

FEBRUARY 2020

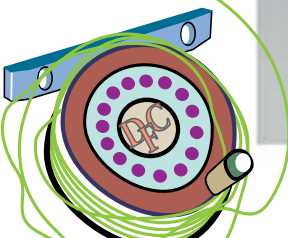
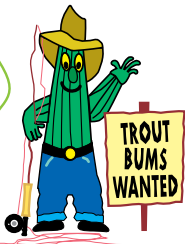
# FORWARD CASTS

OFFICIAL DESERT FLY CASTERS NEWSLETTER



**FEBRUARY**  
Wednesday,  
February 12, 2020

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
644 E. Chandler, Blvd.  
Chandler, Arizona 85225



## DFC ANNUAL BANQUET

**Wednesday**  
**February 12, 2020**

Knights of Columbus Hall  
644 E. Chandler Blvd.  
Chandler, AZ



*This is our DFC Annual Fund Raising Banquet.*

*It is a "Pot Luck" dinner. Ham, turkey & gravy will be provided by the DFC board.*

*Please bring a side dish or dessert for all to share. Those of you whose last names start with:*

*A through F bring a dessert ...Those with last name starting with:*

*G through Z bring side dish or salad. Thank you!*

**5:30 PM- Cocktails & Chit/Chat • 6:30 PM Dinner • 7:00 PM Raffles/Auction & Prizes**

*Additional banquet information catch:*

*Frank Schettino at: [sketno1026@hotmail.com](mailto:sketno1026@hotmail.com)...or call: 917-414-5428*

*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

### CATCH US HERE:

Desert Fly Casters  
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[www.desertflycasters.com](http://www.desertflycasters.com)

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**News Letter Editor**  
Robert McKeon

## President's Drift

Frank Schettino • February 2020



### Greetings fellow DFC'ers,

It is with a heavy heart that I announce the passing of one of our long time members, Doc Nickel. Doc, fly fisherman, friend, great story teller. He will be missed by all.

It's time for our Annual Banquet, our biggest fundraiser. A night full of friends, fish stories, great food, camaraderie and a spectacular raffle. You don't want to miss it.

See you at the meeting.

Tight Lines,  
Frank Schettino



## Our DFC Trout Bum family lost one of our members, W.R. "Doc" Nickel

*Fly Fisherman, Skilled Grub Manager,  
Practiced Story Teller, Rocky Point Grand Master,  
Treasured Friend & Mentor, Accomplished Explorer,  
Proficient Collector of Things, Practiced Outing Guide,  
Master of Peregrination,  
and a true gentleman to be remembered.*

**1936-2020**

## 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 January 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](mailto:bfossfly@gmail.com)



***Don't miss this....Always a Club favorite!***



# **Annual Danish Casting Games along with a Lunch!**

**Saturday, February 22, 2020 • 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**  
**Gilbert's McQueen Park**

**Located on...** McQueen Road between Guadalupe and Elliot. Look for us on the west side of the pond that's directly behind the community center. Use the McQueen Road entrance and parking lot.

**Cost: Free**

**Eligibility:** DFC & Project Healing Waters

**Host:** Gary Hitterman • 1Bighand@excite.com

*Please, RSVP in advance and include **"Danish Games"** in the subject line.*

***The Danish Casting Games*** is a longtime club favorite featuring a series of fly casting obstacle that are set up similar to a miniature golf course. Each game promises to challenge veteran fly casters, but is also a great teaching tool for new fly anglers. IFFF Certified Casting instructors will be available to help casters complete each game and explain how they relate to real-life fishing situations. Members are welcome to participate competitively or non-competitively-it's all about having a good time.

## **Event Highlights:**

- Beginning, intermediate and advanced fly casters welcome
  - Meet members from other fly fishing organizations
- Free lunch provided. Please bring a side to share if you are so inclined.

