



# DESERT FLY CASTERS *Forward Casts*

DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB

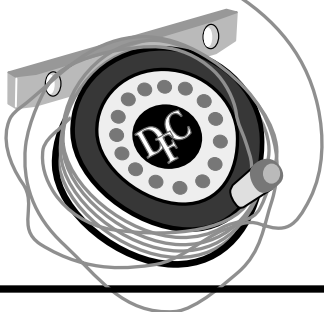


### APRIL MEETING:

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

Always it was to be called a (fishing) rod. If someone called it a pole, my father looked at him as a sergeant in the United States Marines would look at a recruit who had just called a rifle a gun.

*Norman Maclean -1976*



## Presidents Report- April 2004

**O**n the 13th of March, Desert Fly Casters had its annual casting clinic. It was held at Kiwanis Park on a warm and cloudy day. The club worked hard at getting the word out and trying to get people interested in learning to cast. We printed articles in the newsletter, announced it at the meetings and allowed sign ups at the ISE Show. We expected to have about 30 people show up which is far more than usually attend. Most years we have an average of about 10 people that come out. This year we had over 50 people attend (that includes instructors and other helpers). It was quite a sight to see around 40 people lined up around the edge of the lake casting. It appeared that about half of the attendees were current members and the other half either heard about it at the ISE Show, from friends, or through the website. This clinic was a success because of the hard work from several of our members. Ted Bounds was responsible for finding instructors and also for signing people up and making a lot of phone calls. Gerry Wiemelt also helped make calls and he directed traffic at the event. Ann Bounds and Dave Weaver helped people find where they needed to go and also helped with equipment. We had an excellent group of instructors that were headed up by Larry Allen (Master Certified Casting Instructor). Assisting him were Bruce Williams (Master Certified Casting Instructor), Scott Bicknell (Certified Casting Instructor), Tom Harper (Certified Casting Instructor), Ron Robinson (AFC member, Long Beach Casting Club member), Ted Bounds (DFC Member), and Gary Walsh (Certified Casting Instructor, DFC Member). I would like to extend a personal thank you to everyone that helped and all that attended. It is individuals like you that make this group a success. Larry Allen passed out literature about the basics of casting and it outlined everything that was taught at the class. I will make copies and have this available to all of our members at the April meeting.

This is our busy time of year. We start back up on our big trips and also have casting clinics, tying classes, rod-building classes etc. Look for tying classes to start at the end of the month. These are beginner classes and will be taught by various DFC members. The club will provide all materials needed but if you have your own vise and tools, feel free to bring them. Look for a follow-up casting clinic to be taught by Larry Allen in the near future. In the first class he taught the basic roll cast and also taught how to pick up line off the water, make a back cast and lay the cast out. The follow-up class will focus on false casting and holding line in the air.

We have several outings coming up. This month will be Seneca Lake hosted by Doc Nickel and Jim Dickson. This will be April 23rd-25th. Look for more info in the newsletter. Also, we have a trip planned to Chevelon in May. At this point we do not have a host. It is scheduled for the 14th-16th. We really need someone to step up and volunteer to host this outing. What does it take to be a host? First you have to sign people up so you have an idea of how many are interested, give info about the outing in the newsletter and at the meetings, show up for the trip, put the DFC signs out so the members can find the camp, fish and have a good time. It really is that simple. If you would like to volunteer to host this or any other outing, see Vince Deadmond at the meeting.

Other upcoming trips are the White Mountain Extravaganza June 18th-20th and Horse Shoe Cienega in July (still looking for a host). The San Juan trip is coming together and I will be signing people up at the April meeting. There is more info further in the newsletter.

Bass fishing has really picked up and there were a lot of fish caught at the Apache Lake outing. Also, the lakes are thawing up north and the fishing should be picking up soon. Check with the forest service before heading up to make sure the lakes are accessible and that the roads are open. Also, the Game and Fish website always has updated info about lakes, reports, and stocking schedules.

This month's speaker will be Larry Allen and I believe he will hold a discussion on stillwater fishing for trout. He is very knowledgeable on trout behavior and entomology so come expecting to learn something. You will not be disappointed. I will be taking notes and I hope to see you there!

