

# OPTU NEWS

## Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited

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

Volume 20, Issue 2



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#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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El Jefe



### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Fellow Anglers;

We have a full plate of speakers coming up at our OPTU meetings for the next several months.

For the February Meeting (Feb 1, at the Viscount at 6:30) we will have Ed Lawrence speaking to us on fishing in Montana. Ed Lawrence is owner and guide for Ed Lawrence Flyfishing Outfit headquartered in Bozeman, Montana. He offers single-day to multiple-day fishing packages on some of Montana's best trout waters. He will present an overview of fishing in southwest Montana, including the Gallatin, Madison, and Yellowstone Rivers, fishing in the different seasons of the year, fly selection, and more.

In March we will be co-hosting the well known, author, guide and outfitter Jack Dennis. He will be demonstrating fly tying at the new location for Dry Creek, and then speaking to OPTU in the evening.

In April, guide Jerome Gallego will talk to us about fishing the San Juan.

All three of the meetings mentioned above will be held at the Viscount on Broadway

And then the highlight of the year will be the OPTU Banquet on Saturday, February 11 at the Savoy Opera House, starting at **5:30PM** (Trail Dust Town on Tanque Verde). As I have mentioned before, The Mariachi Sensasional will entertain before dinner. We will have Silent, and Live auctions, and the famous card raffles. We have improved the seating arrangements by placing the dining tables in front of the stage.

Tickets for the Banquet are available on line at <[www.optubanquet.eventbrite.com/](http://www.optubanquet.eventbrite.com/)> and at Dry Creek Outfitters and at the door.

Anyone who has contributions for the Banquet should contact me directly <[mehrog2@gainbroadband.com](mailto:mehrog2@gainbroadband.com)> or Dave Combs at 520-327-8707, and <[dccombs@mindspring.com](mailto:dccombs@mindspring.com)>

For those who missed the presentation by Mike Lopez and Jason Kline of AZ Game and Fish, in January, (we had over 50 members at the meeting) there are several opportunities for conservation work in both the White mountains, on the west branch of the Black River, and in the Pineleños stocking fish on Ash Creek. We will advise you as these events form up. OPTU has become a member of the White Mountains Lakes Foundation and are thinking this might open up conservation (and fishing) opportunities.

Here's a quote from *The Even Tempered Angler*, by Louis D. Rubin, Jr that strikes a chord with me. "...The trout and salmon fisherman contrives to make a virtue, a fetish even, of this habitual scarcity, if not entire famine, of catchable fish."

*Mike Mehrer, OPTU President.*

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE NEWSLETTER**

We would like to determine if anyone would be interested in serving as section editors for the newsletter. For example, our section on angling tips could be invigorated by someone willing to scan fishing magazines and other sites for a tip or two each month. The funny among you might be willing to host the quotes and jokes section to spice it up. Finally, we can use someone to solicit fishing stories as well, since VERY few are submitted despite my clear understanding that many of you routinely go on trips. I guess that means you don't want to share secrets. If you want the newsletter to be interesting, then we need postings that members want to read. Finally, if you have an idea for a section that you think might be of interest please email your trusty editor. He might try it out even if you won't volunteer to lead the charge. *The Editor*

## **CONSERVATION NEWS**

OPTU Conservation News

January 13, 2012

*By Roseann Marsett.*

During our last monthly meeting we were briefed by Mike Lopez and Jason Kline. Each presented how the fires affected the fisheries this last year. Not all news was bad news. It turns out that some of the streams which were adversely affected have made the reintroduction of native species easier.

I have attempted to conflate their briefings into key points. Please keep in mind all errors are mine in listening and in repeating.

