



# DESERT FLY CASTERS *Forward Casts*

DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB



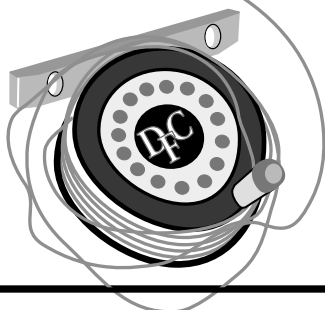
### JUNE MEETING:

Wednesday, JUNE 9, 2004  
Dinner- 6:00 PM  
Meeting- 7:00 PM

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### THE POSITIVE SIDE OF LIFE:

Living on Earth is expensive,  
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around the sun every year.



## Presidents Report- June 2004

It's summer and that means several things. It means the fishing is turning on in the mountain lakes and streams. It also means that it is wildfire season. There are already fire restrictions in some of the forests. The Tonto National Forest has announced that fire and smoking restrictions are in effect for the entire forest. Also, they have announced some closures. The closure area now begins at the Irving Power Plant and runs below the Mogollon Rim until it meets up with State Route 260. The border then follows 260 southwesterly to the intersection with Forest Road 64 (Control Road) and continues along U.S. Highway 87 and then Forest Road 583 north of the Tonto National Bridge until it ends at the power plant. This does not affect the rim lakes. Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest announced campfire and smoking restrictions that start today (May 26). "Specifically, campfires will be allowed only in developed and designated campgrounds except during "Red Flag" conditions when no campfires at all are allowed. Gas-powered stoves are authorized even outside developed campgrounds. Smoking will be allowed only inside buildings or vehicles (ashtrays must be used) or inside developed campgrounds." If you are planning on heading north, be sure and check for the latest updates before heading out. Tonto National Forest Website is <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto/> and Apache-Sitgreaves is <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/>

Last night (May 25th) I received the following update from Larry Riley, Chief of Fisheries, AZ G&F. "The KP fire (near Hannigan Meadow) is near Raspberry Creek, a reintroduction site for Gila trout. On Saturday we mobilized resources to evacuate some Gila trout from the creek. Plans for backfires to contain the KP fire would affect the Raspberry Creek watershed. We deployed personnel on horseback to capture some Gila trout using electrofishing from the creek as an emergency contingency action. Personnel (AGFD, USFWS, USFS, with a lot of advice from NMGFD), in consultation with the Gila Trout Recovery Team, undertook the emergency relocation of some fish from Raspberry. Staff were in place and conferred with the Fire Boss on Saturday evening. They had to stand down on Sunday, but at approximately 6 AM on Monday started the trek into Raspberry Creek by horseback. They captured 31 Gila trout. This is by no means all of the Gila trout from that creek. There is good evidence of a 2003-year class of fish, indicating that the fish placed there have successfully reproduced in the creek. Because of the concern for possible effects from fire in the watershed, the 31 fish were removed for future repopulation should the worst happen. Remember that the principle effects from fire come after the fire is put out and rains on the watershed have the potential to create ash flows. There are still good numbers of trout in the creek and we hope that they will weather the fire - but we have to be prepared. The 31 fish were carried out to an awaiting transport truck. One fish did not fare well in transit and ultimately died. 30 Fish were transported by AGFD to Gallup, NM where they were transferred to a transport truck provided by USFWS. The USFWS transported the 30 fish to Mora National Fish Hatchery (Mora, NM). They will reside there for the interim. Hopefully we'll be able to return them to Raspberry or Dude Creek before long. Fish may be held for spawning in the spring, creating another fairly large cohort of Spruce Creek Lineage trout for restoration purposes."

From Larry's e-mail, it sounds as if there is evidence of the Gila trout reproduction in Raspberry Creek. This is very significant because this would be the first time there has been natural reproduction in this stream. *President's Report continued on page 4*

### June Meeting

#### Alaska by Roadside with Gerry Myers

The speaker for the June meeting will be Gerry Myers presenting fishing Alaska by roadside. The presentation will cover the prime road accessible locations, the items you will need to bring, the fishing conditions on many of the famous rivers, the accessibility, crowds, and fishing quality. This kind of trip is a great do it yourself alternative to the fishing lodges and float trips.