**Cinda Howard, DFC President**

### April Meeting • STILL WATER FISHING

The speaker for our April meeting is Dr. Larry Allen. Dr. Allen will be speaking about fly fishing the lakes of the White Mountains. The presentation will be focused on effective still water fishing techniques for these bodies of water.

## More Saltwater Adventures

by Vince Deadmond

Fishing trips can start at work, in your car, talking to a buddy, or even at the Phoenix Sportsmans Expo. While looking at all the outfitters, guides, and merchandise for sale I came across a Saltwater trip that was of interest to me. The price seemed right, the accomodations seemed right, and the fishing potential seemed right. Having fished Puerto Penasco, San Carlos, and Loretto Mexico I know the Sea of Cortez can be very productive. Baja Sportfishing has a 6 day adventure fly fishing package. You probably have seen in fishing magazines where people are fishing out of Pangas and staying on a comfortable mother ship. This is one of those deals.

The trip includes all meals, sodas, crushed ice for your filleted fish, secure parking for your vehicle in San Felipe, (6 hour drive from Phoenix), Mexican fishing permit and panga guide. Meals are of Mexican and American cuisine. The panga will have a casting platform for fly fishers and they recommend two fly fishers per panga. This package would run \$950 and would be about 4 1/2 days of actual fishing.

The ERIC is a 105' steel hull ship with 7 tiled bathrooms, 4 staterooms with full A/C for 3 people each, 3 staterooms with A/C for 2 people each and 1 airconditioned panoramic view stateroom for 6 people.

I talked to Dana and Jim Kirby at the show, and I think they will be great to work with. They have a web-sight: [www.bajasportfishing.com](http://www.bajasportfishing.com)

*I am looking at leaving on Saturday May 22. Check your calendar and give me a call if you are interested in this trip. 480-982-7461 (B) or 480-984-4698.*

## Tying Wet Flies... Heavy Thoughts

....thoughts from Eric Larsen's Workbench

Instead of the Fly of the Month this month, I thought I would share some...heavy thoughts. A "good fly" is a combination of a good pattern and presentation. When it comes to dry fly fishing over some very picky trout, presentation might be more important than matching the right hatch. The process of fishing a wet fly we don't often get to see the presentation as with dry fly fishing. The question starts coming to mind should we put weight (wrap or lash lead or non-lead) on the hook?

When I first started tying flies, I thought it was like baking a cake. If you follow the recipe exactly, the fly ought to catch fish. I have since found that if you don't have the exact materials substitutes can work out fine. The presentation part, I think, is a matter if the fly is being fished in moving water (river or stream) or a lake. Many of the larger rivers that have a fairly strong current like Lee's Ferry, Green River, and the Madison, a weighted fly is pretty important to get the fly down quickly enough to the fish. Wet flies (nymphs and streamers) are often fished with a floating line with a strike indicator, cast up stream and set the hook if the strike indicator pauses for even a moment.

Small streams like the ones we have in Arizona can be a challenge. I'm one of those folks who don't have a closet full fly rods. I use my 9 foot 5 weight regardless of the water I'm fishing. I know it is recommended to cast upstream to get a dead drift on the fly, for small streams I'll often drift the fly downstream into water that I think is holding trout. With the downstream drift, I spend more time with the fly in the water than in the bushes. The fly in these circumstances is better not to be weighted because it will hang up on the bottom before it gets to where the fish are. Also, the fly will often

sway in the current in such a way to get a trout's attention. If I want to get the fly a little deeper, I can put a light BB weight on the leader or I even had heard of people of threading a brass or copper bead through the tippet so it's next to the fly head.

The flies I use for fishing lakes are generally not weighted unless the fly is intended to be on the bottom. I tie bead-head flies often so the fly will zigzag up and down when doing a slow retrieval. The same can be done without bead heads by wrapping a small amount of weight in the fly thorax when tying the fly (some people don't like bead head flies). When fishing trout lakes, the first step is to find the depth of where the fish are holding. There are a variety of ways to get the fly to different depths by putting weight on the leader, sink tip lines and/or various sinking lines. I like the fly to "drift" at the level where my line is at and for this reason I typically don't weight the flies that I fish in a lake.

