

FORWARD CASTS

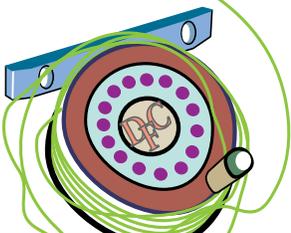
OFFICIAL DESERT FLY CASTERS NEWSLETTER



JULY
Wednesday,
July 11, 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 • July 2018



Greetings DFC'ers,

Welcome to summer and the heat. Monsoon season has also begun and the weather forecasters get so excited giving the forecast. Me not so much. I'm happy to report that a project we partnered with the Rio Salado Casting Club, the Town of Gilbert is now complete. The casting pads at McQueen park are done. A big congratulations goes out to Gentry Smith, Bob McKeon, Larry Allen and the Rio Salado Casting Club.

Saturday July 14th is the 6th annual White Mountain Lakes Foundations Becker Best day. Its a day of fun, fishing, a great lunch and a raffle. I hope to see you there. August there will be no meeting because its our annual swap meet. Time to go through your closets and bring your "extra" stuff to trade, sell swap with your fellow DFC'ers.

August is our outing to Utah, Dick Brooks was out scouting the countryside for a location and will have a report at the July meeting. Coming in September is the annual outing to the San Juan river. Check out the flyer in this months newsletter and all the information you need from host Billy Wingo at the July meeting....[Check page 2 for Dick Brooks and Billy Wingo DFC Trout Bums.](#)

Tight lines,
Frank Schettino





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 Club Meeting July 11, 2018



Our own Trout Bum buddy, **DICK BROOKS** will document his Utah trip of last year and will also serve as a pre-trip appetizer for the August trip to South Utah.

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!

Let's go to the San



The fishing is great and it is time to make plans. Chose from two options:

Option One – Arrive Monday September 17th and fish Tuesday and Wednesday the 18th and 19th. Two days of Drift Boat Fishing, three nights lodging and a meal of your choice at the Back Cast Café @ the Fisheads San Juan Rive Lodge.

Option Two – Arrive Thursday September 20th and fish Friday and Saturday the 21st and 22nd. Two days of Drift Boat Fishing , three nights lodging and a meal of your choice at the Back Cast Café @ the Fisheads San Juan River Lodge.

The total of either option include tax is \$620.00.

See Billy Wingo for more information.

billy.wingo@phoenix.gov<mailto:billy.wingo@phoenix.gov>
<http://www.phoenix.gov/police>



Brown Trout at Lees Ferry

by Jim Strogon

Some DFC members have been involved in efforts to influence the controversial plan by the National Park Service (NPS) to mechanically remove brown trout through intensive, repeated electroshocking in the Blue Ribbon Rainbow Trout Fishery at Lees Ferry. That plan, the Expanded Non-Native Aquatic Species Management Plan in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Grand Canyon National Park below Glen Canyon Dam - An Environmental Assessment (NPS-EA) is scheduled for the last round of public review and comment in mid August, 2018. The NPS plans to roll out their decision document in Fall, 2018. They are currently refining alternatives to their plan based on the first round of input (largely from the angling and guiding community) and information from the Brown Trout Report (Brown Trout in the Lees Ferry Reach of the Colorado River-Evaluation of Causal Hypotheses and Potential Interventions <https://doi.org/10.3133/ofr20181069>. Your continued attention to this issue is important. This mid August, 2018 comment period may be short and be your last opportunity to influence the decision.

As anglers, we are certainly interested in that fishery, and we also support decisions based on sound scientific research to guide actions for the river and all of its inhabitants. The brown trout workshop in September 2017, and the resultant Brown Trout Report (BTR) came about in part from suggestions for the workshop by your fishing representatives on the Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) and the Technical Work Group (TWG) as stakeholders in the careful management of the discharges from Glen Canyon Dam and the impact on the Colorado River below the dam. The brown trout workshop and subsequent report was an attempt to bring science into the NPS-EA that seemed to be lacking a scientific rationale for the proposed actions in that plan. I have read the BTR and encourage you to do the same if you would like to learn more about the most likely potential causes for the recent increase in brown trout in Lees Ferry and possible interventions to address this potential problem. It is an 83 page technical report, so some highlights may be in order. First, the study was limited in scope to only the Lees Ferry reach of the Colorado River. There have been brown trout in Grand Canyon tributaries since they were introduced beginning in 1923. When the dam was completed in the mid 1960s and the river remained cold enough for trout to survive year round, brown trout were free to move throughout the river and have resided there ever since. There have been historical rises and falls in both the trout and the native species populations during that time. The most recent blip in brown trout from 2014-2016 in the Lees Ferry reach caused concern with the National Park Service and prompted their Environmental Assessment that includes targeted removal of brown trout in Lees Ferry.

