

JULY 2020

FORWARD CASTS

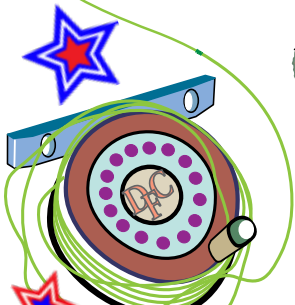
OFFICIAL DESERT FLY CASTERS NEWSLETTER



JULY
Wednesday,
July 8, 2020

Chit-Chat & Dinner: 6:00
Meeting/Guests

JULY
DFC CLUB MEETING
CANCELED



President's Drift

Frank Schettino • July 2020



Greeting fellow Trout Bums,

I hope this month's newsletter finds you all healthy. These are truly challenging times we are in. We will get through this together. It's another month and I'm sorry to announce that the July meeting will be cancelled.

The board had a meeting, via Zoom, and it was the feelings of the board to continue to wait before having a meeting. With the recent uptick in cases here in AZ it's the prudent thing to do. The health of our members, guests are the priority. There will be changes to some of the outings, more information is available in this newsletter.

Recently some of you have received an email allegedly from me with the club name, email address on it. In this email it says I am out of town and need money to help wounded warriors or another charitable cause. **DO NOT SEND any money to the email address. I assure you it is not from me, it is a scam.** Unfortunately during times like this there are, for lack of a better word people, who will try to take advantage of others.

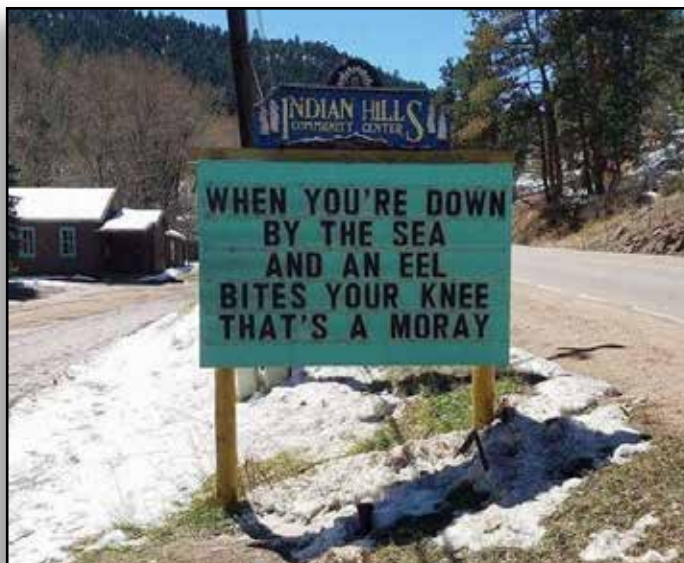
Enjoy this month's newsletter, try to get out and do some fishing. I know some of you have been so keep the stories and photos coming. Keep your eyes peeled for the Bulletins to keep you informed and in touch. We will see you soon. Stay well, stay healthy and keep your spirits up.

Today's chuckle. I've been to a lot of places but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently you can't go alone, you have to be in cahoots with someone. I've also never been in cognito, either. I hear nobody recognizes you there. I have however been insane. They don't have an airport. You have to be driven there. I have made several trips. Thank you, thank you very much I'll be here all week.

Tight lines,

Frank Schettino
...bada-bing-bada-boom

A treasured photo from Frank, *The President Guy's* scrapbook...



The good fishing starts when a river imposes itself on the angler.



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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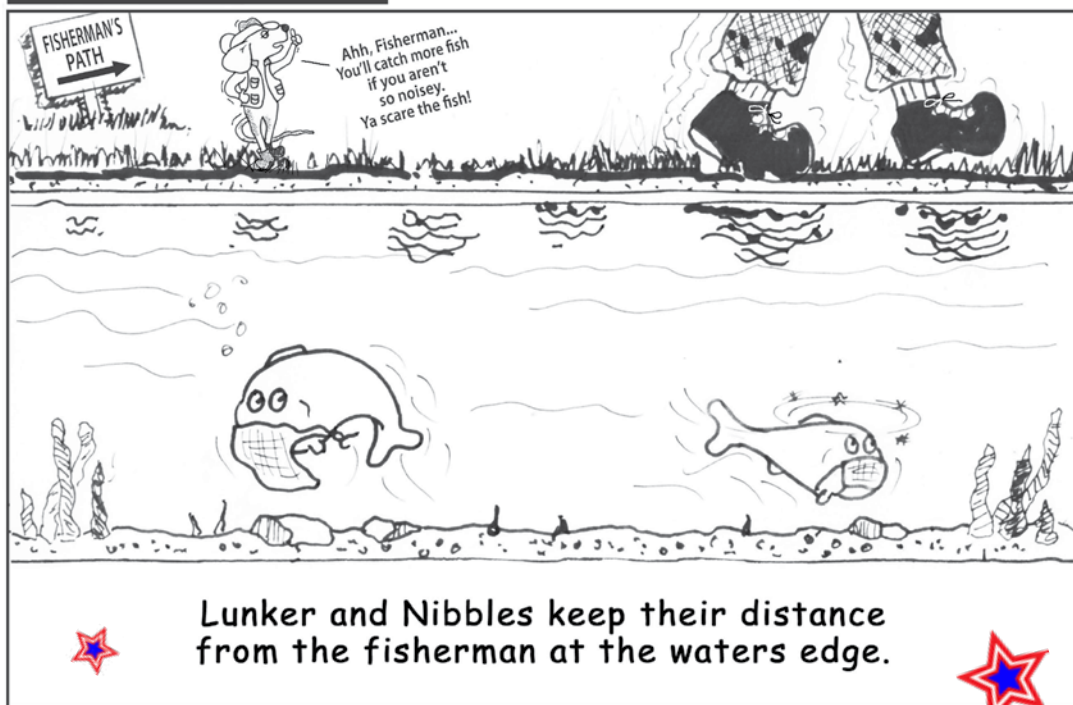
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DFC BULLETIN

We'll stay connected.
We'll stay in touch.
We'll stay updated.

