



DESERT FLY CASTERS *Forward Casts*

DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB

Presidents Report- November 2004

The annual Christmas Banquet is a little over a month away. This is always a great event and our members are what make it that way. Each year the club steps up and pitches in with donations and volunteers. Members donate things from flies to handcrafted items to gently used rods and reels to new items that they purchased to give as a donation. Donations do not have to be flyfishing related. We usually have gift certificates from restaurants and beauticians, watches and other jewelry, and camping equipment. If you have something you would like to donate, please call William Thurber and let him know. His number is (480) 390-4197. All donations are tax deductible.

At the banquet this year we will have another collectible conservation pin. It will be for the year 2005 and all proceeds will go to the restoration of Canyon Creek. This is a very important project and one that is close to the hearts of many of us small stream anglers. By purchasing a pin, not only will you have something that is collectible and only available through Desert Fly Casters but you will also be helping restore one of the best brown trout fisheries in the state. The pins can be purchased for eight dollars each or two for fifteen.

The board has bounced around ideas of having a famous fly fisherman come to our club for a speaking engagement. We talked about Jack Dennis but he did a presentation for us just a couple of years ago plus you can see him at the ISE Show each year. I got on the phone and called Lefty Kreh. While speaking to Lefty Kreh he said that he is almost 80 years old and doesn't go west of Denver. Traveling this far is just too much for him. He then asked me if I fish (of course I said YES!). Then he asked if I know what a clouser is (yes again). He recommended that I contact Bob Clouser and he gave me his phone number. I called Bob and talked to him about doing a presentation for our club. He said he would love to come to our beautiful state and can do an all day event. This can include casting, tying and a slideshow presentation. The details are still being worked out but the date is set for Saturday, March 19th. This is going to be free to all DFC members. We are looking for a location that has a large grassy area for casting as well as an indoor area that will hold about 100 people. If you know of a clubhouse that would let us use their facility for free or very little expense, please let me know. *My phone number is (480) 217-5089.*

Bob Clouser is the creator of the famed Clouser Minnow fly pattern. The Clouser Minnow is known worldwide and has caught more varieties of fish than any other fly. Bob has been presented numerous awards for his strong conservation work, especially work done to enhance smallmouth bass fishing in Pennsylvania. Most notable among his awards are his induction into the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame as Legendary Angler, the Warm Water Committee Achievement Award, a national award presented by The Federation of Fly Fishers, the Dr. Henshall Award presented by The Federation of Fly Fishers, and national Angler of the Year 2000 by Fly Rod and Reel Magazine. He is a strong supporter of recreational fishing as well as conservation. He was awarded the 1995 Conservation Award of The Year presented by the Susquehanna Smallmouth Alliance, and in 1997, the Charles K. Fox Rising Trout Conservation Award presented by the Cumberland Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited. We are delighted to have him and this should be very exciting for our members. Look for more information as the specifics are worked out.

Our Rocky Point outing is fast approaching. If you are planning on going don't forget to call ahead and make hotel or campground reservations. Look for phone numbers further in the newsletter.

At our November meeting we will be nominating board members. If you know someone that would make a great addition to the board, please nominate them at the November meeting. If you would like to join the board yourself, please let me know before the meeting starts. We are always looking for fresh blood and new ideas.

I hope to see you at the meeting November 10th. Please come early and join us for dinner.

Cinda

DFC NOVEMBER MEETING....

The presenter at the November meeting will be Bob Willard. Bob is one of the owners of the Arizona Flyfishing store in Tempe. He is an experienced steelhead and saltwater flats fisherman. He also has a great amount of experience fishing the still waters of our state.

