

2005 • Desert Fly Casters

FORWARD CASTS

DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB



MARCH MEETING:

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

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



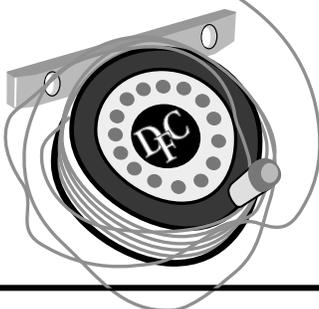
2005 DFC Pins
 on sale at
 monthly club
 meetings.

THE POSITIVE SIDE OF LIFE:

Artificial intelligence is no match
 for natural stupidity.



Desert Fly Casters Supports
BARBLESS HOOKS
CATCH & RELEASE



Presidents Report- March 2005

It is amazing how much rain we can get in just one winter (and it's not even over yet). I have been checking the reservoir water levels with each new rain system that comes through. January 1st Roosevelt Lake was 33% full and as of February 22nd it is up to 76%. If I hadn't witnessed all this rain myself, I would never have believed it is possible for the lake to fill that much in less than two months. We have had an incredible winter and I have heard predictions that Roosevelt could be at 100% capacity after the spring run-off.

With all of this water the fishing is limited though I am hearing some reports of open water in the White Mountains. Becker (in Springerville) is ice-free and there have been fish in the 20-inch range caught. From the last report I heard, Horseshoe Cienaga was about 85% open. There should be some nice, hungry browns cruising the shoreline looking for food. There is definitely an opportunity to hook into some monsters. I would first try walking the shore and casting semi-seal leaches in various colors and as the saying goes, "walk softly and carry a big stick". If that doesn't get you into some nice hogs, try using your float tube or pontoon boat and cast right to the shoreline. There isn't much time left until Silver Creek closes. The upper area is only open from October to April. I was up there with a friend a few weeks ago and we caught some very nice fish. One of the females dumped eggs all over me as I was trying to get a picture, so if you are planning on going anytime soon, take egg patterns. Other flies that worked were red humpies, black beaded nymphs and olive hare's ears.

The ISE Show was a huge success! This year was the busiest I have ever seen it. We judged the casting competition and it is fun watching some of these guys shoot line. It is judged on distance and the winner for the men's division was Rick Hartman. He came in from South Texas and ended up winning it with a 112' cast. I was told that in one of the competitions last year he had a cast that went over 130'. At the show, we were signing people up for a free casting clinic that will be coming up this spring. Larry Allen will be helping again this year and we are looking at it being in April. It will be free to the public so start telling your friends. I will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting.

The Point of Pines outing is this month and Bill wrote a nice article outlining the trip. Look for it on Page 2. We are always looking for stories and information and any club member can write something for the newsletter.

BOB CLOUSER. The March meeting will be your last opportunity to pay your membership dues if you plan on attending the Bob Clouser seminar. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and something that you don't want to miss.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 9th. Hope to see you there!

Cinda Howard, DFC President

DFC MARCH MEETING....

Dana Bayer, Program Coordinator, and Jim Warnecke will make a presentation of the current status of Canyon Creek. Jim Warnecke will also talk some about the fishing conditions at Apache Lake. We may be talking schedules to do some conservation work at Canyon Creek. Bring your calendars and your questions for an interesting evening for one of our favorite destinations.

March 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: Smothered chicken, rice pilaf, vegetable medley. Come early and enjoy dinner with your DFC friends! Dinner is served from 6pm to 7pm.

ROCKY 2- SECOND TRIP

I told Cinda I would provide a Rocky Point story. Club members talk a lot about the November Veterans Day outing in Rocky Point, Mexico. I found out this is because it is a lot of fun and we catch a lot of fish. Departing Friday afternoon, following the single tail light of Doc's boat. The drive is a pleasant trip, stopping in Gila Bend for fuel and a hamburger, then south toward the sea. Something very refreshing in that thought. We arrived after dusk, now following the smiling Don pulling Doc's boat. Friday night we got together for pot-luck and many thanks to our members for bringing nice food and treats. It's always a neat time for all of us and we get to talk about the time to come.

