

OPTU NEWS

Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited Chapter 531 www.optu.org Editor: John E. Murphy 520-250-4083

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Trout in the Classroom Chair: Joe Fagan
jfaganfished@gmail.com

Youth Education Chair: Joe Fagan

Banquet Chair:

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Anglers:

First and foremost, a big THANK YOU to Joe and Kathleen Vitelli for hosting our Holiday Party this year. Those attending were certainly well-fed and hydrated, and there was holiday cheer in abundance.

Your Board and Officers are expecting a busy year for OPTU in 2013. Joe Vitelli is in the early planning stages for at least two OPTU-hosted group fishing outings like we did years ago. Roseann Marsett is planning to put on a repeat of the women's fly casting and fly fishing clinic, Joe Fagan and others are hoping to teach the fly fishing merit badge to Boy Scouts at Camp Lawton on Mt. Lemmon in June or July, we expect to have at least a couple of conservation work days, and after the summer break we will start planning the 2014 banquet. As always, we welcome your comments, your help, and your participation in Chapter activities.

Our speakers for the January meeting are Sally Petre and Lisa Trestik. Sally is a graduate student at the U of A and has spent much of the past year studying stream conditions, crayfish, and Apache trout in the West Fork of the Black River. She will present the results of her studies. Lisa is a Fisheries Biologist with AzG&F and is based in Pinetop. She will give us an update of the aftermath of the Wallow fire, one year later, and will talk about what if any, winter kill we might experience in the White Mountains this year, and G&F's projections on how the spring fishing season is shaping up. The meeting will be at the Viscount Suites hotel, Broadway and Arcadia, on January 2 starting at 7 pm.

Our tentative speaker for February is Emmett Doane, a fly-fishing guide and fly shop owner from Circleville, Utah. Circleville is an easy 2-hour drive from Lee's Ferry. According to Mr. Doane there is some excellent fishing - both lake and stream - in the area, but not many people know about or take advantage of the opportunity. NOTE that the February meeting WILL NOT be at the Viscount. All the meeting rooms will be occupied by Gem and Mineral Show participants and presentations. By the time the February newsletter is published we will have an alternate meeting place, although the time and date will remain the same.

On behalf of the Officers and Board, I wish you a Happy, Healthy, Safe and Prosperous New Year.

From the Executive Suite,
Steve Reiter, OPTU President



IN MEMORY

I regret to report the passing of OPTU past president Mike Mehrer. Mike served us very well in that role and I personally remember many wonderful times fishing with and enjoying the company of Mike on our San Juan trips. The following is a message sent by Julia Mehrer. *"Mike passed away on Dec 17th, a few minutes after midnight. He was peaceful and surrounded by all three daughters. A memorial service is being planned for January 5th at 3 PM in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson. Time will be allotted for anyone who would like to say something about Mike. A reception and showcase of his woodworking skills will follow at our house."*



Sharing a laugh
around the table at
the Enchanted
Hideaway

CONSERVATION NEWS

Please contact Roseann Marsett, OPTU Conservation Chairperson, at rzann@comcast.net or 520-760-1659 if you would like to help and would like directions to the campsite. We understand that the Elk are bugling and the weather is beautiful, so come up and assist AZFGD and your TU Chapter!!

YOUTH ACTIVITY REPORT

by Joe Fagan

Trout in the Classroom

On Wednesday, December 5th, Joe Fagan traveled with Doug Thornburg of the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) to pick up eyed eggs of Rainbow Trout from the Tonto Fish Hatchery to the NE of Payson. The AGFD hatchery purchased about 50,000 triploid eggs from a private vendor in Utah. We got 103 of the sterilized eggs for the TIC trout tank at Desert Sky Country Day School.

The eggs have started hatching already. The baby trout after hatching are called alevin. They still have a yolk sac for food as they swim around. They are kept in an egg-basket so that eggs that die can easily be removed from the aquarium. The basket will be lowered into the water to allow the alevins to swim out of the basket as they get older and use up the yolk. The fish are called fry when they have used up their yolk. When the yolk is used up, the fry will need to feed. We supply finely ground dried fish for the fry to eat.