Some tyers are very organized at being able to distinguish between weighted flies and their unweighted flies. Some will use different color thread, different kind of hooks....whatever the imagination can conger up. When I sit down to tie flies, I rarely make the conscious decision that I'm going to tie weighted flies (unless it's a bottom pattern). I therefore don't know whether a fly is weighted or not when I tie it on the tippet. I can usually tell though by how the fly "behaves" in the water. Since most of the fishing I do is on trout lakes and small streams, probably 80% of the wet flies I use are not weighted unless it is obvious (like a glass or metal bead).

Next time you sit down to tie up some flies or even go to the fly shop to buy some flies, you might give some thought to what kind of fishing you plan do. I don't think this is a super critical consideration as to whether or not you will catch fish. There are a lot of other variables that will influence the outcome on that.



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Up until a year or so ago I never gave it thought about putting weight on a fly. I tied the fly like the recipe called for it to be tied. One day it occurred to me that originators of popular patterns like Mike Lawson, Jack Dennis, Gary LaFontaine, Randall Kaufmann, etc. are classic big river fishermen. This is not to say that they don't fish small streams or lakes. I would be a big river fisherman too if I had the Snake, Yellowstone, or Deschutes practically in my back yard. The patterns we tie and read about are biased to the originator's use of the fly. Sometimes this is what we intend and sometimes maybe....not. Heavy thoughts.

**Editor's Notes...**I've got to admit when one talks of "wet" flies I'm always keen on soft hackles. In my garage stuffed in a closet I've a collection of books by Dave Hughes (*Wet Flies-Tying and Fishing Soft-Hackles Winged and Wingless Wets, and Fuzzy Nymphs*) and Sylvester Nemes (*Soft-Hackled Fly Imitations: The Soft-Hackled Fly- A Trout Fisherman's Guide; Spinners and The Soft-Hackled Fly Addict*) and their findings of tied flies. Both authors really added many a patterned wet fly thought to my fly boxes over the years. Eric's neat article leads me to go rediscover all those patterns that are tucked away in my gray matter...Thanks Eric!  
R.McKeon, DFC Editor

## APRIL OUTING

### Friday, April 23rd through Sunday, April 25th

**Our annual Seneca Lake outing is coming up this month.** This is a very popular event and one that many club members look forward to all year. This is an outing where everyone and anyone can catch fish.

Feel free to come out and camp Friday and/or Saturday nights or come out for just a day. The club will provide "monster trucker burgers" on Saturday night so bring a side dish and your own drink.

You will need a float tube or pontoon boat because there is no access from the bank. Also, you can use a 3, 4, or 5 weight rod with matching line. Intermediate sink is best but you can make do with a floater (with split shot) or type 2 sinking line. If you need equipment please let Doc, Dickson, or Cinda know.

Flies to have are woolly buggers and semi-seal leaches in brown, black and olive. Also anything with red or gold bead heads. Damsels and hare's

ears might be working well too.

Expect the weather to be warm during the day and cold at night. It is not unusual to have overnight temps dip down to freezing.

Directions-Take 60 out of Globe and the Seneca turn off is on the left a few miles before the Salt River Canyon. There will be an old boarded up gas station and a "Seneca" sign at the turn off. We will have a DFC sign there also. It is approximately 33 miles from Globe. Follow the dirt road to the back of the lake.

Be sure and stop at Express Stop before leaving Globe for a San Carlos fishing license. This will cost \$7 per day and includes camping. Also, you can pick one up at Tempe Marine in Chandler before leaving the valley.

Come out and enjoy the company of your DFC friends. Hope to see you there!



## Desert Lake Fishing Report.... from John Rohmer

### Apache Lake

Reported by John Rohmer on Monday, March 15, 2004 at 07:49:31

Water temp's are up to 54. Smallies are in shallow. Ultra foxy's and crayfish patterns fished fast on a Deep 7 line are the best bet for some action. Look for cobble shorelines, dropoffs and points. Fish are in prespawn now so look for shallow sandy, gravelly areas and approach quietly. Be sure to release each fish in the same area they were caught. This will help insure a successful spawn.

