

JUNE 2020

# FORWARD CASTS

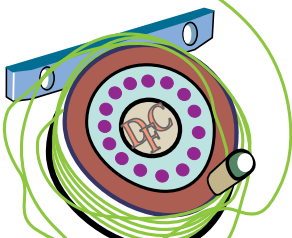
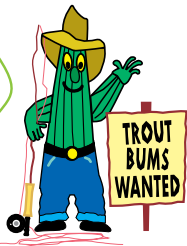
OFFICIAL DESERT FLY CASTERS NEWSLETTER



**JUNE**  
Wednesday,  
June 10, 2020

**JUNE  
DFC CLUB MEETING  
CANCELED**

Desert Fly Casters  
Chandler, Arizona 85224



## President's Drift

Frank Schettino • June 2020



*It's June and normally this time of year we're all out bumming around fishing. Due to this Covid-19 stuff not so much.* Restrictions have eased a little, but I still hold the health and safety of our members a top priority. I decided to cancel the June meeting. I, along with the board will discuss the possibility of a July meeting. We are all heartbroken over this as I am too. I miss the members, listening to your stories of your fishing adventures and misadventures. What's a fish story without something going awry. We've all had something happen once or maybe twice, and I'm sure you miss my accent even if you can't understand what I'm saying most of the time.

This whole thing has put a cramp in our fishing. There are some of us who are getting out, so if you've been out send me your pict with a little info on where you were and I'll come up with a way to let everyone know.

There is some good news, the restrictions are starting to ease. Life will get close to what was it before with a couple of changes to how we do things. Some parks, lakes, are opening up. Best bet would be to call ahead to find out what exactly is open. Here's an idea. Grab your sweetheart, do a little fishing together, stop at your favorite restaurant afterwards have dinner out. Its a win win, you get to fish, you spend quality time with your sweetie, you take her or him to dinner, and the best part...(wait for it).. no dishes to clean. Homerun!!!!

Take care of yourselves, be safe, try to get out and enjoy the fresh air and each other. Fish a little fish alot, get out and fish. Tell us how it went and hopefully we can get together sooner rather than later. Oh in case you didn't notice, you've been inside all this time. The volcano heat has started, bring plenty of water with you when you're out and about. Also, keep an eye out for our DFC Bulletins....we'll keep you connected!

Tight Lines, Frank Schettino

## THIS IS LUCCA...

Lucca lives in Boston.

Lucca is 4 years old.

Lucca fishes a pond in Boston.

Lucca fishes with Mom & Dad.

Lucca casts a small spinning rod.

Lucca is an expert at casting his spinning rod.

I've seen Lucca cast his spinning rod.

Lucca's Mom showed a video of Lucca casting.

This is Lucca's first fish.

See Lucca smile.

See how big Lucca's first fish really is.

Lucca will grow up to be a Trout Bum.

Lucca's Grandparents live in Phoenix.

Lucca's Grandparents are my neighbor.

I like Lucca, Lucca's fish and Lucca's smile.

See how fishing makes Lucca smile.

See how happy we are for Lucca. R. McKeon, Editor



*Fly fishing is the worst drug I ever had, and I'm still hooked on it.*



### 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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**DFC BULLETIN**

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

## 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

### FUN FEEL GOOD ARTICLE...

Check out our DFC page 5. I ran across an interesting article in the Wall Street Journal regarding "Raindrop Bubbles." The article reminded myself of one of my fishing trips on local waters years back.

I passed on the article along with some text regarding my trip and invited our Trout Bum Nation to write back their own experiences with "Raindrops and Bubbles." Jim Stroger added his memories and sent it back to me.

Here within are our own musings of the Wall Street Journal article.

*Hope you enjoy...*  
And, if you have a rainy day experience send it to me and we'll drop your wet trip in the next newsletter.

### A few odds and ends...

*I did find out being sequestered, held hostage with this coronavirus pandemic, I'm starting to miss people I don't even like.* As I poked around my small ("cluttered," as my wife explains it all to me) office space here, while working another DFC newsletter, I discovered a much dated day planner I kept next to the phone. Three years of these planners stacked on one another. (Must make a note to myself to tidy up this stack) Stuffed in the current day planner was a penciled "to-do" list I forgotten I had. How could I've ignored it like this? Needless to say I got busy checking off a few items. The first thing was to organize my vinyl jazz record collection- group my favored musicians. Separately... group the trumpet players...group the piano players, and so on. So I sat and listened to some of my favorite Miles Davis and Bill Evans records. Did more listening than grouping. It was great listening to my collection...brought back memories. For now, I won't scratch this off the list.

Next penciled in, believe in it or not, was to get a haircut. My time looking like a relic from "Welcome Back, Kotter" needed immediate attention. Can't believe I ignored this...*Gotta find a barber...*wrote that down adding to the list.

