

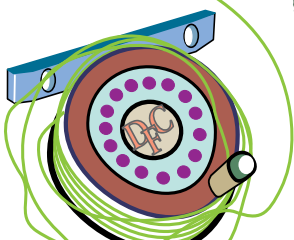
FORWARD CASTS

OFFICIAL DESERT FLY CASTERS NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER
Wednesday,
September 9, 2020
Chit-Chat & Dinner

SEPTEMBER 9, 2020
ZOOM
DFC CLUB MEETING



President's Drift

Frank Schettino • September 2020

Greeting fellow Trout Bums,

Last month we had our first Zoom meeting. It was a success, it was watched by 40 members and Jim Stroger's presentation was great, THANKS Jim. For this month's meeting we will do another zoom meeting. Jim Stroger will be back with info on how to fish Silver Creek. He will have a guest with him from the NPS to let us know what's going on with the incentive harvest at Lee's Ferry. Something we all want to know more about.

Keep an eye out on the newsletter and bulletin for the latest on the status of outings. We are trying to keep it as up to date as possible.

I want to take a moment to thank all our first responders, our active military members for all their hard work protecting our great nation. We will never forget 9-11-01. *See you on Zoom*



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

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Page 6 with Vince and Dick

Add Movement To Your Fly Imitation
Pages 8 & 9 with Jim Stroger

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Mystery Regarding Bamboo Fly Rods
Page 13 • Brad Norgaard
Fellow Arizona Flycasters Club Member

Desert Fly Casters Conservation Funds Project
Page 14

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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DFC BULLETIN

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

Editor's Notes an' Ramblings...



Bob McKeon,
DFC Newsletter Editor, Graphic Guru,
Head Wrangler of Stuff, Certified
Lawn Tossing of Old Rods an' things.
Questions/Comments?
Catch me at:
rmckeon2@cox.net



This month I wanted to follow up on Jim Stroger's article (*Passing It On*) last month regarding the fine art of fly fishing with bamboo rods. One of the first gentlemen I met when I moved to Phoenix from Michigan was Brad Norgaard. Brad was interested in bamboo rods as we found a lasting friendship through 2 books I co-authored regarding bamboo fly rods. Brad and I along with fellow enthusiast, Jim Harris, spent time lawn tossing various bamboo rods we had in our collections. Jim was a talented craftsman producing some treasured bamboo rods before he accepted a (...a dream job!) hydrologist position in Thorne Bay, Alaska. I believe Brad tagged the 3 of us with the name: "Bamboozlers," (sans libations) one day while we hung out together.

I asked Brad to join us with an article for our Trout Bums. See Brad's article, "*What is the Mystery Regarding Bamboo Fly Rods?*" [on page 13](#).

Brad's invited me to his house where there's plenty of room in his back yard to work some bamboo rods in his collection along with mine.

Thank you for sharing, Brad, I admire what you and the rest of the Arizona Flycasters Club are doing.

Tom Horvath joins us with one of his favorite flies he's used, *Pheasant Tail Soft Hackle*. Another quick easy tie for all of us to include in our vest (see *Fly of the Month*- page 5). Tom has also mentioned he's got 25 (plus) signed up for his *Carp Instructions DFC Outing*- Saturday, October 3, 2020. [Information on page 4](#) for details of this popular outing.

SAN JUAN CANCELED- Ouch!! One of our more popular outings will have to be put off until next year. Host, Billy Wingo informed me the lack of anyone signing up was the main factor along with the COVID-19 ...no one really wanted to travel. Thanks Billy for your enthusiasm and leadership role you've taken with this outing over the years. We'll touch base next year with you.

The DFC Board has voted \$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

Your help with this program as a DFC Trout Bum will be important... and awarding. [See page 14](#) for details along with receiving a pin for your participation.

I'll see you on the DFC ZOOM September Club Meeting. Be kind to one another.

Stay safe. Travel well.

R.McKeon, Editor



**You are invited to the
Desert Fly Casters
ZOOM Club Meeting
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 • 7:30 PM**



Join us on Zoom for presentations on
**Tips to Successfully Fish Silver Creek and
The National Park Service
Incentivized Harvest Program at Lees Ferry**

There are two short presentations that will be of interest to
Club members who fish Silver Creek and/or Lees Ferry.
Additional information is found on page 11

**CONNECTION
IS GOOD FOR
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020
7:30 PM
ONLY**

Topic: Desert Flycasters Monthly Meeting
7:30pm Wednesday, September 9, 2020 Arizona Time

How to connect

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86965791077?pwd=cVEwaS9oMkEyZ01VdlhCc3VKVWhOQT09>

Meeting ID: 869 6579 1077

Passcode: DFC9

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 simi-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, catch:
Joe Staller at: joestaller@yahoo.com • (602) 568-9431



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



San Juan River Trip

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

If you are interested you must get in by August 31st. **1st group arrive 9/21**

LAST CALL

CANCELED!



Three nights
What a great trip in here in the San Juan River. The park is closed to fishing, which is a great thing. The trip being canceled 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.**



FLY OF THE MONTH

...from Tom Horvath's Fly Box

Pheasant Tail Soft Hackle



Hook: 1X nymph no bead or 2x with bead #12-18

Bead: Black sized to hook

Thread: Uni-thread 8/0 black

Tail: Pheasant tail

Rib: Small copper wire

Body: Pheasant tail

Thorax: SLF Red squirrel thorax

Hackle: Soft hen hackle brown or grizzly

Note: you can use purple pheasant tail, silver rib, purple ice dub for the thorax and black hackle and this was the fly for Carnero a few weeks ago.

