



DESERT FLY CASTERS *Forward Casts*

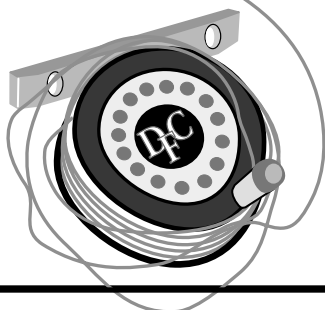
DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB



FEBRUARY MEETING:

Wednesday, February 11, 2004
Dinner- 6:00 PM
Meeting- 7:00 PM
American Legion Post #2
2125 S. Industrial Park Ave.
in Tempe

"Every man has a fish in his life that haunts him."
Negley Farson 1942



Presidents Report- February 2004

The board has been working hard on a calendar for 2004. It is really coming together.

Look for rod building classes to start up very soon. If you did not sign up at the January meeting, be sure and see Dave Weaver at the February meeting to let him know you are interested. I recently finished building my first rod and was able to fish it this past weekend. It was definitely a challenge but it turned out much better than I expected. Building your own rod can be much less expensive than purchasing one already built. Before the class Dave will provide you with all of the information you will need on where to buy the supplies for the project.

We will also be offering beginner fly tying classes and a casting clinic in the next couple of months. Look for sign up sheets at the meeting.

Don't forget about the Sportsman's Expo at the end of the month. It is February 19th-22nd. We are looking for volunteers to man our booth. All that is required is for you to be able to tell people about our club. This is a great opportunity for us to find new members and educate others about the sport of flyfishing.

We will have our annual picnic at Desert Breeze Park the last weekend in February. This was a much-attended event last year! The club will provide the food all you need to bring is your favorite beverage. Also, bring along your rod for some casting practice. There will be plenty of expert casters there to give you tips.

I am proud to announce that the board voted to donate \$500 to Casting for Recovery again this year. We are also going to match donations from members up to an additional \$500. If you are interested in giving an individual donation, see Kitty Wiemelt at the meeting. For those that are not familiar with Casting for Recovery, they are a national non-profit support and educational program for women who have or have had breast cancer. They provide an opportunity for women whose lives have been affected by the disease to gather in a beautiful, natural setting and learn fly-fishing. Their weekend retreats focus on wellness and incorporate counseling, educational services and the sport of fly-fishing to promote mental and physical healing. The deadline for a participant to sign up for a retreat is February 20th and it will be in Pinetop April 30th-May 2nd. If you know someone that is interested or if you want to be a volunteer, visit their website at <http://www.castingforrecovery.org/>

Desert Fly Casters has also donated \$1,000 to the West Fork of Oak Creek Gila Trout Project. As this comes together, they may be asking us for help with stream renovation. 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.

Don't forget to support our local fly shops. Some of them have been struggling in this down economy and need our help. They have always been there to support our club with donations so keep this in mind when you are in the market for equipment. They offer a personal touch that you can't get from the Internet and they are always there when we need a fishing report or any other valuable flyfishing information.

At our February meeting past President, Bob Harrison, will be our speaker and he will be giving a PowerPoint presentation on flyfishing Alaska. He did a self-guided float trip down the Kanektok River for Silver Salmon. Come early (6:00-7:00) and have dinner with us for only \$8. This helps pay for the hall. Hope to see you there!

Cinda Howard, DFC President

February Meeting

Self Guided float trip down Kanektok River, Alaska

Bob Harrison will present slide show on floating and fishing for Silver Salmon along the 90 miles of the Kanektok River. Kanektok River flows from Kagati/ Pagati twin lakes to the village of Quinhagak on the Kuskokwim bay. The river gets runs of all five species of salmon. The early season in June starts with King Salmon in the lower half. It ends in September with the Silver along the complete stretch. Rainbows and Dolly Varden provide a little variety.

Self guided trips are an alternative to the Outfitters packaged trips. They require a lot more investigation to plan. You need to know when the typical runs are, what kind of water you will be floating/ fishing, what equipment is needed for self reliance along with how to keep the trip safe. If you are considering a trip to Alaska this year, it is time to begin the research. Begin your planning now to be able to take advantage of opportunity to question the outfitters at the upcoming Sportsman's Show.