SOCIAL REMOTENESS LUNKER and NIBBLES R. McKEON



Lunker and Nibbles keep their distance from the fisherman at the waters edge.



Bob McKeon,
DFC Newsletter Editor, Graphic Guru,
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Lawn Tossing of Old Rods and things.
Questions/Comments?
Catch me at:
rmckeeon2@cox.net

Let's Tie One On...



Hey DFC Trout Bum fly tier...

Many of us when out fly fishing our special streams or lakes we'll grab a quick photo of our catch. And, even a story to compliment the day on the waters. (Gotta preserve our bragging rights somehow.) Okay...what about some of our hardy Trout Bums sharing us your favorite fly? Keep the bragging rights alive with that fly that's a "killer!" We'd like to see what all the fuss is about with that irresistible morsel before the treasured photo. Be it a small fly for pan fish, the big ol' bass fly or that special for those small streams in the backwoods here in Arizona.

So..."Let's tie one on"...Send us a photo and a brief receipt of that well kept secret in your fly box. We'll promise to then share that special fly in an upcoming newsletter...Yeah, we're not ashamed to let the whole DFC Trout Bum Nation see...*the rest of the story.*

Send fly photos to Frankie the President Guy at: sketno1026@hotmail.com
-or- Bob McKeon the Editor Guy at: rmckeeon2@cox.net • Frankie sez youse should send photos...don't wanna to put a fish on da hood of yah caah.



Reading Streams

by Jim Strogen

As a kid, when it rained I enjoyed playing in the gutters along the street. I would make dams, place rocks in the current, add miniature log barbs; anything that resembled a trout stream to me.

When my wife and I went on a little hike in the woods near our home earlier this spring, while she was taking photos of a tiny ephemeral stream for a future painting that she had in mind, I kept looking for the likely holding places for my imaginary trout. Yeah, I know that I am an odd duck.

I can still remember the locations on my boyhood stream where I caught trout each year. What I learned early in my observations of streams, that I continue to reaffirm is that trout are predictable in the kind of water that they like.

Of course their water needs to be clean and cold; and it also has to provide adequate dissolved oxygen. They need a ready supply of food that they can cruise around for in a pool, or wait in one spot to grab bugs coming down the conveyor belt that the current provides. The advantage of waiting in one spot for the food to be delivered is that it allows the trout to select feeding stations that also provide great cover from predators.

Wild trout seek out hiding spots to a higher degree than stocked trout. In a stream that has wild trout in it, I know that they will dart under rocks or logs at the first sign of danger. That could be movement on the bank or even a careless shadow on the water.

Trout are extremely efficient and look for ways to minimize the need to swim hard in the constantly moving stream. The current is slower along the bottom due to the friction provided by the stream bed, so trout often hug the rocks.

Large boulders in a stream are some of my favorite places to look for trout. The obvious spots to look for an energy saving trout are on the downstream side of each edge of the rock, or directly behind it; but many anglers miss the prime location for savvy trout.

The front of a large boulder provides the best view of items drifting downstream, and when the water pushes against the rock, it creates an area of calm water immediately in front of the rock. I have caught a lot of fish in front of boulders in streams.

Although the riffle sections of the stream have the highest dissolved oxygen content and the greatest aquatic insect production, generally the water is too shallow and devoid of cover to allow trout to use this area very much. Instead, they will often be at the head of a pool or a run just downstream of the riffle to take advantage of the oxygen levels and drifting insects.

Be careful as you approach a pool from downstream. There are often trout, sometimes the smaller fish, at the tail of the pool as the water speeds up into the next riffle.

These fish are the ones that cause me the most trouble. I sometimes miss seeing them, and as soon as I step close to the tail of a pool, they dart upstream and scare the other trout further upstream. If you can catch those

fish first, work them down into the next riffle and release them, you can often catch many fish out of the same hole.

As trout try to avoid extra effort while swimming, there are two features to look for to help you locate likely holding spots. Both are most easily identified by watching the bubbles in the pool or run.

Often, there is fast water running through a pool with quiet water right next to that faster water. Look for the interface between the fast and slow currents, most easily detected by a seam or bubble line. The trout will be positioned in the quiet water, ready to charge into the faster water briefly to grab a bug; or even better, pick up a tumbling insect in the fast/quiet water zone. The trout will then quickly return to its feeding station for the next offering to come down the stream.

Occasionally, the shape of the bank will cause an eddy in a large pool. In these situations, the water swirls around and a slower current appears to flow back up toward the head of the pool. Bubbles flowing upstream will identify the eddy line in a pool. Trout in the eddies will actually be facing downstream to them by this counter-current where the trout have a much easier time swimming.

