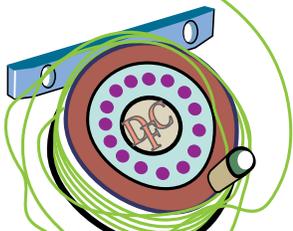


FORWARD CASTS

OFFICIAL DESERT FLY CASTERS NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER
Wednesday,
November 8, 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 • November 2017



Greeting fellow DFC'ers,

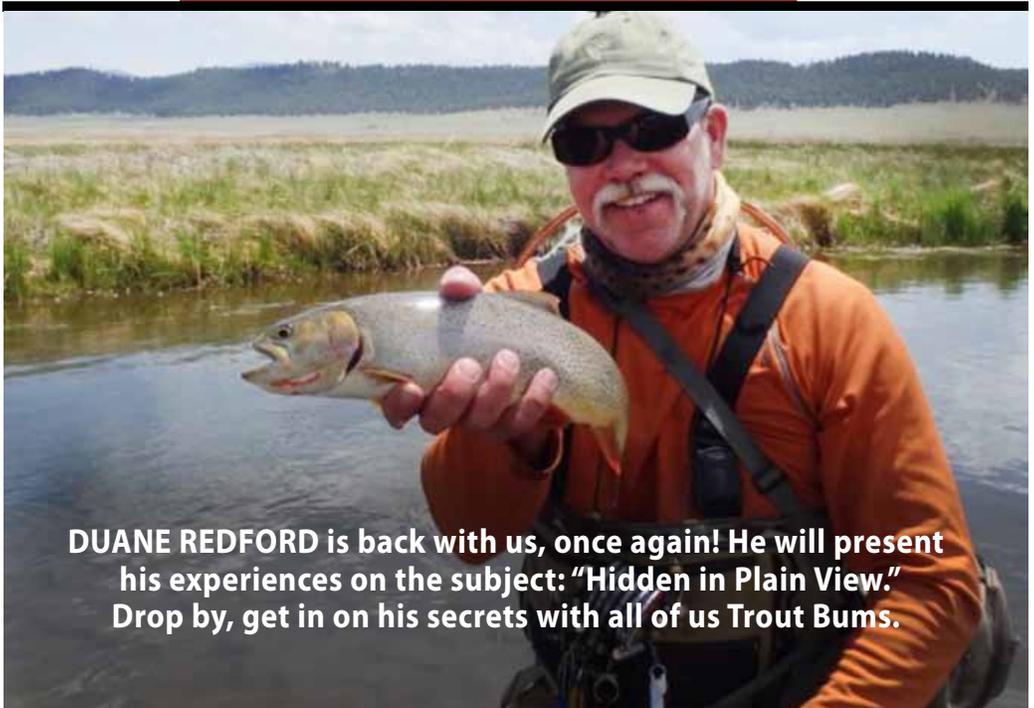
Welcome to November. The temps are cooling off and the Desert Fly Casters are heating things up in Rocky Point Mexico at the Desert Fly Casters 54th annual Rocky Point trip. Yes!!! its the 54th annual trip. At the November meeting we'll get a cast by cast account of the festivities, pictures, a few tales of the all the fun and fish they caught.

At this months meeting we have Duane Redford. If you remember, Duane was here a couple years ago with his "Fly Fishers Playbook". A great read if you want to learn more about nymph fishing. Duane is here with his new subject "Hidden in Plain View". I'm excited about this new subject and I think you will be too.

Hope to see you at the meeting,

Tight lines,
Frank Schettino

DFC Club Meeting November 8, 2017



DUANE REDFORD is back with us, once again! He will present his experiences on the subject: "Hidden in Plain View." Drop by, get in on his secrets with all of us Trout Bums.

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*

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DFC Outings to keep in mind...



Canyon Creek Outing

When: November 18th and 19th. Starting at 8:30 to 9:00 am. finishing at 1pm.
(we will have a Sat group, and a Sun group, per who signed up for what.)

Where: Lower Canyon Creek, at the porta potty hole.

Who: The members of DFC who signed up.

What is it?

The idea behind this outing is to build the skills of the participating anglers on one of Arizona's few Blue Ribbon catch and release trout streams. The "on the water mentors" are well versed in this stream and small stream tactics in general. We hope to cover the subject of how to fish small pressured streams with information such as approaching the water, how to best present the fly and where fish hold.