November 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: Sour Cream Chicken Enchilada, Rice, & Salad. Come early and enjoy dinner with your DFC friends! *Dinner is served from 6pm to 7pm.*



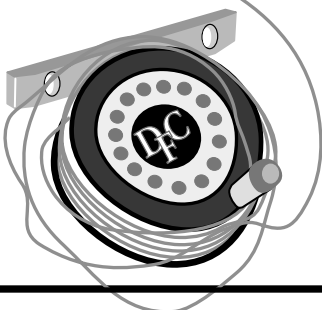
NOVEMBER MEETING:

Wednesday
November 10, 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:

Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.



DFC Past, Present, Future

by Vince Deadmond

PAST...

Back in the 60's when the Desert Fly Casters were getting started, Al Williams wanted to make sure that the desert had an oasis for fly fishers. Desert Fly Casters became a place to learn to cast a fly rod, tie some flies, and plan a fishing trip with like minded folks. Early on, conservation and improving our places to fish became important to DFC. Al was a pioneer in getting conservation projects moving in the right direction. Desert Fly Casters honor the memory of Al Williams each year with the **Al Williams Conservation Award**. The award is usually presented to someone who has distinguished themselves with their efforts at improving our fisheries through conservation.

Gene McDowell came to the Desert Fly Casters later, but had an impact on many of us. He had such enthusiasm for fly fishing that it was infectious. Desert Fly Casters grew and prospered because of his generous giving of time, knowledge, and encouraging others to pick up the long rod. We give a **Gene McDowell Award** to the member who has done the most to make Desert Fly Casters that friendly comfortable place where you can enjoy fly fishing.

These awards are given at the Christmas Banquet, and the recipients are folks who have made a difference for all of us. Looking at the recent past year, DFC members had the opportunity to tie flies, build rods, improve their casting, help with conservation projects, and yes even go on fishing outings that ranged from small streams, mountain lakes, or even get into saltwater. Many volunteers helped to bring all of these opportunities to our members, and the fly fishing community is a better place because of your efforts. I would like to thank you for all of your efforts. I really think you become a better fly fisher when you lend a hand and try to help someone else improve. We do have a solid history of that here at Desert Fly Casters. I hope this article will give our new members a heads up on who Al Williams and Gene McDowell were in our club history.

PRESENT...

The next outing is to one of my favorite places, Puerto Penasco, Mexico. Make plans to attend. We have a large group going down, and a large body of water to fish with plenty of frisky fish to catch. Make your arrangements for housing, but don't wait until the last minute.

You don't need a lot of fancy saltwater equipment, your 6 weight lake rod will do,

and if you have an 8 weight even better. I like to use an intermediate sink line for surf casting, and I'll take my pontoon and use a heavy sinking line to dredge up Triggers. You can get down deep by adding a sink tip to your floating line, and you don't have a fortune invested. When you get to the beach there will be enough extra equipment to outfit several fly fishers, so don't let it hold you back if you don't have enough gear.

FUTURE...

November we will be nominating board members for the 2005 year. If you would like to get more out of the club, put more in, become a board member. It's true board members fish more, and get a number of perks. If you want to see this club grow and improve, volunteer to be on the board, or lead an outing, or host a fly tying party, help with a conservation project, or secure raffle prizes. There are lots of small jobs that need to be done, don't leave it up to the same folks, they need some time off to go fishing on their own. If you would like to help this next year give me a call 480-982-7461 (B), 480-984-4698 (H).



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

Look for it at the DFC Banquet December 8, 2005

Dave & Barbara Foster 1-800-533-7339
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CONSERVATION NOTESwith Eric Larsen

The December newsletter I will provide Conservation 2004 Project Wrap-up. The Wildlife Summit for the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) was very productive. Patti Fenner of the Tonto National Forest contacted about an issue up at Canyon Creek. If you have been up to Canyon Creek recently you already encountered the Bull Thistle. The plant is overtaking the area. Below is some information about plant. Let me know or contact Patti if you want to participate in removing the plant from the Canyon Creek area. I could end up being a critical success factor in restoring the fishery.