Sweepers - vines or branches hanging in the water, are my best friends and worst enemies on a trout stream. A sweeper that is in relatively deep water with a moderate flow is a spot that I will fish hard, even though the likelihood of losing my fly is also pretty high. I try to work my fly just outside the edges first, but if I am convinced that a trout should be there, I will let my fly sink directly under the sweeper, and am often rewarded for that gamble.

Successfully reading the water and catching a trout where I thought it would be, is one of the things I like most about stream fishing. It is a skill that will improve your success and bring you a lot of fun too.

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



Let's Tie One On...

Along with Tom Horvath



You have seen these too many times but for Carp and dries for Trout I go to the Juanna Be Hopper Juan and my dropper is the Landon Mayer Mini Leech

Places and success stories on flies White mountains Drift fence numerous fish on a black Juanna Be Hopper Carnero, I caught numerous fish on a blue Juanna Be during a large Damsel hatch Canals Caught a ton of carp on the Juanna Be Hopper. I have used it for over 3 years now. Strangely they like the Casting for Recovery pattern I tied for one of their events. Purple over pink. Black Mini Leech is used as my go to dropper on the Carp. It does not readily sink the very small hopper. I hang it about 16 inches from the hopper. I key on the hopper when the Carp goes down as I would an indicator.



Juanna Be Hopper Juan

Thread: Veenus 12/0 • **Hook:** TMC 2499 SPBL #14 or Kona BC1 • **Body:** 2mm foam, 2 pieces each, Chernobyl taper • **Legs:** Grizzly Micro Legs • **Wing:** Coastal Deer Hair • **Flash:** Your choice. (I do not use it) **Indicator:** I use narrow cut foam or para post wing material • **Zap-A-Gap:** I glue the body element together and coat the hook once to incorporate all three segments after tying in the lower foam.



Landon Mayer Mini Leech

Thread: 8/0 UNI • **Hook:** Tiemco 2488 Size #14 Has a large gap • **Under Body:** Krystal flash your selection. I use Javelina hair and coat with loon Hard Head • **Upper body/wing:** Micro Pine Squirrel • **Head:** Ostrich Herl

Questions? Catch Tom Horvath at: mhorvath@reddenconstruction.com



The San Juan After Shutdown

by Larry D. Gallegos



San Juan is fishing now that it's reopened...

Because of health concerns, fishing at the San Juan was shut down beginning in mid-March. This gave the fish a long overdue break from non-stop angling pressure. In late May, with no advance notice, fishing was quietly reopened. The timing was great for me, as I was looking for an alternative to Colorado's muddy, runoff-laden streams. A spur-of-the-moment decision resulted in my first warm weather trip to the San Juan's quality waters. And I'll admit, I was curious if this long vacation from fishermen would make those picky fish easier to catch.

My buddy Randy and I pulled into the nearly empty Texas Hole parking lot at noon on May 29th. It was over 90 as we quickly leapt into our waders and headed upstream. Randy had never fished the San Juan and I took him to a spot where a small island splits the current, forming two deepish pools which often hold quite a few fish. He was well stocked with #22 and #24 emergers and was casting before I'd cleared out. In a small pool above him, I caught a 10" rainbow on a #22 Yong Special. The day was off to a good start!

I got to the Middle Flats and found only 3 other anglers there. I guess it wasn't generally known that fishing had restarted. I like the Middle Flats and Sand Flats in the afternoon as the angle of the light, the sandy bottom and relatively shallow depth make for great sight fishing. Using a black Yong Special and a black Bling midge I caught 5 more rainbows, none under 15 inches and all good fighters.

On the ride back to Aztec Randy told me of his success. He'd landed 12 fish, 5 dinks and the rest hefty-sized, with one around 20 inches, mostly on a brown midge with a purple tungsten bead. I was glad his first (half) day was a good one.

The next day we arrived early. The top of Texas Hole was crowded with fishermen but otherwise we had the river nearly to ourselves. However, no bugs were hatching and fishing was slow, with only one caught fish between us in the first hour. We tramped around and waded to beautiful, fishy-looking areas I'd never seen before. But everywhere we went the fish were being coy. I left Randy at a wide riffle that has always produced numerous,

if not large, fish for me while I went to a deeper, slower, area. I caught 2 or 3 there on unweighted nymphs floating just below the surface when Randy came over and reported that he'd seen no sign of fish in the riffle.

We traded places and I started on the riffle. After drifting the outer seams without a bump, I worked toward the middle. I caught one of those ferocious rainbows I like to call a "psycho 16." It ran, it jumped, it pulled line off my reel trying to get away upstream. After many minutes I finally got it into my net only to be bit and thumb-hooked by the top fly as it thrashed around. What a rush! Then, shortly after releasing the psycho, I caught a submarine, a fish that seemed much too large to live in such skinny water. It fought well but not with the fury of the previous bow. Holding it at the narrow end, I measured it against the 18" basket of my net. Its entire tail and two of my fingers were beyond the 18" mark. It squawked at me as I removed the black #24 KF Emerger from its lip and then swam away in a flash.

The third day also started slow but got better. Again, bugs just weren't coming off like they do in winter. Still, the Middle Flats and the Sand Flats both produced good numbers of large (15" and up), hard fighting fish. Nine were caught on a #22 brown/olive thread-ribbed midge and the others were mostly on a black #24 KF Emerger.



I've attached a picture of my most productive fly on this trip. It looked a lot better when I first tied it on but, as you well know, too much fun takes a toll on a body.



