

APRIL 2020

FORWARD CASTS

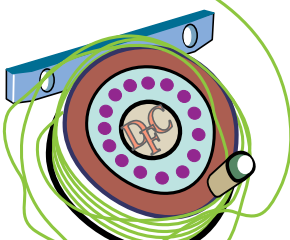
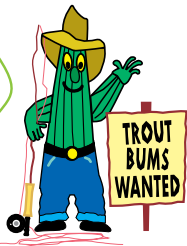
OFFICIAL DESERT FLY CASTERS NEWSLETTER



APRIL
Wednesday

**APRIL
DFC CLUB MEETING
CANCELED**

Elks Lodge
1775 West Chandler Blvd.
Chandler, Arizona 85224



President's Drift

Frank Schettino • April 2020



Greeting fellow trout bums,

I hope this finds you healthy and doing well. As you know, the Covid-19 pandemic has reached the U.S. and is here in AZ. Make no mistake it's a dangerous virus, I urge you to take precautions to limit your exposure as best you can. Check in with family, friends and fellow trout bums let each other know how you're doing. Help out when you can.

April's general meeting, intermediate fly tying class, the casting clinic were cancelled, this was done to protect the health of our members, our guest speaker and visitors. Your health and well being is most important. We are working with Jeff Currier to get him back to see us later in the year. **The outing to Hidden Lake on April 19 is still ON.** Since we will be using individual kick boats and float tubes we can keep a six foot distance. The May meeting is still scheduled as of now, we will keep monitoring the situation as it nears and inform the membership of any decision made.

Lets talk about something better... fishing. The best medicine to cure anything is fishing, thats my advice not my doctors although he did laugh when I said it. There's some conflicting information out there. AZGFD lists on their website that all outdoor areas are open but they also advise to check with the local authorities. There are reports that people are being turned away from the boat ramps at Canyon and Bartlett lakes which goes against what the AZGFD website says that places were open, I would advise you to check first. AZGFD also cancelled their Outdoor expo.

SRP announced that water was released from the Granite Reef dam, water flow has increased down the Lower Sat River into Tempe town lake. Some access areas have been closed off as well.

Keep checking your emails, the website, DFC members Facebook page for updates. We will make every attempt to get information out as fast an accurate as we can.

I also want to give a shout out to all the healthcare workers and first responders who are out there everyday fighting the battle. Thank you!!!!

We're Americans, we've been through worse much worse, we will get through this and will be stronger than ever.

See you at the next meeting.

Tight Lines,

Frank Schettino, *The President Guy*



Every big trout is boss man in his pool and he has a particular feeding-resting-observation station all his own.



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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Editors Notes an' Ramblings...



Bob McKeon,

DFC Newsletter Editor, Graphic Guru, Head Wrangler of Stuff, Certified Lawn Tosser of Old Rods an' things. Questions/Comments? Catch me at: rmckeon2@cox.net



Hand Sanitizer

YUP...Workin' from Home

I keep hearing that with this coronavirus many people are now working from home. Or just stuck at home.

I've gotta admit I've been working from home since 1971! I was blessed after a downsizing eliminated my position as an art director at a local TV station. I started my own graphic design firm and was a blessed to be able to work from home and was able to watch both children grow up. Since my wife was working and I was home all the time I was able to wipe runny noses... separate the two of them... give lots of hugs... drive them to school in bad weather... help them with home work... coached football... baseball...and spend quality time with each member of the family during a few serious health issues. I was blessed to be working out of my home.

Now that we are all faced with the coronavirus, in my retirement years, I have reinvented myself again. Yup, still workin' out of the home...I found time to rework my backyard to where I can do some roll casting my fly rods to a Jarts hoop and some tournament casting with spinning rods and bait casting rods to a 20 inch round wood cutout. DFC Trout Bum, World Casting Champion, Larry Allen, got me interested in this a couple of years ago. It's a small target area, but as I stand in the yard after dinner, I have one humming bird at times perch on the tip of the rod...I have 3 rabbits that peek out from one of the bushes poking around. A couple of Quail setting up family planning somewhere near by and are skittish as I move around. A small Gecko scurries off of one of our rocks. And a Mocking bird calling to me, or maybe critiquing my casting even after I close down my casting activities for the night. Yup, still workin' from home.

