

2005 • Desert Fly Casters FORWARD CASTS

DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB



MAY MEETING:

Wednesday,
MAY 11, 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.

*"There comes a time in every man's life
when he is either going to go fishing or
do something worse."
HAVILAH BABCOCK*



DFC MEMBER WORKS ON CANYON CREEK



DFC club member Gerry Wiemelt (*left*) works on fence repairs from early rains.



Sizable rainbows stocked in the catch and release area- A good sign of things to come.

....See article on page 3 "Canyon Creek Update"....Great first hand experiences shared and reported. A must project that's going forward with the help of concerned fishing enthusiasts. Look for more details from our club members too. Always room for another volunteer this summer....Let's get Canyon Creek back into our fishing memories for all to enjoy!

DFC MAY MEETING....

Our President, Cinda Howard and others will present a program on our trips to the San Juan and all the great fishing, fun and frivolity on our clubs annual outing to Rizuto's. **MEMBERS PLEASE BRING YOUR PHOTOS OF PAST TRIPS TO THE SAN JUAN!**

May 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: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, veggie and dessert. Come early and enjoy dinner with your DFC friends! Dinner is served from 6pm to 7pm.



DON'T MISS THE BOAT!

by Vince Deadmond

Our ship has come in, almost! That's right, a distinguished group of Desert Fly Casters are planning on taking a cruise on the Erik, a mother ship from San Felipe, Mexico September 3-8. Yes, six days on the Sea of Cortez, fishing with our own captains out of 22' pangas. Even if you are not planning on that saltwater adventure you probably have fantasized about bigger, faster saltwater fish, and would like to try it sometime. If you have not tried it, I encourage you to pursue saltwater fish.

Rods & Reels

Minimum requirement, would be an 8 weight fly rod and a reel with a smooth drag that can hold 200 yards of 20# backing. If you are serious about big fish, you will want to have a 12 weight rod, and a reel that has a good breaking system, and can hold 300 yards of 30# backing. You could still have fun on this trip without every piece of gear from the saltwater fly shop, but you would want to target smaller fish. A 15 pound tuna could destroy your 8 weight rod and Battenkill reel. Ted Bounds and I were looking down at our 12 weights one day, after catching several tuna this size and thinking we would be under gunned if we had been catching 30 pound tuna. If you are fishing blue water you will want the biggest stick and the biggest reel you can afford.

If saltwater is new to you, study your options before you go. Some saltwater destinations the guide will have an adequate number of boat rods for you to use. Some places have rentals for you to try, and buy at a discounted rate. Going to Mexico on the cheap, you will need to secure your own equipment. Borrowing equipment, or buying equipment will require you to study what is available. Assemble your equipment, and test it before your trip, there is no fly shop in many of the places you fish in Mexico, or in this case on the boat.

Fly Patterns

This is not trout fishing, these fish are not selective, and you won't need every saltwater pattern ever tied. If you have a few Clousers and a few Deceivers, you should catch more than a few fish. Your basic Puerto Penasco bait fish patterns in 2"-3" sizes will catch most of the fish that you want to catch. After I had a good supply of those, only then would I worry about larger flies. If I were limited to one pattern and size for this trip I would select a chartreuse over white Clouser, tied on a #2 saltwater hook, tied about 4" long. (You can always shorten them.) After I had plenty of those, I would work on more colors and super size them.

The List

The list I am about to give you is a direct contradiction to my earlier statement, of keeping the number of flies and colors simple. Just remember I have been doing this saltwater thing for a while and I have accumulated a lot of flies. This list is in

descending order of importance. Have more of the smaller flies and the first colors mentioned are the most important. The following selection would be good to have: *Hook size #6-#4 tie 2"-3" long in the following colors, chartreuse/white, tan/white, blue/white, white/white/silver flash, red/yellow, pink, orange, black/purple, black/green. Hook size #4-#2 tie 3"-4" long same colors. Hook size #0/1, 2/0, 3/0 tie 4"-5" long same colors. Hook size #5/0-6/0 tie tandem, two hooks, 80# mono to join them, should finish about 12" long. This fly is for trolling, make it big and ugly, use 1/2 a chicken for the feathers, it's alright if it looks like a feather duster.*

Bring your fly tying equipment, we will have time to knock out several flies on the way down. I like synthetic material for saltwater, usually the material is longer than buck tail, and more durable. Some of my latest saltwater flies are tied with extra select craft fur, lots of crystal flash, some super hair, and super glue, and finished with hard as nails. If you have your tying equipment you can tie the hot fly of the day, and build some saltwater fly box inventory. Tying large flies eats lots of material, plan accordingly.