The BTR attempts to seek likely causes of the increase and offers potential solutions to remediate the increase. In contrast, the NPSEA is a reactive document to the problem and makes no attempt to address root causes, but rather only symptoms of that problem. From an NPS perspective, any brown trout in the system are invasive species that should not be there and could cause harm to the humpback chub population 60+ river miles

downstream at the Little Colorado River confluence. From an AZGFD and recreational anglers' perspective, there are few brown trout (approximately 3% of the trout in Lees Ferry) and there is not evidence that they are moving downstream in significant numbers to cause harm to the humpback chub population.

The BTR suggests that warmer discharges from the dam which might favor brown trout more than rainbow trout, high flow events in the fall which might positively impact brown trout spawning success, and the decline in rainbow trout in the Lees Ferry reach are among some likely possibilities for the recent increase in brown trout at Lees Ferry. The BTR also suggests exploring solutions to the problem such as the suspension of the high flow events in the fall, more frequent spring high flow events that might disrupt brown trout redds and actually increase rainbow trout production, and an incentivized angler take program targeting brown trout in addition to the primary option initially proposed by the NPS of intensive, sustained electroshocking in Lees Ferry.

The BTR authors acknowledge that this is a complex problem and that there is limited data to make any definitive suggestions for solutions. They encourage more study of the likely root causes and note that there are a variety of stakeholders that could provide assistance in working on this problem and may be impacted by any actions taken.

Inclusion of ideas like suspension of the Fall High Flow Events, increase in the number of Spring High Flow Events, temperature control of the water coming out of the dam, study of movement of trout from Lees Ferry and other reaches of the river to the Little Colorado River confluence area are outside the scope of their EA even though one or more of those actions may have a profound impact on unlocking the root cause of the recent brown trout increase and provide a long term solution to the problem.

If you are interested in learning more about the brown trout increase in Lees Ferry and the National Park Service plan to eradicate brown trout and potentially adversely impact the blue ribbon rainbow trout fishery at Lees Ferry in the process, please be sure to read the BTR and express your views to the National Park Service during their final public comment period. Thoughtful advice offered by the angling community has had a positive influence on the stance that the National Park Service has taken in recent meetings on the subject. You will continue to get updates in the DFC newsletter. Please continue to stay informed and involved as you share your valuable angler perspective.

Questions and/or comments?

Catch Jim Strogon at: jimstrog@gmail.com



Desert Fly Casters Conservation Corner - July•2018

Lees Ferry

Brown Trout Update - See the Article by Jim Stroger, Glen Canyon Dam Program Recreational Fishing Representative in this Newsletter.

Bug Flows - Experimental Flows to enrich the food base for Rainbow Trout are underway. We'll report results as they become available.

National Forests

Closures - Many areas are still closed due to drought conditions and even those like Big Lake that are open have NO Fires!

White Mountains - Becker Best Day is coming on Saturday July 14th!

White Mountain Lakes Foundation & AZGFD are working to advance the Four Lakes Initiative. More News Soon!

Streams - AZGFD is planning to remove Elk Fencing on Canyon Creek on September 7 & 8. They'll need lots of help. A detailed call for volunteers will be coming.

AZGFD is planning near term trout stream restoration project on the East Verde River just North of Payson. Curt Gill of AZGFD will tell us about that and several recently completed stream restoration projects like Canyon Creek when he visits us in November.

For more info on any of these topics contact Trout Bum Joe Miller.

Catch Joe at: jam@prairietriz.com

FLY FISHING 101 . Fly Fishing IS Casting!

To cast, or not to fish; that is the question. If you can't adequately cast a fly line you might as well not fish.

Any kind of fishing is based on learning something about that kind of fishing, even if it's how to put corn on the hook. Ten years ago we lived on Flathead Lake in Montana. Koonce salmon gathered on gravel beds before spawning. The local method of fishing them was to use two kernels of white shoe peg corn threaded on a hook. But the corn had to be threaded on the hook in one very specific manner. If you put the corn on any other way, no bites. Really. Now ask me how I know? A guy sitting in the next boat took pity on us and showed us exactly how. And then we caught fish.

Success at fly fishing is dependant on casting, not corn. Joan Wulff probably said it better than anyone, "if you don't know where the fish lie but can cast well enough to cover all of the water with finesse, you are likely to solve the mystery and catch fish. If you know where they lie but can neither reach them nor present the fly naturally, *you are not even in the game.*" *That's a quotation from her book Fly Casting Techniques*

It's really quite simple. Anything less than knowing how to cast well gets you fresh air, maybe sunshine, and probably a sore arm or shoulder.