Bull Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)

Bull thistle is an aggressive, biennial weed. This plant originates in Eurasian and arrived in North American in the 1800's through the shipping ports of Oregon. It now exists in all of the lower 48 states, primarily in disturbed or degraded lands. Bull thistle is spreading at a rapid rate in elevations above 5000 feet on the Tonto National Forest.

It is found in higher elevation forests, meadows and riparian areas on the Tonto. The characteristics of bull thistle include dark green foliage, double dentate spiny leaves which are hairy and prickly above and spiny below. There are vertical, spiny ribs in the stems. The flower heads of bull thistle have been described as urn shaped and are solitary at the ends of each stem. The flower color varies from white to bright pink or purple, but is usually purple. Most seeds of bull thistle will only remain viable for one or 2 years, but some have been reported to germinate after several years. Bull thistle likes to move into areas that have been disturbed by road grading, by grazing that has removed native vegetation, or often in areas that have been burned.

Bull thistle (and other invasive purple thistles, such as musk thistle) can be differentiated from common native thistles, such as Arizona thistle, by the presence of leaf parts and spines along the stems of non-native thistles, and normal, round stems of native thistles.



New Mexican thistle
(*Cirsium noemexicanum*)
Native thistle. Note round, spineless stem.



Bull thistle
(*Cirsium vulgare*)
Non-native thistle
Note stem edged with spiny leaf parts.

An integrated combination of methods will be needed to successfully control bull thistle infestations. Prevention and detection of new populations, as well as eradication and containment of existing populations all need to be addressed to achieve control of this and other biennial thistles.

Cultural Control:

Prevention is the most effective and least expensive method of control. Maintenance of a vigorous, competitive plant community will control or reduce the rate of biennial thistle spread. Plan activities to avoid areas infested with biennial thistles if possible. If not possible, cleaning all equipment, tires, boots and hooves when leaving infested areas will prevent the creation of new infestations. Purchase only certified weed-free hay, and do not allow livestock to graze infested areas in late summer or fall. Reseeding any disturbed sites with vigorous, hardy, early successional natives will also deter establishment of new biennial thistle seedlings.



Bull thistle rosette stage

Mechanical Control:

Hand pulling or grubbing biennial thistle is most effective for small infestations, perimeter populations, along riparian zones, or following an herbicide treatment. Use a shovel to cut the taproot at least 2 inches below ground, or pull up taproot after plants have bolted and before flowers have bloomed. Repeat at least 3 times during the growing season (rosette stage, bolting stage, and late flowering stage), removing as much of the root as possible. Most often there are plants at various stages of maturity in anyone infestation, so many trips may be necessary. If flower buds have already formed, clip them off and bag them until they can be burned in a hot fire at a controlled site. Cultivation may control (reduce) biennial thistle if an annual grain or cover crop is planted before reseeding to perennial grasses. Tilling must be one two or three times a year, starting in May, or alternate control treatments should be planned. Remember that seeds stay dormant in the soil for some years. Burning could be used to control thistle infestations and deplete seed banks if a burn plan considers the life cycle of the plant, central Arizona's biannual rainfall patterns, and another control method as a follow-up treatment. Mowing is not recommended for control, as plants in the rosette form can produce side branches with more flowers.

Herbicides and biological control methods also exist, but are not being used on the Tonto National Forest at this time.

Note: No single control method, or anyone-year treatment program, will ever achieve effective control of an area infested with biennial thistles. The fast growth, high seed viability, and long seed dormancy of these plants require long-term integrated management programs and planning to contain and reduce biennial thistle infestations.



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San Juan First Timer

by Chuck Elliott

Relatively new to fly fishing, I was excited to get my first trip to the San Juan underway and try out my nymphing skills on moving water. I partnered up with Dan and headed out an extra day early, so I could take advantage of a guided float trip on the Animas outside Durango. Then I planned to spend the next couple of days fishing the legendary San Juan.

