

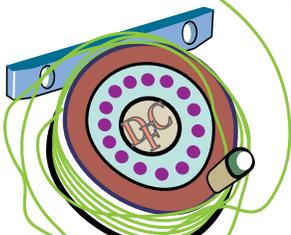
FORWARD CASTS

OFFICIAL DESERT FLY CASTERS NEWSLETTER



AUGUST
Wednesday,
August 12, 2020
Chit-Chat & Dinner

AUGUST 12, 2020
ZOOM
DFC CLUB MEETING



President's Drift

Frank Schettino • August 2020



Greeting fellow Trout Bums,

Here's some good news. We are going to have a Zoom meeting. YAY.

Here's some good news. We are going to have a Zoom meeting. YAY. It'll be on Wednesday August 12, at 7:30 PM. As you know, group and/or public meetings are not possible, but we can Zoom. For this meeting we will have Jim Stroger give his presentation Gila trout and the East Verde River.

Speaking of Jim. The Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) awarded Jim with their 2020 Outstanding Citizen Wildlife Contributor of the year. A BIG Congrats go out to Jim from all you DFC Trout Bum friends on being I have heard that the NFS will be re-opening some of the forests that were closed due to the fire threat. If you

plan to beat the heat check before you go. I have heard that the NFS will be re-opening some of the forests that were closed due to the fire threat. If you plan to beat the heat check before you go.

I know you all have missed me so I leave you with this. Latte' (n) It's Italian for you paid too much for that coffee.

See you on Zoom,

Tight Lines, Frank Schettino
...bada-bing-bada-boom

DFC NEWS FLASH...

Tonto National Forest has reopened...
Stay Safe...Go fish & enjoy the Out-of-Doors!

IT'S A GO!!
DFC Club Outings...pages 4 & 5

DFC ZOOM Club Meeting
Wednesday, August 12, 2020 • 7:30 PM
Details of this DFC ZOOM meeting
...on page 6



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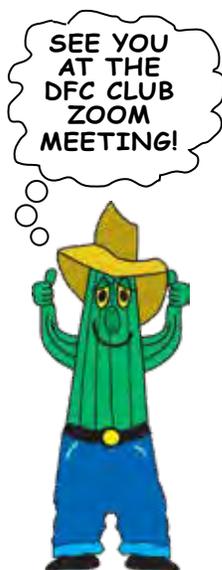
*We'll stay connected.
We'll stay in touch.
We'll stay updated.*

Notes of interest for us in Arizona....



Opportunity for Public Input on Amendments to Fishing Regulations for 2021-2022

Reported by Jim Strogon



The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) recently announced the opportunity for public input regarding proposed amendments to the fishing regulations for 2021-2022.

There are several waters in Rim Country and the White Mountains where anglers currently fish or would like to fish impacted by this notice.

There are two critical dates in the press release:

- **August 6th for a Facebook presentation on these proposed changes.**
- **August 28th at 5pm when all comments should be submitted to AZGFD.**

The proposed changes are well written with sound rationale, and even include maps. To find the full text of the proposed regulation amendments, go to www.azgfd.gov and click on the fishing tab and then go to the rules and regulations tab.

The closures noted in the proposed amendments are to give Gila trout and Apache trout in the Recovery streams being proposed for catch and release angling, an opportunity to spawn unmolested by angling pressure. This is important to allow the waters to be self-sustaining for these Arizona native trout, and provide ongoing fishing opportunities in these waters.

Some Recovery streams still remain closed to fishing as their populations are not yet strong enough to allow catch and release fishing. Remember that the East Verde River is a great stream to catch the native Gila trout, and fish caught there may be kept up to the daily bag limit.

In the Little Colorado River (LCR) upstream from River Reservoir in Greer, there is a proposal to include a catch and release season during the brown trout spawning window in the LCR to still allow fishing for these large trout, but require that they be returned unharmed during their spawning season.

A change to the daily bag limit from six trout down to four statewide is being proposed as the Department is working to stock larger fish as a response to angler survey input seeking larger average sized fish. The Hatchery capacity to accomplish this shift means that these fish will need time to grow before stocking; so somewhat fewer trout, but bigger fish will be produced in the hatchery system each year.

I have read the proposed amendments to the fishing regulations and applaud AZGFD for their scientific approach to determine the value of these changes as well as considering angler surveys and input regarding their decisions. Please take time to read the amendments and provide feedback to AZGFD by August 28th.



The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) is proposing amendments to Commission Order 40 (sport fishing bag and possession Limits, special regulations, and specific closures) for calendar years 2021 and 2022. The public is invited to review and comment on the proposed changes.**And more**
See page 8... AZGFD Press Release



Special thanx to Martha Strogon and one of her fine watercolor paintings. We've used this at the top of this August newsletter issue as the header. This is a scene of husband, Jim fishing in Teluride, CO

Jim Strogon receives the 2020 Outstanding Citizen Wildlife Contributor of the Year Award from the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies!