Fly-fishing may be a very pleasant amusement; but angling or float fishing
I can only compare to a stick and a string, with a worm
at one end and a fool at the other."

Samuel Johnson

ANOTHER WELL PLANNED TRIP by Vince Deadmond

Many of the club outings are well thought out excursions, that have a great fishing destinations, with good inexpensive accommodations.

If you took a guided program to the same destination it would cost considerably more money. The guided program is a great way to get personal attention and sharpen your learning curve. I just want to point out what a great opportunity the club trips are, and what a great value they can be. They work best when you sign up for the trip, and keep in touch so we can plan. Many times the host has answered the most obvious questions with a handout. If you do your part to be helpful these trips can be awesome. The club fly fishing trips are a good way to get outside and social distance during this time of Covid.

Mike James, Utah Fly Fishing guide gave the club a presentation on fishing the Boulder Mountain central Utah area in 2015. Since then Dick Brooks has made numerous fly fishing trips to the area. Dick hosted the recent August DFC Utah trip, which was masterfully planned and organized.

Dick put together a great packet that gave maps, options for housing, answered fishing gear questions, and directed anglers to the best fishing locations. If you are looking for less crowded fishing, with more aggressive fish, slower paced living & cheaper prices you should have joined Dick Brooks, Vince Deadmond, George Gohagan, and Michel Monroe, in the Loa, Bicknell area of central Utah. We camped outside of Bicknell in a beautiful canyon that had a fire ring, level camp sight, running water, and flush toilets for \$7.50 per night with the geezer pass. Numerous fishing venues were less than one hour drive time from the camp. The roads are rough and I would recommend that you have four wheel drive in your group. We fished meadows for aggressive cutthroat trout, small cool lakes, that we could fish from shore and we landed Brook Trout, Rainbow, Brown Trout, Tiger Trout and found out that Grayling were also in the neighborhood. One lake we used U-boats and I would suggest that you bring them if you own one.

It's just more fun to fish dry flies and the fishing action was fast and and furious on Parachute Adams, Elk Hair Caddis, and Stimulators. George caught 20-30 fish on an almost hairless Stimulator before he retired it. Sub surface flies that worked were wooly buggers, blowtorch flies, and the soft



hackle. If you missed out on this trip there is still time to throw together a small group outing to this area on your own. I would suggest a group of 2-4 people would work best for the size of the water that this area has, and don't forget Mike James has a fly shop in Loa. The water from Forsythe Reservoir, one of the main bodies of water to fish, was used up for irrigation, so plan to be flexible with your trip. *If things really get bad the ice cream brownie is recommended by Dick Brooks.*



Questions/Comments?
Catch me, Vince Deadmond at:
vince@ajbest.com

Ice Cream Brownies an' Fishin'?
Along with thoughts for UTAH 2021
Catch me, Dick Brooks at:
gdubby77@gmail.com



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**"Kindness is more important than wisdom,
and the recognition of this is the beginning of wisdom."**

Theodore Isaac Rubin



Add Movement to Your Fly Imitation

by
Jim Strogon

Illustrations by
Robert McKeon

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

Many fly fishers love to use dry flies; some fish them exclusively. I don't fish with dry flies unless there is clear evidence that the fish are rising for bugs on the top. Even then, I will almost certainly tie on an emerger or midge pattern underneath the dry fly that drifts just below the surface, and try to dance both flies a bit.

The reason for my reluctance to tie on a dry fly as my go-to fly rather than the wet flies that I normally use is that most of the life cycle stages of aquatic insects are under water. Mayflies are a great example. Once the egg is laid in the water, the aquatic nymph goes through several instars while remaining underwater for about a year. These stages are simply larger versions of the previous instar.

Finally, the nymph changes, often with a struggle as it tries to break the water surface, into an adult called a dun. This is why an emerger pattern imitating the bug struggling in the surface film is a great choice for fish looking for an easy meal. The dun then changes one more time in that adult stage to what is referred to as a spinner. The spinners are the reproducing males and females. They have no mouthparts and the total time as both a dun and a spinner last about 24-48 hours.