CONSERVATION NOTESwith Eric Larsen

The New Year is starting off with a bang as it concerns conservation. First, I'd like to thank Larry Riley and Scott Gurtin of the Fish and Game for the informational presentation on the Apache Trout project at the January meeting. I think they helped clarify the current situation in regard to Apache Trout. Also, if you didn't get copies of the native fish policies developed by FFF and Trout Unlimited (TU), I'll be bringing copies to the next few meetings. Stop by and get a copy of each. These policies are important because they express the positions of the "parent" club affiliations. A lot of work and thought was put into the information in these documents for the affiliated clubs and outside interests on where these conservation groups stand on native fish policies.

One item that came up over the holidays was a Letter of Interest from the Grand Canyon National Park Service on the restoration project for the endangered humpback chub. The project is focused on the mouth of Bright Angel Creek to Colorado River where the fish currently exist and apparently declining. The interest to DFC on this issue is the killing of the trout population, particularly the brown trout, in the river and the creek. Rainbow and brown trout pose a threat because they are competitors and are predatory to the humpback chub. I responded to the Park Service to get on the distribution list for information. I mirrored the response from the Northern Arizona Flycasters club opposition to have a routine "reduction of trout populations" to help the humpback chub try to survive. The two main points for not killing the trout is 1) Glen Canyon Dam made the Colorado River a cold water fishery where the chub is a warm water fish and 2) there is no evidence to sup-

port the humpback chub can survive in the habitat even if there were no trout in the fishery. This will be an interesting process to follow because trout fishing in the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam is a very hot conservation issue.

Until now, I really haven't followed the issues too much around the native fish controversy in the Grand Canyon because of the complexities involved. I have done some background research. Two books stand out as references: In *The Footsteps of John Wesley Powell* by Hal G. Sephens and Eugene M. Shoemaker; *The Colorado River in the Grand Canyon: A Comprehensive Guide To Its Natural and Human History (Second Edition)* by Larry Stevens. The books document native and introduced animal and plant species to the Grand Canyon. The *Footsteps* book is a 100 year photo comparison of the canyon from Green River, Wyoming to Lava Falls rapid in the Grand Canyon. One of the biggest changes to the canyon habitat is the introduction and invasive Tamarisk, a Middle Eastern plant, that now inhabit the banks of the Colorado River.

Speaking of invasive species, the White Mountain Crayfish Working Group meets in February to plan crayfish trapping activities for the upcoming summer. If you have ideas, please send me an email at emlweb1@cox.net or you can send a letter to the club PO Box or catch me at the next meeting.

There was a meeting planned on the Gila Trout Project on the West Fork of Oak Creek at the end of January. I had committed to attend that meeting in Flagstaff but a family medical issue arose so I couldn't attend. I will try to get the information that was discussed at that meeting.

For the last month or so, I have been immersing myself into a crash course in Conservation 101. After reading through TU's Native Salmonid Policy, there is much I don't understand. I went to the library and checked out an arm load books and have been reading every since. The devastation done to the fisheries (and the environment in general) in the late 19th and 20th centuries was horrific. For example, the Chinook Salmon had a spawning range that extended from Point Hope, Alaska to the Ventura River in central California. There is a thing (per Robert Behnke, *Trout and Salmon of North America*) called intraspecific diversity. Out of the millions of salmon that spawn in the rivers and tributaries, they each have their unique spawning grounds. When the dams were built, a Chinook Salmon of different strains were put together in hatcheries to reproduce fry that no longer possess some uniqueness of their particular home spawning ground. They were genetically all Chinook Salmon and unique prior to putting them into common hatchery situation. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) has been a controversial piece of legislation over the last 30 years. One author described the ESA as the environmental emergency room. The patients are in critical condition when they arrive. Some are saved and some are lost. The issues around the ESA have caused polarization in politics, land rights issues and environmentalism. Many of the issues wind up in the courts. An emerging conservation effort is centered on the concept of biodiversity. An oversimplified explanation of biodiversity is that humans belong to the web of life. Extinction of species at an accelerated rate that is human caused will ultimately make humanity the victims of their lack of foresight. I think some of the media scares of contamination of our food chain maybe



