

OCTOBER 2020



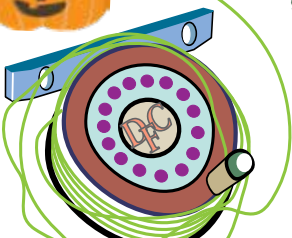
FORWARD CASTS

OFFICIAL DESERT FLY CASTERS NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER
Wednesday,
October 14, 2020
Chit-Chat & Dinner

OCTOBER 14, 2020
ZOOM
DFC CLUB MEETING



President's Drift

Frank Schettino • October 2020



Greeting fellow Trout Bums,

October is here, the temps will start cooling off and the fishing will heat up. There's time to head up to the Rim and the White Mountains for some fishing. Grab your gear and go, hit a river/creek/stream or one of the many lakes the Mogollon Rim and the White Mountains have to offer. The club outing to Becker Lake, October 17 & 18 is a great time to go. I've enjoyed fishing Becker lake this time of year. Look for details in the newsletter.

In last month's newsletter you read about 2 worthy causes DFC supports, The White Mountains lake foundation and the AZGFD Canyon Creek Hatchery Program. Both work tirelessly to better the fishing in our state. A call was put out to members to add to the club's donation, if you

haven't yet there's still time. If you have, Thank you for donating to both these worthy causes. If you're going to the Becker outing you'll see first hand the work they've done.

We've been having success with Zoom meetings in lieu of our meeting in person. This will continue for the foreseeable future. Our guest speaker for this month will be one of our own, Gentry Smith. Come join the meeting and learn about *Carp and the canals*.

Stay safe, keep your distance, wear a mask everyone. Until the next meeting.

Tight Lines,

Frank Schettino

...bada-bing-bada-boom



DFC CLUB BEAT

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Some Great Fishing from Shore- Jim Strogon • page 3

IT'S A GO...Becker Lake Outing • page 5

DFC ZOOM Club Meeting
Wednesday, October 14, 2020 • 7:30 PM
Gentry Smith presents: Urban Carp Fishing • page 6

Vince Deadmonds recent trip to Rocky Point • page 11

DFC Trout Bums- masters of peregrination...
Pages: 8 & 9- Joe Staller & Frank • Pages: 12 & 13- Carl Rutherford

Joe Miller- Conservation updates • page 14

Clean-up and Fishing at Woods Canyon and Willow Springs Lakes
Would you like to catch some rainbow and tiger trout? See page 15

The good fishing starts when a river imposes itself on the angler.



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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2019 - 2020 Desert Fly Casters Conservation Funds Awarded

DFC Members Have Made Additional Individual Contributions through the DFC Not-For-Profit Status!

The DFC Board awarded \$1900 in 2019 - 2020 Budgeted Conservation Funds to be split between Two already very successful programs that are continuing their outstanding Fisheries work in AZ:

The White Mountains Lakes Foundation Multi-Lake Aerator Program for the White Mountains

The Arizona Game & Fish Department Canyon Creek Hatchery Gila Trout Propagation Facility.

Individual Members Added Several Hundred Dollars More! Funds have been transferred to White Mountain Lakes Foundation, and a Check is on its way to AZGFD for the Gila Trout Hatchery Upgrades. Joe Miller got an inside peek at some of the New Facilities and Equipment last week, and presented the Staff a temporary DFC "Symbolic" Check, since the Final Donation amount including Individual donations was not yet known.



The AZGFD Canyon Creek Gila Trout Propagation Facility: The AZGFD Hatchery Staff (Pictured here: Geoffrey Rabinovich, Hatchery Program Manager, Kyle Tulisiak, Eastern Regional Hatchery Manager, Trevor Nelson, Canyon Creek Hatchery Manager, Lacey Becker, Fish Culturist, all with Joe Miller at Canyon Creek, and other Staff not shown), have worked wonders in the last couple of years in growing out several strains of Gila Trout for initial stocking for recreational fishing on the East Verde River, with long term plans for on-site brood stock and expanded stocking of these great and fertile fish on more Mogollon Rim streams. The fish have been stocked since early spring, and are More than Popular with Fly Anglers! Congratulations and Thanks to all the Staff!



And they've done it while actually developing a new Building, Circular Tank Technology with several innovative features and practices, and a whole new approach to raising these essentially wild trout. They're spooky, and make for great on-stream fishing! But there is great need for more equipment to aid feeding, protect the fish from predators, provide more naturalistic growing area cover systems, and maintaining fish health among both Brood Stock and eggs, fry, and fingerlings.

DFC and its members are happy to be able to help with those needs.

**Questions, donations and comments are welcomed.
Please catch Joe Miller at: jamiller101@gmail.com**



Some Great Fishing From Shore



by
Jim Strogon



*Ric Hinkie, PFC
Co-president on
Woods Canyon
Lake.*



*A Woods Canyon Rainbow/
Tiger Double.*



*A Willow Springs Tiger in
spawning colors.*



Tom Heman PFC Co-president on Woods Canyon Lake.

