

Published to communicate & stay connected with our DFC Trout Bums Friends during the pandemic times we live in.

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Help wildlife by picking up discarded fishing line, trash

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After the fishing line was untangled from the coot's legs, he happily swam off.



This dragonfly took a short rest on my arm after I untangled him after he grabbed my fly at Green Valley Lake



A frequent visitor to Green Valley Lakes during trout stocking season.

Many times when I go fishing, I just stop and watch the wildlife. While fishing along Tonto Creek and the East Verde River, I've enjoyed observing deer and elk that didn't even know I was there. I'm sure they see me more often than I will ever know.

I was fishing below the Second Crossing bridge on the East Verde River a few years ago and had to tie on a new fly. I was really focused on my work, when I heard what sounded like a snort from an elephant trunk. I looked up to see a spike buck apparently unsure about that strange creature blocking his access to the creek. As soon as I moved, he took off.

I have had some strange catches here in Rim Country with my fly rod too. I once caught a bird with my wooly bugger below the Third Crossing bridge. The swallow was cruising just above the water toward me as I watched my fly dance just under the surface. Before I knew it, he grabbed my wooly bugger and took it up to his nest under the bridge. It is a strange feeling to be "fishing" 10 feet above your head. Fortunately, the barbless hook only caught a couple of breast feathers and the leader had wrapped once around one wing. I quickly released him, and we both had an interesting story to tell our families.

Lately, I have been watching small bass in the Green Valley Lakes (GVL) swim right up against the bank trying to grab resting or low flying dragonflies and damselflies. These insects love to eat other insects, and it is not uncommon for them to attack my dangling fly as it flutters in the breeze when I move a few feet to make my next cast. During one of these shifts along the bank, a dragonfly grabbed my fly and quickly wrapped itself in my line. After a gentle untangling from those delicate wings, and a short rest on my shirt, he flew off too.

Every October, it is uncanny how we magically have an eagle or two show up at GVL. How do they know that the stocking truck will deliver the first batch of trout later that week? I love watching the eagles and the ospreys on GVL and at Woods Canyon and Willow Springs lakes. I will frequently stop fishing to marvel at the pros showing me how it is done.

My best example of that happened when I rented a boat to fish in a lake in Washington on a trip to see the power and devastation from the Mount St. Helens long after the eruption. It was a fishy looking lake that I was told had plenty of trout and bass. I switched rods and tackle several times, trying to entice either a bass or a trout. After a morning of fishing, I only caught one trout.

To drive home the point of my ineptness, an eagle snatched a bass not 200 feet from my boat. Then, within 10 minutes, an osprey dove into the water talons first, and came out with a nice trout, even closer to my boat. What a thrill.

I love the patience and fishing skills of great blue herons too. There is one at GVL that has become my favorite. He is missing a toe. I feel certain that this is a result of tangling in fishing line left along the shore. While we mostly see these birds around lakes when they are fishing, they nest and roost in tall trees. If their feet have fishing line on them when they fly off, they could easily get tangled in a tree, lose a toe like my friend did, or even worse.

Waterfowl are also at significant risk from fishing line. I have even seen turtles and fish tangled in discarded line. Unfortunately, it is a rare day that I don't pick up a handful of fishing line as I move around GVL, and a lot more when I fish Woods Canyon Lake or Willow Springs Lake.

I am always impressed with the Arizona Game and Fish Department staff that I encounter. To a person, they are incredibly dedicated and go to great extremes to protect the fish and wildlife in Arizona.

I was fishing the big dock on GVL 3 and noticed an American coot struggling on the floating cattails about 10 feet from shore. The bird really could not move from the spot. It was tangled in fishing line and there was no way I could get to it. Dave Daniels, AZGFD wildlife manager, came to the rescue. He couldn't reach it from shore either, but was undeterred. He called a friend and went to his house to borrow a kayak to rescue the bird. Within minutes, Dave had untangled the coot and it swam off happily; another example of AZGFD going the extra mile for wildlife.

We can all do our part to be sure that the wildlife we enjoy around lakes and streams does not have to suffer from our carelessness. Fishing line is such a danger to wildlife, we should never discard it on the ground. If you see any left by others, please pick it up. I often carry a trash bag on my belt to pick up fishing line, water bottles, pop cans, and bait containers left by others. I don't want the animals to be endangered by the trash, and I would prefer to fish in places that are clean.

Stay safe. We'll stay connected.

UPDATE: DFC ZOOM CLUB MEETING...Wednesday, September 9, 2020



Moderator, Jim Strogon, once again provided an up beat and informative ZOOM DFC Club meeting. Jim concentrated on one of his favorite fly fishing beats- *Silver Creek*. Jim took us to spots that are easy to fish and easy to get to. Jim let us in on one of his uniquely favored trailer fly set-ups illustrating movement of the flies mimicking what a mayfly or midge does when it swims. A nice set of tactics our Trout Bums might keep in mind next time out.

A few of our club members submitted their "tied an' true" fly patterns alerting each of us to some of the mysteries and rewards when trekking the high banks of Silver Creek.

Our ZOOM Club meeting was well attended by 44 DFC Trout Bums, including invited guests, Terry Greiner & Harry Barnes, from the *Red Cedar Fly Fishers Club*, Okemos, Michigan.

Strogon (Glen Canyon Technical Work Group Recreational Fishing Representative) introduced Jeff Arnold (Glen Canyon National Recreation Area Fish Biologist) and Scott Rogers (AZGFD Region II Aquatics Wildlife Program Manager that includes Lees Ferry). Jeff presented the NPS Incentivized Harvest program plans for controlling the number of brown trout in the Lees Ferry Reach to avoid the need to move to more aggressive actions that could harm the Blue Ribbon rainbow trout fishery. Scott and Jim offered AZGFD and angling perspective and helped Jeff respond to great questions and comments from the DFC members in the meeting.