Catch Larry D. Gallegos at: relaw@msn.com

**"Most of the world is covered by water.
A fisherman's job is simple: Pick out the best parts."**

Charles Waterman

...Staying Connected with us!



MIKE REIS
lathazard@cox.net

Frank and Bob, I miss our meetings, our outings, and your accent Frank.

I've experienced a lot of varied fishing over the last few months: Bluegill at Canyon Lake

Really looking forward to getting together again. Hope everyone is well.

Mike Reis



I MISS
OUR
MEETINGS
TOO!





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"I fish better with a lit cigar;
some people fish better with talent."

Nick Lyons



2020 DFC OUTINGS UPDATE...



Joe Staller

The Go-To Outings
Chairman Guy
joestaller@yahoo.com



This pandemic has certainly made it more difficult to plan club outings! The outings for April, May and June were cancelled due to events beyond our control. In all three cases, access to our destination was closed by either private owners (Hidden Lake) the San Carlos Apaches (Seneca Lake) or the National Forest (Big Lake).

However, July can be another story! Our planned outing to Becker Lake July 9-12 can proceed, although there have been some modifications. The White Mountain Lake Foundation's "Becker Best" event has been cancelled due to the concern over large crowds and serving food, and has been rescheduled to later this year. *So, no free lunch this year folks!* Similarly, we will need to practice some social distancing, so there will not be a club dinner associated with our trip to Becker Lake. ■ We are also requesting that attendees make their own plans for lodging. Many of you have access to private cabins in the area, and disbursed camping is allowed in the White Mountains. Some campgrounds are open, but you will want to contact the Forest service and find out which campgrounds are open if you take this option. Another easy option is to get motel rooms in Springerville. In past years, we have used the Rode Inn, which is very close to Becker Lake. You can make reservations for the Rode Inn at 928-333-4365. If you do attend, suggested equipment would be float tubes or kickboats, and a selection of fly lines from floating to fast sinking. Suggested flies would be size 10-12 simi-seal leeches, size 16-18 zebra midges, size 14-16 pheasant tails and copper Johns. I would also throw in your favorite grasshopper and flying ant imitations just in case the fish are looking up. **Contact Joe Staller at joestaller@yahoo.com<mailto:joestaller@yahoo.com> for more details.**

■ **The August 14-19 outing to Utah, Boulder Mountain is still "a go!"** and we will cover the details in our next newsletter. This outing is highly recommended. Attendees last year caught tiger trout up to 3 pounds, and enjoyed all day top water action using Elk Hair Caddis, parachute Adams, and big Stimulators at some of the lakes. **Contact Dick Brooks at gdubby77@gmail.com<mailto:gdubby77@gmail.com> for more info.**

■ **The September 12 outing to Links at Queen Creek** golf course will also be happening. Unfortunately, the Project Healing waters folks will be unable to attend, and in the interest of safety DFC will not be able to provide a lunch for this event. However, this is still a great opportunity to target carp, tilapia and sunfish without making a long drive. **Contact Joe Staller at joestaller@yahoo.com<mailto:joestaller@yahoo.com> for more details.**

■ **NOTE:** Although we plan on proceeding with our Sept 21-26 outing to the San Juan river in New Mexico, we are in the process of contacting the outfitter (Fisheads) to learn if there are any new rules or practices because of the virus. We will give more details in the next newsletter.

Stay safe out there!
We'll stay connected...



San Juan River Trip



I hope you are all doing well. Hopefully some of this craziness will be over or at least a lot less by September and the best medicine will be a great fishing trip. Everything is going well on the river and the float trips are going out everyday. **Group 1, arrive 9/21 and fish 9/22 and 9/23, leave on the 24th. Group 2, arrive 9/24 and fish 9/25 and 9/26, leave on 9/27.** This will be a little different because of the virus but nothing that detracts from a great trip. Fisheads is asking people to wear a mask inside the store, the restaurant is open and no mask is required. A mask is not required in the boat out on the river. One other thing, we as a club are not comfortable assigning roommates and perhaps making one of our members unfordable about that because of the virus. We are asking that you try to get with a friend who wants to go and let us know who your roommate will be. **Price this year is \$680.00 for three nights lodging and 2 days guided fishing.**

Please contact me with reservations and any questions you have about the trip.
billy.wingo@phoenix.gov or Billy.o.wingo@gmail.com or my cell phone is 602-451-9459.



DFC BULLETIN

**We'll stay connected.
We'll stay in touch.
We'll stay updated.**



Some Favorite Phlies by Bob Kren, RCFFer and occasionally Mr. Flyfisherpersonguy

• **The Raggedy-Ass** This is the one tied with materials you bought because you were convinced that the flies tied would be cool, and killer. But they weren't. The thread color is odd, the dubbing wiry and flashy, yet somehow soft and muted. Sometimes called "The Mess," which is usually defined by "I don't have x, but y will do nicely." Sure it will.

• **The Bullett** Do NOT! buy Taylor Streit's "Instinctive Fly Fishing." On page 77, in reference to crowded waters, we find "If you are 'packin', be sure to show him your heat." On page 79, there's "Taylor Streit note: 'Packing a sidearm' helps here." Other gems include "surely if you are packin' heavy, you will get a long hunk of the best water," and "the size of your pistola." One has to assume that his personal pistola is sadly lacking, and requires considerable augmentation. The Bullett looks like a .50 caliber machine gun, with a size 12 hook for a sight. In fact, it IS a .50 caliber machine gun. Take that, Taylor!