I fish all year. One of the requirements for the cars that I buy is that my 9 foot fly rod will fit; ready to fish. I even added some straps so that it could travel quite happily for the several fishing trips I take each week to Green Valley Lake, Rim Country creeks, and occasionally to the lakes on top of the Rim.

While I enjoy fishing Woods Canyon and Willow Springs lakes, I only fish them during the summer when my older grandsons come to visit. The summer crowds are insane, and the trout are deeper than I can reach from shore.

In 2016, Arizona Game and Fish Department began stocking tiger trout along with the rainbow trout that have been stocked for years in both Woods Canyon and Willow Springs Lakes. Tiger trout are a hybrid cross between a female brown trout and a male brook trout. As a hybrid, they are unable to reproduce. That doesn't stop them from displaying beautiful spawning colors in the fall. In other states where they have stocked them for years, tigers have gotten very large. While I haven't caught one over seventeen inches yet in Woods Canyon or Willow Springs, I am optimistic that each year we will see larger tiger trout in both lakes. Hopefully as these fish grow, they will begin to put a dent in the invasive crayfish and green sunfish populations in both lakes.

While the last stocking of rainbow and tiger trout was during the week of September 21st, I generally head up to both lakes starting about mid-October after the water has had a chance to cool a bit more. During the warmer water conditions of summer, the trout are generally deeper in the lake than I can effectively target with my floating fly line from shore.

About mid-October until the shoreline ices up in mid to late November, the rainbows and tigers patrol the shoreline. They often are very aggressive in their strikes. I don't know if the cold water temperatures has given them a bit more spunk, or if they are fattening up for the winter. In any case, I make several trips to both lakes in this fall window because fishing can be really good.

I am always prepared to change flies frequently when fishing for fall rainbows and tigers. I usually start with a woolly bugger that I let sink five or six feet before stripping it in with short spurts and a short pause between each strip. The trout will often smack the fly right after the pause.

Another technique is to drift a bead-head fly size (12-18) about five feet under an indicator. They can grab it while the fly is slowly sinking, or after you give the fly a little movement, imitating a real bug.

The most fun is when they are willing to take a dry fly. Some favorite dry flies the work for me are Stimulators (10-12), Adams, Royal Coachman, Humpies, and Elk Hair Caddis (14-18). If you are as poor of a dry fly fisher as me, then add a small zebra midge as a trailer about four feet below the dry fly. When I set too quickly on the dry fly, many times the fish grabs the midge on the way down.

If the wind is blowing, which happens a lot in the fall, I try to find the lee side of a point or cove to make casting easier and still have the possibility for dry fly fishing. The fish are generally forty feet or less from shore, and sometimes within six feet from the bank, so don't over cast.

Remember, any fish that you return to the water may grow to a very large trout for you to catch in the future. Come enjoy Rim Country fishing in the fall.

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

CARPING

by
vince
deadmond



We have over 180 miles of canals in the Phoenix Metro area. When you get out and explore some of these canals you will be amazed at how many carp you can see. You probably live close to a canal that holds carp, bass, and catfish. Yes, I have crossed some sort of political correctness line, and I'll admit that I have fly fished for grass carp in local canals. With the large number of canals you can make a quick fishing trip wet a line and be home before noon.

You pay your dues to have success carp fishing, they are not easily caught. Most days carp are spooky and other days they are hyper skitterish. In addition to your less than stealthy stalking of this fish you have help spooking fish, from joggers, walkers, bike riders, loud talkers, and birds, particularly ducks will spook a carp that you have been observing. With all of that bank traffic you need to be aware of your back cast, no-one is looking out for you. You need to develop a good roll cast. The roll cast has less chance of getting stuck in a jogger, or getting tangled into the trees and bushes, and it lands softly.

When you arrive at the canal you need to observe how much water is flowing. Too much and the carp are sulking on the bottom, not enough the carp are not swimming with their nose into the current in a predictable manner. If the water is off color the carp are more difficult to see, and one needs a good amount of sun light on the water to spot fish. Once you have spotted a carp you need to determine if the fish is a good candidate to cast to.

One of my favorite targets is the grass carp that is across the canal on the far bank, with his back out of the water, and he is eating with reckless abandon. Even better if multiple fish are gorging on algae. If multiple fish are splashing they may not notice my flies splash close to them. Some days you can land your fly ten foot away, and other days you can land closer.

You need to steer your fly within a foot of the carp you are trying to entice. Don't give up if the fly passes your intended target. I have had carp turn and follow my fly several feet before taking it. Another maddening thing about carp, they will push your fly with their nose. Carp see your fly but many times they will reject your offering. If this happens often, it's time to change flies.

