

DECEMBER 2018

FORWARD CASTS

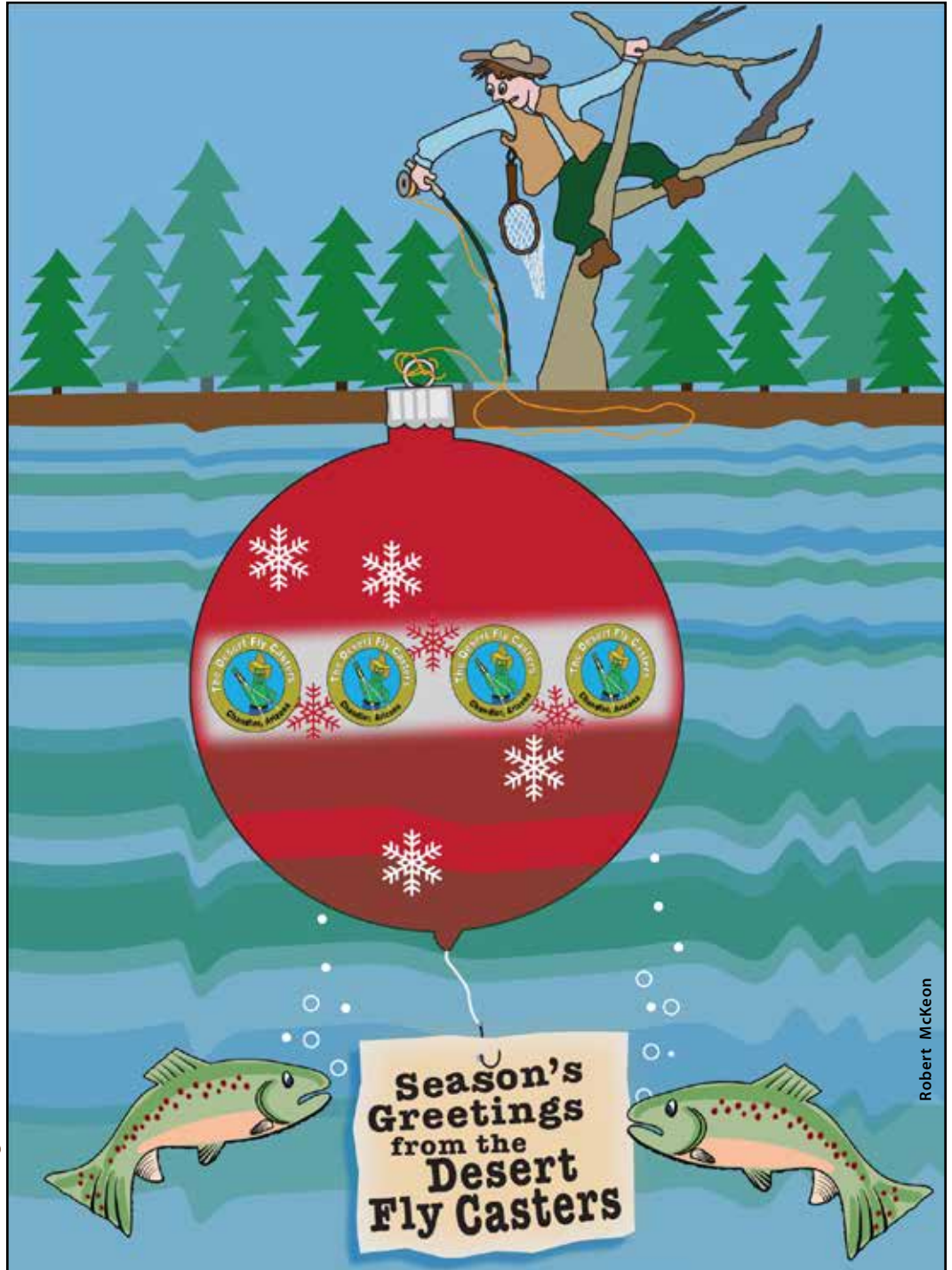
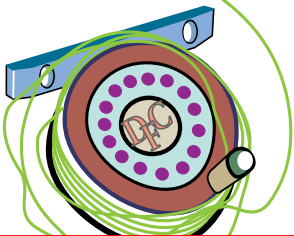
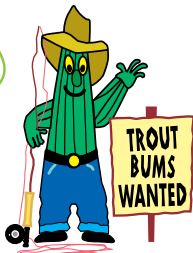
OFFICIAL DESERT FLY CASTERS NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER
Wednesday,
December 12, 2018

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

Elks Lodge
1775 West Chandler Blvd.
Chandler, Arizona 85224



Robert McKeon

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?