CONSERVATION NOTES....with Eric Larsen

Here we are in May already. Please see the article on the update on Canyon Creek. This month I wanted to give you an update on native fish projects around the state. We have the potential to angle for fish that evolved in native habitat water. Native fisheries won't replace popular fishing destinations in the state. We will still have the opportunity and variety to fish for our favorite cold and warm water species of fish. In the more remote areas however, our native wildlife heritage may once again be restored. The environmental controversy in the Grand Canyon has, I think, given native fishes a bad name. There are many opportunities in the state to restore the natives to our fisheries. It makes sense and it is the right thing do.

Please keep this in mind as you the read the following updates.

White Mountain Apache Trout: Last summer 5 of 6 barriers were constructed on the Little Colorado River (LCR) drainage. This summer work will be going on to backfill those barriers and begin the construction of the last barrier on the South Fork of LCR. The AZGFD will be looking for help to put signage on the streams about the Apache Trout restoration projects. We also need to continue to trap crayfish on the Black River drainage. While trapping won't eradicate crayfish, it might slow them down a bit from the damage they do to the habitat.

West Fork of Oak Creek Gila Trout Project: The feasibility study has documented that it is feasible to go forward with a project to restore Gila

Fly Lines and Leaders

Usually you are fishing a bait fish pattern, you will want an intermediate sink line, or a fast sink line, or a shooting head with a fast sink. If you have some poppers you would want your floating line. Conditions may change, and you may need to change your fly line, bring anything you have, even an old line is better than no line. Remember there is no fly shop on board. I have seen fish destroy a brand new fly line the first day, it's a good idea to have a back up plan. A spare spool of backing would not be a bad idea either.

The fish in the Sea of Cortez are not leader shy. You will not need anything fancy. My favorite is a 3' piece of 40# mono double nail knotted to a 3' piece of 20 # mono. This simple inexpensive leader will catch lots of fish for you. I usually tie several before a trip, and roll them up in small bags just like the ones you buy in the fly shop.

By now you are probably sea sick of me telling you what to bring on a saltwater trip. When you are on a long fishing trip, with no chance to just purchase what you need, it is really hard to bring enough stuff. So, again I encourage you to bring extras, I'll need to borrow something!

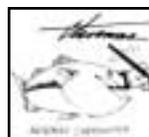
Trout to this drainage. The next step is to do the environmental study and project plan. The efforts to get the Gila Trout downlisted on the endangered species list has stalled out in Washington D.C.

Spruce, Dude and Raspberry Creeks: The Spruce Creek stocking of gila trout did not work out. The AZGFD is going to try to restock. Dude Creek will also be restocked. There is a half to three quarters of a mile of Raspberry Creek that was spared destruction from last year's forest fire. A major part of Raspberry Creek was destroyed by the fire. Raspberry was a reproducing stream prior to the fire. The upper part that still is in good shape will receive a supplemental stocking of gila trout. I was talking with Scott Gurtin of the AZGFD about why the difficulties with getting gila trout successfully restored. Probably the biggest factor impacting restoration projects has been the record-breaking drought (low water) and forest fires. There are other factors too making it an up-hill effort to get wild populations of gila trout started and self-sustaining.

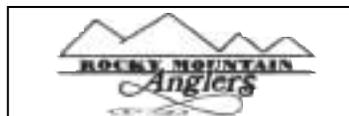
Blue River (Eastern Arizona): A cold and warm water native project is in the early stages in the Blue River and Eagle Creek drainages. The plan is to restore gila trout in the high elevation waters such as Chitty, KP and Grant Creeks and roundtail chub, razorback sucker and various small dace fish species for warm water habitats.