## **Items to bring:**

- Sunglasses/eyeglasses • Hat • Sunscreen • Drinking water
- Fly rod/reel/line/leader (loaner equipment available upon request)

# 2020 DFC OUTINGS SCHEDULE



**Joe Staller**

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

Month	Location	Date	Host
Feb	Danish casting Games Plus...Fish Fry McQueen Park	Sat • Feb 22	Education, Gary Hitterman
March	Salt River Raft trip	Sat • March 14	Joe Staller
April	Hidden Lake	Sun • April 19	Rod Buchanan
May	Seneca Lake	Sat • May 16	Joe Staller
June	Big Lake, Fir Campground	June 12-14 Campground reserved	Linda McAteer
July	Becker Best	July • 10-12, Aligned with WMLF	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

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

### Our Annual Banquet will be held Wednesday, February 12, 2020

**Knights of Columbus Hall • 644 E. Chandler Blvd. • Chandler, AZ**

As you are probably aware, the annual banquet is our opportunity to raise money to support the ongoing operations of the Desert Fly Casters. The money brought in by the raffle allows us to:

- 1)- Support Arizona Game and Fish to enhance Blue Ribbon streams (Lower Canyon Creek in the Tonto National Forest and Silver Creek near Show Low) by providing funding and manpower.
- 2)- Provide funding to the White Mountains Lake Foundation—an organization focused on conservation and improving the fishing in Arizona's White Mountains.
- 3)- Support Casting for Recovery (a Women's Breast Cancer survivor group) by providing "pond buddies" and funding.
- 4)- Support Project Healing Waters by providing disabled veterans by funding outings, purchasing equipment and providing support volunteers.
- 5)- Conduct free classes for fly casting, fly tying and rod building.
- 6)- Provide free training and support for Boy Scouts Fly Fishing Merit badge.
- 7)- Yearly support at fishing expos and stores for education of fly fishing with emphasis on bringing new people into the sport.
- 8)- Yearly classes for fly casting, fly tying and rod building
- 9)- Monthly meetings with guest speakers
- 10)- ....and outings for our club members!

While there are still some very generous donations made by members of the fly fishing business community, in all honesty many companies that used to donate have either stopped altogether or have reduced their contributions by a significant amount.

I'm hoping that you can help us close the gap. If you own a business, please consider donating some services or products. If you are good friends with a business owner, please ask them to donate a service or a product. As an individual, perhaps you would consider donating a craft item, a wine basket, a box of hand tied flies, that extra fishing vest you have never used etc. etc.

Please catch me, **Frank Schettino, DFC Pres. at: sketno1026@hotmail.com** for more information on how to donate or for our charitable contribution letter (we are a 501. C3 corporation, so donations are tax deductible)



# ALONG THE OUTER BANKS

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## HAVE DFC LOGO EMBROIDERED ON YOUR FISHING SHIRTS...

Please bring your fishing shirts to the DFC banquet on  
February 12 to have the DFC logo embroidered on your shirts.

**The cost is only \$10.**

They look great. Ask anyone who has had it done.  
One caveat we need a minimum of 12 shirts for an order.

Any questions catch me, Jerry King, at:  
480-766-9170 or email me at: webfootking@aol.com.



## KNOWN BY THE FRIENDS WE KEEP!



Wayne "Doc" Nickel attracted friends like a magnet. Many a new Desert Fly Caster member was first welcomed by Doc at a meeting or at an outing. Doc was friendly, open, and warm. Doc encouraged people to not be up tight, and to relax. Doc would introduce the new members to other members who would also become friends.

Doc was a hero to many, he lived life to the fullest, and seemed to be having a great time doing it. I don't think he was one of the original charter members of the club, but Doc was an early member of the club. The Rocky Point outing got started after the club had been going for 6-8 years. Doc hosted the Rocky Point outing for over 30 years. I have hosted the RP outing several times, and Doc has always been supportive. I have used Doc as a sounding board for many ideas on how to improve the RP experience. Doc was The Rocky Point Guy for many years, and when I go to RP people always ask, "How is Doc?" "Did Doc come down this trip?"

Doc was a free spirit, and on several occasions wore a thong. He had a bolt pierced through his navel. Doc loved to shock people but in a good way. He would share ideas, food, and drink. I don't Doc ever steered me wrong on anything to eat or drink. Doc had a saying, "That was a mouth orgasm!" Let's raise the chalice with good red wine and remember a good friend!