Other odd impulsive scribbles- Change oil in lawnmower...Clean my half of the garage...Trim bushes this week (...maybe next week)...Sort collected calling cards (...who are these people?)...Change hearing aid batteries (What? Don't get out to even talk to people)...Cancel scheduled roller skating club annual summer party (...problem with social distancing)...**OMG!** this discovered to-do list goes on and on. When am I going to find time to do any of these?

However, I did notice on the list of stuff was my small fly rod collection to clean the ferrules. Before I proceeded I needed some type of solvent to use as a cleaner. I remembered the last time I ventured into this process, it might have been during the Jimmy Carter years. So why was this still on my to-do list, I asked myself? Did remember, though, back then I used some rubbing alcohol- *uh-huh*, now try and find that in my medicine cabinet or better yet at the store. I'm even out of Denatured Alcohol stored in my dark garage (...gotta make a note of both). And, so being somewhat creative (...yeah I create stuff like a monthly newsletter) I thought, of my liquor cabinet and some Beefeater gin I found back of some wine bottles my wife and I enjoy, saved, when friends pop in. The gin has a 47% alc./vol. That'll work! And, with Q-tip, olives, ice (...*olives an' ice?*) and Beefeater's, I enthusiastically got busy cleaning the ferrules, both male an' female. *Easy-Peasy!*

I must admit the ferrule project is now crossed off my list! Scratched off. No more humming and hawing. No more olives. (*olives?*) A pleasurable task, taken care of! Proud of what I accomplished with my recently discovered to-do list. I quickly tucked the to-do list away for some other appropriate moment. There's always another day. Another fly rod to-do-job on the list was to clean the grubby looking cork handles. Got that underlined on the list for perhaps next month. Yup, there's always another day... *maybe not so cluttered.*

Stay safe. Be kind to one another.  
*Phone a friend... stay connected.*  
R. McKeon, Editor





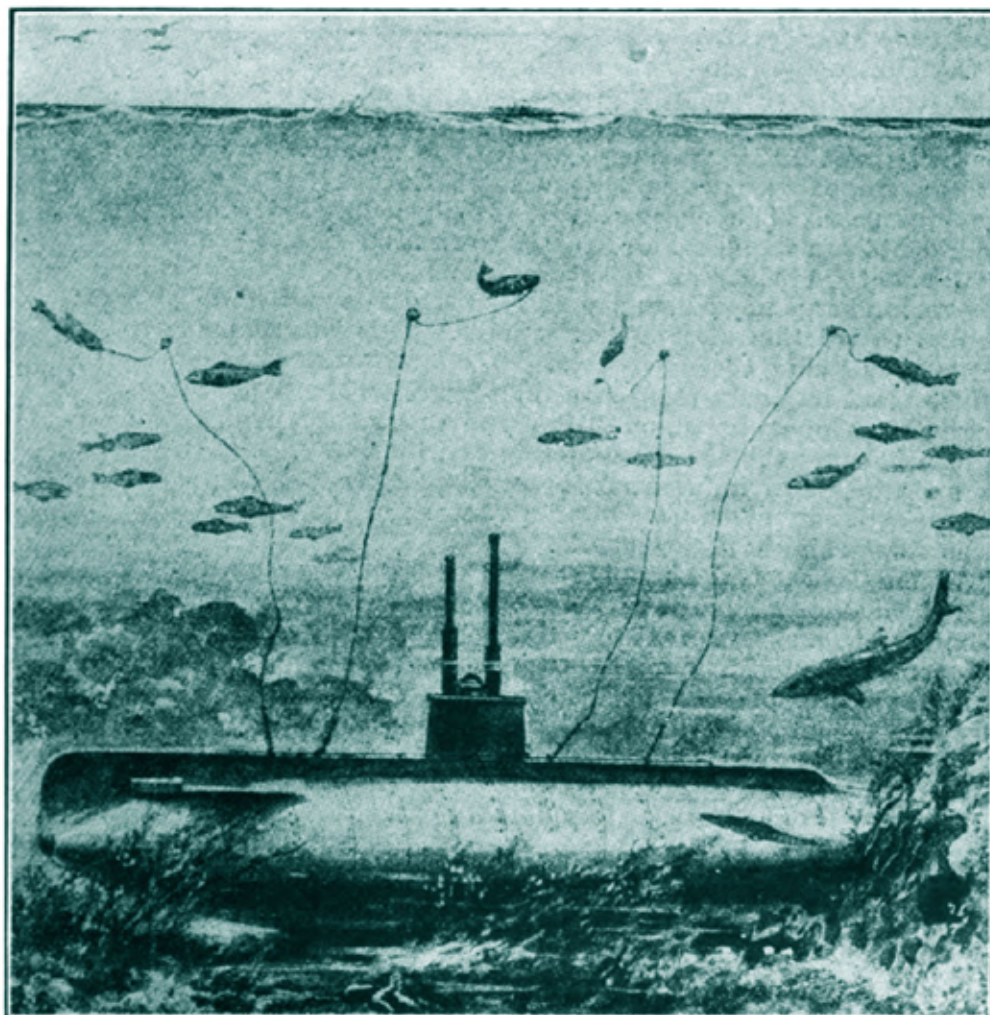
## THE LATEST METHOD

*The American submarine is the latest to be inducted into the angler's service. Crews operating between Los Angeles and Catalina Island have adopted this new form of fishing with good results, using an inverted line placed on the decks. So informs John Edwin Hogg, writing in Popular Mechanics. The article follows:*