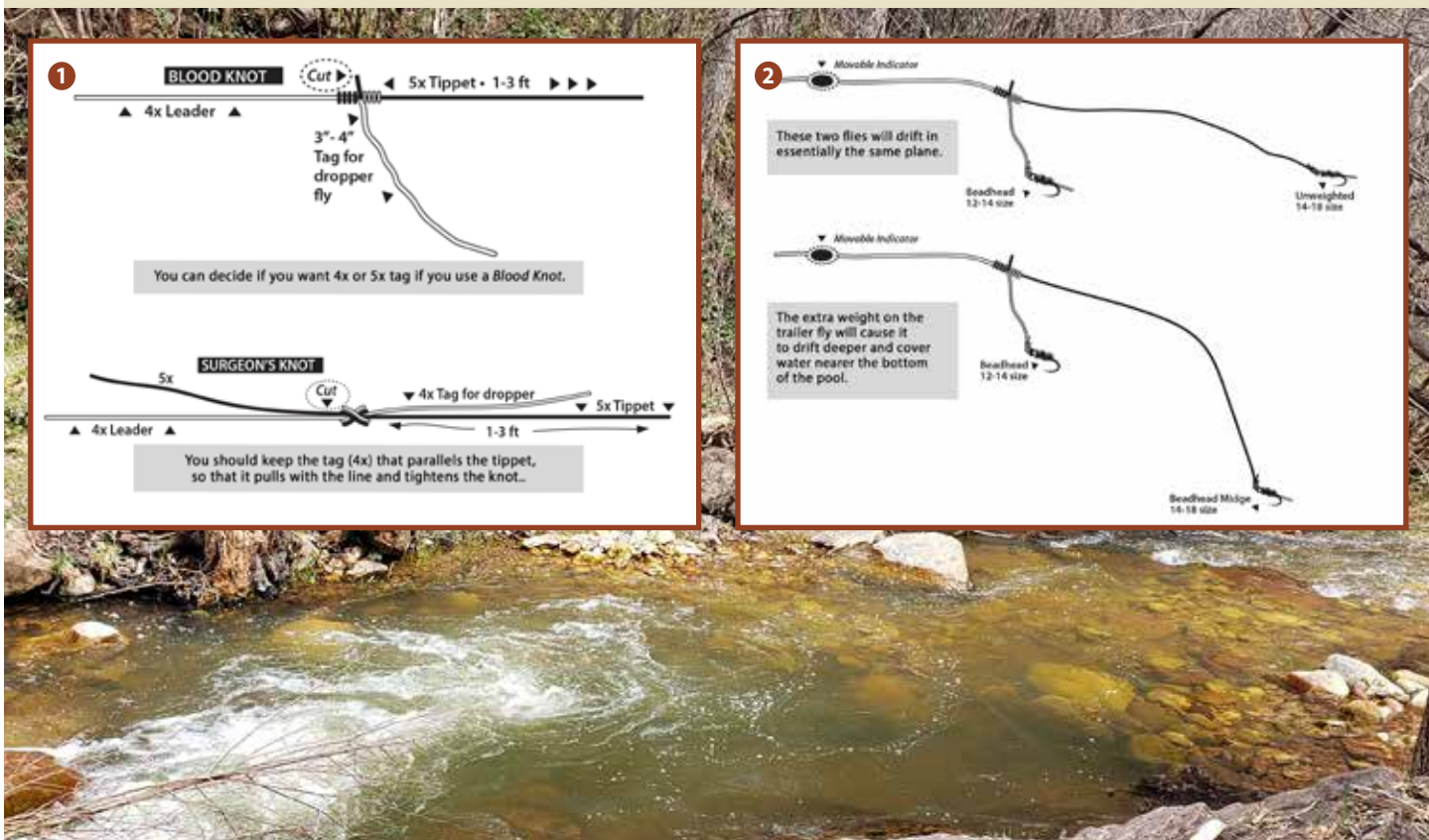
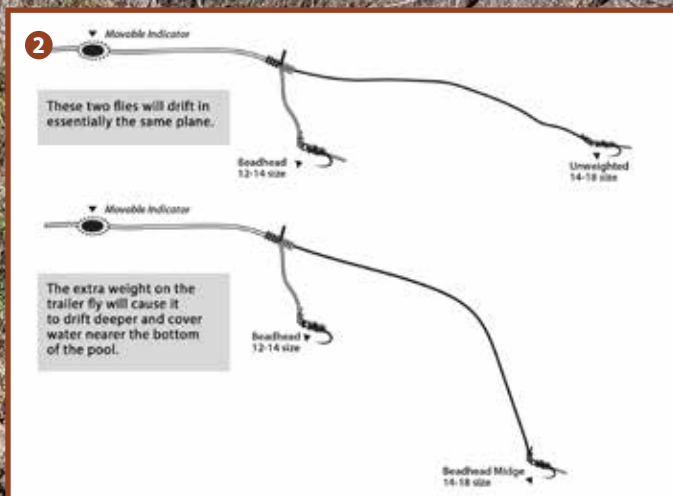
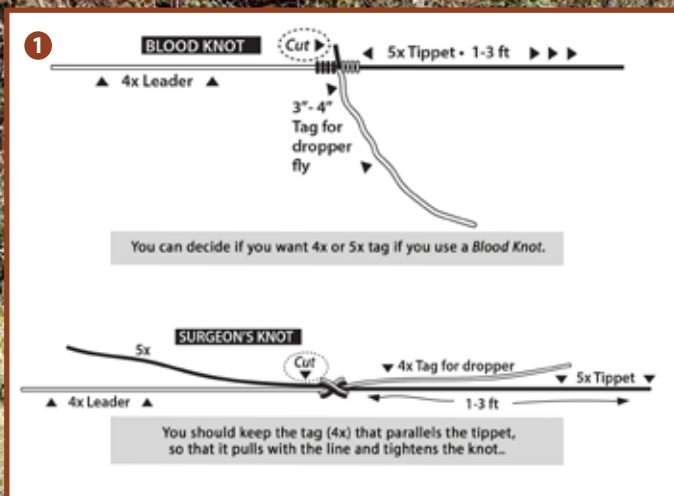
So a mayfly nymph is in the water in front of fish for a full year, while the adult stage is mostly available to the fish once it turns into a spinner and either is laying eggs on the water, or as they die and land on the water.

