

# Forward Casts

DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB



#### **OCTOBER MEETING:**

Wednesday, October 8, 2003 Dinner- 6:00 PM Meeting- 7:00 PM American Legion Post #2

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

"I come from a race of fishers, trout streams gurgled about the roots of my family tree." John Burroughs, 1884





## **Presidents Report-October 2003**

all is here and that means some of the best fishing of the year is upon us. I am hearing some good reports from the White Mountains. Sunrise has been good off and on but when you hook up it is usually a decent fish (17+ inches). Crescent has been doing ok, the fish aren't big but they are fat and healthy. Pacheta is one of the best bets right now with big browns being caught. They are getting ready to spawn and should be pretty active. While you are up there you might also want to hit Horseshoe and Hawley. These two lakes should be turning on as well. I haven't done any small streams fishing lately but suspect that it should be doing well too. I did hear one report from Oak Creek and it was doing ok. This is the time to get out and fish before everything turns to ice.

There is a good chance that while you are reading this twenty-four of our members will be at the San Juan attempting to catch some big fish in this blue ribbon fishery. This is one of the biggest trips of the year. If you weren't able to make it on this trip but want to enjoy the company of the members and get some good fishing in before the winter, you still have time. The Annual DFC Rocky Point outing is coming up in November. Look for more information and a map further in the newsletter. I haven't been on this trip but have heard that it is a lot of fun

There are plenty of things going on in the conservation world right now and Eric Larsen, our conservation chair, is on top of it. Further in the newsletter, look for notes from him about the Apache Trout Restoration Project, the Gila Trout Recovery Plan, and information about Canyon Creek. Also, the club has purchased cray-fish traps so look for more information about this in the new future.

This past weekend Ted Bounds hosted a Flyfishing 101 class at the Salt River. The purpose of this class was to give detailed instruction on nymphing. He covered how to rig, mend, cast with weights, and also how to get a good drag-free drift. It was very informative and as usual, he did a great job.

We are just two months away from our annual Christmas Banquet. Roy Baker did a great job with this last year and has agreed to be our chairman again this year. He sent out over 160 letters and the donations have already started coming in. We are always looking for help from the members so if you have anything you would like to donate or if you would like to help in organizing the banquet, please let him know.

This month our meeting will be back to normal. Two of our long time members, Doc Frye and Jerry Myers, will be giving a presentation on their trip earlier this year to New Zealand. I think everyone has one place that they absolutely want to fish before they die and mine is New Zealand. I definitely won't miss this presentation and hope to see you there too.

One last thing, in our newsletter last month I listed the board positions and what each one does. At the October and November meetings we will nominate board members. The board meets on the third Wednesday of each month at Old Chicago's in Tempe. This is about a mile from where our regular meetings are held. If you have an interest in helping run this club, please let one of the current board members know.

Don't forget to come early and join us for dinner from 6:00 to 7:00. The dinner is only \$8.00 and helps pay for the hall.

See you on the 8th!

Cinda Howard, DFC President

### **OCTOBER 8th PROGRAM**

Our October program will star two of our long time members, Jerry Meyers and Dr. James Frye. They will share slides and stories from their experience while fishing around Taupo on the North Island of New Zealand with the Distant Waters guide service. To quote the Distant Waters Website, "Today, avid fishermen from around the world flock to Taupo to fish for "rainbows" and "browns" so big the locals reckon the lake level drops every time a fish is caught." Come see their program to find out more about the challenging yet rewarding fishing experience that New Zealand has to offer.

Roy Baker

### October'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. This month's menu will be a Mexican Dinner. Come early and enjoy dinner with your DFC friends! Dinner is served from 6pm to 7pm.

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

#### What Happened to Summer?

By Vince Deadmond

School has started, it's almost time to think about a fall and winter fishing schedule. Before I get too far I want to relive and savor my summer vacation fishing. Many anglers find summer vacation their best shot at getting several back-to back days of fishing on the water. It is amazing how much better you are at the end of a week of constant fishing.

Long time readers of this publication know that my summer vacation puts me in Northern Wisconsin, and the fishing is quite good. I won't rehash the merits of fishing the Brule River, Chequamegon Bay, or even my home base of Crystal Lake. Lately I have been looking for new water to fish, and fishing with family members that also enjoy fishing.

The following is just one of the many that took place during our two week sojourn. Cousin Ric and I fished with local guiding legend Steve Cervinka. Steve guides 6 months in Wisconsin and spends the rest of the year in Costa Rica catching Sailfish. Not a bad way to get out of the cold Wisconsin winter. Steve has a wealth of knowledge, and has visited a large number of the world's best fishing holes.

