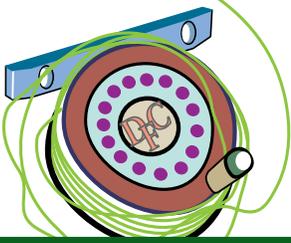


FORWARD CASTS

OFFICIAL DESERT FLY CASTERS NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER
Wednesday,
December 13, 2017
Chit-Chat & Dinner: 6:00
Meeting/Guest Speaker: 7:00
Elks Lodge
1775 West Chandler Blvd.
Chandler, Arizona 85224



Season's Greetings...

*May you feel the handle as the rod bows...
the line tightens and your net fills plentifully
with new memories.*

*Best of Fly Fishing to all the Desert Fly Casters
Trout Bums and their friends for 2018.*

Thank You - DFC Board of Directors 2017



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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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President's Drift

Frank Schettino • December 2017



Ho Ho Ho,

Seasons greetings DFC'ers. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza and Happy Festivus. May the holidays fill your hearts with joy, your stockings with lots of new gear.

Speaking of new gear, the DFC annual banquet is fast approaching. This year it will be on February 21, 2018. This is the 3rd Wednesday not the 2nd as the norm. The date was changed so it wouldn't coincide with Valentines day.

Our December meeting will look a little different than our normal monthly meeting. We will have our committee reports as usual followed by some fly tying and a holiday social gathering amongst ourselves. Time to enjoy each others company, so tie a fly, show off your prized fly, tell some stories with your fellow DFC'ers. AND we will have our monthly raffle. So if your in need of a few gifts or stocking stuffers the raffle is a good place start. I want to thank you all for supporting our raffle both in ticket sales and prizes donations. A big thank you to our own Dave Weaver, the builder of our monthly rod raffle. Dave the Official rod builder of the Desert Fly Casters.

Merry Christmas

Frank Schettino



Membership Updates

Linda McAteer

The 2018 Membership Drive is on! Renew before midnight December 31 to qualify for 2 free tickets to the very special rod raffle. Members renewing between January 1 and the April general meeting will receive 1 free ticket. To renew by mail – simply print the membership form on our website and send it in with your check or credit card information; or renew at the regular monthly meetings. We accept cash, check, or credit cards at the meetings, just look for the Membership table.

HELP WANTED – Volunteer Board Members

Even though BOD terms do not expire until July 1, we are looking for two DFC members who would like to get involved with the "inner workings" of our club. Two positions will become open in 2018, Treasurer, and Membership. If you would like more information about the duties of these board positions, please stop by the Membership table, or email membership.desertflycasters@gmail.com.

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



DFC Stuff & Things to keep in mind...



LAST CHANCE TO GET THE DFC LOGO EMBROIDERED ON YOUR FISHING SHIRTS.

Please bring them to the December DFC meeting and we will have them back at the Jan. 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, contact me, Jerry King at 480-766-9170 or by email at webfootking@aol.com.**



DFC 2018 Banquet

This is our big fund raiser for the year, and provides the money to run the club.

DFC banquet will be held **Wednesday, Feb 21, 2018** at the Knight's of Columbus hall. Note that this is one week AFTER the normal monthly meeting.

We would like to ask our members to consider donating new or lightly used items for raffle prizes, and to contact local businesses to see if they will donate

If any members would like to help out on the banquet planning team, please contact Frank Schettino

DECEMBER DFC MEETING

WEDNESDAY • DECEMBER 13, 2017



**DFC
Fishin' Bums
Wanted!**



DFC HOLIDAY FLY TYING SPECTACULAR

The theme for the December club meeting will be *fly tying expo meets holiday social*. We'll have fly tyers stationed throughout the room in an informal setting for guests to check out and ask questions. At this time, we're inviting members to volunteer to showcase their fly tying skills. All skill levels are encouraged to participate, especially those who just completed the club's Introduction to Fly Tying course.

We want to display a wide variety.