Vince Deadmond



*I know for certain that we never lose the people we love, even to death.  
They continue to participate in every act, thought and decision we make.  
Their love leaves an indelible imprint in our memories.  
We find comfort in knowing that our lives have been enriched  
by having shared their love*

Leo Buscaglia



# 2020 DFC EDUCATIONAL SCHEDULE



**Gary Hitterman**

DFC Educational Guy  
1Bighand@excite.com

**February 22, 2020 • 9:00 to 3:00 PM**

## **Danish Fly Casting Games & DFC Club Outing**

**Gilbert's McQueen Park**

**Lunch will be provided by DFC at 12:00 Noon**

**at the Joshua Tree Ramada just west of the park pond**

*After lunch a Discussion Question Answer session.*

*• Don't forget to bring your own rod and reel for this popular club event*

**March 28, 2020 • Saturday 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**

## **DFC Fly Casting for DFC Club Members** • *weather permitting*

**Gilbert's McQueen Park**

*Please plan on bringing your rod, reel and line- Ready for action an' fun!*

**April 25 2020 • Fly Fishing Fly Casting Day Outing**

**at Green Valley Park, Payson AZ**

Members should treat this as a picnic. Pack your own picnic basket with goodies, load up some chairs and a table. Plus your favorite fly fishing gear. • There is no set time to start fishing. Some like to be on the water at the crack of dawn. Everyone decides for themselves when to arrive- weather permitting

**Directions:** starting at the Metro Valley. Take Hwy 87 to Payson. Make left turn at Main St. Drive 1.1 miles you will see the park.

## **Fly Tying Corner**

**Intermediate session • Wednesday, February 26, 2020 • 6:30 - 6:30 PM**

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

***Larry Gallegos will be our guest fly tyer for this month's patterns.***

*Material will be provided.*

## ***February Flies of the Month***



### **Guide's Choice Hare's Ear**

**Nymph Hook:** (TMC 100/101 without bead, TMC 5262 with bead)  
**Lead Wire:** (or lead-free wire) -015  
**Gold Bead:** (sized to hook, optional)  
**Gold Wire:** (Brassie size)  
Rabbit Hair (for tail)  
Hare's Ear Dubbing  
Peacock Herl  
Flashabou (Pearl or Opal)  
Hungarian Partridge Feather



### **Puterbaugh Caddis**

**#16 Dry Fly Hook:** (TMC 100/101)  
Black Thread  
**2mm Foam:** (cut into 2mm by 2mm strip)  
**Rainbow Krystal Flash:** (optional)  
**Bleached Elk Hair:** (or Deer Hair)  
**#16 Brown Hackle:** (can substitute with Peacock Herl)

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

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





# Carp Getting Some Love From Fly Fishers

**Jim Strogon**

**When I was a kid, the common carp was certainly considered a trash fish. They have a tendency to root around in the vegetation for plant material or aquatic insects.** This can create localized muddy water conditions, removal of beneficial plant material, and can be a direct competition to more desirable sport fish for available aquatic insects.

Carp are found in Asia and Europe and were introduced to the United States from Europe well over a century ago. They are now found in much of the United States. Most often they inhabit waters that are warmer and of poorer quality than trout will tolerate.

Although they are not commonly eaten, they have taken on a bit of resurgence in popularity with anglers, especially fly fishers. In the Great Lakes, which have a variety of valued sport fish, there are also areas of the lakes that common carp can be targeted effectively at certain times of the year.

Bonefish are highly prized by fly fishers on the saltwater flats in the southeastern part of the country and other destinations around the world. Common carp utilize freshwater flats in large lakes and provide a much less expensive opportunity to stalk these fish under similar conditions as bonefish in saltwater.

Carp are notoriously sensitive to poorly placed casts and will bolt at the sight of a misplaced fly line that lands too close to a feeding fish. Anglers generally cast well in front of the approaching fish to minimize the chance of spooking it. Once the fish nears the fly that has hopefully settled quietly on the bottom, the angler will often move it slightly to tempt a carp to come over to investigate and inhale the offering.

