



# DESERT FLY CASTERS *Forward Casts*

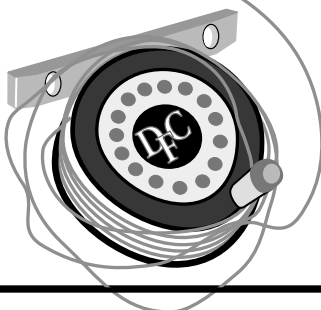
DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB



**MARCH MEETING:**

Wednesday, March 10, 2004  
Dinner- 6:00 PM  
Meeting- 7:00 PM  
American Legion Post #2  
2125 S. Industrial Park Ave.  
in Tempe

"All fish are not caught on flies."  
John Lyle (1579)



## Presidents Report- March 2004

I have been working hard over the past couple of months updating the website. I am at a point where I need your help. I would like to see the events page up to date with pictures from outings throughout the year. So, when you go on a club trip please take some pictures and either e-mail them to me through the site or give them to me at a meeting. Also, did you know that we have a message board? If you are looking for a new fishing buddy or information on a place to fish, or maybe a fly pattern you can post a message and other members can respond.

I would like to personally thank the Desert Fly Casters members that donated to Casting for Recovery. Originally, DFC had agreed to donate \$500 for their upcoming retreat. We also offered to match member donations up to an additional \$500. At the February meeting our members donated \$430. The board decided to carry it over to the March meeting and allow more time for members to donate. The goal is \$1500 or more in total donations from the club and it's members.

I would also like to thank those that helped at the Sportsmans Expo. Neal Replogle did an excellent job of organizing and getting members to man our booth. On Saturday, Gary Borger tied in our booth and drew a crowd. Gary is a very well known tier and casting instructor. We also judged the Best of the West Casting competition. Jeff Currier won the men's competition with a cast of 103' and Wendy Gunn won the women's with a cast of 85'. I competed and came in 3rd.

Let's talk casting. While judging the competition, I realized that the percentage of people that cast well has to be fewer than 40 percent. I am not talking necessarily just about distance casting but about being able to have tight loops, hold line in the air, advance line and have a decent looking cast. I was also amazed that the majority of the casters that I saw had no idea what their line was doing behind them. They either come forward too soon, too late, or have really bad tailing loops. You do not have to have a beautiful cast to be able to fish but you do have to have line control and be able to hit your target. We have a casting clinic coming up the 13th of March. It will be taught by Larry Allen and Ted Bounds. Larry is a certified instructor and he is one of the best instructors that I have met. He is extremely knowledgeable about flyfishing and also very patient. If you are having problems casting, come out and let the professionals help you. They will be teaching the basic roll cast and also how to pick up line, do one false cast and lay it out straight. So, if you are a new caster wanting to learn or you've been casting for a while but having problems, come join us. Look for more information from Ted further in the newsletter.

Carp fishing...have you tried it? What do you think about it? On Saturday morning I met Jeff Currier at ASU Research Park for a lesson in carp fishing. Jeff works with Jack Dennis and was out for the Expo. He had been having good success and I wanted to watch. I have caught many carp in my lifetime on various dough bates but have never tried it with a fly rod. I followed him for awhile and then decided to try it myself. The main problem I had was not being able to see the fish until I was right on top of them. Carp spook very easily so you have to stay a ways back. I found that I really need to start practicing "seeing" fish. We were out there for a couple of hours and neither of us had a hook up. I witnessed him miss a couple of hits and I missed one that slurped my dry off the top. I wasn't expecting it and set too soon. I plan on making a habit out of trying to figure this out. I am practically across the street and it is very challenging to get a grass carp to take a fly. I hope to report back soon on my first catch.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 10th. I will be there early selling dinner tickets. I hope to see you there!

