

OPTU NEWS

Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited

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

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers and Coordinators

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Conservation Chair: Robin Marsett

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Healing Waters Chair: Captain Chris

Allen and Major Mario Bracamonte

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Youth Education Chair: Joe Fagan

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, fellow OPTUers ...

Our 2014 Banquet and Fundraiser was an unqualified success! We packed the room at the Tanque Verde Guest Ranch with more than 130 members and guests. We had first-rate entertainment by Ocotillo Rain, led by former OPTU President and future bluegrass music star Jeff Collins. And, the buffet dinner was the best banquet meal we have had in many years. Special THANKS to the Banquet organizing committee – Vaughn Johnson, Kathleen Vitelli, and Dave Combs – for all their time and effort.

Following is a list of all those individuals and businesses that donated money, goods, or services to either underwrite the cost of the banquet, or for auction and bucket raffle items. A most heartfelt THANK YOU to all.

CASH DONORS

Doug Brown, Cavanal Hill Investment Mgmt
Hector Mendez, Mainstay Investment Mgmt
Chris Johnson, Ivy Funds Investment Mgmt
John Osborne, Goldberg & Osborne
Linwood Smith

GOODS AND SERVICES DONORS

Charles Thomas (multiple)	Rick Fink
Cynthia Combs	Jonathan Landeen (multiple)
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Terry McDow (multiple)	Bob O'Brien
Circle Valley Anglers	The Filson Company
The Orvis Company	Second Amendment Sports
Jack Dennis	Jay Elliott (multiple)
Joe and Kathleen Vitelli	LL Bean (multiple)
Anthony Birchak	Summit Hut (multiple)
im Click Automotive	BJ's Restaurant (multiple)
Annie Margarita	Gary Locker (multiple)
Antler Ridge Resort and Cabins	The Fishpond Company
Durangers	Grant Kruger



JSir Veza's Restaurants (multiple)	Guadalajara Grill
Steve Brown	Agro – El Corral and Pinnacle Peak
Tony DiCicco (multiple)	Joe Fagan
The Parish Restaurant	
Van's Golf Shop (multiple)	
Cabelas (multiple)	
Cindy Hall	
PHWFF-Active and Retired Military Service Personnel	
Imus and Wilkinson Investment Management (multiple)	

The last item of business at the Banquet was the drawing of the winning ticket for the Orvis Helios 2 rod and reel. The winner was Mike Morrison, a winter visitor who was leaving the following day or so for Utah to spend a couple of weeks fishing, then on to Idaho, Wyoming and Montana for the summer.

Our speaker for the May 7 meeting is Vince Deadmond of the Desert Fly Casters in Phoenix, who will speak on Fly Fishing the Lower Salt River. The may meeting will be our last meeting before our summer break, so I hope you can make it. If not, I hope to see you in September ...

Steve Reiter
President, OPTU

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 for information on the next teleconference.



Lees Ferry Trip



Calendar

APR 2: Regular meeting at the Viscount - 6:30 pm - 4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711. Speaker TBA.

APR 2: BOARD MEETING: 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Viscount Suites.

APR 23: Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, 5655 East River Road, Suite 131. Call Eric at 326-7847.

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Youth Activities

OPTU Newsletter, March

Trout in the Classroom program is being conducted in two schools; Flowing Wells High School Agri-Science class with seniors and juniors and at Fruchthendler Elementary School 4th graders.

The Flowing Wells program has 4 rainbow trout surviving. They are about 2 inches long and have their paar marks. The last three trout have simply disappeared on different days with no bodies to be found, which is puzzling.

The water pump of the external filtration system has been overheating. Rather than waiting for it to fail completely, a new filtration system has been purchased. The old model is no longer supported to simply replace the motor. The old model will have been replaced at the time you read this report. The old filtration system will be set aside for use as an emergency replacement filtration system.

