

OCTOBER 2010

FORWARD CASTS

OFFICIAL DESERT FLY CASTERS NEWSLETTER



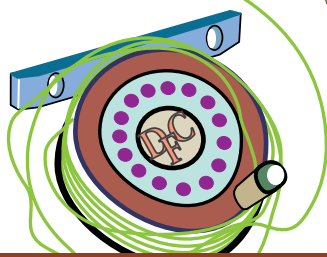
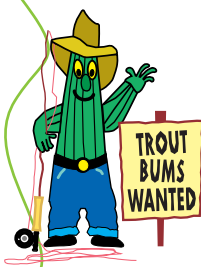
OCTOBER MEETING:

**Wednesday,
October 13, 2010**

Dinner and Chit-Chat: 5:30-6:30 PM

Meeting- 7:00 PM- Sharp

American Legion Post #2
2125 S. Industrial Park Ave.
in Tempe



President's Drift

Steve Berry • October 2010

So last month when I said it was going to cool off and we were all headed to the high country for great fall fishing.... Well hold that thought for a little bit longer. I can't believe how long this heat is sticking around this year. I guess it can't last forever.

By the time you get this, Silver Creek will be open in the White Mountains. It opens Oct. 1 and the Game and Fish puts some great trout in for us to catch. Usually it's a bit cooler, but I guess you might be fishing Silver Creek in shorts this year. In past years, we have put together a day trip to Silver Creek. Keep your eyes open and we will see if we can get it together quickly so you can save the date.

At the meeting this month, we will begin the nominations for board members for 2011. The positions include: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Programs, Outings, Retail, Education, Webmaster, Conservation, Membership, Library, Raffle, Webmaster, Newsletter, TU/FFF Liaison and Members at Large. As you can see there is plenty of work to go around. It is always nice to see fresh faces and ideas for the board. I hope next year won't be any different.

I am keeping it short this month to leave room for some other important items. In a parting note, we were talking about Jeff Currier coming to our next meeting. Stealing the phrase from somewhere else, we came up with "What would Currier do." Let's see... Take the trail that might have a tiger? Sure why not. Take a road out of town that is known to have lions nearby? Sure why not. Jump into a river that might have some Piranha to try and save the camera? Absolutely why not... The next time you are out fishing and you have that "I might die or be eaten moment" just say to yourself, "What would Currier do." I can't wait for the Currier tales for this year!

See you at the meeting and on the water,
Steve

DFC OCTOBER PROGRAM... JEFF CURRIER

Jeff Currier is coming back to Desert Fly Casters. You should remember Jeff because he's entertained us several times over the years with his far from the ordinary fly fishing presentations from around the world. Usually he's catching toothy fish that we haven't even heard in a country that even Google Earth can't find. Frequently while on his adventures he narrowly escapes dangers such as becoming lunch for animals only seen on the Discovery channel.

Jeff presently resides in Victor, Idaho with his wife Yvonne where he bases his career in fly fishing. One year ago Jeff made a career change leaving his fulltime job of running a fly shop to become a fulltime artist, fly fishing entertainer and exotic trip host. He is also a member of the Ross Professional Advisory Team and Rio Products Advisory Team. He has taught the skills of fly fishing, guided fly fishers throughout Wyoming and Yellowstone National Park and escorted anglers to fishing destinations throughout the world.

One of Jeff's biggest challenges during his first year of self employment has been putting down the rod and getting some work done. Jeff has never had such freedom and if a friend calls him to go fishing he doesn't know how to say no. Perhaps this is a way of raising the value of his art or his speaking fees - we don't know. What we do know is that he has fished more days in more places during this last year than any ordinary human. On October 13, 2010 Jeff brings us his presentation, "A Year without a Job" that takes you through the fishiest year of his life. From Baja to Egypt, Brazil to Canada, he'll even take us to his home waters. Jeff brings a sense of humor, enthusiasm and over thirty-five years of fly fishing to wherever he goes. Be ready for one of the best shows yet!



LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS BEHIND WHEN WALKING THE PATHWAYS OF OUR ARIZONA ENVIRONMENT

San Jaun Outing • 2010from Cinda Howard's notebook

The San Juan River Outing has come and gone and it turned out to be another great DFC trip. This year we moved across the street and stayed at the new Fisheads Lodge (used to be Rizutos). When Chris Taylor was here earlier in the year he talked to us about all the plans he has for his new place. At this point, he has painted all the rooms, replaced the swamp coolers with AC units, traded out the tired old TV's with flat screens, added wireless internet service, and opened a restaurant. He has also taken Chuck Rizuto's house and turned it into a rental. It has 4-bedrooms, 2-baths, a large kitchen, washer, dryer, and big screen TV. This is a great place if you have a small group that wants to stay together.

The fishing was great but the temps were still a little warm. Shorts and a tech shirt were all you needed to wear while drifting down the river as it was approaching 90 both days. This year we changed things up a little bit and changed up guides for the second day. I feel each guide brings something different to the table and being able to switch up means you could potentially learn something new from each one.

The fishing reports from each day were good and it seems that there were plenty of fish that wanted to cooperate with us. The flows were at around 800 cfs which is a good late summer



flow. It is always amazing to me how lightly these fish take a fly and by day two I am usually pretty keyed in on what they are doing. I caught a lot of fish that didn't even move the strike indicator and to catch these fish you had look for their mouths to open. When a fish eats you can sometimes see white from inside their mouth. So, if you know where you fly is drifting and you see a fish open its mouth, it is time to set the hook. This is a tough way to nymph but can be the difference between you having a good day on the San Juan and having a bad day. If you aren't catching fish at this river I think there are



3 potential issues- 1) not recognizing the really light takes. Sometimes the indicator just pauses and that was a fish sucking in the fly. Tyler said that this year he set on things he never would have in the past and it made a huge difference in the amount of fish he caught. 2) Fly is too big. If you want to catch fish here, you are going to have to get used to size 24-26 flies. 3) Bad presentation- in this river, your drift has to be 100% drag free. The slightest little drag will cause these fish to reject your fly.

Fisheads opened the restaurant and it is called "The Back Cast Café". The food is excellent and the chef, Josh, makes the best prime rib I have ever had. It is really convenient to be able to get up in the morning, walk 30 yards to the restaurant and then walk another 10 yards to meet your guide out front.

Club member Chad Day wanted to go head to head in a fish catching competition. Now normally head to head would mean that we would start off on an even playing field but for some reason



Chad wanted me to give him a 5 fish lead. On the first day I agreed to this and with that lead we ended up with a push. On the second day when he approached me, I told him that I was willing to take the bet but I would not be giving up a handicap. I felt that if we couldn't go toe to toe then there was no need to place a bet. Well, I am now trying to figure out what I am going to buy with my \$50 Napa gift card. (Hey, Chad don't forget to bring that to the meeting).

It was another great outing and if you missed it and would still like to get a San Juan trip in by the end of the year, Orvis has one going October 28th-31st. The price is still \$525 per person and as always includes 3 nights lodging and 2 days with a guide. Call me at the store if you want to go. (480) 905-1400. -Cinda

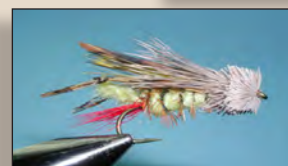
Intermediate Fly tying October 27th

The intermediate fly tying class will tie a number of terrestrial patterns with special interest given to hoppers. Foam appears to be the go to on a number of the patterns but we will also tie the traditional Joe's Hopper.

For those who just completed the *Beginning Class*, please get with me at the meeting and we will set-up a date to continue basic tying techniques. Also those interested in beginning tying will have an opportunity to get in the swing of tying your own flies.

Classes will be at Redden Construction, Inc. office at 4131 E. Wood St. Major cross roads are Broadway and 40th Street. Classes start at 6:30.

Questions need a kit or sign-up call
Tom Horvath at 602-768-7280



DFC Trout Bum dates to remember...

Friday October 22nd - Sunday October 24th

Chevelon Canyon Lake

Host: Mark Lucht- lucht@email.com

Host: Gentry Smith- design@gentrysmith.com

November 12, 13, 14, 2010

Annual Rocky Point Trip

Host: Doc Nickel- funnyfarm150@yahoo.com

December 8, 2010

Annual DFC Banquet

Contact: Charlie Rouser at:
chasr123@cox.net



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GET READY YOUR DFC CHRISTMAS BANQUET IS GETTING CLOSE!