At my age, I do keep busy at home...I also find myself staring at a turned off TV imagining a baseball game. Read another fine book by James Thane, (Crossroads) Phoenix mystery writer. Play cards with my wife and play at Make Me Another Gin Martini. All at a social distance...well maybe not at cards, or the book...ahhh or the Martini game. I've also come up with a quick "Hand Sanitizer" formula and keep it in a small spray bottle. Easy to do...3 parts of rubbing alcohol and one part of water. Keep one in both cars and an extra one while out walking the grocery store. "Been blessed..." had 2 neighbors stop by and ask if there was anything they could help us with. Even go to the store and pick up anything we might need. Think it might have something to do with being a senior citizen at the age of ?. It's nice to realize neighbors are kind and concerned for a guy working at home. We're all in this coronavirus together. *Time to be kind to one another, and be concerned for the other guy.*



Now with all that said, I'm organizing myself to go find the badass hoarding, inconsiderate SOB pushing this basket....Gotta find out what's up his bottom side...and who's house he plans to Tee Pee.

Yup, still working at home all these years (Okay I'm 80)...And right now I've got to put this hard hitting column in the April newsletter. Hope to see you maybe at the May meeting. Follow Jim Stroger's article and check the Hidden Lake update also...Let's get out and fish!

We'll talk later about the SOB and his basket mentioned here within.

DIY CLOROX WIPES

1 cup Water

2 TBPS Bleach

2 TSPS Dish Soap

6 Drops Essential Oil (Optional)

Soak paper towel or fabric in a solution. Wring out to just moist enough. Store in airtight container.

DIY LYSOL WIPES

1 cup Water

6 TBPS 91% Isopropyl Alcohol

2 TSPS Dish Soap

6 Drops Essential Oil (Optional)

Soak paper towel or fabric in a solution. Wring out to just moist enough. Store in airtight container.



As of now, we are still planning on having this outing. The owner of Hidden Lake has told us that he plans to remain open. **For everyone's safety however, we are no longer planning on providing the classic DFC grilled burger lunch. We are investigating bringing in pre-made Subway sandwiches, but cannot promise this at this time.** With all of the recently announced closure's of local fishing holes (Lower Salt river, Boulder Cove at Canyon Lake etc.) you might want to jump on this opportunity to fish for large bass close to home!

Hidden Lake DFC Club Outing

Date- Sunday, April 19, 2020

Cost- \$25 a person (*lunch is included*)

Times- 5:00AM to 6:00PM

Location- Hidden Lake • 24445 W. Sunrise Dr.
Buckeye, AZ 85326

Host: Rod Buchanan • (209)815-0062
buchanan23@aol.com

The highlight of Hidden Lake is clearly the 60+ acres of trophy fishing waters. Hidden Lake is one of the only privately owned lakes in the state of Arizona. It has gone through extensive rehabilitation with over 100 tons of trash removed, shorelines reestablished, fishing habitats built, & security measures put in place. They strive to create a safe, clean environment for true anglers, nature advocates and families alike to enjoy. They are mainly a large mouth bass lake but you may catch other species such as Crappie, Blue Gill, Catfish, Tilapia & Carp.

To get there: Take the I10 West to N Miller road. Take Exit 114 and head south. Turn left on Sunrise Dr. about .8 mile, and then turn right at Hidden Lake.

Gate Access: If the gate is locked when you arrive, please call 623-777-5814 Extension 0, and someone will come by to let you in



Fly Fishing - A Great Way to Get Out of the House...



Jim Strogen

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

These are challenging times with our widespread health concerns. I know some people that are already starting to go a bit stir-crazy as they feel confined to their homes. At the current restriction level, exercising outdoors is still considered safe. While I enjoy biking, my preferred form of "exercise" is fly fishing.

I would bet that most folks would not really consider fly fishing exercise, but I count it as both physical and mental exercise. I often come home a little sore from climbing up and down stream banks after several hours of fishing; always with a smile on my face, regardless of how many fish I caught that day.

The focus that it requires to put my fly under a tree or to manage the perfect drift through a deep, swirling run requires me to think only about what I am doing at that moment. The concentration that demands has always helped me when I was feeling stressed about something at work, or just needed a chance to unwind. Truth be told, even tying on a size 18 fly requires quite a bit of focus as I stubbornly refuse to wear "cheater" glasses for a little longer.

Fly fishing in particular is a great way to get out in the fresh air and enjoy nature instead of feeling locked up at home. Certainly, any type of fishing gets you outdoors, but fly fishing necessitates movement and the need to provide quite a bit of space between anglers.