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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President's Drift

Frank Schettino • December 2018



Happy Holidays fellow DFC'ers,

Wishing all Trout Bums a very Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy Kwanzaa and a Happy Festivus for the rest of us. May this holiday season fill your hearts with joy, your stockings be filled with lots of new gear, and your lines tighten with the fight of large trout.

Speaking of new gear. Our annual banquet is not far away. So save the date February 13, 2019 for this epic event.

A big THANK YOU to all DFC Trout Bums for your support during the year. The membership is what makes this such a great club. A big THANK YOU also goes out to members of the board for all their hard work during the year.

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night,
Frank Schettino



DFC Club Meeting December 12, 2018



Join us with, **Dan "Rooster" Leavens**, owner/guide of Stone Fly Outfitters. Rooster will give us an insight of his favorite rivers in S/W Montana.

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!

December DFC Outing

Saturday-December 15, 2018 • 8:00 AM

Where: ASU Research Park • (Middle Lake)

The lakes are located between Elliot and Warner, West of the 101. They can be accessed from S. River Parkway.

Parking: Please park on the side street to the east of the lake (S. Research Park Drive)

Target species: Bass, sunfish, yellow perch, grass carp

Tackle: 4, 5, or 6 wt rods. Floating or slow sinking lines. 9 foot 4X leaders.

Flies: Simi-seal leeches, size 14 chartreuse "Little Guys", egg patterns, standard trout flies

Host: Grant Berkowitz...Catch Grant at: gjberk@gmail.com • cell phone: 480-313-4270

Lunch: We will meet at Zipp's Sports Bar at 12:00 noon for lunch and awards ceremony. Zipp's is located at 1860 E Warner Rd, Tempe, AZ 85284, (NE corner of Warner and McClintock) near the Harbor Freight.

GOOD CATCH



While attending a Bamboo Fly Rod Event at The Rockwell Springs Trout Club near Castalia Ohio I had the chance to cast a line to some really large trout. The water is crystal clear, smooth and tight. Although there are a lot of nice fish they aren't easy to fool. Many anglers get skunked. I was lucky to take this trophy on a #12 black stonefly nymph on my 7'2" 5wt Merlin. The taper is based on a Paul Young Driggs River. It took 20 minutes to bring this Bow to net. I had to holler for help and Jim Downes of Pennsylvania came running with a long handled landing net. After a quick photo the Rainbow was released to fight another day.

Ron Barch
Aldercreekangling.com

WELCOME



DFC NEW MEMBERS

Ted Patikas
Alex Pitikas
Greg Wessel
Cathy Wessel
Jeff Humble
Ann Humble
John trnka
Bruce Bowers
Ron Jarvis

Brian Foss, DFC Membership
bfossfly@gmail.com

Keep these dates in mind for the DFC Casting Meetups...and more!

DFC Casting meetup • 01/05/2019 • McQueen park. 10AM-12PM.
Essentials of Fly Casting* • 1/10/2019 • McQueen activity center, 7-9 PM
Danish Casting Games • 02/02/2019. Mc Queen park. 9AM-12PM.
DFC Casting Meetup • 03/09/2019. McQueen park. 10AM-12PM.
Beginner Fly Casting • 03/30/2019. McQueen park. 10AM-12PM.
DFC Casting Meetup • 05/11/2019. McQueen park. 8AM-10AM.

* Note: Depending on room availability

Catch Frank Schettino, *The President Guy* for further details at:
sketno1026@hotmail.com



My friend, Big Al...

Rocky Point with, past V/P board member, *Michael Georgopapadakos*, in his own words...



I had lunch with Al Capone went fishing at the estuary and caught a cabrijja the size of my arm, the largest I ever caught. Went fishing on a boat with four other fly fishermen and caught in 4 hours 55 trigger fish, numerous cabrijja which we used as bait and I caught a large Sierra macro using a squid fly. They accused us using dynamite when we returned to fillet them. Donated 3 bags of fillets toward communal fish fry.

So, you should catch:
Michael Georgopapadakos,
if youse got any questions at:
michaelg29@yahoo.com

GILBERT KIDS FISHING DAY

Saturday, December 8, 2018 • 8:00-12:00 NOON

Come early and get registered at 7:30 AM

Meet us all at: Discovery Park

2214 E Pecos Rd. ...Its between S Greenfield rd and the San Tan 202.

We'll need some volunteers to help out guide these little fishing enthusiasts!!

Please contact Frank Schettino, DFC President at:
sketno1026@hotmail.com or: 917-414-5428



DFC RAFFLE TABLE

mike moore
the
dfc raffle guy



Thank you to those that have contributed raffle items and participate in the raffle. Raffle proceeds are appreciated and help to offset club expenses. Congratulations to all raffle winners including **Greg Wessell** November Rod Raffle Winner of a 4 piece 7'6" 4 wt. rod. It was Greg's first DFC meeting so introduce yourself to Greg, welcome him to DFC and congratulate him on his beautiful new rod!