Ric and I were to meet up with our guide at a local cafe. Ric does not have the greatest track record with women. So, I stopped in the cafe the day before to set up Ric. I was going to have the waitress give Ric and extra ration of grief when he arrived the next morning. The problem is, Ric is so used to getting a bad time from most gals he didn't even catch on. One would think that two glasses of ice water dumped in your lap would get your attention. I'll have to do something else later in the day.

Success tip. One tip I would like to pass on to anyone just getting into fly fishing. When you hire a guide, pay attention to what they tell you about the local water. Also watch what they do, even small details like how they dress for the day can add to your own comfort. Ric and I overlooked this

one and it did come back to bite us. Steve put on his lightweight Gortex waders on a warm morning. Ric and I opted to set wade. Little did we know the appetite the local deer flies would have for any exposed skin, or that bug dope just seemed to excite them into a feeding frenzy. By the end of the day we looked like some of the poor smucks form the TV Show "What Were You Thinking?"

Bug bites aside the fishing was great. We fished our of Steve's drift boat, and covered 10 miles of undeveloped Forest Service land. It was wonderful, no houses, no mowed lawns, and we were far enough away from roads there was no traffic noise. We fished on a Saturday and there was no other fishing pressure. We did see some people were using canoes, but this was a great fishing experience with no one using it. The Flambeau Flowage is a wide wild river. Many rapids, pools, and structure to fish.

Steve suggested weighted woolly buggers with legs. Before I tied on my Coyote Clouser I asked, "Will this work?" Steve replied, "Did you tie that thing?"
I said. "Yes." He said, "It's ugly

I said. "Yes." He said, "It's ugly enough to work here." "You tie flies like I do, to catch fish, not to win a beauty contest." Steve was pointing out some good runs, and how to fish them. I have become a good listener, being married to my lovely wife Debi for 29 years. Anyway I must have understood what Steve was telling me. I caught the first muscular smallie, the second, and by the time I had caught the sixth one, my fishing partner Ric was ready to push me out of the boat.

The art of negotiation. Steve said to Ric, "Do you think you could talk him out of one of those ugly Coyote flies?" I hand Ric one of the magic flies and his fly almost immediately becomes irresistible. Another tip that may help you with smallmouth. get the fly down. We added bb shot to the fly, right above the knot. It was not pretty to look at, but the fish didn't seem to mind. The Flambeau has lots of logs, and rock structure to fish. We started at daylight and by 1 PM we had lost the six Coyote Clousers that I had in my box. I switched to a fly

that I had tied on a jig head and still managed to catch a few more fish. Smallmouth fishing with a fly rod is a blast, these heavy bodied 15-17 inch fish that we were catching just didn't want to come in and meet us. If you have not had a smallmouth experience you may want to put it on your things to do list for this winter at Apache Lake.

The skies open up and we get a drenching rain as we load the boat at the end of the day. It is around 6 PM and we have fished hard all day, we have an hour and thirty minute drive back home. We rehash the spectacular fishing we had during the day, complain about the deer flies, and think about cheeseburgers.

Ric mentions a particular hot looking bar maid at one of the local saloons. The next thing you know we are pulling into the saloon. Too bad Linda was not working that evening. Ric went back out to his truck to get his cell phone.

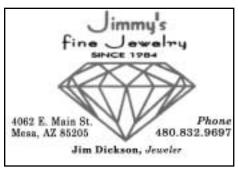
While he was out I had one of the other bar keeps to rehearse a little story. When Ric returned, she asked. "Are you Ric Allen?" "Yes." Ric replied. "Well Linda called and wanted to know if you were here yet?" Ric turned to me and said something unprintable, and then said, "Isn't it time for you to go back to Arizona?" "You are going to miss Summer."

### **DFC CHRISTMAS BANQUET**

The Christmas Banquet is scheduled for December 10th, just two months away. I would like to encourage everyone to participate in making this years banquet as successful as possible. Donations do not need to be just fly fishing related, any item that you think others would find valuable is a worthy donation. Ask for donations from your favorite restaurant or business, everything helps. I will have donation request letters available for you to utilize at the October meeting.

Roy Baker 480-917-7630









### CONSERVATION NOTES ....with Eric Larsen

The world of conservation is alive and kicking and there are exciting times ahead of us. I want to give you a brief status of the various items that are in the works.