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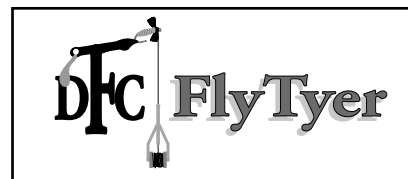
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examples of this thought. One example of proactive conservation that I think serves as an example is the conservation effort in Yellowstone National Park to protect the native Yellowstone Cutthroat trout. Lake Trout were illegally introduced into Yellowstone Lake. Lake Trout are a predatory fish and has impacted the Cutthroat Trout populations. Lake Trout have been netted from the lake and there is a regulation for anglers not release fish caught back into the lake. Behnke estimates that wildlife "harvest" up to 300,000 fish per year. What would happen to the habitat if the Yellowstone Cutthroat was displaced by the Lake Trout? Lake Trout are a deep water fish and one of the only trout, salmon or chars that spawns in the lake. It doesn't migrate to the streams to spawn. Enough of the native habitat remains in Yellowstone Park to see what impact that would have on the dependent wildlife if the cutthroats were to disappear. Biodiversity embraces the idea that every species has a job to do in the grand scheme of things. It's a proactive approach to conservation so that the rigid rules of stop-gap legislation such as the ESA doesn't have to intervene in order to save the patient. A more moderate and proactive approach to conservation needs to be implemented. I thought Larry Riley's analogy of the gas gage was good. Overall, we need to keep the needle between Full and Empty.

Another example of proactive conservation again involves the native Yellowstone cutthroat trout in Henry's Lake at the headwaters of the famed Henry's Fork of the Snake River. Henry's Lake has a very rich aquatic habit that grows numerous and large fish. Apparently (I have never caught a Yellowstone cutt), Yellowstone cutts aren't known to be an exciting sport fish. I have read accounts where they will actually nudge wading fishermen to stir up

more of the bottom to release the food they like to eat. Anyway, some years back, a hybrid of rainbow and cutthroat (not Yellowstone I don't think) trout called a "cuttbow" was stocked in Henry's Lake and I guess is a superior sport fish. The Idaho Game and Fish Commission have found the Yellowstone cutt very resistant hybridization but will occasionally. When they do hybridize, the hybrid remains genetically mostly a cutthroat trout. At any rate, the IG&F planned to stop stocking cuttbows in the lake to preserve the native population of fish. Public outcry and angler disapproval overruled IG&F plans to stop stocking hybrids. A compromise was reached where sterile hybrids will be stocked. Henry's Lake has such a rich environment the lake can support both populations and that is the current status. Here's a situation where anglers can have the best of both worlds. The IG&F will have to monitor native populations to ensure the genetic purity and numbers of the natives are sustained. Imagine this fishery were under the ESA. The cuttbows would have to go or the natives would go the path of extinction. The gas gage would be either Empty or Full. Either way, we lose.

I think there are lessons to be learned here. Right now we have to go through the painful process of native species restoration because in Arizona they are in critical condition. If we are successful in this effort and get the fish delisted, the possibility of a more proactive conservation can be implemented where all parties involved are at least invited to be a part of the solution.



...from Eric Larsen's flybox
Chukkar Peacock Lady



Pattern

Hook: Dai-Rikki 730 #10 (3X Long Nymph hook)

Thread: Danville Flymaster 6/0 Black

Tail: Barred Chukkar Partridge (Natural)

Rib: Fine Green wire

Rear Hackle: Grizzly

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

Shellback: 4-5 strands of a peacock eye

Front Hackle: Brown or Ginger

Troll along in your float tube varying the strip-ping retrieve.

