

OPTU NEWS

Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited

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

Volume 20, Issue 4



Index

Items that Change

- President's Message - **No report this time - see the others**
- Conservation Report - **All the latest - be sure to check**
- Youth Activity Report - **See what you can do to help**
- Project Healing Waters Report - **Join in and help**
- Upcoming Fishing Trips and Outings Reports - **Several**
- Tips and Tricks - **25 tips you should consider and ...**
- Fishing Reports - **Don't miss these**
- Quotes & Jokes
- For Sale / For Rent
- Rio Salado Casting Club Grand Opening
- OPTU Board Meeting Minutes - **February**
- Dry Creek Outfitters News - **Dry Creek is moving in early April - keep in touch for details.**

Items that Don't Change Much

- Movie Links
- Help on Places to Fish
- OPTU Facebook Page

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El Jefe



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Anglers;

I hope your fishing has been exceptional this month. I'll have a report next newsletter. Check out the announcement for the Rio Salado casting club grand opening in Gilbert.

All the best
Mike Mehrer, OPTU President.

Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, April 4th, 2012 at the Viscount Suites Hotel at 6:30 pm
4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711

OPTU is pleased to present Jerome Gallegos as this month's guest speaker. Jerome was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico and spent many years casting in the gorgeous Rocky Mountains of New Mexico and the world famous San Juan River below Navajo Dam. After being medically retired due to injuries suffered in Iraq while in the United States Air Force he returned to the Four Corners area to continue to pursue his love of fly fishing. He has been guiding for six years and enjoys teaching the techniques that he has gained from personal experience and from the amazing anglers with whom he has had opportunities to fish. He is the Manager of San Juan Anglers, the Orvis Fly Fishing store in Durango, and the lead for the Four Corners Project Healing Waters program.

He will talk about many of the charts, directions, tactics and waters. Join us to get his experiences in Southwest



waters in the Four Corners area, hatch the best times to fish each of these perspective on these waters and his Colorado.

CONSERVATION NEWS

There will be two OPTU CleanUp days in 2012. The first will be April 14th at Frye Mesa Reservoir. The plan is to arrive Friday, April 13th and spend the night at Cluff Ranch. Cluff Ranch is a Wildlife Recreation Area with two houses for use by Arizona Fish and Game. We have been given permission to stay there the 13th. There are 8 bunks in each house. If you decide to stay there please bring your own sleeping bags, pillows, etc. We will be providing breakfast on the morning of the 14th at the Ranch and lunch will be provided at the Reservoir. We will also be providing plastic bags for the cleanup at the Reservoir that morning. After lunch we'll be able to fish at our leisure for Gila Trout and finish up whenever we want to leave.

8:00 am Breakfast at Cluff Ranch

9:00 am Cleanup up at the Reservoir

12:00 Lunch

12:30 pm General Fishing

A helpful site is attached - a Mapquest link for the directions from Tucson to Cluff Ranch and from there to Frye Mesa Reservoir. <http://mapq.st/wVgkzK>



The second OPTU CleanUp event is tentatively set for June 23rd in the White Mountains. We are working with AZGFD to determine if we can provide a CleanUp of the West Fork of the Black River from the second barricade up to the confluence of Burro and Thompson Creek in the big meadow. We would do it as we usually do and camp Friday and Saturday nights. If you are interested please save the dates and we'll let you know as soon as we get firm approval. Please contact Roseann Marsett at 520.760.1659 or rzann@comcast.net for further information.

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



See outings report.

Upcoming Fishing Trips and Outings Reports

OUTINGS REPORT FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH 2012

On February 24, 2012, members of OPTU and PHWFF travelled to Frye Mesa Reservoir to fish for the extremely rare Gila Trout. The weather was cool, the sun was shining and the fish were biting!!

It was extremely gratifying to see Joe Fagan and Gary Locker catch Gila Trout simultaneously, or should I say Double Header, on their Tenkara fly rods.

