

JANUARY 2020

FORWARD CASTS

OFFICIAL DESERT FLY CASTERS NEWSLETTER



JANUARY

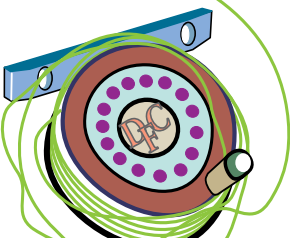
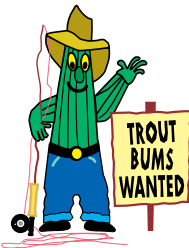
Wednesday,
January 8, 2020

Chit-Chat & Dinner: 6:00

Meeting/Guest Speaker: 7:00

Elks Lodge

1775 West Chandler Blvd.
Chandler, Arizona 85224



President's Drift

Frank Schettino • January 2020



Happy New Year DFC'ers,

Welcome to 2020. *I hope this finds you all well and ready to start the new year. We've have an exciting program this coming this year.* To start the year off, our January meeting will feature our very own Gentry Smith. Gentry will give his presentation on small streams. Not to be outdone our outings Chair Joe Staller has been busy planning outings and theres some good ones. Look for a trip to Hidden lake in April and the always awesome outing at Big Lake in June and don't forget the Becker Best outing with our good friends White Mountain Lakes Foundation. In October we will be in Rocky Point for our yearly trip for fishing, fun, tacos and more fishing. Our membership drive is on. If you haven't renewed yet I recommend that you do. If you renew before the April meeting you will receive a chance to win a custom built Dave Weaver rod. February 2020 is our annual Banquet. It's our biggest fund raiser of the year. If you're new to fly fishing or a looking for new stuff to add to your collection, here is a great chance for you. You can win a rod, reel, flies, guided trips all to get you on the water. If you have something you would like to donate to the raffle or need more information please see me before, during the break or after the meeting.

See you at the meeting.

Tight Lines,
Frank Schettino

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

DFC Club Meeting January 8, 2020



GENTRY SMITH

Join us and discover small stream fly fishing with DFC Trout Bum, Gentry Smith.

Come meet-up with us Trout Bums...6:00 Dinner... 7:00 Club Meeting, followed by your monthly program along with fun and raffle prizes!

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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www.desertflycasters.com

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Take a Kid Fishing: 2020



Next Steps for Getting Kids to Enjoy Fishing Independently

Jim Strogon



Photos by: Jim Strogon

My oldest grandson Owen is twelve and already frequently out-fishes me, as does his younger brother Ayden. They actually are both more skilled with a fly rod than I was at their age. When we all fish together, we often fish at either Green Valley Lake or one of the Rim lakes.

Owen of late has wanted to venture more into stream fishing and the challenges that presents to the angler. On our last trip to Tonto Creek, a week or so after the stocking of super-catchable trout in mid-October he made a radical fly choice that really paid off for him.

He took off his indicator and wet fly/ midge set up and tied on a purple woolly bugger. Then he put me in full guide mode, neatly eliminating the fly rod in my hand. His plan was to cast upstream into the pod of fish and let the fly sink to just above their feeding level and begin to strip downstream. He was anticipating a reaction strike as this big, tasty morsel was well within an easy grab of several trout.

He needed me because he had chosen an unweighted woolly bugger and the sun's glare kept him from being able to know when the fly sank to the desired depth. Once it did and I reported it to him, he began his line strip and pulled in fish after fish!

That kind of decision making comes from several years of success with a variety of flies. It also involves a strong awareness of fish behavior and a willingness to experiment when he was already doing pretty well with the set-up that he had on. I loved it!

It reminded me of my early fishing days under the tutelage of my Uncle Bud. He and I knew every pool and log jam on the creek we both fished. I often thought I was fishing the creek alone, but it was uncanny how he would show up on the stream when I was there and check in to see how fishing was. What I didn't figure out as a kid was that it wasn't so much the fishing report that he wanted, but rather to be sure that I was gaining my independence as a fly fisher and that he would be there to make sure that everything was fine.

He did a great job of covering up that primary reason for the check-in, because he always pushed my thinking on the stream, and I would be concentrating on the latest fishing nugget from Uncle Bud.

On one occasion he suggested an approach that not only inspired me to try out the flies he gave me, but to tie a whole new pattern after my success that day. He told me to try this technique on a couple holes that I had never had much luck with before. He said they were perfect for a skating spider.

He gave me a couple spiders and I was off to these new pools. The technique is to use a dry fly with oversized hackle and tail and drift it downstream. When the fly is in position, then lift your rod a bit so that it skates across the surface in front of trout looking for an errant bug.