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Fossil Creek: Fossil Creek is located below the Mogollon Rim between Strawberry and Camp Verde. Fossil Creek is a warm water fishery that empties into the Verde River. Here's an update from David Weedman from the AZGFD:

The Fossil Creek Native Fish Restoration Team is hopeful that our follow-up efforts have been sufficient in removing the potential for re-invasion of Fossil Creek by nonnative fish. Heavy rainfall over the winter did result in some significant floods in Fossil Creek, which removed some aquatic vegetation and re-configured some channels and pools. However, the stream habitat remains functional and intact. During recent monitoring activities there were abundant young native fish found in Fossil Creek in the vicinity of the replaced natives held in captivity during treatment. The expected return of full flows to Fossil Creek by APS when they cease their diversion and power production is in late May 2005. The Restoration Team activities for 2005 are for continued monitoring of the fish community and for implementation of outreach signage and information to inform visitors about the project, its goals and significance, and for their support in maintaining a native fish habitat in Fossil Creek free from the presence of nonnative fish. The Arizona Game and Fish Commission has closed the creek to fishing through the end of 2006 by Commission Order. Prior to lifting of that closure the Game and Fish Department will evaluate the fish community response to the renovation, its ability to re-populate the treated area and its ability to support the return of recreational fishing. The potential exists for good angling opportunity on roundtail chub, Arizona's only warm-water native sportfish. However, we will have to weigh the recreational potential on roundtail with the possibility that some anglers may want to ILLEGALLY reintroduce smallmouth bass, green sunfish or even other species for their future fishing recreation. The principal purpose of the Fossil Creek Native Fish Restoration Project was not to provide for angling of roundtail chub, but to provide a habitat where native species could survive in the absence of non-native predatory and competitive species of fish, and to provide habitat for the potential reintroduction and recovery of other disappearing endangered fish species. The illegal introduction of non-native fish back to Fossil Creek would put the Department's native fish management objectives, in Fossil Creek and statewide, in jeopardy.

...Canyon Creek Update

by Jim Warnecke, Gerry Wiemelt; Compiled by Eric Larsen

Gerry Wiemelt had the opportunity to work on the existing elk fence in April. The fence was damaged from the rains earlier this year. Here are Gerry's thoughts on the experience: "...it was fun working with the AZGFD. We had 6 or 7 AZGFD and forest service guys and gal (Dana) working.

We met at 7 AM in Mesa and I got home at 8 PM. Dana said she thought they could use 20-25 volunteers for future work outings, so you might want to start lining them up. You can count on me as one of them. Dana also said she would try to allow time for fishing on the work days."

At this point, we're not sure if the fence outing will be June or July. It's looking like July but the paperwork might move a little faster.

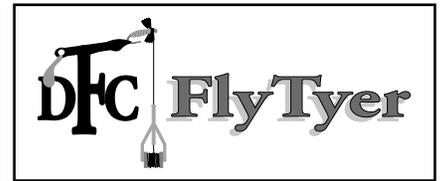
Here's what Jim Warnecke of the AZGFD has to say about Canyon Creek and the fishing: We did stock the upper (above OW) area of Canyon creek with rainbows (8-10") weekly for our put-and-take fishery in summer 2004. There has been no stocking of lower (below OW) Canyon creek until last week when we stocked 500 browns that ran between 8-12". Also this week we'll stock some sizeable rainbows in the Catch and Release area below OW, about 200, that will run large at about 12-14" in size. Both species were (and will be) spread out along at least 1 mile of stream reach below the OW bridge when stocked (down to our reach marker "5A"). This will conclude our stocking below OW for this year. We did this to provide some additional angling recreation in the stream within this restricted area (regs. remain the same below OW, only art. flies and lures, all trout must be returned to the water immediately, none kept).

Unfortunately we found out only recently that a salvage logging contract was let for the area and all vehicular access to upper and lower Canyon creek will be restricted (not allowed) from now until about mid-June. The USFS is following up behind the loggers also to remove some hazardous trees that remain along the road in within campgrounds. You can hike or bike in down the hill to the stream, but no vehicle access. We'll do a press release when the roads open up again, best guess by the district Ranger was June 15 or so.

