



DESERT FLY CASTERS *Forward Casts*

DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB



DFC 2003 BANQUET

Wednesday

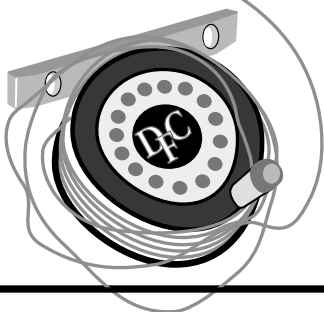
December 10, 2003

Knights of Columbus Hall
644 E. Chandler Blvd.
Chandler, AZ

Cocktails/Chit-Chat- 5:30 PM
Potluck Dinner- 6:30 PM
Raffles/Prizes- 7:30 PM

Wisdom of the Ages

You can't do a kindness
Too soon
For you never know
How soon it will
Be too late.



Presidents Report- December 2003

December is upon us and that means it's time for our annual banquet. There is a lot of preparation that goes into preparing for the raffle and we start sending out letters several months in advance. After the donations start rolling in some of the board members get together and do an inventory of the items that we have and then we determine what we should buy (at discounted prices offered from manufacturers). The donations that we receive come from the local shops, guide services, flyfishing manufacturers, and our members. Some of the items that we have are a J.W. Outfitters San Juan pontoon boat, an 8 ft. pontoon boat from Creek Company, a Fat Cat u-boat, three G. Loomis rods, a Winston rod, a Ross reel, a Bauer reel, a Reddington reel, Simms guideweight waders, Hodgman Wadelite Waders, Hodgman wading boots, a guide day on the San Juan, guide days on Lee's Ferry and Lake Powell, gear bags, gift certificates from local shops and many more items. Also don't forget our special raffle this year for those that are proudly displaying their 2003 conservation pin. We will be raffling off a G. Loomis GL3 9 ft. 5wt. 4-piece rod. If you want to get in on this raffle but have not yet purchased a Conservation 2003 pin you will have the opportunity to do so at the banquet. This is definitely a banquet you don't want to miss.

In conservation news Desert Flycasters has agreed to donate monies to the West Fork of Oak Creek Gila Trout Project. At this point the accomplishments so far include having West Fork included as a reintroduction site in the Gila Trout Recovery plan, completed stream surveys, barrier locations identified, some public scoping and completion of angler surveys. The next step will be the Forest Service developing a project work plan and that is what our donation will help fund. We will keep you updated as things progress and Scott Gurtin with the Native Fish Programs at Arizona Game & Fish will be at the January meeting to talk about the Apache and Gila trout projects as well as answer any questions that you have.

Stocking has begun at our local lakes and so far Canyon, Apache and Saguaro Lakes have all received rainbow trout along with the Salt and Verde Rivers. On the San Carlos Apache Reservation over 5,000 eight to ten inch rainbows and 5,000 eight-inch brown trout have been stocked. You can also check the Arizona Game & Fish website (www.gf.state.az.us) to see if any of the urban lakes near you are getting stocked. I know that some people are not a fan of catching stocked fish but it can be quite fun. It also keeps your casting (and catching) skills from getting rusty over the winter months.

The Sportsman's Expo is sneaking up on us again and we will be looking for help from the club to man our booth. It will take place February 19th through 22nd and we will have a sign up sheet at the January meeting. Requirements for helping are to be able to talk to potential new members about flyfishing and the club.

Thank you to all of the 2003 board members for all of your service. We got a lot accomplished this year. We gave donations to the Mora Gila Trout Project, the West Fork of Oak Creek Gila Trout Project and purchased crayfish traps. We also had the picnic early in the year where Ted and others helped the members with casting. We offered casting, tying and rod building classes. We also had some great trips (Lee's Ferry, White Mountain Spectacular, San Juan, Seneca Lake, X Diamond, Rocky Point). We are always looking for help with outings and education so let one of the board members know if you would like to be a part of the inner workings of the club. Also look for a 2004 outings calendar in the upcoming newsletters.

See you at the banquet!