A more difficult situation is when you are behind a carp looking at his tail from the same side of the canal. You need to make a curve cast and land the leader, tippet, and fly above the fish so the current takes the fly to the fish. If you splash, or land your fly line on the fish he is going away fast. Another difficult situation is when you are on the same side of the canal and you are facing the fish. The fish is looking directly at you. You need to be stealthy, with little movement and it helps if you are in the shade and the fish is in full sun. You can allow your fly to float to the fish, and after many rejections you may catch one with this method.

A new fly that I have had success with is a simple tie. Use chartreuse craft foam, you can get a large sheet for a dollar at Hobby Lobby, cut strips about as wide as a tooth pick and about half as long. Wrap your hook with a thread base then take seven pieces of foam and secure in the middle of the hook. Use curved scissors to round out your cut. I usually try to flatten the bottom side and have a mound on top. This floats great and has good visibility for the carp and you. It's a really special feeling when you make a good cast, the carp sizes up your fly, and determines if he is going to eat it. None of this happens suddenly, finally at what seems like the last second the carp takes a bite of your fly. Yessss!!!

questions...comments?
catch vince the hardware guy at:
vince@ajbest.com • 480 818 1796





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

OCTOBER BECKER LAKE OUTING

Saturday-Sunday October 17-18, 2020

Feel free to come early or stay late; this is a great time to be in the White Mountains!

Because of the coronavirus, DFC is unable to coordinate lodging, transportation or social events as part of this outing, which we're sure you understand and appreciate. Please make your own plans for lodging. We highly recommend the Rode Inn in Springerville for its close proximity to Becker Lake, although there is plenty of lodging in Pinetop, Show Low etc. If you want to stay at Rode Inn, the phone number is 928-333-4365, and the address is 242 E. Main St. Springerville, AZ 85938.

We've had good fishing this time of year tossing leeches trailed by a pheasant tail on a slow-sinking line. Target the shore and weed lines, and we've had our best luck in the late afternoon. Earlier in the day, you may want to try fishing the deeper holes with a fast sinking line, or possibly soaking midges (Zebra midges, WD-40s etc.) below an indicator.

Any questions, please call your host, Frank Schettino, at: sketno1026@hotmail.com, or cell 917-414-5428.

**You are invited to the
Desert Fly Casters
ZOOM Club Meeting
OCTOBER 14, 2020 • 7:30 PM**



Join us for our DFC Club Zoom presentation...

URBAN CARP: Fly Fishing the Phoenix Area Canals
with
GENTRY SMITH

Like a fiery phoenix rising from the ash, carp have risen above defamatory "trash fish" to being recognized as a respectable sport fish. Once limited to fly fishing's rebellious counter-culture, carp have since gained mainstream popularity thanks to their elusive behavior, subtle bites, and powerful runs. Moreover, carp have become a fish every angler simply must experience on the fly.

Join Gentry Smith as he inspires anglers to explore the Phoenix area canals in pursuit of monster carp. He'll discuss appropriate fly fishing equipment, fly selection, canal access, and share tips and techniques for successfully angling these unique urban waterways. *You'll be steady carpin' in no time!*

**CONNECTION
IS GOOD FOR
OCTOBER 14, 2020
7:30 PM
ONLY**

Topic: Desert Flycasters Monthly Meeting 2020 October
Time: October 14, 2020 • 7:30 PM Arizona Time

How to connect

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82515898837?pwd=dGdlldURPNUZCNzNmZkljZks5Zm8xZz09>

Meeting ID: 825 1589 8837

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The easier you make it for yourself, the better you can focus
on the details.





Fishing the Eagle River in Colorado

by Joe Staller, along with
Frankie, the DFC President Guy

In mid-September, Frank Schettino and myself spent a few days fishing the Eagle River near Vail, Colorado. This seems to be a good time to be in the area--overnight temps were in the high 30's but warmed up to shirt sleeve weather by 9:00 a.m. The summer crowds have thinned out, and the rivers are low and clear but still fishable.

Unlike most of my fishing trips, where I pride myself on spending as little money as possible, we splurged on this trip and stayed at a Hilton!! and ate restaurant food! Additionally, we fished with guides from Minturn Anglers for three days so that we could get the lay of the land and quickly learn which techniques, locations and flies were working.

On our first day, we fished from a drift boat on a lower stretch of the Eagle river. River flows in the lower river were 150 CFS (about 1/2 of normal) and the upper stretches of the river (running about 60 CFS) are not very floatable. We anchored up at back eddies and tossed Chubby Chernobyls trailed with tiny RS2 midges to trout rising in the foam lines--and brought many nice fish (rainbows and browns) to hand. We also fished deeper slots with a strike indicator and nymph rigs, and hooked up with a dozen cuttbows in the 16-18" range.

