

# OPTU NEWS

## Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited Chapter 531 [www.optu.org](http://www.optu.org) Editor: John E. Murphy 520-250-4083

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#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

##### Officers and Coordinators

**President:** Steve Reiter (h) 520-795-2388  
[sreiter4@cox.net](mailto:sreiter4@cox.net)

**Vice President:** Vaughn Johnson

**Secretary:** Kathleen Vitelli

**Treasurer:** Cathy Hill  
[Cathy@skbuilders.net](mailto:Cathy@skbuilders.net)

**Membership Chair:** Open

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[rmarsett@comcast.net](mailto:rmarsett@comcast.net)

**Healing Waters Chair:** Captain Chris Allen and Major Mario Bracamonte

**Meetings Host:** Scott Kuktavy (h)  
520-731-1134

**Fishing Trip Chair:** Joe Vitelli  
520-885-8357

**Public Relations Chair:** Michael Fletcher  
520-744-1631  
[mmltetch@msn.com](mailto:mmltetch@msn.com)

**Trout in the Classroom Chair:** Joe Fagan  
[jfaganfished@gmail.com](mailto:jfaganfished@gmail.com)

**Youth Education Chair:** Joe Fagan

**Banquet Chair:**

**Assistant Banquet Chair:** Dave Combs  
[davecombs47@gmail.com](mailto:davecombs47@gmail.com)

##### Other Board Members

Jeff Collins (emeritus)

Roger McKee (ex officio)

**Newsletter Editor:** John Murphy  
520-299-3278; email:  
[murphy@pharmacy.arizona.edu](mailto:murphy@pharmacy.arizona.edu)

##### Address:

Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited  
P O Box 14822  
Tucson, AZ 85732-4822

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

OPTU MEMBER MEETING - DECEMBER 4, 2013

We are selling banquet tickets to our primary fundraiser which will be held on March 8, 2014 at the Tanque Verde Ranch. Your last chance to get a discounted ticket (\$50) will be at the December meeting. After that, a ticket will cost \$55.00. Again, we must stress the importance of this fundraiser as our primary source of money which we give back to you in the form of meeting venues, speakers, youth activities, conservation efforts and fishing trips. Our upcoming OPTU sponsored trip to Lee's Ferry in March 2014 is paid for with money we raise for this organization. If we are not successful, we will no longer be able to provide these things to you, our members. Please help support this organization by attending the banquet. In addition, we are also selling raffle tickets for a beautiful Orvis Helios II fly rod and reel package. Tickets are \$20.00 each and we are limiting the sale to 300 tickets! We will draw the winner at the March 2014 banquet.

Our January meeting will not be held on the first Wednesday due to the fact that it is New Year's Day. We have rescheduled the meeting for Wednesday, January 8, 2014. Our speaker will be Mike Anderson who is the Native Trout Program Coordinator for Arizona Game and Fish and Salley Petre. They will be talking about the status of the native trout recovery program in Arizona with emphasis on our region.

We would also like to extend to you a very happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year!



## **BIANNUAL BANQUET - Important Date for Your Calendar**

On March 8, 2014 the OPTU Banquet Fund Raiser will be held at Tanque Verde Guest Ranch. This biannual event is very important to all of us because it provides the funds necessary to support all our programs, such as Trout in the Classroom, conservation projects, Project Healing Waters, fishing excursions and our monthly meetings. Your support means everything to us, so please plan to attend. The planning for the banquet is well underway and we believe this will be prove to be an excellent evening of fun, fellowship, opportunities to buy some great things, and the trading of fishing stories (or tall tales). We promise you won't be disappointed.

Tickets will go on sale in September. If you have any questions, want to volunteer, or want to donate in any way please send me an email at [vaughninaz@cox.net](mailto:vaughninaz@cox.net) and thanks for your time and continued support of OPTU.