**Cinda Howard, DFC President**

### Our March Program will be on Fly-fishing Southern Utah & The Red River Ranch

By Shawn Saunders

The Fly-fishing opportunities of southern Utah are numerous and diverse to say the least. Our area often called canyon country includes the famous Boulder Mountains (home of the Utah state record Brook Trout over 7 pounds), Thousand Lake Mountain, Markagunt Plateau, and many others. All of these border one of the many southern Utah National Parks. The Fremont River, Sevier River, Boulder Creek, Panguitch Creek, and countless other hidden small streams are at our doorstep.

The Red River Ranch located on the Fremont River is unique to anywhere in the world. If you like sight-fishing to large browns and rainbows then we have the experience of a lifetime. With six miles of freestone stream waters, it's not uncommon to land a half dozen trout over 20 inches in a days fly-

...continued on back page

### Apache Lake Outing, Friday, March 19th through Sunday, March 21st

We will be meeting and camping at Burnt Coral and fishing for small mouth bass. You will need a float tube or pontoon boat for this event. Also, an ideal rod would be a 9 ft. 5, 6, or 7 weight with a fast sinking line. Flies to have on hand are woolly buggers, clousers and foxy minnows. There will be a sign up sheet and maps at the March meeting. Please call Dave Weaver if you need equipment OR if you plan to attend the outing but are unable to make the meeting. (480) 820-0903

### 7th Annual Bill Luke Big Bass Days at Lake Pleasant

Inside the Big Bass Days Outdoor Show will be a fun Fly-Casting Accuracy Competition Saturday, March 27, beginning at noon and ending at 3 p.m., and a Distance Competition Sunday, March 28 from noon to 3 p.m. People of all skill levels are encouraged to stop by. Members from the Dame Juliana Anglers, Arizona Fly-Casters, and the Desert Fly-Casters will be on hand to work with beginners and perform demos as well. Entry for the event will be \$10 and the contestants will receive raffle tickets for hit targets or footage. After a person has completed their casting, they will place their tickets in a bucket of their choice, each bucket representing a prize. The prizes will be awarded Sunday afternoon at 3:30 on the Budweiser stage. The prizes include a Fly-Rod from Neal's Custom Rods, a Cactus F-80-6 two-piece Fly-Rod from Neal's Custom Rods, a Clearwater Rod from Orvis, a two-night stay at the Cliffdwellers Lodge compliments of the Cliffdwellers Lodge and Lees Ferry anglers, a two-night stay at the Apache Lake Marina Resort, and a float-tube from Sportsman's

Warehouse. Every contestant will also receive a special raffle ticket for the Grand Prize drawing, Sunday afternoon at 4:00 p.m., for a deep-sea fishing trip for four with Performance Charters in San Diego. And kids under 13 who stop by with a legal guardian will receive a raffle ticket for a 50cc ATV from Dazon.

### DFC Casting Clinic

Desert Fly Casters will host a casting clinic on Saturday, March 13th. There will be a sign up sheet at the March meeting and also at the ISE show. Dr. Larry Allen will be the instructor and will be assisted by other FFF certified casting instructors. The program will start with a roll cast on water and also include the basic pick up and put down cast and how to form good loops. If you plan to attend please bring an 8' 6" or 9' rod in five weight with a floating line or as close to this as you have, and a tapered leader. Bring a hat, sunscreen, something to drink, and SUNGLASSES. The club has 10 rods and reels available for those who don't have their own equipment. We will meet at Kiwanis Park behind the Arizona Fly Fishing shop on the southwest corner of Mill Ave. and Baseline at 10 am. Hope to see you there.

### Don't Do Dat!

By Vince Deadmond

Do what I tell you, don't follow my example. I hope the following do and don't list will make your fly fishing more enjoyable this Spring. I know many of you never stop fishing and are on top of your game, but for those who only fish occasionally this may help you have a good day outing or save your week fishing trip.

Do make lists, and then physical-

ly check them against the cargo going on your trip. Fly fishing requires lots of gear, and you don't want to leave some critical peace at home. Sometime my trip has been salvaged because I brought extras of almost everything. Or one of my fishing companion has an extra set of some needed equipment. Especially when float tubing. Most trips in Arizona requires some driving time, so you really don't want to get to your destination without your fins, rod, reel, sinking lines, floating line, fly boxes, etc.