### June 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: **5oz ribeye, french fries, salad, & a desert.** Come early and enjoy dinner with your DFC friends! *Dinner is served from 6pm to 7pm.*

## CONSERVATION NOTES ....with Eric Larsen

*The fishing is starting to really pick up and so are the conservation projects that are in the works.*

### Ongoing Projects:

**White Mountain Apache Trout Enhancement Project:** As reported earlier, this project has the green light except for the appeals to using piscicide (fish poison) in the wilderness area. It is expected that the Regional Forester will approve the use of Antimycin A and the decision will be announced the last week of May. More to come on this. I participated in a conservation outing with the OPTU club on May 15th. We worked with the AZGF on salvaging Speckled Dace and a native sucker. Both species help to keep the fishery health good. When you see that nasty-stringy-looking algae in the streams, it probably means there aren't enough suckers in the stream. They like eating that kind of algae.

**Canyon Creek:** The response to Jim Warnecke's talk at last month's meeting has been really good. The DFC Board has followed up with a Letter of Support. Jim will submit a grant request to get the additional funding to complete the project as he described it to you at the meeting. *Thanks for your support of the paddle raffle. We raised \$170 to support the Canyon Creek project.* I will keep you posted on the progress of this project.

**West Fork of Oak Creek Gila Trout Project:** I haven't heard anything new on this project. The feasibility study should be underway. DFC contributed \$1,000 last year to help get this project going.

**Wildlife Conservation Council (WCC):** The DFC Board approved the \$100 to renew the DFC membership to the WCC. WCC is an organization of outdoor sports clubs across the state of Arizona. As a member of the club, DFC has voting rights on directions the WCC takes on conservation and sporting issues and what projects get funded. We also have an improved opportunity to collaborate with other conservation clubs that deal with deer, elk, turkey, warm water fishing, antelope, you name it. WCC has contributed to the Canyon Creek project at the request of Arizona Fly Casters (who is a WCC member). The contribution supports the fishing clubs and, as Jim Warnecke men-

tioned, elk are one of the key problems to the stream habitat recovery. Participation in WCC is imperative for DFC to renew its advocacy role in state sports, conservation, and political issues that impact us as fly fishers and citizens. Check out the website: [www.arizonawildlifecouncil.org](http://www.arizonawildlifecouncil.org)

**Outings Calendar WITH Conservation Outings:** The conservation outings listed are ones I plan to coordinate. The conservation outings are in italics.

**JUNE 2004:** 18-19 White Mountain Extravaganza (Crayfish boil anyone?)

**JULY 2004:** 16-18 DFC White Mountain Outing --Greer 19 - AZGF Crayfish Trapping 3 Forks in the Evening (Again, a Monday night. Why not stay another night?—I can't make this outing but let me know if you want to participate.)

**AUGUST 2004:** 15 - Willow Springs Lake Crayfish Trapping Event. This is on a Sunday. A large group of people (mostly high school kids) descend upon Willow Springs to trap crayfish. More details to follow on this.

**Crayfish Traps:** I'll be taking the crayfish traps to the Extravaganza. Sign them out at the next meeting for a time after that. ....I will bring the sign up sheet.

### Mother's Day Fish Tales from Mexico

by Vince Deadmond

One must have ice water in their veins if you are going to fish on some of the Hallmark type of holidays, like Mother's Day. I left work on a Thursday afternoon, and had dinner in the fish market that evening in Puerto Penasco. The road to Puerto Penasco just gets better, only a four hour drive from Mesa. It was just me, so I decided I didn't want to set up the camper. I actually splurged for a motel room at the Vina Del Mar. This worked out quite well, no set up time or take down time. Those of you who fish with me on a regular basis know what a cheap skate I can be, and I hope my extravagance didn't startle you. The Vina Del Mar is right on the point in

Rocky Point and makes for a good launch point for a pontoon boat.

People ask, "When is a good time to go to Puerto Penasco?" "Almost anytime you can go," is a great time to go to Puerto Penasco. Winter, fall, and spring are the best times, and I avoid going in the heat of summer. One can go down as late as the Fourth of July, and I try not to go back until October. Many fishing options are available in Puerto Penasco. One of my favorite places to pontoon boat is between Manny's and the Vina Del Mar.

