

FORWARD CASTS

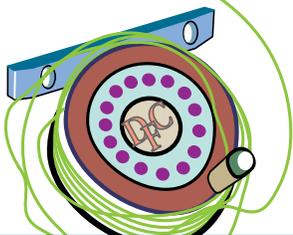
OFFICIAL DESERT FLY CASTERS NEWSLETTER



MAY
Wednesday,
May 9, 2018

Chit-Chat & Dinner: 6:00
Meeting/Guest Speaker: 7:00

Elks Lodge
1775 West Chandler Blvd.
Chandler, Arizona 85224



President's Drift

Frank Schettino • May 2018



Greetings DFC'ers,

It's May and we're moving from spring right into summer. The temps are rising as fast as the gas prices. The Desert Fly Casters have been a busy bunch. In April we had Intermediate fly tying along with a well attended Lower Salt River streamside clinic. I had the chance to attend it and judging by the response of the attendees it was a big hit. **A big Thank you to Jack Dengel for hosting and putting this together!!!**

Wednesday April 25 was the Intermediate Fly Tying class hosted by Gentry Smith and again the response by those attending was great. Thanks to Gentry for a great fly to tie, the tape wing caddis. Our last casting meet up will be on Saturday May 5th, 8am - 10am

at McQueen Park.

Coming up (as of this writing) is the Seneca Lake trip on Saturday April 28. Stay tuned for a report at the May meeting. May 18th - 20th we will be on the Mogollon Rim, June 7th - 10th is the White Mountain Extravanza at Big Lake. There are still plenty of spaces available, you can sign up at the May meeting.

I mention our education events and outings with great pride. As I look over the schedule I see a lot of opportunities for our members. Whether you are new to fly fishing or been fishing all your life, all of us can learn something new, hone our skills, and help others to learn. We're a fly fishing family and this is why our club is so great.

Tight lines, Frank Schettino

DFC MAY OUTING

May 18-20, 2018

Location: Canyon Point Campground, Mogollon Rim. Loop B, SG (small group site)

Cost: \$30/person

Directions: Take Highway 260 northeast of Payson toward Heber. The campground is located at milepost 287 on State Highway 260 approximately 4.5 miles east of the Rim Visitor Information Station.

Fishing: Stillwater/Float tube/Pontoon boat - Willow Springs, Woods Canyon Lakes are nearby. Bear Canyon, Black Canyon, and Chevelon Canyon Lakes are also possibilities

Contact: Joe Staller (joestaller@yahoo.com) for information or to sign up.



DFC Club Meeting May 9, 2018



Tim Oliver

...accomplished nymph fisherman, fly tier and rod builder.

Tim will guide us through some of his fly patterns giving us suggestions on favorites when fishing the South West Colorado River.

Don't miss out on this DFC night with Tim Oliver!

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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www.desertflycasters.com

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DFC Casting Meetup

Saturday, May 5, 2018

8:00 am - 10:00 am

**McQueen Park Rec. Field
Open Public**



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)*

Questions?...Catch, Larry Allen at: flatsman@cox.net

DFC JUNE OUTING

June 7-10, 2018



Location: Big Lake. Fir Group Campsite, Apache Trout campground.

This camp site has hot showers and indoor plumbing. There will be a Social/Dinner on Saturday night. The club will provide brats and buns, please bring something to share.

Cost: \$48/person

Fishing: Stillwater/Float tube/Pontoon boat -June is a great month to be at Big Lake. In recent years, big Cut-throat trout have been caught in June. Full sink intermediate and type 2 or 3 fly lines are the most useful. Flies should include Simi-seal leeches, hare's ears, pheasant tails, and midge larva imitations. Dry flies fished on a floating line will work at dawn and dusk. If you prefer streams, the West Fork of the Black River is nearby.

Contact: Linda McAteer at: lmcateer60@gmail.com for information or to sign up.

Tired Old Eyes

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

The San Juan River in New Mexico is a popular destination for many fishermen and fly fishing clubs across the country. The Payson Flycasters' Club had members there over a recent two week window, and folks from Desert Flycasters' Club arrived after we left. I've lived in Arizona since 1979, but have never made the trek over to the San Juan. This was going to be my first trip.

One of the great things about fly fishing is that fly fishermen are very helpful and open about what flies are working and what techniques to try to increase your chances of success. I have been listening to club members for the last few years and marveled at their willingness to use tiny flies and how that has paid off for them. Frankly, the thought of relying on size 24, 26 or smaller flies for me to catch fish was not all that appealing. I fish in the size 12-18 range for most of my trout. I have caught a handful of twenty-two inch or larger trout on size 22 flies, so I know that they can be effective, and that somehow those tiny flies can hold on to a fish! My tired old eyes are not geared for size 22 or smaller anymore. I had never seen a 26 until this trip, when it was suggested to me at Abe's that the fish were really keying in on this tiny, tan offering. "Where would I find it in my fly box? How would I grab it? I'm supposed to somehow get a minuscule tippet through the eye of that hook? You're kidding, right?" I decided to investigate a little. I had my portable sampling net with me (pantyhose stretched over my landing net) and did some kick samples in the riffles above the Texas Hole. I also looked at several rocks that I picked up out of the riffle. I did not see one "bug" bigger than a size 22. In fact, there were a lot of size 26 and smaller critters there. I saw scuds, mayflies, midges, black fly larvae and tiny, thin worms (not the San Juan worms that I was used to fishing).