What makes this fly my fly of the month

I can tell when I haven't been fishing for awhile I start tying some weird patterns. Like Vince Deadmond says if don't you plan to go fishing it won't happen. I don't have it marked on the calendar yet but I plan to head to Seneca Lake in February. Seneca is a great lake to build confidence on. I pretty much know the flies they like to hit like the semi-seal leeches and an olive Big Lake Carey. Peacock Ladies are a good bet too. After awhile, I find it less challenging to fish when I know every cast is going to get a strike (unless the fish are over 14 inches). I like to take something they like to hit and a tweak it a bit. This pattern is a classic Peacock Lady pattern but using the naturally orange and black barred feathers of chukkar instead of pheasant crest tippets. The second addition is a shellback that has the blue/green herl of the peacock eye to give the fly some flash. Barred chukkar feathers can be hard to acquire. I have a friend that like to hunt birds and he was nice enough to save me skin. If the Seneca Lake trout hit this fly with abandon like other flies, I think my fly box will have a few more of this pattern in it when I head for the White Mountains this spring.



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February 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 meatloaf, green beans, mash potatoes & gravy, salad.* Come early and enjoy dinner with your DFC friends!

Dinner is served from 6pm to 7pm.

Queer Eye For The Old Guy

By Vince Deadmond

I am now constantly reminded that I am well on my way to becoming a genuine old guy. The beard is white, and my hair color is headed that way too. My eyesight is not as good as it used to be, and I get asked if I have a senior discount card.

My wife has been telling me for years that I need a makeover. My grooming, clothing, diet, furniture, pictures on the wall, etc. all need improvement, you are probably starting to get the picture here. Yes, my wife has threatened me, she is going to call in the TV cast from "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy", to help me get my act together. If you don't watch the minor cable channels you may have missed this one. The "Queer Eye" bunch, is a group of 5 gay men, who clean up, dress up, and generally organize some poor slob and create a pleasant environment for him and his wife or girl friend.

I don't see it working as well for me, as it does for the people on TV. While I am not a fashion plate, at least, I don't wear overalls for all occasions, and I get a haircut more than 3 times a year. The QE group goes to your home and inspects your clothes, your refrigerator, your bathroom, your general life style, and makes fun of you, while trying to improve your life. I imagined meeting up with the "Queer Eye" group and I started to look for changes that I thought I should make.

Once I started looking I found that I was tackier than I thought. Lets start in the den. I spend a fair amount of time in this room. It is where I have the computer, tie flies, have my library, plan trips, pay bills, and have my morning coffee. To someone who does not tie flies, this room would appear to be a disaster. My desk is often the focus point of a

UPCOMING EVENTS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR...

DFC and ISE SPORTSMAN'S EXPOSITION

From Thursday, February 19th through Sunday, February 22nd, DFC will be at the annual Sportsman's Exposition held at the Veteran's Memorial Coliseum at 19th Ave. and McDowell Rd. DFC will once again have a booth at the Expo to promote the club and flyfishing. We have a dozen or so people already signed up to help run it, but will need more. We will be calling members, and will announce again at the February 11th meeting. If interested in participating, please call Neal Replogle, Education Chair, at 480/529-4902.

DFC Annual Picnic and Flyfishing Season Opener • Saturday, February 28, 2004

The annual DFC Picnic and Flyfishing season opening event will be held on Saturday, February 28th, from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm at Desert Breeze Park in Chandler.

Eating will begin around 1:00 pm. Families are welcome.

Activities will include: good eating; flycasting demonstration and clinics; fishing in the park lake; playground for the kids; tennis; generally good conversation; and exaggerated story telling.

Directions to Desert Breeze Park: The park is near the southeastern corner of Rural and Ray Roads in western Chandler. On Rural, go south on Ray to the stoplight at Desert Breeze Parkway. Turn left, go past two apartment complexes. The park is on your left. Go past the first parking lot to the second parking lot near an enclosed area surrounded by ocotillos.

The picnic pavilions are near the lake. We are in the Mesquite Pavilion, closest to the lake.

trip to some fishing destination. It is usually stacked, (in an orderly fashion), (Debi says, "NOT!") with fly tying materials, (assorted feathers, animal skins, fur, tinsel, hooks, lines and oh yes, lead wrap), and mixed with maps, books, pictures, cameras, new computer stuff, and the family pitches the monthly bills on top of my organized stack of confusion.

