



# DESERT FLY CASTERS *Forward Casts*

DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB

## Presidents Report- October 2004

**I**t is the beginning of October and that means it is time to start looking towards our Annual Christmas Banquet. It is only 2 months away. The banquet comes together with the help of our members. We are always looking for donations. If you have a restaurant, hairdresser, or masseuse you frequent, ask them for a donation for the club. Also, feel free to donate any other items that you would like (flyfishing, camping, decor, etc). Some members make items and donate, others buy items and donate and others donate gently used equipment. Any and everything is appreciated. This year William Thurber will be heading up the raffle. If you would like to donate something, please see him at the meeting or give me a call at: 480-217-50891.

On to the good stuff.....FISHING! As I write this, about 20 of us are getting ready to go to the San Juan trip for the annual outing. To be exact, I leave in about 5 hours. I have spent most of the week doing the usual; tying flies, packing, etc. But there was one thing that I wanted to share. I have a net that I won at the first Christmas banquet I attended. This was almost five years ago. This net never did look like it had a great finish on it and after fishing with it for so long it looked even worse. I can't even begin to explain how bad it looked. It was washed out and all the coating was gone. I decided that instead of investing seventy bucks in a new net, I would try and salvage the one I had. I sanded it down and refinished it. After 2 coats and a light sanding to even it out, it looked better than it ever did when it was new. So, if you have a net that is in good condition except the wood looks worn and washed out, this can be fixed very easily.

Fishing should really be picking up over the next four weeks. Fall fishing can be the best fishing of the year. The browns go into spawning mode and become very aggressive and hungry. If you are stealthy, you can walk the banks of the lakes and sight fish to spawning browns. I would suggest trying Hawley, Pacheta, and Chevelon if you want to catch some of these monster fish.

This month we are back to our regular meeting format. The hall will look a little different when you come in. We are changing things around to try and control the noise at the meetings and also to get the best sound out of our sound system. Please let me know if you have any suggestions on how to make DFC bigger and better.

I hope to see everyone at the meeting on October 13th. Please come early and enjoy dinner with your Desert Fly Casters friends!

*See you at the October Meeting.*

### DFC OCTOBER MEETING....

The speaker that we had booked for our October meeting is unable to give his presentation. We are working to book another speaker for October, but at this time we do not have a guest speaker confirmed for the meeting. I apologize to all the members for the inconvenience and the inability to give you all advanced notification of the agenda for the October meeting.

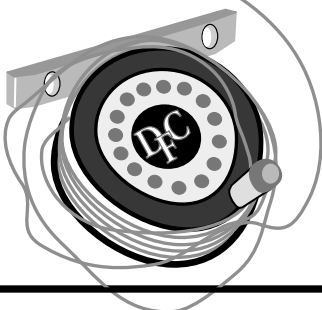
### October Dinner Meeting Menu...

DFC pays for the rent of the meeting hall by selling dinners before each meeting. By buying a dinner at the meeting, you can help the club pay for the meeting hall. The price of each Dinner is \$8.00, which includes gratuity. This month's menu will be: Meatloaf, salad, and a veggie. Come early and enjoy dinner with your DFC friends! *Dinner is served from 6pm to 7pm.*



**OCTOBER MEETING:**  
Wednesday, • October 13, 2004  
Dinner- 6:00 PM  
Meeting- 7:00 PM  
American Legion Post #2  
2125 S. Industrial Park Ave.  
*in Tempe*

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF LIFE:  
.....  
A boiled egg in the morning is  
hard to beat.



## CONSERVATION NOTES ...with Eric Larsen

There isn't much new to report on the projects for October. I'd like to take this opportunity to feature an important project, *Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS)*, currently underway by the AZGFD. I copied some information of their web page for our newsletter. You can check it out at the web link is below. Stay tuned for times and places.

[http://www.gf.state.az.us/w\\_c/cwcs.shtml](http://www.gf.state.az.us/w_c/cwcs.shtml)

A key date for us is a "wildlife summit" to be held in Phoenix. October 16th is a SATURDAY.

### *Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy: a Blueprint for Wildlife Management in Arizona* Focus Groups and Teams

Wildlife Summits – workshops for getting directed feedback from invited partners and constituency groups (tentative dates and locations, September-October 2004).

October 15, 2004- Agency-Tribal Wildlife Summit in Phoenix

October 16, 2004- Constituency Wildlife Summit in Phoenix

October 23, 2004- Constituency Wildlife Summit in Flagstaff

October 30, 2004- Constituency Wildlife Summit in Tucson

(other dates and locations pending)



### What is it and why is it important?

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is developing a "Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy" (CWCS)—a 10-year vision for managing Arizona's fish, wildlife and natural habitats. This effort will enlist input and partnerships with various agency cooperators, sportsman and recreational groups, conservation organizations, special interest groups, Native American tribes, county and municipal governments, and the general public.

