somewhat from numerous failed attempts to extricate the damn thing, in the cold water. Well, lo and behold, I managed to catch and release not one, but TWO trout on the way back to our camping area. Believe you me, it's a very delicate & interesting operation to take a hook out of a trout's lip one handedly!

Once back at the old homestead, I hailed my buds Doc Nickel and Jim Dickson for assistance with my somewhat embarrassing dilemma. So, my subsequent request for alcohol prompts some silly person to start looking for the first aid kit. Wrong! They obviously failed to realize that my intent was for the "liquid courage" kind. Having set that record straight, Jim and Doc proceeded to mix a nice

hefty blend of kahlua and vodka, which they then proceeded to pour, not on the wound, but rather down my throat! Then the search was on for a stronger, thicker piece of line with which to dislodge the nasty impaled hook. At last, with my arm outstretched on the picnic table, palm up, and the liquid courage creating a warm fuzzy feeling down my entire being, my eyes closed, and a big stick between my teeth (just kidding), Doc proceeded to dislodge the offending metal with one swift & fell swoop. Ask him to demonstrate his technique sometime (no, I'm not volunteering to assist in the demo.) But believe me, this is a good thing to know how to do for a friend in need. (Besides, he owed me a first aid payback for boiling water for his foot when the stingray got him down in Rocky Pointe on last year's trip.) Anyways, it's a great little technique, lots of blood, but not too much pain. Whatever....in Doc's honor, I think we should call it the "Nickel fingerlich" technique. By the way, Roy Baker proudly claims to, via personal experience, have mastered the technique as well, which, from my understanding, involves pinching the eye down, threading the thicker line under the curve in the hook and....whalla!

There's more: Subsequently, being the dedicated fisherwoman I am, before long I'm paddling back out in the lake with the intent of fishing around the dock, where I had seen a guy haul in a whole stringer full of rainbows on my way in. So now, I'm sitting in my tube close to the dock trying to stay out of the wind to tie another one on (oh, wait, I'd already done THAT at the campsite).....when all of a sudden I feel this strange sensation in my lap. I look down and lo and behold here's this chubby, probably 14", (and obviously very friendly)

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rainbow trout sitting in my lap! Now, granted, I've put on a few pounds over the years, but I usually have better self-esteem than to think of myself as STRUCTURE! J Anyway, he (I assumed he was a boy; after all, he WAS in my LAP!) must have just sat there for a good two or three minutes....almost as if to say, "Ha, you can't catch me, blonde, so I'll just sit here and tease you!" Well, he seemed to be quite a tame little fella, so I slowly put my hands under the netting and touched him and he actually let me pick him up! I contemplated, albeit for a brief moment, keeping him as a pet, but, sensing my thoughts (this was one psychic phish) he wiggled from my grasp, slid down my thigh and swam between my legs and out from under the tube. All right, I know this sounds like an exaggerated fish story....strange but TRUE....honest!

So, all in all, I think everyone had great fun on this trip; lots of fish caught, lots of great camaraderie, superb weather, tasty monster burgers, and rowdy dancing-around-the-campfire revelry. My flyfishing memoirs someday may read, 2003 DFC Trips: Seneca Lake Chapter: Finger hooks, lap trout, campfire cha cha, etc. Hey, there was even talk about renaming DFC" The Desert Swing (hey, don't go there....swing DANCING) and Fly Caster's Club"! Just remember....always practice SAFE -- _fishing (fooled ya')!

Your Secretary.

"The great charm of fly-fishing is that we are always learning; no matter how long we have been at it, we are constantly making some fresh discovery, picking up some new wrinkle. If we become conceited through great success, some day the trout will take us down a peg."

Theodore Gordon-1907

White Mountains Spectacular...

by Ken Durning

The time is fast approaching for the 2003 White Mountains Spectacular. Since this is one of the few chances I get to escape the kids for a while, I try to plan a loose itinerary well in advance to make the most of my trip. I will be going up for 5 days, so hitting the prime spots early is my first priority. Wednesday - Black River, Thursday - Ditch Camp, Friday- The X, Saturday- Sunrise, and Sunday will be for rest, relaxation, recovery and even more fishing.