### **Mike Lopez**

The Black and the Blue

Expect the main stem of the Black to come back fairly quickly with wild Brown Trout in 3-4 years,

LCR in Greer is doing well with wild Browns,

X Diamond still doing well with wild Rainbows on Forest Land,

Upper East Fork LCR couple of miles upstream of Greer is doing well,

Upper West Fork of Black right at the river is good – no impacts,

East Fork of the Black is doing extremely well – may be a short term shift in size classes,

Diamond Rock Campground to Buffalo Crossing Rd is closed – but the fishing is good for Brown Trout, 3 Forks is good,

High Impact Areas:

Raspberry Creek

Engineer Creek

KP Creek

Fish Creek (working with the FS to a get a barrier back here)

Bear Wallow Creek

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Blue  
 Lower East Fork LCR  
 South Fork LCR  
 Black  
 Moderate Impact:  
 Lower West Fork Black  
 Campbell Blue Creek  
 Upper Blue  
 LCR Springerville  
 Not Impacted:  
 Upper West Fork Black  
 West Fork of LCR  
 Upper East Fork of LCR

Solidie Creek  
 Waters Outside the Fire Areas:  
 Silver Creek  
 Reservation Streams  
 Becker Lake  
 Carnero Lake  
 Lee Valley Lake  
 Reservation Lake  
 Rim Lakes  
 Pinetop Lakes  
 Show Low Lakes

Jason Kline  
 Fry Mesa received 5 stockings Gila Trout  
 Rose Canyon had double stocking of Rainbows  
 Riggs Flat had a high ph – no stockings  
 Pena Blanca had a fish kill but will be restocked hopefully, this week.

Not Open:  
 Fry Creek was stocked - 3 stockings of Gila Trout - Possibly opening Oct 2012.  
 Ash Creek – hybrid Apache/Gila/Rainbows removed - will be stocked Gila in the spring  
 Marijilda Hybrids to be removed and restocked in the future with Gila.

Ways We Can Help

Right now there are no specific tasks with which we can help. They are working with the Forest Service and there may be ways we can help down the road. When we are requested to help it will be with little notice. We may be requested to:

**Calendar**

**Feb 1:** Regular meeting - Ed Lawrence speaking to us on fishing in Montana. Ed is owner and guide for Ed Lawrence Flyfishing Outfit headquartered in Bozeman, Montana. Viscount Hotel 6:30 pm.

**Feb 11:** Annual Banquet

**Feb 15:** Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, 5420 E. Broadway, Suite 254. Call Eric at 326-7847.

**Feb 22:** Board meeting at TBA - 6 pm.

**Mar 7:** Regular meeting - Author, guide and outfitter Jack Dennis will be demonstrating fly tying at the new location for Dry Creek, and then speaking to OPTU in the evening - Viscount 6:30 pm

**Mar 21:** Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, 5420 E. Broadway, Suite 254. Call Eric at 326-7847.

**Mar 28:** Board meeting at TBA - 6 pm.

- Carry Fish
- Beef up barriers – for this we need large groups of people
- Possible build of structures for plunge pools.

We are working with Anne of the USFS Safford District for structure maintenance on **Fry Mesa**. We are planning to do the OPTU Workday there in April.

Clay Hernandez is leading a trip to the White Mtns, tentatively to the Black for the June TU Workday.

### **Women's Workgroup Initiative**

National TU as part of their outreach is encouraging women to participate in fly fishing. The Women's Workgroup Initiative was created to facilitate this. While the Initiative is still in its infancy we are starting to make inroads in to ways to grow participation. TU is working on a new website which will have group blogs as part of the overall renovation. The Women's Workgroup will be creating blogs at the Chapter and State levels. These blogs will function much like Facebook friends and events. In this way unique women only issues can be addressed, special events publicized and questions answered. If you are interested in participating or helping please contact Roseann Marsett at 520.237.4172.

## **YOUTH ACTIVITY REPORT**

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>

We don't have to travel far from Tucson to do good for the trout habitat - indirectly. Sincerely, *Joe Fagan*.

## **PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLYFISHING**



In October Project Healing Waters Fort Huachuca just started our fourth class building fly rods. This will be the third year PHWFF is having a national rod building contest and we have five people entering rods in the contest. We wish them luck, We had winners the last two years and hope to continue the trend.

We had our monthly outing at Grant Creek in December and in spite of a little snow and ice the fishing was good. We caught several Apache and Apache Rainbow hybrids along the creek and at the falls. We will be going to Fry Mesa in a joint outing with OPTU the end of February for some Gila Trout Action.

PHWFF Fort Huachuca is also planning a trip to the San Juan the weekend of April 20th. If you are interested in helping out let me know.