....continued on page 3

Point of Pines Lake Outing

March 11-13

by Bill Thyng

Point of Pines Lake is a great high mountain lake, which is 34 acres in size and is surrounded by ponderosa pine forest. Point of Pines Lake is located off of Indian Road 8 (1000 road) about 50 miles from the junction of Highway 70 and is easily accessible. The drive to the lake is very scenic and be sure to look out for elk, pronghorn antelope, black bear, mule deer, white-tailed deer, and javelina on your drive. It will probably be cold this time of year so plan your clothing and sleeping gear accordingly. Some of you have asked about bringing your trailers to the lake and the only thing that I might suggest is that you take a drive up to the lake and do a day of fishing and scope out the area and see if your trailer will get in there ok. There is only a small amount of dirt road that you need to drive on to get to the lake but with the wet weather we have been having the road can get quite muddy and have some fairly deep ruts.

The lake is stocked annually with rainbow and brown trout, which makes it a great family fishery and camping destination. Although Point of Pines Lake is stocked annually, several larger rainbow and brown trout can be caught as a result of over summer survival in this higher elevation lake. Fly-fishing from shore or in a float tube works well for catching either rainbow or brown trout. You can use the usual flies that you would use at most of the mountain lakes i.e. woolly buggers, semi seal leeches, hares ears etc.. This lake gives the new fly caster a good opportunity to catch fish, and everyone the chance of catching a larger brown, so we hope to see a lot of you out there. I will be heading for the lake on Friday March 11 around 12:00 so if you're not sure how to get there and need better directions or want to follow me up there please feel free to give me a call.

DEC will be providing a pancake breakfast on Saturday Morning from 7:00am to 8:00am, this will include Pancakes, Syrup, Sausage and Bacon (you would need to provide your own drinks).

SECRET FISHING SPOT

by Vince Deadmond

Are you interested in catching a few tough fish? Would you like to catch fish that are strong, and are a good size? Are you strong enough to get skunked, and come back for more? Do I have you hooked yet? How about a gravel bar to your self and not many people in the fine restaurants? Would you like to fish where guiding and fly shops are top notch? The fluctuations and changes on this river happen so often you need a guide who is on the river daily. This is your best bet for locating fish, using the right flies, and using the right methods for current river conditions.

I just revisited Lee's Ferry, and I'll have to admit it had been a while since I had fished the Ferry. Many of you have been like me and have not fished

here for a while. Some of you are new to fly fishing and no one has twisted your arm to fish the Ferry. The last high point the Ferry may have enjoyed was 1994. Back then there were lots of fly fishermen, guides, boats, and desire to go fish the Ferry. Much has happened to the fishery in the last 10 years and most of it not good. But as much as the powers that be seem to try to kill off the trout, and discourage people from fishing there, it is still a great place. It has become one of Arizona's best kept secret fishing spots.

Jerry King and I drove up on a Thursday evening and despite rush hour Phoenix traffic and some snow from Munds Park to the other side of Flagstaff we made the trip in a little over 5 hours. We were well rested and ready to meet our guide "Rocky" Jon Luvit from Dave Foster's Marble Canyon Guides. Our boat ride up to 4 mile was comfortable and we were into fish as the water rose on our gravel bar. The flow that day was from 5,000 cfs to 20,000! Rocky wanted to get a good gravel bar on the lower part of the river so we would have a longer window of fishing time. Not long ago there was a flood of water over 40,000 cfs for several days. These flood situations have a way of moving things around in the river, and certainly changing where fish hang out, and how they feed. My word of advice would be to get a guide for at least one day if you come up to the Ferry, and check the flows, ask questions on where to fish depending on those flows. The Ferry is not as predictable as it once was.