There are many different types of aquatic insects in streams and lakes with similar life stages that fly fishers spend a great deal of time trying to imitate. What is often missing in the imitation is the action that mimics how these aquatic insects move in the water. By studying these bugs in a white dishpan along a creek, you can begin to incorporate their movement into your presentation to the fish.

I use a two fly rig to accomplish this, and provide choice for the fish that I am targeting. Using two flies is permitted in Arizona, but it is important to know the regulations in each state you intend to fish in case that rig is not permitted.

Many fly fishers use a two fly set-up, but typically tie the trailing fly (second fly) with a piece of tippet to the bend of hook of the first fly. This has the advantage of keeping everything in line and potentially avoiding line tangles, but it makes it hard to change the first fly, because you will have to retie the second fly to the new first fly to maintain the rig.

Instead, I use a blood knot or a surgeon's knot when I add my tippet material. Then I cut off one of the tag ends of the knot, but leave the other tag free to add a fly to. Generally, I will leave a tag of about three inches and then extend the remaining tippet anywhere from an additional foot to three feet depending on how deep I want my trailer fly to extend beyond my dropper fly in the water. (*figure 1*)





**Instead,
I use a blood knot
or a surgeon's knot
when I add
my tippet material.**

Often, I will use a bead-head fly in a size 12-14 for my dropper fly and an unweighted fly or the trailer fly. If I am fishing under an indicator on Tonto Creek during shallow summer conditions, I will usually have about a foot between my indicator and the weighted dropper fly, while the trailing fly might only be a foot below the dropper. Since it is unweighted, it drifts close to the same line in the water as the dropper fly though the pool. If the hole is deeper, then I will use a weighted trailing fly to allow it to drift deeper and cover different water. (figure 2)

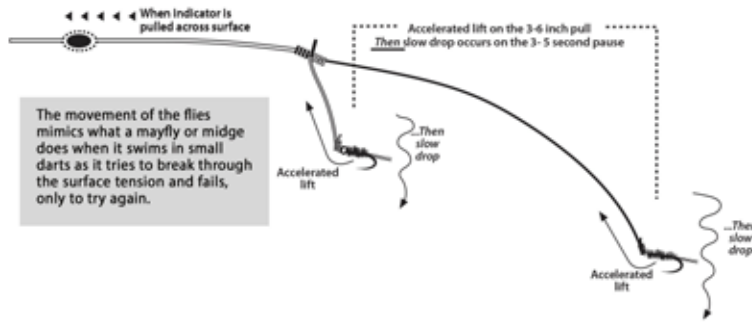
Drifting the fly is really not an accurate description of what I do when I cast upstream. After the cast, I will allow it to drift until I feel that the flies have reached the correct depth in the stream. Then I will give the fly a three or four inch gentle tug, and pause it again for a short natural drift, and repeat the process through the pool. (figure 3) That pull lifts the dropper fly up a few inches and closely imitates the movement of a mayfly nymph as it drifts downstream. Often I will get a strike as the fly settles down again after the tug. I think fish might be attracted to the movement, and then grab the fly as it again floats helplessly downstream.

Using this same technique casting downstream with a weighted fly as the dropper, but this time with an unweighted wooly bugger as the trailing fly, creates an even bigger choice for the fish. The dropper fly still looks like that mayfly, but this time it acts like a mayfly coming to the surface to emerge and change into an adult. The wooly bugger wiggles from side to side and resembles either a minnow, damselfly nymph, or perhaps a crane fly larva. (figure 4)

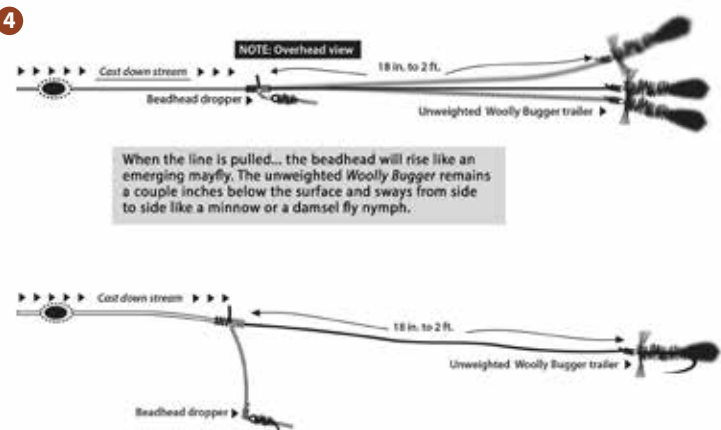
When I do tie on a dry fly as the dropper, often it is the trailing emerger pattern or the midge that the fish will grab.

If you are casting two flies, I have found that is helpful to slow down your cast a tad to help avoid tangles. The two fly rig is a technique that works very well for me, and allows me to imitate aquatic insect movement effectively. I suggest you give it a try.

3



4





...Staying Connected with us!