Date this year is Wednesday, December 8, 2010

I was elected by your DFC board members to organize the raffle for our Dec Banquet. This banquet has three functions:

1. For members to have a fun night out with some good food to share
2. For members to bid on and win some really nice prizes
3. Raise money to support donations and activities during the year.

I have sent out 200 letters to fishing companies and other companies requesting donations. It is my objective to make this the biggest and best raffle DFC has ever had.

If you are a new club member or an old member and have never attended our Dec Banquet you will be in for a real treat by attending this year's event. There will be many items to be raffled plus a pot luck dinner with turkey and ham provided by your board members. Members last name A - R are asked to bring a side dish to share and Members S - Z bring a dessert to share.

In order for me to make this the biggest and best DFC raffle ever I am requesting your help with donations. In the past members have gone to local eating establishments or other businesses in the neighborhood to get donations. Several of our members own a business that donate items and others purchase items to donate. If you would like to donate an item for the raffle (fishing item or other) you can bring it to the Oct or Nov meeting or mail it to my house. I need all items in my hand by Dec 1st to get this organized.

I have received the first donation - Gift Cert for Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, dinner and show for 2. Watch the Nov & Dec newsletter for other items that have been collected.

Any questions about donations see me at the meeting or give me a call.

Charlie Rosser • 5445 E. Enrose St. • Mesa, AZ 85205 • Phone: 480-985-5238



The Real Thing - 30" Northern - Upper Lake Mary in Flagstaff caught by Gerry Wiemelt



Since the Walleye weren't materializing at Show Low Lake, Gerry and I decided to take a ride over to Flagstaff and fish the Upper Lake Mary for the day. We hadn't been there coming off of I-40, so we missed the 89A exit and had to go down a mile or two. We got to Lower Lake Mary and it looked like a mud hole. Do you suppose there are Northern in that little water? Nah, Kept driving, kept driving, kept driving (Are we there yet, Gerry?), Upper Lake Mary (which is below Lower Lake Mary:-) is a very long lake. Finally, we got to the very end of the lake.

Only a couple of motor boats and one other canoe. We unloaded our pontoons and had to climb over a fence to get to the water. Quite weedy on this end of the lake and anticipating the huge Northern we were each going to catch, we used our 8 weight ocean rods. Fished for about 3 1/2 hours and not a bite. I noticed, Gerry was bored to death and falling asleep in the boat.

I paddled over to the canoe and asked them how they had been doing - they had had some luck with pike in a weedy patch they indicated, so I paddled over deciding I didn't want to get skunked. As soon as I headed over to the weedy area, not too far from where we'd been, Gerry noticed a drop off on his depth finder. At once going across the channel, he caught about a 20" Northern. Too small, let it go. Then very soon after, he had a huge strike which bent his 8 weight in half. WOW! 30" Northern - have you ever seen the mouth on that? We kept catching fish every time we went over that drop off. We brought home one 30", 2 24" and a 22" - after having a neighborhood showing, we put them in brine and the next day, tossed them in the smoker. They are amazing smoked.

Kitty Wiemelt, The Possibility Coach
Speaker, Author, Career Coach
Certified LaughterLeader

INVITE TO PUERTO PENASCO

by Vince Deadmond



Make plans to attend the DFC Rocky Point Outing November 12-15.

Come early stay late, I always find it hard to leave when the fishing is good. The official club camp site is at Playa De Oro RV Park on Mirador Beach. A \$30 deposit will hold a camp space, and expect to pay \$22 per night for your space. Doc will be collecting \$30 for the banquet dinner and official T shirt. Tent campers can fit more than one tent on a space, and big RVs can enjoy full hook ups. Sign up and pay your deposits at the October meeting, and if you would like to go in a convoy I'll need your day and time you plan to leave. Some folks prefer to "camp" at a hotel or resort. Rocky Point has many to choose from, here are some places to check out: Las Palomas \$144 per night, Sonoran Spa \$85 per night, Penasco Del Sol \$80 per night, Playa Bonita \$70 per night. Hotel, resort, and condo bargains can be

found on the web, or check out www.rptimes.com the Rocky Point Times a local newspaper. Several places in Ajo sell Mexico auto insurance, and it's good to get out of the car and stretch.

