



DESERT FLY CASTERS Forward Casts

DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB



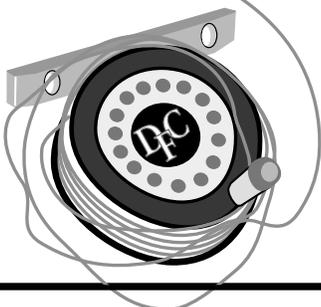
JANUARY MEETING:
Wednesday, January 14, 2004
Dinner- 6:00 PM
Meeting- 7:00 PM
American Legion Post #2
2125 S. Industrial Park Ave.
in Tempe

Wisdom of the Ages

The art of fishing can be the art of catching an idea with all the energy and sophistication we can cast into the deepest mind pool.



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Presidents Report- January 2004

2004 is upon us and that means a brand new year of DFC activities. Vince is busy preparing an outings calendar but I have heard rumor of places like Christmas Tree Lake, Padre Island, Chevelon Lake, Alaska, San Juan River, Rocky Point and several other trips. Obviously these are not set in stone and will change depending upon member interest and the ability to get a host.

The International Sportsmans Expo is coming up in February. The dates are the 19th through the 22nd. DFC will have a booth at this show and we will demonstrate fly tying and give out information to people interested in flyfishing. This is a great show and all of the local shops are usually there along with some of the guides from Lee's Ferry. You might also see some of the more famous flyfishermen like Jack Dennis hanging around. There is also a "Best of the West" casting competition. If you win the contest at the Phoenix show you will be invited to the Salt Lake City show for a chance to win a drift boat. Please come out and help the club in the booth. We will have a sign up sheet at the January meeting.

Speaking of meetings, can you believe the size of the raffle we had at the December banquet? We had a great turn out. Thanks to Roy Baker for being in charge of the raffle. He sent letters to manufacturers asking for donations. I also want to think all of the members that donated to the cause and also those that went around collecting donations from local shops and restaurants. Also, thanks to Doc Nickel for doing such a great job with organizing the food and to all of those that helped decorate the hall.

At our January meeting, Scott Gurtin from the Arizona Game and Fish Native Fish Program will be talking to us about the Apache Trout Restoration Project. Larry Riley will also be there to answer any questions you may have. There are a lot of changes on the table for our fisheries and it is important for everyone to be there to hear what has been proposed and what is already in the works. This is our opportunity to ask questions and get the facts.

I hope everyone had a happy holiday and I wish you large and numerous fish for the New Year!

Cinda Howard, DFC President

January Dinner Meeting 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 Lasanga, mixed veggies, minestrone soup, & garlic bread.** Come early and enjoy dinner with your DFC friends! Dinner is served from 6pm to 7pm.

January Meeting

Scott Gurtin from the Arizona Game & Fish Department will be our guest speaker. He will talk to us about the Apache Trout Restoration Project. This will cover what streams are going to be affected and also the timeline of the project. This will be a slide show presentation.

Wish List for 2004

by Vince Deadmond

I wish everyone a happy new year, and I hope you get to fish in 2004. I look back at 2003 and wonder how I pulled it off, I got to fish some great places, and the number of fishing trips was amazing as well. Finishing up the year Dave Weaver and I spent a sunny December Saturday at Seneca Lake and caught lots of fat little rainbows. Later in the month I fished a Sunday afternoon, right before Christmas and found several largemouth bass in a festive mood, in the Salt River of all places. New Year's Eve I plan to head south to Puerto Penasco, where I will meet up with other Desert Fly Casters, who I am sure will want to wet a line and do a little saltwater fishing.

Yes, winter time is a good time to tie flies and take inventory of your gear, but it is really important to plan your fishing calendar for 2004. If you don't plan to fish, you won't. Lucky for us we don't have a closed season on fishing, but some of you never get out in the winter. What is wrong with this picture? Yes, the White Mountains are iced up, but the small mouth bass fishing at Apache Lake can be outstanding. Day trips to Canyon Lake, the Salt River, and Saguaro Lake can really lift your spirits during our harsh winters here in Arizona. If you are up for a little adventure head up to Silver Creek, Lee's Ferry, or even my favorite Puerto Penasco.