**Get in on the
fun with
all of us!**

If you'd like to tie flies at the December meeting,
contact Michael Faulkinbury, live2flyfish@gmail.com

*Please, include your name, as well as the theme or name of the fly/flyes you will be tying
so we can make place cards for the event.*

**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!**

Get hooked up with us Trout Bums....Come talk Fly Fishing with us!



ANGLER ALERT for DFC Trout Bums:

Public Scoping Meeting Notice for Lees Ferry Fishery

The National Park Service is holding Public Scoping Meetings for a Non Native Aquatic Species Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA) that includes elements having a potentially damaging impact on the Lees Ferry trout fishery and business and guide services dependent on that fishery. The Public Meetings are your opportunity to become informed on the Plan, ask questions, and voice concerns you may have. Desert Fly Casters has already helped by successfully requesting a Public Meeting be held here in the Valley at AZGFD Hdqtrs in addition to Page and Flagstaff; Please Attend that Meeting on December 12th!

The Public Open House Meeting Locations and Dates are:

December 6, 2017
6:00-8:30 pm MST
Public Open House
Glen Canyon Headquarters
691 Scenic View Drive
Page, AZ 86040

December 7, 2017
6:00-8:30 pm MST
Public Open House
Flagstaff Aquaplex
1702 N Fourth Street
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

December 12, 2017
6:00 pm – 8:30PM MST
Arizona Game & Fish Depart
Quail Room
5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086

The Park Service is proposing a wide range of controls and fishing regulation changes to provide tools for controlling or eradicating non native species that may pose a threat to native aquatic species. With the exception of mechanical removal of brown trout in Lees Ferry/Glen Canyon the proposed tools would not impact the trout fishery.

The EA proposes mechanical removal in Lees Ferry/Glen Canyon by “long-term intensive and repeated electrofishing “. Collateral damage to the rainbow trout fishery from mechanical removal electrofishing on a massive scale will be unavoidable. Rainbow trout not removed at the time of brown trout removal will be intensely and repeatedly shocked as the removal process progresses along the river and continues over recurring lengthy periods of time. Surviving recovering rainbow trout would be unfishable for an extended periods.

The increase in brown trout in recent years in Lees Ferry/Glen Canyon, though small in numbers, has raised concerns, particularly with the appearance of young of year brown trout, an indicator of spawning occurring. To address these concerns a brown trout workshop was convened bringing qualified researchers together to consider the root causes for the change in brown trout numbers and evaluate the effectiveness of possible responses to manage that increase. The final reviewed report from the workshop will not be available until early next year. The Park Service has chosen to go ahead without the information to be gained from the work shop report and is proposing brown trout mechanical removal without considering and addressing the causes for the change in brown trout numbers in an approach that assures perpetual treatment with no cure. Coincidentally in workshop and outside discussions fishery research scientists have expressed doubts that mechanical removal would be effective for the purposes intended in the EA. Further the EA's intent is to protect native fish yet only the removal of brown trout from Lees Ferry/Glen Canyon is proposed while leaving untouched the trout population in the sixty miles of river in Marble Canyon between Lees Ferry and where the first significant appearance of native fish occurs at the Little Colorado River.

Your participation in a public Scoping Meeting will affirm angler support, demonstrate the importance of the Lees Ferry trout fishery's, and provide direction to the Park Service for acceptable alternatives in the EA.

Questions? Please catch me, Joe Miller, DFC Trout Bum at: jam@prairietriz.com -or- 928-978-1315

Bugs as A Tool to Monitor Stream Conditions

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

As an angler I really value the aquatic insects in streams and lakes that are the food supply for fish, and what I try hard to imitate with my artificial flies. These same “bugs” can provide a great deal of information about the water quality of a stream. An abundance of certain insects means the stream is healthy and a great place for trout. If certain other aquatic insects are present in high numbers, then the stream is not a great place to look for trout.