I often see people fly casting who just don't have a clue how to cast. The fly hits the water both in front and in back of them. The rod travels in a half circle. Line, leader and fly all hit the water in a heap - with a splash. What a waste of time and effort. Ultimately fly fishing for these folks becomes a futile exercise and they quit. We all expect some reward or pay off from our recreation. Without reward, even just the pleasure of casting well (which really is great fun), there is no recreation.

Recreation is an odd word. What it really means is time spent re-creating oneself. An escape from whatever we do for a living. An escape from the everyday world.

For me and thousands of folks, fly fishing does that. It is an expression of HOPE. In fact, all fishing is an expression of hope. We "hope" to have a great time. We "hope" we will catch fish. We "hope" to make a connection with nature.

So why spoil it with ineffectual casting? You don't have to. Read a book. Watch a video or two. They can really help (check the list for both at the end of this.) A friend who is a pretty good caster may be willing to watch you cast, and help spot problems. Keep in mind, the absolute rule: The Rod Has to STOP to Make the Line GO.

Finally, you can take a class. A class will save you several years of trial and error. Even if you have your own equipment, your best bet is to take a class where everything is furnished. We have had people in our classes who have been casting for years.

We had one gentleman in a class who was 80! He had used a roll cast all his life. Never figured out how to do any other casting that worked. Some folks taking our class just want to learn how to cast a long line. Others have casting faults they have not been able to correct. Everything from raw beginners to very experienced.

Wherever your level of ability is, you can gain enough confidence to cast properly in any situation. This isn't brain surgery, it's fly casting.

Article credit: Fly Anglers On Line



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DFC Intermediate Fly Tying • Flies by: Phil Rowley

Phil Rowley's - Balanced Leech



Hook: 60 degree Jig hook size 4-12 depending on fish
Bead: Tungsten size 2.5 – 4.6mm in all colors
Straight Pin or brad to match bead size
Thread: UTC 70 or larger and color to match chenille or semi seal
Body: Some type of flash chenille or semi seal
Tail: Marabou or semi seal to match body

Phil Rowley's - Dragoon



Hook: Daiichi 2220 #4-#8 • **Thread:** MFC 6/0 or UTC 70 Olive
Under Body: Foam Body, 7/8ths Slim, Black
Body: Arizona Simi Seal, Peacock and Peacock Crystal Chenille
Spun Together in a Dubbing Loop
Wingcase: Dark Brown Raffia
Thorax: Olive Deer Hair, Spun and Clipped
Legs: Sili Legs, Yellow/Gold/Black
Eyes: Booby Foam, 4mm, Black • **Head:** Arizona Simi Seal, Peacock

Additional Intermediate Fly Tying information will be available at July DFC Club Meeting
Questions? **Catch Jack Dengel** at: jackdengel@yahoo.com



WHITE MOUNTAIN LAKES FOUNDATION

SIXTH ANNUAL

BECKER BEST

2018

SATURDAY

JULY 14

LAKE OPENS AT
6:00 am

BECKER LAKE | SPRINGVILLE, AZ

Join the White Mountain Lakes Foundation (WMLF), a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving Arizona's White Mountain fisheries through grassroots conservation, restoration and protection efforts, for a day of fun and fishing at the sixth annual Becker Best event. Lunch will be provided by WMLF, followed by a general raffle and the WMLF 2018 membership rod raffle.

A block of discounted rooms has been reserved under White Mountain Lakes Foundation at the Rode Inn Motel located just a few short minutes from Becker Lake.

Call (928) 333-4365 for reservations

More Info Contact, Joe Staller | joestaller@yahoo.com

*All times are approximate

FREE LUNCH
12:00 PM

GENERAL RAFFLE
1:30 PM

MEMBERSHIP ROD RAFFLE
2:00 PM

www.WMLF.ORG

As we have for the last several years, DFC has organized an outing to the White Mountains to help support the White Mountains Lake Foundation (WMLF). On July 14, WMLF will host a one day event at Becker Lake, which includes some expert guidance on how to successfully fish Becker Lake, a FREE lunch, and a general raffle open to everyone. Members of WMLF will also have the opportunity to win a Dave Weaver custom made Sage Accel 4 pc 5 wt fly rod, made with the finest components. If you are not a WMLF member, you will be able to join the day of the event and get one chance for the rod raffle. Membership is \$25 annually. Just to be clear, you do NOT need to be a member of WMLF to enjoy the day, participate in the general raffle, and get the free lunch.

If you need a place to stay, WMLF and DFC have reserved a block of discounted rooms at the Rode Inn Motel, located in Springerville just a few short minutes from Becker Lake. Call 928-333-4365 for reservations. Just mention the "WMLF Becker Best" event to get the discount.

Festivities begin at 6:00 a.m. when the lake opens. My recommendation is to get there early, fish the morning, then get off the water at noon for lunch and socializing.

Hope to see you there!