Calendar for 2004

✓ Silver Creek is a good destination for a small group outing in January. Last year several groups went up and took shots at the huge fish in the small creek. No one hooked any of the really huge fish, but several fish were taken on dry flies. Not a bad way to spend a January day. Look for a sign up sheet at the January meeting.

✓ The Sportsman Show at the Civic Plaza is again in February. We usually don't have a formal outing, but again there are places one can fish. Apache Lake for small mouth bass would be a good choice, and again you can make it a day trip. You will need a float tube for that one. Usually after the Sportsman Show we get new members together for an outing at the Salt River, a good time to meet new folks.

✓ For those of you who need dates, here are some to put on your calendar. The White Mountain Spectacular is June 18, 19, and 20. Friday June 18 we have the X-Diamond Ranch, and Saturday June 19 we have Christmas Tree Lake, two of the most desirable fishing destinations in the state, stay tuned for more information.

✓ Rounding out the rest of the year I'll do some name dropping. Rio Penasco, NM, Seneca Lake, Horseshoe Cienega, San Juan River, NM, Rocky Point, Mexico, Port Mansfield TX, Alaska.

✓ My 2004 wish list would be complete if I could get more members to sign up to help with hosting the outings. We could all enjoy more, better organized outings if we spread the work load. Please look for the sign up cards and suggested outings at the next meeting. Give it some thought, what outing would you like to host, and what time of the year would that outing work best?

Got an idea for an outing give me a call Vince Deadmond 982 7461 B 984 4698 H.

Wildlife officials, fishermen rescue trout

Associated Press

Dec. 12, 2003 - Arizona Republic

RENO - Fly fishermen joined state wildlife officials in rescuing hundreds of trout from a Truckee River canal before a drought-induced drop in water levels leaves them stranded.

Some of the rescuers acknowledged an ulterior motive as they helped net and remove fish from the canal west of Reno on Tuesday and Wednesday.

"I've got my eye on this one right here," Gary Whitfield of the Truckee River Fly Fishers said as he pulled a 4-pound brown trout from the canal to be deposited later safely in the river.

Hundreds of fish ranging in size from fingerlings to prize 6-pounders were stunned with electricity and pulled Tuesday from the Verdi Ditch in the rescue effort organized by the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

The idea was to remove the fish before they are isolated from the Truckee River by drought-lowered water levels, a nature-induced death sentence.

"I kind of view this as selfish on my part," Whitfield told the Reno Gazette-Journal. "I just want to make sure there's enough fish in the river to catch."

For each of the past four years of drought, the state has gathered volunteers to remove fish from canals feeding hydroelectric plants along the river before they are doomed by low water levels.

The Truckee, which flows out of Lake Tahoe and is used to irrigate farms east of Reno, is the only Nevada river where such a program exists.

The lake recently dipped to its lowest level since 1995 and parts of the river downstream were dry before a snowstorm helped improve the situation over the weekend.

The rescue, which has saved thousands of fish over four years, is not a make-or-break effort in preserving the Truckee River's fish population, said Kim Toulouse, volunteer coordinator for the Department of Wildlife. But it is important,

"These are fish that would not exist if we didn't salvage them," Toulouse said.

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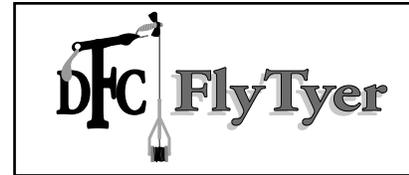
CONSERVATION NOTESwith Eric Larsen

As announced earlier, the AZ Fish & Game Department will be at the January meeting to discuss the of the native species recovery projects in Arizona and other concerns the club members might have in regard to the fisheries in Arizona. There is an inevitable overlap between fisheries management and conservation and I couldn't begin to describe where the overlap starts and ends. This month I would like to put some thoughts out on the table that might provide some food for thought as we look into 2004.