On day two, we splurged and fished a private ranch on the headwaters of the Arkansas river. We fished to wild browns and rainbows, along with some huge hatchery incentive fish. Our guide, famous fisherman Duane Redford, rigged up our rods with a dry/dropper rig consisting of a Chubby Chernobyl and a couple of small nymphs, and he also carried a few spare rods (strike indicator nymphing rig and a euronymphing rod) so that we could address all of the different kinds of water. We caught dozens of large rainbows and browns, and broke off even larger fish. Most of the fish took a size 20 "Buttcrack Baetis" which is one of Duane's signature flies. Both Frank and I hooked some very large fish on the euronymphing rig, and I'm going to have to investigate acquiring a 10 foot 3 weight so that I can add this technique to my arsenal. The highlight of the day for me was also the last fish of the day. With expert coaching from Duane and a fly change or two, I hooked and landed a 5 pound palomino rainbow trout, which is a hatchery fish selectively bred to be gold colored. Although palomino trout can occur naturally, one would not think that a juvenile palomino would not last long in the wild.

On day 3, we fished a public stretch of the Eagle river near Gypsum Colorado, and had an amazing day. All of the fish in the Eagle are wild (no stocking occurs) and we caught nice brown trout, rainbows and a few whitefish. Although it doesn't happen every day, trico and baetis mayflies were coming off mid-day, and we were able to get fish on small nymphs below a Chubby Chernobyl, as well as on very small dry flies. Several of the rainbows were over 17" long, and both Frank and I had fish run into our backing and eventually break off.



5 pound Palomino Rainbow



Mountain Lion!



Wiener Mobile



I opted to stay a few extra days and fish with a buddy from Denver, while Frank braved the Sunday afternoon traffic to get back to Denver to catch his flight home. Because it's not always clear what is public and what is private, I fished the same general locations that Duane had showed us, although I fished different stretches and holes. Once again, lots of nice rainbows and a few browns, mostly on size 20 RS2's and Buttcrack Baetis flies.

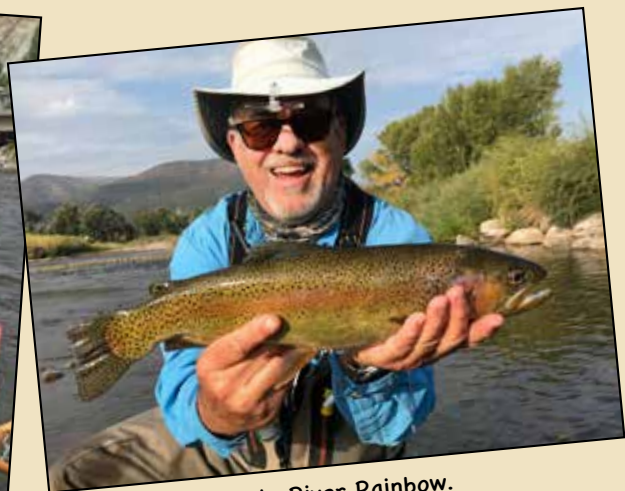
My last day on the water was perhaps the most memorable. We had a great day of fishing, and in the late afternoon we were fishing a large bend pool near Gypsum when my buddy spotted and photographed what was either a 4 foot long house cat or a juvenile mountain lion. We were done fishing for the day, and crossed the river to head back to our vehicle. We were still discussing the cat sighting, and still within view of the river bank, when a mama bear and cub appeared out of the brush right where we had been standing minutes before, but they ran off before we could snap a picture. Then, on the drive back to the campground, we passed the Oscar Meyer Wiener Mobile on the I-70! Honestly, after that, I would not have been surprised if we spotted a flying saucer or zombies on the way home....but we didn't. :(

Lessons learned

1. If you are going to hire a guide when on new water, try to stay an extra day or two so you can practice techniques that the guide has taught you, and verify that you can find and catch your own fish.
2. Be open to trying new techniques. Duane has a very specific dry/dropper rigging technique that he calls the "Mini-Rig" that seems to do a better job than the normal dry/dropper rig most of us use. Additionally, Duane used the euronymphing rig in water types where I wouldn't have thought to use it, and we definitely caught more fish because of it.
3. If possible carry an extra rod rigged to fish either deeper or shallower than your primary rod. That way, you can run flies through all water types, and will more quickly figure out where the fish are holding.
4. Fish public waters on weekdays! And never, never, never plan on driving east on the I-70 towards Denver on a Sunday afternoon, unless you don't care if you miss your flight.



Frank and Duane Redford. Nice brown Frank!



Just another eagle River Rainbow.



NICE HAT
FRANK!



Questions an' Comments?