Payson resident Jim Strogon received the 2020 Outstanding Citizen Wildlife Contributor of the Year Award from the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA). Strogon, a lifelong educator and outdoor recreationist, accepted the honor during WAFWA's virtual ceremony on Monday, July 13. "Jim is an engaged community member and staunch advocate for conservation," said Commissioner James Goughnour of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. "I have seen his work as an educator, introducing children to the outdoors, as well as his efforts to improve Green Valley Park and Rim Country trout streams, firsthand. We are grateful for his contributions to outdoor recreation in our community."

Strogon spent more than 33 years in education before retiring to Payson. He taught in the classroom for 10 years and was an administrator at the school and district levels for 23 years. He has also worked as an educator outside the traditional classroom as a museum tour guide, a planetarium demonstrator, and a seasonal park ranger and naturalist at Grand Canyon National Park. He earned a master's degree in fishery biology from the University of Michigan and a doctorate in education from Arizona State University. Since he moved to Payson with his wife, Martha, Strogon has used his experience as an educator to promote conservation and outdoor recreation in Rim Country.

He has taught after-school fly-tying classes in the Payson Unified School District for several years and works as a fly fishing instructor for Payson Parks and Recreation. Besides teaching his students to fly fish, Strogon instills in them an appreciation for nature and a desire to be responsible stewards of the environment.

Jim Strogon may be reached at: jimstrog@gmail.com

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.
Jim, your dedication, knowledge of fly fishing, love of family
and timely contributions to all of us Trout Bums is deeply appreciated.

Congratulations...and Thank you!

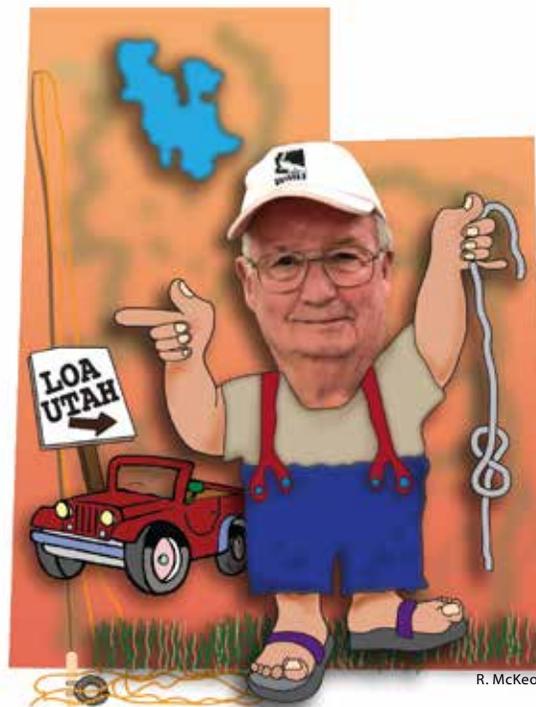
DFC trip to Southern Utah

We do plan on holding our Utah outing this year, in spite of the coronavirus. Taking this into account however, we are asking participants to make their own lodging arrangements, and we will be skipping any large social gatherings (like meeting for a large dinner etc.)

When: August 14-19, 2020

Host: Dick Brooks (480) 203-9634
or email at gdubby77@gmail.com

Where: Base of operations will be Loa, Utah.



Route: Flagstaff àPageàKanabàPanguitchàCirclevilleàKingstonàKoosharemàLoa. 8 hours, 23 minutes. 519 miles. Good Highway.

Lodging:

Loa: The Quiet Flyfisher has a house to rent for ~\$50/night that can accommodate several people. Owner/Contact is Mike James, 435-616-2319. Other places: Snuggle Inn (877) 505-1936 and Road Creek Inn (435) 865-8259 or (800) 388-7688

Bicknell: Aquarius Inn (800)-833-5379. Sunglow Motel (435) 425-3701. The Mills Cabins and Lodge (435) 491-0426.

Torrey: Several RV Parks and motels in town. Some rough tent campsites are also available. Torrey is the "Gateway to Capitol Reef" so prices are a little higher here, and August is the prime season for Capitol Reef.

Dining:

Loa: Marina's Country Café • **Bicknell:** Reel Bites Café at the Bicknell Theater, Sunglow Motel • **Torrey:** Several restaurants and eateries in town • **Other services:** Loa has a grocery store, hardware store, auto parts and repair services.

Fishing Opportunities:

Creeks and Rivers: UM creek (left and right forks), 7 mile creek, East fork Sevier River, Jorgensen creek, Lake Creek, Antimony creek
Lakes and Reservoirs: Piute Reservoir, Otter Creek Reservoir, Fish Lake Reservoir, Johnson Valley Reservoir, Crater Lakes, Mill Meadow Reservoir, Forsythe Reservoir, Paradise Valley Reservoir plus others. • **Guides and Fly Shops:** The Quiet Flyfisher in Loa, Mike James owner. (435) 616-2319. Circle Valley Anglers. (435) 577-2168.

