

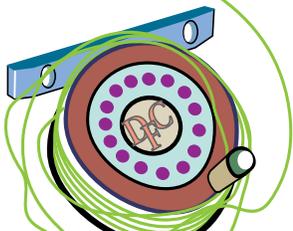
FORWARD CASTS

OFFICIAL DESERT FLY CASTERS NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER
Wednesday,
October 11, 2017
Chit-Chat & Dinner: 6:00
Meeting/Guest Speaker: 7:00

Elks Lodge
1775 West Chandler Blvd.
Chandler, Arizona 85224



President's Drift

Frank Schettino - October 2017



Greeting fellow DFC'ers,

Its October, the temps are starting to cool down and the fishing will start picking up. Reports say that the fishing on the Rim and White Mountains is fair to good depending on where you are. I did hear about some of our members having some success.

Just because the temps are cooling off outside doesn't mean the action at DFC is. This month our very own Gentry Smith will be presenting his exciting and informative presentation on fishing small streams.

This is something you won't want to miss.

At the meeting you'll also catch reports on the Queen Creek outing with Project Healing Waters, the San Juan trip. *See you all at the October meeting.*

Tight lines,
Frank Schettino

DFC Club Meeting October 11, 2017

Gentry Smith

The October meeting will feature DFC's resident trout bum, *Gentry Smith*. Join us as he explores Arizona's scenic backcountry and shares helpful insights to improve your small stream game.

See you on the 11th of October at our monthly club gathering.

Come meet-up with us Trout Bums...6:00 Dinner... 7:00 Club Meeting, followed by your monthly program along with fun and raffle prizes!



DFC MISSION STATEMENT

To advance the sport of fly fishing in Arizona through education, conservation and community outreach efforts by:

- *Providing Education classes and clinics on fly fishing, fly casting, fly tying, rod building and other associated skills*
- *Committing to conserve, restore, and enhance local and regional fisheries*
- *Making fishing approachable, enjoyable and safe in family friendly environment*
- *Promoting responsible angling practices*

CATCH US HERE:

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DFC Outings to keep in mind...

DFC ANNUAL ROCKY POINT EXTRAVAGANZA



Put saltwater fly fishing on that bucket list, come along and join the DFC Trout Bums for their 54th annual Pescador Extravaganza in Puerto Penasco, Mexico.

Wednesday, October 25 - Monday, October 30, 2017



DFC Stuff & Things to keep in mind...

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND:

HAVE DFC LOGO PRINTED ON YOUR FISHING SHIRTS!

Please bring your fishing shirts to the Oct. or Nov. meetings to have the DFC logo printed on your shirts. The cost is \$10. Any questions you can catch me, Jerry King, at 480-766-9170 or by e-mail at: webfootking@aol.com.

**...COMING SOON!!
...CLOSE AT HAND!!
...ON THE HORIZON!!**

• DFC Banquet will be February 2018 •
Be the 1st DFC Trout Bum to plan early!!

SAN JUAN RIVER TRIP REPORT



Lots of things happened before the trip to bring our numbers down to 10 people going to the San Juan. They were 10 lucky people because it was a great trip.

Good weather and lots of fish, and big fish. Everyone involved reported a good time, great guides and high numbers of fish caught.

I hope more of you can make it next year, you missed a great trip.

Questions:
Catch me:
Billy Wingo
at:
billy.wingo
@phoenix.gov





Check out the club's new... **DFC Members Group on Facebook** **Where Desert Fly Casters Connect Online!**

We've created a new private Facebook group called, "[DFC Members Group](#)." Limited to active members only, we hope this new group will encourage members to connect, share information, and form new fishing friendships.

To join the **DFC Members Group**, you must have a free Facebook account. Next, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/dfcmembersgroup/> and select "Join Group."

All requests must be approved by an admin before you can post. However, once approved, you'll be free to post within the guidelines outlined in the group's description.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the club's **Social Media Director, Marie McClearn**, mcclearn@msn.com • *Join the conversation today; we look forward to hearing from you!*

Salt River Beautification Project...

by Linda McAteer

October 28, 2017 is National Make a Difference Day. Volunteers are needed to help JustServe, the Tonto National Forest Service*, and SRP to clean and beautify sections of trails and banks along the Salt River. Please join the fun.