After giving it some thought, even I could see that this room could use a makeover. I painted the room, ordered some new furniture to help organize the clutter. Now my fly tying materials are close at hand, my office area, and computer area all have a separate place. Once you start looking you can find a number of things you could improve. I fish over 100 days a year so I am constantly packing and unpacking for the next fishing trip. I haven't figured how to solve the problem of the dehydrated limes. When I go to Mexico, which is quite often, I usually buy a bag of limes, I can't possibly use all of the limes so I usually bring a partial bag of them home. Sometimes, (usually) I don't get them unpacked soon enough and when I pack for the next trip I find a bag of dehydrated limes. Well, I'll need to work on this one.

I can imagine the QE group going through my fly fishing travel bags and giggling. When I pull out some fly boxes, I expect the QE group will roll their eyes and make some snide remarks. And, there is always at least one pair of underwear that should have been tossed out, but when I explain that's what happens

when you catch a 6 pound bone fish I really expect the QE boys to loose it.

Yes, it looks like I have more problems than I have time to fix. As soon as I can get this mousse out of my hair, I think I'll just go fishing, hope to see you on the water soon. I am just glad that Calvin Klein does not make waders.

Get That Fly Line Ready...

From the newsletter of the Fort Worth Texas Fly Fishers, by Al Crise, The Rod and Reel Doctor

It's time to clean your fly lines.

If you have one of those new type lines, the care is easy. (1) Remove the line from the reel and cut off the nail knot. Yes, the nail knot. (2) place the line in a plastic pail or tub to which you add a couple drops of liquid soap (Ivory works good). Fill to half full. (3) Agitate gently for a few minutes (Hum Dixie four times). (4) Pour out soapy water, add fresh water and rinse (for three choruses). (5) Dry by hanging on drying spool or in a net bag but do not tangle. Let the line air dry. (6) when dry, apply a good line dressing per manufacturer's instructions. (7) Retie the nail knot to the line/backing and wind the line back on the reel. This is a good place to store the fly line. (8) Now take the reel and the rod to the closest fishing hole and make sure it works. Enjoy it even more and take someone fly fishing



A Quick Look at 2004 Outings

Notes from Vince Deadmond

The following 2004 Desert Fly Caster Calendar is subject to change. Weather, fishing conditions, forests being closed, and other variables will cause us to change dates.

The club provides other small group outings as well as conservation projects that will be listed later in the calendar year.

Jan 17-18 • Silver Creek, Show Low AZ

Feb 19-22 • ISE Sportsman's Show, AZ
State Fairgrounds, Phoenix, AZ

Feb 28 • DFC Picnic, Desert Breeze Park,
Chandler, AZ

TBA • Rio Penasco, Mayhill, NM

Mar 19-21 • Apache Lake, Globe, AZ

Apr 23-25 • Seneca Lake, Globe, AZ

May 14-16 • Chevelon Lake,
Miles from nowhere, AZ

Jun 18-20 • White Mountain Spectacular,
Pinetop, AZ with fishing at X-Diamond &
Christmas Tree Lake.

Jul 16-18 • Horse Shoe Cienega, Greer, AZ

Aug 1-10 • Alaska- *more info to follow*

Sept 25-28 • Drift Boat Outing, San Juan
River, NM

Oct 14-18 • Texas Flats Fishing, Port
Mansfield, TX

Nov 11-14 • Mexico Saltwater Trip,
Puerto Penasco, Mex

Dec 8 • DFC Banquet

This is the most current information as of 01 26 04.

Buying a performance Reel

NEED A NEW REEL FOR THOSE BIG FISH THIS SUMMER?

(FFF ClubWire: From Jim Abbs).

When most of us started fly fishing we were told that a fly reel is "just a place to store line." In those early days of our passion, we spent most of our fly fishing dollars on the best rod and line we could afford. The reel was an after thought. These choices worked well for small trout and bluegill.

But for those who step up to big fish, things can get a bit more complicated. For many it is big spring creek or tailwater trout that keep breaking us off, even after we got them on the reel. Why? When you go after bigger fish, be it tarpon in salt water, northern pike in warmwater, steelhead in big rivers or tailwater trout, your reel has to be more than just a line holder. The first problem we run into with an inexpensive reel is the quality of the drag system. Remember, drag is intended to slow down or tire a hard running or strong fish, while giving way very smoothly and just enough to protect the weakest point in your terminal tackle, the tippet. For leader-shy fish in insect rich tailwaters, we face a well-conditioned five pound trout in fast current with a 7X tippet. Even with a 2X or 3X tippet for a steelhead, after nicks and scratches on logs and rocks, is likely to break when the pressure is on. So to minimize break-off, when the hooked fish really takes off, the optimal drag is smooth as silk, with minimal start-up resistance. But.. this kind of ideal drag tends to cost more money.