Catch Joe Staller at:
joestaller@yahoo.com

Catch me too...me too, me too...
Frank the DFC President Guy at:
sketno1026@hotmail.com

**PLANNED
WITH
COVID
IN MIND!**

Join the DFC 57th Annual Pescador Extravanganza • November 4-9, 2020



Host and
Head Wrangler:
**Vince
Deadmond**



Again this year's fly fishing event will be staged at the Playa de Oro RV Park Puerto Penasco, Mexico. November 4-9 but set your own schedule, many will arrive early and leave late. Make your reservations with the RV Park, hotel, condo, resort, or rental property of your choice. The trailer park can accommodate tent camping, trailers, 5th wheels, and large motor homes. Rental trailers are available from the RV Park. Something new - suites are available. The old coffee shop/convenience store has been remodeled into 10 units of luxury suites with it's own private swimming pool. Rates are similar to properties found on Sandy Beach, \$235 per night Friday Saturday \$185 Sun-Thur rooms can accommodate up to 5 people.

This event is going to be planned with Covid in mind. We plan not to congregate in large groups, many of the restaurants are open air structures with a palapa hut roof, your basic patio dining. I am suggesting that you dine in groups no larger than four people. I visited RP last weekend and the bars and cantinas are taking Covid serious. The employees are masked, hand sanitizer is available, and social distance seating is being used. Again we won't be doing the large planned dinners, the social, or the usual raffle. The Sea of Cortez beaches are open and you have plenty of room to social distance. If you have health concerns stay home, if you are looking for an opportunity for a safe fishing trip, this is it. I look forward to fishing with you again!

We have a nice neap tide to work with and La Pinta looks like a good place to fish. Mirador Beach at the RV Park is another easy access place to launch your pontoon boat or kayak. You can fish from shore, but usually you will have a longer more successful day if you use a pontoon or kayak. Check the tide chart and go with the tide.

Basic Fly Fishing Equipment - Minimum 6 weight rod, an 8 weight is the rod of choice. You will catch more fish with sinking fly lines. A 200 grain sinking line for your 6 weigh, a 300 grain for your 7 weight, and a 400 grain line for your 8 weight. Best fly #4 Clouser Minnow. Good colors are white, chartreuse over white, red, yellow, pink, and tan have all been the hot fly of the day. Generally too warm for waders, but a fishing shirt, swim trunks, lots of sun block, a hat, and polarized glasses are all good to have. Bring floating line and some poppers, for the Pompano. Plan on bringing everything you might need, nothing is available to purchase in Penasco. If you are new to fly fishing Rocky Point call me or text me and I'll send you more detailed information on how to fish this spot. If you plan on attending this even please email me so I can keep track of you, help with car pools, and help folks that need gear borrow it.

Catch Vince at: vince@ajbest.com or at 480 818 1796.

Other useful numbers - Playa de Oro RV Park 602 476 2242,

Hotel El Mirador 480 626 5841. Sea Side Reservations (condos) 480 282 8608.



UPDATE AT ROCKY POINT: September 29, 2020

...reported by Vince Deadmond, DFC Trout Bum

Just returned from Rocky Point this morning. Fishing is good, the border is open, most restaurants, bars, and cantinas are open with masks and a squirt bottle of hand sanitizer. Any questions about lodging, dining, gear, fly fishing or tequila feel free to ask.

Catch me,
Vince Deadmond at:
vince@ajbest.com
or 480 818 1796.



Fish from the Second Estuary.
A local cantina turned them into
a fabulous dinner. Coffee at the
Vina Del Mar.

ROCKY POINT OUTING PLACES TO EAT

With 146 restaurants in Rocky Point I wanted to point out some places with the open air patio dining option. Those of you who have been to RP before will recognize most of the names, but some new players have opened and of course I have had to sample the new places.

Pitaya Bar - Palapa hut bar right on beach near the RV park has food

Pollo Lucas - on Benito Jarez Blvd. Great grilled chicken

Wrecked at the Reef - Sports Bar has bar food on Sandy Beach

Al Capones - sea food Pizza - in town

El Capitan - top of hill great view nice menu

Puesta del Sol - dining on the beach at Playa Bonita Resort

Manny's Beach Club - Mirador Beach close to RV Park

New - Jill's Joint - close to RV Park good bands

Giuseppi's - coffee/breakfast place

JJ's Cantina - Cholla Bay

New - Cookiez Cantina - Follow me!

New Name - Margarita Mermaids (old Satisfied Frog) top of Malecon



The Irish Fisherman

The rain was pouring down. There, standing in front of a big puddle outside the pub, was an old Irishman, drenched, holding a stick, with a piece of string dangling in the water.

A passer-by stopped and asked, "What are you doing?"

"Fishing," replied the old man.

Feeling sorry for the old man, the gent says, "Come in out of the rain and have a drink with me."

In the warmth of the pub, as they sip their whiskies, the gentleman, being a bit of a smart ass, cannot resist asking, "How many have you caught today?"

"You're the eighth," says the old man.