Cinda Howard, DFC President

2003 DFC ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BANQUET Wednesday, December 10, 2003

Some of the prizes that we have for the 2003 DFC Christmas Banquet include...
a certificate for one pair of Simms Guide Weight Waders, 3 G. Loomis Rods (8wt, 5wt, and 3wt),
4wt Winston Rod,
8ft Pontoon Boat from The Creek Company, JM2 Fly Reel from Bauer Reels, Cimarron Reel from
Ross Reels, William Joseph Coastal Pack and Fanny Pack,
and many certificates from restaurants, fly shops, guides and others!



All That Glitters...

Jerome B. Robinson

(Taken from Field & Stream web page)

I was in salmon camp with five serious fishermen, waiting for one more angler to arrive before we started fishing. He finally came in on a chartered floatplane and opened the door to wave to us as it stopped at the dock. Then he ducked back inside and out stepped a blonde.

She was dazzling. Gorgeous. Leggy. Hair the color of butterfly wings in the sun. She wore a little green chenille hat with peacock and toucan feathers. Her sweater was cashmere wool in an unusual ginger color. Her waist was cinched by a multihued silk sash. Around her neck were chains of golden beads. She wore the shortest of shorts, to which she'd added a fringe of sparkling mylar tinsel. Her ankles were encircled with tiny beads the color of salmon eggs, and on her feet were the sweetest little pair of sandals decorated with dyed porcupine quills.

The fishermen in the cabin slumped and stared, all thoughts of fishing gone like smoke up a chimney.

"Will ya look at that?" one said.

"Ooooh," another breathed lustily.

The blonde bounced into the cabin, all smiles, and kissed each man, lifting her eyebrows and winking. Drinks were

poured. The men clumped together, drank deeply, and leered. Finally, one sidled up to the guy who'd brought her.

"We were gonna fish," he whispered.

"What the hell did you bring her for?"

"Fly-tying material," the man replied.

AAAAAH RETIREMENT!

I'm "retiring" from the DFC Board this year after having served two years as your Treasurer, two years as Membership Director and this past year as Secretary. It has been a very gratifying 5 years! I have enjoyed being of service to a Club that has offered me so much in terms of great times, education and wonderful friendships. I made the decision to resign from the Board this year primarily due to the fact that my real estate business is keeping me busier and busier every year (there are only so many hours in the day); plus I live up in the Rio Verde area, which is over an hour drive to the meetings in rush hour traffic. I would like to encourage any of you, however, who have an inclination to do so, to become involved. I can't begin to tell you how gratifying this past five years has been for me! Not only do you get to really know a great bunch of people, but it offers you a sense of personal satisfaction to be able to assist in the logistics

of keeping the Club growing and going! So think seriously about playing a more active role in the future. I promise, you won't regret it! Our Club needs "new blood" infused into it every so often to bring in fresh ideas and perspectives. I'll see you at the general meetings. But for now, "Hasta lavista"

...your 2003 Secretary, Georganne



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G Loomis GL3 9-foot 5-weight 4-piece Fly Rod

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CONSERVATION NOTESwith Eric Larsen

There is some good news to report this month on conservation. At the November DFC Board meeting the Board reconsidered the request to help fund the West Fork of Oak Gila Trout project by donating \$1,000.

Since I've been getting involved in conservation, the awareness of what is happening around me starts to appear before my eyes. It is almost a curse. While the DFC gang had a whooping good time down at Rocky Point, I decided at the last minute to go to Big Lake to catch the Brookie and Cutthroat fall fishing extravaganza. I guarantee Big Lake was colder than Rocky Point and the fishing was tough with air and water being at 44 degrees. I was talking with a guy while warming up and the issue of crayfish came up. If you have fished Big Lake for a few years you will remember the weeds back in Railroad Cove by the now dry boat launch and down by South Cove.

There are no signs of those weed beds now. The water is shallow enough to see bottom and there is nothing there. I don't know if the crayfish did that or the consecutive years of drought or both, but it will be interesting to see how Big Lake comes out of this coming winter next Spring. Plants are the breadbasket of a trout lake and without them mean less food for the fish.

TU was a part of the lobby to get the Energy Bill put on hold. The bill had some issues that compromised wildlife habitat to support fuel exploration and development. Lastly, here is the intro to the FFF Native Fish Policy. It's a very well written document and I will bring full copies to the January meeting. Good stuff.