Getting back to the support of club members: not only did folks draw out maps for me to locate holes that have been productive for them; they sent pictures of flies that had worked the week before. Some of those flies were closer to my comfort zone, and then there was this story from Ric Hinkie's last trip to the San Juan. He had seen a couple guys catch about forty fish quite quickly with a very unusual rig in the Texas Hole. They were standing on the island just downstream of the riffle at the head of the hole and casting a big, green wooly bugger upstream into the riffle. They had it rigged with a swivel six feet up from the fly to get it down, yet let the fly flutter in the current. Ric theorized that this fly was likely imitating the green goo clumps floating down the river. He thought that the goo likely had bunches of midges in the clump that made a very efficient food packet for hungry trout used to eating size 26 midges one at a time.

I recently have been inspired by my grandson Owen, who after his first fly tying lesson from Papa began creating flies that he thought might work. He sent me pictures of a few of his creations, and they do look fishy! I decided to follow Owen's lead and create some flies based on Ric's description in preparation for my first trip. I tied two dozen on about a size 8 long shank hook, half with hackle over green chenille along the shank representing the midges, and half with olive leech yarn and small rubber legs along the shank. The flies were then covered with green marabou to represent the fluttering goo in the current.



Jim Strogen, photo

The wooly bugger and the 3rd from the bottom on the right accounted for many of my trout on the San Juan. The right column was my go to group of flies with the egg pattern coming in 3rd. The left column is a sampling from Abe's that were suggested.

I tied a size 18 pheasant tail bead-head as a dropper to give the rig a little weight and then the wooly bugger trailing about eighteen inches behind. I tried probably fifteen to twenty fly combinations, and I did get down to size 22 and even a 24 a time or two during the trip. Fully a third of my fish however, were caught on the size 18 bead-head and size 8 wooly bugger-about evenly split between those two flies.

Ric, Dave Rozema, Joe Miller and I each spent a half day in a boat in the Texas Hole with a guide. While in the boat, the other guys used the wooly bugger as the dropper fly in an attractor mode and a smaller fly as the trailer. They had an occasional hook up with the wooly bugger, but found that whatever fly was the trailer in that combination often did better than other fly combinations that they tried.

I know that I am just beginning my San Juan education. I may just have been lucky, but the next time you visit the San Juan you might consider giving a bigger fly a try. Your eyes will thank you for it, and it might catch some fish.

Catch, Jim Strogen at: jimstrog@gmail.com

2018 DFC Outings to keep in mind...



JUNE 16, 2018 • Canyon Lake Outing • Canyon Lake, Boulder Cove, AZ
Host: Joe Staller - joestaller@yahoo.com

JULY 14, 2018 • Becker Best • Becker Lake, AZ
Host: Gentry Smith - design@gentrysmith.com



The charm of fly fishing lies in one's numerous failures and the unforeseen circumstances that must be over come.

ALONG THE OUTER BANKS

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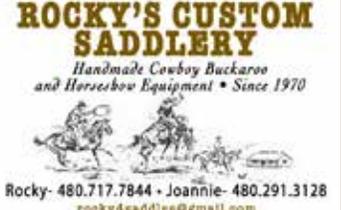
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DFC Education Dates:

DFC Casting Meetup • 5/5/2018 • McQueen Park Rec. Field | 8am – 10am
Open Public • Larry Allen: flatsman@cox.net

Intermediate Fly Tying • 5/23/2018 • McQueen Activity Center | 7pm – 9pm
DFC Members Only • Gentry Smith: design@gentrysmith.com

Intermediate Fly Tying • 6/27/2018 • McQueen Activity Center | 7pm – 9pm
DFC Members Only • Gentry Smith, design@gentrysmith.com

**Many go fishing all of their lives
without knowing that it is not the fish
they are after.**

Henry David Thoreau

Desert Fly Casters • Established in 1962

DFC LIFE TIME MEMBERS:

Larry and Marie Allen
Rod Buchanan
Vince Deadmond • Jim Fraijo
Gary and Carole Hall
Bob Harrison
Rocky and Joanie Minster
W.R. Nickel • Charles Rosser • Richard Rowe
Dave and Karyn Weaver
Joe Miller • Cinda Howard



DFC PRESIDENTS:

Frank Schettino- 2017-
Gentry Smith- 2015-2017
Joesph Staller- 2013-2015
Cinda Howard- 2012- 2013
Mike Yavello- 2011-2012
Steve Berry-2010-2011
Bob Harrison- 2009 - 2010
Cinda Howard- 2002- 2009
Bob Harrison- 2001-2002

Also, our continued thanks for some of our Trout Bums
who served as president in years past:*

Dick Perrin • Jim Fraijo • Chuck Smith • Gary Walsh • Dave Weaver
Mike Rose • Jim Clifford • Bob Harrison

**Note: This list of past presidents is still being compiled- your assistance
with this will be appreciated.*



Yo... Soft Hacklers



by
Robert Olach,
Fly Tier-
Lee Wulff TU Chapter

There are many (slightly) different wet and dry fly dressings that can be made / fished using peacock herl bodies and various hackles, both for soft hackled wets and also for rooster hackled dries.

For the past couple years, I've tied several dressings where the only differences are the color of the threads and the hackles.

Using the "Red Ass" and "Egg Laying Caddis" wet flies that I often fish, they are tied like this using Daiichi 1550 or 1530 wet fly hooks in sizes 12 - 16:

1. Start wrapping the red (Red Ass) or lime green (Egg Laying Caddis) a short distance from the hook eye and then tightly wrap the thread down the hook shank AND approx. half-way DOWN the hook bend; then back up the hook bend until the thread is at the top of the hook bend. The red or lime green threads should be clearly visible at both the hook bend and eye when the fly is completed.

2. Tie in a piece of thin gold wire at the back of the hook shank, right before the bend of the hook.

3. Tie in 2 or 3 pieces of wide peacock herl (green is ok but bronze herl is even better), depending on the size of the hook being used. For extra security, some people put head cement on the thread before the peacock herl is wound forwards.

4. Wrap the peacock herl towards the eye of the hook, leaving enough room for the hackle.

5. Counter wrap the gold wire for 4 or 5 wire wraps over the wound peacock herl, stopping at the end on the peacock herl and then breaking or cutting off the end of the gold wire.

6. Tie in a grey partridge hackle by the "Christmas Tree Tip" and do 2 ½ to 3 hackle turns (depending on the thickness of the partridge hackle) then wrap the thread over the hackle and trim off the hackle stem.

7. Do a 3-turn whip finish and then another 4-turn whip finish making a noticeable red or lime green head. This double whip finish will make a more secure head in case the fish's teeth damage the thread.

8. Add a drop of head cement to the area where the partridge hackle and the thread head meet AND at the red or lime green thread around the hook bend.

- If a black thread is used with the peacock herl and gold wire body, there's no need to wrap down the hook bend, instead, just stopping at the end of the hook shank where the gold wire and peacock herl are tied in and then wrapped forward just like the above two dressings.

- If a grey partridge hackle is then used, a "Peacock & Partridge" dressing is made.

- If a black hen or starling hackle is used, then a "Peacock & Black Hen" or a "Peacock & Starling" is made.

- If a brown hen hackle is used you now have a variation of the old English "Hackled Coachman Wet".

- If the peacock & wire body is used and the partridge hackled is folded / bunched and then tied in as a wing, a "Peacock Caddis" can also be made.

Peacock Bodied Soft Hackles

Hook – Daiichi 1550 or 1530 wet fly hooks (sizes 12 - 16)

Thread – Uni-Thread 6/0 – Red, Orange or Black

Tails – None

Body – Wide Peacock Herl

Rib – Small gold wire

Hackle – Grey Partridge

Head – Uni-Thread 6/0 Re, Orange or Black

- If a dry fly hook is used with the peacock herl & wire body with a brown dry fly hackle and a yellow wool tail a "Treacle Parkin" is made; with an orange wool tail, you have an "Orange Tag"; and with a red wool tail, you have a "Red Tag" – three good dry flies for trout and grayling dry fly fishing.

Enclosed below are pics of the various flies mentioned. Have fun tying these dressings.

EDITORS NOTE:

Robert Olach has visited our newsletter in the past and I'm pleased we have some neat soft hackles, a specialty of Mr. Olach gracing our DFC May newsletter. He's also contributed to our Annual Banquet with his flies.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to catch Robert at: royalcoachman@sbcglobal.net • R.McKeon, DFC Editor



Orange Tag



Peacock Bodied Soft Hackles



Treacle Parkin



Red Tag

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DATES TO KEEP IN MIND...2018

MAY OUTING • May 18-20, 2018

Location: Canyon Point Campground, Mogollon

Host: Joe Staller • joestaller@yahoo.com

JUNE OUTING • June 7-10, 2018

Location: Big Lake. Fir Group Campsite, Apache Trout campground

Host: Linda McAteer • lmcateer60@gmail.com

See ya Wednesday...
8 May 9, 2018



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