It was an exciting day for three generations of the Marsett family, grandpa Robin, little Hailey and her father Robert out for a day of fishing. More importantly, little Hailey was quick to show off her fishing skills by out-fishing grandpa Robin and her father.

PHWFF members were not to be left behind. Sgt. Bill Schaefer caught the biggest Gila Trout of the day, a 13 inch beauty, and winning the Orvis fly box for the largest fish of the day.

I might conclude by giving a conservative count of caught fish on this day of about 175, yes, that's a lot of fish!!

We take a lot of great pictures of all our outings which can be viewed on the OPTU Facebook page. We invite you all to take a look and subscribe to the OPTU page!!

APRIL 2012 FISHING OUTINGS

APRIL 14, 2012 - FRYE MESA RESERVOIR

APRIL 26, 2012 - ROSE CANYON LAKE

On April 14th, OPTU Conservation Coordinator Roseann Marsett has scheduled an OPTU cleanup day at Frye Mesa. This is a great opportunity to support the mission of Trout Unlimited by preserving this wonderful fishery and combine that with a chance to fish for Gila Trout. For full details, please refer to the Conservation report and posting on OPTU Facebook.

On April 26th, we will be making our monthly trek to Rose Canyon Lake. The fishing has been fantastic all winter and should improve with warmer days ahead. We will meet at the parking area just past mile marker 17 on Catalina Highway, next to the road leading into Rose Canyon. Meeting time is scheduled for 9:30a.m. It should be a great day for camaraderie with fishing friends and a good cigar!! Hope to see you there!

Respectfully submitted.

Joe Vitelli
OPTU Outings Coordinator

Calendar

Apr 4: Regular meeting - Jerome Gallegos Manager of San Juan Anglers in Durango and the lead for the Four Corners Project Healing Waters program will provide tips and techniques for the area, including the San Juan - Viscount 6:30 pm

Apr 18: Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, NEW LOCATION. Call Eric at 326-7847.

Apr 25: Board meeting at TBA - 6 pm.

May 2: Regular meeting - TBA - Viscount 6:30 pm

May 16: Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, NEW LOCATION. Call Eric at 326-7847.

May 23: Board meeting at TBA - 6 pm.



Having fun at the outings

FISH IN ALASKA THIS SEPTEMBER

Have you ever wanted to fish in Alaska? If so, consider joining John Murphy's annual trip there in September. Though designed as an educational meeting for physicians and pharmacists in addition to the fishing, OPTU members and their friends are welcome and have joined us in the past (and you don't have to join the education). Here are the details. A weeklong Lodge package will be from September 8 to 14 or 15 to 21, 2012. The rate for a single week will be \$3795 plus \$150 for a plane shuttle from the Kenai airport to Anchorage at the end of the stay (total of \$3945). This is approximately 10% off the usual price. For those who wish to come for more or less than one week, contact Great Alaska to determine the cost. Morning pick up in Anchorage for a scenic van ride to the Lodge will be at 7:45 am on September 8th or 15th and departure for the Kenai airport for return to Anchorage will be at 2:30 pm on the 14th or 21st. Contact John at 250-4083 if interested. Watch the trailer and my other YouTube videos if interested in what it is like.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qH3Hs3tzp4o&list=UUU447p5-TjiIBoypkwmDOW&index=3&feature=plcp>

Tips and Tricks

Tips from Field and Stream - 25 things to make you a better fly angler: <http://www.fieldandstream.com/blogs/flytalk/2012/03/25-things-make-you-better-fly-angler?cmpid=enews030212&spPodID=020&spMailingID=4423370&spUserID=MTcxODkxODQiNDMSr&spJobID=264643744&spReportId=MjY0NjQzNzQ0So>

From a Fish Alaska Magazine article by guide JD Richey: To clean up rods and reels with lots of caked on crust, spray a little lemon pledge on the blanks and cork (and outside of a reel) and let sit for a few minutes. Then wipe it off with a dry rag. WD40 on a rag is good for the reel seat and guides. You can bring old rusted lures back to life using WD40. When that doesn't work, soak them overnight in diet cola.