After checking the tide chart, and observing the wind, I launched my pontoon early Friday morning. I was going with the outgoing tide, but against the wind. I was able to kick lightly and stay in place, and if I kicked a little harder I could go where I wanted to go. I had about 3 hours of fishing time before the tide changed. I made it to Manny's and caught fish all along the way, rock bass, some pompano, parrotfish, and sea trout. The sea trout were fat healthy and 18 inches from lip to tail. They were lots of fun on a six weight rod. I did have some large trigger that took my fly and got into the rocks before I could get their head up. I hate to loose large fish.

It was an hour until the tide was to change, so I let the wind and tide take me back to my launch sight. I was able to fish all along the way. Small bait fish were swimming lip to tail, in river like formations. It was quite a sight. Again, I was fortunate to see dolphins and sea lions on my fishing trip. With the minnows running close to the surface diving bird activity was heavy. Saturday fished very much like Friday, just another day in paradise.

I was off the water early enough to have the breakfast menu at the Playa De Oro coffee shop. The revitalization of the fish market down town area has just been completed. This has been a two year project and it really looked nice. It features a large bronze statue of a fisherman and a shrimp. The landscaping, lighting, the parking lot is done, and it is quite pleasant to walk along in the evening and listen to the surf pound the rocks below. Too bad my wife could not come along and enjoy the evening walk.

During the day I stayed around the pool at the Vina Del Mar and finished a novel. One evening I dined at the Mary Bonita Restaurant and the ceviche toasta-da I had was wonderful. When I got back



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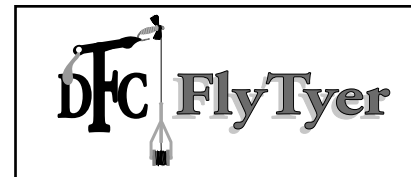
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I started looking for recipes and I finally threw the following together. This is a large batch and you could cut this down and modify it to taste.

1 pound lightly cooked fish  
 2 pounds boiled small-medium shrimp peeled and deveined  
 1 cup lime juice  
 1 cup lemon juice  
 3 large tomatoes, cut into 1/2 inch diced pieces  
 1 onion, cut into 1/2 inch diced pieces  
 1 bunch cilantro roughly chopped  
 6 jalapeno peppers seeded and cut into small pieces

I suggest you cook the meat and then cool it if you are short on time. Once the fish/shrimp has cooled mix all of your ingredients in a large bowl and chill for 4 to 6 hours. It's ready to serve, but it also keeps well and can be served 36 hours later. Serve with tostadas, tortilla chips or crackers. A little hot sauce for heat, a little cucumber for cool, and a little avocado just for the heck of it and you have an appetizer that most people will love.

Sunday morning, early, Mother's Day I was on the road home. I got home in time for all of the Mother's Day festivities. This kept me out of the dog house, and my dog Fritz appreciates this greatly. I'll even get to fish again, hope to see you on the water soon.



...from Eric Larsen's flybox  
**Soft Hackle Peacock  
 and Pheasant**



#### Pattern

**Hook:** Daiichi #12-#18 (Curved Nymph Hook like a TMC 2312)

**Thread:** Gudebrod 6/0 or 8/0 Black

**Head:** Black glass bead

**Thorax:** Teal or Blue glass bead

**Rib:** Danville Teal Monocord 3/0 (or green wire)

**Body:** Peacock herl from the sword feather  
**Wing:** Two (2) brown pheasant under body feathers

*Fish like a nymph pattern.*

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

Earlier in this spring I went to Point of Pines Lake for my first fishing trip this season. PoP Lake has similar characteristics to Seneca where there are lots of small rainbows (and some browns although I didn't catch a brown). These little fish "tickle" the fly with light strikes. With this pattern, I was able to hook and land the trout. I don't fish soft hackles very often. Soft hackles can be good searching patterns if fished in the right size and color. I'm a big fan of peacock and pheasant. As I work with my own materials, I find a "sweet spot" on the pelt where there are a limited number of small soft fiber feathers. They give the fly that "wispy" action.

## Fishing Opportunities

by Vince Deadmond

Just hanging around a DFC meeting gives you an opportunity to do more fishing. Usually at a meeting several people have small group trips they are planning, and many times I have been able to go fishing with someone who knows the water and I get to fish a new spot.