Gear: 4-6 wt rods, floating and sinking lines, strike indicators, 3X-5X leaders and tippet, sunglasses, hat, rain gear, waders and boots (felt OK) bug spray, sunscreen. Loa is at 7000 foot elevation. You might want to bring a float tube or kick boat if you plan to hit the lakes.

Flies: Your best bet is to talk to Mike at the Quiet Flyfisher, or see Dick Brooks for a handout and more information.

License: Available on line at Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. <https://secure.utah.gov/hflo/main/serv2/index.html?server=serv2>

Fishing Reports: https://wildlife.utah.gov/hotspots/reports_sr.php

For more information on southern Utah fishing in general or this DFC outing in particular, contact Dick Brooks at: (480) 203-9634 or email at gdubby77@gmail.com

The Ponds at The Links at Queen Creek

Tired of staying home? Ready to sample some close by fishing?
Then come and join us for our annual outing to fish the ponds at The Links at Queen Creek.

When: Saturday, September 12, 6:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Where: The Links at Queen Creek Golf Club • 445 E. Ocotillo Road, Queen Creek, AZ.



Tackle: Standard trout gear will suffice. Bring a floating line and/or a slow sinking line and 4X and 5X tippet material. Standard trout flies will work, but it wouldn't hurt to include some small (size 14-16) blue nymphs and a selection of semi-seal leeches. Suggested approaches are to suspend flies below a strike indicator, or strip a leech and a trailing fly on a slow sinking line.

Expected catch: Tilapia (including some very nice ones), common carp, bluegill • **Additional info:** Due to coronavirus concerns, the Project Healing Waters folks are unable to attend. For the same reason, DFC will not be able to provide the typical lunch we normally do for this event. However, we will bring along some bottled water for members.

If there are any other questions, please catch:



San Juan River Trip **LAST CALL!**



This is the last chance to sign up for the San Juan River trip in September.

If you are interested you must get in touch with me by August 31st. **1st group arrive 9/21 and fish 9/22 and 9/23, leave on the 24th. 2nd group arrive 9/24 and fish 9/25 and 9/26 and leave on 9/27. Three nights lodging, 2 days guided fishing for the price of \$680.00.** What a great opportunity to get away from the chaos we have been living in here in Phoenix. The situation at the river at this time is that the park is closed to non-residents but the float trips are being done on the lower river, which is great fishing. The restaurant is open for take out food. The trip being almost two months away, it is my belief that the park will be open to be fished by non-residents by that time, but that is just my opinion. This is still a great trip, if you have not fished the lower river you have missed a treat. *Please contact me soon if you are thinking about this trip and have any questions about the fishing, lodging, restaurant, etc.*

Billy Wingo at 602-451-9549 or billy.wingo@phoenix.gov or Billy.o.wingo@gmail.com. **Deadline August 31st.**

CARP INSTRUCTIONS



Have you ever wanted to learn how to catch the finicky grass and common carp that lives in the canals in the Phoenix metro area? DFC has partnered with the Zane Grey chapter of TU to provide some free carp fishing instruction. The event is open to the public, but is limited to 24 participants total, and DFC has 8 slots reserved. *First come first served!*

When: Saturday, October 3, 2020 7:00 a.m.

Where: Kiwanis Park (roughly Guadalupe and Rural roads)

What to bring: 5 weight rod, floating line, 4X leader and tippet material.

For flies we suggest: Prince nymphs, Clown eggs, Leeches, and Stimulators.

To sign up, get additional info, or to volunteer to help, please catch **Tom Horvath** • email: mhorvath@reddenconstruction.com or cell: 602-768-7280

"Angling may be said to be so like the mathematics that it can never be fully learned."

Izaak Walton

**You are invited to the
Desert Fly Casters
ZOOM Club Meeting
AUGUST 12, 2020 • 7:30 PM**



**Join, *Jim Stroger* and the efforts to
bring Gila Trout to the East Verde River**



During the meeting, Jim Stroger will provide information on the story of bringing Gila trout to the East Verde River that includes how they are raised at the Canyon Creek Hatchery, the addition of several stream improvement devices in the East Verde River, and willow planting near the improvements.

Learn about the types of water that seem to hold these fish, flies that have consistently produced well for him, and techniques that you might want to try.

Many of these fish have traveled great distances from their stocking points, which bodes well for their ability to make the East Verde River their home for years to come if they are released or remain uncaught by anglers. He will share information about a research project that is tracking these fish.

If you would like to help the Canyon Creek Hatchery raise these beautiful, native fish to AZ, Jim will also share items that they need to help with the specialized care that these fish require.

**CONNECTION
IS GOOD FOR
AUGUST 12, 2020
7:30 PM
ONLY**

Topic: Desert Flycasters Monthly Meeting
7:30pm Wednesday, August 12, 2020 *Arizona Time*

How to connect

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87151051539?pwd=MkhzUzYvaGxyVWZXMVBUVWpJSTRjQT09>

Meeting ID: 871 5105 1539

Passcode: DFC8



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"There's a fine line between fishing and standing on the shore like an idiot.."

Steven Wright



AZGFD Press Release...