### Canyon Lake

Reported by John Rohmer on Monday, March 15, 2004 at 07:50:07

Look for smallies along cobble shorelines and underwater structure. Fish Ultra foxy's or crayfish patterns on a typr 7 fast sinking line, stripped fast. Smallies are in prespawn.

### Horseshoe Lake

Reported by John Rohmer on Monday, March 15, 2004 at 07:50:32

No reports, but lake has water. There should be some good crappie around the dam. Lake is up to around 30%.

### Roosevelt Lake

Reported by John Rohmer on Monday, March 15, 2004 at 07:51:37

Lake has filled to 30% capacity. Trollers are picking up crappie 20-28 ft deep on minnow patterns. This lake has a good population of nice smallmouth bass. Fish along cobbly shorelines and points with a type 7 fast sinking line with Ultra foxy's, JR's baitfish or crayfish patterns. Lots of lm bass being caught now by conventional anglers. No flyrod reports lately. Some of the lm's are good fish.

### San Carlos Lake

Reported by John Rohmer on Monday, March 15, 2004 at 07:53:35

No flyrod reports, but I've had numerous conventional reports of big crappies on the far side of the lake. Guys are using minnows. No reason why a fly-rodder couldn't whack a few with Ultra foxy's. These are always some of the biggest crappie around.

**Bill McBurney**  
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**April 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: Salsbury steak, salad, veggies, mash potatoes/gravy, roll & butter. Come early and enjoy dinner with your DFC friends! Dinner is served from 6pm to 7pm.

**CONSERVATION NOTES  
...with Eric Larsen**

Whether we like it or not conservation issues keep rising to the attention of the media. A couple years ago it was the Mexican Grey Wolf, recently the Energy Bill in Congress, and now it is mountain lions in Sabino Canyon. If we are going live near wildlife, we need to learn how to live with them.

**Ongoing Projects:** White Mountain Apache Trout Enhancement Project (WMATEP). No new status on this project. The comment period should be expiring here soon.

**Canyon Creek:** Jim Warnecke of the AZGF is planning to be at the May meeting to give us an update and how the club can get involved.

**West Fork Of Oak Creek Gila Trout Project:** Good news on this project. The project has secured the funding for the Coconino Forest Service to do the feasibility study. The Bureau of Reclamation has stepped forward to fund the 2 barriers and their part of the full environmental assessment. Hopefully, we hear the outcome on the feasibility study by the end of September.

**Wildlife Conservation Council (WCC):** DFC use to be an active member in this organization and over time has lost interest. I will be resuming attendance of meetings and probably renew our membership. Cinda will be bringing applications for conservation license plates to the April meeting. There is an opportunity to work collaboratively on various projects. Stay tuned.

**Conservation Outing Calendar :** I had one brave soul sign up for a conservation outing. Hopefully, this will continue. Since April 15th is tax day, here something to think about. Expenses for conservation outings can be considered charitable donations for tax purposes.

**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.



DFC is a charitable organization so outings you participate in on the club's behalf are eligible for tax deduction and with some proof that you participated in the outing. The charitable mileage rate is 14 cents a mile. You just need to keep your receipts. The club will keep the sign up sheets and make copies for people upon request who participate in the outings to keep with their records. Of course, I'm not a tax guy so you need to check with whoever prepares your tax returns to find out more details and if you are eligible to claim these expenses on your taxes.

I will have sign-up sheets again at the next meeting. Sign up. Get involved. Possible tax deductions. Fly fishing. What more can you ask for?

**Crayfish Traps:** The weather is warming up and it's time to trap crawdads. If you are out fishing, you can trap Arizona's lobster too!! DFC has crayfish traps to loan out for free. I will have a sign-up available so you can reserve the traps at the meeting. You can take the traps for the month and bring the traps to next meeting. For the White Mountain Spectacular, you would bring the traps to the outing or give them to someone planning to attend. In addition to the suicide chili pot for the outing, Cinda wants to eat crawdad too!!! Maybe this will start a new tradition for this outing....Cajun cooking with a crawdad boil!!