• **The Conker** This fly is ridiculously heavy, looks like an anvil, casts like an anvil, and may well be an anvil. You have to cast this one with an oval cast, because a straight overhead cast will kill either you or your rod. Deadly in shallow water, especially when your target fish doesn't see it coming. Arnold Schwarzenegger casting a telephone pole, with a hawser for a 40-weight line, comes to mind.

• **The Rich Guy** A fly that is expensive, garish, easily recognized onstream as belonging to somebody with more money than brains. If you don't notice the fly, TRG will holler out to you, from a safe distance, what it is, who tied it, where and on what famous waters he uses it, where he bought it, and how much it cost. Then, he will tell his minions to remove you from his property. Unless you're packin' a Bullett (see above).

• **The Too Small**, a fly that even in a size 12 it looks like a speck. This is a celebration of every fly you couldn't manage to pull out of a flybox, or tie onto a 13x tippet. You hear references to the "30-30" club, whose members have caught a 30" trout on a size 30 midge. I don't believe it, either.

• **The Woody Booger** Not to be mistaken for its more famous brother, the Royal Coachman, the Woody Booger is the fly you don't mind hanging up in a tree or a bush, it's that ugly. The defining material that makes the WB the WB is a, um, naturally occurring substance, which comes in a variety of colors: green, yellow, sallow, sordid, and bloody. Some "purists" decry the use of such a super-natural substance in any fly, claiming that its scent is what attracts the prey. To them, I say "Hey! Why do you hate carp and chub?"

• **The Engagement Ring Gaudy**, gaudy, gaudy. This is the fly you sincerely regret, that never seems able to get lost, even when you try! It's full of promise, but is bound to get you in deep trouble. The outcome of its use is unpredictable, a mix of joy and sorrow, braininess and stupidity. It seems to make the quarry happy, but that's just for a while. Who gets hooked most often? You.

• **The Commemorative** This is your favorite fly, the go-to one, the one that brings a manly tear and at least one memory of a day where the fish were taking just the one pattern, with abandon. Subsequently, abandon becomes a verb, defining your targets' willingness to respond. This, being your most precious fly, has the greatest affinity for climbing into trees, or unravelling your tippet knot, disappearing under a huge snag, or otherwise getting lost.

• **The Chernobyl Muddler Raw Bat** is everybody's worst nightmares, tied into one. It has a refined ability to spread havoc among fish like a plague, infecting every one of them with cleverness, keener eyesight, extreme pickiness, and lockjaw. As often as you tie on a Commemorative, you'll use a CMRB – the one works occasionally but never as good as your memories would indicate, and the CMRB never works, turns off every fish in your stretch of river, and beyond. It's worst feature is that it can change form, and what worked yesterday is today's CMRB.

• **The Illegal Alien** is the fly that hides out in your flybox, and you can never find. You know it's there, probably with its many children, but it has a way of blending in with all the other flies, rendering your picking it out a vain effort. Your wasting time looking for it takes work away from good American flies, that you overlook in your attempts to find it. Nobody's home. Sorry. And that's it for my list. You gotta recognize some of these, and have lots of your own "faves."

CREDITS:

The Red Cedar Fly Fishers is a Charter Club of Fly Fishers International
RCFF Newsletter Editor, Terry Greiner and Bob Kren, *The Fly Fisherpersonguy*



JULY FLY TYING CORNER

No tying sessions from now until fall unless Gilbert allows us to schedule and a guest tyer can be arranged. I have relocated to Idaho until October or November.
Here another step by step for July that should be interesting.

Questions/Comments? Catch Bob Harrison at: Harrn7963@aol.com • 480-735-9743

Materials for Those Amazing Wonder Wings

Hook: Size 10 to 24, dry fly style • **Thread:** Gray • **Tail:** Grizzly/brown hackle fibers

Body: Gray dubbing • **Hackle:** Grizzly/brown mix • **Head:** Thread

PAGE 1



1.



2.



3.

1)- Pinch the hook barb before putting it in the vise if you plan on releasing the fish you catch. Start a thread base one-third of the shank length back on the hook. Wrap about one-half way to the end of the shank. Select several grizzly and brown hackle fibers, mix them together, and tie them to the shank to form a tail that is about as long as the complete hook. Trim any waste ends. Note that we tied the tail fibers over the bare hook shank on the last half of the body area. Often hackle fiber tails will tilt down hill if they are placed over a thread base because the last thread turn (at the back of the hook) will slip on the slick hackle forcing the fibers down. Wrapping over bare hook shank solves that problem.

2)- Forming the Wonder Wings is a two part process. First pair up two large hackle feathers (in this case we are using grizzly), place them back to back curving away from each other, and cut the heavy part of the stems off. We find that is usually about forty percent of the feather. Sweep the fibers back so the stems (within the wing itself) are shorter in length than the hook shank. We usually estimate that length at sixty percent of the shank. Tie the swept back fibers to the hook along with the two feather stems using three snug but not tight thread wraps. Notice how short the wing is at this point. Do not lose control of the swept back fibers, hang on to them in preparation of the next step!

3)- Maintain control of the fibers in the left hand and use the right to pull the feather/fibers forward slipping the stems out from under the thread wraps. Stop pulling when the wing is the length you want - on the illustrated fly it is equal to the length of the hook shank.



4.