FISHING REPORTS

A group of intrepid anglers headed to the "new" San Juan River last week for the 10th Annual OPTU fishing event. Though one of our crew had to fly up two days later due to a daughter who became ill 10 minutes before we left on Sunday, the week was the usual success. Our accommodations at the Octagon

were excellent and the food yummy (special thanks to Gary and Jeff for special concoctions). Several of the group spent time with guide Andy Kim and Gary Bedsworth did a float day. The weather was superb with cool mornings and reasonably moderate afternoons. No snow this year.

I think the fishing may have been the best ever for our trips and some of that was probably due to the changes made to the river upstream from the Texas Hole. Work was done to create a run in almost every section of the flats that did not previously have one. Large rocks were also added and certain of the previously connected sections were rerouted to increase flow to the runs. These runs all held dozens of fish and some of the anglers stayed in the same run for several hours each day catching trout in excellent condition. Everyone had their choice of nearly a dozen new runs and we took advantage. The only place I didn't have much luck was up by the dam, but imagine that will change over time as well. I caught two very nice fish there in a couple of hours though that would compare to a dozen in the same time frame elsewhere. The Kiddie Pool (KP) was fishing very well this year and I had one of my best days ever sight fishing on the flats just east of the KP one day when no one else chose to target the area. It seemed that if I could spot a fish I had a good chance of hooking it. Of course, in typical SJ style, the next day I had to work MUCH harder to get fish in the same area. The sun was really bright that day compared to a little overcast and breezy on the easier day, which may have explained the change somewhat. It doesn't seem likely that my skill level changed in a day.

In case you might be heading to the SJ in the near future, the top flies for our trip were redheads and blondes (red chironomids and Yong blondes). Jeff was catching quite a few on an olive colored flashback mayfly emerger pattern. He gave me some and I did well on them in the afternoon at Baetis Bend. Yong specials were also very productive. As always, when the fishing slows try a variety of tiny midge imitations.

The 11th annual trip will be the same week next year (March 10 to 15) and will be limited to nine individuals. I'll advertise for it later in the year but if you are interested shoot me an email. *The editor.*

George, Dennis, and Gary showing off some of the nice fish landed this year.



QUOTES AND JOKES

Nothing funny this month.

FOR SALE

Everyone is keeping their stuff.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE**Build it and they will come...**

Rio Salado Casting Club Grand Opening - by Marian Tallon

A love of fly fishing, crackerjack brainstorming and substantial legwork led to the successful launch of Rio Salado Casting Club. Thanks to Woody Wilson, President, Lakeshore Music at Tempe Center for the Arts and Dr. Larry Allen, past president Arizona Flycasters Club, FFF Master Casting Instructor, and member of the American Casting Team, Rio Salado Casting Club will be a celebrated asset to Arizona's angling community. For the Grand Opening, Saturday, April 7th at 11 AM, Larry's arranged a special treat by inviting Steve Rajeff to pace us through the casting course at the kickoff event at Gilbert Municipal Court.

Steve Rajeff is among the most renowned casters and anglers in the world, with 37 American and 14 world casting championships to his name. Steve started in the sport as a youngster and never stopped. After guiding in Alaska and Wyoming, Steve settled in as rod designer for G · Loomis, leaving time for him to pursue his passion, luckily both during working hours and days off. Rio Salado Casting Club (RSCC) is an [American Casting Association](#) member club. RSCC will host guest casters from around the country and regular monthly club events will include casting demos, discussions about equipment, casting tips and tournament style fly, spin and revolving spool casting to targets on the lake. Casting techniques, such as the double haul, innovative taper designs and early fly line advances were introduced by tournament casters. What a pleasure, to benefit from the experience of experts. Future events will be posted on the website.