We all know that pollution adversely impacts water quality, but even an accumulation of something as seemingly inconsequential as fine sediments is detrimental to many organisms that live in a stream. Recently, I volunteered with several others from the Sedona area to take a look at the impact of fine sediments on certain stretches of Oak Creek. In addition to surveying the aquatic insects in the stream, water chemistry measurements such as pH and dissolved oxygen content were recorded. Prior to taking each of the aquatic insect samples, we also took corresponding sediment samples from the creek to track the accumulation of fine sediments on the stream bottom where we collected insects.

Aquatic insects in streams prefer rocks that are loosely attached to the bottom. That gives them a great deal more surface area to forage without

exposure to fish that want to eat them. When fine sediments enter a stream from building projects along the creek, or from a wildfire burn site, the loose rocks are cemented into place on the bottom. This reduces the foraging area by at least half and causes the bugs to be exposed at all times to predation. It can also change the water chemis-



try in the stream with the addition of these materials and results in less water movement over and through the stream bottom.

This Oak Creek study spearheaded by the Oak Creek Watershed Council is looking at the difference in water quality upstream and downstream of selected washes into Oak Creek. In the Payson area, these same approaches can be an important monitoring tool that the US Forest Service can

>>>continued on page 6





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Hey fellow DFC'ers - we could use your help...

Our Annual Banquet will be held Wednesday, February 21, 2018

We'll be back at: Knights of Columbus Hall • 644 E. Chandler Blvd. • Chandler, AZ

As you are probably aware, the annual banquet is our opportunity to raise money to support the ongoing operations of the Desert Fly Casters. The money brought in by the raffle allows us to:

- 1)- Support Arizona Game and Fish to enhance Blue Ribbon streams (Lower Canyon Creek in the Tonto National Forest and Silver Creek near Show Low) by providing funding and manpower.
- 2)- Provide funding to the White Mountains Lake Foundation—an organization focused on conservation and improving the fishing in Arizona's White Mountains.
- 3)- Support Casting for Recovery (a Women's Breast Cancer survivor group) by providing "pond buddies" and funding.
- 4)- Support Project Healing Waters by providing disable veterans by funding outings, purchasing equipment and providing support volunteers.
- 5)- Conduct free classes for fly casting, fly tying and rod building.
- 6)- Provide free training and support for Boy Scouts Fly Fishing Merit badge.
- 7)- Yearly support at fishing expos and stores for education of fly fishing with emphasis on bringing new people into the sport.
- 8)- Yearly classes for fly casting, fly tying and rod building
- 9)- Monthly meetings with guest speakers
- 10)-and outings for our club members!

While there are still some very generous donations made by members of the fly fishing business community, in all honesty many companies that used to donate have either stopped altogether or have reduced their contributions by a significant amount.

I'm hoping that you can help us close the gap. If you own a business, please consider donating some services or products. If you are good friends with a business owner, please ask them to donate a service or a product. As an individual, perhaps you would consider donating a craft item, a wine basket, a box of hand tied flies, that extra fishing vest you have never used etc. etc.

Please catch me, **Frank Schettino, DFC Pres. at: sketno1026@hotmail.com** for more information on how to donate or for our charitable contribution letter (we are a 501. C3 corporation, so donations are tax deductible)

Bugs as A Tool to Monitor Stream Conditions • continued



use to assess the impact of their efforts to restore the forests through 4FRI.

Repairing damage from wildfires through seeding, planting, and erosion control so that fine sediments do not flow into streams is one important strategy to improve water quality in streams that the Forest Service does on a regular basis. Efforts to clear accumulated small trees that are drinking so much of the water before it gets to the streams is another, and a primary objective of 4FRI. As these removal efforts are proceeding, it is important to be sure to keep a band of growth near the streams to capture potential erosion, and to provide necessary shade to keep the stream temperatures cool. Further stream improvement efforts utilizing materials available stream-side are also part of the US Forest Service toolbox to create pools and deeper runs that are attractive to trout and create healthier conditions for all animals that utilize the creek.

I encourage you to stay informed and involved with the efforts to improve the health of our forests.