Good news for the PHWFF participants from Fort Huachuca that have moved back to their homes in the east valley of the Phoenix area. A few intrepid souls have decided to take on the running of a PHWFF



program in that area. Hopefully one of the local clubs will pick up sponsorship but on the off chance that does not happen, East Valley will become Fort Huachuca west.

Remember we are still selling car raffle tickets to raise money for OPTU and Project Healing Waters.



### Upcoming Fishing Trips

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual OPTU trip to the **San Juan River** will be Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup> to Friday March 16<sup>th</sup>. Departure early morning on the 11<sup>th</sup> allows a half day of fishing for those willing to get up. Four full days of fishing Monday to Thursday then return departure for Tucson early Friday morning. Trip is limited to 9 and only one spot remains. We'll be staying at the Octagon Inn. Estimated cost is \$425 (up \$10 from last year) due to continuing high gas and escalating food costs but may be \$10 to \$20 higher. All meals provided except in transit. Email John at [murphy@pharmacy.arizona.edu](mailto:murphy@pharmacy.arizona.edu) if you wish to be considered for the trip.

### JANUARY 2012 - OPTU DAY FISHING TRIP SCHEDULE

The following is the tentative schedule for fly fishing trips for January:

Our trip is scheduled for January 28th at **Parker Canyon Lake** located near Elgin. This lake is approximately 130 acres and includes a boat ramp, fishing pier and lakeside trail. The mercantile/marina store will be open should you wish to rent a boat or kayak. Fees can be obtained from the website: [www.parkercanyonlake.com](http://www.parkercanyonlake.com)

The planned meeting spot will be at Jerry Bob's restaurant located at 7545 South Houghton Road. We will meet at 7:00a.m. for a good breakfast and will then carpool to Parker Canyon.

Don't forget to purchase your 2012 fishing license along with an urban lake permit! Please call me if you have any questions: 520-885-8357. See you there!!

*Joe Vitelli*  
OPTU Outings Coordinator

Don't forget there is fun fishing in southern Arizona's lakes. It's always a fun day of fishing with fellow OPTU members locally.

### **Tips and Tricks**

The editor doesn't have any new ones to share and none were submitted.

### **FISHING REPORTS**

No one went fishing or they don't want to share.

### **QUOTES AND JOKES**

"For an angler to do something truly stupid, mere incompetence is not enough; you need an audience." "If you accidentally hook another angler, don't insist on having him weighed for a possible record." "The other lure is always the best unless it's the other lure." *From Murphy's Laws of Fishing, by Henry Beard*

### **FOR SALE**

Everyone is keeping their stuff.

### **OPTU BOARD MINUTES**

DECEMBER 28, 2011

ATTENDEES:

Mike Mehrer, Pres.; Robin Marsett, PHWFF; Dave Combs, Banquet Co-chair; Roseann Marsett, Conservation; Jay Elliot, Banquet Co-chair; Steve Reiter, VP & Mtgs coord.; Joe Fagan, Youth Activities; Joseph Vitelli, Outings Coord.; Mick Fletcher, Public Rel.; Kathleen Vitelli, Secretary  
The meeting was held at SK Builders and was called to order at 6:00 P.M.

#### **Budget Review/Banquet**

Mike asked the board members for their final comments on his final budget, which was previously provided to all board members. Mike indicated that he would consider changing the budget parameters to follow the calendar as opposed to the fiscal year. All board members were in agreement with this. This change will alter the actual expenses of the 2011 budget since it will now include the Halloween on the Fly event. Robin indicated that he still had over 200 tickets to sell for the Nissan Leaf car raffle. With respect to banquet and upcoming expenses, Jay indicated that he would be finalizing the menu within the next few days and expects OPTU to realize 5-10 percent from the meals. Additionally, the tickets would cost \$50.00 and \$45.00 would go towards the meal. Mike advised he needed the sales flyer for the banquet and Jay reported it would be the same flyer as last year with implied changes made for the upcoming banquet. Tickets will be available for purchase at Dry Creek Outfitter's and also online at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com). There is a fee for purchasing tickets online (the fees per the website are as follows: Adult ticket (50.00/3.79 fee); junior ticket (15.00/1.74 fee), and table of 8 (375.00/19.20 fee). There was a question as to whether a receipt would be provided for the tickets bought on-line. It was agreed that it would be provided on request. Also discussion as to who will be covering the door at the banquet. Mike indicated that Cathy Hill, who previously handled this is currently in Pinetop and he will follow-up on her availability. Jay suggested putting additional OPTU information in the brochure with more emphasis on PHWFF, including more photographs of service members in uniform, and a few blurbs from other areas of OPTU including Youth Activities, Outings, and stream/lake restoration. Dave Combs volunteered to oversee the bucket raffle at the banquet. Board members also discussed conducting a brief presentations by a selected OPTU coordinators at the banquet.