Summer in the Colorado Mountains

with
Larry Gallegos



Randy and I went to Hayden Meadows on the upper Arkansas River earlier this week. (Randy Hellinger is a (Colorado) friend, neighbor and fishing buddy.) Being at an elevation of 9,600 feet, the upper Arkansas basin stays cool all summer and is a welcomed reprieve from Denver's ongoing 90+ degree temperatures. Getting there from the Denver area is a two-hour drive but the mountain scenery all along the way is so lush and beautiful that you don't mind the commute.

Hayden Meadows is an eight-mile section of the Arkansas River and one of my favorite fishing destinations. The thing that makes it special is that the Arkansas splits into two distinct river systems there. The main river channel retains only about one third of its flow as it meanders along the west edge of this high mountain meadow. Because of this reduction in flow and relatively flat terrain, the normally fast-running river flows tranquilly and makes wade fishing easier and much less treacherous. The majority of the river's flow, on the other hand, splits off and runs haphazardly through the meadow in separate streamlets. These streamlets diverge, then intersect, then split apart again as they meander down through the meadow. These crisscrossing streams form what is known as a "braided river." Most of these wandering streamlets, or braids, are very fishable, ranging from 4 to 12 feet in width, one to three feet in depth and with sand and gravel bottoms. The entire meadow is covered by tall grass and thick willows, providing both cooling shade and an excellent insect habitat. On the other hand, precision casting is a necessity, as the willows sometimes form a canopy nearly enclosing sections of the narrow braids.

The main channel has a good population of rainbow and brown trout, although browns are the predominant species. The braids, on the other hand, seem to be inhabited solely by browns. We parked at the bottom of Hayden Meadows and Randy started on the main channel while I started on the braids.

My first rig was a Higa's SOS and a worm and I quickly picked up two small browns on the worm. Then, the fish stopped biting. I spooked a number of smallies as I worked my way upstream to a deepish pool where I'd previously caught a number of good-size fish. But my luck didn't hold. After 10 or 12 drifts, I had only one brief hookup.

Knowing fish were present, I started changing rigs to find out what those picky fish wanted. Eventually I tied-on a #18 Hare's Ear and caught two nice browns in rapid succession.

Continuing upstream, the Hare's Ear seemed to be the ticket, although fish-catching was slower than on previous visits. Eventually my fly hooked onto a stick. I waded in to retrieve it and made two important observations. First, although the crystal-clear water appeared to be a foot deep, it was actually thigh deep. And second, the stick that I'd hooked was completely covered with dozens, maybe hundreds, of cone-shaped cased caddis husks. I changed to the nearest caddis nymph imitation I had on hand, a #18 Anato May, and moved my indicator up to suit the surprisingly deep water.

I caught a couple more browns on the Anato. Then Randy radioed that he'd been doing pretty well on dry flies. It was time to start heading back and I found a wider braid to follow downstream. It looked perfect for dry flies. I changed to a #16 Elk Hair Caddis and on the second cast got a flash of interest from a resident brown. But a flash is not a bite. This happened several more times as I worked my way down stream. Oh well, things usually slow down around mid-day and I was eager for a bite (of lunch) myself.

We got to the parking lot as the wind picked up. The willows at Hayden Meadows are not wind-friendly so we headed to a lake a few miles upstream.

This lake has a large damsel fly population and Randy started with a Damsel nymph while I tried a damsel dry. We both got hits and quickly hooked up nice, hard fighting, rainbows. Randy landed his while mine broke off. Randy switched to dry flies and, after some experimenting, I went with a tiny Magic May nymph trailed by a Chamois Leech. Over the next hour Randy caught quite a few (more than me) and landed all of his while I caught four, one of which broke off. In short, I had a great time and I think Randy did as well.

We got back to Denver during the heat of the day but I didn't care. Just thinking about the upper Arkansas and its crisp clean air, crystalline streams and snow-capped mountains kept my mind in an enduring zone of cool comfort. If mind over matter is a real thing, I'll take memories of Hayden Meadows as my mantra.



RIGHT ON LARRY!



Questions/Comments?

Catch me, Larry Gallegos at:
relaw@msn.com

September 9, 2020 ZOOM Club Meeting Presentations & Discussions:

Join us for two short presentations that will be of interest to Club members who fish Silver Creek and/or Lees Ferry.



1st part of the program: **Silver Creek**

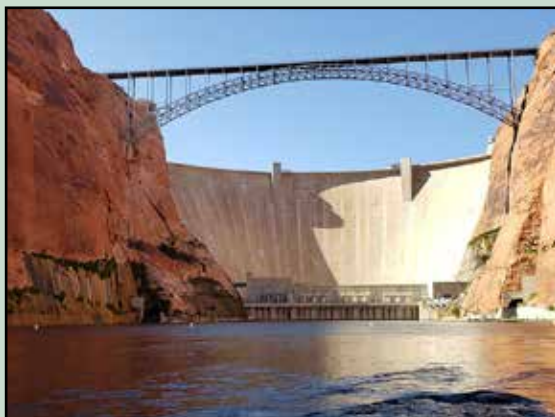
Have you ever wanted to fish Silver Creek outside of Show Low for Apache trout and BIG rainbow trout?

Jim Stroger will share information about Silver Creek that will help newcomers be successful. Silver Creek is largely a slow moving stream with steep banks that requires some planning by anglers to determine where to cast from in order to successfully net a large fish that can be quickly released. That is a nice problem to have.