My family has always enjoyed the beach at the RV Park when I am away fishing, but other attractions are available. Shopping, quad riding, boating clamming, golfing, horseback riding, music, and trying new restaurants are fun things to do. When selecting a place to eat just look for the busiest places in town. The club has an informal social at the RV Park on Friday evening, where we can update current fishing conditions, and go over last minute fishing questions. Dinner is a self serve grill, bring your own meat and a dish to share, you will need your own table service, grills will be provided. The wine tasting went well last year so let's try that again. Bring a favorite bottle,

your own wine glass and a nice pairing to go with your wine. A little cheese, fruit, olives, crackers, chocolate etc. anything to enhance the wine will make this a fun event. You could make a meal out of the wine tasting and snacks.

Saturday tides are giving us two options. First option, go to Vina Del Mar Hotel, have breakfast and launch your boat some time after 8AM (high tide) then fish the tide back to the RV Park. Second option fish La Pinta the second estuary. Since high tide is at 8 AM, launch on the out going tide. The tide change is around 3 PM, so some folks will want to use their oars if they want to be back in town before 4 or 5 PM.

Suggested equipment: minimum 6 weight fly rod, an 8 weight is the rod of choice. Bring your sinking lines, the heavier the better. Adding a sink tip to your intermediate line is an inexpensive way to get the fly down. I use #4, #2 and #2/0 Clousers on stainless hooks. Synthetic

craft fur and lots of flash make fish pleasing flies. Good colors are white on white, chartreuse over white, red, pink, and tan. A pontoon boat with oars will give you a better fishing option than fishing from shore. Select a saltwater leader or build your own 50-40-30-25-20 in sections of 15". Round out your basic equipment list with a fishing shirt with pockets, swim trunks, sun block, hat and polarized sun glasses. The only time I use waders is on a cold windy day usually in January. If you don't have enough gear, make arrangements before you go down, many club members have extras.

Vince Deadmond The Fly Fishing Hardware Guy can be reached at Best Hardware 237 N Apache Trail Apache Junction, AZ, vince@ajbest.com and 480 982 7461.

Beginning Fly Tying Completes • 09/23/10

7 club members completed the beginning class and this class had some real talent. We tied a variety of flies including midges, foam ants, buggers, Adams dry and pheasant tail nymph.

Special thanks to the following that help with the class: *Gentry Smith, Bob Harrison and David Hwang*

There is an interest on continuing the class with a number of those who attended the class and I have had calls regarding interest in another beginning class. Please get with Tom Horvath at the October meeting if interested in setting a date to continue tying.

Photos by David Hwang





By Vince Deadmond

When the going gets tough, the tough go fly fishing. Saturday afternoon, my wife's car broke down, I am at work, and my SUV is loaded with camping and fishing gear. After several phone calls, I manage to pawn the task of getting the car towed and repaired, off on my wife Debi. My plan was to take my daughter Suzi, her boyfriend Paul, and the new bulldog pup Chopper, camping on the Rim, and to fish Tonto Creek. When Chopper chewed up some furniture and lost control of his bowels, it became Paul's problem, Suzi bailed out on Paul and Chopper and went fishing with dad.

The Saturday evening traffic up to the Rim was light, and we were setting up camp in less than two hours. Suzi set up her tent, while I got the Jiffy Pop going. We agreed that if more people stared into a campfire, more often, the world would be a better place. We had one of those big flat camp sights off the Young road, with no one else around to bother us. We talked, we laughed, we solved problems, and we ate popcorn until it was all gone.