"The boats make frequent practise trips between Los Angeles and Santa Catalina Island. The water in this area averages about ninety feet in depth, and is one of the finest fishing-grounds of the Pacific coast. Frequently the boats dive to the bottom, and lie there with their motors shut off while practising submarine signaling, torpedo-tube routine, and the like. The upside-down fishing is done in a very simple manner. Prior to making a dive the men arrange their lines on

the deck rails of the submarine. The hooks are baited, and are strung out on the decks to be carried upward when the boat dives by a float attached near the hook. Since any fish that takes the bait cannot be removed until the boat comes to the surface, the lines are fastened to the deck rail by coil springs. This practically eliminates the chance of losing the fish by its breaking the line or tearing the hook out of its mouth. Thus the baited hooks 'dangle upward' when the subma-

rine is resting on the sea-bottom — then along comes a fish, swallows the bait, and snags himself. This method of submarine fishing was given a try-out recently by an electrician aboard the submarine H-5. He baited four lines prior to making a dive, and when the boat came to the surface he had three yellowtail, weighing twenty-four, twenty-eight, and thirty-two pounds respectively. A fourth fish had taken the bait, but got away."





# Keeping Busy and Productive

by Jim Strogen



▲ Flies that work at Green Valley Lake and Rim Country streams



▲ Owen's first batch of flies.



▲ Coachman wet flies. This was the first pattern I learned to tie. My Uncle Bud used this pattern almost exclusively, so it was what I used for the first ten years as my go-to fly. I still use it a lot. I like the buggy look from below and the easy viewing from above for the angler.



◀ Martha and Jim Strogen

**W**hile restrictions across the state are being lifted, many of us, including me, are still planning to remain very cautious in our activities. Besides the fishing trips that I am fortunate to still do regularly living in cool Rim Country, I am avoiding stores, restaurants, and not planning to go to any movies anytime soon. Whenever I get a chance to go fishing, it sure helps me focus on the beauty in nature and take my mind off things.

Most often, I go fishing alone, but if I get the chance to fish with a friend, we travel in separate cars and generally one of us heads upstream, while the other fishes downstream. If we want to talk more during the trip, one of us will be the spotter on the bank as we take turns fishing pools. This provides great opportunity to learn how others approach a hole, that you may have fished a different way.

When I am home, I have been spending time reading and writing. This imposed time at home is tough on those of us who are not very handy or craft-oriented. Tying flies is about as craft-oriented as I get. I am a much better fly fisher than a fly tyer, but it is a great activity to fill the time these days.

Just like fly fishing, fly tying requires a great deal of focus and concentration. Hours at the vise go by quickly and I am left with flies that, in my case are not works of art, but still fool plenty of fish. It feels good to be able to give flies that will catch fish to kids as they are starting off as new fly fishers. Some of my Payson Flycasters' Club member buddies were way ahead of me on that.

When the pandemic precautions were first being implemented, I received emails and calls asking about the elementary and middle school fly fishing program that our Club sponsors and what flies we needed. Every spring, the Club members tie a dozen flies for each of the kids to add to the fly boxes and fly fishing tools the kids get to attach to the lanyards that we make during one of our after school classes.

Usually the kids make lanyards in early April, have a casting lesson the following week, and then fish at the Green Valley Lakes for the rest of the school year. Although school closed before we could get to the lanyard making and fishing sessions for the program this spring, the kids will benefit from the kindness of our Club members who tied flies for them when we resume the program next year.

I also have had time lately to realize that I have a lot, no doubt more than I need, in the way of fishing stuff that could use some straightening and organizing. There surely will be a fair number of lures, fly tying materials, and fishing tools that I'll put aside for my grandkids and the school kids when we get together again.

Looking at my book shelf, I notice several books that I really have enjoyed over the years, but haven't read in quite a while. Although several are historical fiction, probably as no surprise, many of the books are fishing books that I think my older

grandkids might soon be ready for, after one more reading on my part.

I gave my oldest two grandsons some basic fly tying lessons a year or so ago, and as they are looking for things to do to fill their days, I have put in fly orders for them to fill. They are working on wooly buggers and zebra midges for me. It could be hefty bill when I finally get to see them, but every fly will be treasured.

My wife, who is way more handy and craft-oriented than me, has been knitting for others and just made a doll and some doll clothing for our younger grandkids. She also paints with watercolors and frequently gives away some wonderful art to family members.