Early Saturday morning I met Bill, Charlie & Charlie and the Animas Valley Angler guides. I was lucky to get Will Blanchard as a guide and have Bill as my raft partner to help me on my first ever guided trip. It had just rained days before, so the flow was higher than expected and we started off with streamers and nymphs. Early on we were catching rainbows. I was surprised the number of fish I caught on the swing out of line as I began to strip the woolly bugger and PT nymph in. I couldn't believe the size of some of the boulders that provided nice seams and boilers for fish to lie behind. We caught several large rainbows and browns and I even caught my first cut-bow. It turned out to be a gorgeous day and we only saw one other raft on the river the entire day. Will & Bill really set the bar high to beat my first ever guided trip and Animas experience.

The next morning the entire DFC group met in the San Juan campground area to learn some nymphing techniques. We learned proper nymph rig setup and drifting form. I ended up wading most of the day near Baetis Bend and just below Navajo Dam and watching many fish rising but not to anything I presented.

Monday morning the group headed out on full day guided trips down the San Juan. The put in at Texas Hole looked liked a drift boat hatch as many boats lined up and took turns drifting the deep runs. Dan & I had matched up with Nathaniel, who put us into to fish right

away. We actually caught several nice size rainbows sight fishing right there in the T Hole just using a single red hook about size #18 without any material tied on it. We watched their delicate takes and hung on! One of my first sets broke off because I touched the reel too firmly. The rest of the day Nathaniel joking threatened me to keep my hands away from the reel after each set hook. Nathaniel knew the river well and was very patient with Dan and I as we jokingly were dubbed the "weaver" for Dan's knots and the "gardener" for the many times I hooked the shrubs. The day ended with a great cookout, many stories, and awards.

I had a great time and can't wait to form similar memories of the San Juan with my kids. Although, I sure don't plan on waiting until next September for my next visit.

Mayan Riviera Free ...Almost

by Vince Deadmond Saltwater Guy

I know some of you Desert Fly Casters like a good deal, and I have been known to do Mexico on the cheap from time to time. When an opportunity to get a free ticket to Cancun, Mexico came up, my wife Debi was on it. My brother has a spot in a trailer park in Paamul, Mexico, about an hour south of Cancun on highway 307. When he asked if my wife and I would like to check it out, we were packed before he could get the words out of his mouth.

Cancun is a modern upscale high rise hotel infested place with 20,000 visitors or so per day. The hotel zone in Cancun is not the Mexico I am looking to find. I seek out the more remote adventures on the Yucatan. The Cancun airport on the south side of town was easy to get out of,

and our drive to Paamul was easy. Debi and I usually have kids, and friends of kids on our Mexico trips, but this really was great with just the two of us. We could set our own schedule, fishing for me, shopping for her, sight seeing for both of us.

Paamul is a scuba diving community, on a nice bay that is protected by a reef. The dive shop is run by a couple of good'ol boys from Texas. They get visitors from cruise ships, and the dive community is really protective of "their" fish. While no one said anything about me fly fishing the bay, I got the idea that I would not want to be conspicuous about it either.

Lester one of the dive shop owners, who also likes to fish, recommended I fish one of the bonefish flats that was an easy 5 minute drive from the park. The first morning was bright and sunny and I spotted lots of fish. I caught some, and spooked many more. I have fished Andros Island in the Bahamas, and usually you have a 45 minute boat ride before you stop to look for your first fish. This was absolutely great, I didn't need a guide, or a boat, or any of that expense.

The next morning was overcast and I could not see as many fish, but I caught more. I guess they could not see me either. Talk about seeing something. I saw Bob, the 5 foot resident barracuda. Bob is a local celebrity and has been written up in several dive magazines. I had several bite-offs and I would say it was from smaller barracuda. I caught some nice bonefish, some snapper, and several fish that I have no idea what it was.