See you at the raffle table.

Mike Moore: The *DFC Raffle Guy*
MLMunroe@msn.com



DFC Conservation Corner • December, 2018

...on going reported notes from Joe Miller, DFC Board Member

There's been a lot of Fishing Conservation activity going on in Arizona in the last few days! A few Highlights:

Lees Ferry Update

Stocking Program: Hats off to AZGFD as they remained committed and persistent in this effort. They stocked 500 "Super-Catchable" size Rainbow trout in the vicinity of the Walk-In Area on Wednesday, November 14.

All fish were radio tagged to help determine whether they will remain in the area or be caught and kept by anglers, or eaten by predators as AZGFD's data strongly suggests or if there is worrisome but highly doubtful migration 60 miles downriver to the LCR.

This is a very good stocking even though numbers are low as it is precedent setting and reinforces an understanding that AZGFD should be able to do this based on agreement if future catch numbers fall again. In the future (likely April) more are planned to be stocked, and it is suspected the data from this stocking should clearly verify the limited danger to Humpback Chub downriver. (Thanks to Jim Stroger & Payson Fly Casters for Info!)

AND, the very latest Flagstaff based Fishing Reports (Nov 28th) indicate these nice sized fish are being caught in Good Numbers right in the Walk In!!

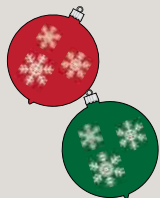
NPS Expanded Non-Native Invasive Species EA:

COMMENTS!!! We've just yesterday received access to all the comments submitted back in October on the Draft EA, sometimes referred to as the Brown Trout EA. There are 70 condensed pages of them from almost 60 individuals, groups, and Organizations. Some of these comments are very technical and legalistic, but we'll have a summary of them for the January Newsletter. NPS Officials have indicated they still plan to roll out the final EA in early 2019.

Forest, Watershed & Stream Restoration

4 Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) Rim Country EIS: On Wednesday, Nov 28, The US Forest Service 4FRI Team reported on progress on the Rim Country EIS Aquatics Flexible Toolbox for management of restoration work on Springs, Wet Meadows, Streams and Riparian areas across the Mogollon Rim Area. AZGFD Staff have helped develop and evaluate these approaches, including AZGFD Fisheries Manager Curt Gill, who gave DFC a great update on recent and future restoration work on streams like Canyon, Tonto, Christopher Creeks, and the East Verde River. This AQFTB Approach is hoped to help speed up approval processes for future stream restoration work. A similar approach for New Mexico, partly based on work done here in AZ, has recently been reported in *SouthWest Fly Fishing Magazine*.

Need more Information on any of these important projects to improve our Fishing? Catch, Trout Bum, Joe Miller at: jamiller101@gmail.com.





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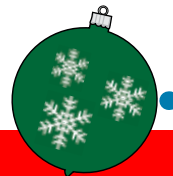
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Hey fellow DFC'ers - we could use your help...

Our Annual Banquet will be held Wednesday, February 13, 2019

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)

What Fly Fishing Equipment Should I Get?

Jim Strogen

I am often asked about what kind of fly fishing equipment makes sense for someone just starting out. That is a scary path that those of us that have been doing it for a while know to navigate carefully. A friend has a standing plan that when he is ready to buy a new rod, that his wife knows that a new handbag for her has now been added to the family budget. With the Holiday season approaching you might even want to put a wish list of “needed” fishing gear out on a counter for someone to notice.

If you are new to fly fishing, I'd suggest that before you make a commitment to buying fly fishing equipment, that you take the time to see if you will enjoy it. I can't imagine that you won't, but that is based on having fun fly fishing for over fifty years. I'd suggest coming to a couple Desert Flycasters' Club meetings and talk with club members and ask questions about fly fishing and where they would suggest you fish to have the greatest likelihood of success. Someone might even offer to take you out to a lake and let you borrow a rod to give it a try. Certainly consider joining in on one of the many Club outings.

As experienced fly fishers, many DFC members check out estate sales for fly fishing equipment. That is certainly a way to go, but unless you know what you are looking for you could end up with equipment that is not going to serve you well, and in fact may frustrate you as you begin fly fishing. An example of this is a bamboo fly rod. They are fairly common in estate sales. I own a couple that I treasure because they belonged to my uncle who taught me how to fly fish. They are beautiful handcrafted rods that are part of fly fishing history. Unfortunately, they are much heavier than today's rods and become tiring after a day of fishing. They are also typically two piece rods that are hard to travel with.