The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) is proposing amendments to Commission Order 40 (sport fishing bag and possession Limits, special regulations, and specific closures) for calendar years 2021 and 2022. The public is invited to review and comment on the proposed changes.

AZGFD will host a Facebook Live presentation on Aug. 6 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the proposed changes.

Comments or suggestions can be submitted until 5 p.m. on Aug. 28, either by:

Email to: fishregscomments@azgfd.gov

Or, by mail to:

Arizona Game and Fish Department
Attn: Fisheries Branch, c/o Andy Clark
5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086

The amendments are scheduled to be presented to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission at its Sept. 25-26 meeting.

In summary, the proposed amendments are:

- Change regulations on the East Fork Little Colorado River upstream of Colter Dam to include a seasonal angling closure.
- Open Lee Valley Creek to angling.
- Change angling regulations on Burro Creek to include a seasonal angling closure.
- Change angling regulations on Thompson Creek to include a seasonal angling closure.
- Change angling regulations on the Upper West Fork Black River to include a seasonal angling closure.
- Open Grapevine Creek to angling including a seasonal angling closure.
- Open Dude Creek to angling including a seasonal angling closure.
- Create seasonal harvest, and bait restriction regulations on River Reservoir.
- Create seasonal harvest, and bait restriction regulations on Little Colorado River (Greer) upstream of River Reservoir to the confluence of the East and West Forks Little Colorado River.
- Change the statewide daily bag limit for trout to 4.
- Restore the statewide daily bag limit for trout at CC Cragin Reservoir, Knoll Lake, and Nelson Reservoir.

And...

During the brown trout spawning season upstream of River Reservoir in the Little Colorado River (Greer) one of the amendments calls for the spawning season to be catch and release from October 1 - April 30th. Immediately releasing these spawning browns unharmed during their spawning season in the LCR will result in bigger fish in the LCR and River Reservoir. *Anglers will be able to harvest brown trout from May 1 - September 30th in the LCR above River Reservoir.*



Although the high country fishing has slowed down a bit (*like it does every summer*) there are still some nice fish to be had in the White Mountains. Dick Brooks, Joe Staller and John Rohmer spent three days fishing Becker and Show Low Lakes, and had these fish to show for their efforts.



Marvel entertainment inc has made quite a splash recently with multiple successful movies and TV programs, the idea behind their success is people with super human abilities. Black widow, Ironman, Thor, Hawkeye and the rest of the avengers have some skill that separates them from us normal humans. I would venture that in fly-fishing there are anglers that border on super human, of course this is in jest, maybe..... The saying goes 80% of the people catch 20% of the fish, and 20% of the people catch 80% of the fish. Why is this? What separates the successful angler from the struggling angler?

I am going to venture to say it's more than one thing, and further express that it can change outing to outing. Casting, knowledge of water, bug understanding, flies in the box, all of those play a part, but I present another skill, that is, the glue to hold it all together. Observation. Personally, this is something I have to work on, much like the fishing community in general I am eager to the water, and slow to pay it appropriate attention. Meaning, my adrenaline is pumping and I want to get to the water as quick as humanly possible to catch fish, and in doing so I run right past the clues that can make or break a day of fishing. Makes sense right, that's why we spent \$50.00 in gas and 3 to 4 hours to get there, catching fish. So where does observation interrupt the mad dash to the water, or more appropriately where should it?

Let's start at the ride up, yep watch for signs of things that affect fishing, weather, bugs, how many people are out and about. For practical purposes that last 5 or so miles to the body of water can give you lots of info, what bugs are hitting the windshield, are the birds actively chasing food (they eat a diet much the same as fish), what do you hear, cicadas, crickets, are midges buzzing about? The same information presents itself when you stop the car and are gearing up. A close friend of mine taught me a pretty handy lesson when getting ready, watch the birds. First impression is that he was just slow, and he was just enjoying the birds flying about, truth is Gary was watching where the birds were, and their behavior. Active birds are a great sign, where they are active also get you valuable pieces of the puzzle. Birds flying over the water means there is a good chance that the bugs are hatching or they are mating. Birds on the shore can mean you have a hatch, but its more of a stonefly type event where they crawl out on to dry land. The walk to the water should help refine some of the information you have gathered so far. Bugs, wind direction, more bird activity, all are visually available to you on the

Mikes' short strikes.