Don't assume you can step off a stream bank and not loose your hat. There are small streams that are quite deep at the waters edge.

Do exercise care when wading in the ocean. Rocks, depressions, and stepping on a stingray can all undo your plans for the day, just ask Doc or Peter Klemens how much fun they can be.

When fishing small brushy stream banks you will cast into a tree. Don't pull the line and fly directly toward your face, especially if it is a weighted fly. When that weighted slingshot frees, and pelts you in the forehead you will look like one of the creatures from Star Trek. This bit of advice comes from my lucky Vulcan cousin Ric.

Do pack a standard kit for your vest or chest pack that has nothing to do with fishing. It should contain tape, band-aids, lip balm, ibuprofen, sun screen, any meds you may need, and toilet paper. Things are rough when you are peeling off the Bud labels, or hoping you have change for a \$5.

Don't drink more coffee than usual if you plan to go float tubing. Do a little planning and have a good fishing trip.



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## Creek may be poisoned to rescue 'rarest trout'

Don Thompson  
Associated Press  
Jan. 28, 2004 12:00 AM

**SACRAMENTO** - The government is proposing a recovery plan for "the rarest trout in America" that may include poisoning a stretch of Sierra Nevada creek in an attempt to rid the threatened fish of non-native competitors.

The Paiute cutthroat trout is native only to part of upper Silver King Creek, which flows into the Carson River south of Lake Tahoe in California's remote Alpine County. "It's only a nine-mile stretch, so this is the rarest trout in the world or at least the U.S.," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokeswoman Randi Thompson.

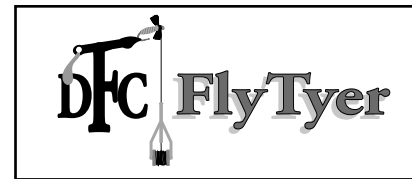
In cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Game, the federal service wants to rid an 11-mile lower section of the creek of other fish so the Paiute cutthroat can return there as well.

That would help not only the native trout but also the rare mountain yellow-legged frog, which can be wiped out by non-native fish, the service said in the half-million dollar recovery plan released Monday. It said habitat improvements also would benefit the rare Yosemite toad.

An environmental lawsuit last year prompted the U.S. Forest Service to block a state plan to poison the 11 miles below Llewellyn Falls, which form a natural barrier to the non-native fish migrating upstream to the area where native Paiute cutthroat live.

The poison that would be used, Rotenone, is particularly controversial in the Sierra Nevada because the state has used it unsuccessfully in four past attacks on non-native fish. Paiute trout were transplanted about 100 years ago into four other California waterways where pure populations survive. The species was declared endangered in 1970 but was upgraded to threatened in 1975 in part to allow fishing.

Silver King Creek is the most accessible to anglers, one reason restoration of the creek has been made a priority.



...from Eric Larsen's flybox  
**Big Lake Midge Emerger**



### Pattern

**Hook:** Daiichi 1330 #14-#18 (Dry Fly hook; wide gape, turned up eye)

**Thread:** Gudebrod 8/0 Olive

**Tail:** Pheasant Tail Dyed Olive

**Rib:** Danville 3/0 Olive Monocord

**Body:** 3-4 strands of dyed olive pheasant, tips trimmed and tied in at the bend of the hook

**Thorax:** #17 Bronze Peacock Arizona Semi Seal Dubbing (or Blonde Grizzly Bear Fur)

**Wing:** Natural Dun CDC

Cast as a dry fly or use sink tip leader; slow retrieve (don't use floatant)