While Jerry and I fished the 4 mile gravel bar we looked down, and behind us we each had 3 or 4 large fish, (bigger than any that we caught) using us to block the current, and to kick up food for them. One thing that was different was strike indicators. Fish at Lee's Ferry now move out of the way of poly yarn strike indicators. The new hot ticket is stick on foam strike indicators. They work reasonably well but may be a bit harder to see their profile. The fly of choice was small San Juan Worms. I recall using San Juan Worms in the past, but it seemed to be the fly of the day for this trip. We later looked for midging fish but instead we found some fish deep and on sand. Rocky said they were hard to get to, but being the stubborn Desert Fly Caster I pulled out my secret weapon a 200 grain sinking head line that I had just purchased for a trip to Pyramid Lake, and I figured I could always take it saltwater fishing. Anyway, the 200 grain line had no trouble getting down to those fish and I caught some by stripping woolly buggars past their noses.

It was time for lunch and our boat met up with Dave Foster and his clients. Dave cooked up some cheese burgers as a shore lunch. While the cooking was going on I managed to catch two more fish by stripping woolly buggars on my 200 grain line. After lunch we went up to the dam and fished with strike indicators. The water was really rushing out and we just went up and drifted back several times. I think Jerry and I each managed to land one fish each. Between the two of us Jerry and I caught twenty fish, which is a good day on the Ferry now.

At one time twenty fish per angler would have been a poor morning, now catching 10 or 12 fish a day is a good day. When we checked back in at the fly shop more than one angler was grouching about bad fishing conditions, and getting skunked. Again having a guide and finding fish was key in our fishing success.

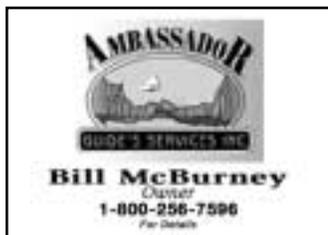
That evening we dined at Vermillion Cliffs and dinner was wonderful as usual. The next morning we had breakfast there, and Charlie is still serving breakfast and jokes. I introduced Jerry as the new kid and Charlie found something to pick on right away. Maggie the owner of the lodge donated 3 nights lodging to the Desert Fly Casters. Look for the business cards on the raffle table at the next DFC meeting.

Our Saturday fishing was on the walk in area and it was another 5,000 cfs to 20,000 day. The walk in can be a good place to fish, but with the water coming up quickly it limits the number of places you can fish well. Jerry and I fished hard on Saturday and late into the afternoon we were both skunked. Finally we went down to the boat launch area and stripped buggars, and as luck would have it we both managed to catch two fish each.

Sunday morning was our return day, but we still had a little fishing left in us. The flows were to be a more moderate 5,000 to 8,000 cfs. We got a tip from one of the fly shops to try below the bolder field. I rigged up with a 9 foot leader, 12 inches of tippet with one #6 shot and an orange San Juan Worm as my top fly. My bottom fly 12 inches below was a natural colored worm. I was using the foam strike indicator as I did with our guide Rocky. I had a good morning catching 4 fish some up to 16 inches and the smallest down to 13 inches. With the flow not rising as fast, the fishing was quite comfortable.

One thing I had forgotten about, is some of the dandy wind knots you can get when fishing two flies, weight, and a strike indicator on 5 X tippet. Jerry and I both spent a considerable amount of time re rigging and enjoying the scenery of Lee's Ferry. Even if you are not catching fish it a beautiful outdoor experience, and great place to eat a snack and watch what is going on around you.

We finally gave up, broke down the rods, and headed home. Over all I would say it was a good trip. We caught a few fish, the scenery was great, the food was wonderful, and no one fell down in the river. Everyone at Lee's Ferry is working hard to make sure you have a good fishing experience. We took some time to have a late lunch at Bun Huggers in Flagstaff on the way home, and we managed to get past the sneet, (snow, and sleet) in the Munds Park area on the drive home. This would be a good place for you to go fish, before the White Mountains open up, and before everyone rediscovers the Ferry.