Grass carp or white amur have also been introduced to the United States and are common in the canals in the Valley and in many of the Community Fishing Program lakes around the state including the Green Valley Lakes in Payson. They have been introduced for the primary purpose of effective weed control in the canals and these small lakes.

They reduce the need for chemical treatment of the water to control aquatic vegetation. The town of Payson purchases grass carp from time to time to replenish the population in the Green Valley lakes. There is a 30 inch minimum size restriction and a daily limit of one fish. Grass carp, like the common carp as introduced species must be managed in their distribution.

In the Green Valley Lakes there are grates between the three lakes as well as fencing below lake 3. The grates between the lakes are in place to assure that each lake has the prescribed number of grass carp to work on the aquatic vegetation in each lake. The fencing below lake 3 is to keep any from escaping and accidentally getting transported into the East Verde River where they are not intended and could compete with native species.

Grass carp are also possible to catch, but are even more challenging than the common carp as their diet is primarily plant based. I had my biggest "catch" in lake 2 thanks to a grass carp. I was fishing for trout with an indicator and my normal wet fly rig when the indicator dipped below the surface.

*continued on pg: 9*



Our DFC Trout Bum,  
Vince Deadmond,  
*The Carp Guy Guru*  
with a nice carp  
& his favorite  
fly: **Carp Beatle**  
Catch Vince at:  
[vince@ajbest.com](mailto:vince@ajbest.com)



## Desert Fly Casters Newsletter Contributor *Jim Stroger* Receives Arizona Game and Fish Commission Award

I set the hook, expecting a trout when a grass carp well over thirty inches long made four jumps completely out of the water in the first fifty feet of its run. In no time at all my fly line was gone and I was well into my backing. That had never happened to me before. I also only had a 5x tippet so the fish really was in complete control of where he wanted to go. I managed to recover my backing and fly line by walking half way around the lake as I followed the fish.

The net I had was useless for such a large fish. I succeeded in reeling the fish in three times to the point that my leader was out of the water and I could see the fly. Each time I did that during the twenty-five minute battle, the fish charged off again taking line as quickly as when I first hooked it. Finally, the fish ran along the jagged rocks near the little boat ramp on lake 2 and the line went slack.

What a thrill! We both won. I had no way to safely land and release this fish with my little net, and was quite happy to have him swim off under full power on his own. I have tried occasionally for grass carp under clearer water conditions in the past, and always been unsuccessful. Either I have made an imperfect cast, or my offering was not of interest. Under the muddy water conditions, it is possible that my fly was just sucked in with the plant material the fish was actually more interested in eating. A friend does well with them during the summer and clearer water conditions imitating the willow blossoms that fall in the water under the trees.

Carp can be a lot of fun to catch, but must be managed carefully as their unintended presence in waters with fragile populations of native or desirable introduced sport fish could be extremely harmful.

There are several DFC members that appreciate the challenge of bringing these fish to the fly and love the fight that they provide on a fly rod. If you get a chance to join in on one of these DFC carp excursions to one of the Valley lakes or canals, I suggest you take advantage of the expertise offered in fly selection and technique. You'll have a blast if you hook into one!

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



Payson Roundup Newspaper fly fishing "*Life on the Fly*" columnist **Dr. Jim Stroger**, Payson, received the **Arizona Game and Fish Department's 2019 Educator of the Year Award** from AZGF Commissioner Jim Zieler on Saturday, January 25 during the annual AZGF Commission Awards Banquet in Phoenix. Jim was honored for his many years of providing fly fishing and conservation education classes for elementary, middle school and adult classes held throughout the year. His students catch Fish! He and his middle school and elementary students have helped build fish structures in the Green Valley Park lakes. His frequent articles in the Roundup and in fly fishing club newsletters prove very popular with readers and are an extension of his teaching philosophy. Those articles share methods, techniques, stream approach techniques, and some "bugs" expertise for broad angler benefit. His conservation efforts in support of area and state rivers, streams and lakes are also well known to members of the *Desert Fly Casters*, *Payson Flycasters*, the local community, local Trout Unlimited Chapters, and the angling community statewide. We Congratulate Jim on the well earned recognition for his continuing efforts!