A little background. We were reluctant to stock fish in below the OW up to this point because:

- 1)- In-stream habitat (particularly pools) was poor. The strategy for a reproducing brown trout population appears marginally up to this point in time. The winter flooding has changed lots of habitats down there, we will document that this summer and see how things may have improved.
- 2)- We wanted to allow populations of the two native fish species, speckled dace and desert

...continued on page 4



...from Eric Larsen's flybox
Month-Red & White Hair Bass Bug



Pattern

Hook: Mustad 3366 #2-#6 (Bass hook; picture #6)

Thread: Danville Flymaster 6/0 Black; Gudebrod Clear G thread

Tail: Deer Bucktail White (or Red, Yellow, Fl. Green)

Body: White & Red Antelope (or Deer Hair)

Spring time is the time to go fly fishing for bass and this year the desert lakes are a record levels. Lots of panfish in the under 13 inch size. Don't forget there's a slot limit at Roosevelt.

Bass bugs can be as simple or complicated as you want to make them. The tail is about a hook's length long. Because you are spinning hair, tying in the tail can be tricky: use only a small portion of the hook shank to tie in the tail. I start by wrapping a black thread-base on the hook. Select a small portion of bucktail, stack in a hair stacker, brush out any underfur and short hairs. Measure the tail and clip the butts so they are even. Wrap the hair so it sits on top of the hook with one loose turn of the thread and several very tight turns. Cover hair butts with thread and whip finish (yes, it's kind of awkward). Use head cement or Zap-a-Gap on the thread to secure the tail to the hook and let the cement dry. Start the clear G thread on the last thread wrap of the tail. Clip the hair to spin and use a hair stacker to even the tips. Brush out the underfur and short hairs. Tie in the hair with the tips pointing toward the bend of the hook where the thread is at about 1/2 length of the hair with tight turns. The hair on the thread part of the hook won't spin well so you might have to tie in smaller clumps of hair on the bottom and sides of the fly at the tail. Once you are spinning hair (tips toward the bend) hair on the bare hook shank, do tight wraps around the hair and the hair will rotate (or spin) and butts flare on the hook. Hold the hook bend with your thumb and forefinger to "pack" the hair toward the hook bend as hard as you can. Continue the process until you get to mid-shank of the hook. Here is where you can change hair colors and continue the spinning process to the eye of the hook. Whip finish a small head and cement the G thread. Trim the hair to shape with a razor blade or scissors. Dab a thin coat of head cement on the face of the fly.

Spinning hair takes some practice so don't get discouraged if you have difficulty on the first couple of flies. Then go catch some panfish!!!!

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sucker, to build. These two resident species also provide forage for the browns.

3)- Water temperatures in this lower portion of Canyon creek soar in mid-summer, reaching 80F plus in some areas (documented by our temp loggers that are installed in the stream for a 6 month period of time that measure temps every 15 mins.). This restricts survival of trout in a good portion of that lower stream area, again not conducive for reproducing brown trout populations.

Last week we repaired a good portion of the fence within the OW enclosure immediately below the bridge that will protect the budding willows and other woody plants from elk browsing. Casual observations of the creek by Dana and I seemed to indicate quite a flushing of the silts from pools but also quite a bit of cutting of the banks and deepening (down-cutting) of the channel. Saw some good inverts. as well, however. Our Riparian fence building project is still a go and will still happen regardless of public road closures within the Canyon creek area.

I'm in Globe

by Eric Larsen

I look forward to the Seneca Lake outing every year because it usually is the first dry fly fishing I get to do of the season. Seneca Lake has a rich aquatic insect habitat and I like to figure out what's happening while I'm fishing. Last year, I discovered a Water Boatman in the lake. And, yes, the Caribou Boatman fly caught fish this year.