All 50 States, U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia are producing their own CWCS plans, as required by Congress, under the new State Wildlife Grant Program (SWG). Guiding principles for developing State CWCS plans were established by state fish and wildlife agencies working with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the Teaming With Wildlife committee. To continue to be eligible for SWG Program funding, all States and

Territories must have their CWCS plans submitted and accepted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by October 1, 2005.

Arizona's CWCS will address the full array of wildlife, but will focus on identifying and managing the "wildlife and biotic communities of greatest conservation need."

If you don't think you make the wildlife summit on 10/16, you can submit feedback on the internet at the link below.

[http://www.gf.state.az.us/w\\_c/cwcs\\_input.shtml](http://www.gf.state.az.us/w_c/cwcs_input.shtml)

### Provide Your Input

The Department would like to hear from you. Listed below are nine challenges that the Department has identified for the conservation and management of Arizona's fish, wildlife, and their habitats. Comments reflecting your values, perceptions, and priorities for these challenges would be appreciated. All reasonable recommendations and constructive comments on draft components of the CWCS plan will be considered. **All submitted comments/edits must be submitted by April 23, 2005.**

#### **Challenge 1. Public Service, Planning, and Funding**

The Department must manage Arizona's wildlife resources as a public trust, through activities that are efficient, effective, well planned, collaborative, and appropriately funded, with ample opportunities for public participation in planning, implementation, and evaluation.

#### **Challenge 2. Wildlife Information**

The Department must ensure that the biological information on which wildlife conservation and recreation decisions are based is: accurate, current, readily available; used to fully implement the multiple-use concept of managing public lands; and available to use in stewardship of private lands.

#### **Challenge 3. Wildlife Management**

The Department must ensure that wildlife management decisions reflect sound science, and full consideration of relevant biological and social values.

#### **Challenge 4. Wildlife Habitat**

The Department must strive to work collaboratively to ensure that habitat is protected and managed to meet wildlife objectives.

#### **Challenge 5. Partnerships**

The Department must meet Arizona's wildlife needs through inclusive partnerships that recognize wildlife as a public trust, and the Department as trust steward.

#### **Challenge 6. Laws and Legal Considerations**

State and federal laws, regulations, and policies must be sufficient to protect and conserve wildlife and wildlife habitat, and sustain and enhance ample public recreation opportunities.

#### **Challenge 7. Law Enforcement**

The Department must enforce wildlife-related laws and regulations to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat, protect public health and safety, and sustain ample recreation opportunities.

#### **Challenge 8. Wildlife Recreation**

The Department must provide ample public recreation opportunities for the full spectrum of wildlife-related recreationists, consistent with wildlife conservation values.

#### **Challenge 9. Public Information & Education**

The Department must reach out to the public to communicate accurate, timely information that promotes public awareness, understanding, and enjoyment of wildlife, wildlife issues, and wildlife-related recreation opportunities, and to obtain information about public attitudes and public preferences regarding the wildlife resource and related conservation, education, and recreation issues.

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**We've got another Collectible DFC Pin available...**

**Look for it at the DFC Banquet December 8, 2005**



## I JUST GOT BACK FROM MEXICO, AND I AM GO'N AGAIN . . .

By Vince Deadmond

I was checking my fishing calendar and it looks like I have spent about 35 days, this year fishing in Mexico through the end of September. If things go as I plan, I would probably get another 10-15 days of fishing in Mexico, before the end of the year. If you are looking for an unbiased opinion on whether you should go to Mexico or not for the November 11- 14 DFC outing, I would say, YES you should go to Mexico. But, I am the kind of guy who gets a \$5 haircut in Puerto Penasco, and there wasn't even any tequila involved, but that is another story.

Just plan to go. That is the first step for those of you who have never gone to Puerto Penasco. Decide if you are going to camp, or if you need more upscale accommodations.

I personally like camping at Playa De Oro RV Park. You will need to make reservations and send in a deposit for the first night. Camp spaces are \$17 per night. Facilities on the grounds include a coffee shop, C store, showers, laundry, & computer.

One of the favorite DFC hotels is the Vina Del Mar, plan to make reservations, many other groups meet in Puerto Penasco at this time of year. Condo or house rentals also need to be planned for in advance.

Basic equipment will get you started. Minimum 6 weight rod, and an 8 weight is usually the rod of choice for many people.

Sinking lines are a good tool to have, but if you only have a floating line put a sink tip on in to get your fly down on the bottom.