Joe Staller • joestaller@yahoo.com • or 602-568-9431



June 04, 2012

Releasing Fish Right

Taking the precautions after the catch is critical

By Aaron J. Adams, Ph.D. and Andy J. Danylchuk, Ph.D.

Thankfully, catch-and-release fishing is becoming more common by the day. For many anglers, setting fish free to fight again has simply become part of their catching ritual. While releasing species such as bonefish, tarpon and permit is pretty much a given, a good number of anglers extend this practice to virtually every fish they catch, no matter the species. As legendary fly-fisherman Lee Wulff said, "A fish is too valuable to be caught only once."

Ironically, even anglers who keep a fish or two for the plate participate in catch-and-release. Just think about it. What happens when a fish is caught out of season or isn't a legal size — too small, or not within the slot limit? The angler has to put it back, and hence practice catch-and-release. In Florida, for example, it's been estimated that approximately half of all fish caught by recreational anglers are released — some as general practice, and many because of size or bag limits. And with snook, one of the most popular game fish in the state, it is estimated that more than 95 percent of caught fish are released.

Wulff's famous statement implied that catch-and-release should be viewed as a valuable tool that allows anglers to take part in and enjoy fishing without damaging the resource. What's important for us all to keep in mind is that this proven conservation method is effective only when practiced correctly. Fortunately, a growing number of scientists have been conducting research to figure out the best ways to capture, handle and release fish to ensure their survival.

While a good number of fishermen already follow good catch-and-release practices, many unknowingly use incorrect techniques that do more harm than good. But before we start finger-pointing, let's agree to admit that we've all handled fish improperly in the past. We just didn't know any better. Even today, with a closer look at data gathered through studies on catch-and-release fishing, we're learning a lot about the do's and don'ts of handling caught fish.

Air Exposure

To a great extent, fly-anglers have it relatively easy when it comes to catch-and-release. Typically, flies are not swallowed by fish, so we don't have to be overly concerned about hooking a fish in the gullet. But even in that rare situation in which a fly is taken deeply by a fish, the safest solution is to cut the line as close to the hook as you can and release the fish. Research on bonefish, for example, has shown that leaving the hook in the fish does not affect the fish's behavior or survival or result in any weight loss. Work on other species has shown similar results. Leaving the hook in the fish is generally better than the damage that's caused by digging around to remove it and also takes less time, plus you may not even need to take the fish out of the water.

Reducing the fish's exposure to air is another big issue. Work on bonefish conducted at the Cape Eleuthera Institute, in the Bahamas, showed that bonefish exposed to air for too long a time had a much higher chance of dying after being released. The scientists' recommendation was that bonefish should be exposed to air a maximum of 15 seconds. It's safe to use this as a ground rule with other coastal game fish as well. In addition, recent research determined that every minute the gills of

a bonefish are exposed to air, the odds of its getting eaten by a shark or barracuda increase 6 times.

Handling with Care

Unless you want a photograph, limit the amount of time you handle the fish. In general, more handling time means more trouble for the fish. Using a barbless hook drastically decreases the amount of time you need to safely remove the hook and send the fish on its way.

Keeping the fish in the water is by far the best thing you can do to ensure a safe release, and if you do handle the fish, make sure your hands are wet. Using towels, cotton gloves or other items for gripping almost always increases the amount of slime removed from the fish.

All fish species have their own optimal conditions for survival, and water temperature plays a major role, without exception. If the water is considerably colder or warmer than a fish's comfort zone, then the fish is less likely to handle catch-and-release well. When conditions are on the edge of a fish's tolerance, be extra vigilant about reducing handling time and eliminating air exposure before releasing the fish.

If you need to revive a fish prior to release, make sure that water is flowing into the mouth and out of the gills. The gills are designed to get oxygen as water moves from front to back, and reversing this movement by moving the fish back and forth can actually inhibit the intake of new oxygen. If you need to, make figure-eight patterns with the fish in the water so that it's always moving forward.

Catching fish on fly tackle is such a fantastic experience, we owe it to ourselves and future anglers to do our part and practice responsible catch-and-release fishing.

Aaron J. Adams is the director of operations for Bonefish & Tarpon Trust and a senior scientist at Mote Marine Laboratory. In addition to overseeing BTT's work, he conducts fish ecology research.

Andy J. Danylchuk is assistant professor of fish conservation for the Department of Environmental Conservation at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where he takes part in research on the effects of catch-and-release and other fishy topics.

EDITORS NOTES:

We had this same article in one of our DFC newsletters back in 2012.

I over heard someone at one of recent club meetings discussing releasing fish- not a lengthy conversation, but it aroused my gray matter that in our archives there was such an article regarding- just that "**Releasing Fish Right.**" Thought this might be a good chance to recycle this article for some of us. *R. McKeon, DFC Editor*

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See ya Wednesday...
July 11, 2018



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