Apache Trout Restoration Project: For those of us who remember the rock play Hair, we are truly in the Age of Aquarius, or should we say the Age of Salmo Apache? Trout Unlimited has donated \$205,000 to give the program a shot in the arm. The Fish & Game has pledged to match that amount and there has been at least one private donation of an undisclosed amount. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is ready move on the project as well as the Forest Service. This is probably the best window of opportunity to de-list the Apache Trout in 27 years. There are 13 unique genetic strains of the Apache in the plan to be distributed in over 30 different streams in the White Mountains. A total of 250 (400 km) stream miles of national forest and White Mountain Apache land are needed with established reproducing populations of Apache Trout to de-list the fish from the endangered and threatened lists. While all this sounds like great news, it is not met with total enthusiasm. As anglers, we will see many streams closed temporarily (2-5 years), fishing restrictions and all the non-native trout poisoned from the planned watersheds. The DFC Board has decided to respond to the Forest Service request for comments as a neutral party. DFC won't take sides on this issue but will remain in the information loop and keep all of you informed on progress of the project.

Gila Trout Recovery Plan: The final draft Gila Trout Recovery Plan has been approved. There is no timetable advertised to implement the plan. Most of the activity will take place in New Mexico but will impact some areas in Arizona. Arizona currently has a test population of Gila Trout in Dude Creek in the Tonto National Forest. If you want to see a full version of the plan go to: http://ifw2es.fws.gov/Documents/R2ES/Gila\_Trout\_Recovery\_Plan\_FINAL.pdf

Lee Valley Lake: Lee Valley will be drained this winter to remove (kill) the non-native trout species as a part of the Apache Trout restoration. The lake is planned to be restocked with Apaches and Grayling next spring with a little help from Mother Nature.

**Canyon Creek:** Canyon Creek is still in a state of recovery. After the fire last summer, the creek was washed out by thunderstorms. The debris, mud and ash from the flash flood killed the fish population in the creek and washed out much of the vegetation in the creek. The creek is slowly recovering but has been hammered again by flash floods this summer as well. Hopefully, next year a fence to keep the elk and livestock out of the riparian habitat will be constructed. After the fence is constructed, there will be the opportunity to replant some of the vegetation. The Fish and Game will knock on the club's door for monetary and "sweat equity" support to make the creek a productive fishery once again. The project will need support from angling clubs and the public to be successful.

**Crayfish:** The club will have crayfish traps available to use for trapping crayfish. More details forthcoming.





<u>Hook</u>: TMC 5263 or 5262; Mustad 9672 #12 (2X or 3X Long Nymph hook)

<u>Thread:</u> Danville Flymaster 6/0 Light Olive Tail: Olive Marabou

Rib: Gold wire

<u>Body</u>: 6-8 strands of Marabou; tips tied in at

<u>Shellback:</u> Pearl Flashabou or Krystal Flash <u>Hackle</u>: Brown, olive saddle hackle; or pheasant, partridge, Indian Hen hackle Brown saddle hackle preferred trim the tops off for the shellback

<u>Thorax:</u> 4 strands of peacock herl tied in at the tips.

Fish in the mornings before noon with sinking line or a fast sink tip line near the weed beds. What makes this fly my fly of the month. When fishing the stillwaters of the White Mountains June-August, the damsel (blue Dragon flies) hatch is a hatch that attract the trout. During the DFC White Mountain in June, one of the kids I brought up with me caught 27 fish on a single fly in 3 hours. The other kid (my son) caught about 20 fish on the fly. Both kids were getting action by fishing the edges of the weed beds. In July, I fished Hulsey Lake near Alpine. I didn't have a float tube but saw the blue dragonflies flying around so I tied on the damsel nymph and fished off the dam and within 5 minutes I was getting strikes and in 15 minutes landed a fish. This was at 10:30 am and the bait fishermen had been there all morning with hardly strike and no fish.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This will be a new column...or should I say a resurrection of something we started months ago...We'll drop this in when we see we have room...Eric Larsen will be in charge and will be after some of you to let us in on some of your favorite fly patterns. Maybe we'll have you tie that pattern before our monthly meetings too...Hey, here's your chance to show off! R.McKeon

### **CRAWFISH PIE**

1/2 cup Butter or Margarine
3 tbsp. Flour
1 cup Onions, chopped
1/3 cup Celery, chopped
1/2 cup Belle Pepper, chopped
1 clove Garlic, chopped

1 cup Chicken Broth 1 tsp. Salt 1/4 tsp. Pepper 1/2 bunch Green Onions, chopped 2 lbs. Crawfish Tails Pie Crust for 2 9-inch pies

Melt butter or margarine and add flour. Cook and stir over low heat for 10 minutes. Add onions, celery, belle pepper and garlic and cook 25 minutes. Add chicken broth, salt, pepper and green onions and stir. Add crawfish tails and cook 20 to 25 minutes, stirring often. Add more seasoning if needed. Cool mixture.