Catch Jim Strogon at: jimstrog@gmail.com

A Different Way to Fish the San Juan River

By Carl Rutherford and Larry Gallegos

A year or two ago I wrote an article about getting more for your dollar when fishing the San Juan. I explained that by wading instead of floating with a guide you could fish more days there for less money and still have a great time. If you have tried wading but haven't had much success, this article should help. I am going to describe a different way to fish the San Juan River while wading. This is not the only way to fish it, but I find that I catch more fish with it and have more fun. It is definitely finesse fishing.

I want to give credit to guide Andy Kim for teaching me most of these techniques.

You already know how to wade-fish on rivers. Why would you need to fish the San Juan River differently than other rivers? There are a couple reasons. First, the main food source is unusually small midges. Second, many fish here are large. Third, the water is often clear. The small midge food source requires the fisherman to use small flies. Size 20 to 24 are the common sizes of flies. These hooks use thin wire, and therefore bend easily. The clear water requires you use a small fluorocarbon tippet, preferably, 6x. Yes you can catch fish with larger flies and tippet, but you will catch more tippet shy fish in clear water using 6x. I personally find it more challenging and satisfying to use the smaller equipment even in murky water.

Equipment:

I have already mentioned you should use mostly 20-24 sizes flies. Next, I would only use a rod with a flexible tip. I have gone from a 5-weight fast action rod to a 10 foot 4 weight flexible tip rod down to an 8.5 foot 3 weight flexible tip rod to protect the tippet. I find the flexible 3x rod is ideal in preventing the fish from breaking off. I have also changed to a large arbor reel because you want that large fish on the reel as fast as

possible. Two additional items can be helpful. Magnifiers to fit on your glasses or hat can help with the small hook eyes. In addition, Orvis has a dropper rig box with 'cards' on which you can rig many two-fly setups before going to the river. On the river you will need to tie only one knot to change a two-fly rig. The rest of the equipment is standard.

Line Rigging:

Start with a floating line to match your rod. Attach a 7.5-foot 5x knotless tapered leader to it. Then, tie about 18 inches of 6x fluorocarbon tippet to the leader. When the 18 inches shrinks to 12 inches because of changing flies, I replace it with 18 inches of new 6x tippet. Use good quality fly-fishing tippet (Rio, Umpqua, Orvis, etc.). Please don't try to save a buck and use cheap tippet. Attach your top fly to this tippet. Then, to the eye of that first fly, attach 12 to 15 inches (or less in shallow water) of the same size tippet. Attach your second fly. One foot above your top fly, put size 8 weight above a granny knot in your tippet. You will need to vary your weight for the speed and depth of the water. Your indicator should be attached to your leader 1.5 times the target depth (depth where the fish are) above your weight. First thing in the morning, you want your flies near the bottom. So if it is 2 feet deep, you should attach your indicator 3 feet above your weight. As the fish rise in the water column, raise your flies. I like using the Orvis knot on my flies. I also like to use a piece of doubled-over duct tape on the floor of my chest pack fold-down desk. The tape holds the small weight so the groove of the weight is up and holds the line in the groove while I pinch the weight shut on the line. I do not put the indicator on until I am at the spot where I am going to fish.

Technique (basic):

I will only mention points that might be different from standard stream fishing or are more important for the San Juan. First estimate the depth to your target. Put your indicator on at the correct place on your leader. Stand perpendicular to the current, feet solidly placed apart. Do not move your feet for casting, setting or bringing in a fish. You do not want 10 fish lined up downstream of your moving feet. Always point

your rod tip at the indicator and always face the fish while fighting it. Before casting decide over which shoulder you will set the hook. (Always set down stream.) Cast 45° upstream a little beyond your intended lane. Mend while pulling back on your line or in the air. Start striping in slack immediately. Point your rod tip at your indicator and be ready to set the hook. The drag free drift is just as important here as any other stream. You must also control your slack very carefully. Something that helps beginners with proper mending is putting two indicators on your tippet 6 inches apart. By mending so the line between the indicators is always perpendicular to the current, you will have your line in the right place. As the indicator comes abreast of you, start feeding line out. The best way to do this is to 'flick' the rod tip up while you feed small amounts of line out. You must never take your eye off the indicator during the drift. I set any time the indicator makes the slightest variation from normal. The takes are almost always very subtle. On the San Juan, the more subtle the movement of the indicator, the larger the fish usually is. Check and clean your line and hooks constantly. Check your hooks for bending after landing fish.