Participants need to have their own gear. Gear list should include what ever your small stream set up is. Recommendations are 3 or 4 wt rod outfit, a 5 WT can work in a pinch, but with low water conditions a lighter line outfit will be more effective. I recommend bringing waders and boots, as November can be chilly. You should be prepared for warm and nice, or cold and nasty, as this is fall in AZ. Bring flies, Streamers, Hoppers and Ants, and your BWO box. Tippet this time of year is skinny, like the water 5x-6x, and we typically fish longer leaders.

Fishing conditions will vary. This is fishing; we hope to get folks onto some fish, but the true goal of this outing is to help you get into fish by putting our collective best practices into play on your own. This time of year we might be in the start of the brown trout spawn, at which point we could see some of the big fish out in the open. Generally these fish spawn in waves not all at once, so well use good judgement on which fish to target.

Tight lines

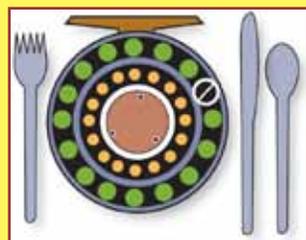
Mike Faulkinbury • Catch me at: live2flyfish@gmail.com

DFC Stuff & Things to keep in mind...

HAVE THE DFC LOGO EMBROIDERED ON YOUR FISHING SHIRTS!

Please bring them to the Nov. meeting and we will have them back at the Dec. meeting. The cost is \$10. They look great. Ask anyone who had one done last year. One caveat, We need a minimum of a dozen shirts. Any questions...

Catch me, Jerry King, at: 480-766-9170 or email me at webfootking@aol.com.



**Mark your calendars.
Our DFC Annual Banquet
will be on:**

Thursday, February 15, 2018

2018 Trout Bum Membership Drive Begins in December!

The DFC 2018 Annual Membership Drive begins December 1, 2017.

The incentive this year is a chance to win a very special fly rod – The Canyon Creek Special. This is a Dave Weaver custom made rod for small streams. You don't want to miss out on getting 2 free tickets for this fly rod raffle. Renew between December 1 and December 31, to receive 2 rod raffle tickets. Renew January 1 through April 11, 2018 (the general meeting) and receive one ticket.

Your membership dues of \$35 help the club offer outings, classes, and other activities throughout the year. Only current members can attend club sponsored outings; and most classes are for Members Only.

2018 membership dues are still \$35. If you wish to receive a black & white printed copy of the newsletter, that cost is an additional \$11 per year. The full-color emailed newsletter is included in your \$35 membership dues.

You can renew at the December meeting, or by mail to Desert Fly Casters, PO Box 6404, Chandler, AZ 85226. Membership forms for mailing can be printed from our website at <http://www.desertflycasters.com>. All mailed memberships postmarked before midnight December 31 will be eligible for 2 rod raffle tickets.

Any questions? Email Linda McAteer at membership.desertflycasters@gmail.com

Gilbert's Youth Fishing Day

DFC is looking for volunteers to help out with Gilbert's Youth Fishing day.

This event is a collaborative event between Gilbert Parks and Recreation and Arizona Game and Fish. Arizona Game and Fish Department will be onsite with fishing equipment for the first 100 participants that do not have their own gear. DFC volunteers will help kids rig rods, bait hooks, land fish etc. as needed.

Date: Saturday Dec 2, 2017

Time: 8:00 a.m. to noon, but volunteers should show up at 7:30 a.m. to get assignments.

Location: Freestone Park

Please catch and contact: Joe Staller at:
joestaller@yahoo.com
if you are interested in helping out.

DFC Fly Casting Meetup



Event Dates: Saturday, November 25, 2017

Event Location: McQueen Park Recreation Field

Event Time: 10am - Noon • **Event Cost:** This is a free event

Event Host: Jim Sommercorn, FFI Master Casting Instructor

Contact Email: jsommercorn@gmail.com

Please RSVP in advance and include "DFC Fly Casting" in the subject line.

Looking to improve your fly casting skills?

Desert Fly Casters (www.DesertFlyCasters.com) is hosting an ongoing series of free fly casting events at Gilbert's McQueen Park. Fly Fishing International (FFI) Certified Fly Casting Instructors will be on hand to work with casters of all skill levels—beginners, intermediate and advanced casters are all welcome to attend this informal casting meetup.