# Gettin' all set for ROCKY POINT a few notes from Doc ....in his own words:

Well folks fall fishing always leads into the clubs yearly salt water venture. This year it will take place on November 7, 8, 9th in Puerto Penosco (Rocky Point) on the sea of Cortez. We've had the format for several years and it's always been a blast! So if it's not broke don't fix it.

On Friday evening we'll have a potluck type get together at the Las Palmas condo's. It'll be at the east end in a 2 story one....sign's will be up.

On Saturday evening we'll meet for Prime Rib dinner (or Chicken if requested) and a raffle. The usual fishing lies, I mean stories, and good fellowship and then off to the bars to dance.

In all the years we've been doing this is hasn't cost the club anything except some raffle items are donated (HINT, HINT). Call me if you get something, anything to donate.

We'll have our regular new designed shirts available at the October meeting. Speaking of the October meeting we have some patterns for observation and some of our Rocky Point fishing guru's, Weaver & Vince will be tying a few to look at. The patterns most used are the Integrated, Lefty's Deceiver large Bill Park specials & any & all sorts of Clousertype bottom bouncers.

Eight weight rods work great especially if it is windy. But just use whatever you've got. Just down there have some great South of the Border fun!

# REMEMBER: BORDER CLOSES AT MIDNIGHT& OPENS AT 6:00 AM

Get Mexico insurance (very important), in Ajo or why not at the border. Any questions call Doc at: 480-857-0381 or 480-899-4006

# SPECIAL DFC ROCKY POINT SECTION

### Dave Weaver's ROCKY POINT FLY



Hi all. It's Rocky Point trip time. I have been asked to describe how I tie my saltwater integration fly for seatrout that I have been tying for over ten years now. Many material options are available. I usually use bucktail because it is easy to tie and I hand out so many. These are generally less wind resistant and weigh less too. Lighter flies are always easier to cast farther in the wind! I recommend a size 1,2, or 4 Mustad 3407 or saltwater equivalent when tying a small bait fish imitation. Size 2 is smaller and is easier to cast. Personal choice. This is also easier on the smaller fly tying jaws.

I tie these flies skinny and use flash to give the illusion of something larger. White bucktail is whiter than natural but when the seatrout are in no problem. Those 4" cabrillas (seabass) love 'em too. Start by bending back the barb. Remember, our club is a barbless flyfishing club for a good reason, better hookups. Sharpen the hook. Use white size 3 or 6 uni-thread or equivalent.

Start your thread wrap 1/16" behind eye. Wrap tightly back over front quarter of hook. Wrap forward to front. Tie on 4 strands of light colored crystal flash (folded in half). Then take 15-20 bucktail hairs, snip cut end

evenly, place over the top of hook leaving 1/8" between eve and front of bucktail. Smush down the bucktail strands around the top and sides of your hook and thread wrap 4 to 6 times. More are not necessary because the epoxy will hold your fly together. Now tie in about 8 strands of translucent crinkled super hair to each side of the fly. Cut to same length as bucktail. Add 6 or more strands of crystal flash evenly to sides. Add about 10 more white bucktail hairs on top. Add more bucktail if desired. More flash if desired. Then add 6 to 8 black bucktail hairs on top of fly. Tie in a 1/2" of red bucktail or crystal flash under eyes to simulate red gills. Finish head of fly. You can substitute two tones of green poly, or peacock herl on top if desired. Your only limitation is your imagination. Add prismatic stick-on eyes on side and LIGHTLY epoxy head of fly allowing for some of the epoxy to flow into the bucktail behind the eyes. Saltwater fish seam to like eyes.

Alternate patterns: 1) If fishing deep tie this same fly in a clouser style with bar bell weight tied in on the bottom of the fly a 3/8" behind eye. This fly will not get hung up in the rocky bottom. 2) Size 6 clouser pattern with white fox tail or tan colors with flash is great for triggers.