You may need to let your fly set a bit before you start your retrieve. Swim trunks, lots of sun block, a hat, and polarized sun glasses are all good to have. The water is warm this time of year and you usually don't even need waders. One can fish from the beach, but if you have a pontoon boat it will increase the time you can spend on the water. If you are staying at the RV park I like to fish that beach with my pontoon.

The catch. Yes, usually there is a catch, and it includes Rock Bass, Pompano, Sea Trout, Trigger, Flounder, Parrot, Grouper, Bone Fish, and those are only the fish that one can catch close to shore. Those fish can be taken on Clousers & Deceivers, size 4-6. Good colors include white, tan, black, red, chartreuse, & yellow. Add some flash to your fly patterns, and get ready to hang on. For you first timers you will be amazed at how hard saltwater fish tug on your line.

Fishing is not the only attraction. In past years, usually on a Friday night we get together for snacks and fly fishing talk. Saturday night we will again get together at the Baja Cantina for dinner, raffle, and recap everyone's fishing adventures. Put these dates on your calendar November 11-14, plan to go fishing, the next thing you know you will be telling me that we should go to Mexico again, and I'll probably agree with you. Hope to see you there.

**Useful phone numbers:** Playa De Oro 011 52 638 2668, Phillips Mexico Insurance in Ajo \*82 1 520 387 6006, Vina Del Mar 011 52 638 383 3600.



...from Eric Larsen's flybox  
**Hybrid-Nymph**



### Pattern

**Hook:** Mustad 3906B #12-#18 (Nymph hook)

**Head:** Small gold metal bead

**Thread:** Gudebrod 8/0 Black

**Tail:** None

**Ribbing:** Danville Fine Gold Wire

**Body:** Arizona Diamond Braid #17 Olive Peacock

**Thorax:** Two strands of peacock herl

**Hackle:** Brown Mottled Partridge (or your favorite soft hackle)


*Fish as a dropper on a dry fly or streamer pattern.*

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

Fall in the White Mountains—The Hybrid Nymph arrives out of the obscurity of my fly box to earn the distinction as THE fly that I caught my first trout in a long time on a lake in Colorado. I don't remember actually creating this fly. I think I was tying streamers one day and, just for a break, I tied a nymph pattern with what I had handy. It turned out to be my desperation fly in Colorado. I discovered a really neat feature of this fly....the more the trout chew on it the better it looks.

The lake I was fishing in Colorado was at 9,600 feet in elevation which is about (give or take) the elevation of many lakes in the White Mountains: Big Lake, Sunrise, Reservation, Hawley, etc. Fall fishing can be hit or miss. The hot fishing always happens in the fall. You just have to be able to catch it just right which means you have to be ready to drop everything and go fishing. As much as I would like to do that, I have to schedule my trips so I have managed to "hit" the good fishing one time in the last 4 years. When the fishing gets tough, I have found the "old reliables" to work best: Hare's Ear nymph, Prince Nymph, PT Nymph, Zug Bug, etc. The Hybrid Nymph is kind of a combination of these various flies. I recommend fishing the fly as a dropper on a #12 Royal Stimulator or as a dropper on a Woolly Bugger or as a dropper on whatever fly you are using to find the fish.

Fall is also time for the Brown Trout to spawn in the streams. Arizona has small streams and there are some big browns that live in them. This fly would probably work for stream fishing as a dropper on your favorite pattern. Be mindful that the hunters are out and it might be a good idea to wear some they can easily see when stalking fish around the stream.


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## Technical Fly Fishing

by Eric Larsen

The first time I set foot in Colorado was in the early summer of 1972. My friend and I knew a couple girls there and it was legal for an 18 year old to drink 3.2 beer. We spent most of our time camping and fishing but the other things seemed more important at the time. What makes this a milestone in my fishing experience was that year was the last time I caught a fish in Colorado...until September of 2004 that is. If you do the math, that's 32 years and that's one heck of a long time to be skunked.

I remember on our July fishing trip in the White Mountains when, my son, James, pointed out that a fish wasn't technically caught until it was in the net and the fish was willingly released or placed on stringer for dinner. This technicality was in response to a trout that I got right up to my float tube and got off before I could get it in the net. I mentioned something about that fish would count as being caught. James objected and, I have to admit, he was right.

Over the last 30 years or so, I have made infrequent visits to Colorado. The last five years or so have afforded me opportunities to visit Colorado more frequently and have the opportunity to get in on some fishing.