Several years ago my two sons and I were on a 2-day Spring fishing trip in the White Mountains. We fished Hawley, Horseshoe and Big Lake. My youngest accomplished something that I have not been able to do. He caught brown, brookies, rainbow and cutthroat trout in that one trip. I had a good trip but I didn't catch the diversity of fish that he did and never had. I finally caught up to him a few years later by catching a grayling, apache, brookie and rainbow. In that same trip, he was able add a cutthroat to same list still doing me one better. Aside from the minor dent in my pride, is that, in the White Mountains, we have fishing opportunities that rival the legendary fisheries of Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho. I think my most recent years as a fly fisher I have come to appreciate the acrobatics of a rainbow trout, the secretive ways of the brown trout, the opportunistic but cautious ways of the brook trout. There was a time that catching a fish was the main objective and I didn't know much about other trout than a rainbow. I believe there are a large number of anglers that still have objective. I'm not here to judge that right or wrong only to state a reality. As the programs to restore native species to their native ranges progress, it will require a change in the fisheries demographics different to what we have now. This also calls into question, at least in my mind, does it make sense to stock apache trout into lakes? Apache trout, by design of nature, are a stream fish. To follow the line thinking to match the fish to its native habitat creates all sorts of scenarios

and I think the final outcome would be to the detriment of the angler. The native species recovery, is NOT returning native fish to their native habitats. It is returning natives back to their native RANGES. We're taking 18th and 19th century fish and returning them into a 21st century habitat. There is a very good book in the DFC Library called "Salmonids Around the World." The book is a good read in general and has some interesting accounts of the establishment trout and salmon in the Southern Hemisphere where no naturals exist. There were many failures. One of note is when they tried to introduce Atlantic Salmon to the east coast of Australia. They managed to get a viable stock of eggs to Australia (a major accomplishment), hatched the fish and planted them in one of the rivers. The fish grew according to plan and all seemed good. The time came for the salmon to move out into the ocean. The salmon never came back. My guess they went back to Scotland but no one will ever know. There were similar experiments and failures establishing browns and rainbows and it took a long time before there was success. I see similarities in the native species projects. The habitat is a foreign place today to their genetic programming.

There challenge before us is what sort of fisheries management can be implemented to successfully return the natives back to their historical homes and still maintain diverse fisheries for anglers. We at DFC have the opportunity to participate and help meet that challenge..



...from Eric Larsen's flybox
St. Vrain Caddis



Pattern

Hook: TMC 100 #12-#18 (Std Dry Fly Hook)

Thread: Danville Flymaster 6/0 Grey

Body: Tan Turkey Biot (Callibaetis Color)

Underwing: Harrop's Natural Dun CDC

Wing: Caribou

Hackle: Dun saddle hackle clipped on the bottom

What makes this fly my fly of the month

Even though we have trout fishing year around, the winter time is a good time to experiment at the vise. I like to take "traditional" patterns and use different materials and add some characteristics not found in the original pattern. The St. Vrain Caddis is A.K. Best's elk hair imitation of a caddis fly. The same ideas can be applied to Al Troth's pattern as well. I have been hooked on biot bodies and think they add a dimension to a dry fly body different than dubbing or peacock herl. Sparkle in a fly is something fairly popular in fly tying these days. CDC is a material (feather) that adds natural sparkle by trapping bubbles in the tiny "barbs" of the feather causing the fly to sparkle when looking at the fly from beneath the water. CDC also adds floatation to the fly. CDC is wonderful stuff to work with. It doesn't slip and slide around like hackle and hair. I have purchased CDC from fly shops and off the web. The best CDC that I have found is Harrop's CDC. It is sold at www.troutflies.com now. The only other place I know is Dan Baily's fly shop. The "natural" colors have a quite a few shades of color that can be used which I like. It kind of makes each fly unique. I used caribou hair instead of elk hair on this fly because caribou has a finer texture than elk. The finer texture makes it a little easier to work with the hair and trim it. The major drawback to caribou is the under fur that has to be combed out. The long even saddle hackles are nice to use because I don't need hackle pliers to wrap it on the hook. The bottom fibers are trimmed off so the fly lands near flat on the water. So, have some fun and create a new fly using an old pattern!!



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Thank you to our strong membership and generous donations our DFC 2003 Banquet was a huge success!! It will be reflected in the months to come as the new board of directors, under the leadership of Cinda Howard, work to make our club come together with outings, guest speakers, and conservation ideas thanks in part to you who attended the banquet. We welcome your thoughts and suggestions during the year- it all brings us together as a club.

And we look forward to the season just ahead of us as we we cast a long loop, wet a line and keep the flame alive for the generations that follow us by fly fishing.

Bob McKeon, DFC Editor

A second look at the DFC 2003 Banquet...



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