September 2020:

Fishing Trip to

Wyoming and Utah

by Carl Rutherford

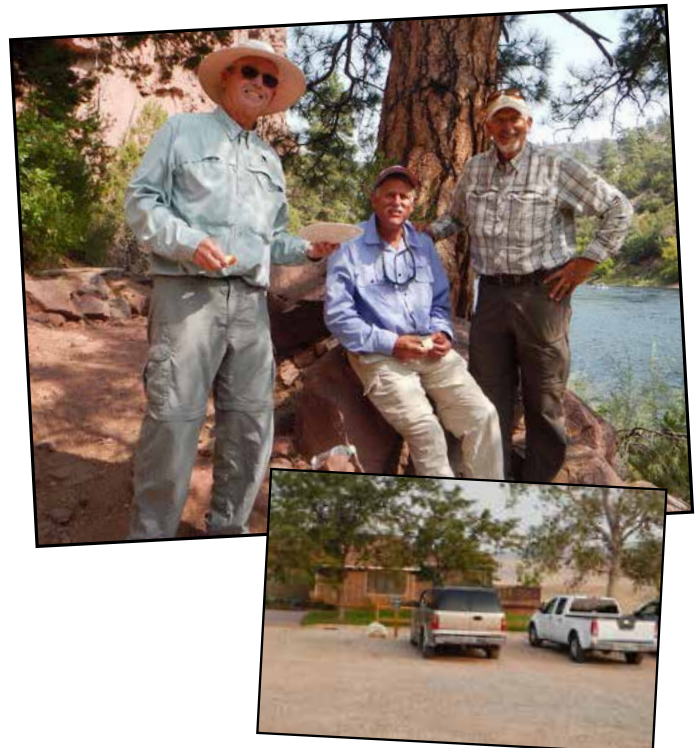
Three dental school classmates met up near Casper, Wyoming for 4 days of fishing on the North Platte. We stayed in a house above the river that had room for 8 people. Breakfast, lunch and dinner were supplied. However, we opted to go into Casper for dinner. Ed Lawrence organized this trip. The lodge was called Crazy Rainbow Lodge and the shop was called the Ugly Bug Fly Shop. It was a comfortable setup with a big porch overlooking the river. I chose to fish all four days with a guide named John Robinson. We switched partners each day. From the other fishermen's comments, he seemed to be one of the best guides there. The water was pretty clear-maybe 3-4 feet visibility. The first day we fished to west of Alcova. It was a slow day with an average number of fish caught of average size. The largest fish in our boat was a 22 inch carp. We used a three fly nymph set up with a cork indicator. The next day we put in at Evansville, which is east of Casper. This was a section that was not fished very often because there were less but larger fish. But it was a stellar day. Right from the beginning, we were catching many large fish. We had to put 50% of these Rainbows (mostly) on the reel. I am glad I brought my 6 wt. rod. After lunch, we got into skinny water and changed to a hopper dropper. After a lull, things picked up again and we landed many large fish. We spent a considerable amount of time sight fishing, which is always fun. One of the highlights was a large Rainbow jumping 7-8 times before we landed it. We stayed on that east section the next two days and had similar success. The weather was sunny and calm. We did not fish the Miracle Mile or Freemont Canyon because they were not fishing well. One of the interesting laws in Wyoming is the land owners own the river bottom. You cannot legally anchor or wade in the river between private properties without permission. We went to good restaurants in town each night. The Silver Fox was the closest. The last night we went to HQ Southern Barbecue in Evansville. We had an outstanding meal. The price was also right.

We then drove about 4 hours to Dutch John, Utah for 4 days of fishing on the Green River. We stayed at Trout Creek Flies motel. These accommodations were a step down from the Crazy Rainbow but adequate. We had Gene Gautieri and Carl (Boomer) Stout as guides. On the first day, Friday, we fished the upper, or A, section of the river. It was very crowded. Besides the commercial guide boats, there were many private boats of assorted types. This fishery allows spinning rods and is not catch and release. Some of these private fishermen were clueless when it came to fishing etiquette. Boomer started us with a dry Black Momba and two nymphs in an eddy. We caught many small Rainbows. We tried some dry flying with minimal success. The water was gin clear, the sky had some smoke haze and it was a little windy. Both guides wanted us to stand while fishing. This tailwater was very pretty with steep canyons and lots of trees. It had rapids that were dangerous for the inexperienced. We were hot because the temperature was in the high 80's and we were required to wear non-inflatable life jackets.