The following areas will be covered: women's membership, youth activities, PHWFF, conservation and outings. Each respective coordinator in these areas will be limited to a five minute presentation (maximum) with an introduction being provided by President Mehrer. It was agreed that all individual presentations (audio/visual) be incorporated into John Murphy's power point presentation. Roseann will oversee the brochure print ups, tickets and program for the banquet. She indicated that she would need a total of five days to get the job done.

### **Youth Activities**

Joe Fagan discussed several topics with respect to his involvement in the youth activities sector of OPTU. With respect to assisting the Boy Scouts with their fly fishing badge, Joe F. indicated that all OPTU member volunteers who participate with their endeavor will be required to complete an on-line course regarding youth safety, etc. This volunteer assignment will take place during the scout's summer camp in the Santa Catalina's near the Palisades ranger station. The camp will take place from July 8th through July 14, 2012. The OPTU assistance will encompass the days between July 9th and 12th. OPTU members will be slated to assist the scouts for two one-hour sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. These sessions are to assist the scouts in fly fishing and catching two species of fish. Joe is asking for five to ten volunteers. Again, it would require completion of a merit badge counselor's application and on line course of approximately 22 minutes. Steve recommended that this information be presented to the membership at the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Joe F. then discussed his contact with Ann Fields of the Nature Conservancy to discuss OPTU's involvement with this organization. The primary goal would be trout habitat restoration. This collaboration is still in the early stages. Further report to follow. Joe F. discussed his contact with Tom Hall (TUSD teacher) and the assistance he gave to Joe in teaching several disabled students to tie flies. Joe suggested OPTU continue to work with Tom and students in this area. Joe has also worked with on youth education at AZ Game and Fish with a University of Arizona grad student, Sally Petri. He suggested assisting her with research work in the high country. Roseanne indicated that she had spoken with Sally and she would probably be ready to conduct the research portion of her studies next year, and possibly assist her with stream restoration in the summer.

### **Conservation**

Roseann indicated that there were no current restoration projects in progress. She did suggest that perhaps OPTU could consider some restoration at Grant Creek, specifically a potentially dangerous portion of the trail in which consisted of climbing a ladder to a wooden platform. Robin confirmed this stating that once you reached the platform, there was nothing to steady yourself and grab onto, and perhaps some ropes could be set up on the perimeter of that platform. Additionally, the road conditions were dangerous even on an ATV. Perhaps some discussion with Jason and Mike could be conducted. Mike suggested preparing a report and documentation (photos) of the problem areas.

### **Outings**

Joe V. reported that on two past visits to Rose Canyon Lake, it was still covered with ice and not fishable. Joe stated that, as he previously posted, there will be two fishing trips in January, one to Parker Canyon Lake and one to Sahuarita Lake. Mike M. indicated that OPTU has an available boat should members wish to use it.

### **WMLF (White Mountain Lakes Foundation)**

Mike reported that the WMLF had asked OPTU to become members of their organization and to assist them in their work at several lakes in the White Mountains. This would be a corporate membership which would cost \$300. Pursuant to WMLF's previous presentation at the October 2011 OPTU meeting, they are working on restoring an active and healthy fishing environment at Becker and Crescent Lakes which would include installing oxygenation systems. Their mission is to bring back an active fishing habitat in Arizona. A motion was made by Roseann to join this organization which was seconded by Mike, who will instruct Cathy to send them a check.