Activities like these are a way that we can stay connected and plan for a time when we get to be with family and friends again. I hope that you are making time each day to stay connected with family and friends remotely as we support each other through these uncertain times.

**If any DFC members have any interest in donating flies to our program, the kids love getting flies that will work for crappies, bluegills, and trout in the Green Valley Lakes. The flies that work well for us are in the size 12-16 range. We generally fish with an indicator and a bead-head or midge. The kids do well with pheasant tails, hares ears, copper johns, prince nymphs, and zebra midges in red or black. They also like using small wooly buggers. Thank you.**



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



# Why Do Raindrops Make Bubbles?

*Rain falling on a puddle creates extraordinary structures too rapidly for the eye to see.*

By Helen Czerski

**Spring showers have arrived in London, but I don't really mind.** I find the splat of raindrops falling on puddles a very comforting sound, one that I associate with childhood and the urge to immediately go and jump in all the puddles I can find. As a physicist who studies bubbles, I've got a scientific interest in these puddles too, because they sometimes have bubbles floating on the top.

Raindrops are small—slightly less than a 10th of an inch in diameter, in a typical shower—but they often generate bubbles that can be half an inch across. However carefully you watch, you'll never see the physics at work, since the whole process takes around two hundredths of a second. It's a hidden part of our world that happens right in the open.

Since the 1960s, scientists have spent a surprising amount of time studying water drops hitting pools of water, and the list of ways in which a drop can produce a bubble keeps getting longer and more astonishing. For example, when it rains on deep water, the drop impact briefly creates a hole in the water's surface, and a small bubble may pinch off from the bottom as the hole closes.

Every new bubble formed in this way produces a faint sound, like a bell being struck. The tone is only just within the human hearing range, about two octaves above the highest note on a piano. But scientists have experimented with using it to measure rainfall rate.

Bigger drops with a lower impact speed generate bigger bubbles, and these make a tone that's well within the human hearing range. (The Japanese have a garden musical instrument that uses and amplifies this sound, called a *suikinkutsu*.) Really tiny bubbles are created when a drop falls slowly and traps air between itself and the pool.

The humble puddle is also the theater for an even more elegant process. The splash caused by an impacting drop can create a circular wall around the impact point. This is called a crown, because the top of the wall quite often breaks up into droplets,

making it look just like a toy crown. The critical parameter is the puddle depth. If it's too shallow, you get a splash but no bubble; if it's too deep, you might get a submerged small bubble.

But when things are just right, the splash rebounds off the bottom of the puddle and the circular wall reaches up even higher than usual. The surface of the water acts as if it's an elastic sheet, so that as the elongated crown travels upward, it also bends inward to form a dome. The edges collide in the middle but stay intact, leaving a hemisphere of air trapped underneath a watery shell and creating a nice big bubble. In a typical outdoor puddle there is likely to be a bit of organic material that will stick to the bubble's surface, helping the bubble to last long enough for us to see it.

I find this process amazing. It's so delicate and requires such a specific set of physical processes to happen, yet it's so common that we've all seen the outcome. You and I could watch puddles for hours and see bubbles appear as if by magic. But every bubble is a reminder that the human eye can't see everything that's going on and that nature becomes more beautiful as we understand more about how it works.

**The above article, after reading it, brought back some memories** of a time when I was on the Pere Marquette River in Michigan, canoe fly fishing with my pal, Ron Barch. A quick rain storm loomed as we hastily made for dry land. We then performed a quickly organized Laurel & Hardy routine pulling the canoe up into the tall grass, tipping the canoe over crawling under for protection. We stayed dry while watching the rain drops hit and explode on the stream.

The rain didn't last much more than 20 minutes as we returned to our journey down stream along with a fine day of trout fishing...all safe and dry.