Accurate fly casting will greatly improve your angling ability, so don't miss this opportunity to work with the some of the best fly casting instructors in the valley.

Event highlights:

• Beginning, intermediate and advanced fly casting instruction | • Tournament casting instruction

Items to bring:

• Sunglasses/eyeglasses | • Hat | • Sunscreen | • Drinking water
Fly rod/reel/line/leader (loaner equipment available upon request)





DFC Education Corner...

Questions? Catch Gentry Smith at: design@gentrysmith.com

Fall Fly Swap Reminder

Registered participants need to bring their 13 flies for the club's Fall Streamer Fly Swap to the November club meeting. Please "tag" your flies with your name, and deliver them in a box that your new flies can be returned.

For more info, contact Gentry Smith, design@gentrysmith.com

Thanksgiving Fly Tying Challenge

We're hosting our first Fly Tying Challenge at the November club meeting (11/8/2017). Using only the materials provided, participants will tie a "Thanksgiving" themed fly of their choice. Think "Iron Chef," but for fly tying. Obviously, we'll have turkey materials—quills, biots, and flats. The rest will be a mystery until the day of the event.

Rules: The contest will begin at 6:30 and run until the break in the meeting. At that time, all entries will be collected, photographed, and uploaded to the club's DFC Members Group on Facebook for judging. The fly that gets the most votes will win a \$25 Sportsmans Warehouse gift card at the December meeting.

The contest is open to all skill levels; creativity goes a long way. Feel free to bring your own vise, tying tools, and thread, or use the club provided equipment. However, you can only use the materials provided.

For more info or to register, contact Gentry Smith, design@gentrysmith.com

The Essentials of Fly Casting

Event Dates: Thursday, November 9, 2017

Event Location: McQueen Park Activity Center • **Event Time:** 7pm – 9pm • **Event Cost:** This is a free event

Event Host: Jim Sommercorn, FFI Master Casting Instructor

Contact Email: jsommercorn@gmail.com

Please RSVP in advance and include "Essentials of Fly Casting" in the subject line.

This is a classroom presentation, so participants will need to bring only paper and pen to take notes if desired. Participants will learn the substance of fly casting (what you need to do to cast effectively) and to distinguish between that substance and individual style of fly casting (how you perform the substance). Participants will gain knowledge that can be used to improve their own casting, to identify and correct their own casting faults, and to help others to become better fly casters.

DFC CONSERVATION CORNER • Updates on items from around Arizona

Lees Ferry - Colorado River

* **There will NOT be a Glen Canyon Dam High Flow Event this Year!** There was Insufficient sand/sediment from the Paria River to schedule the HFE, which might have lasted more than a week.

* **Terry Gunn, Lees Ferry Anglers**, is now celebrating 34 years of guiding on Lees Ferry, and helping protect the RBT fishery, Let's all give a cheer!

* **Brown Trout Management Workshop**, as requested by Recreational Fishing Representatives: The NPS, AZGFD and the USGS GCMRC research facility recently held a workshop to understand BT populations and management on the Colorado River. Report is pending, will be reported in future DFC Newsletter.

Forest / Stream Restoration in Arizona

* **4FRI Rim Country EIS is advancing.** This Mogollon Rim area effort will include using a "Flexible Toolbox" approach on many stream restoration projects to speed these efforts.

* **Black River Forest Restoration** - This White Mtns area restoration project will include streams in the Black River system, and is expected to launch early next year.

Streams and Lakes - Conditions

* **Silver Creek is fishing well!** See the Silver Creek article in this Newsletter for Details. Flies - Little Brown Midge!!!!

* **Woods Canyon / Willow Springs Lakes are fishing well.** About time for trout, including Tigers, to move inshore!!

* **Canyon Creek** - Dick Brooks has several reports of COWS in Canyon Creek, and has alerted AZGFD and the Payson Ranger District of Tonto National Forest. If you encounter cows on a trip there, let the USFS Payson Ranger District know. They're working on the issue.

