

2005 • Desert Fly Casters FORWARD CASTS

DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB



APRIL MEETING:

**Wednesday,
APRIL 13, 2004**
Dinner- 6:00 PM
Meeting- 7:00 PM

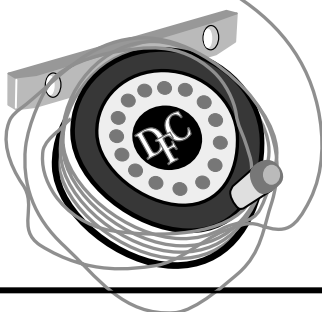
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2005 DFC Pins
on sale at
monthly club
meetings.

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF LIFE:

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.



Presidents Report- April 2005

The Bob Clouser day went off without a hitch. It was very informative and I learned so much about using clousers even when trout fishing. This is something that I have never done but intend to try this year. I want to thank everyone that helped make this a success. Doc Nickel made sure we had a fabulous lunch, Dave Weaver, Gerry Wiement and Bob Harrison did a wonderful job with the sound and video, Bill Thyng was responsible for making Clouser's travel arrangements and ensuring he arrived at the church, Tom Soldat took him to the airport, Doc Nickel and myself gathered raffle prizes, and Gary Walsh found and secured the meeting place. When you see them at the meeting, make sure you let them know how much you appreciate their efforts.

The Casting for Recovery clinic is fast approaching and I want to thank all of those that helped DFC reach its goal. The board voted to donate \$500 and to also match member donations up to an additional \$500. In all, there was a total of over \$2,000 that was raised. This is an amazing contribution.

The Seneca Lake outing is fast approaching! I am hearing some pretty good reports so fishing should be just like it is every year.....OUTSTANDING! This is a great place to go for a beginning of the season outing. You will quickly remember how to hook fish and bring them in. This is one that you don't want to miss. DFC will burgers for Saturday night so be sure and bring a side dish. The dates are April 15th-17th.

Rocky has again outdone himself in finding us a speaker. This month it will be a fisheries biologist from the White Mountain Apache Game & Fish Department.

See you at the meeting!

Cinda Howard, DFC President

DFC APRIL MEETING....

Tim Gatewood, Fisheries Biologist for the White Mountain Apache Game and Fish will present a talk and slide show on fishing opportunities and conditions on the White Mountain Reservation.

April 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 & meatballs, garlic bread, desert. Come early and enjoy dinner with your DFC friends! Dinner is served from 6pm to 7pm.

SENECA RELIVED....Doc Nickel....in his own words



All you fine folks are probably tired of me rehashing the Seneca Outing.... Simply stated it's the easiest place to catch fish on the planet (there are bass, a few catfish, and some huge blugills). Also it's the nearest place to learn lake fishing; 'cause everyone's a teacher or teachers helper, or a teachers pet. Great food and camaraderie! You'll need a reservation permit available, at Tempe Marine or Express store in Globe on the left side of road before the left turn toward Showlow. Lighter wt. rods and lines & tippets finished with old faithful flies; like *Carls Green Wienie, White Mt. Special, almost any beadhead nymph.* If you have a slow sink line, bring it just in case fish get goofy. You can bring boats, but electric motors only, ask about boat rules at license place. You should also bring a little wood for fire pit if you can. Easy access to campground so hard side mansions (like the Bill Figley's), tents & cots under the stars all work. **SEE YA THERE!!!**

EXOTIC FISHING TRIPS WITHIN REACH

by Vince Deadmond

Desert Fly Casters have the opportunity to fish some world class fishing destinations on this years fishing calendar. It is a great opportunity to fish great water and with some outstanding fishermen. It's next to impossible to fish all of scheduled outings, but some of these opportunities are not always available next year. The Green River trip this year is well attended by 12 lucky Desert Fly Casters. The last time the club had a trip to the Green was in the 80's.

It's been three years since the last DFC trip to Lee's Ferry. Who knows when this trip will be offered again? My point, as usual, is to encourage you to do more fishing trips, and one I would really like you to attend is the San Felipe, Mexico trip. We will leave Phoenix Friday, September 2 and stay in a motel before getting on the boat Saturday morning at 9 AM. We will return to San Felipe the Following Thursday afternoon or evening, depending on the tides. We will stay over that evening and return to Phoenix the following morning.

There is no good reason for you to stay home and miss this trip. If you are even thinking about this trip you need to go. If you need a little boost give me a call. 480 984 4698 Here are just a few reasons you should go:

- 1)- Good possibility of landing the largest fish of your fishing life.
- 2)- You need a vacation, why not take a cruise, and fly fish?
- 3)- Fishing the way you want it.
- 4)- The Price is Right.

If this is your first time fishing blue water you will hook the largest fish of your life. Blue water or off shore fishing is where the big fish are. Some years ago, my first trip to San Carlos, Mexico I caught my first Dorado, (30 pounder) on an 8 weight rod. At the time it was the largest fish I had ever caught. That trip inspired me to chase salt water fish wherever I can.