**R. McKeon**

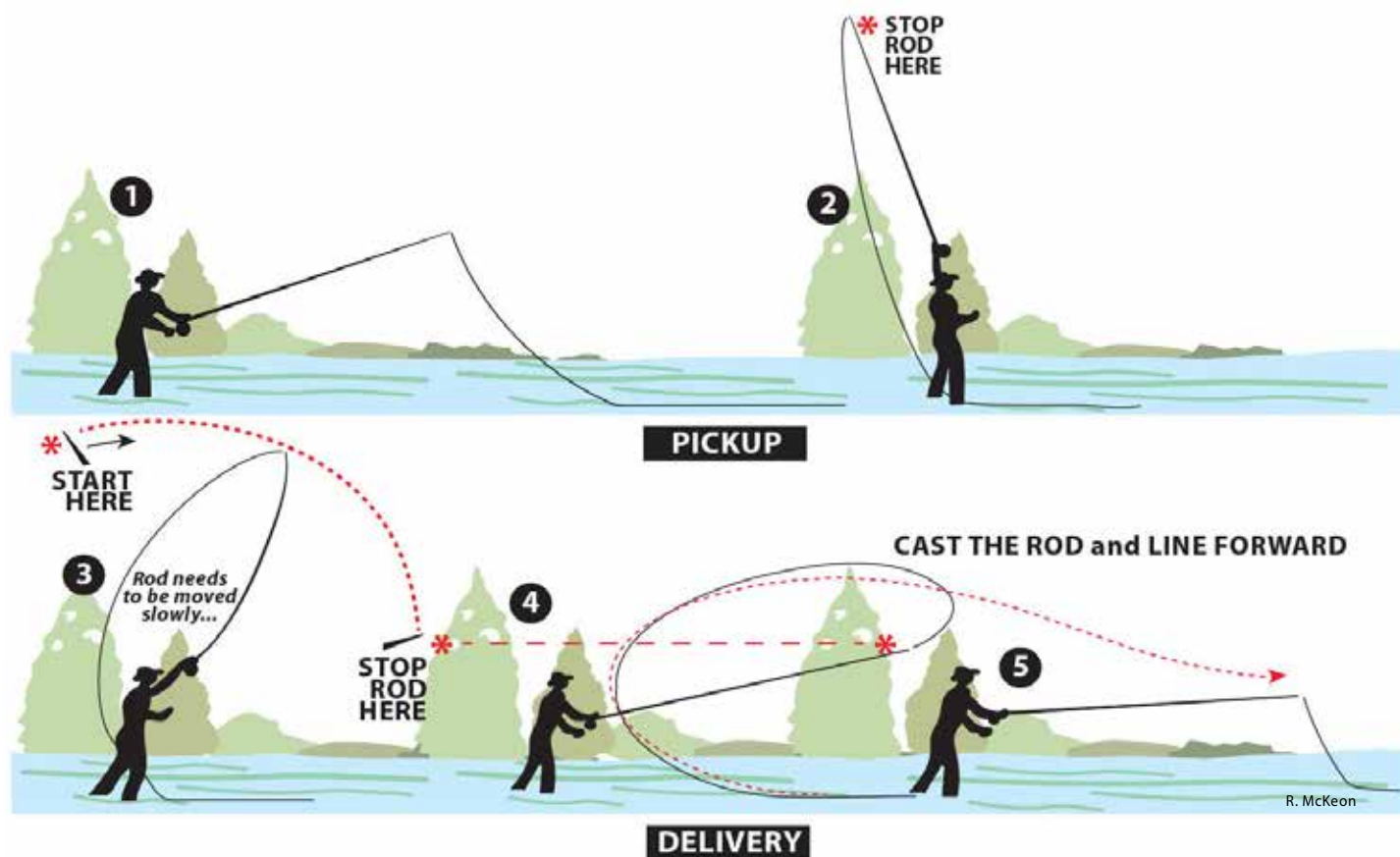
**It seemed that as a kid, I just kept fishing during the rain.** I typically had walked to the lake or stream and I reasoned that the fish were already wet, so it didn't matter to them.

I did have an encounter with hail that was memorable. I was a Ranger /Naturalist at Grand Canyon National Park and was doing a walk along the Rim about what one could encounter walking through the woods at the South Rim. My plan was to talk a great deal about the fossil site that was less than a hundred yards from where we were when it just started dumping hail. To make matters worse, my supervisor had planned an observation of my walk/talk. I decided to utilize the fault line that created the opportunity for the Bright Angel trail and ducked under the Rim with my small group into a small overhang that

I knew about. From that vantage point the talk continued as we watched hail gather in the perfectly designed yucca leaves that held them there until they melted and watered the plant. We had a grand view of the Canyon during the storm and had an extended talk about weather at Grand Canyon, including a favorite occurrence of locals (not so much of visitors who traveled great distances to see the Canyon in their 10 minute time all occasion from the tour busses) when there is an inversion and the entire Canyon fills with a thick cloud layer with just occasional buttes and mesas appearing. The storm didn't last long, and we eventually got to the fossils. It turned out to be one of the my favorite walk/talk memories!

**Jim Stroger**

# ROLL CASTING



R. McKeon

The roll cast is an important cast in fly fishing. Most anglers use it to make a cast when there's no room for a backcast, but it can also be used to "roll" a sinking line up to the surface; or to reposition the line on the water to recast; or to quickly and quietly pick up a floating line. When you roll cast, does your leader straighten out the way you want, or does it collapse and fall in a heap?