### What makes this fly my fly of the month

In May 2003, I was at Big Lake fishing on a rare day where the water was flat (like in little or no wind). The day was warm and sunny and water temp 50-55 degrees. Perfect day to fish but turned out to be a tough time figuring out what fly the fish were biting on. There was massive midge hatch on the water and I had a natural laboratory right next to my float tube. I could watch the midges rise up from the bottom, emerge and fly off. I normally don't tie or fish emergers and I didn't have a one in my fly box that day. I did take a mental note of what I saw that day and developed this pattern to imitate the hatch. Most emergers are tied with a TMC 2487 or 2488 hook. I use the turned up eye hook to give the fly a more natural motion and vertical floatation. I like the properties of grizzly bear fur because it is light and can be dubbed tightly making the fly buoyant. Grizzly bear is hard to find (you might watch the DFC Raffle though!) so I use Arizona Bronze Semi Seal. That I KNOW you can find! The CDC feather adds translucency and floatation to the fly. I have yet to get this fly out on the water but am looking forward testing it out starting with Seneca Lake and in the White Mountains on a crayfish trapping outing or the DFC White Mountain Spectacular.



## ZANE GREY CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

ANNUAL 2004 BANQUET  
THURSDAY, APRIL 29TH  
RADISSON HOTEL  
3333 E. UNIVERSITY

(32ND ST., NORTH OF I-10)

6 P.M. COCKTAILS • 7:30 P.M. DINNER

*(If you've never attended a TU Annual Banquet, you owe it to yourself to go. It's usually a great dinner with a wonderful auction and many exciting raffle prizes.)*

TICKETS ARE \$35.00 EACH & INCLUDE 10 RAFFLE TICKETS

SUPPORT THE WORLD'S LARGEST COLDWATER  
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(See Georganne to purchase tickets at the March meeting or call  
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### March 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: Enchiladas, tacos, beans & rice, and a desert.* Come early and enjoy dinner with your DFC friends!

*Dinner is served from 6pm to 7pm.*

### CONSERVATION NOTES ...with Eric Larsen

The DFC Board didn't find it good enough for me to write a monthly article, attend an occasional meeting, and respond to "letters of interest." They actually want me to DO something. This month I will give you a status on some on-going projects, invasive species issues and a conservation outings calendar.

**Ongoing Projects:** White Mountain Apache Trout Enhancement Project (WMATEP). The 2003/2004 environmental assessment (EA) was sent out for comment. The short version of this 100 page document comes down to this: 1) Do nothing. 2) Build 7 new barriers and repair 3 existing barriers. Remove the non-native fish using a pesticide (fish poison) and re-introduce the Apache trout to native ranges. This is the Proposed Action. Larry Riley of the AZGF presented most of the particulars of this option at our January meeting. 3) Same as #2 except don't use the pesticide and use electro-fish renovation. 4) Same as #2 except build three fewer barriers. The barriers that are built be located at the lower ends of the watersheds. I faxed a response, probably too late, in support of #2, the proposed action. I will have some copies of key pages from the EA at the March meeting with the FFF and TU native fish policies. I developed corporate computer projects for 15 years. When we would get bogged down on a project, often times it was due to what we called "analysis paralysis." There came a time (finish the project or get fired) when we had to move on because additional discussion wasn't adding value to the project. The EA is not a perfect document. We still have the crayfish and habitat issues, for example, that are "out of scope." There is much to do and it CAN work. It will take work and determination to make it happen. It is time to move on with this project.

**Canyon Creek:** The plan for Canyon Creek so far is to have a contractor to build a fence to preserve the riparian environment of the creek

## SPECIAL DFC MAY FUND RAISER

Join in with our DFC members for a *Special Fund Raiser- DFC CONSERVATION 2004* Robert McKeon has donated one of his illustrated wooden canoe paddles for this festive occasion. A canvas print from a selected collection of original art hand crafted and sealed on a canoe paddle. The paddle shaft has a cork strip to pin notes, favorite flys or pictures making this a functional collectible for personal memorabilia- brackets on the back...ready to hang.