My youngest son, James, and his friend were my fishing partners on this year's outing to Seneca Lake. By club rules, my membership includes people in my household. James' friend(s) spend almost as much time at the house as James does. In fact, there's a fairly regular "refrigerator hatch" that happens either at 11am or 11pm. The evening hatch can turn a well stocked refrigerator into a cavernous carcass. The morning hatch is a dozen eggs, a couple pounds of bacon and hash browns or frozen waffles or cold leftover pizza or all of the above. I've thought about claiming some of James' friends on my income tax return but I think I would be pushing my luck.

Last summer, we took James' friend fishing for the first time in the White Mountains. He learned to use a fly rod and catch fish. Many of James' friends have never been fishing or camping. If they have, it's just been a couple times and never have tried fly fishing. After all, they need to learn the proper way to catch a trout. Now, James' friend is a dedicated fly fisherman.

For the morning, we fished a sinking line. The water was 63 degrees and the air temperature felt like it was in the 80's. The boys had float tubes

and I was taking my new pontoon boat out for the first time. Damsel nymph patterns are a pretty sure bet on Seneca. In fact, Seneca Lake seems to have the most varied color adult damsel flies I've ever seen. They range from the standard blue color to tan to a ginger type color. I tied on my Chukar Peacock Lady with a damsel dropper and caught a trout and a bluegill on the damsel nymph. The boys were fishing with damsel nymphs and James was using a peacock lady tied with a black dyed pheasant crest feathers for a tail. He was catching fish on that pattern which I found interesting but didn't know until later it was a clue.

The lake was pretty busy on the Saturday we were there for the outing. There were two guys trolling in a big (for Seneca anyway) aluminum boat doing what I dubbed later as the Seneca 500 (named after the famous car race the Indy 500). These guys seemed to be cruising by every 15 minutes or so. There was a whole flotilla of float tubes and pontoon boats of which we were a part of the fleet.

For the afternoon, we rigged up with floating line to fish shallow and be ready for the first rise. The afternoon was windy and an insect hatch seemed to be in jeopardy. I kept watch and I saw only a couple mayfly spinners. It looked like we might be in for a midge hatch. The fish started to come to the surface but I couldn't tell what the bugs were. I overheard conversations where guys were catching fish on elk hair caddis flies and a parachute adams. I even heard a couple philosophical discussions on just what dry fly fishing is. I have my own definition: true dry fly is fishing a fly where the only man-made materials are the hook, thread and maybe a drop of head cement. The fly is "dried" by false casts. Floatant on a fly is not true dry fly fishing and emergers are below the surface film. I fish all the "dry" fly fishing methods but "true" dry flies are the sweetest of all. The only insect I could see flying over the water was this gangly looking thing that flew like a helicopter and was about 1/2 of inch long. Kind of like a mosquito on steroids. The insect was a crane fly and of course I wasn't prepared for a crane fly hatch! The classic larva pattern for a crane fly is a black girdle bug #8 or, if you will, a black woolly bugger. I got some strikes on a midge pattern I tied on but basically botched the hatch altogether.

I stayed out on the water until dark. I like the solitude and peace of being the only person on the lake. We packed up and headed into Globe for something to eat (and a bathroom). We were sitting in a restaurant eating a breakfast dinner and talking about how the boys had done. James' friend caught trout and his first fish on a dry fly (a prototype pattern of mine). While were talking about eagles and ospreys, James got a call on his cell phone from one his friends. James says to the person, "I'm in Globe." There was a certain

inflection in the way that James said those words that James' friend and I found totally hilarious. We joked about the expression "I'm in Globe" on the drive back to Mesa.

After reflecting on why I found the expression so funny, I think I came to an understanding. Globe is one of those places where I never actually go as a destination. It's a place to stop going to or from someplace else. More often than not I go through Globe on fishing trips. I have to say there have been times after several cups of coffee, I have been extremely happy to arrive in Globe for a pit stop. I think we all have those transitional places where we stop regularly when we are going someplace but never have put a name to it. I can take one step farther where I have places like that in life where I mentally go as I transition from one life change to the next. Now, I have a name for it: "I'm in Globe." So, if you ever ask how I'm doing and I say "I'm in Globe," you'll know what I mean.