*Vaughn A. Johnson, VP and 2014 Chairman OPTU Banquet*

## **WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES**

### Women's Initiative (WI)

OPTU is looking for someone to take the lead for this work. Responsibilities include taking part in the monthly teleconference, attending a monthly board meeting and working with the board to encourage more women to participate in Trout Unlimited. The only requirements are that you participate in the phone meetings and let the board know the WI status. Please contact Roseann at 760.1659 or [rzann@comcast.net](mailto:rzann@comcast.net) for information on the next teleconference.

## **CONSERVATION NEWS**

### **YOUTH ACTIVITY REPORT**

by Joe Fagan

There are no up-dates on work with assisting Boy Scouts in the Catalina District.

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) continues at Flowing Wells High School this school year. We are working with an agri-science class of 15 Junior/Senior students. They are already raising tilapia fish in a green-house, but are working the 55 gallon aquarium, cold fishery in the classroom. Kathleen Sullivan and I travelled in November to Canyon Creek Hatchery to get 50 Rainbow Trout, eyed-eggs. That was an all day trip, but the eggs were delivered safely to waiting students and their teacher, Mrs. Michelle Ferranti.

At this time of writing about 30 of the trout are surviving, having passed through the alevin stage, and are "buttoned-up" (yolk-sac used up) to be fry. They are now being fed finely-ground, dried fish. One junior student has undertaken close care of the fish as an animal husbandry project. He and two senior students are teaching fellow students once a week from a TIC curriculum manual about trout biology and aquatic environment for trout.

A Fly-Fishing Program will be taught on January 2 and 3 by me and Jim Martin. We are both OPTU members. Steve Huhta, an AZGFD certified volunteer will assist with casting instruction. Other OPTU members wanted to assist in the teaching, but strict school district policies will not allow volunteers to teach unless they are parents of the students, or have Class 1, Finger-print, background checks, or have the student accompanied by a parent. At the time of writing, parents of the agri-science students have not been invited to take time off from work to attend the Fly-Fishing training. This was due to my lack of fore-sight.

A second trout aquarium for a TIC program of 4th grade students at Fruchthendler Elementary School on the NE side of Tucson has begun. Equipment has been delivered to Mrs. Rane Clements' classroom. I am currently modifying an aquarium stand to use in the 4th grade classroom. On December 27th some of the students and Mrs. Clements will receive training from me on setting up the aquarium, chiller, and filtration system. We hope to get the eyed, Brook Trout eggs in January or February from Tonto Creek Hatchery.

We will need active participation in TIC with OPTU volunteers if we wish to expand TIC to more than two schools in Tucson. I will not be able to do the work for more than two schools by myself.

*Joe Fagan*

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>

### **Calendar**

**JAN 8:** Regular meeting at the Viscount - 6:30 pm - 4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711. Speaker Mike Anderson who is the Native Trout Program Coordinator for Arizona Game and Fish and Salley Petre - On native trout recovery.

**JAN 8: BOARD MEETING:** 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Viscount Suites.

**JAN 15:** Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, 5655 East River Road, Suite 131. Call Eric at 326-7847.

**FEB 5:** Regular meeting at the Viscount - 6:30 pm - 4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711. Speaker TBA.

**FEB 19: BOARD MEETING:** 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Viscount Suites.

**FEB 26:** Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, 5655 East River Road, Suite 131. Call Eric at 326-7847.

The following is a message I got from Don Mitchell of AZ Game and Fish. Below that is the letter I sent to him.

Robin, I'll include the suggested changes in our upcoming CO-40 cycle and will be in touch as that process begins after the first of year to let you know how it proceeds. Thanks again for your interest and support it's greatly appreciated!