Children must be careful not to over feed the fry. Uneaten food becomes rotten dead fish that produce toxic nitrogenous waste. The students will siphon/vacuum out the waste from the bottom of the tank.

Volunteer for helping to teach fishing

As a Sport Fishing Educator for the AGFD, Joe Fagan is inviting members to help teach 25 Apache students at Mt. Turnbull Academy (high school) in Bylas, Arizona. He would like 3 – 5 volunteers to assist teaching bait-fishing in February. In April, Joe would like 5 – 10 volunteers to assist teaching the same high-school students fly-tying and fly-fishing.

Joe has arranged for volunteers to stay at a Cluff Ranch Bunk House on both occasions. Each month the days of the week for the Fishing Programs are the same: arrive on a Tuesday, teach at the school in the morning of a Wednesday, and depart after morning Field Instruction at Cluff Ranch Pond. Dates are for bait-fishing, February 26, 27, and 28. Dates are for Fly-tying and -fishing, April 2, 3, & 4. A side benefit for

volunteers is to go up to near-by Frye Mesa Reservoir to fish for trout, including the endangered Gila Trout. Cluff Ranch pond can be fished too. It would best be fished from float tube or pontoon. (Students will fish from shore at the Cluff Ranch Pond.)

Contact Joe Fagan for details if you are interested: 520-730-6398, JFaganFishEd@gmail.com.

Here's the link to youth oriented activities done by other chapters of OPTU. We ought to be able to do some of them similarly. Thanks in advance for taking the time to look over the information in the link. Let me know if there are any that are appealing to you to work with me to get started in our chapter. I'd like the women in OPTU to begin sharing with Girl Scouts. I would assist in making this happen. <http://www.tu.org/sites/www.tu.org/files/documents/tacklebox/youth/One-TU%20Youth%20Report%202011-08-23.pdf>





PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING



No report this month. Plenty of activity though. *Robin Marsett*

Upcoming Fishing Trips and Outings Reports

We are happy to report that we can add three more fly fishermen to the small fraternity who can boast of catching a Gila Trout. On December 3, 2012, members from OPTU, PHWFF and the San Pedro Club traveled to Frye Mesa Reservoir for a relaxing day of fishing.

The day was warm and sunny with a light breeze. Unlike previous trips where the dry flies ruled the water and caught the majority of the fish, this trip nymphs were the flies of the day. Congrats to Bruce from the San Pedro Fly Casters, Bob O'Brien from OPTU and Mario from PHWFF, who can now check off catching a Gila Trout from their fishing bucket lists.

Before we left Frye Mesa, Robin Marsett was able to do a leader's recon to the lower portion of Frye Creek which is located about one mile past the reservoir. He is happy to report that he saw large numbers of Gila Trout in that section of Frye Creek. The fish appeared healthy with some exceeding 11 inches in size. Robin is planning to return to Frye Creek to continue scouting other sections for Gila populations. It certainly appears the stocking program has been a huge success!! At this point in time, however, fishing is prohibited in Frye Creek. It is with great hope that when fishing is allowed in the future, there will be appropriate restrictions to keep the population healthy and growing.

Continued on next page

JANUARY OUTINGS

On January 8, 2013, OPTU will fish Rose Canyon Lake on Mt. Lemmon. It is a treat to fish Rose Canyon during the winter due to the closure of the road leading to the lake. We have experienced in most of our outings there during this time we are virtually the only folks fishing on the lake.

We will meet at Rose Canyon Lake gate, located at mile marker 17 on Catalina Highway. Just remember that the temperatures will be colder, especially at 7000 feet, so dress with this in mind.

The second outing will be announced via an email blast. So, if you get this email please check it out before deleting it so you can find out where we will be fishing!