Roosevelt Outing

We didn't get enough people to sign up to reserve the Grapevine group site at Roosevelt Lake. Hopefully, we can work this outing in for next year. I'm still thinking about going up on a Saturday for a day trip. I'll contact those who expressed an interest and see if we can work out a day that works for the majority of people. I have been told that the fishing by the Grapevine Cove boat ramp can be good. That's where I would start. Jim Warnecke suggests that just about any place with submerged brush will likely hold fish. ERIC LARSEN at: em1web@cox.net

WHY WE FISH...

by Tom Soldat

One of the things this sport (activity) brings to us are the very special times we seek and enjoy.

I say "activity" as opposed to sport. Sport dictates goal or scoring, as it is in all ball sports, the most scored points wins. Golf, lowest stroke count gets the big check.

I look at the "activity" of fishing differently. The goal: to enjoy the time at hand. No goals to score, no points, no winners nor losers. Perhaps fishing provides so many things we find of value in our lives: solace, interaction with nature, interaction with our families either one on one or as a group, interaction with friends and people we like, respect and admire.

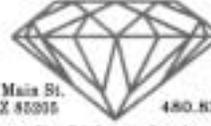
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These are the events that give weight (value) to our lives in the way that a large fish on the end of our line provides the satisfaction and gratification of what Joan Wolf would say "the weight and feel of life and strength on the end of your rod." I like the feel of another creature's muscle force and the fact that one of the flies I've tied was acceptable enough to be taken by a large fish, or any fish for that matter...

By myself (solace) or with friends, the enjoyment alone or shared, flows.

I never knew either of my Grandfathers. They were both gone before I was born, it gives me special pleasure to see Bill and his grandson as well as Rocky and his interacting with fishing the vehicle that carries them on this valuable journey/experience.

I am envious. This envy is a good envy. This is the envy of appreciation for them allowing me to share some of their experiences... What a deal!

So it is with Desert Fly Casters.

Our day with Bob Clouser was one of those very special times.

On a very beautiful spring day, we had the pleasure of sharing time with a very knowledgeable, direct and informative fisherman-guide-fly tier. Expert fly tier.

Starting out in the A.M., Bob demonstrated casting techniques. I can only speak for myself, his style and information were very welcome as an upgrade to my fly line casting.

I was not a very proficient fly caster, but Bob's calm and Grandfatherly attitude in dealing with less experienced fishermen and women was refreshing.

The hula-hoop aiming technique really helped me and his using the measuring tape to "cast along the line" helped me to make casting with much less effort and more accuracy. Distance is still being worked on...

The visual fly-tying set up was excellent with everyone being able to see the tying details clearly.

To those who helped set this up, I want them to

know how much it was appreciated. It was a very professional job and your efforts paid off.

I understand the videos that were produced turned out to be of high quality and Cinda said she was very pleased at the results.

I'm looking forward to checking them out to see for myself. I highly recommend to those who have an interest in tying to review them.

Bob's minnow imitation "Clouser" is an excellent fly to fish with as well as tie.

I know, my minnows have caught fish... but I wanted to know how the inventor of this great fly "ties-it-right."

I say this not only out of great respect for the fly but as well for the creator. Most of us have found this fly catches fish. We usually agree that if you tie it as it "should be tied" we get more fish as well as the gratification from a job well done.

The afternoon was a mixture of tying and casting with Bob providing details and presenting a slide show on small mouth bass fishing and the guide service he provides. We shared a good lunch at the break and as we usually do, held a raffle. Let me share a little something with our newer members. (Heck, I've only been in the club for about five years) about our club raffles. It is very much worthwhile to put in a few dollars.

Having taken part in many raffles, I've won a few things. Bob Clouser Day and Rocky's grandson Todd made this even more special for me. Thanks to Todd's good hand, I won a beautiful 4 wt Powell and a 6 wt Sage rod. I feel a little guilty about this but this is the point. It's fun to have a raffle and the club receives good benefits. By the way, the Powell casts like a dream and I've already caught fish on it! Thanks Todd and DFC!

Bob took questions from the group and I liked his teaching style of answering. He has had a successful fishing life and his understanding being clearly presented back to us. I especially liked the way he talked about baitfish. What a toothy-creature does to

a school, how the minnows react and how the attackers bite and swallow their prey.