There is not a plan to remove all brown trout, but rather to attempt to return their numbers to levels (2-5%) of the trout population at the Ferry rather than their current 12-13% levels. These higher levels could pose an out-migration threat to the protected native fish downriver.

If you missed it, the summary below describes the issue. Jeff, Scott, and Jim's contact info is at the bottom of the page. They would be happy to answer any additional questions about the Incentivized Harvest program that you have.



National Park Service (NPS) Incentivized Harvest Program

The NPS has determined that the number of brown trout need to be reduced to a level that will minimize the likelihood of brown trout traveling downriver and pose a potential threat to the endangered and protected Humpback Chub population in the Little Colorado River and the confluence within Grand Canyon National Park. Larger brown trout are known to eat other fish at a rate 17x greater than rainbow trout.

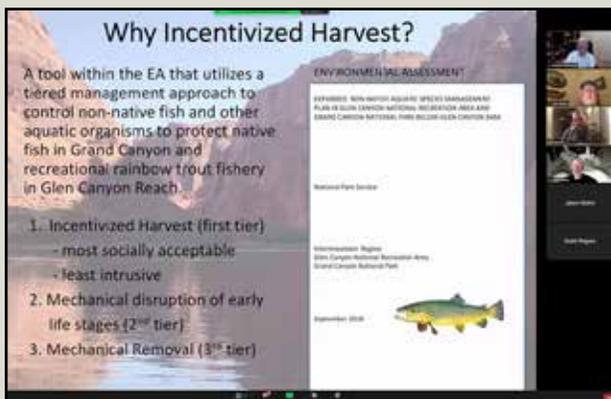
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area remains responsible for providing a quality rainbow trout fishery in the Lees Ferry area since the completion of the Glen Canyon Dam and the establishment of that cold water habitat.

The NPS, however, is also charged with protecting native species and minimizing the impact of introduced and invasive species. The original plan proposed by NPS was to mechanically disrupt brown trout spawning redds in the river, and then conduct an extensive (6-8 weeks, nightly) electroshocking effort for the entire Reach from the dam down to Lees Ferry.

To avoid these much more aggressive tiers that could be damaging to the rainbow trout fishery, anglers and the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) were influential in having NPS add an Incentive Harvest (IH) tier in advance of these measures to allow anglers to catch and keep brown trout.

This tier needs and deserves fly fishers' support.

Even though we generally release our catch; by harvesting brown trout through this IH program (and earning money for each brown trout turned in) we hope to avoid these more aggressive management tiers.



Jeff Arnold, Fish Biologist at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area- jeff_arnold@nps.gov
Scott Rogers, AZGFD Aquatics Wildlife Program Manager Region II - srogers@azgfd.gov
Jim Strogon, Glen Canyon TWG Recreational Fishing Rep - jimstrog@gmail.com

UPDATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

Join the DFC 57th Annual Pescador Extravaganza • November 4-9, 2020

PLANNED WITH COVID IN MIND!



Again this year's fly fishing event will be staged at the Playa de Oro RV Park Puerto Penasco, Mexico. November 4-9 but set your own schedule, many will arrive early and leave late. Make your reservations with the RV Park, hotel, condo, resort, or rental property of your choice. The trailer park can accommodate tent camping, trailers, 5th wheels, and large motor homes. Rental trailers are available from the RV Park. Something new - suites are available. The old coffee shop/convenience store has been remodeled into 10 units of luxury suites with it's own private swimming pool. Rates are similar to properties found on Sandy Beach, \$235 per night Friday Saturday \$185 Sun-Thur rooms can accommodate up to 5 people.

This event is going to be planned with Covid in mind. We plan not to congregate in large groups, many of the restaurants are open air structures with a palapa hut roof, your basic patio dining. I am suggesting that you dine in groups no larger than four people. I visited RP last weekend and the bars and cantinas are taking Covid serious. The employees are masked, hand sanitizer is available, and social distance seating is being used. Again we won't be doing the large planned dinners, the social, or the usual raffle. The Sea of Cortez beaches are open and you have plenty of room to social distance. If you have health concerns stay home, if you are looking for an opportunity for a safe fishing trip, this is it. I look forward to fishing with you again!

We have a nice neap tide to work with and La Pinta looks like a good place to fish. Mirador Beach at the RV Park is another easy access place to launch your pontoon boat or kayak. You can fish from shore, but usually you will have a longer more successful day if you use a pontoon or kayak. Check the tide chart and go with the tide.

Basic Fly Fishing Equipment - Minimum 6 weight rod, an 8 weight is the rod of choice. You will catch more fish with sinking fly lines. A 200 grain sinking line for your 6 weigh, a 300 grain for your 7 weight, and a 400 grain line for your 8 weight. Best fly #4 Clouser Minnow. Good colors are white, chartreuse over white, red, yellow, pink, and tan have all been the hot fly of the day. Generally too warm for waders, but a fishing shirt, swim trunks, lots of sun block, a hat, and polarized glasses are all good to have. Bring floating line and some poppers, for the Pompano. Plan on bringing everything you might need, nothing is available to purchase in Penasco. If you are new to fly fishing Rocky Point call me or text me and I'll send you more detailed information on how to fish this spot. If you plan on attending this even please email me so I can keep track of you, help with car pools, and help folks that need gear borrow it.

Vince can be reached at vince@ajbest.com or at 480 818 1796. **Other useful numbers** - Playa de Oro RV Park 602 476 2242, Hotel El Mirador 480 626 5841. Sea Side Reservations (condos) 480 282 8608.



Stay safe.
We'll stay connected.