The Set:

This is very important. To set the hook, "rotate" your wrist only so as to move your indicator six inches. Do not lift your arm or forearm. If there is no fish, drop the rod down and continue the drift. The indicator should not end up behind you on a miss. This was one of the hardest things to remember. If your slack is correct, you will have a fish on with the wrist set. Pulling any harder will probably result in the hook being pulled out of their skin or a bent hook. The good news here is, if you got excited and tried to rip its lips off and lost the fish, you will soon have another chance using this technique. If you have a fish on, do not pull on it any more than that first set. Lift your rod to the vertical without pulling harder on the fish and keep the rod there.

Because you will be holding slack line in your left hand, you can lift the rod to the vertical without adding to the force on the fish. At the same

>>>continued on page 7



A Different Way to Fish the San Juan River • continued

time you lifted your rod to the vertical, you have brought your line hand up to the rod with the line. Transfer the line to your rod hand and reel all your slack line in. Put the fish on the reel as soon as you can. This is assuming you have a nice fish. Do not allow the fish to put too much force on the line during the fight. If it runs, jumps or shakes its head or any other movement to put force on the line, drop the rod tip to give it slack. Let it run. I have very little drag set on my reel. Only reel in when it the fish is facing you. This is not a tug of war with the fish. The fish will get tired dragging the line around without you putting more force on the line. Don't try to bring in the fish until it has been on the line for at least, one minute. If you are well into your backing and if you can do so safely, consider walking toward the fish to gather in line. Another technique is to lift your vertical rod as high over your head as you can. That lifts the head of the trout, which will give them less leverage in the water. Be patient. This last trip it took me 15 minutes to bring in a 24 inch. If you get impatient, you will lose the fish. When you net the fish, keep it in the water. If you must have a photo, limit the time the fish is out of the water. Then take plenty of time to revive the fish. Lifting the fish out of the water for a picture is the same as you running the marathon and then someone holding your head under the water.

Flies:

This is difficult to pin down. I will give you some generalizations. The size and type of flies that fish will take varies as the distance from the dam changes, as it gets later in the day, as the bottom composition changes and as the seasons change. Hiring a guide for a half day of wading often will give you a lot of information about what flies are working. Going into one of the fly shops and asking them can help. I personally have received good information from Ray at Float 'n Fish each time I go.

I am getting more consistency with the following suggestions:

In the early morning, put a size 18-20 Naked Lady (Daiichi 1273-a bare red hook) or size 24 dark Yong Special as the top fly. I carry a red Sharpie pen with me. The fish stop biting when the red color is worn off the 1273. Rather than tying on another hook, I just recolor it red. On the bottom, put a size 24 fly with some flash. A dark Bling Midge or Yong Flash will work.

As you are fishing, look for changes in the size of bugs floating by you or attached to your waders. You might want to increase the fly size if you notice these bugs getting larger.

Later, when you see some emergers (look on your waders), consider putting an #22 Yong Wing or RS-2 as the bottom fly. There is more action/movement on the lower fly. That action will mimic an emerger better than if you put the emerger pattern on the top. Because size 24 flies have thin wire and small gapes, I often use size 22 hooks for my size 24 flies. The #22 wire is thicker and gape is wider. I just keep the fly pattern the same size, as it would be on a size 24 hook. I also use straight eyes on all my smaller flies to maximize the gape.

For the rest of your fly choices remember checking with Float 'n Fish, a guide or a fishing buddy.

Sight fishing...