Don Mitchell  
Fish Program Supervisor, Region V  
Arizona Game and Fish Department

From:  
Robin Marsett

To:  
Don Mitchel  
Region V Fish Program Manager  
Arizona Game and Fish Department  
555 N. Greasewood Rd.  
Tucson, AZ 85745

Dear Don:

Old Pueblo chapter Trout Unlimited (OPTU) would like to propose a change to the fishing regulations at Grant Creek on the west side of the Pinaleno Mountains in Graham County. As you know there is a population of wild trout in Grant Creek that have survived for decades. The lower section of Grant Creek behind Fort Grant Prison holds a population of wild trout that includes putative Apache Trout and Apache Rainbow hybrids, while the upper section, above the large water fall, holds putative Apache Trout.

Members of OPTU have fished this creek several times a year for the past few years, concentrating mostly on the lower section. One thing that we have noticed is a reduction in the number of fish caught in the last year to year and a half in those sections of the creek easily accessible from the old road. Stretches of the creek that are difficult to reach still hold lots of fish. We believe that the easily accessed areas are experiencing heavier fishing pressure resulting in the reduction in the numbers of fish.

We would like to propose that Grant Creek be limited to single barbless hook, artificial bait and catch and release only. This fishery is unique in southeast Arizona as it is a wild population of reproducing trout in a small stream, and we feel it should be protected from the excessive pressure that the removal of even a few fish can have on a small body of water.

Sincerely,

Robert C Marsett  
Conservation Chair, Old Pueblo Chapter Trout Unlimited

## **PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING**



Starting on January 1st the program will be led by Captain Chris Allen of Sierra Vista and Major Mario Bracamonte of Tucson. They started as participants in the program and have now become the leaders. Please give them your support as they continue the good work.

### **Upcoming Fishing Trips and Outings Reports**

#### **OPTU FISHING OUTING**

LEES FERRY - MARCH 24-27, 2014

We are very excited to announce the 2014 OPTU fishing outing will be at Lee's Ferry, Arizona.

For those not familiar with this water, Lee's Ferry is a massive, clear running cold water fishery. It runs 15.5 miles from the outflow of Lake Powell at Glen Canyon Dam to the upper end of the Grand Canyon. This will be two days of guided fishing provided by Lee's Ferry Anglers owned by Terry and Wendy Gunn. All guides are full-time professionals.....no part-time guides!

We will be staying at the Cliff Dweller's Lodge at the base of Vermillion Cliffs National Monument. The lodge was built in the early 1950's and was purchased by Lee's Ferry Anglers in 2001 where it was immediately renovated. It is a great lodging experience.

We estimate that the cost of the trip will be \$650 per person including the guides tips. For those interested, the following is included:

- Transportation between Tucson and Lee's Ferry
- Three days lodging at Cliff Dweller's Lodge
- Two full days of professionally guided fly fishing on the Colorado River
- Tips for all guides
- Lunch for your fishing days

The only things not covered will be your meals (other than lunch on the two fishing days which is provided by Lee's Ferry Anglers).

OPTU will be renting a van for participants to travel there and back. Space will be limited and is expected to fill very quickly. We have reserved a few openings for our PHWFF veterans. Participants will be chosen on a first come, first serve basis via email to me, Joe Vitelli at [kayceesgarden@att.net](mailto:kayceesgarden@att.net)

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## **Tips and Tricks**

Fun facts about WD-40 <http://wd40.com/about-us/myths-legends-fun-facts/>  
Google fly fishing tips and techniques for hundreds of links.

## **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.

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*

### **FOR SALE**

I found a website for custom rods that some of you may be interested in viewing  
[www.cbcustomflyrods.com](http://www.cbcustomflyrods.com)

**Simms Medium Long Waders** (foot size about a 9-1/2). A little older but in very good condition. Worn float tubing last summer in western Colorado with zero problems. \$50. Contact John Arnett 520 721 4339 (h) or 520 248 3828 (c)

### **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.

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## BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 4, 2013

### ATTENDEES

Steve Reiter, President

Vaughn Johnson, Vice President

Robin Marsett, Conservation

Dave Combs, Banquet Chair

Joseph Vitelli, Outings

Kathleen Vitelli, Secretary

The meeting was primarily focused on the upcoming OPTU banquet and Raffle.