The Catch and Release season runs from October 1st through March 31st, so this presentation will help you get set for some great fishing before the trout have seen everyone's flies multiple times.

Learn where to fish, some useful strategies and equipment, and take a look at some flies that work.

If you fish Silver Creek regularly, Jim hopes that you will share advice with Club members during the meeting.



2nd part of the program: **National Park Service (NPS) Incentivized Harvest Program at Lees Ferry**

The NPS has determined that the number of brown trout need to be reduced to a level that will minimize the likelihood of brown trout traveling downriver and pose a potential threat to the endangered and protected Humpback Chub population in the Little Colorado River and the confluence within Grand Canyon National Park. Larger brown trout are known to eat other fish at a rate 17x greater than rainbow trout.

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area remains responsible for providing a quality rainbow trout fishery in the Lees Ferry area since the completion of the Glen Canyon Dam and the establishment of that cold water habitat.

The NPS, however, is also charged with protecting native species and minimizing the impact of introduced and invasive species. The original plan proposed by NPS was to mechanically disrupt brown trout spawning redds in the river, and then conduct an extensive (6-8 weeks, nightly) electroshocking effort for the entire Reach from the dam down to Lees Ferry.

To avoid these much more aggressive tiers that could be damaging to the rainbow trout fishery, anglers and the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) were influential in having NPS add an Incentive Harvest (IH) tier in advance of these measures to allow anglers to catch and keep brown trout.

This tier needs and deserves fly fishers' support.

Even though we generally release our catch; by harvesting brown trout through this IH program (and earning money for each brown trout turned in) we hope to avoid these more aggressive management tiers.

Learn more about the Incentivized Harvest plan and how it will benefit the Lees Ferry fishery by reducing the need for more aggressive actions.

Jeff Arnold, Fisheries Biologist at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area will present information on the program. Scott Rogers, AZGFD Aquatics Wildlife Program Manager- Region II, which includes Lees Ferry, and Jim Stroger, Glen Canyon Technical Work Group Recreational Fishing Representative will also be on hand to provide perspective on the value of the Incentivized Harvest program to protect the Lees Ferry fishery.



Desert Fly Casters Conservation Corner

**SEPTEMBER
2020**



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

Greetings ALL ! - Hope All you Trout Bums are well, and that All Trout Bums and friends have been able to get out and fish at least a little, or even a Lot, or even for Carp (A Truly Great Fish)! I've heard that since Tonto NF has reopened some of you have been up there for Gilas. Those fish are FUN! *Here's some of the latest on the Conservation side:*

AZGFD Proposed Fishing Regulations Changes: DFC Board has fully supported the Proposed AZGFD Regulation Changes for 2021 - 2022. President Guy Frank has sent a letter to the Department and to the AZGF Commission expressing that support. If any of you sent individual Comment letters, good for you. The Commission will review and act on those recommendations September 25-26, 2020.

4FRI: There's much going on, but much the same as last month's report. Aquatics Dialogs still progressing. One significant Change is the long awaited Announcement of the Results for the Bids on timber thinning under the RFP Process have been delayed from "September" to "Late Fall". Maybe even later! We'll keep you posted! The Biomass Issue remains a "Hot" topic for the whole state, and is still critical to forests and Watersheds. See the item just below that may be a significant development in Forest Service Actions on Water Resources:

NEW!!! Just Released: *Southwestern Region 3 of USFS: Riparian and Aquatic Ecosystem Strategy*



Per US Forest Service - Purpose of Strategy: Water is a precious resource in the Southwest. Growing human demand and a changing climate create an urgency to protect these natural resources on the National Forests and Grassland. Riparian and aquatic areas, the places where land and water meet, are home to a unique group of plants, birds, insects, reptiles, amphibians, fish and mammals. These areas are essential to sustain life for millions of people and wildlife and plant species. We are inviting our partners to work with us to implement this strategy which is based on goals and objectives that will help maintain and restore these invaluable areas.

This Strategy may be very important for many of our fisheries here in Arizona. The full Strategy is available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r3/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=f-seprd601133>.

September 9th DFC ZOOM Meeting Update on Silver Creek Fishing by Jim Strogon, and A National Park Service Update on Lees Ferry Rainbow Trout Fishery & Proposed IH for Brown Trout: Jeff Arnold of the NPS, and Scott Rogers of AZGFD Flagstaff will give us an Update on what's happening on the Colorado, Including the very latest on the NPS Brown Trout Control project. See program Announcement in this Newsletter.

DFC Conservation Fund Awards: The Annual Awards for DFC Conservation Funds are Announced in this Newsletter! See the Separate Article, and look for the Opportunity to Pitch In!

And Finally: Upper East Verde River Watershed Restoration Project: We are continuing to work with AZGFD and with Tonto NF on defining an expansion and continuation of the project work we've contributed to on the East Verde River. 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 detail soon.

What is the Mystery Regarding Bamboo Fly Rods?

By Brad Norgaard



Brad has served on the Board of Directors of Arizona Flycasters for over 25 years including President (2018 - 2019), Vice President, Newsletter Editor, Library and Merchandise Chairs.