I would encourage those of you who will be coming on this trip to check out some of the other fishing spots that the White Mountains have to offer. (Yes there is actually more to fish than Lee Valley, Big Lake, and Sheep's Crossing!) The White Mountain Apache Reservation has miles of moving water, most of it very accessible. In addition to the White River and various creeks, there are some of the most beautiful lakes you could ask for. You also seem to see fewer fisher-folks than on the national forest lakes and streams.

I speak to people all the time who have never ventured onto the reservation, for a variety of reasons. There is nothing to fear, just get you a permit, current regulations, and a good map (the roads aren't always marked well). All of the tribal members I've met have been pretty cool, and fairly free with the info, which can't always be said of our fellow fly-fishermen.

Do yourselves a favor, and check out some of the fishing that is available to you on the res. If you have any questions about where to fish, ask me, or some of the other club members, and be sure to sign up for the outing at the next meeting!



HELP US....

Help us all here in Arizona...We can make a difference by simply purchasing one of our DFC Conservation 2003 pins. Our club committed monies as a donation for on-going research. The money that we receive from our members and friends from these pin will help in that research and development of the Gila trout for 2003. The Gila trout has been closed to fishing as recent efforts are part of a larger plan...The **Mora Gila Project** and concerned fish biologists throughout the southwest are "chipping" away at improving this trout's conservation status. The reward of seeing the copper-colored Gila trout swimming in our streams is just ahead of us. It's taken time- a lot of time and effort, coordination and innovation by individuals to make it all complete. We, in the Desert Fly Casters can help *chip away* by purchasing pins at one of the next monthly meetings.

Come help make the difference with pride by wearing your pin on a vest or hat when you're out on the trout streams and lakes here in Arizona. If we each recognized the true value and treasured moments of fishing we would help make the difference with the DFC donation through these commemorative pins.

Many Thanks,

Robert McKeon, DFC Newsletter Editor



MAY DFC OUTING • Rocky Point Trip • May 16-18

WHAT? A Rocky Point fishing trip this time of year? No sea trout? What's the point? TRIGGER fish and cabrilla... lot's of them too. The point is Rocky Point. These will test your 7 or 8 wt rods. Trust me. I have been fishing for these critters for over a decade and your arms may get tired if you are not in shape. All you need is a float tube or pontoon, some basic flies and want to have fun. We will meet at the Playa del Oro restaurant Saturday morning at 8am for breakfast then head out to Sandy Beach (on the way to Cholla Bay). Windy weather may change our location. There is a \$5 charge to enter Sandy Beach by Reef Bar. Take a right and look for the red Samari after you pass the NEW RV Park that opened up two months ago. Fast sink lines the key. Success comes with getting down to the bottom in the current. I use a type 6 sink or Teeny 450. I also use a Rio 300 with a weighted fly. The reward is 1.5lb to 3+ lb triggers and large cabrilla's. The large triggers can bend your 8 wt in two literally!

There are several places to stay; Motels, RV parks (for trailers or tents) or tenting at Sandy Beach. Call Dave Weaver at h 480-820-0903, w 480413-7681 for details.

Flies. For triggers; white or tan clousers/foxy minnows with 4x long size 6 hooks approx, or crazy-charlie like flies are great. For cabrilla, black over white integration or clouser patterns with a red throat work great, size 4. Tie flashy and thin. **More details at the meeting.**



Annual San Juan Outing

This trip is taking place October 2nd through 5th. It will be three nights stay and includes a full day guide (float) on Friday, October 3rd along with a banquet dinner that evening. The cost of the trip is \$300. At this point we are full but there is a waiting list. Be sure and get your name on it if you are interested in going. Contact Cinda Howard if you need more information (480) 897-8083 or (480) 774-9777.

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