He presented his tying techniques with equal clarity. We learned the correct way to remove and cut bucktail as well as how to tell the best kind to purchase.

Showing how to remove the underfur, picking the deer hair strands to best suit the size hook you've chosen as well as how to correctly cut and thread wrap those strands of hair correctly on the hook.

One thing I really enjoy about fishing "activity." I can find out how to produce a certain fly. I don't have to re-create the wheel. I can follow solid steps to tie a successful fly. It is when I've achieved a certain proficiency that we can then modify the fly to what we think might appeal to fish. Solid steps as well as free-form...A childhood fantasy.

This is what a day with Bob Clouser was all about. Spending time with people we like and enjoy. Gaining knowledge and transferring and sharing knowledge. Sharing love and affection with our families and the people we care about.

This is why we fish.

Thank you Bob Clouser and thank you Desert Fly Casters!

...from Rocky's Journal- Trippin' to Utah *Rocky Minster*

Some lucky members are about to embark on a wonderful fishing trip to the Flaming Gorge on Utah's Green River. My Brother in law from Colorado and I fished the "A" section in August of 2003. We stayed at the Red Canyon Lodge which has a real nice catch and release lake and a restaurant with fabulous food

I keep a brief journal of my trips and the following is directly from it, Flaming Gorge Green River, Utah August 23, 2003. "What a time! What beautiful scenery! What great fishing! We stayed at Red Canyon Lodge. Don and Viki got in right after us. Met another couple who were going to also fish the next day, They were bragging on their "World Famous Guide" who was coming in to fish with them. That afternoon we fished the lake at

the lodge. Caught some nice rainbows from the dock. Don got in his float tube but we did better from the dock. The next morning we met our guide, Doug Roberts, He told us to throw our gear in his boat and pointed it out, he had a beat up drift boat hooked to an old Blazer with cracked windows and full of empty cans and junk! I saw the couple we had met getting into a brand new Cadillac Escalade, pulling one of those fancy varnished wood drift boats.

We go to the river and started fishing. It started out slow by the dam using double ugly dries, caught a few 12"-14". Drifted down a ways, used nymphs w/ a dropper and caught a few larger.

Doug said, "Want to catch some BIG ones?" and took us through some rapids and switched to

a large sculpin (a pattern he tied) w/ a copper john dropper. WOW! We started catching 20"ers. Total for the day was 50 plus, Browns, Rainbows and Cutthroats,

That evening as we were having dinner, the couple we had met were seated next to us. They asked how we had done, so I told them; then inquired about their day. They caught 3 fish the entire day. I think there's a moral here. Fancy equipment isn't all that's needed!


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May 15 & 16 • Trip to Rim Lakes fishing
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June 17-19 White Mountain Spectacular

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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.

SUCCESS AT SENECA...AGAIN *Doc Nickel...in his own words*

Those of you that didn't heed to last month articles' advise missed out...not only about fishing- but some really neat other "STUFF."

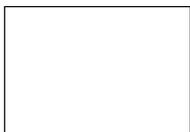
The fishing, catching" was great. Everyone caught some fish of some kind. As we mentioned in last months 's article there are bass in that lake. Well Ole' Dr. Dickles' Jim Dickson's" record 2.5 pounder was erased by a super 5-5 1/2 pound lunker, by Gerry Wiemelt. Several "340 gram" coffee can sized blue gills were also taken.

It was exciting to see several new faces on the water, as usual they received plenty of instruction in valuable advise. It sure helps the "newbies."

The evening "stuff" was great. Monster burgers were tardy as usual, but that was offset by some excellent salmon "TO-DIE-FOR," with Mango sauce, from John and Karen Clawson. The classic campfire surrounded by everyone in a circle was the "coolest," and by "coolest" I mean a Dutch-oven Blueberry pie "thingy," topped with vanilla ice cream from Mark Lucht.

Speaking of "stuff," other than fishing, the short trip to view the stunning 200 ft. high Seneca Falls, rainbow mist & all was the best.....*Thanks to all the helpers and "food bringers!!!"*

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