by Mike Faulkinbury

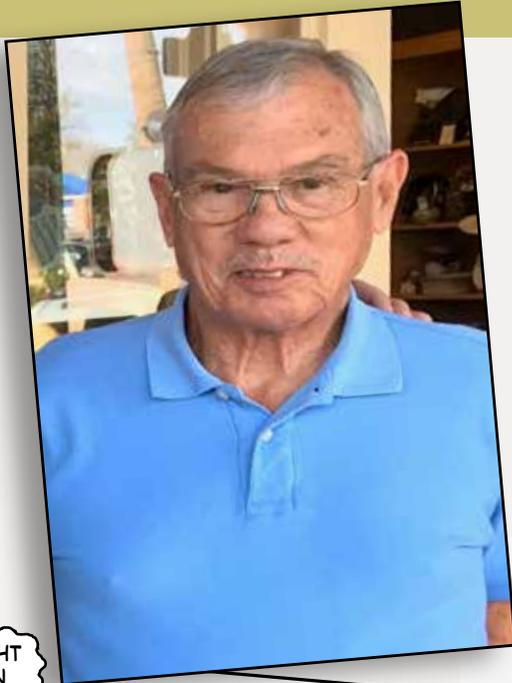
walk to the water. Once you're on the water many more pieces of the puzzle are available, if you slow down and take the info in. High water, Low water, water temp, fish location, birds, and bugs on the water and on the shore give you very valuable info if you stop to observe them. Fish locals and behavioral observations take some time and a bit stealth, but five minutes on the shore in a position concealed to the fish will reward you. Finding fish rising, moving subsurface, and where they are holding gives you the options of approach, and method. I will end with a scenario that plays out often. An angler works their way to the stream, the conditions are poor, they have noted no birds, no bugs, it's a bright day with warm air temps and no wind. Once close to the water the angler takes a slow low approach, utilizing a group of willows close to the streams edge to conceal their profile. Once settled and after having watched the water for a bit they notice a fish 30' upstream under an overhanging willow rising every so often. Not having any luck seeing what the fish is eating on the surface the angler moves slowly to the waters edge through the willows, once at the water he notices no bug on the surface and no shucks in the water, however the trout is still clearly taking something on the surface, albeit sporadically. While watching the water further they feel a sharp sting on their hand and notice an ant there, and that there were other ants scurrying about on his shirt sleeves, Looking for the source of the ant he is a bit perplexed because he doesn't see any on the ground, just on his pack and him? How this story ends is up to the angler, do the ant drive him out? Does he figure out the ants were in the willow; does he then realize that the fish is under a willow and surmises that the trout is eating ants as they drop into the water. Having gleaned this does he then tie an ant on, get in a favorable casting position and catch the trout at 30', or does he notice there is 20' of undercut bank under the willows leading up to that fish? The outcome here diverges into 3 possible scenarios. The angler ties on the wrong fly and eventually spooks the fish rising, the ant is tied on and he makes a good cast to the fish at 30' and catches him, or the angler fishes the 20' of undercut bank under the willows and land 1 or 2 fish in that holding area as well as the rising fish at 30'. Remember 80% of the anglers catch 20% of the fish, 20% of the anglers catch 80% of the fish.

Questions and Comments?

Catch Mike Faulkinbury, DFC Board Member at Large, Guy at: mfaulkinbury@msn.com



...Staying Connected with us!



JAY FIGLEY
jefigley@mac.com

Bob, you probably never heard me give a fishing report in a club meeting, not even after returning from a visit to my property on the White River in Arkansas. The short story for an article would be that I have been driving along the upper East Verde River for some 35 + years to my cabin. Interest rose in fishing there after they began the stream restoration and reintroduction of Gila trout. This is not the first Gila I have caught but maybe the most photogenic (that's why I shared the picture), it hit on a #16 Griffith gnat and did not like the idea of going into a net. The area the fish caught was near the 2nd crossing bridge. And, my fishing venture included a favorite 7ft/4wt rod.



RIGHT ON FIGLEY!



Stuff to know about Jay Higley...

The volunteer work I do up in the Rim Country is in part for the Fire Wise program in the Water Wheel (Whispering Pines) fire district. The free disposal area for brush and tree trimmings property owners can access is maned by volunteers. A service that is provided for those property owners who elect to be engaged in the Fire Wise project.

In my spare time – own a 1981-1982-1983 Datsun 280ZX, all three are T-tops, each one has won car show awards. Belong to car club(s) and attend car club meeting, outings and car shows, fun cars to work on and a pleasure/hoot to drive.



Passing It On...

by Jim Strogon

My love for fish and fishing is viewed by some as excessive. To other fly fishers, it is viewed as normal. It clearly is a recessive trait in my family as there aren't too many others as driven to fish as me. Fortunately, my grandchildren appear to have the fishing gene.

As a kid, I was blessed with relatives that understood and fostered my passion for fishing. Trips with Dad, Pop Pop and Uncle Bud were always a thrill. I love fishing with my grandkids and recently had an opportunity to fish with my older grandsons for a few days.

This particular fishing time with the boys was made even more special by Bob McKeon. We all know of Bob's extraordinary talents as our newsletter editor and his phenomenal skills as an artist. He has illustrated several well-known books on making bamboo rods and aquatic insects important to fly fishers. He has even illustrated a children's book.

Bob contacted me and said that he had two fly rods that "needed some fishing". They had been resting too long under his bed and longed for the bend of a well placed cast and the tug of some hefty fish. His only request for the loan was that I provide him with some photos of the rods in action. He thought Joe Miller and I might give the rods a work-out with some East Verde Gilas (which we happily did), but I am sure he had my grandsons in mind when he made this loan.