OPTU FISHING TRIP - MARCH 22 TO 25, 2013 X DIAMOND RANCH, GREER, AZ

We are happy to announce that OPTU is planning a three night, four day trip to X Diamond Ranch which is located in the South Fork Canyon on the Little Colorado River, near the village of Greer. The ranch is secluded with roomy, updated cabins with all the comforts of home.

We will depart from Tucson at 5:30 a.m. sharp on March 22nd. This will enable us to get to X Diamond with more than a half day available for fishing. We will fish three different bodies of water during this trip - Silver Creek, Becker Lake and the Little Colorado. We will depart back to Tucson on the morning of the 25th. The weather will dictate where we fish each day. As we get closer to our departure, we hope to provide a more exact itinerary to all participants via email.

We are happy to tell you that the cost of transportation will be paid for by OPTU. We will be renting a van, and providing the gas, thus providing free transportation.

Lodging: \$55.00 per night (total \$165, tax not included)

Meals : \$40.00 (approximate)

This will cover a cold breakfast, sandwiches and drinks for lunch.
We plan on going to dinner as group and each individual will be responsible for their own meals and drinks.

We have 11 openings for this trip, and will reserve a few of these openings for our Project Healing Waters Veterans. If you wish to attend, please email me at kayceesgarden@att.net, or call me at 520-885-8357. We will be collecting the cost of the lodging and provided food (\$205.00) at the February OPTU member meeting. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

If you have any suggestions for an outing, please let me know. *Joe Vitelli*

Calendar

Jan 2: Regular meeting at the Viscount - 6:30 pm - 4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711. Speaker Sally Petre, a U of A graduate student who has spent the better part of the past year studying crayfish and Apache trout on the West Fork of the Black River. She will present the results of her post-graduate thesis. Also speaking will be Lisa Trestik of AZG&F who will speak about the aftermath of the Willow Fire and projections for fishing in AZ this year.

Jan 16: Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, 5655 East River Road, Suite 131. Call Eric at 326-7847.

Jan 23: BOARD MEETING

Feb 6: Regular meeting at the Viscount - 6:30 pm - 4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711. Speaker TBA.

Feb 20: Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, 5655 East River Road, Suite 131. Call Eric at 326-7847.

Feb 27: BOARD MEETING

FISH ALASKA THIS JUNE

Ever wanted to fish in Alaska? If so, consider joining my annual trip there next June. OPTU members and friends are most welcome. Fishing will be for King Salmon from boat, beach at the lodge, or in small rivers; Sockeye Salmon (one of the best fighting fish on a fly rod); halibut; grayling; rainbows; and dolly varden. After a day of guided fishing you can fish till midnight from the beach if you have the stamina. Cullen caught a 70 lb King off the beach. A weeklong Lodge package from June 15 to 21, 2013 is \$3995 plus \$150 for a plane shuttle from the Kenai airport to Anchorage at the end of the stay (total of \$4145). Includes all room, board, happy hour, and daily guided activities. Note that I do not receive any portion of the payment - so its just an opportunity for getting together in Alaska with friends. Contact me at 250-4083 if interested. *John Murphy*



DRY CREEK OUTFITTERS: NEWS AND BARGAINS

Call us if you need something. If you're unable to make it to the shop before your next trip, we are happy to drop a few bugs and/or leaders (or whatever) in the mail - shipping is free.

Things to consider this month:

- DCO will be offering monthly fly-tying classes held by Todd Alday beginning in January. There will be a fee for these classes and you get to learn from a production tyer - a great opportunity. Call for details and dates.
- We have a good supply of Ross Reels and Textured Series Scientific Anglers fly lines - come check them out
- A recent arrival are the new System 4 fly reels, machined in Colorado, from Scientific Anglers
- Also, come see and test drive the new Helios 2 fly rod from Orvis - its pretty spectacular and something everyone needs for the New Year.

Dry Creek resides at the River Center mall; NE corner of River and Craycroft and is open **Tuesdays through Saturdays** from 10 am to 7 pm Tuesday to Friday and 9:30 am to 6 pm on Saturday. Address: 5655 East River Road, Suite 131, Tucson, AZ 85750 and phone (520) 326-7847. East side of the River Center between a beauty shop and Japanese restaurant.