I often drive up to the lake or stream by myself, and even if I decide to fly fish with a friend, it usually means that one of us will fish downstream, while the other heads upstream. We typically only see each other and have a chance to talk on the way home. Of course, these days if I fish with a friend, we may decide to drive separately and just talk over lunch at the stream.

Sometimes we opt to fish in the same direction especially on small streams where we enjoy watching each other try for small wild fish that are hidden behind rocks, logs, or willow sweeps. On these occasions, we generally take turns on likely holes and watch from a distance to avoid spooking the fish, while providing encouragement.

The non-fisher often acts as a spotter from high on the bank to let the fisherman know where the fly is as he crouches behind a large boulder, or if a fish flashed and missed the fly to encourage another cast.

Slowing down and watching a deer walk by in the woods unaware of my presence in the stream, or seeing an eagle or osprey grab a trout from the lake is a true joy. Taking a close look at the aquatic insects that are on the rocks in the riffles is something that I have done on almost every trip since I was a kid. These non-fishing activities have always added tremendously to my fishing excursions.

As we all look for ways to stay healthy, I encourage you to get out and enjoy the forests, streams, and lakes around Rim Country. The peace, tranquility, and beauty that a small stream brings means even more to me these days.

Photos: Jim Strogen



Rim Country
fishing
locations
are
incredibly
beautiful



Getting a fly to dance along this deep working the fly along the sweeping vines in the water requires a great deal of focus.



Dave Rozema and I took turns fishing likely holes like this as we worked downstream.



Tom Herman coached me about fly location from the bank as I fished a pool behind a rock and some willows.



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2020 Membership Drive is in full swing... Win a Dave Weaver Custom Built Fly Rod!

It's time to renew your annual membership. Support our club activities for the next year for only \$35. Renew your dues or pay your initial dues and receive 1 ticket, if you're a Lifetime member you will receive 2 tickets for a chance to win a Dave Weaver custom built fly rod.

You can renew at the May meeting or by mail at Desert Fly Casters, PO Box 6404, Chandler, AZ 85246-6404. If you have any questions catch me, Brian Foss, The Membership Guy at: bfossfly@gmail.com

2020 DFC OUTINGS SCHEDULE



Joe Staller

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

Month	Location	Date	Host
April	Hidden Lake	Sun • April 19	Rod Buchanan
May	Seneca Lake	Sat • May 16	Joe Staller
June	Big Lake, Fir Campground	June 12-14 <i>Campground reserved</i>	Linda McAteer
July	Becker Best	July • 10-12, <i>Aligned with WMLF</i>	Gentry Smith
Aug	Utah, Boulder Mountain	Aug • 14-19	Dick Brooks
Sept Sept	Links at Queen Creek San Juan	Sept • 12 Sept • 21-26	TBA Billy Wingo
Oct	White Mountains	Oct • 15-18	Joe Staller
Nov	Rocky Point	Nov • 4-9	Vince Deadmond
Dec	Something Local	December 12	TBA

POCKET PANIC....

by Vince Deadmond

I have been a fan of practical fishing clothing for quite some time. Usually the clothing is made from a comfortable, quick dry material, cut roomy enough not to bind, and most importantly has lots of pockets for all the stuff you need on the water. I even think that type of clothing looks good enough to wear out for dinner. My wife Debi, has pointed out the flaw in my thinking, numerous times. The correct response is, "Yes dear, I was just going to change my shirt."

Typical fishing shirts have five pockets, some of my fishing flats pants have 11 tactical pockets. Some of these pockets are hidden inside another pocket. You can start to see the dilemma here, . . . that's right not enough pockets. Fishing jackets have large multiple pockets, sometimes a built in backpack. Lets not forget about all of the handy buttons, zippers, velcro, and loops that are added to our fishing ensemble. When I use my pontoon boat it has large saddle bags on the seat and on each pontoon. Even the new waders have a chest pack of pockets built on the outside, and a pocket or two on the inside. Lets just say you have access to about 30 pockets for your fishing gear, fly boxes, leader pacs, tippet, split shot, cookies, water, keys, camera, cell phone, etc.

A favorite pocket for my truck key is inside the wader pocket. I figure this the last thing that will get wet, and it is easier to access than any of the pants pockets. But, one of my concerns is that I will need to make a quick pit stop, and in my haste to remove jackets, and get into my waders, my keys will fly out and fall into the pit toilet. That has not happened yet. Stay tuned!