I have some treasured bamboo rods that belonged to my uncle that I have yet to introduce to Owen and Ayden. They are nine foot rods and are quite a bit heavier than the modern fly rods that the boys fish with regularly. I know that they will treasure them some day as I do, but I wanted their first experience with a bamboo rod to be fun.

The rods that Bob loaned me were perfect introductory bamboo rods for the boys, as well as being incredibly special. They were built by expert bamboo rod builders, and friends and collaborators of Bob. One rod is a 7'3" rod built by Robert Hoekstra, and the other is a 7'9" rod built by Ron Barch. In addition, both rods are in handcrafted cases built by Ron Barch.

These rods and cases are works of art. They also fit the hands of my grandsons perfectly. Ayden can now say that he caught his very first Gila trout ever on a bamboo rod made by a bamboo rod building master. Owen quite simply did not want to put the Barch rod down. He kept saying that he loved how the rod cast his line, and how each fish he caught felt even livelier on a bamboo rod.

Besides successfully fishing for Gila trout, both boys continued to out-fish me on Green Valley Lake too as they pulled in bluegills and crappies at a rate of two to three times better than me.

Ayden was interested in the flies that we were using on the East Verde and also one of his favorite flies at Green Valley Lake, so we had our first fly tying session. He tied a couple leeches and zebra midges and was pleased to get a fly box from me to put them in. Later that evening, we went to Green Valley Lake and he had the thrill of catching several fish with a red zebra midge that he tied.

Owen already is a skilled fly tyer, so I supplied them with hooks, beads and materials to make wooly buggers and zebra midges for me. They promised to deliver, at a reasonable fee, all of the flies that I will ever need. I look forward to catching fish with these special flies the next time I see them.

When Owen and Ayden come for a visit, it is always fun to watch their skills improve as they become more independent in their fishing. While the boys are pretty familiar with fishing lakes with fly rods, they only get a chance to fish streams with a fly rod when they fish Rim Country streams with me. They are learning to read the water well, and have a good sense of where the fish will be, and where they should cast their flies. Both boys have figured out how to mend their line to create a perfect drift and make a great hook set when the fish grabs the fly.

These boys also have a profound respect for the fish and take great care in their release. Passing fishing traditions and skills along to grandkids is a grandfather's dream.

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



Desert Fly Casters Conservation Corner

AUGUST 2020



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

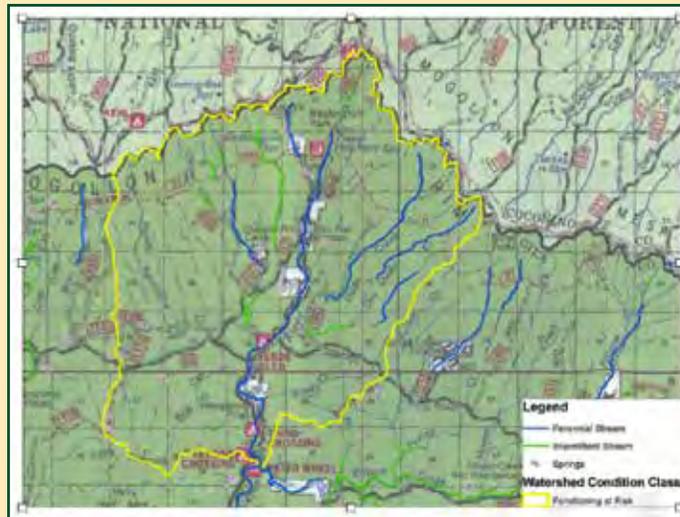
Short updates on topics of interest we think will inform DFC Trout Bums about Conditions and Efforts on our Arizona streams, lakes, fisheries and the forests they're in:

AZGFD Regulations Update - AZGFD has proposed a series of regulation changes. See the separate Article by Award Winning frequent contributor Jim Stroger in this Newsletter.

ALERT: SOME National Forests are Open, BUT CONDITIONS, Closures, and Restrictions are in a state of FLUX as Monsoons have begun. Please check Local Guidelines or with the individual National Forests or Ranger Stations before any Trip in/on the Forest!!!

Update!: High Country Watershed Restoration Projects on Upper E Verde River

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



The main focus of the Workshop was potential additional Restoration / Protection Work on the **Upper East Verde River Watershed**, which includes the East Verde from roughly just above Water Wheel to the head, and also including Dude Creek and Chase Creek. Dude Creek and Chase Creek are currently closed to any fishing, but Dude Creek is proposed to be opened for Catch and Release fishing next spring. The YELLOW Outline area on the map shows the project area under discussion.

Note: Gila Trout stockings by AZGFD have continued on the East Verde during the Tonto NF Total Closure.

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

This project EA will cover much of the old Wallow Fire area, including both many Apache Trout and Brown Trout streams. The A - S NF just recently reported progress on analyzing a Third Alternate Treatment without change to the already proposed aquatics and water resource actions. The DRAFT EA will be ready for Public Comments very soon. The public comment period will be no less than 30 days, with at least one public meeting likely in August in the White Mtns area to share and explain all the details of that DRAFT EA. The EA will be finalized and will likely be released by year end.

Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI)

Several DFC Members and Conservation Chair Joe Miller monitor and are involved in efforts to finalize the USFS Rim Country EIS, working to keep importance on the Water Resources across the Mogollon Rim Country, as is AZGFD. Recently, the 4FRI Group hosted Candidates for the Arizona Corporation Commission, sharing information and views on

the importance of forest and watershed restoration to AZ, and the role of the Biomass byproduct in restoration. Next Big Milestone will be the FS selection announcement of Commercial Timber Cutting & Thinning Proposals all across the Mogollon Rim in September.

Recent Arizona & USDA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The State of AZ, and the USDA have just released an MOU setting the stage for a more detailed Stewardship Agreement to follow for much of the public lands in AZ. AZGFD among other AZ departments was apparently very properly involved in this development. It appears that this MOU is very carefully and properly structured with land management, communities, homes, *watersheds, clean air and water, aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable habitats for species of interest, ... recreational hunting, fishing, ...*positioned well before mentions of just wood products, grazing, etc. It also provides for "representation from collaborative stakeholders groups and other collaborators to participate in spatial and temporal recommendations That's Us, We, the DFC Trout Bums, So we'll work to make sure we have a place at that table with our 2 cents.

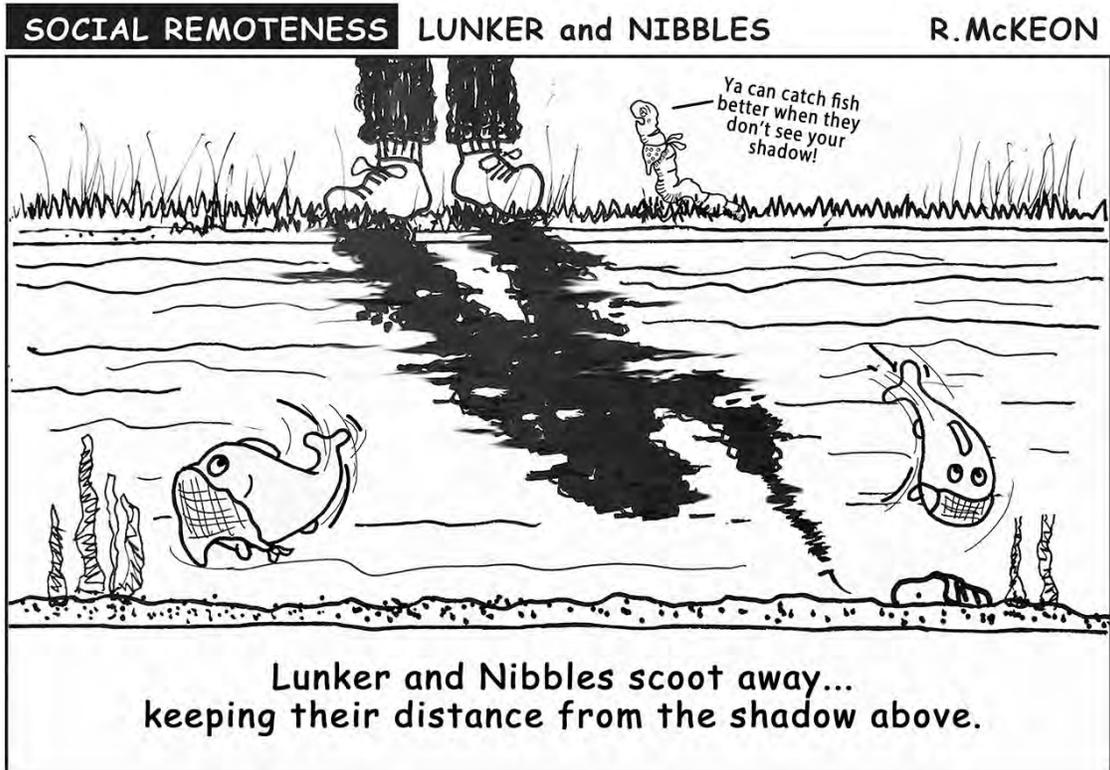
Recent Resolution between Arizona (AZGFD, AZ DFFM, ECO, USFWS, USFS, and Center for Biodiversity (CBD) re Mexican Spotted Owl: The parties listed and others have recently agreed to measures on reporting plans, actions and effects of forest restoration efforts on MSO, avoiding potential litigation. This will likely also allow stalled restoration work on Tonto NF to go on.

Bush Fire Recovery Efforts, Tonto National Forest: Approx 193,455 Acres Burned, There will likely be long term effects from the Bush Fire on DFC Fishing Opportunities and conditions on the Salt River Chain of Lakes. Monsoons have started, Chances for Large Scale Runoff Events with heavy debris flows and washout are high. Fishing on Canyon and Saguaro may be impacted by those runoffs.