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ROCKY 2- SECOND TRIP...continued

Friday night was a little cold and windy but Saturday dawned with a beautiful sunrise and a tide that said "have some coffee and a potato taco and start pumping up your boats." Turned out to be a casually beautiful day and we fished out from our condo down toward Manny's and did OK. Saturday afternoon, we came in to get showered and ready for our banquet that evening. Detour - Before leaving for the gathering, I couldn't help but notice the wonderful aroma of garlic and cooking shrimp. Turns out, Vic and his chef friend Carlos whipped up a few tasty bits - Shrimp ceveche, rice, shrimp and flounder with butter and garlic. Wow! Carlos knows what he's doing in the kitchen and we appreciate the sharing of the feast. Saturday night the banquet was great fun and good food as usual. Line Santa visited members with some special early Christmas gifts and lots of laughter. Because of the holiday, Doc, Sharon, Don, my wife and I decided to stay over and depart on Monday. Sunday turned out to be a beautiful day, cool in the morning with a soft breeze rocking us gently in out floats as we fished and talked. Again, we fished in front of our

condo and caught a lot of fish. Various species from sea trout, trigger fish, calico bass and some very interesting, very colorful perch-like reef fish. We kept the trigger and it made a nice dinner. Even the smallest of these fish pull like the devil! A little larger, the trigger-fish really get your attention. By late Sunday afternoon, we caught and released lots of fish and it started to get hot in the waders. After a shower and a beer, we went to Rocky Garden (met up with the Bounds) and had a dinner. Nice food and we pretty much had the place to ourselves. Our return trip to Mesa was a chilly in the morning but the desert was beautiful with great scenery for a drive home from a successful and fun time. Only one problem upon our return. When I woke up on Tuesday morning, my first words were "have you seen the tortillas, burritos, tacos and tamales lady?" I sure miss that.

Keep a tight line.

Tom Soldat

CONSERVATION NOTES ...with Eric Larsen

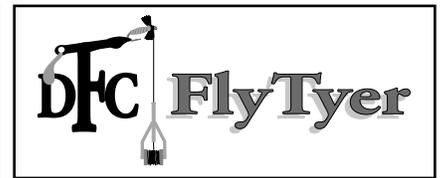
You should have received with this month's newsletter a copy of the *Canyon Creek Bull Thistle Project* brochure. We were able to get them printed up (with a good deal of help from the WCC and the Arizona Elk Society) and handed them out at the ISE show. When I was at the show, I was pleased at the interest level in Canyon Creek.

Canyon Creek: Speaking of Canyon Creek, Dana Bayer and Jim Warnecke from the AZGFD will be giving us the latest information at Canyon Creek and project status. It will be time for DFC to step up and provide on-the-ground support of the project by removing a livestock fence. I think the club can remove 2,000 feet of fence in 6 hours if we have at least 10 people working with the fence. The more people the better. This will translate into \$4,000 to in-kind funding for the Canyon Creek Project. We can always use help with someone who would like to cook up a breakfast and maybe a lunch. Don't feel like you have to be a fence wrangler to participate in the project. I think we can have a heck of a lot of fun. I will have sign-up sheets at the meeting. Also, if you are interested about Canyon Creek, please call me: H- (480) 833-5311 or email: fffly@cox.net.

Wildlife Conservation Council (WCC): The February meeting was long. I asked the WCC to support to send one lady (\$500) to the Casting For Recovery retreat and they voted to provide for that support. Among many, many other things, we got to hear from the newly appointed AZ Game & Fish Commissioner, Bob Hernbrode. Below is a synopsis I wrote up about my views and conversation at the WCC meeting.

Bob Hernbrode--Commissioner: We got to do a Q&A with him and I really like the guy. He responded to my questions well and told me and the WCC he has an agenda: To ensure that future generations have the same opportunity to fish and hunt in Arizona as we do now. Bob has 35 years in wildlife game management and is down-to-earth, sensible about things (science based) and willing to listen to people. He is very much a professional and will do well for outdoor sports people for the state. He says that hunters and anglers need to take a "21st century" view to revitalize the sport. How do you do that? Education. The general public does not understand what hunting and fishing is about. It's up to the Commission, AZGFD and outdoor sports organizations to educate a public that doesn't fish or hunt and encourage people (especially younger people) to hunt and fish.