### **NO OLD BUSINESS**



**NEW BUSINESS**

Mick indicated that the Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) is offering a specialty plate available through ADOT at a cost of \$25.00. A portion of this fee will be earmarked for wildlife conservation in Arizona. Mick indicated that the information cards had been placed at Dry Creek outfitters and Sportsman's Warehouse. He had several batches which were given to Board members to be placed in appropriate business here in Tucson. Note: I can report that we placed these cards at Summit Hut. Roseann indicated that she will be participating in an upcoming TU teleconference directed at women involved in TU women's activities. Steve reported on upcoming membership meetings. He indicated that OPTU has reserved a meeting room at the Viscount Hotel through April 2012 at a cost of \$200 per meeting. The following speakers have been firmly scheduled as follows: January 2012: Mike Lopez and Jason Kline;; February 2012: Ed Lawrence will present fishing in Montana; April 2012: Jerome Gallego will present fishing the San Juan river. Steve discussed the availability of Jack Dennis for the March 2012 meeting. This would incur a \$500.00 speaking fee. Jack would do a 2-hour fly tying presentation, followed by a 45 minute to one hour variety presentation. Jack would provide books that could be used for the bucket raffle. Steve presented a motion to the board to approve this speaker and fee which was seconded by Robin, motion carried. Additionally, Jack will speak at the Sierra Vista TU chapter one week before OPTU's meeting. A suggestion was also made to post the information on the fly tying bulletin board in case OPTU members wished to attend the Sierra Vista presentation. There was a discussion about bolstering the 2012 member meeting raffle budget in order to provide better bucket raffle items. Mike indicated he would increase the raffle budget to \$500.00 and he will oversee the raffles. Steve suggested that should members come across something that would be a good raffle item addition, they could most certainly purchase it. Micky reported that the AZ council will run a native trout seminar in February and will be extending invitation to New Mexico TU members. The conference will be held in Phoenix. Robin reported that PHWFF will be running a trip to the White Mountains in 4-6 weeks and a San Juan river trip in April. Details will be forthcoming. Joe F. reported that Pena Blanca Lake experienced a recent fish kill and that it was reported that leopard frogs were found there, AZG&F will consider releasing warm water fish in April. Rainbow trout will not be stocked until the lake stabilizes.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m..

*Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Vitelli*

**DRY CREEK OUTFITTERS: NEWS AND BARGAINS**

Thanks for your support through the years. It is sincerely appreciated. Call Eric or Whitey at 326-7847 for information or drop by and see the new products. Best regards, *Eric Loeffler*

**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.

Wyndham Resort Timeshare - Anywhere in US - One week in 1 to 4 bedroom suite - \$600/week depending on availability. Call John at 520-250-4083.

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2012 NISSAN LEAF SL \$37,000 MSRP  
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With your \$25 Contribution (or 5 tickets for \$100) you could win a 2012 Nissan LEAF SL. And the best part is that 100% of your contribution will support Tucson charities - which keep all the proceeds from the maximum 40,000 tickets which will be sold. The drawing will be held April 27, 2012. Entries must be received by April 20, 2012.

For campaign and ticket information, contact The Raffle Management Team at: 520-342-5210 or at: NewLeaf@RussellPublic.com

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO**

**Project Healing Waters of Southern Arizona**

AND

*Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited*

**CONTACT**  
**ROBIN MARSETT,**  
 PH. 760-1667  
 OR  
 CELL 661-4079  
 OR  
**ERIC OR WHITEY**  
**AT DRY CREEK**



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Those who have borne the battle



Much needed chance to decompress

**Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Fort Huachuca** is raising money to send four wounded warriors to the Kobuk River for some world class fishing and much needed relaxation.

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Please Contact: Libby Mannel at (520) 881-0000 [libby@arrottalaw.com](mailto:libby@arrottalaw.com)  
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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:

"Catfishing" <http://www.fieldandstream.com/blogs/flytalk/2011/07/fly-fishing-cats-and-other-odities#comment-722714>

Catching a nice Gila trout

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

Shark Trip - San Diego

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

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>

Alaska 2011 "Murphy Trip" Trailer <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qH3Hs3tzp40> See what you can do with iMovie trailers - pretty fun.

## 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)