



# DESERT FLY CASTERS *Forward Casts*

DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB

## Presidents Report- July 2004

**T**he White Mountain Extravaganza was a success. We had over 30 people attend and there were lots of fish caught. Drift Fence fished extremely well. I saw fish up to 16" brought in. The fish were taking various damselfly nymphs, grasshoppers, chartreuse semi-seal buggers and small pheasant tail nymphs. The lake is very weedy and is somewhat blocked from the wind. You could easily have a 50 fish day there in the right conditions. Christmas Tree Lake is a different story. It was a very difficult day with some people leaving without having touched a fish. It was very challenging to say the least. I am not sure if the fishing was just off or if the lake has been receiving a lot of pressure. The fish that were landed, were caught on damselfly nymphs, grasshoppers, black ants, very small pheasant tail nymphs, and leach patterns. We saw active fish off and on all day but it was a struggle to get them to take a fly. It sounded like the X Diamond was hit and miss. Not many fish caught on Friday but Saturday sounded like it was better. Big Lake and Earl Park were ok, Sunrise produced very small recent stockers, and Lee Valley was not productive.

The day before we arrived for the outing, the forest service put heavier fire restrictions in place. They were no longer allowing campfires or smoking in the campgrounds. While we were there, they started closing land. Signs were posted everywhere and also some of the streams were being roped off. It appears that the only things opened are lakes and campgrounds. The White Mountain Apache Reservation also had fire restrictions in place with firemen making their rounds at the lakes and streams telling people of fire dangers and making sure everyone knew the restrictions that are in place. Don't let this discourage you from fishing, just make sure you know what is open before heading out.

The club is planning a trip up to the Greer area for our July outing and has rented a group campground. Look for an article with all of the outing information further in the newsletter. The September San Juan outing is shaping up nicely. Rizuto's is booked and we are now putting the overflow at Abe's. If you want to go, see me at the meeting.

Don't forget that the August meeting will be our Annual Lie & Tie. Feel free to bring your tying stuff to the meeting and tie flies, tell stories etc. Also, the September meeting will be the Annual DFC Swap Meet. Now is the time to start going through all your old stuff so you can sell it to members that are in need of equipment.

The website is slowly being updated with pictures. I recently added the pictures from the casting clinic. If you have pictures from any of the outings, please e-mail them to me so I can put them on the site. My e-mail address is lady\_angler@cox.net.

*We do have a July meeting and hope to see you there.*

**Cinda Howard, DFC President**

### John Rohmer to speak- July Meeting.



John Rohmer, part owner of AZ Flyfishing, will be our speaker for the month of July. He will be talking about flyfishing Arizona, flies, equipment, etc. John is an expert when it comes to fishing Arizona lakes and also has his own line of dubbing. *See you there!*

### July 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: Spaghetti with Italian sausage, salad, veggie, roll & butter. Come early and enjoy dinner with your DFC friends! *Dinner is served from 6pm to 7pm.*



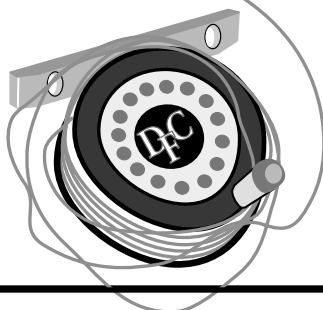
#### JULY MEETING:

Wednesday, JULY 14, 2004  
Dinner- 6:00 PM  
Meeting- 7:00 PM

American Legion Post #2  
2125 S. Industrial Park Ave.  
in Tempe

#### THE POSITIVE SIDE OF LIFE:

Artificial intelligence is no match  
for natural stupidity.



## CONSERVATION NOTES ....with Eric Larsen

A lot is going on but getting updates is hard to get. *People must be out fishing...*

### Ongoing Projects:

**White Mountain Apache Trout Enhancement Project:** No new news on this project.

**Canyon Creek:** Nothing new to report on this project.

**West Fork of Oak Creek Gila Trout Project:** Ditto.

**Wildlife Conservation Council (WCC):** The AGFD gave presentations that lasted almost an hour and half. One thing that impacts fishing is the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS). Every state in the U.S. including territories are putting these plans together. The plans are due by July 2005. For the work to complete the plans, this is a very aggressive schedule. In a nutshell, the plans make it possible to get funding for 10 years for conservation and habitat projects. For example, one potential project may be the Gila Trout Recovery. This project has had numerous setbacks and will likely take awhile for this plan to work. The CWCS will look at ALL species. The plan is inclusive of all wildlife and not limited to aquatic species. This is a welcome direction because so many conservation projects are limited in scope and funding. Public input to the CWCS will occur in September on Saturdays. I would encourage you to consider attending these "wildlife summits" to help get our voice heard on how we would like the design of this plan to work.