Tournament casting is a test of skill between the individual caster and tricky targets. Clearly casting targets are round for a reason...they resemble the ring of a rise. Though not as tricky as fish, they're intended to improve our casting and angling skill. Come out and enjoy the experience, meet new friends, familiarize yourself with different equipment, or try out your own gear on the targets. RSCC membership information will be available on opening day.

There's convenient parking and nearby facilities, remember to apply your sunscreen and wear a hat - we're counting on typical Arizona sunshine. Bring along a folding camp chair so you're plenty comfortable and perhaps a cooler with snacks and drinks. It'll be one heck of an exciting day and just plain good fun with friends, old and new!

Where: Gilbert Municipal Court - Casting Field & Pond, 55 E. Civic Center Dr. Gilbert, AZ 85296 (at Gilbert Rd. south of Warner Rd.)

When: Saturday, April 7, 11am - 4:30pm

What: Bring a chair, snacks and drinks. Following Steve's demonstration, you're invited to cast an accuracy round, ask experts for advice, stay and enjoy the tournament.

2:00pm: ACA Rio Salado Casting Club Tournament

Accuracy Event: Dry Fly, Wet Fly, TBD.

Visit phoenixflycasting.com and click the link for Rio Salado Casting Club News.

OPTU BOARD MINUTES

OPTU MEETING MINUTES -- FEBRUARY 22, 2012

ATTENDEES

Mike Mehrer, President	Roseann Marsett, Conservation
Steve Reiter, Mtgs. Coordinator	Roger McKee, Pres (ex officio)
Mick Fletcher, PR (AZTU Chair)	Joe Vitelli, Outings Coor.
Joe Fagan, Youth Activities	Kathleen Vitelli, Secretary
Robin Marsett, PHWFF	

Board Meeting was held at SK Builders Office and was called to order at 6:05p.m.

BANQUET COMMITTEE REPORT

Banquet Committee members, Roseann Marsett, Kathleen Vitelli and Dave Combs met prior to this board meeting and prepared an assessment and recommendations report which was distributed to all board members.

The following are committee recommendations for the success of future banquets:

- Roseann indicated that we the committee suggests we look to break even on the cost of the food and not focus on making a profit from this. It is suggested that we definitely need to change the venue with the mission of providing good food at a fair price at a nice location. Several venues will be looked at for the 2012 banquet including Ventana Canyon Resort and La Paloma resort.
- With respect to the bucket raffles, we may want to call out the raffle winners vs. leaving the winning number at the bucket. It is agreed that calling the bucket raffle out loud, perhaps in several rounds, it makes for more fun and excitement for the participants.
- The short speaker presentations of the last banquet seemed to go over well.
- The committee highly recommends the Chapter have shirts, hats and patches available for purchase to the members at all meetings and the banquet. These items should be priced out. Dave Combs has a connection for shirts and a motion was made by Joe Vitelli and seconded by Kathleen Vitelli, with approval by all board members, to give Dave an allowance of \$500.00 to get the ball rolling on shirts and hats, which will then be brought back to the board for further approval on purchases.
- It was also recommended that when new members join OPTU they should get a welcome letter from the President along with an OPTU patch.
- Additionally, outstanding members should be recognized at the banquet for outstanding work in the Chapter. Perhaps more than one award should be given. Suggestions of giving a plaque or framed certificate.
- Finally, it was recommended that more emphasis should be put on advertising the banquet. This can be achieved by preparing posters to be placed at key locations including Dry Creek Outfitters, Sportsman Warehouse, etc. Also taking advantage of local newspapers and radio.

Kathleen asked Mike Mehrer if there was a complete list or roster of all OPTU members. Mike indicated that it is available on the TU website in the Leaders Only section. Mike advised Kathleen that as secretary she now has access to this section and can obtain roster. Mike requested that due to his upcoming extended vacation he will not be available to do blast emails. This will be handled by Secretary Vitelli.