Arizona Native Streams Impacted by Fire

* **Several of our Native trout streams were hit by this summer's Wildfires:** Ash Creek, Frye Creek (written about by our own Gentry Smith in Southwest Fly Fishing Magazine a year ago), Grant Creek, and Grapevine Creek. See the just published article by AZGFD about rescue efforts on page 28 of the November/December Southwest Fly Fishing magazine. We'll keep you all posted on follow up activities, and look forward to future fishing for these natives.

For More Information? Contact DFC Trout Bum: Joe Miller, Conservation Chair.

Catch me at: jam@prairietriz.com |or| (928) 978-1315

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I've got this...go get the net!



Keys to improving your fly fishing skills...

by Joe Staller

We have all heard the old adage that "20% of the fisherman catch 80% of the fish" and in my experience that is more or less the truth. So, what can you do if you unfortunately find yourself in the "80% of the fisherman that catch 20% of the fish?"

Here are a few hints:

-Ask questions. You will find that the best fisherman are actually pretty good about asking each other questions. Ask the obvious questions (What fly are they taking?) but also ask the associated questions: What type of line are you using? What kind of retrieve? How much sink time before you start your retrieve? Are you using 5X tippet? How long is your leader? Is there a certain time of day that fish bite best?

-Observe. Are you seeing rises near the bank? That could be due to terrestrials (ants, hoppers etc.) dropping off shore line vegetation. Rises below a riffle? That is probably emerging mayflies or caddis. If you are just seeing a bulge in the water and not the mouth of the fish, they are probably taking an emerging mayfly just under the surface. Are you seeing rises right at dusk, but can't see the flies? That might be spent mayflies. Get our your seine, sample the flows, flip over a few rocks, and see what is in the river.

-Have a working theory. After asking questions and observing, it's time to tie on a fly and start experimenting. As an example, if you show up at a high country lake, see damsel flies flying around, and other fisherman tell you that the fish are taking a size 10 generic peacock fly fished with an erratic retrieve on a slow sinking line, my working theory is that the fish are taking damsel nymphs. I would probably tie on a couple different colors of damsel nymph imitations and toss them near weed beds and see how much action I get. If I don't get a bite in 30 minutes, I would question my working theory. Perhaps the fish are really on leeches? Change to leeches and experiment with different retrieves, different sink times etc. If that doesn't work, maybe they are taking fathead minnows? If you get a bite, remember what you were doing and try to repeat it.

-Keep a log. There are a lot of fishing situations where there are not many clues to guide you. As an example, you show up at Apache Lake by yourself in February. No fish are rising. The water is a little murky. Where do you start? Well, you may have ran into this situation before, and if you keep a written log you can probably dig through it and give yourself some ideas. The log I keep would tell me what time of year I fished a particular body of water, what flies you and other fisherman tried, and what worked best. Consulting my log, I would quickly

remind myself that the murky water would require a bright fly and I would tie on a small chartreuse and white Clouser on a type 3 sinking fly line, and fish steep banks and points. If the water was clear, I would use a more subdued fly, like an olive semi-seal leech, and look for ledges where the fish could ambush a bait fish.

-Sharpen your basic skills. Most aspects of Fly Fishing are pretty simple, but it is key that all of these elements are repeatable and predictable. Learn the basic knots and become quick and efficient. Learn how to quickly rig to fish with two flies, strike indicators, and extra split shot. Practice casting these different rigs, so that you learn when to use a tight loop (one dry fly) and a more open loop (multiple flies, strike indicator etc.) Not every good fisherman is good long distance caster, but most of them are very accurate at short to medium ranges. You won't catch many fish if your flies are always in the trees!

-Fish with the top 20%. You will learn more and faster if you spend some time with the best fisherman you know. Most fly fishers are pretty generous with their time, especially if you are sincere about your efforts to improve, and take their suggestions. It wouldn't hurt however, if you buy lunch, help out with the gas money, and share your stash of microbrew!

-And sometimes you just get lucky! A recent trip to Henry's Lake in Idaho is a good example of how doing everything wrong can sometimes be the right thing. We have fished this lake on and off for 12 years, and the one fact we were all convinced of is that the fish always took a leech stripped on a sinking line. We were fishing a popular area, and observed several float tubers hook fish as a faster rate than we were. We overheard one of the guys say: "I lost another scud!" We headed back to the cabin that night, and furiously tied up size 10 scuds. The next morning, one of our guys suspended these scuds below a strike indicator, and caught more fish than everyone, including a 9 and 10 pound cutbow. The float tubers paddled over and asked what was working, and just laughed when told that we had overheard that they were fishing scuds. Turns out that all of their fish were taking a black woolly buggie, and the size 16 scud trailer had attracted no fish! We all had a good laugh, and handed them size 10 scuds....