Our trip expenses were one ticket to Cancun, and we ate most of our meals out because they were so inexpensive. We took a tour of the ruins in Tulum, we made several trips to Playa del Carmen and one run to Cozumel. We had a six day vacation in Mexico and it cost less than \$900. *Not bad for a cheap gringo.*



**FREE
DFC MEMBERS
ONLY**

Spend a day with....

BOB CLOUSER



The DFC board is proud to present a special day, for DFC members. An opportunity to meet and be with Bob Clouser. A day filled with rod casting, tying flies (*Learn the tying secrets of the "Clouser Minnow!"*), along with a slide presentation of fly fishing and entertainment. This DFC occasion is scheduled for MARCH 19th...All of this **FREE** for our paid-up members only. Mark the day on your calendar and plan on casting, fly tying, food and entertainment!

We'll also have the added opportunity to get in on raffle prizes too.

More details at the Banquet in December.

DFC BANQUET

DECEMBER 8, 2004

Knights of Columbus Hall - Chandler



The date is planned...Doc has the food organized...and we're all waiting to gather for another great evening of fun, prizes and entertainment.

Help our club grow again this year...we've got prizes...prizes and then surprises!!

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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



ROCKY POINT OUTING 2004

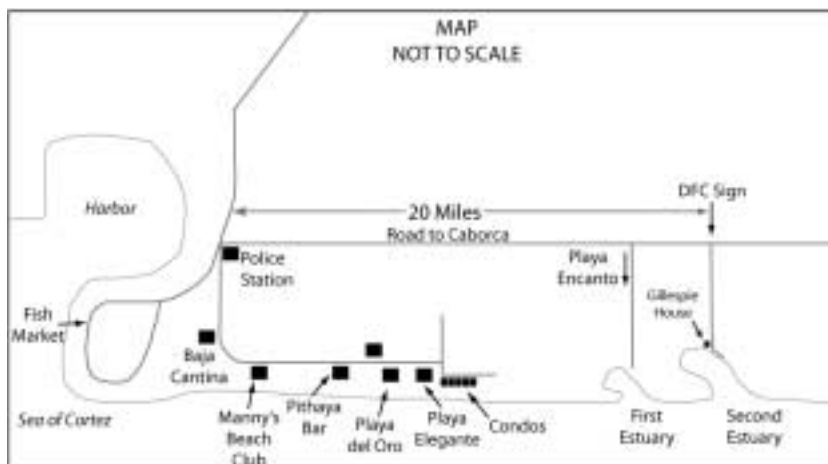
The Rocky Point outing is fast approaching. If you plan to go and have not made reservations, please do so ASAP! Here are the phone numbers:
 Playa Elegante RV Park..... 011-52-638-3-37-12 Playa De Oro RV Park..... 011-52-638-3-26-68
 Playa Miramar RV Park..... 011-52-638-3-25-87 Vina Del Mar Hotel.....011-52-638-3-36-00

Mexican insurance can be purchased at several places. Doc recommends Sanborn's Mexican Auto Insurance in Ajo, AZ. You can call ahead and give them your information and they will have it ready when you arrive. The number is (800) 222-0158 and their website is www.sanbornsinsurance.com

Most people will be arriving Thursday and Friday. Doc Nickel will have the annual potluck dinner at his condo at Las Palmas Condo's on Friday night. Be sure to bring a potluck dish to contribute. It starts about 7:00ish with people arriving at all times of the evening depending on when they arrive and how the fishing is.

The banquet will be on Saturday night at the Baja Cantina. The prime rib dinner starts at 7:30. There will also be a raffle to offset the cost of the dinner. Also, don't forget to purchase the Annual Rocky Point t-shirt that will be available from Doc.

Doc will have maps of the area at the meeting. If you have questions or need more info, call Doc Nickel at (480) 857-0381.



2004 Calendar Events


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!

NEW! *The DFC board has ordered a new selection of fly fishing shirts...Come shop your Christmas list early...\$30.00 for this all new shirt from your club.*

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