Steve Reiter indicated that he was in touch with Ed Wilkinson and suggested the committee speak with him and get his ideas for enhancing this years banquet.

Mike Mehrer reported that a special offer for membership into TU was available at a reduced rate of \$17.50 and that we could team up with Dry Creek Outfitters by offering this membership with a \$100.00 minimum purchase. Roseann agreed that she would prepare a poster and fliers to be placed at Dry Creek Outfitters.

Kathleen suggested that we utilize Facebook on a regular basis for getting out our information for meetings and banquet. Kathleen indicated that she will prepare all activities as an event on Facebook which will be available to all who visit the page.

CONSERVATION REPORT

Roseann indicated that report was same as last meeting and reiterated that a clean-up was scheduled for Frye Mesa on April 14, 2012.

OUTINGS REPORT

Joe V. indicated that there has been an increased activity in participation in the monthly fishing outings. The next outing is scheduled as a joint effort with PHWFF and will be a four-day fishing trip to the White Mountains.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Joe F. reported he taught at Flowing Wells school, agricultural program. The teacher is definitely interested in the Trout in the classroom program next year.

Joe would like OPTU Board to select schools for the Trout in the Classroom program. Perhaps prepare a questionnaire for the teachers and recommending it as an after school program. This could include fly tying and casting. Joe would like other OPTU members to attend programs so they can learn. Joe expressed concern about the lack of volunteers from OPTU to assist with his youth activities. Some discussion took place about how to pick the schools.

MEETINGS COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Steve updated the board on the upcoming meeting speakers for March and April, Jack Dennis (March) and Jerome Gallegos (April). Robin advised Steve that Jerome would be able to talk about fishing in the four corners region, Steve thought this would be fine since the area is within driving distance for those interested.

Steve advised the board that Jack Dennis could talk on a range of topics and the Board agreed that perhaps Secret Places to Fish in Wyoming and The Worth of a Trout would be most interesting to the members.

Steve indicated that Jack will do several hours in the afternoon of March 7th at Dry Creek Outfitters followed by the presentations at the membership meeting at 6:30pm.

Some discussion was held about being more proactive about advertising our monthly speakers by perhaps placing posters at Dry Creek two weeks prior to the meeting.

Kathleen will be responsible for sending out blast email via TU website as well as creating a Chapter Event on Facebook.

PHWFF

Robin gave a report on the progress of the raffle tickets for the car which will benefit PHWFF and OPTU. The ticket sales have been slow. Each board member was given a specific number of tickets to sell on behalf of PHWFF/OPTU.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Vitelli, OPTU Secretary

DRY CREEK OUTFITTERS: NEWS AND BARGAINS

We will be moving some time in early April to the shopping center on the NE corner of River and Craycroft. This move will allow many exciting new opportunities for the Dry Creek group and all of our wonderful friends and customers. More information to follow. 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.

Resort Timeshare - Anywhere in US - One week in 1 to 4 bedroom suite depending on site before May 31st - \$400/week depending on availability. Call John at 520-250-4083.

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



Help send a Wounded Warrior to the Kobuk River in the North West Arctic of Alaska



Those who have borne the battle



Much needed chance to decompress

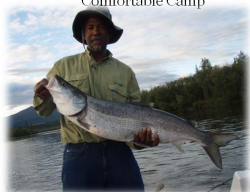
Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Fort Huachuca is raising money to send four wounded warriors to the Kobuk River for some world class fishing and much needed relaxation. You can help with a donation or by purchasing a raffle ticket for a chance of winning a new Nissan LEAF. Please Contact: Libby Mannel at (520) 881-0000 libby@arrottalaw.com Or Robin Marssett at (520) 760-1667 rmarssett@comcast.net



Comfortable Camp



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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>

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

<http://www.lrcctu.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.

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>

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>