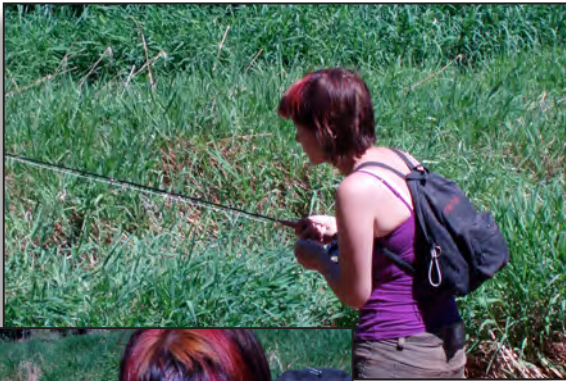
Sunday morning we slept late, until sunrise, and then fired up the grill, and made some cowboy coffee. It was cool enough to wear a jacket while we set up the fly rods, and packed for the day. We cleaned up our camp sight, and grumbled about the slob that left junk at a neighboring camp sight. We parked at Kohl's Ranch, and walked back toward Camp Tontozona. Where you can access a path to Tonto

Creek. We followed the horse trail downstream until we got to a good place to catch fish (sometimes I can be a bit vague). The trail has quite a bit of rise and fall, and you can see some great waterfalls on Tonto Creek. Our plan was to walk downstream and fish up towards Kohl's Ranch.

The first fish kept my Elk Hair Caddis, then I landed the next two. Suzi had some bites but didn't land one from this spot. We worked our way back fishing riffles, plunge pools, and taking pictures. Suzi recalled various friends that we had taken fishing here while she was growing up. Some of the better pools seemed to be fishless while some of the more difficult riffles with tree branches protecting them still had some fish. We managed to hook a few, but it was not easy. Normally, Tonto does not have a large number of large fish, but Suzi wanted a picture of a 12 inch fish to post on her facebook page.

We spotted three nervous trout that were working just above two large clumps of grass. The opening between the grass clumps was about three feet. Two of the fish looked like they would go at least 12 inches and the smaller one about 8 inches. We rested the fish a moment, and Suzi went into stealth mode. She stalked into position and made a short measuring cast. She needed to make a 40 foot cast with the three weight, and land it above the trout with out spooking them with the fly line. A fly fishing buddy of mine once described the landing of the fly, like a butterfly with sore feet. The next cast was perfect, and one of the 12 inch fish inhaled the Elk Hair Caddis. I was able to net the fish and get a quick picture before we released it.

We fished our way back to the truck, and then decided that a stop at El Rancho in Payson would be a good way to prolong our trip. I make it a general rule to eat good Mexican food whenever I can. If you can't remember the last time you went fishing, it's been too long, and it's time to go fishing again. *Vince Deadmond The Fly Fishing Hardware Guy can be reached at Best Hardware 237 N Apache Trail Apache Junction, AZ, vince@ajbest.com or 480 982 7461.*



How Has Fly Fishing Changed

By John Berry

Article from FFF monthly newsletter - 2010

I was fishing with a client the other day, when he asked me an intriguing question. How has fly fishing changed since you started? I immediately started going through some of the changes in my head and quickly realized that there had been substantial change. Most of it was positive. I began fly fishing three decades ago and I must admit that I spend most of my time trying to manage change.

The most obvious change to me is that there are a lot more of us. There are more people fly fishing now than when I first started. Back then there were precious few fly fishers. Most of the anglers that you saw were bait fishing. Now it seems like there is parity in the numbers of fly fishers versus bait or lure anglers. A lot of the increase is due to technological advances in fly fishing gear. The advances in fly fishing gear have had a profound effect on the sport by making it easier to do and to make the anglers more comfortable. Another cause is the popularity of the movie, *A River Runs Through It*. I think that you could boost the popularity of Tiddlywinks if you made a movie about it featuring Brad Pitt.

Fly rods have undergone significant change. When I first started fly fishing, my first fly rod was made of fiber glass. It was heavy and had a very soft action. I remember casting a graphite rod for the first time. It was a Sage and it cast like a dream. It was lighter and had a much stiffer action than my fiberglass. I was so impressed that I went out and bought one (my daughter still fishes with it). The rods then were mostly eight footers. The rods now are much longer. Most are nine feet and several are ten feet. The actions are stiffer and they weigh less. Fly lines have undergone some fundamental change. Years ago they were either level (no taper) or they were double taper with a distinct taper on each end. The level lines were inexpensive but cast poorly. The double tapers were popular because you could use one end until you wore it out and then turn it around and use the other side. Now the most popular lines are weight forward which have a distinct taper and are heavier on the tapered end. The other end is smaller and lighter. This allows the line to be cast further. There are also a variety of specialty lines that did not exist then. We now have sink tips, which have a front sinking section and a floating rear section, this allows us to fish deep and still cast the line easily. We also have bass bug lines designed to cast wind resistant bass flies and nymph lines designed to cast double fly rigs, weight and strike indicators. There are more.