To date, we have sold approximately 40 tickets to the banquet. A number of tickets were sold at Dry Creek and Eric will be cutting a check to OPTU within two weeks. Robin indicated that we can expect two tables to be sold on behalf of PHWFF.

Steve indicated that he had talked to Eb who was working on financial underwriting for the banquet which has netted \$1500 thus far. Note that this money has yet to be given to OPTU.

Dave Combs indicated that he did not think attorney Osborne would be underwriting monetary support to OPTU due to his financial donations in other areas. It was agreed that a deadline should be set for underwriting and donated items for the banquet. It was agreed to use the same format for this banquet as was used in the past.

Dave discussed donated items and it was agreed that OPTU would provide \$2,000 from our budget to purchase additional raffle items which would include \$200 for gift cards which will be purchased by Kathleen. In addition, she will contact TU to look for donated items from them. Dave confirmed donations from Cabela's as well as 2 nights stay courtesy of Utah Anglers.

With respect to the rod/reel raffle, Steve indicated we have sold 25 tickets thus far. It was agreed that Robin would contact San Pedro Fly Casters to apprise them of raffle tickets.

Robin discussed that PHWFF (Mario) would have a booth at the Tucson Rodeo and perhaps OPTU would like to share a booth with them in an effort to sell patches, shirts and raffle tickets.

In other business, Dave Combs indicated he got a call from Jim Smith who is selling a pop-up trailer and fishcat pontoon boat. He told Dave that anything he makes over \$1500, he would consider donating to OPTU.

**Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Vitelli, OPTU Secretary**

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## Arizona Game and Fish Interactive Stocking Schedule

[http://www.azgfd.gov/pdfs/h\\_f/fishing/stocking/2012SumTroutStockSchedule.pdf](http://www.azgfd.gov/pdfs/h_f/fishing/stocking/2012SumTroutStockSchedule.pdf)

### QUOTES AND JOKES

Failure is the opportunity to begin again, more intelligently.

*Henry Ford*

### FISHING REPORTS

I am happily mixing some skiing with fishing in Utah over the holiday break. The downside for the fishing is that it has been pretty cold. My son Patrick and I went to the middle Provo yesterday from about 3 to 5:15 pm and caught about 15 brownies stripping olive cone head wooly buggers. We stayed till our hands became too cold (temp about 25 degrees). Another earlier trip with my son Cullen netted a few browns from the lower Provo on a day that would have been warmer were it not for the brisk wind. The water is crystal clear and the setting is amazing on both parts of the river. *The editor.*



## Newsletter Items That Don't Often Change

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### 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:

Top Ten Viral Flyfishing Videos (courtesy of Ernie Gradillas) [http://www.flyfishinsalt.com/news/top-10-fly-fishing-videos?](http://www.flyfishinsalt.com/news/top-10-fly-fishing-videos?cmsgid=enews040213&spPodID=030&spMailingID=17130073&spUserID=MzU4MjY4ODA3NTQSI&spJobID=213641885&spReportId=MjEzNjQxODg1So)

[cmsgid=enews040213&spPodID=030&spMailingID=17130073&spUserID=MzU4MjY4ODA3NTQSI&spJobID=213641885&spReportId=MjEzNjQxODg1So](http://www.flyfishinsalt.com/news/top-10-fly-fishing-videos?cmsgid=enews040213&spPodID=030&spMailingID=17130073&spUserID=MzU4MjY4ODA3NTQSI&spJobID=213641885&spReportId=MjEzNjQxODg1So)

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.lrc.tu.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 1<sup>st</sup> 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>

Controversy about what open containment fish farms are doing to native fish and what they might be doing to you when you buy farmed salmon at Costco. It is long but instructive. *Ernie Gradillas*

<http://vimeo.com/61301410>

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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/eddiessubscribe/subs.cfm>

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