Getting the leader to straighten is difficult for many fly fishers, but it isn't hard to do. You just need to know how to do it. As with an overhead cast, a roll cast travels through the air in a loop shape. If the loop is too big, the leader will collapse and miss the target. Here's how the roll cast works, and how to fix the problem of the collapsing leader. **1** Start a roll cast with the line extended on the water in front of you. **2** Slowly draw the line back toward you by raising the rod tip to vertical, then on past your shoulder to about a 30-degree angle behind you. Wait for the line to stop moving. Most anglers set up correctly, just as described, but their problems begin with what they do next. Most casters start to apply significant casting power from the 30-degree rod angle. As you can see, when the rod is powered while at this angle it applies power to the line in an upward direction, resulting in a high, wide, inefficient loop. Just as with overhead cast, big loops are very wind resistant and usually don't carry enough energy

to the leader to straighten it. A minor adjustment is needed to fix the problem. **3** To make an effective roll cast, the rod needs to be moved slowly forward from the 30-degree rod angle to the nearly vertical position before significant power is applied. When power is applied to the rod from this more vertical position, **4** the rod tip powers the line forward and down, just where we want the line to go, and in a much tighter loop. The size of the loop created by the roll cast should not be higher above the water than your head, if it is; you're applying the power too early. If the line crashes onto the water in front of you, you may have applied the power too late. A little practice will teach you just where you need to start to apply the power for the best loop. If the line falls lazily to the water and doesn't straighten to the leader, you need to cast harder. The roll cast requires quite a bit of power, as you have to break the friction between the line and the water. **5** And when practicing, remember to do it on the water. No matter how well you perform, it's just not going to work on grass!

Copy/Text credit: Bruce Richards, Fly Fish America's Casting Editor, is a product development engineer with 3M Scientific Anglers, and a IFF Certified Casting Instructor program examiner.

**Need help?...Catch one these IFF Instructors:**

Larry Allen • [Flatsman@cox.net](mailto:Flatsman@cox.net) | Jim Sommercorn • [jsommercorn@gmail.com](mailto:jsommercorn@gmail.com)





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**You can renew 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: [bfofffly@gmail.com](mailto:bfofffly@gmail.com)



# 2020 DFC OUTINGS SCHEDULE



**Joe Staller**

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

Month	Location	Date	Host
May	Seneca Lake	Sat • May 23	Joe Staller
June	Seneca Lake 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

## SAN JUAN RIVER TRIP

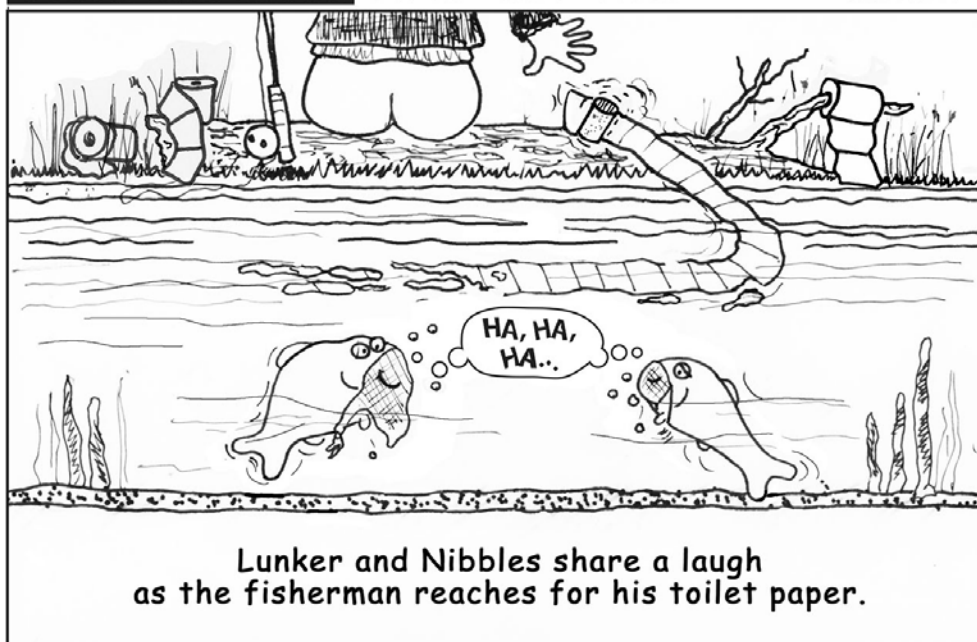
I hope you are all faring well. It will be a great opportunity to get away from things come September on a wonderful trip to the San Juan. Last year was a grand outing, every one caught lots of fish and had fun. Two outings again this year and of course you can do one or both. **Group 1:** Arriving on Monday September 21st and fishing Tuesday and Wednesday 22nd and 23rd. Leaving the morning of the 24th. **Group 2:** Arriving on Thursday September 24th and fishing Friday and Saturday the 25th and 26th. Leaving on Sunday the 27th. Three nights lodging and two days guided fishing with the best guides on the river. At Fisheads lodge, home of the 35 inch Brown Trout. **The trip will be \$680.00 per person with double occupancy.**

Please contact me at: Billy.o.wingo@gmail.com or billy.wingo@phoenix.gov.  
Cell is 602-451-9459, call me anytime with questions or to sign up. Hope to see you soon.