The 4th graders at Fruchthendler Elementary School have received over 50 rainbow trout eggs. We were hoping to receive brook trout eggs, but only rainbow eggs became available. Only about 10 eggs have died. The eggs have been hatching into alevins recently. Soon their yolk-sacs will be absorbed, and they will begin swimming about looking for food as fry.

The students are being very diligent in the care of the trout in both the High and Elementary Schools.

With ***Boy Scouts of the Catalina Council***, plans are being made to attend the start of each week (Mondays) of Summer Camp when Boy Scouts choose which merit badges they want to work on for a week. We cannot promise the boys that they would earn a Fishing or Fly-Fishing merit badge within a week because of the stringency of the requirements. But if they choose to work on the merit badges, I personally would be prepared to go teach them each day in camp. I would want to focus on the Fly-Fishing merit badge, but would be willing to teach the easier Fishing merit badge. It would be wrapped-up at the end of the week with fishing for trout at the Rose Canyon Lake.

I would hope that those OPTU members already merit badge counselors for fishing and fly-fishing will update their safety requirements on-line with the Catalina Council. I would hope that more members would volunteer to become councilors. Feel free to contact me (Joe Fagan) or the Catalina Council of Boy Scouts here in Tucson, if you would be willing to assist training Scouts. I would hope that these Scouts would build a lasting relationship with OPTU by becoming members.

I hope OPTU members are willing to actively support me on these two projects. The trout are doing well at the two schools for "Trout in the Classroom."

This summer, the 4 weeks of June and the first week of July, I will be teaching Fly-Fishing Merit badge requirements if at least 8 Boy Scouts at Camp Lawton in the Catalina Mountains let me know on Mondays that they want to work for the merit badge that week during summer camp. If there are, I will at least teach two classes each day Monday through Friday. (They would do fly-fishing at Rose Canyon Lake on Friday mornings.) I will not know ahead of time if enough Scouts will want to work on the requirements. If OPTU members are willing to help me do this, they must be certified with the BSA Catalina Council as merit badge counselors. The only "difficult" aspects for getting certified is to take an on-line safety class that lasts 22 minutes and doing the paper-work.

If OPTU members are willing to participate with me in teaching the Scouts, they may contact me and/or the Scouting office near the NW corner of Rosemont and Broadway in mid-Tucson.

I would need to know when OPTU members could help teach and what subjects of the merit badge they would like to teach. I would like to know before I start teaching, i.e. notify me at least by sometime in May. *Joe Fagan*

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING



The program is led by Captain Chris Allen of Sierra Vista and Major Mario Bracamonte of Tucson. Please give them your support as they continue the good work.

Project Healing Waters continues to reach out to disabled veterans and active duty troops. As a result of setting up a booth at the Tucson Rodeo and attending the VA poly trauma outreach event we have gained four new members in the Tucson group. We will continue this effort by having a booth at the Davis Monthan Air Show on the 12th and 13th of April.

We just returned from a great trip to Lee's Ferry. This was a joint OPTU, PHWFF trip arranged by Joe Vitelli. The Gunns and their guides at Lee's Ferry Anglers were great and everyone caught lots of nice trout. We look forward to doing this again.

Upcoming Fishing Trips and Outings Reports

OPTU/PHWFF LEE'S FERRY FLY FISHING TRIP

OPTU/Project Healing Waters members just returned from a trip to Lee's Ferry and fly fished for two days with the expert help of guides from Lee's Ferry Anglers (not to mention their cool jet boats!).

As a first timer to this water only one word comes to mind "WOW". This stretch of Colorado River runs through Marble Canyon. It was just beautiful and ever-changing with the angle of the sun...the colors ran from tans, browns and grays to magnificent purples. I can say that all of us missed a fish or two as we were distracted by the beautiful scenery and gin clear water.