**Thanks in part:** Joe Miller, DFC Conservation Chair, & Ric Hinkie, Co-President, Payson Fly Casters

## MARCH DFC OUTING



# DFC Salt River Trip

**Saturday,  
March 14, 2020**

**Host:  
Joe Staller**

**Catch Joe at:  
joestaller@yahoo.com**

**Where:** Salt River east of Phoenix, downstream from Saguaro Lake, Phon D Sutton Access point.

**Route to get there:** Take US 60 (The Superstition Freeway) to Power Road, north. Power Road turns into Bush Highway and runs along the Salt River all the way to Saguaro Lake, but you will take a left at Phon D Sutton access point. Or, take US 60 to Ellsworth and go north over Utery Pass, which will take you to Salt River Recreation.

**Trip description:** This is a rafting trip from Phon D Sutton down to Granite Reef. Expected duration is 4-5 hours, could be quicker if the water flows are high, and could take longer if you stop and fish every likely looking spot.

**When:** Let's meet at 8:00 a.m. We will need to shuttle some vehicles down to Granite Reef. Plan to start rafting at 9:00 a.m.

**Equipment Requirements:** Preferred craft would be a kick boat with both oars and fins. U-boat float tubes will work as well, but you may need to carry it over some shallower sections. Kayaks are fine also. Life preserver/flotation device is required by law and common sense. March is still cold, so you will probably want your waders. Some may want an anchor, just be careful and don't anchor in swift currents. If this trip happens to be your first time using your kick boat or float tube, we strongly suggest that you take it out on some still waters prior to this trip so that you are comfortable with how your boat is assembled and how to move around. Moving water is too challenging for your first attempt at kick boating.

**Safety:** Wear your life jacket, or at least have it handy. Look downstream and scan for obstacles: large rocks, tree branches hanging over the water, shallow water, other boaters anchored etc. Plan your route. One useful tactic is to point your raft at upcoming obstacles (large rock, mid-river tree, island etc.) and row directly away from it. Re-orient your craft as you approach and pass the obstacle, and keep the nose pointed at the obstacle until you have completely cleared it. Bring plenty of water and snacks. Put your keys, phone and wallet in a water proof container. Stay close to your buddy. If using an anchor, bring a knife to cut the line if it gets lodged in the rocks.

**Permits:** A valid Tonto Pass is required. Plan on buying this before you arrive. They can be purchased at Big 5, Sportsman's and other places. Pass can also be picked up at the Shell station on Power Road and McDonald. Must be paid in cash or debit card, as they may not take credit cards.

**Fish:** Bass - will be the main fish targeted with 9 - 16 inch fish being common place with larger fish being present in the river. Blue Gill/Trout - Smaller streamers can be very effective. Carp, Chub and Suckers - Not unknown to catch a few each trip and they can be very fun on a 5 weight.

**Recommended Tackle:** 5 or 6 weight rods. Floating, intermediate and sink tip lines should work. Bring strike indicators to dread drift flies with a floating line, 3X, 4X, 5X leaders and tippet. You can go heavier if you are just going to target bass.

**Flies:** Tan and white Clousers, and black wooly buggers should always work. Standard trout nymphs will work for the bluegill, trout and suckers.



# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Ph ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

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



### Individual or Family are:

**For Yearly Membership - ☐ \$35/year - Email Color newsletter**

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.desertflycasters.com)

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**DATES TO KEEP IN MIND...2020**

**ANNUAL DFC BANQUET**

**Wednesday, February 12, 2020**

**Knights of Columbus Hall**

**Danish Fly Casting Games  
& DFC Club Outing**

**February 22, 2020 • 9:00 to 3:00 PM**

**Gilbert's McQueen Park**

**Lunch will be provided by DFC at 12:00 Noon**

*After lunch a Discussion Question Answer session.*

*• Don't forget to bring your own rod and reel for this popular club event*

**MARCH • SALT RIVER TRIP**

**Saturday, March 14, 2020**

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