Eric is a long-time supporter of OPTU and we all need to be sure to support him. So get over to DCO and buy some of those essential things you know you need. *The Editor*

Tips and Tricks

Store Shoe Goo and wader repair glues in the freezer. They will last a long time compared to regular storage and thaw out in just a few minutes.

The right way to hold fish for pictures:

<http://www.deneki.com/2012/05/taking-pictures-of-fish-the-right-way/>

FISHING REPORTS

No one went this month or they just won't sit down and write a report. I went to Alaska to see the grandkiddies but it was TOO cold to fish. *The editor*



Arizona Game and Fish Interactive Stocking Schedule

http://www.azgfd.gov/pdfs/h_f/fishing/stocking/2012SumTroutStockSchedule.pdf

QUOTES AND JOKES

Nothing funny this month.

FOR SALE

I have two dry bags for underwater filming for use with a regular camera or video camera that are not waterproof. Neither has been used. Would be good for filming your fish as they come in or for scuba/snorkeling trips. They are Aquapacs (check out on the web). \$10 for each. 520-250-4083.

OPTU BOARD MINUTES**ATTENDEES:**

Steve Reiter, President
Vaughn Johnson, V.Pres candidate
Dave Coombs, Banquet Chair
Mick Fletcher, PR (AZ Chair)

Joe Fagan, Youth Coordinator
Robin Marsett, PHWFF
Joe Vitelli, Outings Chair
Kathleen Vitelli, Secretary

The meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. at the Viscount Suites Hotel.

There was a brief discussion about the December Board meeting which according to the schedule would be held the day after Christmas. Steve will advise with regard to a possible different date.

General discussion about the projected 2013 budget. Steve wanted to confirm the \$4,000 budget set aside for 2013, which will help cover the cost of two main outings. A motion to accept the 2013 budget was made by Steve, seconded by Robin and accepted by the Board.

Kathleen reported on the upcoming holiday party which will be held at the Vitelli's home. She advised that receipts will be submitted to OPTU for reimbursement for the main dishes and party ware.

MEETING SPEAKERS

Steve indicated that he has arranged for Sally Petrie to speak at the January 2013 member meeting about her research and White Mountains project. In addition, Lisa from AZGFD will give an update on the Wallow fire and volunteer opportunities for 2013.

Steve has not yet confirmed speaker for February meeting, perhaps he can have Rick Weisberg do a presentation about fishing in Utah. There is no speaker arranged yet for March. Additionally, Steve has no meeting venues set up past January and will have to look at several options.

The Sierra Vista fishing club will hold their banquet on March 9, 2013. Discussion about purchasing tickets as an organization and in lieu of our member meeting, we will attend their banquet.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Joe Fagan reported on Trout in the Classroom and the participation of Desert Sky Charter School. On 12/5 Joe will pick up about 100 trout eggs from the hatchery and install at the school. They should hatch in a few weeks. Joe has been training several volunteers and TIC will run to the end of the school year.

Joe requested more participation from the membership with respect to several programs he will be conducting, specifically with the Apache Tribe and Turnbull Academy. The Turnbull academy project will be a bait fishing program which would involve classroom on February 27th and field trip to Frye Mesa on February 28th. The weekend will be held at the Cluff Ranch with arrival on February 26th.

In addition, he is conducting a program at Cluff Ranch from April 2nd to the 4th which will include fly tying and fishing. Joe has requested 10 volunteers and money from OPTU for food.

Joe expressed that OPTU should follow AZGFD's youth fishing program and have one of our own. This would be a way to get youth more involved in our organization.

PHWFF/CONSERVATION

Robin reported on Roseann's behalf that there is nothing new to report in the way of conservation except to say that she will be planning something for April or May 2013.

PHWFF will be going to Mt. Graham on 12/3/2012. Robin also reported that as the war in Afghanistan winds down, he expects less wounded vets in the WTU at Fort Huachuca. When they are in the transition unit, their focus is on getting well. Those that are not retired do not have as much free time to participate in Lie and Tie, etc.