Day one was picture perfect, plenty of sunshine and very little wind. Our group of eleven utilized four jet boats, one or two of which were specially set up for the members who could not wade fish, fishing from the boat proved just as productive. Our guides were outstanding, from navigating the current of the river, finding us the best places to fish and rigging our rods with the appropriate set up for catching wild rainbow trout spawning in the river. That set up included a hopper as strike indicator and a scud or midge below. The real treat was catching these wild rainbow in full spawn...the colors were intense and magnificent, ranging from pinks to reds and deeper purples. These wild fish were fun to catch....they were aggressive, jumping and fighting until brought to hand.

Day two was quite a bit more challenging with 35-40 mph winds howling through the canyon. However, our expert guides were able to find less windy coves and bends in the 15 miles stretch of river that offered quite a bit of shelter from the wind. Some might say that fishing under these conditions would be less productive....I say it was just as productive if not better as some the biggest rainbows were caught on this day. I would not be exaggerating the numbers when I say more than 200 rainbows were brought to hand during this trip. That is not to mention the strikes and hook-ups that were made.

TO CONSERVE, PROTECT, AND RESTORE NORTH AMERICA'S COLDWATER FISHERIES AND THEIR WATERSHEDS

We stayed at the Cliff Dweller's Lodger which is owned by Wendy and Terry Gunn as well as their fly shop which was right there. The restaurant provided great food and our excellent boxed lunches. They even provided lunches that were specially made for a few of our members with dietary constraints.

All of our OPTU members wanted to send out a special thanks to our wounded vets who participated on this trip and a big thank you for your service. It was a privilege spending time with you!!

A big thanks to OPTU for funding part of this trip to offset the cost for our members. Also to Wendy and Terry Gunn of Lee's Ferry Anglers who donated a full day of guided fishing for our PHWFF members; to Jim Click who is always very generous in assisting with transportation for our vets, and to Jerry Yang of Jerry's Cigars for always donating cigars and accoutrements to our vets!!



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

Fly Fishing Magazines I have 30 plus yrs. of fly fishing magazines- all kinds. I want to sell them for \$.50 a copy. My # is 747-7074. Vinnie Mchale.

I found a website for custom rods that some of you may be interested in viewing
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. \$600 per week or \$100/night - plus housecleaning fee. Extra beyond 4 guests. Call John at 520-250-4083 if interested in checking it out.

Arizona Game and Fish Interactive Stocking Schedule

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

QUOTES AND JOKES

FISHING REPORTS

12th Annual San Juan Trip

A small group of anglers headed to the San Juan this March for yet another amazing fishing adventure. The water was fairly off-colored due to the Navajo Lake turnover so sight fishing was somewhat limited. That was made up for by everyone catching dozens of fish each day. If you haven't been to the Juan since they cut new channels throughout the walk-in area you are in for a very pleasant surprise. The fish are everywhere and that disperses the crowds considerably. The fish are also in much better shape than when they were focused in just a few areas and hammered by anglers. We stayed in Durango this year, which does cut the fishing day a bit due to the hour drive, but it does offer the ability to eat at quite a few excellent restaurants. We were also in town for St. Patrick's day and enjoyed watching the younger folks party it up at the Irish Embassy. We have decided to move next year's trip a couple of weeks later in an attempt to get clearer water for the amazing sight fishing that the San Juan can offer. Dates will be Sunday April 13 to Friday April 18. If you are interested the cost should be about \$450 for all food, travel, and fun. Contact the editor at jemurphy51@me.com. Money won't be due till about December.



ALASKA

The Murphy crew will be going to Alaska twice this year to the Great Alaska Adventure Lodge in Sterling, Alaska. The first trip is June for Sockeye, Rainbows, Dollies, King salmon and perhaps Halibut. Dates June 14 to 20. The second will be in September from the 6th to 12th - this trip will focus on big Rainbows, Dollies, Steelhead, and Silver Salmon. If you would like to join colleagues from Tucson on this trip call John at 520-250-4083 for details.

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:

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?cmpid=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 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>

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

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>