4)- As soon as the two stems pull out from under the thread, the snug wraps just became a lot looser. Do not tighten them yet. Instead pull the pair of wings up into the "pinch" of the left thumb and forefinger then tighten the thread wraps. The reason we do this is to keep the stems in the loop straight. If you skip this part of the step your wing will be cocked at an angle. The fish don't care and they cast just fine but if we spend the time tying a fly we want it to look good. By the way, that little tip that took less than ten second to read gave us fits for the better part of five years before we picked up on the "pinch technique."



5.



5a.



5b.

5)- Trim the waste ends of the wing at a severe angle so they will blend with the tail fibers forming a tapered under body. Pull the wings apart and clip the excess feathers from them. Place the feathers in a clothespin so they are ready to construct another set of wings. We usually get six sets of wings out of a pair of hackle feathers. Stand the wings up by wrapping thread tight against the front of the fibers then place a single crisscross wrap between them for separation.



6.

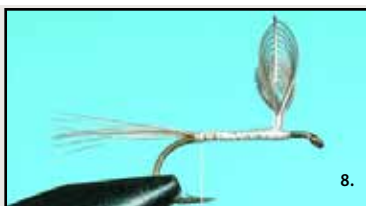


6a.



6b.

6)- From here we are finishing the fly in this step because we have several other uses for the wing style to share with you and limited space to do so. Place gray dubbing on the thread and wrap from the back to the front stopping just before reaching the wings. Select a grizzly and a brown hackle, strip the fuzzy material from the base of the stem, and tie them to the hook behind the wings. We like dubbing under the thorax area so apply dubbing to the thread and wrap it to the hook eye. Wrap the hackles forward to meet the thread, tie them off, and trim the waste ends. We used a whip-finish and a drop of head cement to complete the fly.



7)- We think this fly is awesome when tied as a parachute but obviously the wing fibers must be strengthened to support a parachute hackle. Follow the steps just like before but in step five do not separate the wings or trim off the extra feathers. Wrap the thread tight against the fibers to stand up the wings. Now we are going to build a thread platform on which to wrap our parachute hackle. Wrap the thread around the base of the hackle fibers advancing up the wings until the thread-covered area is the size needed for the hackle. We are now at the top of the "post." From the top go straight down to the body and anchor the thread with several turns around the hook shank. **Note:** Al added a touch of black marker to the gray thread to accent this part of the step.

8)- Repeat this process two more times anchoring the straight up and down strand of thread around the hook shank. We call wrapping around the post area "pouring concrete" and the straight up and down strand of thread "placing rebar." Now divide the wings and trim off the excess placing the feathers in a clothespin. Execute a crisscross wrap between the wings and parallel to the post. Don't worry about the strands of thread (rebar) along the front and back of the post, we'll deal with them later.

9)- Prepare brown and grizzly hackle feathers by stripping the fuzzy material from the base of the stems and set them aside for the moment. Apply dubbing to the thread and wrap it forward forming the body. Anchor the hackle to the hook on the first turn in front of the wings. Continue dubbing to the hook eye and at the same time binding the feathers to the hook. Be sure to leave a bit of bare stem on the feathers at the post. After reaching the hook eye, dub back to the post - add dubbing to the thread if it is needed to cover the additional area. Grasp the feathers and pull them tight against the post. Wrap up the post and back down making certain the thread is hanging behind the post. Notice the rebar AND feather stems are all working together to strengthen the parachute platform.



10)- Wrap the hackles down the post and when they reach the body hold them in position at a downward angle and grab the bobbin. Make two turns around the post to anchor the hackle. Trim off the excess feathers then take one more turn of thread to "tuck in" the trimmed feather ends. Pull the thread forward to the hook eye and use a half-hitch tool to finish the fly; a single turn places a half hitch and a double turn places a two-turn whip-finish. Place a drop of head cement in the crotch of the divided wings to anchor them and the hackle.



11)- Here we've demonstrated a delta wing Adams. When switching to a down wing fly be sure to turn one of the feather over so the natural curve on both go the same direction. When tying the feathers on the hook, place the natural curve down.



12)- The caddis/stonefly style is the only fly we tie the stem to the hook shank as per the recipe for a European Wonder Wing. Again, place the natural curve down. Tie it to the hook just like a looped Wonder Wing; short then pull it out to the desired length. Just be careful to not pull the stem out from under the thread turns.



CADDIS



MAYFLY



Credit: This article originally appeared in the April 2005 issue of Salmon Trout Steelheader magazine. We appreciate their continued support



Desert Fly Casters Conservation Corner

JULY 2020



Questions?
Catch Trout Bum
Conservation Chair
Joe Miller at :
jamiller101@gmail.com



Wish we could report Covid 19 is over, and Fishing and Conditions across all Arizona are back to normal, but well, they're NOT. That's also true regarding Conservation as well as The Covid 19 situation. Some old conservation efforts on a lot of places we fish are continuing around Arizona through a lot of Video Conference Calls. There are also some New Efforts being launched, from Emergency Actions to new longer term real improvement possibilities.

Here are short updates on topics of interest we think will inform DFC Trout Bums about efforts on our Arizona streams, lakes, fisheries and the forests they're in:

ALERT: National Forests are Open, BUT NO CAMPFIRE ALLOWED!!!!!!