FFF – Native Fish Policy

Dr. Richard N. Williams
Chair, Native Fish Policy Committee, and
Vice President, Conservation
Federation of Fly Fishers
Western Rocky Mountain Council

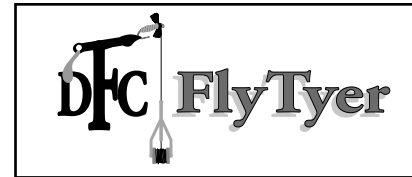
Native Fish Policy

The Federation of Fly Fishers notes that throughout North America native fish populations have declined from historical levels, particularly over the last century or more, due to the cumulative effects of overharvest, water management, past fisheries management practices, agricultural, forestry, and mining, and other land use practices, habitat alteration or degradation, and the widespread introduction of non-native fish species. Today, the goal of many fisheries management agencies and programs is to preserve or restore native fish species to some portion of their historical native range. These goals have been driven by the legal mandates of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in part and by the increased value that anglers, fisheries managers, conservation organizations, and other concerned citizens

recently have placed on native fishes in native habitats.

The Federation of Fly Fishers' native fish restoration policy herein sets forth clear principles to enable our members, clubs, and councils to speak with a consistent voice regarding proposals to restore endemic fish populations to historical habitat. A growing number of proposed restoration projects for game and non-game species challenge our ethics as sport anglers when we must choose between a popular exotic sport fishery and a conflicting imperative to restore native fish or amphibians. The policy recognizes that many proposed restoration projects are controversial among the angling community. It also recognizes that flexibility is required to handle a wide range of restoration settings and species.

Most importantly, a strong native fish restoration policy maintains and enhances the FFF's moral authority to question and fight assaults on the aquatic environments we treasure. It affirms our support for the Endangered Species Act and all its tools for protecting vital habitat.



...from Eric Larsen's flybox
Fast Back



Pattern

Hook: Mustad 3906B #12-#18 (1X Long Nymph hook)

Thread: Danville Flymaster 6/0 Black

Bead: Small

Tail: Pheasant Tail (Natural, Olive, Red, Black)

Rib: Fine Gold wire (Green or Red)

Body: 4-5 strands of peacock; tips tied in at the bend of the hook

Shellback: Pheasant Tail Natural

Hackle: Tied in from shellback

Thorax: 2 strands of Ostrich herl tied in with butt-end to the hook

Troll along in your float tube varying the stripping retrieve. I saw the guy also sitting in one spot casting to different places mostly toward shore and stripping the line in.

What makes this fly my fly of the month I just missed of the peak fall fishing at Big Lake by a matter of a few days. The nights turned cold 3 days before I got there. This chilled the water to a brisk 44 degrees. The brookies and cutts were getting started in the spawn and this cold water threw off fishing. I fished hard for two days with hardly a bite. I saw this other guy in a float tube picking up a few fish and sheepishly asked what fly he was using because I didn't have a clue. He told me about this pattern which he copied from someone else. He wasn't specific on the tying instructions "kind of pheasant tail nymph except tied with peacock." I came up with this pattern but there's a lot of variations that I'm sure will work. It's to hard to go wrong with a peacock pattern in the White Mountain lakes....Tight Lines!!!



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ROCKY POINT REVISITED
Doc Nickel...in his own words

Oh my God, no more second story stuff for this old man's knees. Beside one member just got over knee surgery and our esteemed treasurer hasn't gotten over hers since whenever. Beside the fact it's too tempting to jump for the few fishers that got skunked!! But the view was fabulous.

Everything went off without a hitch for those of us who floundered at flounder fishing.

Many, many fish were hooked and caught. They seemed to be most plentiful both in the estuary and in front of Manny's rock pile.

The three "fishqateers," Eddie Van, Wes and Witty (Dave Witt) said they had three triple hook-ups and probably hooked 90-100 fish in that same area

with their boat. Although, Vince D. caught the largest Pompano of the ramp at Playa de mar RV Park.

The sea trout were not in for good yet so only a few were caught. I'd like to thank all fellow fishers for making the trip work in the way of donations at the T-shirt purchases. Be thinking of a color for next year

2004 January DFC FORWARD CASTS....



All new DFC Board to be announced...Update from Vince Deadmond and planned Outtings, plus where to fish and much, much more!! Stay tuned!!

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