Questions/Comments?
Catch Brad at:
stream2699@cox.net

BRAD'S PLACE



Here's a picture of my rod rack. Its made from clear tubes intended for housing 4 foot fluorescent light bulbs that keep the glass from going all over if they were to break. I cut them

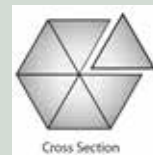
to length for the intended rod and add a piece of styrofoam to the ends to keep the rod sections from coming out. I've really outgrown this rack and need to build at least two more. Bamboo rods are just too pretty and interesting to hide away in a metal tube in the closet.

I've collected mostly Granger and mid-grade Heddon rods and have restored a few of them with a number more waiting to be redone.

Most of them come from Ebay but I've also acquired a few through friends I know in the local flyfishing community.

You've heard of them and probably seen one of these odd shaped rods in the past and may have wondered what these were all about. Bamboo rods have been around for well over 150 years and according to some, America is the home of the bamboo fly rod. Others will debate this.

A well-crafted six-sided bamboo rod has well over 50 man-hours in its construction and is made with precision and exact tolerances. Let's start with the basic construction. The entire length of the rod is made with six exact pieces of split bamboo. The best bamboo comes from a region in China upstream from Hong Kong and is called Tonkin. After being split by hand into narrow strips, the bamboo is then made even thinner on a special set of adjustable steel guides called a planing form. The plane can be adjusted to make different tapers which allows for different actions and lengths of the rod. Once the strips have been planed to the exact size, the strips are then glued together down the entire length of the rod piece. In the early years, animal hide glue was used and a dark line can be seen where the strips have been glued together.



Many vintage rods were mass produced in factories where each person had a specific function on the rod's construction. These were, in most cases, not very good rods but were sold by the thousands. A higher quality rod was created by one person who performed each stage of the rod's construction from beginning to end. Since these were built by a single person, great pride was taken and it showed in the end product both its aesthetics and performance.

There were so many manufacturers of rods making a wide variety of quality in the rods on the market. Let's look at a few ways to identify a quality rod from a rod that was mass produced. One of the first things I ask myself about the rod is the manufacturing process of the metal ferrules. Are they chrome plated brass or machined from a solid piece of nickel silver? Check the shoulders to see if they are rolled. If so, it's more than likely chrome plated brass. Next, take a look at the reel seat and hardware. Are these the same chrome plated brass or a machined piece of metal? All of the rod sections should be the same length. I thoroughly study every bamboo rod I can get my hands on.

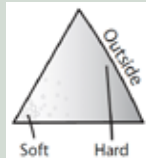
Another way to determine the quality is to look at the node spacing. A node is the wide part of the bamboo culm and is the weakest part of the bamboo. A quality manufacturer takes this into consideration and staggers them on the adjacent strips of the bamboo as far apart as possible. This is called "2 by 2" spacing. These few indicators should allow you to determine the quality of the rod.



Let's take a closer look at the individual bamboo strips that make up the segments to the rod. The outside of the actual bamboo has the strongest fibers and is therefore the strength of the rod. Great care is taken to remove as little as possible. The part of the bamboo towards the center is soft and has much less strength. However it is porous and will bond even tighter with the adhesive that is used to bind the strips together. Now that you're armed with a basic understanding of bamboo rod construction techniques and some of the materials used to create them, you'll be able to identify bamboo rods when you run across them.

One other item of interest. Don't do like Chubby Checker. When taking apart a bamboo rod, never twist the pieces. This can break the connection between the rod and the ferrule. Pull them straight apart. If the ferrules are stuck, hold the rod by the ferrules and place behind your knees. Slowly spread your knees apart using the strength in your knees. This will ensure you're pulled the sections apart straight.

I'm a lover of vintage things including Airstream travel trailers and, as you can tell, bamboo rods. Things were made with pride back then and not from this disposable world of today. A quality bamboo rod is a beautiful thing to behold and even better to fish.



2019 - 2020 Desert Fly Casters Conservation Funds Go To Two Worthy Projects

(BUT DFC Members can still make Additional Individual Contributions through the DFC Not-For-Profit Status! SEE HOW Below!)

The DFC Board has voted \$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.**

The WMLF Aerator Program: The WMLF, the AZGFD and the Friends of Luna Lake have worked long and hard with the Apache - Sitgreaves NF to install Aerator Systems in Luna Lake to prevent fish killing summer water quality problems. The DFC have made contributions to those efforts in the past years. Those Aerators are now installed and operating! Our Congratulations to them All!

Now WMLF is already working with AZGFD to start implementation of the next Aerator Project. Which Lake will it be? We congratulate all those who helped and contributed, and are very happy to continue our previous DFC Trout Bums contributions to the program. We look forward to the next successful installations, and to the better fishing they will provide!!!! And Individual Trout Bums can make additional Individual donations through the Club.

The AZGFD Canyon Creek Gila Trout Propagation Facility: The AZGFD Hatchery Staff at Canyon Creek 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! We Want More!

The Staff have developed 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 TROUT BUMS

can also Contribute Individually to **Either or Both these Great programs** through checks made to the Club. Several Club Officers have already committed to do so! Simply Make Checks Payable to: **Desert Fly Casters, PO Box 6404, Chandler, AZ 85246** and send them in. **Please add to the Memo Line either: "Gila Trout at Canyon Creek Hatchery", or "WMLF Aerator Program", or "Both Gila Trout & WMLF Aerators"** for a split of your donation, so we know exactly where you want the funds to go.