**SOCIAL REMOTENESS**

**LUNKER and NIBBLES**

**R. McKEON**



### DFC BULLETIN

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



# Fly Tying Corner

No tying sessions from now until fall unless Gilbert allows us to schedule and a guest tyer can be arranged. I was given an early release from work and will be relocating to Idaho until October or November. Here are a couple step by step for June.

## The Emergent Sparkle Pupa Pattern

**Hook:** dry fly, size to match naturals (e.g. Tiemco #101 and #100)

**Thread:** 8/0 to match under/ overbody

**Overbody:** sparkle yarn

**Underbody:** sparkle yarn cut to 1/8" lengths and blended fur to match over body sessions

**Wing:** coastal deer hair

**Head:** fur or wrapped marabou fibers (darker than underbody)

Separate the 4 strands of the yarn, the fly will require 2. Flies larger than #10 or #12 need more than 2 strands. Comb-out the two strands as shown.



Tie one strand to the bottom of the hook shank, the other to the top. • Dub the underbody forward, approx. 2/3 of the hook shank • Pull the top bunch of sparkle yarn over the top of the fly and tie-off, repeat with the bottom bunch on the bottom.



Using your bodkin, pull the fibers away as shown evenly around the body. • Pinch and roll them (if necessary) to distribute them evenly. Trim-off tag ends of the yarn. Snip a few fibers from the tie-in point to create a trailing shuck. • Cut and stack a small bunch of fine deer hair on tie in (on top) as shown.



Dub a head using dark fur. (dark brown hare-tron here) or use wrapped marabou.

# Fly Tying Corner

## The Klinkhamer Special Dry Fly

**Hook:** Partridge GRS15ST (size#18 used on this fly)

**Thread:** 8/0 black or dark brown (you may want a more pale color while tying the abdomen)

**Body:** Tan Fly-Rite poly dubbing #19 or #20 (#19 shown here)

**Wing:** White poly yarn

**Thorax:** Peacock herl

**Hackle:** Medium dun

- Wind a small base of thread down where wing post will be. Cut poly yarn to create a tapered tie-in point. (for keeping abdomen skinny)
- Tie in poly yarn and bind down as shown. Pull poly yarn up and secure with a few wraps of thread in front. Take several wraps of thread around the base of the post, up about 1/8.
- Tie in hackle so that it faces up, and almost away from you. Add a drop of head cement to the tie-in point



- Begin to dub a thin, tapered body. When you have almost reached the wing post, tie in
- 3 pcs. of peacock herl. (note: select 3 pcs., align the tips and cut the first 3/4" fragile part off and tie in by the even tip
- Begin winding all 3 pcs. of herl forward, approx. 3 wraps behind, and make one wrap in front of the wing post. Tie-off, but do not trim herl. Wind hackle, parachute style, from top to bottom at least 5 turns. The hackle is all that supports the fly. Larger sizes than #14 can have several more turns of hackle.
- Stroke the wound hackle up, and back and continue wrapping 3 strands of herl to complete the thorax. Tie off, and create a small thread head. Grab the wing post and gently pull it forward until the hackle is perpendicular to it. Trim wing post to length, add a bit of head cement to your thread head. I also add a small drop of diluted head cement to the base of the hackle wraps on the wing post for added strength.



Variations of this fly that have been very productive. Feel free to experiment, substitute abdomen colors, hackle colors etc. The herl could even be substituted for darker dubbing, ostrich herl or kept the same color as the abdomen to look like a crippled dun.





# Desert Fly Casters Conservation Corner

June 2020



**DFC Trout Bum Conservation Chair  
Joe Miller**

Questions? Catch me at:  
jamiller101@gmail.com

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

**Well, "We're All (STILL) In This Together,"** Some of us maybe a bit too together, and that's also true regarding Conservation as well as The Covid 19 situation. Some old, some new conservation efforts are going on around Arizona, on a lot of places we fish. Here are short updates on topics of interest to DFC Trout Bums about our Arizona streams, lakes, fisheries and the forests they're in:

## **ALERT: SOME, Not All, National Forest Facility are Beginning to Open, BUT NO CAMPFIRES!**

SOME National Forest developed campsites and facilities are beginning to Open, but check Before you go!!! Across the Mogollon Rim and the White Mountains ALL OPEN CAMPFIRES 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 for dispersed camping, and most Day facilities like parking lots, restrooms etc also are. PLEASE NOTE: There have already been several fires on the Tonto. Be Careful!!!! Crowds have been heavy, There are also some New Parking restrictions on the Tonto. Be Careful!!!!

## **High Country Trout Stockings, Especially GILA TROUT on E Verde River**

AZGFD IS continuing Stocking of Nice Gila Trout from the Canyon Creek Hatchery on some of the East Verde River stream restoration reaches that DFC helped out with just recently. At least a few DFC Trout Bums have made it up there and reported they did well, and released those gorgeous fish back rapidly. These Gilas are reproducing fish, they've been moving away from the stocking points very well, and hopefully will contribute to many future wild generations!!