Tickets for the **DFC CONSERVATION 2004 Raffle**  
\$5.00 each • 3 FOR \$10.00

Drawing will be held at our DFC monthly meeting in May 2004

All monies from this raffle will go towards our

DFC Conservation efforts in Arizona

*Tickets on sale during DFC March, April and May monthly meetings.*

below the OW Bridge. George Geoghagen will be contacting Jim Warnecke of the AZGF to give us a detailed status at a future DFC meeting. Stay tuned.

**Invasive Species:** Not only do we have the Northern Crayfish destroying small stream environments but also there is a growing concern about the Zebra Mussel and New Zealand Mud Snail. These two invaders continue to spread throughout the West. Both species are prolific reproducers. The larva of these small mollusks is tiny or microscopic so it is hard to see them on your equipment (when you do, it means the infestation has already begun). The NZ Mud Snail can reproduce asexually. The best way to slow the infestation of these hitch hikers is to clean your equipment. When you leave a body of water, clean the mud and plant matter off of your equipment. I have another solution that will help. I bought a jug of Quat-128. This is a disinfectant that is used to kill germs and viruses in hospitals. In a diluted solution, Quat-128 is good to use to disinfect your fishing equipment. I will be mixing up spray bottles to distribute with our crayfish traps. I will also mix up a few spares for the Raffle. Like all chemicals, you need to keep this stuff away from kids, pets, food, eyes, skin, mouth and anything except what you want to disinfect. You can spray the diluted Quat-128 on your float tube, fins, waders, boots, etc. Let it stay wet for 10 minutes on the equipment and then rinse with water.

**Conservation Outing Calendar (Evolving):** If you want to get some extra fishing trips in this summer up in the White Mountains, do I have a plan for you. *Here are some upcoming activities that we can participate in:*

**May 15th - Old Pueblo Trout**

**Unlimited (OPTU) from Tucson:** West Fork of the Black River to clean up and check barriers. OPTU wants also to set some air and water temperature monitors on the stream. This may happen at this outing or be done on an impromptu outing.

**May 24th to May 28th - AZGF:** Crayfish trapping around the Three Forks area on the East Fork of the Black River. The actual time is from dusk to about 10 pm. You will help trap, measure, record and remove the crayfish from the stream. Last summer an 11 pound brown trout was caught out of the East Fork. I asked Clay Nelson of the AZGF if that was an "incentive fish." He says the only fish they have been stocking for a long time has been Apache Trout. The brown had probably been in the stream for quite some time. There's some big fish in the stream. I recommend a crayfish pattern. The crayfish trapping not only helps the trout habitat but also helps out other sensitive species such as the Chiricahua leopard frog, the Three Forks Spring Snail and the California Floater (it's a native even though the name says otherwise). There is no getting rid of the crayfish in this area so crayfish will always be a problem and the main means of control is trapping.

**June 12th -OPTU:** Fish Creek native fish salvage. Fish Creek is planned to be renovated June 21-25. This effort will be in preparation to salvage any native fish in the impacted renovation area. I'm checking to find out if some of that work can continue into the next week. The following weekend is the White Mountain Extravaganza. If you plan to go up early, here's a chance to get involved.

**June-- AZGF:** Crayfish trapping on Three Forks. TBD.



**July-- OPTU:** Native fish recovery before renovation of Hayground Creek. TBD.

**July 19th to July 22nd - AZGF:** Crayfish trapping. This falls right after the Horseshoe Cienega Outing which is July 16th-July 18th. If you feel like spending a couple of extra days, you can fish by day and trap crawdads by night!

**August-OPTU:** Unspecified at this point in time. OPTU has been a leader for years in the White Mountains on the Apache Trout Recovery. You can bet the outing will have something to do with that endeavor.

There are other outings in the works although no specific dates have been firmed up at this point. Although, unlikely, the WMATEP-EA may be given the green light March 1, 2004. If that happens, barrier construction will be planned to start. Several barriers can only be constructed by hauling in tools and using material from rock slides in the construction area of the barrier. No roads are nearby to use heavy equipment. Last but not least, I have also heard of some activities possibly starting this summer or fall on the Blue River watershed regarding the Gila Trout recovery project. I will also be attending a meeting in Flagstaff on the West Fork of Oak Creek Gila Trout Project. That project is in the study stages so far. There may be outings that could use our help on that project as well. The April newsletter will have more information on this project.