The White Mountain Spectacular is an event you don't want to miss. With approximately 35 small creeks and about the same number of lakes you really need to seek out new places to fish each time you visit the White Mountains. Sure you will have some favorites that you will want to visit again and again, but some of those little fished areas are real treasures worth the effort to find out about.

**June 18-20 White Mountain Spectacular.**

**July 16-18 Greer AZ, Hoyer Campground.**

**July 31-August 10 Alaska**

**September 25-28 San Juan River in New Mexico**

**October 14-18 Port Mansfield, TX**

**November 11-14 Veteran's Day weekend - Rocky Point - Puerto Penasco, Mexico.**

**December 8 DFC Christmas Banquet and the biggest and best raffle around.**

**NOTE:** Please refer to back of this DFC newsletter for detailed information on some of the above listed outings. We will up date these each month to keep you more informed as our fishing season closes in on the annual banquet.

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**President's Report/June...continued from front page**

Since the club has some outings coming up, I thought I would give out some information on the proper way to catch and release fish. This came from the Federation of Fly Fishers website.

The time it takes to land and release your catch and the way you handle it is critical to its survival.

Tackle

- Use tackle and line strong enough to bring your fish in quickly
- Fish caught on artificial lures are much more likely to survive than fish caught on live bait
- Barbless hooks allow a quicker release and decrease injury to fish

Landing your catch

- Land your fish quickly
- Cut your line to release large fish before they are played out
- Knotless or rubber mesh nets minimize damage and handling time
- Never gaff a fish you intent to release

Handling your catch

- Minimize the time your fish is out of the water
- Keep fingers away from the gills and eyes
- Wet your hands when handling fish
- Never squeeze your fish
- Measure and photograph your fish while it is in the water

Removing the hook

- Use long nosed pliers to back the hook out of its entrance hole
- If possible, remove the hook quickly and gently while keeping your fish in the water
- When your fish is hooked deeply, cut the line near the hook

Reviving your catch

- Move your fish back and forth until it is revived and swims from your hands
- If in moving water, support the fish into the current until it swims from your hands

If you plan on attending the upcoming White Mountain Extravaganza, remember that your dues need to be paid for the current year. If you are signed up for the trip and have not paid your dues, see Dave Weaver at the meeting. Also, the fee for the campground is \$15 and needs to be paid BEFORE attending the outing. We do this on good faith and are not a collection agency. If you are signed up, planning to go and have not yet paid for the campsite, see Bill Thyng at the meeting to take care of this.

*Hope to see you at the June meeting. I will be there early selling dinner tickets. Come early and enjoy the company of your DFC friends.*

**Cinda Howard**  
President



**The FFF and the New Fly Fisher TV Show Alliance**

By Ron Cordes,  
FFF VP Marketing/Membership  
*(Leaders on the Fly- December 2003)*

The FFF has formally signed an agreement with Colin McKeown, the talented producer of the popular PBS fly fishing series, The New Fly Fisher. If you have not visited Colin's web site, I encourage you to do so. Go to [www.thenewflyfisher.com](http://www.thenewflyfisher.com). In essence the FFF will become the co-producer of the show. There is great synergy between Colin's approach and the mandates of the FFF. Education and conservation are pivotal themes for both organizations. As a result of this alliance, the show will put a far more meaningful focus on education and conservation than any other competing show. Needless to say this will raise the visibility of the FFF to a new level given that Colin's show already reaches millions of viewers. If your local PBS station is not currently featuring this show, you might consider initiating a write-in campaign to get them to do so. Clearly such an effort would be in the best interest of the FFF.

From a marketing and membership perspective, this alliance represents a tremendous opportunity. There are myriad ways in which we can capitalize upon it. Let me know of your ideas. Don't hesitate to let your creativity run free. Here's one example. At the numerous fly fishing shows staged annually across the country, local FFF members could man a room in which a big screen TV is used to feature a posted schedule of episodes of The New Fly Fisher. Donations to the FFF could be solicited; or, a modest fee could be charged for admittance. And, of course, new members could be solicited.