This fish made a quick journey downstream away from the stocking pool transported by Owen in his net with stops for reimmersion on the way. A PFC member shared that she recaptured several of Owen's transplants a few days later.



Owen Strogon unhooking a nice trout on Tonto Creek being careful to keep it wet during the process.



This is near the spot on Canyon Creek where Owen caught a fish that I missed!

As you would guess, that approach worked wonders on those holes, and I still carry a few skaters in my fly box for just the right situation.

That brings me back to Owen and his decision-making. He has seen me use some rather odd fishing rigs that work very well for me, but are not your typical fly fishing set ups.

On Canyon Creek I showed him a dry fly dropper and unweighted emerger rig that I dance downstream in front of fishy-looking spots similar to Uncle Bud's spider. Sometimes they pick up the dry, while often they grab the emerger just under the surface.

In any case, Owen out-fished me badly after a brief tutorial. And then if that wasn't enough to bring a big smile to my face, he added a catch and release wrinkle to the day that put it over the top.

Although we occasionally keep trout for dinner, on this trip to Canyon Creek and the later trip to Tonto Creek, Owen was very much in the catch and release mode.

He is fully aware of the rather delicate nature of trout compared to the crappies, bass, and bluegills that he has caught at the Green Valley Lakes. His new release plan is brilliant! He decided that he would take a breath and work on the release of the trout. If he needed a breath before the release was complete, he would give the fish a healthy "breath" by re-immersing the fish back into the water until his work was done.

When we fish streams, he is often working through fishing problems around the bend from me, but within easy shouting distance. He appreciates the opportunity for independence, and especially loves catching those fish that I missed if he is working behind me.

It makes for some spirited ribbing in the car on the way home, and some very special fishing memories.

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

2020 DFC OUTINGS SCHEDULE



Joe Staller

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

Month	Location	Date	Host
Jan	Silver Creek	Jan 10, 11, 12	Dick Brooks
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 <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

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)



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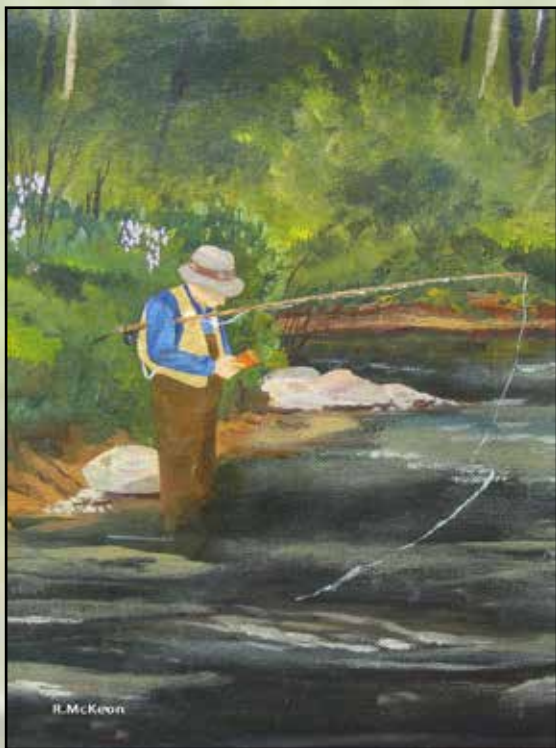


*There are always new places to go fishing. For any fisherman,
there's always a new place, always a new horizon.*

Jack Nicklaus

The Importance of Changing Flies on the Water

By Kent Klewein



Many thanks for this article, and author, Kent Klewein, from the November 2019 newsletter, [The Creel](#). And, the Creel editor, Tim Guilfoile, with the Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers.

How long do you fish with flies without success before you decide to change them?

I'll usually fish for about thirty minutes with my first rig of the day, and if I'm not getting any hookups, I'll begin regularly changing my flies out until I find a pattern that works. The willingness to change your flies on the water when you're not getting bites, is often the key factor in determining whether you have a good or bad day of fishing. I can't tell you how many times I've had someone walk up to me in the parking lot at the end of the day and complain about how the fish weren't biting. While I, on the other hand, had caught and released dozens of fish in the same section of water. Most of the time that discouraged angler stuck with a few patterns during the day, and didn't change flies enough times to find out what patterns were really working. How do I know this? I know this because I was that discouraged angler many times early on, in my career.