This is a great place to do sight fishing. The water is often clear or mostly clear. There are many places to wade where the water is shallow and you can see fish even in low light. Of course, you must have good Polarized optics to see beneath the surface glare. It is great fun to target a specific fish and watch it take your fly. One day, about a year ago, I was walking to my car after having a mediocre morning of nymphing and saw 8-9 nice fish lined up in a row at a point of an island. I spent the next two hours picking them off. You need to remember a few things when targeting specific fish. First, because of light refraction,

you need to have your indicator on your side of the fish. How much depends on the depth of the water. Second, you need to land your flies far enough up-stream so your flies have time to sink to the level of the fish. Third, you want to be looking directly at the fish for the take. If you see the fish turn, open its mouth (see white) or any similar motion, set the hook. Most of the time, if I feel confident in my drift, I will wrist set even if I don't see movement. 50% of those times, I will have a fish. Using a wrist set, if you don't have a fish, you can keep on fishing the same lane. Also, remember to keep an eye on your indicator. Many times another non-targeted fish will take your fly before it gets to the targeted fish. Remember fish don't look down. Get your depth correct. Another fun way to sight fish is to use the handicap ramps later in the day when the boats are gone. From your height you can pick out fish below even with marginal visibility. However, you will need to run down the bank when you hook one.

Another way to wade-fish this river is to use your pontoon boat. You have two choices here. One is to put in at Texas Hole and just fish Texas Hole. You can get to places with your pontoon that are hard to walk to and where there might not be any pressure. You should not go below the first rapids. The second way is to fish all the way down to Crusher Hole. There are no take-outs in between. I have recorded many places to fish on this route, marked them on a map and have also recorded the depth to set my indicator and flies to use. Flies and depth can change with water flows and other factors. I stop and wade 90% of the time when using my pontoon. I have caught fish while drifting but not as many. There are places on the river you do not want to have your line in the water (rapids). You should have an anchor when doing this.

Have a great time fishing and save some money. Questions? Catch Carl at: carlruthe@gmail.com

2018 Banquet



Don't miss out on the DFC 2018 Annual Banquet and Raffle to be held Wednesday, Feb 21. (Please note that this is the week AFTER our normal DFC meeting!) **The banquet is held at the Knights of Columbus hall**---- a different location than our regular monthly meetings. See the above map for location. Come early to purchase your raffle tickets and bid on the items you want.

- We will have many fly fishing items, gift certificates and items donated by members.
- This raffle is different than our monthly raffle. Raffle tickets are 6 for \$5, 30 for \$25, 70 for \$50 and 140 for \$100. You will purchase tickets and place them in buckets for items you want to bid on. A winner for each item will be drawn from each bucket. In addition to the normal raffle items we will also have prizes for purchasing tickets in the amount of \$25, \$50 & \$100.
- We will also be selling a deck of cards for \$10 a card. The lucky person that buys the winning card will win a pontoon.
- We have a 50/50 raffle. Tickets will be 5 for \$5. At the end of the night the lucky ticket holder will pocket 50% of the money collect. Just think, this could pay for all your raffle tickets you purchased.

With all the raffle items and good food it is bound to be another good DFC Banquet/Raffle evening. If your last name begins with A-S bring a dish to share or T-Z bring a dessert. Your DFC Board will furnish the meat. Hope to see you there.

If you have an item to donate or question give Joe Staller an e-mail or call him:

joestaller@yahoo.com
602-568-9431

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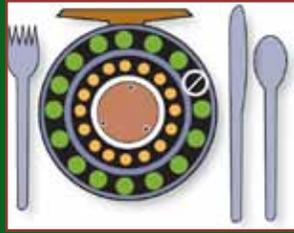
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David Weaver

Web Address Site

<http://www.desertflycasters.com>

DATES TO KEEP IN MIND...2017-18



Our DFC Annual Banquet will be on:
Wednesday,
February 21, 2018

**See ya Wednesday...
December 13, 2017**



MAIL TO:

**Desert Fly Casters
PO Box 6404
Chandler, AZ 85246**