And there is more to a big fish reel. Another factor (to some maybe the most important) is reel weight. Everything else being equal, the lighter the reel (and the rod) the better. If you are going to make long distance casts all day, a few ounces can make a difference. A heavy reel is just like wearing too-heavy hiking boots on a long trail. Now-a-days, with wonderful alloys, a large reel can weigh as light as a smaller reel of lower price and poorer engineering. Also, on a bigger rod a heavier reel is more acceptable. Here the goal is to have the reel weight balance the weight of the rod. This balance is because the weight of the rod is mostly forward of your hand, while the weight of the reel is behind. A longer (or heavier) rod (because of the lever-fulcrum effect) will offset a heavier reel. So if you hold the rod properly, the reel does not tip the rod back, or vice versa. The only sure way to determine rod-reel balance is to try them together and see how they feel.

A final factor is reel diameter. Diameter influences how much line your reel holds and how fast you can retrieve the line. With a deeper reel, you can carry more backing for those far-running, hard fighting fish, certainly a consideration. However, a factor that is also worth considering is the size of the arbor (inner core of the spool). The size of the arbor determines how fast you can bring in line. It takes about 400 turns of the average reel to bring in 100 yards of backing. With some of the new large arbor (or loop) reels, this is reduced by as much as 25%. With a big fish coming right at you, some feel this difference is significant. But, there is a trade-off here as well; faster retrieve reels carry less backing.

So if you buy a new reel for big fish this season, take a look at all the critical factors: Weight, drag, line capacity and line retrieval rate. The selection is very impressive and you will find that these high performance reels are more than a place to store your line.



MEMBERSHIP DUES

Reminder...2004 DFC Yearly Membership dues are only \$35.00

Help support your club!

Pay your DFC dues by April 1, 2004 and you will be entered into a raffle for a rod hand crafted by Dave Weaver.

FEBRUARY 2004 COUPON

20% OFF All DFC Sweatshirts

Present this coupon and tell 'em you're a member in good standing!

(This coupon good for February 2004 for DFC Sweatshirts only.)

2004 Calendar Events


Jan 17-18 Silver Creek
 Show Low, AZ Vince Deadmond host. Small stream day trip.
 Good for a small group 5 or less.

Feb 19-22 ISE Sportsman's Show
 AZ State Fairgrounds, Phoenix, AZ Neal Replogle host.
 Tie flies, talk to people about our sport.

Feb 28 DFC Picnic
 Desert Breeze Park, Chandler, AZ, Neal Replogle host.


TBA Rio Penasco, NM
 Vince Deadmond host, small stream, San Juan size fish no crowd, same drive as San Juan. good 6-8 people event.

Mar 19-21 Apache Lake
 Globe AZ, Dave Weaver host, Small Mouth Bass fishing, float tube. You can put a lot of float tubes on Apache Lake.

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Would you like your personal information included in a membership directory? Yes
 No

Would you like your personal information made available to vendors that contribute to the Annual Christmas Banquet fundraiser? Yes
 No

Would you like your personal information made available to flyfishing related vendors? Yes
 No

ANNUAL DUES ARE \$35 NEW MEMBER
- DUE BY APRIL 1ST RENEWAL \$35

NAME TAG? Yes, Please add \$3 for my DFC name tag. \$3
 No, I already have one.

DFC BADGE NAME: #1 _____
#2 _____

TOTAL: _____

CONSERVATION*: Amount of your Tax Deductible Conservation Donation: \$ _____

How did you hear about our club? _____

BOARD MEMBER? Yes, I am a current DFC Board Member
 No, but I would be interested in becoming one.
 No, I spend every waking moment flyfishing.

COMMENTS: These are the things I would be most interested in doing/seeing/learning about this year:

* Optional