## **Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) Status**

The Forest Service 4FRI Team hopes to finalize the Rim Country EIS and Record Of Decision (ROD) by early next year. Conservation Chair Joe Miller is deeply involved in these efforts, working to keep importance on the Water Resources, as is AZGFD. Recent Big Milestone was the May 12, 2020 RFP Due Date for Commercial Timber Cutting & Thinning Proposals all across the Mogollon Rim. FS will Not announce the results about that until September. In the meantime, considerable effort is going into identifying alternative means of funding the critical forest & watershed work.

## **Lees Ferry Rainbow Trout Fishery**

Work is still going on to define workable Brown Trout Incentivized Harvest (IH) procedures to avoid impact on the RBT Fishery. AZGFD and Recreational Fishing Reps conferred with NPS in May to discuss the latest NPS draft of the IH. AZGFD and Rec Fishing gave feedback during the meeting and provided written suggestions to improve the draft. Another meeting is expected to occur in mid June with hope to continue providing constructive feedback and suggestions.

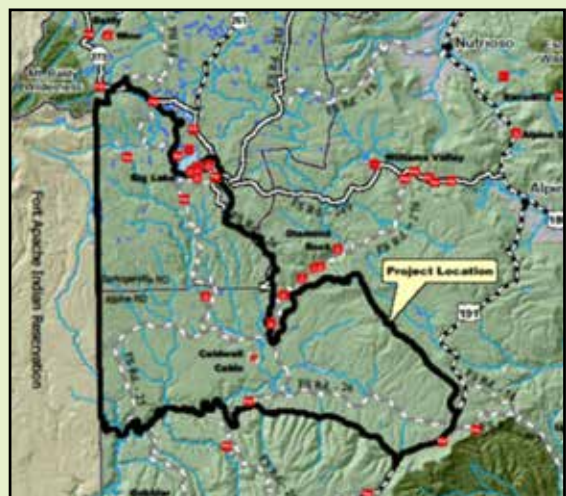
## **Update White Mountains: Black River Forest Restoration Project**

The Apache - Sitgreaves NF convened a very productive mid May meeting for a group of Stakeholders including Joe Miller and AZGFD to consult with the A - S on proceeding with development of an Environmental Assessment to authorize Forest Restoration and Streams Restoration work. The area includes portions of the Black River System with many streams with Apache Trout and Brown Trout. A - S is now finalizing decisions on either updating the proposed preferred alternative or analyzing an additional alternative to ensure best treatment selection. Public comments will be solicited for either approach and the NEPA effort is expected to be completed by year end.

**Luna Lake Aerator Project:** AZGFD has reportedly made good progress with the A - S NF permitting processes, and electrical work to power the Aerators may well be proceeding when this Newsletter is published!

## **Black River Project**

- Located approximately 12 miles south of Springerville, AZ and 7 miles southwest of Alpine, AZ within Apache and Green counties.
- Totals approximately 94,434 acres.
- 88,709 acres (96%) is within the Wal-low Fire boundary..



## Memorial weekend fishing Report

by Bob Harrison



*Big Blue Gills were cooperating under bridge at Boulder Cove.*



*Bass were more difficult to find in Salt River up from Granite Reef.*

Questions?? Catch me, Bob Harrison at: [Harrn7963@aol.com](mailto:Harrn7963@aol.com) | 480-735-9743

## 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](mailto:sketno1026@hotmail.com)  
Catch: Joe Staller- DFC V/P at: [joestaller@yahoo.com](mailto:joestaller@yahoo.com)



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

**JUNE • BIG LAKE- FIRE CAMPGROUNDS**

**Friday, June 12 - Sunday June 14, 2020**

Host: L. McKeon • [lmcateer60@gmail.com](mailto:lmcateer60@gmail.com)

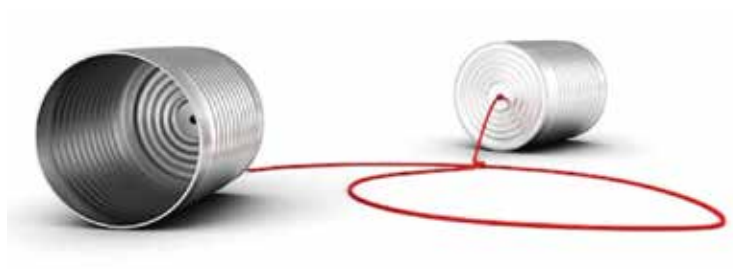
**CANCELED**

**BECKER BEST**

**Friday, July 10 - Sunday July 10, 2020**

*Aligned with WMLF*

Host: Gentry Smith • [design@gentrysmith.com](mailto:design@gentrysmith.com) • (480) 213-0372



**"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.***