The Fall fishing is upon us and cooler weather should bring out many of us to reach out and grab some time on our favorite stream...John Rohmer says fishing is great at Lees Ferry walk-in...so when you club members are up that way bring us back some stories- or better yet grab a few photos I'm always looking for a few good shots....I haunted one of the book stores the other night, just to catch up on what magazines I might not have available to me when I need those few minutes by myself. I perused the latest Southwest Fly Fishing (Fall 2003) magazine and found a wonderful article by our own DFC club member, Ron Dungan. Ron wrote a nice article (found on page 46) "Little Colorado River, AZ, X Diamond Ranch." We're honored to have such talent amongst us! Ron did an outstanding writing giving us details to fishing the White Mountain area along with maps, hatches and some well tested recipes for flys. Some nice photography accompanied his article. Go grab a copy of the latest Southwest Fly Fishing...don't think Ron gave away any secret fishing spots, but did entice me into making a copy of his article and send it to two of my

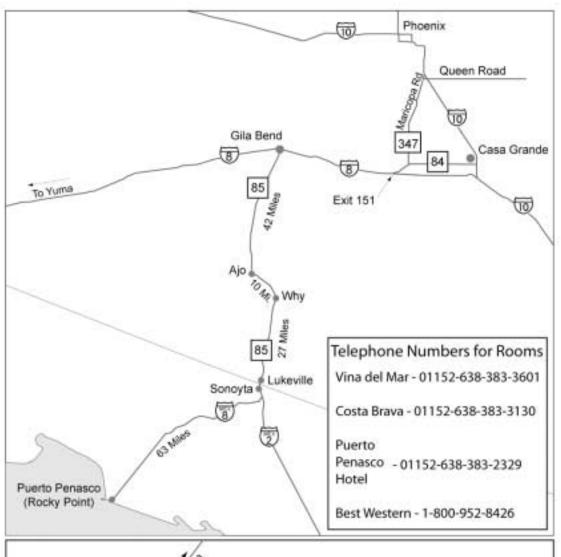
old fishing buddies in Michigan. Nice article Ron... Also let me remind all of you: We do have more DFC "Conservation 2003" pins for sale. We designated the funds from these pins for research studies in reproduction of the Gila trout. The board members would like to see all of you members get in on this neat pin. It will be a nice remembrance of the club you belong to and of course along the way with the profits we'll help make the study of the Gila a little easier in reality. If this sound like I'm begging...we'll... yeahbaby! I guess I am. Help us out the pins are \$15 for 2....\$8 for 1 pin...catch us at the October meeting and get yourself a 2003 DFC Commemorative Pin!...AND last of all thanx to Cinda Howard and her Crawfish recipes in our DFC newsletter (last month and this month's)...hey two great ideas my wife and I are going to spring on our guests form out of town next month.

Tight lines and may the bow in your rod be felt in your heart! R.McKeon.

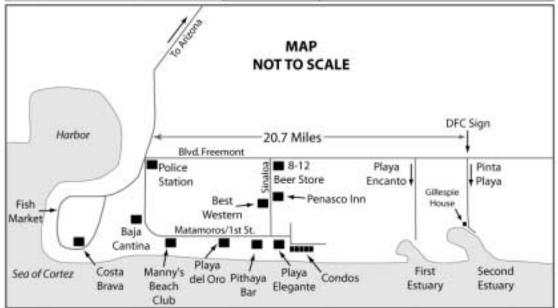
DFC Editor and some times fishermon



# SPECIAL DFC ROCKY POINT MAP







Many thanks to Roy Baker for this map... his hard work shouldn't be overlooked!

Thanks Roy and Dave Weaver for making this "Rocky Point Section" a neat part of this newsletter.

R. McKeon, Editor

### 2003 Calendar Events

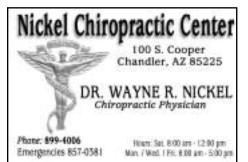
October 2-5 San Juan River Trip in New Mexico - Cinda Howard Host -One of the best trips of the year. I understand it is sold out, but you may want to get your name on a reserve list in case someone can't make it at the last minute.

November 7-11 Puerto Penasco, Mexico

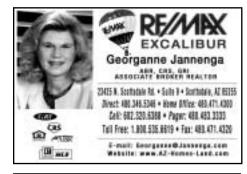
This is a great place to begin your saltwater fly fishing. Doc Nickel Host. Always a good time.

December 10, 2003 • ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BANQUET

More details to follow...see future DFC Newsletter and October/November monthly meetings Specific info call: Roy Baker 480-917-7630











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and protect the fishery. He welcomes your questions and suggestions. Sincerely, Your Hostess and Host, Wink and Gerald

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