**JUST ANOTHER GOOD  
DAY FLY FISHING**

By Vince Deadmond

**M**y original plan was to drive from Mesa Thursday night after work, to Puerto Penasco, Mexico, and fish the incoming tide. I was telling a buddy about my plan, and he ask if I wanted help dragging all of those eager fish out of the Sea of Cortez, I said, sure. We modified the plan to leave early Friday morning, and that turned out to be a good thing. It got a little wet Thursday night and Friday morning, it was one of the biggest storms in the Phoenix area in the last three or four years.

Hail piled up in yards, washes were running, and motorists were stalled in canals that previously were roads. It was still raining, and Jimmy and I were glad to be on the road out of town. Spring fishing in Puerto Penasco is not always a sure thing, wind can cause the surf to get too big. I have been dumped out of my pontoon boat unceremoniously, more than once. We were hoping for one good day of fishing.

When we arrived at Playa De Oro RV Park I, check in, pick up my camper, and take a peak at the Sea of Cortez. The surf is rough, and the water is churned up and off color 500 yards into the sea. The birds are diving and getting sardines, hope lives. We quickly set up camp, and made our way into the downtown area for a bite to eat. Many choices of where to eat, and they all seem to be good. We do a bit of the tourist thing, Jimmy is looking for a good deal on a Rolex knock off, he finds one makes an offer.

We go back to the RV Park which is right on the beach, and we are checking the water. As we are making our rounds we run in to Alex and Mary, from Old Pueblo TU in Tucson. They had been camped there for a week and the last three days were not good for fishing. We traded some fish stories, and they ask if I knew Jeff Foxworthy, the Red Neck Comedian? They thought some of our adventures sounded like material Jeff could use. When I awoke the next morning in a Mexican trailer park, I was thinking, "Yes, I might be a red neck."

We had our fly fishing gear ready for the incoming tide the next morning. We found the water calm and clear the next morning, and we were ready to get on the water. Fishing in front of the RV Park started slow, but I caught a few small Rock Bass, followed by some larger Rock Bass. When we rounded the corner from Manny's Beach Party we were in the Trigger hole. I managed to catch a small trigger, pound and one half, and then things started to improve. I saw a flash and cast to it, sure enough it was Pompano. I hooked two and missed several more. They have a hard mouth to stick, but they are determined to take your fly.

The next time you get into Pompano put on a large bass popper and tie a shrimp pattern as a dropper, this will increase the fun. I am now in an area where I can spot fish and there are lots of them. I signal for Jimmy to come over and join me but he is already past the fish and his flippers are starting to hurt his ankles, when he kicked hard back against the tide. Well I did what any red neck would have done, I fished like mad and let my buddy drift. When Jimmy got to the landing at the Vina Del Mar Hotel I told him to get out and take a break, I would join him soon. Jimmy got out, I hooked a few more fish, and then I joined him on the beach. Not a bad morning. It was still early enough for the breakfast menu at the Restaurant. The chorizo huevos were excellent.

We would wait for the tide to change to make our trip back to the RV Park easier. We had some Thrifty Ice Cream, and Jimmy finally got his price on his Rolex. The tide changed and we were back in the pontoon boats again. I located more Pompano and Jimmy introduced himself to a sea lion. We made it back as far as Manny's before we needed refreshments. The tide was still up and it was easy to beach the pontoon boats for a short rest. It had been truly a good day of fishing so I walked back to the RV Park and picked up the truck to load the pontoons.

The next morning was calm and would have been a good day to fish, but we needed to break camp and head home. We stopped at my favorite coffee shop and found a new treat, chocolate flan, wow! We made one more stop before heading home, the Vasquez Store just to prolong our Mexico experience. After fortifying ourselves with tamales we finally head home, after all we were just looking for one good day of fishing.