National Forest developed campsites and facilities are Open, but check Before you go!!! Across the Mogollon Rim and the White Mountains **ALL OPEN CAMPFIRE HAVE BEEN BANNED** due to STAGE II Fire Condition and Covid-19 concerns. This includes the Tonto, Prescott, Apache- Sitgreaves, Kaibab and Coconino NFs. The forests themselves are open AS OF TODAY for dispersed camping, and most Day Use facilities like parking lots, restrooms etc are also open.

But check Before you go!!! and PLEASE TAKE CARE!!!!!!!!!!!!

Bush Fire, Tonto National Forest: AS OF 6/26/2020, 189,470 Acres Burned, 90% Contained.

There will be long term effects from the Bush Fire on DFC Fishing Opportunities and conditions on the Salt River Chain of Lakes. The conditions on the burn area and what must be done about them are being assessed right now through the USFS B A E R Process. There are three phases of recovery following wildfires on federal lands:

- Fire Suppression Repair
- Emergency Stabilization-Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER)
- Long-Term Recovery and Restoration

■ Fire Suppression Repair is a series of immediate post-fire actions taken to repair damages and minimize potential soil erosion and impacts resulting from fire suppression activities and usually begins before the fire is contained, and before the demobilization of an Incident Management Team. This work repairs the hand and dozer fire lines, roads, trails, staging areas, safety zones, and drop: points used during fire suppression efforts.

■ Emergency Stabilization-Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) is a rapid assessment of burned watersheds by a BAER team to identify imminent post-wildfire threats to human life and safety, property, and critical natural or cultural resources on National Forest System lands and take immediate actions to implement emergency stabilization measures before the first post-fire damaging events. Fires result in loss of vegetation, exposure of soil to erosion, and increased water runoff that may lead to flooding, increased sediment, debris flows, and damage to critical natural and cultural resources. BAER actions such as: mulching, seeding, installation of erosion and water run-off control structures, temporary barriers to protect recovering areas, and installation of warning signs may be implemented. BAER work may also replace safety related facilities; remove safety hazards; prevent permanent loss of habitat for threatened and endangered species; prevent the spread of noxious weeds, and protect critical cultural resources.

■ Long-Term Recovery and Restoration utilizes non-emergency actions to improve fire-damaged lands that are unlikely to recover naturally and to repair or replace facilities damaged by the fire that are not critical to life and safety. This phase may include restoring burned habitat, reforestation, other planting or seeding, monitoring fire effects, replacing burned fences, interpreting cultural sites, treating noxious weed infestations, and installing interpretive signs.

High Country Stream Restoration Projects, and Gila Trout on E Verde River

Conservation Chair Joe Miller recently organized and hosted a Tonto National Forest Workshop on TNFs Watershed Restoration Process for several proposed projects on the Tonto NF. The workshop materials were presented by TNF Hydrology staff and attended by several DFC members, AZ Trout Unlimited representatives, AZGFD representatives, and several other local, regional and state conservation organizations and fly fishing clubs. This is anticipated to be the first of several workshops to help define and launch selected projects benefitting stream and aquatics project. These will be reported.

Gila Trout stockings by AZGFD continue on the East Verde River.

Lees Ferry Rainbow Trout Fishery, Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Plan

The Recreational Fishing team members on the GCDAMP AMWG and TWG have provided input on the 2021-2023 Triennial Work Plan and Budget and recommended their approval. This 300+ page document and the 50 page BOR document defines efforts to study and manage the river corridor and system below Glen Canyon Dam. Final approval of TWP and budget is still in progress.



Some key features of interest to DFC members: ongoing study of rainbow trout, an increased effort to learn more about the spike in brown trout numbers, where they are in the river system at various life stages, and a better sense of their population and movement. The concern is that brown trout, which are 17x more piscivorous than rainbow trout, will pose a threat to the protected Humpback Chub population 60 miles downstream at the Little Colorado river and its confluence with the Colorado River.

As part of the TWP, GC Monitoring and Research Center will be studying the impacts of the Incentivized Harvest program to reduce brown trout abundance in Lees Ferry. This will also inform the NPS on the most effective pay structure for participants. The NPS hopes to begin this program later this fall. AZGFD and Recreational Fishing Reps continue to offer suggestions for ways to make this effort as successful as practical.

As fly fishers used to releasing our catch, it is important to support this bounty on brown trout. The Incentivized Harvest program is a critical tier to help avoid much more aggressive treatments. The next two tiers if the IH is unsuccessful are much more disruptive to the Lees Ferry reach. The next tier would involve mechanical disruption of trout redds throughout the reach, and the most extreme tier would follow if that fails. It would be approximately 6-8 weeks of nightly electroshocking of the entire area that would mean that rainbows as well as browns would be subject to nightly electrofishing. There is concern for the impact both of these more invasive tiers would have on fishing as well as the economic impact to the Marble Canyon community if fishers opt to avoid Lees Ferry during these operations. That is why success of the IH program should be important to anglers who love to fish Lees Ferry.

Recreational Fishing reps have also been very engaged in efforts to encourage Spring High Flow experiments as opposed to the Fall HFEs that have been much more common. We feel (as do many in the science community) that the spring events which are more in tune with the natural occurrence on the river would provide a number of benefits to the system including enhanced aquatic insect production, reduction in some invasive invertebrates and could potentially benefit the rainbow trout in the river and disadvantage the brown trout in the river.

There is also a GCMRC study looking at the preferences by anglers and river trip boaters for various river flow conditions.

