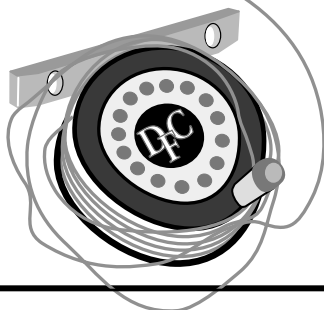


# FORWARD CASTS

DESERT FLY CASTERS A BARBLESS CLUB

**AUGUST MEETING:****Wednesday,  
August 8, 2007**PIZZA and Chit-Chat at 6:00 PM  
Meeting- 7:00 PMAmerican Legion Post #2  
2125 S. Industrial Park Ave.  
in Tempe

## President's Drift

*Notes from Cinda Howard*

*August is one of the slower fishing months of the year but it should really pick up next month and be in full swing in October when the browns begin to spawn in the high country. This month I thought I would print a list of streams that offer some of the best fishing in the state. Each of these is located in the White Mountains.*

**Black River (West Fork)**

Length: 8 miles. Elev. 6,520 to 7,525 ft. Access from same as the East Fork, continuing on FR 25 to Wildcat Point. This section of the Black River is more difficult to reach but offers an excellent example of Arizona's beauty with grassy meadows and tall pines. The area to the reservation border is brushy and weedy, but there's always the possibility of catching lunker browns in hiding pools.

**Black River (East Fork):** Length: 8 miles. Elev. 7,525 to 7,900 ft. Access north of Hannagan Meadow at Beaver Creek; and from U.S. 191 and FR 26 along Beaver Creek; or from U.S. 191 to FR 249 and FR 276 to the Black River. This is one of the most beautiful stretches of the Black River with the high elevation vegetation and wildlife including: elk, bear, and turkey. The river is stocked weekly in the summer with rainbow trout, but watch out for beaver dams. Campgrounds, located at Buffalo Crossing and at points farther upstream, are open during the summer.

**Big Bonita Creek**

Length: 11 miles. Elev. 5,250 to 7,000 ft. Access by reservation roads Y55, Y40, and Y70, southeast of Fort Apache. Hike or backpack down to the creek. Big Bonito Creek flows through the Bonito Prairie. Bonito is the Spanish word for pretty. The canyon walls are filled with oak, willow, and cottonwood trees. Cool, clear waters spill over the rocks into the pools of brown and rainbow trout. The area has spectacular beauty and many hunters come during the seasons for mountain lion, bear, and javelina. White Mountain Apache fishing permit required.

**Diamond Creek**

Length: 11 miles. Elev. 5,600 to 7,500 ft. Access by SR 73 between Whiteriver and Hon Dah to RR25 on the White Mountain Reservation. This beautiful creek in the White Mountains is home to rainbow, brown, and Apache trout. The eastern branch of Diamond (called Little Diamond) may have some small trout, but some of this area is closed to non-Apaches. This high elevation area combines grassy meadows, tall spruce and fir, with stands of aspen and ponderosa pine. This is a very overlooked stream and holds wild browns and apaches. White Mountain Apache fishing permit required.

*...Small Stream notes continued on page 2*

### August Tying Session, Tuesday, August 21st at 7:00 p.m.

At this month's tying session we will be tying patterns for the San Juan River. We haven't decided which patterns to tie so just bring what you have and we will supply the rest. This month we will meet at Bill Thyng's house at 1355 E. Toledo in Gilbert. For more information or directions, you can call Bill at (480) 786-3440

**DFC AUGUST PROGRAM....**

**We've got plenty lined up for an evening of fun and information. So make sure you come on in, have a pizza and check things out. Don't forget to bring a friend....we always like to see new people with our club!**

## Cinda's Small Stream Notes - *continued*

### Little Colorado River

Length: Varies. Elevation 7,000 - 9,000 Ft. This river was originally called Flax River by early Spanish explorers because of the abundance of wild flax growing along its banks. The East Fork is about six miles of very narrow creekbed and flowing water from Colter Reservoir to Greer. Just a few small brookies and rainbows swim here. The West Fork begins atop Mt. Baldy and flows north of Lee Valley to Sheep's crossing on into Greer. In the upper reaches you'll find a few brook trout; and around Greer a few small browns. The South Fork runs north, just east of Greer and flows into the main tributary. There's a campground and cabin resort at South Fork (FR 560) and hiking trail #97 takes you back upstream. The area around Greer is quite impressive with its rolling meadows, wildflowers and forests.

### Pacheta Creek

Access at Pacheta Lake using Y-55 and Y-40. Walking up and down the shoreline is the best way to fish this small creek. The stream may be pretty brushy in some places. Pacheta isn't stocked, but some fish move from the lake and there are some natural spawners. This is some of the most beautiful and remote country of Arizona with dozens of miles of stream seeing no anglers all year. White Mountain Apache permit required.

### Paradise Creek

Length: 3 miles. Elev. 7,500 ft. There are good campsites below the confluence of Paradise Creek and White River. Paradise Creek is open for fishing the first 3 miles southeast of the junction of the North Fork of White River, just downstream from Ditch Camp. Small and brushy and often difficult to fish, it is stocked by White Mountain Apache Game and Fish during summer. White Mountain Apache permit required.