Saturday, we fished the bottom section because of the expected crowds on the weekend and we wanted to fish all the sections. No life jackets were required here. It took 45 minutes to get to this section. The end of C section ends right before the Colorado border. Most of this section did not have steep walls like A. This section was much less crowded than A. We used Chubbies all day and had great success. I landed several large browns and many small rainbows. I also lost many fish. The wind picked up after lunch. The gusts were heavy. I had just landed a nice brown and we had stopped next to a bank to release the fish. When I looked up there was a cow Moose staring at me 10 feet away. Our boat did better than most because Boomer had been guiding this river for 32 years. Many of the C section anglers came back with few fish. It was a great day despite the wind. My guide told me they did not like to come down very often because of the time it took to get there and the gas cost-hint, hint. So I tipped him extra.

Sunday, we fished B section. The wind the day before had blown the smoke away and it was much cooler. We were fishing a Chubby with either a red or purple belly. We had a Triple Double attached to the bend. I caught some nice browns between 17 and 19.5 inches. I missed many other fish because I was setting the hook too quickly. After I started pausing before setting the hook, my hook up percentage increased. It was not very crowded here and the wind was ok. This section also had some "bigger" rapids.

The last day was my favorite. I was solo with Gene on A section. Because it was a weekday, it was not very crowded. He acted like a drill instructor for the first hour, but then mellowed. I had caught 5-6 small rainbows using a hopper, streamer and a small soft hackle. We then moved downstream to a large eddy. We spent 2-3 hours targeting rainbows with two small dries, a 20 and a 22. This was the most fun I had had all week. Because the water was so clear you could see them opening their mouths to take the flies. I learned to wait on the takes and it paid off. We missed meeting the other boat for lunch because of this, but it seemed Gene was having as much fun as I. I learned that the other boat wanted to do the same thing but all the eddies were taken. After lunch, things slowed down for a while. We were back to using the hopper and Triple Double. Then, in a big rapid



behind a large boulder, I stuck a 20-inch brown. Then I got 2 more large browns and I was done. I was exhausted and rested the rest of way. Gene gave me several of the flies I had been using so I could tie them when I got home. I got a Chubby, Soft Hackle (very unique), a couple Triple Doubles and a Black Momba. I drove back to Mesa the next day.

Our room was ok for 3 people. One person had to sleep on a rollaway which was saggy. The walls were thin and there was spaces between the connecting door and the jamb. My roommates were kept up the first two nights because of noise coming from the adjacent room. There were cabins available but they were only for 2 people.

The eating options were not good in Dutch John. I was forewarned that the restaurant at our lodge closes early, before we return from fishing. We were also told that the restaurant next door is not to be used unless we were in 'a pinch'. That left Flaming Gorge Resort, 7 miles down the road or Red Canyon Resort 10 miles down the road. We ate at Flaming Gorge Resort twice. It was ok the first time (although we had to wait an hour to get a table). We went

there on the last night, It was horrible. It was not busy, but we waited over an hour to get our hamburgers that were over-cooked. The Red Canyon Resort was ok but crowded. There are no grocery stores nearby. We had a microwave and a small refrigerator in our room.

In summary, the North Platt had large healthy fish. The Crazy Rainbow Lodge was comfortable. The food was good both at the lodge and in town. Our guiding was very good. If the Miracle Mile and Freemont Canyon were fishing well, it would been an even better fishery. The Green River was prettier. But it was much more crowded. Do not fish the A section on the weekend. The accommodations were adequate. The eating arrangements were poor. The fishing was good with unique dry flying opportunities. The guiding was superb.

For 70+ year olds, 8 days of fishing is a little too much.

Questions • Comments?
Catch Carl at: carlruthe@gmail.com



OCTOBER 2020

Desert Fly Casters Conservation Corner

JOE MILLER
DFC Conservation Chairman



Questions?
Catch me, Joe Miller at:
jamiller101@gmail.com

Greetings Everybody ! - Well, It's Almost Cooling Down in the Valley, and it's actually happening in the High Country. Now that worst of the heat has broken, and that Some members and friends have been able to get out and fish at least a little, it's time to think more about Fall Fishing. Tiger Trout on the Rim Lakes, BIG Rainbows and Apaches in Silver Creek (Catch & Release Only as of October 1), Carp in the Canals, Becker Lake with WMLF later in October! Let's go Fishing!

Here's some of the latest on the Conservation side:

AZGFD Proposed Fishing Regulations Changes: DFC Has already fully supported the Proposed AZGFD Regulation Changes for 2021 - 2022. We've sent a letter to the Department and to the AZGF Commission expressing that support, especially for the Catch and Release Only opening of the Dude Creek Gila Trout fishery next spring, and some of the Catch & Release Seasonal Regs on key waters and limit changes across the state. The Proposed Regulation changes had a "First Read" at the Commission meeting last Friday Sept 25 at their meeting in Greer.

DFC Got an early ZOOM Meeting Update on Lees Ferry Rainbow Trout Fishery Brown Trout Management Plans (IH), Both a representative of the NPS Jeff Arnold and a representative of the AZGFD Scott Rogers gave us an Update on what's to be happening on the Colorado at Lees Ferry, Including the very latest on the NPS Brown Trout Incentivized Harvest Control project. There will be several Press Releases coming from the NPS in the next few weeks announcing more details.