Update: White Mountains: Apache- Sitgreaves NF Black River Forest Restoration Project

This project Environmental Assessment will cover much of the old Wallow Fire area, including both Apache Trout and Brown Trout streams.

In a recent Eastern AZ Counties (ECO) Natural Resources Workgroup (NRWG) Meeting, The A - S NF reported they had decided to Include and analyze a Third Alternate with different actions addressing only Vegetation / Timber Management issues without change to the already proposed aquatics and water resource actions. A - S Managers also indicated they expected to have the DRAFT EA ready for Public Comments by mid to late July. The public comment period will likely be 45 days, but will be no less than 30 days. There will be at least one public meeting likely in August in the Alpine / Greer / Springerville area to share and explain all the details of that DRAFT EA.

After the Public Comment period, the EA will be finalized and will likely be released by year end.

Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI)

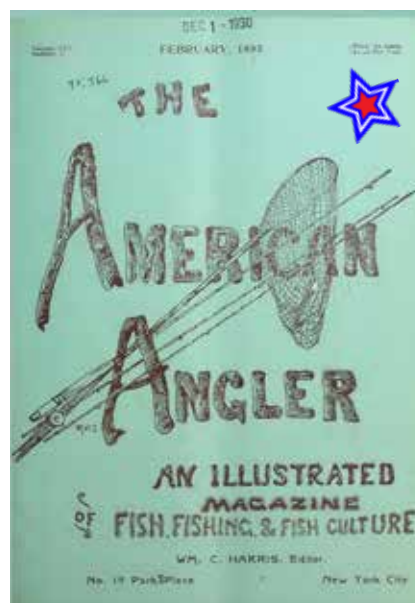
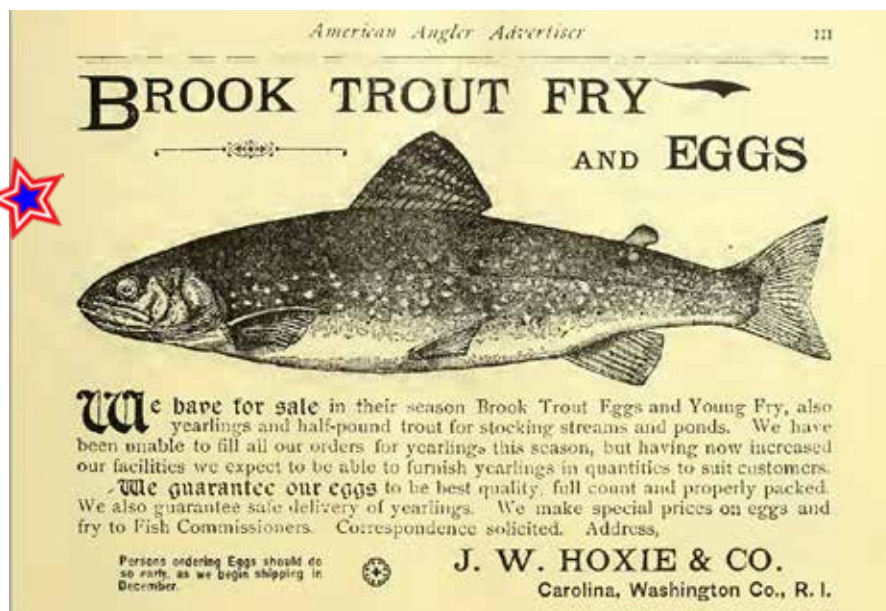
Conservation Chair Joe Miller is deeply involved in efforts to finalize the USFS Rim Country EIS and Record Of Decision (ROD) by early next year, working to keep importance on the Water Resources across the Mogollon Rim Country, as is AZGFD. Next Big Milestone will be the FS selection announcement of Commercial Timber Cutting & Thinning Proposals all across the Mogollon Rim in September. In the meantime, considerable effort is going into identifying alternative means of funding the critical forest & watershed work in case the RFP proposals are not sufficient.

DFC Web Site Conservation Page Update

We've been Updating the admittedly Out of Date Info on the DFC Web Site Conservation page. It should be available on-line by the time this Newsletter is released. DFC and individual members routinely support many conservation projects across the state. Hopefully we'll all continue to do so for the protection, maintenance, and improvement of all our valued fisheries and resources.

In the Meantime; Stay Safe, Stay Separated, Wear a Mask, and Fish Well!





Interesting ad from American Angler Illustrated • February 1895

DFC BULLETIN

We'll stay connected...

Our DFC Board of Directors plan to stay in touch with an extra e-mail regarding updates and club activities. The **DFC BULLETIN** will be published in addition to the monthly newsletter when needed. We'll stay updated. *Keep an eye out...*



Questions? • Catch: Frank Schettino-DFC President at: sketno1026@hotmail.com
Catch: Joe Staller- DFC V/P at: joestaller@yahoo.com



"They bring a joy, a healing power
that shines out far and wide.....
The ever patient, faithful friends
to keep watch by your side!"

John McLeod

It's a been awhile...I'll phone an old friend today and stay connected.

**2020 DESERT FLY CASTERS
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<http://www.desertflycasters.com>

DATES TO KEEP IN MIND...2020

BECKER BEST**

Friday, July 10 - Sunday July 10, 2020

Host: Joe Staller • joestaller@yahoo.com • (602) 568-9431

****Please refer to page 8 of this newsletter for up-to-date
information on this outing.**



Fun with a bamboo rod....
My first Gila ever and on a bamboo rod...
And this isn't even my biggest Gila....