A key responsibility of the FFF in this alliance will be to identify interesting, perhaps even unique, fly fishing moments across the country that would also have interesting and meaningful educational/conservation elements to them. Start brainstorming. Obviously there are a staggering number of such opportunities out there. We need to start orchestrating potential scenarios and assist Colin in developing a filming schedule. Your input will be not merely invaluable, but necessary as well. Ron Cordes VP Marketing / Membership (208) 522 - 9912 [troutbeck@ida.net](mailto:troutbeck@ida.net)

**Editors Notes 'an Ramblings...**

It was brought to my attention while I was scoping the FFF web pages that on 04/23/04 US Secretary Of The Interior Gale Norton sent FFF a Letter of Recognition. The coming 40th anniversary of the Federation of Fly Fishers is being widely heralded as a significant milestone in the effort to protect and preserve our aquatic resources and angling heritage. Cinda Howard suggested we include a copy of this letter in our June issue, as seen on page 5....Also, I want to thank all of you who participated in the Canoe Paddle Raffle last month. The work in the restoration of Canyon Creek will be an immense process with man hours needed to get our "special" fishing resource back to where we can enjoy as it was. Your input and continued support will be appreciated. It's nice to know that we DFC club members desire to carry a victory torch for fly fishing and the joys of being in our environment for the next generation. With your help and continued enthusiasm along with contributions we can make it all happen.

**Thank you.**  
*Robert McKeon, DFC Newsletter Editor*



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

A Message from the Secretary

Fly fishing conjures images of grace, to be sure; but its mastery requires patience, and commitment. The commitment of fly anglers in their pastime is legendary. Less well known, however, and deserving far greater recognition, is the vital role fly fishers have played and continue to play in conservation in the United States. Through their license fees, they contribute tens of millions of dollars annually to help sustain State fishery conservation programs. Through the special manufacturers' excise tax they pay on their fly tackle, additional millions flow to conserving and restoring priceless fisheries across this great Nation.

One group in particular has grown to become one of the most exemplary in its commitment to conservation. The Federation of Fly Fishers was founded in 1965 to help teach, promote, and spread fly fishing as a wholesome and worthwhile angling endeavor. Through their efforts, hundreds of thousands of anglers have become proficient in this ancient art. More importantly, The Federation of Fly Fishers has built community support for stream and fishery conservation projects throughout the country.

Perhaps the greatest legacy The Federation of Fly Fishers can point to is their pioneering role in promoting "catch and release" fishing, the practice of returning a trout, salmon, or other highly-prized species to help sustain healthy stocks of our native fishes. Whether plying small upland streams for native trout, or casting for bass and bream in a farm pond, or fly fishing for the great game species of our coastal waters, members of the Federation are outstanding examples of sportsmanship, ethics, and deep concern for our living world.

For your many contributions to the quality of our waters, the health of our fisheries, and the good fellowship and accessibility you have brought to fly angling, it is my great pleasure to salute you as you prepare for the celebration of 40 years of commitment to conserving America's fisheries.

Sincerely,



Gale A. Norton

# 2004 Calendar Events

**June 18-20 White Mountain Spectacular.** Camping at Winn campground we have the both group camp areas. In addition to the many places you can go fish for free or at a small fee for an Indian permit the club is offering 2 of the best places in the state to fish. The X Diamond Ranch on Friday June, 18 and Christmas Tree Lake. Both of these opportunities have filled because of the limited number of people that can be allowed on the water, but keep your ears open for the next opportunity. Saturday I have heard there will be a crayfish boil proceeding the Chili Dinner. Rules apply to the Chili Dinner. We use a large pot or two and everyone puts enough (homemade unfrozen) chili to feed the folks in your group. It's always different and always good! Usually everyone wants to fish as long as possible the Chili Dinner start time is 8:00 PM.

**July 16-18 Greer AZ, Hoyer Campground.** We need a host for this one. You need to make reservations for your family at the campground. This is an excellent campground for a family outing. Nice shaded campsights, showers, the Greer Lakes are close by, you are centrally located to the rest of the lakes and streams of the White mountains. While some people like to be away from everything at Hoyer you are close to dining and other lodging in Greer.

**July 31-August 10 Alaska** - Georganne Jannenga is hosting this one. I believe this one is full, but if your schedule is open you may want to get in on this one.

**September 25-28 San Juan River in New Mexico**- Cinda Howard is again hosting this great fishing opportunity. Cinda has all 18 spots filled, but you may want to get on the sub list if someone needs to back out at the last minute.



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