We'll need to know how many to expect for this event. This was a big event last year, and volunteers picked up tons of trash and garbage along the river. Please sign up to volunteer for a few hours and assist with the maintenance of our national forest. Children are also invited to participate with parental supervision.

To register, go to: <https://tu-saltriver-cleanup.eventbrite.com/>

Water, snacks and trash bags will be provided. Please wear long pants, hats, work gloves, sunglasses and sunscreen. We will have a few long-reach pickers to help volunteers pick up trash and garbage, and you will need to bring your own work gloves. If you'd like your own "picker" they are available at Harbor Freight.

Volunteers should arrive no later than 7:45am to register and receive specific assignments. Look for the Team Trout Unlimited banner and check in with your lead person, Linda McAteer.

Thank you for joining in to preserve our natural resources and improve the community in which we live!

Lead person for Team Trout Unlimited is Linda McAteer lmcateer60@gmail.com

Take Photos with Smokey and Woody! Win Prizes! "Swag Bags" for the kids

Salt River Beautification Project
Saturday, October 28, 2017
8am - 10:30am
"National Make a Difference Day"

For more information: <http://www.justservesaltriver.org/>

To sign up: <https://tu-saltriver-cleanup.eventbrite.com/>

*Tonto National Forest Pass Not Required

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October Intermediate Fly Tying Class

This month's Intermediate Fly Tying guest instructor will be:
Gary Hitterman
Demonstrating his favorite deer hair patterns:
Brooks Blonde and Deer Hair Muddler.

Date: Wednesday, October 25, 2017 • **Time:** 7 PM - 9 PM • **Location:** McQueen Activity Center

Eligibility: >>DFC Members Only<<
Cost: This is a free class with all materials provided by the club; Please, bring your own tools.

Questions?? Catch me, Gentry Smith at: design@gentrysmith.com | (480) 213-0372

LET US REASON TOGETHER

...from a
journal by:
Neil Travis
Sept 19, 2017

Are fish intelligent and do they think? If you listen to many fly fishers, especially those that fish for trout, the answer would be yes. However, is that really true? Let's look at some definitions.

Intelligence – the ability to acquire ability and skills; one's capacity for logic, abstract thought, understanding, self-awareness, communication, memory, planning, creativity and problem solving. It can generally be described as the ability to perceive information and retain it as knowledge to be applied towards adaptive behaviors within an environment.

Thinking – The action of using the mind to produce ideas, decisions, memories, etc., the capacity of the mind to reason or reflect.

Instinct – an inborn pattern of activity or tendency to action common to a given biological species.

With these three definitions before us it is obvious that fish, including those "smart" trout, are not intelligent and their thinking capacity is restricted to instinctual behavior. They do process information but not in a way that denotes intelligence or abstract reasoning. If they did we would never catch one except accidentally. Why then do anglers believe that fish are intelligent? I submit to you it's an ego thing.

Fish typically have small brains relative to the size of their body when compared to other vertebrates. The fish's brain is approximately one-fifteenth the mass of a correspondingly sized bird or mammal. In a fish like the trout the optic lobes of the brain are the most developed giving the trout excellent visual abilities and next is the cerebellum which is responsible for coordination, balance and movement. Areas of the brain normally associated with memory, problem solving and abstract thinking are noticeable absent. So what makes fish so difficult to catch?

What fish have on their side isn't intelligence. They have a superbly tuned wariness that is tuned for avoiding predators. They have instincts that communicate what appears to be natural and what doesn't within the environment in which they live. If you try to think like a fish you will not be doing any real thinking; the real challenge is your intelligence versus the fish's instinct.

Getting back to the ego thing, if a creature with the brain smaller than our thumb nail makes a fool out of us with our big brain we have to find some logical excuse for our failure. If we believe that a fish is intelligent then we can excuse our failure. We do this in a variety of ways.