Too many Americans have accumulated vacation days that they never use. You are going to be looking for a place to fish over Labor Day Weekend and the choices in Arizona are poor, at that time of year. Labor Day Weekend on the Sea of Cortez will offer some spectacular fishing opportunities.

Fishing off the mother ship the Erik you will have your own panga captain. You can fish blue water, in shore, or even hit some beaches. Many of you have experienced Puerto Penasco, and the tug of a 1 pound Cabrilla. Can you imagine the tug of a 5 pound Cabrilla, or 5 pound Trigger? I could fish for a week with just those guys and have a blast. Throw in the opportunity to catch Sierra, Corvina, Grouper, Barracuda, Dorado, Skip Jack, Snapper, Ladyfish, Pompano, Yellow Tail, and fish you have never heard of before, and you have a

really exciting fishing menu. Be fishing when the sun comes up, if that is what you want to do; fish until noon, eat take a siesta, and then go out in the afternoon and fish until sundown. Your fish will be marked, put on ice, and filleted while you join your DFC friends on the patio for the catch of the day, a cool drink and a few stories of the days events. (If this trip does not sound like fun, expect a ride to the morgue soon.)

The price is right for this trip. Six day fishing trip, where the room, the guide, and the food are all provided for less than \$200 a day. You can't even camp out at home that cheap. The trip will cost \$1100. All it takes to get on board is a \$250 deposit now and the rest is due 30 days prior to the trip. Give me a call if you are interested 480 984 4698 H or 480 982 7461 B.



CONSERVATION NOTES....with Eric Larsen

The weather is warming up and trout fishing in the high country will soon be here. I'm going start bringing "quat" again to the meetings for the raffle. Quat is a disinfectant that can be sprayed on float tubes and waders to kill aquatic pathogens (diseases). For other invasive hitch-hikers like the New Zealand Mud Snail a hot car or sunlight is the best defense. NZ Mud Snails have been found in the Colorado River at Lee's Ferry (AZGFD, April 2002). Here is advice (per Larry Riley) on preventive measures from the AZGFD press release:

There is no method for removing these snails from the Colorado River at this point. The best approach is to do all we can to minimize the possibility that they are transported to other locations. Signs and information are being placed at the Lees Ferry Boat Ramp to inform the angling and boating public, and asking them to make sure they don't unwittingly transport mud snails to other locations. Anglers and boaters can accomplish this by doing the following.

1)- Inspect and clean fishing gear (waders, boots, nets, etc.) and boats and trailers before leaving a fishing or boating site. Remove any vegetation, mud, or foreign material that may be attached. Drain water from your boat's bilge before you pull away from the site.

2)- Remove the stomach and digestive tract from any harvested fish at the site you catch them. mud snails can be transported in the guts of fish. Dispose of that material in receptacles on site if at all possible. Dispose of any fish remains at a sanitary landfill - don't flush them down your drains at home.

3)- Dry your gear thoroughly between uses at different sites. Our hot Arizona sunshine is an asset. Cleaning and thoroughly drying equipment in the hot sun for several hours can kill mud snails. Washing down equipment with a strong soap solution, rinsing with tap water that drains onto the ground, and drying in the sun should do the trick.

This is a serious threat to Arizona's wildlife resources, and it will take the combined efforts of all of Arizona's citizens to keep it from spreading. Here are some pictures for identification:

Canyon Creek: The Canyon Creek presentation by Dana Bayer and Jim Warnecke of AZGFD at the March meeting covered quite a bit of ground. If you are interested or have questions about Canyon Creek, please call me: H- (480) 833-5311 or email: ffly@cox.net.

Arizona Flycasters will be hosting a Bull Thistle party on Saturday, May 14th at Canyon Creek. They will be camped at the Airplane Flats Campground. Bring your fly rod and some muscles to help rid Canyon Creek of this invasive plant and get some fishing in while you are at it. For more information, you can contact me or email Dick Kennedy of Arizona Flycasters: greyhackle@att.net

Gila Trout Project on the West Fork of Oak Creek: I talked to Dick Brown and he indicated the feasibility study has been completed. The next step is to get the environmental impact study (NEPA) completed.



...*Conservation Notes continued*

Crayfish Traps: As the weather warms in the high country, crayfish trapping will again be something to do. Spring time is when crayfish spawn and trapping them at this time of year is like double-coupon day at the grocery store. You get the crayfish and a whole crop of eggs or baby crawdads. The baby crayfish ride along with the female crayfish for a time before they set out on their own. The picture shows a crayfish with eggs. The eggs on the underside of the crayfish tail looks like blackberries. East and West Forks of the Black River are infested with crayfish along with tributary streams. My favorite stretch to trap crayfish is Burro Creek which runs parallel to the road to Reservation Lake just before you cross the West Fork of the Black River. If you are interested in checking out the crayfish traps email me at ffly@cox.net or catch me at one of the club functions (meetings, outings, etc.) and I'll get them to you.