## Date To Remember...

from FFF • Marty Seldon

Wild Trout-VIII, the 30th Anniversary International Wild Trout Symposium, has just been set for Old Faithful Lodge, Yellowstone National Park, September 19-22, 2004. The Federation of Fly Fishers, TU and the major fishery agencies are cosponsors and active participants. The mission of the International Wild Trout Symposium is to provide a forum for professional wild trout biologists and fishery conservationists to interact, to get to know each other in an informal setting, and to be exposed to the latest wild trout status, science, technology and philosophy. These conferences equip participants to better preserve and restore this significant resource. Although major national speakers and agency heads and administrators participate, this forum focuses on the needs of working level wild trout professionals and conservationists. Details and registration and call for papers information will be available on a web site in a few months. In addition to professionals, the Program Committee is interested in obtaining appropriate papers from fly fishers with constituent points of views. Save the date and plan on joining us. We'd like to have as many FFF members as possible attending and would appreciate a few volunteers to run the FFF table in the exhibit area on Monday and Tuesday, September 20th and 21st, 2004.



**THERE'S STILL TIME TO SIGN UP...  
FOR THE AUGUST 1 - 5, 2004**

**TRIP TO ALASKA!!!**

**\* BUT HURRY AS CUT-OFF DATE IS APRIL 15TH \***

Trip includes 5 nights of lodging at the Creekside in Ninilchik, AK, all meals, and four full days of guided fishing, which includes an overnight fly-in trip to the Chuit River. A deep-sea halibut trip can be added for additional cost if you care to extend your stay. With group rate we should be able to get an Alaska Airlines flight for under \$350! One-half deposit is due April 1st, with balance due 30 days prior to arrival date. Trip insurance available.

**Call Georganne w/your phone # & email  
address is signed up or for further details  
at: 602/320-6388.**

*Deposit, due April 1st is 1/2 or \$575*

## Fly Fishing Stillwaters

by William Thurber

*Editor's Notes...* We welcome William (Bill) Thurber and his column this DFC issue. Bill has been here in the Valley for going on 4 years and is presently serving our board as secretary. Bill moved in from New York where he hunted many streams pursuing his other life as a fly fisherman. His travels with rod and reel include Montana and other western states along with some quality time spent on the Pere Marquette River (*My waters when I lived in Michigan.*) in Michigan to pursue steelhead. I welcome his writings and look forward to a few more findings and experiences.

R. McKeon, DFC Editor

**Most fly fishermen have a ability to locate fish in flowing water.** We can walk a stream and "read" the water. A riffle leading into a pool, boulders, undercut banks are all places that will hold fish and a fisherman would cast a fly into these spots.

Fly fishing lakes isn't that easy. All a first time Lake Fisherman sees in a lake is water, lots of water. This is where many fly fishermen start to feel helpless. The stream "reads" are not relevant on a lake. We put the tube in the water and aimless troll around a lake in hopes of picking up the sporadic trout.

The main difference between rivers and stillwaters is that in a river food comes to the fish where in stillwaters the trout have to seek out the food. A rather simple idea but knowing that one can start to build a knowledge base for better success in fishing lakes.

When I lived in New York State we were fortunate that a number of lakes that we fished had topographic maps done on them. Actually the proper term is hydrographic maps. This eliminate much of the guess work as to what the lake structure was; the depth was shown, where inlets and outlets were, old stream channels, in short all the things that a lake fisherman should be aware of.

Unfortunately I have not been able to find such maps in Arizona. However that is not a detriment to success. One thing that you should bring on a lake trip is a pair of binoculars. Spend some time glassing the waters you want to fish, if the lake has a high point that you can look down into the lake so much the better. If a hatch is occurring you will know at least where a few fish are. Then study the rise forms, is it a gentle dimple of a trout leisurely taking a fly on the surface, perhaps the splashy rise to an insect just starting to take off from the waters surface, or a trout

greedily pouncing on a hopper?

The flip side of seeing rises is a calm surface, no rises. So what do we do then? Pack up and drive to the next lake? Remember we are still glassing the lake. Start looking for telltale signs of likely areas that trout would look for insects. Two situations that I always look for in a lake are; weed beds and a river or stream entering a lake.

