

OPTU NEWS

Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited

Volume 21, Issue 2

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



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Anglers:

First and most important, a reminder concerning our February meeting: **Due to meeting room conflicts with the Gem and Mineral Show, we will hold our February meeting at the Hilton Hotel, Broadway at Prudence (east of Kolb), starting at 7:00 p.m.** I will be hosting the speaker for supper at the restaurant there, and there is a full-service bar there as well. Everyone is invited to drop by for a happy-hour drink, meal, or just friendly conversation.

Our February speaker is Emmett Doane, a guide and fly shop owner with shops in Circleville and Cedar City, UT. His presentation will cover fly fishing opportunities in southern Utah, about 2 hours from Lee's Ferry. If you want a preview, visit his website, www.circlevallyanglers.com.

Many folks start the new year with "New Year's Resolutions". A new year provides a convenient starting (or stopping) date for something you would like to accomplish. One of my New Year's Resolution" for OPTU in 2013 is to increase attendance at our monthly meetings by at least 10%. At present, we generally have between 30 and 40 people attend each month, so a 10% increase is a least 3-5 additional people. I believe we have done a number of things in the past year or so to enhance our meetings: we have a central meeting location with a full-service bar and a happy hour, and an on-site restaurant with a diverse menu; we have had speakers that have covered different topics, from fishing tactics and places to go, to conservation issues, and more. So I believe my best strategy to generate more attendance is to do a better job of communicating with both existing members and potential members. So look for meeting notices and information to start showing up at Dry Creek and other sporting goods shops, meeting notices in newspaper, and better use of our website. You can help in this effort if you will make as one of your resolutions for 2013 that you will attend at least one monthly meeting of OPTU this spring. I hope to see you there!

From the Executive Suite,
Steve Reiter, OPTU President

WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

We've just started planning our Women's Fly Casting Clinic for the spring with a follow up fishing trip in early fall. If you're interested in being part of our group please email me and let me know. We are also taking part in the Women's Initiative Workgroup. This year the Women's Annual Retreat will be part of the WI Workgroup and will be incorporated into the TU National Meeting in Wisconsin in Sept. 2013. More details will follow as we firm up plans.

Roseann Marsett
rzann@comcast.net



CONSERVATION NEWS

The winter months are slow for conservation activities since our biggest efforts involve areas and streams in the White Mountains. We will be monitoring the temp loggers again in the spring after the snow melts. We most probably will be putting up signage in summer or fall. We have also been discussing another clean-up day for Frye Mesa Reservoir (without the snow) in the spring and possibly some work in Grant Creek. We'll let you know any details as soon as they are determined.

Robin and Roseann Marsett

rzann@comcast.net or rmarsett@comcast.net

YOUTH ACTIVITY REPORT

by Joe Fagan

Trout in the Classroom

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. Activity continues though. *Robin Marsett*

Upcoming Fishing Trips and Outings Reports

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*

OPTU OUTINGS REPORT - JANUARY 2013

On January 9th, OPTU held their monthly fishing trip to Rose Canyon Lake. In attendance were five first-time participants who had never fished the lake. The weather was a bit colder and snow was present on the mountain. There was about three inches of snow on the ground making the just over one mile trek into the lake a bit slippery. But we kept our pace slow and enjoyed the hike down to the lake.

Upon reaching the lake, we discovered that approximately 40 percent was frozen. This didn't hinder our fishing a bit nor did it keep the trout from rising for our flies. We each caught about ten fish apiece which was evenly split between Rainbow and Brown Trout. Most of the trout were caught on nymphs early on, but by afternoon as the water warmed up we could see some trout rising. This was the signal to switch to dry flies which worked well.

The next Rose Canyon Lake adventure will be on Tuesday, February 27, 2013. As usual, we will meet at the entrance gate located at mile marker 17 on Catalina Highway. The meet time will be 9:30 a.m. Hope to see you there!

On a special note: I am glad to announce the White Mountain fishing trip to the X Diamond Ranch in March is completely filled. I would like to thank Robin Marsett for his great logistical support and his expert knowledge of this area which was most helpful in organizing this trip. We are now in the early planning stages for the second OPTU sponsored fishing trip which will be held some time in the late fall 2013. Please look for details in our upcoming newsletters.

Respectfully submitted by Joseph Vitelli, Outings Coordinator

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

I went to Utah for the Christmas holidays and post New Year and only went fishing once. The temperature didn't want to go above 25, which is about my lower limit of tolerability for dealing with frozen eyelets and fly line. Snow was beautiful though and skiing just great. Went snow machining and got frostbite on the schnoz. That was worrisome but all worked out in the end. *The editor*



A view from atop the mountain while snow machining and the back yard in Utah.

Calendar

Feb 6: Regular meeting at the Viscount - **7:00** pm - 4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711. Speaker Emmett Doane, a guide and fly shop owner with shops in Circleville and Cedar City, UT. His presentation will cover fly fishing opportunities in southern Utah. **Hilton Hotel at Broadway and Prudence (east of Kolb)**

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

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

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

Mar 27: BOARD MEETING

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: November and December**OPTU BOARD NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES - 11/28/2012****ATTENDEES:**

Steve Reiter, President	Joe Fagan, Youth Coordinator
Vaughn Johnson, V.Pres candidate	Robin Marsett, PHWFF
Dave Coombs, Banquet Chair	Joe Vitelli, Outings Chair
Mick Fletcher, PR (AZ 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 stipend 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.

OPTU BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 3, 2012**ATTENDEES**

Steve Reiter, President
Robin Marsett, PHWFF
Roseann Marsett, Conservation

Joseph Vitelli, Outings
Kathleen Vitelli, Secretary

The board meeting was held during the Christmas party at the home of Joe and Kathleen Vitelli.

The only order of business was voting to continue Steve Reiter as OPTU president and Vaughn Johnson to fill the OPTU Vice President's position. The voting was unanimous on both positions.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Vitelli, OPTU Secretary

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.

THROWBACK PHOTOS



MORE THROWBACK PIX

Newsletter Items That Don't Often Change

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>