I was fishing Quemado Lake in New Mexico for Tiger Musky with Dave Weaver and Jerry King. The town of Quemado can be described as being rural. Springerville, AZ and Socorro, NM are the next closest towns and they are about an hour drive. I had stopped fishing and pushed

my pontoon boat onto the shore. The sun was popping in and out of the clouds, so you were too warm or too cold. I needed to adjust my jacket, eat an apple, and enjoy a Snickers candy bar. To accomplish this I needed to adjust my waders as well. After my break I was ready to row across the lake and start the process of breaking down the equipment for the trip home.

When I got back to the truck I checked my wader pocket where my truck key was supposed to be, and it was gone! My first thought was check all 30 pockets. Nope wasn't there. Then I thought of retracing my steps, and I figured my keys had slipped out during my last break. I rowed back across the lake and searched the ground and edge of the water for my missing keys. All the while I am thinking, I don't have a back up key, my wife has a spare set of keys but she is 4 and 1/2 hours away. Finding a locksmith in Quemado is not likely. Finding a locksmith in Springerville or Socorro may be just as problematic. Eventually I gave up the search for the missing keys along side of the lake. I slowly rowed back to the truck while my mind raced on how to get out of this problem.

Jerry said, "Check your waders one more time." I had patted myself down at first when I discovered the keys missing, but now I removed the waders, and sure enough they had slipped down to my ankle where the gravel guards are and I had not felt them. There was much rejoicing in the Quemado Lake parking lot. When I got back to civilization I made a duplicate key and got a hide a box key holder to store an extra key. At least I have a plan "B" for my next empty pocket panic attack.

Questions/Comments?

Catch Vince Deadmond The Fly Fishing Hardware Guy at:
vince@ajbest.com and 480 982 7461.

EDITOR'S NOTES....

I was asked recently at one of the monthly meetings of this article by our DFC Trout Bum buddy, Vince Deadmond....This article appeared in the June 2013 newsletter. Hope this will be of interest. Thanx, Vince.
R. McKeon, Editor

**CORONA VIRUS
MAY TAKE AWAY
BASKETBALL,
BASEBALL,
HOCKEY,
AND SOCCER
BUT IT WILL
NEVER
TAKE AWAY
FISHING!**





Fly Tying Corner

If we're allowed to:

Intermediate session • Wednesday, April 22, 2020 • 6:30 - 8:30 PM

McQueen Park Recreation Field (Located on the 510 N Horne, Gilbert)

William Thurber will be guest fly tyer. *Materials will be provided.*

April Flies of the Month



Bead Head Hare's Ear

Hook: 10 to 16 nymph hook

Thread: Fluorescent red

Bead: Iridescent crystal bead

Tag: Fluorescent red thread

Tail: 4 pheasant tail fibers

Rib: Silver wire or 5lb mono, rib is optional

Body: Light colored hare's ear teased out



Perdigon Nymph

Hook: Jig hook #14-16 (#14 used in photos)

Bead: Silver (or black) tungsten sized to match the hook (3.3 - 2.5 mm)

Thread: Any color

Tail: 8-10 Coq de Leon Pardo fibers

Body: Rainbow Nymph-It thread or similar (Flashabou)

Collar: Hot Orange thread Body

Coating: UV-cure resin -- an easy flow version

Wing Case: Black Nail Varnish

Final Body Coating: Clear Nail Varnish (Hard as Nails)

For more information or to sign up, send email to:

Bob Harrison harrn7963@aol.com or call/ text to: 480 735 9743



One great thing about fly fishing is that after a while nothing exists of the world but thoughts about fly fishing.



Desert Fly Casters Conservation Corner

April 2020



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

- **Well, Conservation in Arizona is Not what it used to be.** Used to be field trips, rocks and trees and stream beds, and fish stockings. Now, It's Video Conferencing. Have spent many hours with many people in last few weeks staring at my computer screen with lots of little pictures of other people staring at their computer screens. All due to the Covid - 19 Situation. But a lot is going on, and some good progress is being made on many fronts. Here's short updates on topics of interest to DFC Trout Bums about our Arizona streams, fisheries and the forests they're in:

• Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) Status

- This Stream Rich 1.24 Million Acre Forest Restoration Planning effort is on-going, with many good Video Conferences recently on topics like Biomass and Conservation Financing - about how to pay for the work. The Final version of the EIS is now being developed based on the recent comments, which produced significant requests for more attention to the water resources on and below the Mogollon Rim. Those requests ARE being addressed. Forest Service hopes to finalize EIS and Record Of Decision (ROD) by early next year. Joe Miller is deeply involved in these efforts, as is AZGFD, and a number of other Conservation Organizations. We'll keep you posted!