Weed beds are a food factory to a lake. Aquatic vegetation provides a nitrogen-oxygen exchange environment that attracts all forms of water animals. It provides cover for smaller fish and large fish. A myriad of insect life will be in the vegetation, some using the plants to crawl out of the water and hatch. Scuds, dragon and damselflies usually abound in weed beds.

A stream flowing into a lake is another area that a lake fisherman should fish. This is the one instance, in a lake, where food comes to trout. The moving water also provides aeration and a spawning area.

If you favorite lake has an inlet stream a very productive method of fishing would be to dead drift a nymph on a sinking line through the current into the stillwater.

Pay attention to water color when you are looking at a lake. Shallow, lighter colored water, that drop off in to deeper darker water is a good place for a trout to cruise for food but also an escape route. The deeper water, when the eagle or osprey casts its shadow over the water, is the trout's escape route. Most of the weed beds you see will be in shallower water.

You will also be able to see part of the physical structure of the lake. When the lake changes from the lighter color - shallow - to the darker color - deeper water. This will be a drop off and it could be gradual or instantaneous change in depth. Locate the underwater point, the fingers of land that jut out into the deep water. Generally speaking, points are rocky outcroppings. Cast a crayfish pattern towards the shallows and work it into the deeper water can prove very effective especially in our Arizona waters with the amount of crayfish in some lakes. Trout are opportunists, and I have caught many trout stuffed with crayfish.

Along with the binoculars I also take a large aquarium dip net and a portable depth finder.

The dip net has a fine mesh that allows water to flow freely through it but traps insects. Most pet stores have them in various sizes and ones are available to fit over a landing net. When I start fishing a lake I like to drag the net through various depths to see what insects I can catch.

To some the use of a depth finder is borderline heresy. One of my friends asked me if I was joining the B.A.S.S. tournaments. He never fished anything but dry flies. In all seriousness, this is just another tool in understanding a lake's structure. What does the bottom look like? Is it rocky? Then crayfish might be the fly. A Mud bottom will be an area that midges will be found. Perhaps you will find a submerged weed bed that could not be seen when you glassed the lake.

Let's look at the rod, lines and leaders.

I do not use a leader that is less than 12 feet long, usually 13 to 15 feet are my favorites. Why, remember that in stillwater the trout have a long time to look at a fly. It is not at all like flowing water that the fly zips by them and they either pounce or pass.

A long leader, to some degree, minimizes the shadow that a fly line casts in the water due to the distance from the tippet to fly line. With the newer material that leaders are made from it becomes harder for a trout to detect the leader in the water.

Use a rod that is 9 feet or longer. With a shorter rod you will be making many false casts to that rising trout trying to build up line speed for distance. The more casts, the more you are moving in the tube or pontoon and the more sound waves that are going the trout alerting danger.

With a longer rod the false casts will be kept to a minimum and distance can be achieved.

For each different weight rod I have a corresponding reel with two, sometimes three, spare spools. One spool has a floating line for fishing dry flies and emergers. The other reels have full sinking lines. One is a Type 11, which has a sink rate of 2 1/4 inches per second; the other is a Type 111, which has a sink rate of 3 IPS. The sink rates are averages. Different manufactures have different densities and the sink rates are listed on the package.

I would not recommend using a sink tip line. I know when I cast 50 feet of a sinking line that the majority of that line will sink - allowing for some line at the rod tip due to the geometry of the rod and line. It will sink at an even rate parallel to the surface of the water.





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Using a sink tip one can not be sure that the tip is sinking parallel or it "hinging" at the floating portion and you are not sure where your fly is.

Most books on Stillwaters I have read recommend using the "count-down method". You already know what the sink rate of the line is, cast out and count 10 seconds and start to retrieve the fly. Use short strips or figure 8 retrieve. Did I mention a slow retrieve, as in S-L-O-W. Most fisherman fish a retrieve that is too fast, myself included. It takes a conscious effort to realize that midges and nymphs are not that fast. Take a two or three second pause between strips and you might be surprised.