My advice for an all purpose fly fishing outfit is a four piece, 5-weight rod and reel. These outfits typically come with backing line, floating fly line, and a leader already loaded on the reel. Another important feature of these outfits is that they come in a sturdy case, many of which allow you to keep the reel attached to the rod in the carrying case. Four piece rods are much handier to travel with than two piece rods. Five-weight? Backing? Fly Line? Leader? If this sounds like a foreign language, well it kind of is; but one that any fly fisher can help you interpret. What I have just suggested is the basic outfit that will meet most of your fly fishing needs if you plan to fish for bluegills, crappies, trout, and bass.

These all-inclusive outfits can be purchased at Bass Pro Shop, Sportsman's Warehouse, Cabela's, or LL Bean in the range of \$130-\$150. You can certainly get a cheaper outfit, but it typically will not have a case and usually does not include the backing, fly line and leader. It is also important to note if you are a left handed or right handed

caster when you purchase your outfit because the line is loaded on the reel accordingly. When I order a new rod, I always specify that I cast with my left hand and reel with my right hand to make it perfectly clear.

Now what? Tippet material in 4x and 5x is important for tying on to the end of your leader and attaching your

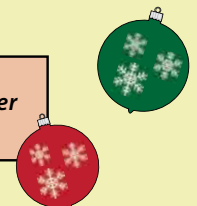
flies to. Oh yeah, flies. This is a black hole that must be approached carefully. Many flies are great for catching the eye of fly fishers, but not so great at catching fish. A general rule is that it needs to look “buggy.” Patterns that are great to start with include: hare's ears, pheasant tails, prince nymphs, copper johns- all in sizes 12-16, zebra midges in sizes 16-18, and green and black woolly buggers in sizes 8-12. These are all wet flies so will sink and match the bugs that the fish see every day in the water. A mixture of weighted and unweighted flies will help you in various fishing situations. Dry flies are certainly popular for fly fishing, but I'd suggest starting with wet fly fishing first as it is a bit easier for beginners to manage. If you've got your heart set on dry fly fishing, DFC members would certainly be a great source for advice on best dry fly patterns and places to use them. You also need some tools. First and

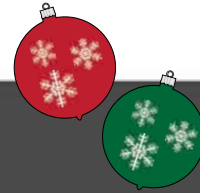
foremost you need eye protection. Even experienced fly fishers will get hooked occasionally by a fly when we are casting, especially when it is windy. Polarized sunglasses serve as protection and also help you see more clearly into the water. A long sleeved shirt and a brimmed hat complete the protection from flies and the sun. Clippers (nippers) to cut the line, hemostats (I prefer curved) to remove the hook from a fish's mouth and to pinch down the barb of my hooks, a leader straightener, and a retractor (zinger) to hold on to your clippers or hemostat often come in a handy combination packet. You will also need a fly box, and a lanyard (or vest) to carry your stuff. If you are doing any wading in streams, then a collapsible wading staff is a must. In terms of footwear, hold off until you know where you are likely to do your fishing. Most places around here will not require chest waders and you can easily get by with wet wading. Net preferences vary, and again DFC members can offer advice before you purchase.

Trout are due to be stocked in the Valley in the Community Fishing Program Lakes starting in mid November and are a blast to catch on a fly rod! The nice thing about these lakes is that they also have bluegills and bass that will take the same fly you are using for trout. Don't forget your license. It is a great deal in Arizona and supports fish habitat work and stocking efforts in the state.



Jim Strogen, Writer
Life on the Fly- Payson Roundup Newspaper
Catch Jim at: jimstrog@gmail.com





DFC ANNUAL BANQUET

Wednesday
February 13, 2019

Knights of Columbus Hall
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Chandler, AZ



Additional banquet information catch...
Frank Schettino at: sketno1026@hotmail.com

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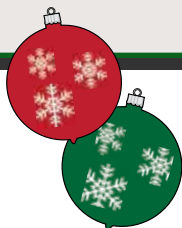
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December DFC Outing
Saturday, December 15, 2018 • Meet at 8:00 a.m.
ASU Research Park (middle lake)

Host: Grant Berkowitz • gjberk@gmail.com • cell phone: 480-313-4270



A memorable moment on the stream with a bamboo rod!

Ron Barch •
aldercreek@core.com

Editor's Ramblings...

Author and bamboo rod maker, Ron Barch, along with a wonderful trout... Always nice to know a "bamboozler," like Ron. (...see page 3 for story)

So maybe one of you DFC Trout Bums can send me a favorite catch for a future issue.

...Good Catch, Ron
R.McKeon, Editor
rmckeon2@cox.net