There are a lot of things happening in the AZ legislature and on the national level. DFC, as a club, needs to be careful not to look like a political action group. However, I would be happy to send on information that I get for your information and you can decide whether or not you want to act on issues as individuals. You can draw your own conclusions on what position you want to take. If you would like to be on an email distribution list for this sort of thing, please send me an email to fffly@cox.net. I'd also be happy to also hear from you on conservation issues, projects, ideas, comments, gripes, etc. in general.



...from Eric Larsen's flybox
CARIBOU WATER BOATMAN



Hook: TMC 100SP-BL #12 Or Std Dry or Wet Fly hook #8-#14

Thread: Gudebrod G Thread Clear

Shellback: Turkey saddle feather

Abdomen (optional): Flashabou or peacock herl

Body: Spun natural caribou or deer hair

Legs: Front and Rear mottled wild turkey quill

Head: Spun natural caribou or deer hair

Fish like a nymph under the water with a sinking line with irregular retrieve.

What makes this fly my fly of the month

Last year when I fished Seneca Lake, I saw a water boatman cruising through the water paddling like crazy. I didn't have a water boatman imitation to see how it would work. In January, I fished Seneca with a prototype fly and the fish we on it in nothing flat. I think this fly will work equally as well.

There is another bug, a backswimmer, that is very similar to the water boatman but is usually smaller to a size #16 hook. Both water boatman and backswimmers have to make numerous trips to the surface to get a bubble of air since they don't gills like other aquatic insects. For Seneca Lake trout, I don't think the flash on the abdomen is needed to imitate the reflection of the bubble under water. For other fishing circumstances, it might be good to have. There are numerous backswimmers in the slow water sections Canyon Creek and I have seen them at Lee Valley Lake in the shallow sections of the lake near the vegetation. That would be another tip to fish this fly: fish near the reeds and underwater weed beds.

I use a specialized hook with an extra wide hook gape. This can be compensated by using a standard hook size larger than the fly you want to tie (e.g. #14 hook for a #16 fly). It looks kind of weird but I think it will get more hook ups.

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SATURDAY • MARCH 19, 2005

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FREE
for
DFC MEMBERS

NOTE: DFC MEMBERS must make reservations
no later than Wednesday, March 9, 2005 to attend...Call 480-820-0903 to confirm

2005 DFC OUTINGS

- Mar 11-13 Point of Pines Lake
- Mar 19 Bob Clouser Day
- April 15-17 Seneca Lake
- April 28-May 2 Green River
May TBA
- June 17-19 White Mountain Spectacular
- July 29-31 Lee's Ferry
Aug TBA
- Sept 3-8 San Felipe Mexico
- Oct 1-4 San Juan River, NM
- Oct 28-31 Steelhead, MI
- Nov 10-13 Puerto Penasco
- Dec 14 DFC Christmas Banquet

Notice... the TBA outings with no date attached, this would be a perfect opportunity for you to pick the place and be the host. If you would like to host an outing give me a call. 480-982-7461 B or 480-984-4698 H.

Let's Go Fishing!

With all the rain we have received this winter many of us are just about to climb the walls. Many of our usual outlets have not been fishable. Our upcoming trip to Point of Pines is a wonderful excuse to try out some of that new gear you got at Christmas time and have yet to get wet.

The Green River trip is shaping up nicely with 10 anglers ready to go fishing. There is still time to sign up for many of the other trips being offered this spring and into the rest of the year.

The San Felipe can fit in 16 anglers, and we are over half full. This is a trip where you will need some heavy duty saltwater fly fishing equipment. You don't need to buy all new equipment, but you

need to start early in gathering equipment. Some fly shops have demo rods and reels. Other DFC members have offered to loan out equipment. You can really go through a lot of fly tying material when you are tying up 6 inch deceivers on 3/0 hooks. Speaking of Mexico, I'll be making a few trips to Puerto Penasco if you are interested get in touch.

I am looking forward to the Lee's Ferry trip this summer and fishing big dry flies.

Upcoming Fishing Opportunities

- Mar 11-13 Point of Pines
- Apr 15-17 Seneca Lake
- Apr 28-May 2 Green River

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