Final Stage of the E Verde River Stream Restoration Project: Many of our DFC Trout Bums have seen and been Really Happy with the AZGFD, Tonto NF, and our own Stream Restoration \$\$ results at Flowing Springs, Second Crossing, and Third Crossing. And we're all doing Happy Dances with the fantastic timing and Huge Success of the Gila Trout Recreational Fishing Stockings up there. Well, the final stage of work is gearing up to start in a couple months! That will be near the Washington Park Trailhead. It'll be work that does Not use Heavy Equipment, all to be done by hand. Curt Gill of AZGFD, a Representative of Natural Channel Design Co, some Tonto NF folks, and Jim Stroger were up there one day last week to survey for Trees and specific Locations where the work will be done, HOPEFULLY IN NOVEMBER! There will be need / opportunity for Volunteers, and we'll be asking members and some of the other supporting organizations for help. **MORE INFO SOON!**

And New Expanded **Upper East Verde River Watershed Restoration Project:** Joe Miller is continuing to work with AZGFD and with Tonto NF on defining an expansion and continuation of the project work we've seen already done on the East Verde. That expanded area will include work on Dude Creek and on Chase Creek and some small tributaries. We'll keep you posted, and will be presenting a lot more details soon. It's going to be Good Stuff! Contact: jamiller101@gmail.com.

AND, Once Again, 4FRI: There's still much going on; Aquatics Dialogs on how to integrate those restoration efforts with the more traditional forest timber cutting and thinning are still progressing. BUT, There's been some more delays on broader aspects of the whole initiative. First, the USFS Request for Proposals (RFP) process to receive and select bids on actual work across almost a million acres in Rim Country has now been delayed until likely March of 2021 for actual selection. It's complicated, and a lot of folks, companies and individuals are not happy about this delay, which may also effect the need for an effective means of removing Biomass across the forest. AND ALSO, the whole NEPA effort to finalize the Rim Country EIS so the work can actually be started is now expected to continue until "Mid September" of 2021. Not good news, but we'll keep pushing! The very latest news (on Friday September 25) is that most of the AZ Congressional Delegation have signed onto a letter to the Chief of USFS asking that efforts be expedited!

Black River Forest Restoration EA A-S NF Draft to be Released for Additional Public Comments: That NEPA Planning Document is expected to be released for an additional 30 Day Public Comment Period by NEXT WEEK! We're watching for it, will COMMENT on it, and Happy to send a copy to Any member for review!

Clean-up and Fishing at Woods Canyon and Willow Springs Lakes

Jim Stroger



Would you like to catch some rainbow and tiger trout at Woods Canyon & Willow Springs Lakes, and clean up the lake at the same time?

If you are a Trout Unlimited member, you should soon be getting an email invitation from the TU Conservation Committee, to meet at Woods Canyon Lake

Woods Canyon Lake on October 24th • Willow Springs Lake on November 7th
The meeting place for both events is the boat ramp at 9 am.

This outdoor activity will allow us to maintain our social distance while cleaning up the shore and doing some fishing. If you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, please do so. We will have trash bags on hand, and if you have a trash grabber it might help with the bait containers, and other trash along the lake.

Please bring your own lunch, snacks, and drinks for the day. We will clean up first, and then fish afterwards.

You do not have to be a TU member to join in the work and fishing for the day. I am hoping that Desert Flycasters' Club members will be at both events. Payson Flycasters' Club members will be on hand if you have never fished these lakes to offer advice. I imagine some folks will plan to fish from shore, while others will want to get out on the lake after the clean-up in a float tube. Both lakes are low enough that you can fish from shore, but waders will give you a bit more clearance from the trees (especially on Woods Canyon Lake). I hope that you will be able to attend.

Please RSVP to join us at:

Woods Canyon Lake Clean-up October 24th at 9am by the boat ramp:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/120550402499>

Willow Springs Lake Clean-up on November 7th at 9am by the boat ramp:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/120577770357>

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DATES TO KEEP IN MIND...2020

Carp Instructions

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

Kiwanis Park

Kiwanis Park (roughly Guadalupe and Rural roads)

Host: Tom Horvath • email: mhorvath@reddeconstruction.com

cell: 602-768-7280

BECKER LAKE OUTING

Saturday-Sunday October 17-18, 2020

*Feel free to come early or stay late; this is a great time
to be in the White Mountains!*

Host: Frank Schettino at:

sketno1026@hotmail.com, or cell 917-414-5428

Hate this time of year.

Busy night at Stonehenge as all the
workers move the stones backward
one hour...



NOTE:

A reminder notice for our Wednesday, October 14, 2020 DFC Club Meeting
will be e-mailed to membership prior to meeting.