✓Commissioner Hays Gilstrap attended the WCC meeting and he urged sportsmen to participate in Commission meetings. Special interest groups are predominantly the ones that show up to these meetings and get the Commission's ear without a balance to the views presented.

✓The AGFD budget was discussed. The fiscal year 2005 budget will have funding in it to address fish diseases and invasive species. There's a growing concern about Whirling Disease and New Zealand Mud Snail. This is good news. There is a pretty good article on NZ Mud Snails in the current issue of Fly Fisherman Magazine. If you get the publication, turn to page 20 and read the article. The author of the

articles refer to the snails as "slate wipers" i.e. they can kill a streams ecology.

**Conservation License Plates:** I got samples of the conversation license and will bring them to the July meeting along with forms. If you want to check it out online go to: [www.arizonawildlifecouncil.org](http://www.arizonawildlifecouncil.org) The revenues from the license plates are used to fund habitat and education programs sponsored by the WCC. DFC is now a voting member on what gets funded. The WCC recently funded \$1,500 for the elk enclosure at Canyon Creek.

**Crawfish:** I didn't get a chance to do a count but we trapped about 6-10 pounds of crayfish out of Burro Creek during the White Mountain Extravaganza. If you don't think crayfish are destructive little dudes, check this out:



▲ BEFORE



▲ AFTER

Remember the drug prevention TV ads that show a frying pan and egg and go something like "...and this is your brain on drugs."? Well, that's something like what the pictures are above are supposed to communicate. The left is a chicken bone used to bait the traps. The right is what the chicken bones looked like after the crawdads picked them clean 24 hours later. This is what the crayfish are doing to our stream habitats. There are plenty more crayfish in Burro Creek. The Burro Creek stream section from the convergence with the WF of Black River to a quarter mile upstream is a good place to go trapping for crayfish.

### Conservation Outings:

#### 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. See the article by Jerry Hobbs.

✓Crayfish Traps: Sign them out at the next meeting. ....I will bring the sign up sheet and the traps.

✓Federated Fly Fishers (FFF)/Trout Unlimited (TU): I am the rep for DFC for the FFF. DFC is member organization of the FFF and have an interest in their activities. A new CEO was recently announced. R. Peter Van Gytenbeek brings a broad amount of experience to the post. The FFF is undergoing some major changes much of which will be announced after the Conclave in West Yellowstone, Montana in early August. I will bring membership forms to the next meeting if you are interested signing up for a membership to the national organization. If you are interested in more of the happenings at the FFF, go their website: <http://www.fedflyfishers.org>

### Greer AZ Fly Fishing Trip Benny Creek Campground July 16-18, 2004

If you haven't been there yet, Greer is a beautiful place to fish. It is a lush green landscape ribboned with idyllic streams begging to be fished. When you aren't fishing, Greer is a quaint little town worth exploring. Our July outing will be based out of the Benny Creek Campground, group campsite-B. Check in is 2pm on Friday July 16. Check out is 1pm on Sunday July 18. Your camp hosts are Gary and Kathryn Stuck, phone number 480-649-5892. **The fee for the Greer weekend will be \$15 per family.**

**The plan:** Drive up Friday. Fish all day Saturday. Dinner Saturday evening at 8:15pm at Molly Butler Lodge. Fish some more on Sunday, then drive home. If you get tired of fishing (is this possible?) you can peruse Main Street of Greer (Hwy 373), which offers a number of interesting shops, inns, and drinking/eating establishments. For those seeking luxury, Greer Lodge (44 Main Street, 928-735-7216) offers a day spa.



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If you do an online search, you can easily find plenty of fishing information for Greer. In addition, the DFC website offers a White Mountain link. We recommend you peruse online info before the trip. Your camp hosts will bring some of this information to the outing.

**Campground detail:** Maximum vehicle length is 35 feet. Max 24 people in our campsite.

**Directions to Benny Creek Campground:** From Show Low, take Highway 260 southeast 42 miles to Highway 373 and follow it south for 2.5 miles to the Benny Creek Campground entrance on the left. Campground phone number is 928-537-8888. Over the weekend of the event, you can attempt to reach us at 480-861-0094. (If you are calling before the event date, please call us at 480-649-5892.)

**Molly Butler Lodge:** From the campground, proceed another 4-5 miles south on 373. Molly Butler Lodge is on the right. Physical address 109 Main Street, Greer. Phone number 928-735-7226.

**Cinda Howard**

## CONSERVATION NEWS • June, 2004

**Jerry Hobbs, Conservation Chair**  
(jerryhobbs@msn.com)  
Arizona Flycasters (www.azflycasters.org)  
602-942-4547

**Arizona Flycasters, an FFF affiliate club,** will celebrate National Flyfishing Week with several activities. On Tuesday, Aug. 17, AFC will team with representatives from several local flyfishing shops to present a program on "Hooks, Leaders, and Knot." A special relationship exists between AFC and the local shops, with many of the clubs programs being hosted by rep's from the shops.