OUTINGS

Joe V. reported that in the several Rose Canyon outings over the past month, participation has doubled and has included several PHWFF wounded vets. OPTU members will also participated in the 12/3 Grant Creek outing with PHWFF.

Joe has scheduled a joint outing with PHWFF to the X Diamond Ranch on 3/29/13 to 3/31/13. Joe will use approximately \$1500 from the OPTU outings budge to rent an 11 passenger van and pay for gas. The outing will include PHWFF members as well. Joe hopes that we can be offered a discount from Jim Click, who has been generous in the past with PHWFF. The cabin will cost approximately \$60.00 per night, per person, plus a stipen put up by each attendee for food. Joe suggests the OPTU pick up one dinner for attendees. The fishing will include Becker Lake, Silver Creek and water at the X Diamond.

NEW BUSINESS

Steve indicated that Vaughn had been in touch with the National TU organization with respect to OPTU's ability to charge an additional chapter membership fee, and with information on better ways to promote our chapter. TU provided quite a bit of written protocol which was given to the Board. It is clear in their Policies that chapters are prohibited from charging any fees beyond what each member pays to TU National.

The additional information covered suggestions to local chapters on formats for meetings and other bi-laws which the Board will read. Discussion was held on having Board members attend a yearly retreat meeting to discuss this information and to set a yearly agenda for the Board to follow. Vaughn offered to have the Board meet at his home on a Saturday some time in January.

The Board discussed possible purchase of a laptop or donation of one from an OPTU member.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

FOR RENT

4 BR house in Heber City, UT. 15 miles from Park City and a mile from the Provo River; 2.5 hrs to the Green. \$500 per week or \$90/night - plus housecleaning fee. Call John at 520-250-4083 if interested in checking it out.

MOVIE LINKS

Please send links to movies you have seen on YouTube or other places. I'll check it out and post. Here are a few:

Catching a nice Gila trout

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXEZVJmD3Yo>

This is a classic TU film called The Way of a Trout.

<http://www.lrcu.org/movies/TheWayofaTrout/>

Trout in the Classroom Video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWlnuFkCPFg>

Check out this video of Chris Woods of TU talking about our efforts in the Southwest.

<http://youtu.be/CwFry99OhqE>

This URL refers to the 1st book written on fly-fishing by a Benedictine nun and published in 1496. It shows a block print with the first Tenkara-style fly-fishing - recorded in Europe (not Japan). No fly reels back then.

<http://www.headwatersofhistory.com/2012/01/interviews-with-anglers-past-dame-juliana.html>

Check out this video of Chris Woods of TU talking about our efforts in the Southwest.

<http://youtu.be/CwFry99OhqE>

HELP ON PLACES TO FISH

Names and email addresses of OPTU members who have kindly agreed to share their fishing waters' knowledge with members who have not fished the particular waters before and are looking for advice is now available for downloading on the new OPTU website at:

<http://optu.org/FISHING%20WATERS%20HELP.doc>. A good first lead about where and when to fish, or where to stay can make the trip easier and more enjoyable. The list is alphabetical by state and several foreign locations are also included. For advice about one of the areas or rivers on the list, get in touch with the named colleague by email and make arrangements to talk to them by phone.

Additionally, courtesy of OPTU flyfisher Don Maggert, there is a disc containing articles pulled from the Web about fly fishing some thirty well-regarded Western rivers (mostly in Colorado and Montana as well as a few from Idaho and Utah). Send me a name of the river and I will check to see if it is on Don's disc and if so, I will forward the write-up. Stan Vanagunas vanagunas@msn.com

OPTU FACEBOOK GROUP

If you add the OPTU group to your links in Facebook it will help make contacts with members. Joe DeVries jrdaz@cox.net

EDDIES NEWSLETTER

In case you would like to receive "Eddies: Reflections on Fisheries Conservation," click on the link and sign up for paper or email delivery. <http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/eddies/Subscribe/Subs.cfm>