The fly reels used when I first started were basically unchanged since the nineteenth century. They used a simple spring and pawl drag. The big change since then is that most fly reels sold today feature a disc drag system similar to that used in automobile brakes. Reels with disc drags weigh a bit more than spring and pawl drags. The current trend is toward

larger arbors which allow you to reel in line more quickly. Larger arbors weigh more than smaller arbors. So, while rods are getting lighter, reels are getting heavier.

One change that we don't think about often has been the improvement in leaders and tippets. Back in the day we made our own leaders. We would take several sections of different sized tippet material and carefully join them with blood knots to produce a tapered shape. The knots had a tendency to grab algae or any trash in the water. We now buy knotless tapered leaders that perform flawlessly. Tippets have gotten much stronger over the years. When I began fishing 4X was four pound test. Now 4X is six or even seven pound test. Then there is fluorocarbon. This stuff is stronger, more abrasion resistant and has a specific gravity greater than water (it is heavier than water and it sinks).

The change in waders has possibly been the greatest change of all. When I began, I used a borrowed pair of rubberized cotton boot foot waders. They were clumsy, bulky and clammy. The first pair that I bought were neoprene. They were the hot new thing at the time and great during the cold months when their insulating properties were appreciated. They were stocking foots with separate boots that were much more comfortable and provided significant ankle support. However when the summer came, they were stifling. The new style breathable waders are the perfect waders for our area. They are lighter in weight and breathe making them much cooler in summer. In the winter we wear a pair of fleece pants and we are quite comfortable.

The last major change that I have seen has been in fishing ethics. Thirty years ago we kept everything we caught. A stringer was a regular part of our fishing gear. As I grew with the sport, I came to realize that the fish were too valuable to kill. I would rather release them so that I can return and catch them again. As our rivers get more crowded and fishing pressure increases, this is the only viable strategy to provide a quality fishing experience. I am not the only person with this opinion. Arkansas Game and Fish Commission creel studies prove that there are more anglers per mile fishing in Catch and Release waters than other sections. Years ago, I also fished over spawning trout. I caught some great fish but I came to realize that it was more important for the trout to naturally procreate than to provide me with a little recreation. Others have come to agree with me and the major spawning grounds are now closed during the spawn.

I have seen a lot of change in the last few years and it has been for the better. I have better gear that is much easier to cast, it keeps me more comfortable and I regularly catch quality fish that are the equal of good trout anywhere. Sometimes change is good!



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OUTINGS- 2010

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Annual DFC Banquet

Contact: Charlie Rouser at:

chasr123@cox.net

Gearing up for the Rocky Point Trip

The annual Desert Fly Casters annual trip to Rocky Point is fast approaching, so it time to think about the gear you need to get ready.

Rods -- 6 to 8 weight flyrod with the 8 being the best choice.

Reels -- A good Salt Water reel. The Orvis Battenkill Mid Arbor is nice and is only about \$120.

Fly Lines -- A fast sinking line. Preferably T-8 or about 300 grains.

Leaders -- 6 to 8 foot leaders are the preferred length. I prefer FlouroCarbon. You can buy the store bought leaders if you want. My preference is just to tie 4' of 50lb and 3 to 4 feet of 15 or 20 lb straight Flouro.

Flys -- Clousers and Deceivers in assorted colors on hooks sized 1 through 3.

We typically fish along the shore from our pontoon boats and some use float tubes. If you are fishing from a boat you probably wont need waders. You can also fish the surf in front of the campground by what looks like an old boat ramp.

NOTE!!! You will need to bring your passport or birth certificate and drivers license. You also will need to get Mexican Insurance for your vehicle and trailer if pulling one.

See ya at the club meeting
October 13, 2010



MAIL TO:

Desert Fly Casters
PO Box 42252
Mesa, AZ 85274-2252