If you do not get a strike on a 10-second count down, try a 15 or 20 second. Remember be adaptable.

A final point to remember. Always keep your rod tip pointed to the water. If you hold the rod as you were stream fishing you will have a belly/slack in

the fly line and you will miss most of your hits.

Dave Weaver suggested to me at a White Mountains trip, after I was complaining about missing fish, using the fly line not the rod to set the hook. Dave can explain it better than I can but it is eliminating the slack that comes from lifting the rod from a parallel plane to a 45-degree angle when trying to set the hook. More often you will miss the fish.

Dave further explained the salt-water fishers never lift the rod, they make a quick strip to set the hook. It works!

Recommending flies can be a matter of person preference. Some have a favorite pattern that works well for most, and then some fly fisherman change flies a dozen times. Knowing what types of insects inhabit Stillwaters helps focus in your fly selection. Midges, scuds, Callibaetis mayflies, dragon flies, damsel flies, crayfish and baitfish all inhabit lakes.

### Fly-Tying Class

.....  
We will be offering a beginning fly-tying class for those flyfishers who want to learn how to tie flies during four sessions over the last two weeks of April.

*Tentatively*, the dates are Tuesday, April 20; Thursday, April 22; Tuesday, April 25; and Thursday, April 27. All classes will be from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. The location is yet to be finalized.

Please sign up at the April 14 meeting we have space for about a dozen students.

For further information please call  
**Neal Replogle, Education Chair**  
480/529-4902



### Bill Thurber's Still Water Patterns....

There are some patterns, however, that I always have in my fly box. These have proven to be good flies. Let's start with nymphs....

#### **Damsel Fly • Dragon Fly**

Size 10 to 14, Black, tan, green. Don't go on a lake without these flies. They are a very important food source.

#### **Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear**

Size 10 to 18, various colors. It can imitate anything from a scud to a Callibaetis nymph.

#### **Pheasant Tail**

Size 14 to 20, various colors. Midge imitation

#### Emergers

I use generic midge and mayfly emergers based on Randall Kaufmann's Timberline emerger. I have been tying Eric Larsen's Big Lake Midge Emerger from the March DFC newsletter. I haven't used it yet but....

#### Caddis

Caddis seems to hatch late in the day when dusk is approaching.

A 16 Elk Hair in tan or pale green should work.

#### Dry Flies

My #1 searching pattern, an Adams. Either traditional or parachute. This is another "don't leave home without it" pattern

Tie from 12 to 20

Speckled wing dun (Callibaetis)

Size 14 & 16

#### Others patterns to have

Leech

Crayfish

Simi-seal leeches

Peacock ladies & Sunrise Specials



### Annual San Juan Outing

Saturday, September 25th thru Tuesday, September 28th  
 The San Juan trip will be a little different this year. We will be arriving on Saturday and our guide day will be on Monday. The dinner will be at the lodge this year and will be grilled steaks with various side dishes. Lodging will be at Rizuto's and there is room for 18 people. Price of the trip is \$315 and I will start signing people up and collecting deposits of \$100 at the April meeting. This trip will fill up fast so be sure and get your name on the list. If you have any questions, call Cinda at (480) 897-8083.

## 2004 Calendar Events

**April 23-25 Seneca Lake, Globe AZ**, Cinda Howard, Doc Nickel, Jim Dickson hosts, Camping, float tube fishing, lots of fish. One of our best outings year after year.

**May 14-16 Chevelon Lake**, Miles from nowhere, rough road, rough camping, long hike, Big Fish! No host. we could loose this outing without a host.

**June 18-20 White Mountain Spectacular**. Many lakes and streams to choose from. Need special permit if you fish on Indian land. We have secured two premium places to fish for this event, but you must sign up, and pay in advance if you wish to fish the X-Diamond, or Christmas Tree. Limited number of slots to fish the premium places. Plenty of other fishing opportunities where your AZ fishing license will be all you need. We will be camping at Horseshoe Cienega this year first come first served. You may wish to stay at a lodge or motel, book in advance. Hosts Charlie Rossier, Jim Dickson, Doc Nickel, & Vince Deadmond.



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