It can be very obvious to us that changing flies is the answer when we're able to sight-fish and see fish rejecting our flies. But many times you'll find yourself fishing in conditions where sight-fishing isn't an option. A few examples is when your fishing fast moving choppy water, water with significant glare, and stained water conditions. None of these will provide anglers the opportunity to get visual feedback. In these conditions, anglers should change their flies when they're not getting bites for extended periods of time. If you know your rig is set up correctly (correct tippet size, fly size, split-shot amount, or indicator placement) for the specific water you're fishing, and your making good presentations, a light bulb should be going off in your head telling you to change fly patterns if you're not getting bites.

Sometimes you'll find a single pattern will work for you the entire day when there's a hatch that fish are keying in on. However, when there's not a hatch or specific bug that the fish are keying in on, you may find that one pattern will work in one hole and the next spot it won't work at all.

In this situation, you should be prepared to change flies from one hole to the next to consistently catch fish. The best advice I can give anglers is don't be lazy and stick with fishing flies that aren't producing. Furthermore, anglers should always be ready for the food menu to change throughout the day. Certain species of aquatic bugs and forage food are more active during different times of the day. That means some patterns will work great in the morning and may not work at all later in the day. This is a curve ball that many rookie fly anglers will swing and miss at. They'll be thinking in their head, I caught a half dozen fish right off the bat with this pattern, so I'm going to continue to fish it. Making this mistake will cost you numbers and big fish every day on the water.

Next time you're on the water and are not getting bites, change your flies until you find a pattern that works. It often is the only reason you're not catching fish. If that doesn't work, continue covering water until you find fish. A good example of this is fishing for steelhead, where you'll find 70% of the fish in 30% of the water.



2020 DFC EDUCATIONAL SCHEDULE



Gary Hitterman

DFC Educational Guy
1Bighand@excite.com

January 25, 2020 • 9:30 AM- 12:00 Noon • Saturday

DFC Education Seminar

McQueen Park Activity Center • 510 North Horne St. Gilbert, AZ 85333

- Discussion on Fly Fishing Arizona • Building an Arizona Fly Box
- How to have a balanced fly casting system

NOTE: From 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM

Fly Casting at McQueen Park Urban Pond

Bring your own personal rod, reel and line and fish!

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.



When I go fishing I like to know that there's nobody within five miles of me.

Norman MacCaig



Desert Fly Casters



DFC ANNUAL BANQUET

**Wednesday
February 12, 2020**

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



*Additional banquet information catch...
Frank Schettino at: sketno1026@hotmail.com
or call: 917-414-5428*

Desert Fly Casters Conservation Corner January 2020

Old News:

4 Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI): The USFS 4FRI Rim Country Project DRAFT EIS Comment Period will be closing January 16, 2020. Conservation Chair Joe Miller will be preparing DFC comments urging full attention to the water and fisheries resources included in this "Footprint" area on the Tonto, Coconino and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. Those forestry and watershed projects will be addressed over a 20 year period beginning in 2021, pending the final EIS, which will take at least another year to develop. The previously reported issues with disposal of Biomass (Slash) continue to be unresolved and will have potentially extreme impact on timing and funding for these efforts. The good news is that the Arizona Game and Fish Department and Trout Unlimited continue to be deeply involved in the planning, review, and hopefully the implementation work.



Arizona Game and Fish Commission 2019 Award for Educator of Year:

Frequent DFC Newsletter Contributor **Jim Stroger** will receive the **AZGF Commission 2019 Educator of the Year Award** at their Annual Awards Banquet on Saturday January 25th. Congratulations to Jim from all of us!



New DFC Conservation Topic - Tonto National Forest Management Plan

The Tonto National Forest has released their Draft Land Management Plan for Comments. The Tonto NF includes some of our streams (Yes, They are Ours, We OWN Them!!) like the East Verde River, Tonto, Horton, Christopher, and Haigler Creeks, AND Canyon Creek. We'll continue reporting on this effort, which has been underway for several years already. As above, the AZGFD is very properly involved in these planning and management efforts, and released the Notification below on the AZGFD Websites and Subscription Notification System. If you have the opportunity, please attend one of the meetings.

Questions?

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

HAVE DFC LOGO EMBROIDERED ON YOUR FISHING SHIRTS...

Please bring your fishing shirts to the January 2020 club meeting 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.*

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 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

January 10, 11, 12, 2020

SILVER CREEK

Catch Dick Brooks at: gdubby77@gmail.com • 480-203-9634

January 25, 2020 • 9:30 AM- 12:00 Noon • Saturday

DFC Education Seminar

Discussion on Fly Fishing Arizona • Building an Arizona Fly Box • How to have a balanced fly casting system

McQueen Park Activity Center

510 North Horne St. Gilbert, AZ 85333

Catch Gary Hitterman at: 1Bighand@excite.com

Mark your calendars...



**Wednesday, February, 12, 2020
DFC ANNUAL BANQUET**