• ALERT: National Forest Facility Closures

- The National Forests have announced that all developed campsites and facilities are being closed across the Mogollon Rim and the White Mountains due to Covid-19 concerns. This includes the Tonto, Prescott, Apache- Sitgreaves, Kaibab and Coconino NFs. The forests themselves are open, but facilities like parking lots, restrooms etc are NOT. We're checking to see if this will impact trout stockings expected to start in early April. Check Before You Go!!!!

• Black River Forest Restoration Project - White Mountains

- The Apache - Sitgreaves NF is now re-planning how they will actually proceed with this project. The project, on the Eastern slopes of Mt Baldy and around the Big Lake area, is to develop an Environmental Assessment to authorize Forest Restoration and Streams Restoration work, but as reported there have been delays. The area includes many streams with Apache Trout and Brown Trout. A group of Stakeholders including Joe Miller and AZGFD will be meeting before that starts to work with the A - S on the effort. Details will be reported as they emerge.

• Tonto National Forest Land Management Plan and EIS Progress

- The new Tonto NF Land Management Plan development is on-going. It appears there is a lot of good attention in the draft plan to water resources on the Tonto NF, which includes many streams we fish a lot: The Tonto, East Verde, Christopher, Haigler, and especially Canyon Creek. Tonto NF has thanked participants in the recent Public Comments period and in Technical Partner sessions (Joe Miller participated) and expects the completion of that process late 2020 / early 2021.

• Lees Ferry Rainbow Trout Fishery

- There WAS TO BE a Guides, Anglers and AZGFD Meeting about the Lees Ferry Fishery at Marble Canyon at 4:15 on Thursday April 23 to discuss Incentivized Harvest of Brown Trout, Bug Flows, Recent Trends, and trout stocking. It was being organized by Scott Rogers AZGFD - Flagstaff, and Terry Gunn. Location was to be announced.

- **We Do Not Know** if this meeting will happen or not, there are changing guidelines, and there is a local effort to close Grand Canyon National Park. Contact Joe Miller or Scott Rogers for information before you try to attend this meeting.

• San Juan River

- Likely Closed! It was last week! Check with Reliable Local Contact like Fisheads Lodge before you go!

• In the Meantime;

- Even though a very skilled fisherman from Payson took me up to Willow Springs last week, This picture is as close as I have gotten to an actual fish recently. It's a treasured wooden carving of a Rainbow Trout by carver Mike Borrett of Wisconsin, a real artist with Fish, Waterfowl and Game Bird carvings. The Musk-dale Carving at Desert Sportsman in Scottsdale (A Donor to our Banquet) is by Mike.



DESERT FLY CASTERS

Date: _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

Are you a member of our parent organization? Int'l Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF) Yes ____ No ____
Visit the IFFF website, support the IFFF and sign up: <http://www.fedflyfishers.org>

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Email: _____

Occupation: _____

☐ **YES, I would like to volunteer- Please contact me**



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For Life Time Membership - ☐ Email **Color** Newsletter
\$350

Type of Membership: Renewal _____ New _____

Name Tags (please print):

Name 1: _____

Name 2: _____

Tax Deductible Conservation donation: (DFC is a 501C3 Non-Profit Org) \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of every Month

Meeting Location – ELKS LODGE, 1775 W. Chandler Blvd, Chandler, AZ

Take the 101 south to Chandler Blvd, go East just past Dobson Rd to SW corner at Pennington Dr.
(Behind the Car Wash) *Push the Door Bell at the Door*

DESERT FLY CASTERS – PO BOX 6404, Chandler, AZ 85246

Attention: Membership

Web address: www.desertflycasters.com

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DATES TO KEEP IN MIND...2020

APRIL • HIDDEN LAKE

Sunday, April 19, 2020

Host: Rod Buchanan • buchanan23@aol.com • (209) 815-0062

Up-Dated information in this April Newsletter

MAY • SENECA LAKE

Saturday, May 16, 2020

Host: Joe Staller • 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.

R.McKeon, Editor