Just For the Canyon Creek Hatchery Gila Trout Program, Our fellow fly fishers at the Payson Fly Casters & Gila Trout Chapter have created a Pin Program to encourage Individual and Group Donations to this great cause: Making our on-stream wild fishing better. If you donate **\$25 or More** to the AZGFD Canyon Creek Gila Trout Facility, you will receive a unique **"I support Gila Trout in Rim Country"** Pin. (See pin below)
Only way to get one!

All the \$\$ of these donations will go directly to the Hatchery.



A Six
Strip
Split
Bamboo
Rod.

THE KOSMIC ROD

Perfect
in
Action
and
Finish.

Patented May 6, 1890, and May 27, 1890. Registered, March 18, 1890.

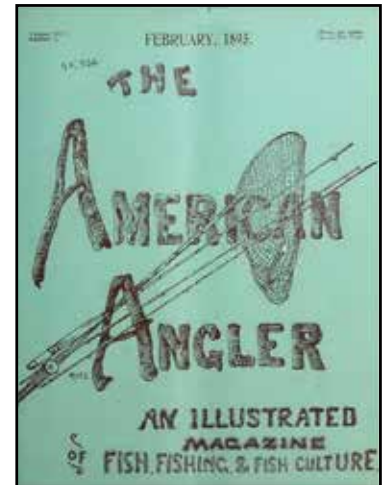
KOSMIC Rods approach as nearly an ideal standard as mechanical skill, and a practical knowledge of an angler's needs, can produce.

The Bamboo is of the finest quality, specially selected for us by experts in Calcutta, and is of our own direct importation. Our Patent Ferrules are *absolutely non-breakable at the joint.* Best German Silver.

We call particular attention to the mechanical principle of our Kosmic Ferrules. Rods break most frequently at the point where the wood enters the ferrule. When the diameter of a joint is reduced to enter the smaller diameter of the ferrule, its strength is lessened 40 per cent. In the Kosmic ferrules this objection has been entirely overcome. **There is no reduction in the size, or change in the shape of the wood, until it has passed a full half inch into the ferrules.** (See Figures 1 and 2.)

An elastic Celluloid Band (Fig. 1) re-inforces the bamboo and extends inside the ferrule to Fig. 2, producing a **Very Strong and Flexible End.** The point of greatest strain (between Fig. 1 and Fig. 2) thus becomes the *strongest part of the rod*, and it cannot break at this point. *We guarantee every rod.* Fig. 3 represents our patent Waterproof Cap, which prevents the entrance of water into the joint.

Fig. 1—Elastic Celluloid Band, re-inforcing the Bamboo. Fig. 2—German Silver Ferrule, Patented May 6, 1890. Fig. 3—Patent Waterproof Cap, excluding all moisture.



As advertised
a well known bamboo
fly rod maker found in:
The
American
Angler
1895

And finally, I fish not because I regard
fishing as being terribly important,
but because I suspect that so many
of the other concerns of men
are equally unimportant,
and not nearly so much fun."

John Volker

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DATES TO KEEP IN MIND...2020

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

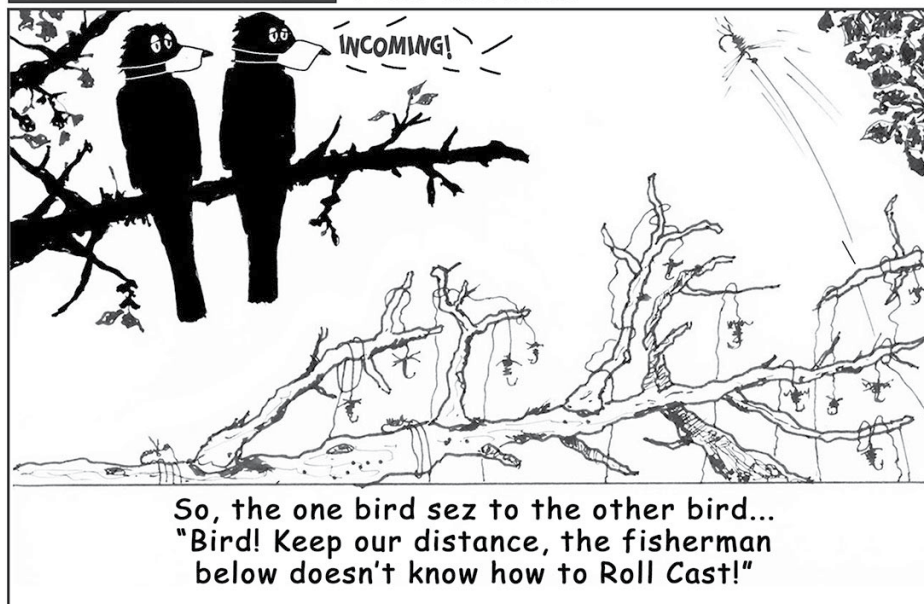
Saturday, October 3, 2020 7:00 a.m.

Kiwanis Park

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

SOCIAL REMOTENESS BIRD and BIRD

R. McKEON



NOTE:

A reminder notice for our Wednesday, September 9, 2020 DFC Club Meeting
will be e-mailed to membership prior to meeting.