### Silver Creek

Length: 1-2 miles fishable. Elev. 6,500 ft. Accessible north of Show Low on U.S. 60 and FR 918 just past turnoff to Silver Creek Estates. Rainbow trout are stocked by Game and Fish in the spring. Some very large native spawners have been caught from this stream in early spring as they move up out of White Mountain Lake and below the private hatchery at Silver Springs (this section opens October 1st and closes April 1st)..

After about May, Silver Creek is too warm for good fishing. Early settlers who built homes along the creek named it because it was "clear and silvery."

### White River (North Fork)

(North Fork): Length: 50 miles. Elev. 5,000 (south of Fort Apache) to 6,800 ft. Best access to the upper reaches of North Fork is by using Upper Log Road or the Roberts Ranch turnoff. Other popular access points are the McCoy Bridge off SR 473, south of SR 260. The North Fork and East Fork of White River join at Fort Apache to form the White River, which flows into what was the Black River, creating the Salt River. Early reports tell that the river was called Sierra Blanca River (or White Mountain River). This most popular White Mountain stream is fished in heavy numbers and is a major draw for camping and picnicking families. The Apaches stock it twice a week throughout the spring and summer, plus there are many native spawners. Apaches and brown are the best catches in the upper reaches. White Mountain Apache permit required.

### White River-Ditch Camp (North Fork)

3 miles of the North Fork are fly and lure and catch and release only. The area begins where R-71 (the first road to the right past Horseshoe Cienega Lake) crosses the North Fork and ends about 3 miles upstream at the next road crossing. Mostly brown trout. Good place to get away from the crowd. White Mountain Apache permit required.

## FFF NOTES...

*from Rocky Minster*

**The FFF is supporting a bill to allow better access to anglers.** Known as the "Open Fields Bill", more information to come. I know I've gotten frustrated at times in Colorado trying to find the public access to streams.

Another note the FFF has begun a strategic plan for Warm Water Fisheries. This may be of interest to our Arizona Fishermen and women. There is growing interest in Flyfishing our desert lakes for Bass.

The Special Signup opportunity continues through Dec. 31, 2007. You can join the FFF for a reduced rate of \$15.00 for one year membership. New members or those who have not been a paid member for 3 years are eligible. New members qualify for credit towards the "New Member Rod" incentive program. To receive credit, the membership form must include our club name and be signed by the Club President. For every 12 new members, the club will receive a TFO 8'6" 5wt. Professional Rod to raffle. I will have membership forms at our August meeting. We are over half way to or first rod. Here's a great chance to help our club and the FFF. Let's get more involved with the Federation and support all it does for us Flyfishers.

The important thing in putting together an outfit is not to look for a line that will sail across the Missouri or a rod that will toss a lead sinker over the post office, but a modest set of tools designed to baffle a trout lying in plain sight.

A.J. MCCLANE (1963)

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## San Juan Update

If you are signed up for the San Juan Outing October 20th through the 23rd, your money is due at the August meeting. If you are not signed up and would like to go, there are still a couple of spots available. Please see me at the meeting or give me a call. (480) 217-5089 -Cinda

## August outing – Mogollon Rim • August 18 & 19.

The monsoons haven't kicked in yet but you should plan on an afternoon rain storm. You can fish through it unless there is thunder and lightening in the vicinity. However one of our members advises that if you are on the far side of the lake and the cell stalls over the lake, you can get a real test of your rain gear and patience.

I will have a sign up sheet at the August meeting. I am planning to camp in the open camping area off of Forest road 171. There are designated – numbered sites that allow up to 10 people per site along this road. There will be a sign on the message board at the turn off onto the 171 with DFC and the site number. If we have more than 10 people sign up, I will look into places that allow larger groups. Directions to get there are Highway 87 to Payson. Highway 287 out of Payson to the top of the Mogollon Rim. Stay on Highway 287 for about a mile past the turn off to Willow Springs. Take the Old Young Road turn off to Forest Road 171. The Young Road and Forest road are dirt/ gravel. There will be a bit wash boarded but should accommodate almost any vehicle. A 2nd choice for camping will be to stay in the campground at Willow Springs or Woods Canyon at cost of \$12 per night.

The plan is to fish Willow Springs Saturday morning and Woods Canyon on Sunday morning. Of course this is subject to change if reports that one or the other is fishing better.

I have an extra tent - rated for 4 people but 2 is more like it. I, also, will have an extra pontoon and U-Tube for some of the beginners that haven't acquired one yet. You will need to get in touch with me in advance to request one of these. Even though this is a short trip compared to White Mountains, with the cost of gas, we should coordinate travel and share rides as much as possible. I will be leaving early Friday afternoon on the 17th and can take along a couple people. Let me know when you are planning to leave and I will try to let people know the common times for ride sharing or caravan.

*Bob Harrison*

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## OUTINGS- 2007

Below are preliminary dates for 2007 club outings, if you would like to host an outing and have a particular place in mind please feel free to contact me and we will get it schedule. REMEMBER without the members help there would be no outings. To host an outing all that you have to do is schedule the date and place and then be there for the outing.

**August – 18th and 19th Mogollon Rim  
(Hosted by Bob Harrison)**

**September – 6th thru 9th (Thursday-Sunday)  
The Ranch at Southfork located on the Little Colorado River  
Hosted by Charlie Rosser (480-586-7163)**

**October - 20th to 23rd San Juan River  
(Hosted by Cinda Howard)**

**November – 2nd to 4th Rocky Point  
(Hosted by Doc Nickel)**

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