Walton and his Contemporaries

by Dr. Andrew N. Herd from "History of Fly Fishing"

To all intents and purposes, we know nothing about fly fishing during the interval between the publication of *The Treatyse on Fysshynge with an Angle* and the end of the English Civil War. The Civil War (1642-1651) might have divided the nation and families as history was written in iron and blood, but for us, it had the useful effect of prompting a group of five men to write about fly fishing. The five are: *Thomas Barker, Colonel Robert Venables, Isaac Walton, Charles Cotton and Richard Franck*.

The typical seventeenth century fly fisherman used a twisted horsehair line, tapered from seven hairs or more at the thickest part down to three hairs or less at the point. All lines were home-made, and although horsehair was the rule, pure silk, and silk/horsehair mixes were used on occasion. The line was usually fixed to the top of the rod, in which case the length was less than twice the length of the rod. Some anglers allowed the line run free through a loop at the tip of the rod, the free line being held in the angler's hand, or sometimes attached to a reel. Many fishermen still made their own rods, and a typical specimen might have a cane butt, covered with thin leather or parchment, or painted after the fashion of

the London makers at the time. Cotton used single handed rods up to eighteen feet (!) long, but this was unusual and most rods would have been shorter than that. For the fly-fisherman, hazel was recommended, as it made a long light rod that could easily be managed with one hand. The last two feet of the top was cut off and a 'small shoot of black thorn or crab tree' fitted onto it, the end of this shoot being cut off in turn and replaced with a small piece of tapered whalebone. The reel was fitted onto the rod by a spring clip with a pad of leather or some other material inside, so that it could be attached at any position on the butt.

In the main, fishermen preferred to cast downstream, but the reality was that they must cast downwind, so they would cast upstream if necessary (there was an argument raging about up versus downstream even in Venables' day.) A day's fishing on a winding river might involve several changes of direction of cast; first downstream, then up, as the angle of incidence of the wind on the river changed. The good fisherman tried to cast with the sun at his back, "whipping" the line repeatedly, so that the flies had little time to sink, and as little as possible of the line was drowned. Our model angler prayed for conditions which would make us pack up and go home: wind and coloured water. A windy day was a good day, since it offered the best chance of concealment for the angler; a principle which would hold for another two hundred years.

Walton, a late convert to fly fishing, listed the twelve flies from the *Treatyse*, but Cotton, writing in the fifth edition of the *Complete Angler*, gives us sixty five trout flies, marking the beginning of a huge diversification of patterns. By Cotton's day, there were already marked regional variations in fly patterns, and it seems likely that much development had taken place in the sixteenth century.

We have few details about early salmon flies, but if we read between the lines, a seventeenth century salmon fly might have had a dull body, made of bear's hair, perhaps wrapped in coloured silk, and hackled with cock, pheasant, partridge, or the gaudy feathers of macaw, flamingo or parakeet. The fly might be left as a palmered pattern, or it could be dressed with one, two, or even three pairs of wings, taken from the teal, heron, mallard or falcon. The size of the patterns would have ranged from large trout fly size upwards.



...from Tom Soldat's flybox
BIG LAKE BLACK FLY



Pattern

Thread: 6/0 black

Hook: TMC 2457 Shrimp & Caddis-Size tied is 14, other small hooks also work well

Tail: 3 or 4 strands (tips) crow, pheasant or red feather, slightly shorter than hook length

Body: Dark mottled brown turkey wing or pheasant tail - 3 or 4 quill segments, long enough to wrap to the bead head

Ribbing: A single strand of green Kristal Flash or UV gray

Head: 3/32 Black bright bead

Hackle: Black or bark brown grizzly

Instructions:

Mount bead head on hook and set up in tying vice. Wrap thread just past the barb. Mount the tail feathers, secure with a few turns. Mount kristal flash strand at base of tail and secure with 2 or 3 wraps. Next step is to cut 3-4 turkey, pheasant or crow wing strands long enough to wrap to the bead head, do so and secure. Bring the ribbing around, usually 4 turns will do it, secure against bead with a few turns. A drop of tying cement works well here. Secure a segment of hackle with the tines just slightly longer than the gap of the hook, give it 3 or 4 wraps and lock in place. Secure hackle with a few turns and whip finish.

This is a small fly, fished mostly as a free drift insect, although short strips will solcite strikes. Watch the water, when the small black flies (midges) are flying off, this is a good fly to cast. It works well as a searching fly and we also have had good success at Becker Lake.

This pattern was introduced to me by Dr. Terry Beach, DVM, as an un-weighted fly and of course, I'm tying my own version...Thanks Terry!

DFC SPECIAL....

Flies of the Southwest for Lakes & Streams

List price is \$12.95 and the normal club price is \$10.00

...this month special will be \$8.00.



Bob Clouser Day is tucked away as memories serve to enlighten the coming season for fly tying, the pursuit of trout, and the feel of a bent rod to the cork handle.
Thank you for all DFCer's who participated with Bob Clouser.



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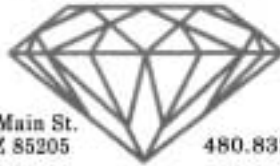
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2005 DFC OUTINGS

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.

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