My first trip fly fishing was in 2000. I was in Steamboat Springs fishing the Yampa River. I had just started to get into fly fishing big time even though I had been messing around with a fly rod for 18 years. I really didn't know about technical fly fishing. I've since learned the so-called technical waters are where the fish are constantly fished over and will only accept the tiniest of flies and a flawless drift (and the fly has to match the naturals). I fished a tailwater below Stagecoach Reservoir and I could bump a bead-head nymph on the head on of a brown trout. The trout would act annoyed that this thing kept hitting him on the head. I connected for a split second with a big fish.

I floated a semi-seal leech into a deep pocket pool only to see the flash of about 3-4 inches from dorsal to belly of a fish, have my rod bend over double, and go straight again as the tippet snapped.

In 2002, I was able to fish the legendary Frying Pan and Roaring Fork rivers. The Frying Pan is another tailwater known for "selective" trout. I fished on that river got strikes but no fish. After watching some of the fly tying videos by A.K. Best, I think I bumped into him one day on the Frying Pan. There was this "older" guy across the stream below Baetis Bridge pulling out fish on every cast. I said out loud, "I wish I knew what he was using." He responded in a no-nonsense sort of way, "A gray biot fly." I didn't know then that biot flies would be one of my favorite kinds of flies to tie and fish. I couldn't say with certainty the guy was A.K. or not. He looked like him and voice sounded similar to what I have since heard on the tapes. This person was also fishing with a split cane bamboo rod.

In 2003, I had the opportunity to fish a couple hours on one of the Grand Mesa Lakes outside of Grand Junction, Colorado. This is still water heaven. There are lots of lakes, lots of rising fish and...lots of mosquitoes. I think the mosquitoes there drink bug repellent. These critters were ruthless. They would bite through my clothing, in my ears; under my glass frames...you name it. I gave up because I couldn't stand being eaten alive.

That brings me to my most recent trip where I fished the Eagle River near Vail, Colorado. I made the customary stop at a local fly shop to get a license and an access map of the river. I asked the guy in the fly shop where I could find a place to go where I could catch fish and not be fishing in town. He showed me a public stretch between Avon and Eagle. I also asked about the brown trout spawning run and he confirmed that the browns were coming up out of the main Colorado River into the lower sections of the Eagle. It was mid-day and fishing was slow. The Eagle is a pocket water river that offers a lot of

possibilities but requires some precise casting to land the fly just right. I also fished a place where there supposed to be browns stacked up for the fall spawn. I hooked a fish but it broke off.

The next day, I decided to go to a place where the fish were supposed to be less "selective." I tackled the endless beaver meadows and bogs of Homestake Creek. The fish were spooky, the bogs were treacherous and the casting was VERY tight. Again, I managed to get some strikes and even had a fish rise to dry fly. Even though it was a great day fishing, I was a bit disappointed going back to the hotel fishless.

I had one last opportunity to try a still water by a place called Camp Hale. I figured still water fishing was something that I knew how to do even in a strange place. The fish in this high altitude lake feed sporadically throughout the afternoon and it was windy off and on. The sun was off the lake at 5:00pm and a weak hatch was starting to come off between gusts of wind. A stimulator/nymph dropper combination was the magic that finally ended a 32 year dry spell in the full technical sense of the word.

I think fly fishing in general is a fairly technical sport and with its popularity some fish seem to be harder to catch on a fly. I was out-fished by countless tackle fishers who would throw a spinner and catch fish. I was casting into the wind and fishing barbless hooks. I had several fish on but if the hook set wasn't done just so or I let slack in the line the fish was off. When things line up just right and I catch a lot of fish, I almost feel like I know what I'm doing. Other times, it is as though I have never picked up fly rod before. Some folks define "technical" fly fishing as the times and/or places where fish are hard to catch. For me, it's all technical fishing because it is a miracle to catch a fish on a fly in a new (or old) place....even if it takes 32 years to do it.



*DFC'er's...Help us plan for our Annual...*

## DFC BANQUET DECEMBER 8, 2004

The DFC Board is planning to out due what we did last year in prize donations (with your help)- we'll accept any and all donation prizes including 4WD pick-up trucks for those far away White Mountain trips to secret spots!

*Come help us all to enjoy another successful DFC Banquet!*

Donations for the Annual DFC Banquet contact:

**William Thurber**

**or call Cinda Howard at: 480-217-5089**



# 2004 Calendar Events

October 14-18 Port Mansfield Texas - *Ted Bounds* host

October would be a good time for you to put together a trip to Lee's Ferry or one more run to the White Mountains.

**November 11-14**

Puerto Penasco - Club outing to Rocky Point -  
*sign up at October DFC meeting*  
Hosts Doc Nickle and Vince Deadmond


**December 8**

**Christmas Banquet -**

Knights of Columbus Hall - Chandler

*Remember if you don't schedule your fishing trip, you won't get to go!*

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