Got Questions/Comments?

Catch me, Joe Staller at: joestaller@yahoo.com

...or: (602) 568-9431



Fishing - A Great Way to Stay Humble

By Jim Strogon, Writer - *Life on the Fly* • Payson Roundup Newspaper

Are you interested in catching (and releasing) some really big trout? I'd suggest you give Silver Creek, outside of Show Low, a try. Silver Creek is a spring fed creek that maintains great water temperature for trout throughout the year. The stream is a bit unusual in that it is a slow-flowing creek that has many deep pools where hundreds of 18-22 inch trout are tantalizingly close to the fishermen. Depending on the conditions of the water the day you visit, it may be a bit murky or extremely clear. Even if it is murky, there are fish throughout the creek! From October 1st through March 31st, Silver Creek is a catch and release stream that requires the use of barbless, single hook flies or lures. No bait is allowed. The regulations change back on April 1st each year. You can read more about it on the azgfd.gov website.

Big trout ignoring your fly time and time again can be maddening. I often find myself changing flies ten to twenty times on this creek in four or five hours of fishing, trying to find the right fly for the day. The last few times that I have gone, I thought I had finally figured out the pattern as I was catching fish pretty consistently. They seemed to like my little brown midge size 16-18 drifted under an indicator about a foot to eighteen inches below the surface.

I had noticed on the times the stream was running a bit clearer, that although there were sometimes thirty or more big trout within sight of my casting location, that only a few fish were actually in a feeding position. They were sitting calmly in the current and would move to inhale aquatic insects that floated by. These were the fish that would take my fly. The vast majority of the other trout in the pool however, seemed restless and often chased other trout around the pool; and these fish were not interested in feeding.

A common mistake in a pool full of trout is to get locked into that particular pool.

If the trout are not interested in what you have to offer them after a reasonable attempt with a few fly changes, I strongly suggest moving on. It has been my experience that moving just a pool or two on that creek, or any creek, is sometimes all that it takes to change my luck. The nice

thing about Silver Creek is that although there are reeds along much of the creek, there are several openings that you can cast to that hold a lot of fish. In addition to locating a good casting position, you also have to strategize on the best place to stand so that you can net your catch quickly and return it unharmed to the water.

My latest trip this year was quite humbling. I was feeling like I had this creek figured out. As I approached the creek, there were four fishermen at one of my favorite spots catching fish, so I moved upstream to the next opening past more fishermen that were also catching fish. I had already changed flies five or six times when I came to a pool where a dad and his ten year old son were fishing on the other side of the creek. I moved upstream out of their casting range and started fishing my side of the pool. In the span of about twenty minutes, they each had caught three large trout. I was still fishless. Fly fishermen are generally very willing to share what is working, and the dad suggested I try a white San Juan worm or a white chamois worm. With that tip, I landed one within five minutes, and was sure my luck had changed. They must have pulled in another ten fish in the next half hour and I didn't get another bite! I moved further upstream, tried a few more flies; moved downstream and tried a few others and left with one fish for the day.

My fishing buddies, who had started further upstream also had done quite well throughout the day. I was feeling like the only guy on the creek who had a bad day. But there is no bad day of fishing, right? It was great day! I caught a twenty inch trout, watched an osprey flying over the creek, and got to do what I absolutely love to do on a beautiful, late fall day.

I am already thinking about what my plan of attack will be on my next trip. I can't wait to get back to Silver Creek.

Catch Jim Strogon at: jimstrog@gmail.com

Thanx, Jim...Always nice to have you with all of us
DFC Trout Bums.- R. McKeon, Editor



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DATES TO KEEP IN MIND...2017

CANYON CREEK OUTING

November 18th and 19th

Starting at 8:30 to 9:00 am. finishing at 1pm.

Mike Faulkinbury • Catch me at: [live2flyfish@gmail](mailto:live2flyfish@gmail.com) • 480 982 7461



**See ya Wednesday...
November 8, 2017**



MAIL TO: 

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PO Box 6404
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