Many fly fishers believe that it is necessary to use a very fine leader to catch trout. They reason that the trout can see the leader and if they see the leader they will not take the fly. While they don't necessarily say they believe the trout knows what a leader is it's inferred by what they do in attempting to make the leader invisible. In truth the trout does see the leader, but since they are unable to perform abstract reasoning they have no objective way of connecting the leader to anything that is dangerous. The water is filled with a variety of objects; pieces of weed, leaves, and other organic material which is completely ignored by the trout. A piece of monofilament drifting along in the water is also completely ignored by the trout. You can prove this by casting just a leader tippet over a feeding fish. Unless you smack the fish on the head or make a significant disturbance on the water with your leader the trout will totally ignore it. It's just another floating piece of matter nothing more. Now if your leader when it's attached to an artificial fly makes the artificial act unnaturally the fish may well reject it instinctively but not logically. You reason that the fish rejected your fly because they saw the leader tippet; the fish rejected your fly because it did not act naturally or for some other reason we cannot understand. A finer tippet may be more supple allowing the artificial that is attached to it to behave more naturally – move without drag – but it will not prove more effective because the fish can't detect it. If the trout is put off by your tippet why are they not put off by the hook? It is obviously more noticeable than the leader.

Another idea that we have accepted as truth is that fish, especially trout, become able to identify various artificial flies and thus we need to continually create new flies in order to fool the fish. Since fish lack the ability to form memories the idea that fish can remember that a certain fly is an artificial and thus to be avoided is not true. How many trout do you think have been caught on the Adams dry fly or the Pheasant Tail nymph? Why have the trout not been able to remember them and thus not eat them? We create new flies because we think we can improve upon the older patterns and then the older patterns fall out of favor and disappear. However, if they worked before they will still work today.

Part of what makes fishing in general and fly fishing in particular challenging is that we will never have all the answers to why fish do what they do. However, we can be certain that when we fail to fool them with our flies, lures or bait it's not because they are too intelligent. The fish that are living in the water where you are fishing are the offspring of survivors. Their parents survived to become old enough and large enough to spawn and they passed those traits on to their offspring through their genetic material. If you understand that fish have only limited intelligence but that they have eons of survival skills passed down genetically you are on your way toward a greater and more truthful understanding of fish behavior. Properly understood that will make you a more successful angler.



Learn to Fly Fish with Desert Fly Casters

New On-The-Water Mentor Program

Be it trout, bass, pike, carp, etc., learning to fly fish Arizona's lakes and small streams on your own can be difficult and intimidating. Furthermore, it's not always practical to host large group clinics on water that can't handle that kind of pressure.

So what's the solution?

Desert Fly Casters is proud to introduce our new "On-The-Water Mentor Program." Our objective is to teach beginning fly anglers how to successfully read and fish various types of waters for a wide array of fish species. Skilled anglers will voluntarily accompany 1 or 2 people for a half or full-day of fly fishing to one of our local or regional lakes or streams.

Just to be clear, we aren't running a guide service. Trips will be arranged around the instructor's availability. Additionally, both parties should expect to

catch fish and split travel expenses. Remember, courteous fishing partners are more likely to get repeat invitations. Therefore, it is imperative that student anglers be reasonably self-reliant—they should have their own equipment, be able to tie on their own flies, and execute a pick-up and lay-down cast. If you still need help learning these basic skills, the club offers several classes and clinics right here in the valley that you are encouraged to attend beforehand.

We love to fly fish and look forward to sharing our passion for the sport with you. For more information on this exciting new program, please contact:

Jack Dengel, jackdengel@yahoo.com



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DATES TO KEEP IN MIND...2017

54th Annual Pescador Extravaganza in Puerto Penaso, Mexico
Wednesday, October 25 through Monday, October 30, 2017

Questions?? Catch me: Vince Deadmond The Fly Fishing Hardware Guy
vince@ajbest.com 480 982 7461.



See ya Wednesday...
October 11, 2017



MAIL TO: 

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PO Box 6404
Chandler, AZ 85246