I will bring sign up sheets to the March Meeting for each of the outings above. Please sign up for the outings that you would be interested in participating in. I guess it's time to DO something.

### LET'S DO ALASKA THIS YEAR!!!!

For those of you unable to attend the February meeting, Will Maloney of the Creekside Inn in Ninilchik, Alaska passed out brochures for a trip that we have slated for August 1st - 5th.. Your Alaska package includes 5 nights & 6 days lodging, all meals, a 2-day guided fly-out trip to the Chuit River, one day guided fishing on local waters, and a one day drift trip! Plus, I am planning to add a one day ocean halibut trip for an additional fee. Will is offering us a pre-show special rate for this package of ONLY \$1,150.00 + tax! This is amazing, folks! Normally trips that include a fly-in can cost upwards of \$5-6000! We have nine people already signed up!!! Once we have twelve participants, Will is also able to get us some incredible group rate airfares. This whole trip can be done, with the halibut fishing, for well under \$2000!

It's the chance of a lifetime, so join us! Tentative dates are August 1st through 5th, which, according to AK Game and Fish, is the time of year to have the chance to catch the most variety of fish! Sign up at the March meeting, or call *Georganne (480/471-4300)* for a mailed brochure. One half deposit will be due April 1st, with the balance due June 1st. So, as NIKE says.....let's JUST DO IT!

### Fishing Rio Penasco

by Vince Deadmond

Bob Harrison, George Geoghegan, and I did a Winter expletory trip to New Mexico. We did catch some nice fish, but I really believe that in the Spring one may have a hard time keeping big fish off the end of your fly line. Charlie & Marcetta Mulcock have 4 miles of stream that runs through a meadow, has plunge pools, and runs in to a canyon. Some of the pools are quite deep, the banks are cut back and quite deep, the place just looks fishy!

The Mulcock Ranch has a bunk house that is available to people who are fishing the property. It is large enough to sleep 15 people. We had four people counting our guide and everyone had plenty of space. It is quite comfortable and set up for hunting and fishing, concrete floor, so you don't need to worry about coming in with mud on your boots. A well stocked, large kitchen, with a dishwasher, and a BQ grill outside for your use. We brought our own groceries, and fishing stuff and we were good to go. Don't expect to dine out, the nearest diner is 30 miles away and only open during the day.

The drive time is the worst part of the deal. Plan on an 8 hour trip, but that is not bad if you have several fly fishing buddies in you truck, to talk fishing. I would suggest for the next trip, to leave on a Thursday at 12:00 Noon. That will get you to the bunk house by 8 PM. You still have time to set up your gear and get ready for a full day of fishing on Friday, and Saturday. Sunday fish until 12:00 Noon and get home by 8 PM. When I last talked to Charlie he had the week end of May 7-9 open as well as May 21-23. I would like to do this trip with a small group 4-6 people. If you are interested please give me a call:

**480-982-7461 B or 480-984-4698 H**



### 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.**

...March Meeting Utah continued

fishing at the ranch. Our average sized browns and rainbows are legitimately sixteen to seventeen inches. In peak season the dry fly hatches are prolific. Frame a beautiful photo of your trophy wild trout with the famous cliffs of Capitol Reef Nat'l Park as the backdrop. Overnight trip packages will include lodging in our fifteen-room lodge at the Red River Ranch. The streamside lodge has been named one of Travel & Leisure's "25 Best American Lodges."

Fly-fishing is truly an art form, stress reliever, religious experience and method of relaxation and we would like to share our backyard with you.

## 2004 Calendar

Mar 19-21 • Apache Lake, Globe, AZ

Apr 23-25 • Seneca Lake, Globe, AZ


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



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