Passed Senate and House, Waiting Signature: Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA). This key conservation legislation permanently includes the Land and Water Conservation Fund and dedicated funding for maintenance backlog on National Parks, forests and other lands.

DFC Web Site Conservation Page Update: We've been Updating the admittedly Out of Date Info on the DFC Web Site Conservation page. Had hoped it would be available in July, but still in process for sometime during August. There's a lot of ground and waters to cover! DFC and individual members routinely support many conservation projects across the state. Hopefully we'll all continue to do so for the protection, maintenance, and improvement of all our valued fisheries and resources.

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



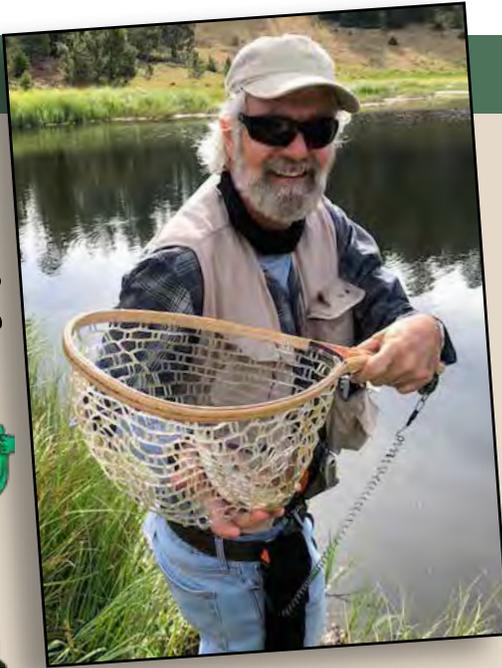
...Connecting with us!

Randy Messersmith
rmessersmith@gmail.com

AZ Trout Challenge completed! On my last solo socially- distanced trip to the White Mountains in July to beat the Valley of the Heat, fish were caught, elk, deer, wild turkeys and feeding osprey were spotted, and the temperature never went above 75 degrees at 9100 feet. Fishing in the rain was also a treat. How often do we get to do that here? Testing out some small stream tactics recently learned from the small stream maestro Jim Stroger, (even with the low water levels) Browns, native Apaches, Chubs, and hold-over Rainbows were taken on a variety of rivers in the area. While casting I felt the fly was rather heavy so I went to remove the weeds and found I had been throwing a 3- inch chub --- and felt instantly guilty for breaking the fly/artificial lure policy on the river.

Not having fished this area for years, I also enjoyed visiting the lakes and finding some luck with stocked Apaches, Grayling, and Rainbows. I fished XDiamond Ranch one day and it was worth every penny -- I caught Browns and Rainbows of decent size all day long there. Stayed at a lovely AirBNB in Eager which I highly recommend. The devastation of the 2011 Wallow Fire at 538,000 acres burned is everywhere and a constant reminder of how diligent we all must be with campfires and why the rules are currently so strict. The good news is that there are stream improvements visible everywhere and certain sections are closed to allow the stream and fish populations to recover.

Nice catch, Randy!



Joined as a Lifetime member of TU, and have joined the Conservation Committee with the local chapter of AZTU-CC. with Jim Stroger and others. • Enjoy the bulletins to keep in touch -- am sharing I completed the AZ Trout Challenge with my recent trip to the White Mountains in July! *Now onto the Wild Trout Challenge!*



DFC BULLETIN

We'll stay connected...

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



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

Let's Tie One On...



Hey DFC Trout Bum Fly Tier!

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

pan fish, the big ol' bass fly or that special for those small streams in the backwoods here in Arizona.

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

Send fly photos to Frankie the President Guy at: sketno1026@hotmail.com
-or- Bob McKeon the Editor Guy at: rmckeon2@cox.net • *Frankie sez youse should send photos...don't wanna to put a fish on da hood of yah caah.*

"Do not tell fish stories where the people know you. Particularly, don't tell them where they know the fish.."

Mark Twain

**2020 DESERT FLY CASTERS
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Charlie Rosser, J.C. Roberson
David Weaver
Web Address Site
<http://www.desertflycasters.com>



DATES TO KEEP IN MIND...2020

DFC trip to Southern Utah

August 14-19, 2020 • Loa, Utah

Host: Dick Brooks (480) 203-9634 or email at gdbusby77@gmail.com

The Links at Queen Creek

Saturday, September 12, 2020 • 6:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Links at Queen Creek Golf Club • 445 E. Ocotillo Road, Queen Creek, AZ

Host: Joe Staller at joestaller@yahoo.com, or 602-568-943

San Juan River Trip

September 21 thru 27, 2020

Host: Billy Wingo at 602-451-9549 or billy.wingo@phoenix.gov

Carp Instructions

Saturday, October 3, 2020 7:00 a.m.

Kiwanis Park

Kiwanis Park (roughly Guadalupe and Rural roads)

Host: Tom Horvath • email: mhorvath@reddenconstruction.com
cell: 602-768-7280



NOTE:

A reminder notice for our Wednesday, August 12, 2020 DFC Club Meeting will be e-mailed to membership prior to meeting.