On Aug. 13-15 AFC will partner with Arizona Game & Fish and some local celebrities to help sponsor the 2nd annual "Arizona Crawfish Festival." The event is meant to highlight the destructive nature of the introduced crayfish species and to enlist public support for combating the pests.

In addition to AZ. Game & Fish, radio personalities Bob and Ann Hirsch will act as M.C.'s and will publicize the event on their radio program "A Word From the Outdoors". Also, Rosie, Romey and Rachael Romero, popular personalities who host a home improvement program called "Rosie On The House" will also publicize

the event. They are colorful Cajun characters whose family also runs a restaurant called "Baby Kay's Cajun Kitchen", which features crawfish dishes among it's favorites.

Friday and Saturday, Aug. 13 and 14, AFC, AZ. Game & Fish, and the other sponsors will trap crayfish at and near Willow Springs Lake, N.E. of Phoenix, to prepare for a grand crawfish boil. The public event is set for Sunday the 15th, with people invited to join in trapping, cooking, and chowing down on the delicious entries. This will encourage people to join in the war against the destructive critters.

Starter kits will be available for the event, including 2 traps, bait, Cajun crab boil seasoning, and an instruction booklet, in a gunny sack, which doubles as a means of holding the captured crawdads as they are removed from the traps.

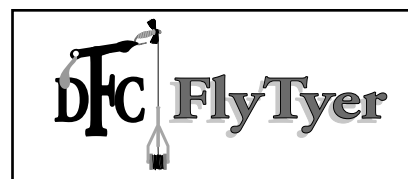
## IMPORTANT!!! DFC Alaska Trip

Call Georganne if interested in a late, last minute sign up. Dates are August 1 - 5th and include 1 day drift fishing, 2 days wade fishing, and an overnight fly-in, plus all meals and accommodations at the plain, but clean, Creekside Inn for about \$1,200. I've been ckg. plane fares and we're looking at about \$500 round trip, unless some last minute specials pop up. Contact me mobile at: 602/320-6388.

## SPECIAL CLUB NOTES...

Club member and DFC Secretary, Wiliam (Bill) Thurber, is busy with a manuscript for a new book on *Stillwater Fly Patterns*. Bill is asking DFC club members who have some patterns to contact him if interested in having their 'favorites' included in the book.

This is in the developmental stages and if it comes to fruition all profits, according to Thurber, will be donated to stream projects/conservation. **Any questions please call Bill at: 480-390-4197**



...from William Thurber's flybox  
**Bunny Leech**



### Pattern

**Thread:** To match color of body

**Hook:** Mustad 79580 or similar 4X long hook size 2 to 8

**Tail:** Clump of marabou feathers as long as the hook shank

**Body:** Rabbit strip 1/8 inch wide

**Body and tail colors:** Black, brown, dark red/maroon, olive and gray.

**Weight:** 15 to 20 wraps of .030 lead wire (Fuse Wire)

**Ribbing:** Red or copper wire, available in most fly shops

**Head:** Round brass bead - optional

### Tying instructions:

Clamp hook in vice and wrap hook shank with the lead wire. Optional - Put a brass bead on the hook. Wrap the front third of the hook shank with the lead wire, cement it in to place and wrap it with tying thread to secure into place. Wrap the thread to the start of the hook bend and tie in the wire. Next tie in a clump of marabou feathers approximately half the length of the hookshank. Taking a piece of rabbit strip cut the fur at the hide, 1/8 inch or so and cut a point on the bare hide. This will help the material to lie flat. Tie the rabbit on the hook slightly offset to one side. Wrap the thread forward and palmer the rabbit strip to the hook eye or bead. Wrap the wire the opposite direction that the rabbit was wrapped. Pull the hair fibers forward and work the wire to the hide trying not to mat the hairs. *Whip finish and cement the thread.*

This fly, with the combination of the marabou tail and rabbit strip body, has a lot of movement. Weighting the front 1/3 of the fly makes it nose heavy so it will sink nose first-somewhat the natural. Leeches are bottom dwellers so fish it as close to the bottom as possible.



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## 2004 Calendar Events

**July 16th-18th Greer, AZ, Benny Creek Campground.** We have rented the group campsite. Greer Lakes are close by and you are centrally located to the rest of the lakes and streams in the White Mountains. The fee for the weekend is \$15 per family. Contact Gary and Kathryn Stuck at 480-649-5892

**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.  
**NOTE:** Call Georganne- *last minute sign up*- 602/320-6388.

**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.

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

*More to come about this neat trip...in next DFC Newsletter  
(Stay tuned!)*



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