OPTU NEWS

Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited

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



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El Jefe



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Anglers;

Hi you all

Boy! The presentation by Dave Brown was a keeper. Plenty of good fish shots, a lot of good scenery, makes me almost wish I were going on the **retirees trip** in August. Wait, I am going! We have a few open slots for you late-comers. Don't hesitate! Reply to me <u>Mehrog2@gainbroadband.com</u>. if you are interested.

The women's fly casting clinic was a success. We had a few at the beginners session on Saturday. But the advanced session on Sunday was sold out. Just goes to prove, we have a bunch of women who like to fly fish. Nan plans on holding follow-up on the water session somewhere in AZ.

Joe Fagan (youth activities chairman) found volunteers for trout in the classroom projects from attendees at the members meeting. But don't let that stop you. There's room for more. Joe will do all the training you need. He needs back-up for when he can't be there. Plumbers, refrigeration specialists, retired teachers, and anyone who likes working with kids who are interested in trout. He needs YOU. Joe visited Rivera Elementary this week and he judges it to be good fit for trout-in-the-classroom. We hope to have two programs next school year. We will be mailing out the TU members in the areas adjacent to the schools, in search of volunteers to help.

And incidentally, Joe will be instructing fly tying at Boy Scouts summer camp in the Catalinas. That's all for now. All the best. *Mike Mehrer, OPTU President.*

June Meeting

The June 4 meeting will feature two speakers. First, Julie Carter and Mike Lopez from AzG&F have identified a conservation project in the White Mountains, and they would like to have participation from OPTU. Julie Carter will make the presentation.

Also, Hadley and Anthony Castanada from Cimarroncita Ranch in northern New Mexico will make a presentation about their ranch, amenities, and the first-rate brown trout fishery available to guests. "OPTU will **NOT meet** in either July or August. We hope to see everybody - as well as some new faces - at our September meeting. Watch the newsletter for details ..."

CONSERVATION NEWS

The next 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

On Saturday, April 21st, OPTU President Mike Mehrer and Joe Fagan (Youth Activities Chairman) assisted 8 Sahuarita Middle School students of teacher Mrs. Sue Simpson to collect and identify many aquatic invertebrates. We met at the stream in Madera Canyon for the morning collecting trip. We collected a large variety of organisms that are natural foods for fish, most of which some of us OPTU members tie fishing flies to resemble the natural foods.

With the help of taxonomic keys, field microscopes, and magnifying glasses we were able to identify all of the creatures found. We found, among other organisms, two species of midge larvae, hellgrammite, crane-fly larva, aquatic "earth worms" (viz. San Juan worms), and caddis fly larvae with their special camouflage for the specific stream in which they lived. One unique caddis fly larva had its case shaped in a coiled conical manner to look like a snail. The case was affixed with very fine grains of sand. We concluded our morning with lunch provided by Mrs. Simpson and Mike.

Board Members will have begun visiting teachers at their schools that responded to our bulk mailing that invited Tucson Elementary and Middle Schools to participate in our program, Trout in the Classroom (TIC). We hope to select two schools that will do the TIC program for the 2012-13 school-year. A few OPTU members may begin volunteering to assist Joe Fagan and learn how to assist and advise teachers. Teachers and volunteers will be trained together before the Program begins in the schools after summer vacation. Teachers will do most of the work conducting the Program for their students. Volunteers will train with Joe to learn how to advise teachers on various aspects of the Program that ranges from setting up chilled aquariums to dissecting trout.

On Thursday, May 17, some OPTU members will be visiting students of OPTU member Tom Hall at Howenstine Magnet High School in Tucson. The class of 12 students will be taught how to tie some simple fishing flies. Joe Fagan will provide vises, tools, hooks and materials for the students to use. Joe will use his BIG vise and bobbin and oversize materials to demonstrate how to tie a San Juan Worm and a silvery, white "Wooly Bugger," purported to be a "killer fly" at Rose Canyon Lake. Members assisting the students will be Don Baer and Robin Marsett. Mary Welch (Joe's wife) will also assist the students.

Some OPTU members are planning to teach Boy Scouts of the Catalina Council requirements for the Fly-fishing Merit Badge. We will be teaching during one of the summer camps up at BSA Camp Lawton up in the Catalina Mountains. This will take place during the week of July 9 - 13. OPTU members that wish to volunteer to teach Boy Scouts for the Fly-fishing Merit Badge are required by the Catalina Council to register as merit badge counselors and take a brief (22 minute), on-line course on safety while working with



boys. We need more volunteers to register at the BSA offices near Rosemont and Broadway to assist other OPTU volunteers to teach Boy Scouts.

On all these topics feel free to e-mail or call Joe Fagan for additional information. We are looking for more OPTU members to become active, working with youth as an "out-reach" activity but also to entice them and their parents to rejuvenate our OPTU membership.

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.

JUNE 2012

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING



Project Healing Waters took a trip to the San Juan the end of April. The vets and troops from Ft. Huachuca and Tucson were joined by a soldier form Ft Bliss, Texas; a veteran from Washington DC and two soldiers form Ft Richardson, Alaska.

Jerome Gallegos of the San Juan Angler in Durango and his guides donated their time and drift boats all three days. The fishing was good with some nice browns and rainbows being landed.

In addition to Jerome and his guides, I want to thank the Iron Horse Inn of Durango for once again giving us 50% discounts on our accommodations. I would be remiss if I failed to thank Roseann Marsett, Whitey Kuebler, Joe Vitelli, and Danny Hooper, who all helped out on this venture.

We continue to hold weekly tying classes in Tucson, and at Fort Huachuca where we will begin concentrating on flies for our two summer trips to Alaska. We have completed our rod building for this year, and I want to complement the participants for a job well done.

I am still looking for on the water help for the Durango Trip 16 to 21 September. If anyone is interested in helping out let me know. If you go to Durango, you are



responsible for your own transportation to and from Durango and your accommodations, which will be half priced. Some meals will be provided but not all. Typically, when acting as a mentor on this trip you don't get an opportunity to fish. This is because many of the troops need a lot of help and require your full attention.



The one exception to this is the day we go to the San Juan. Guiding on the Juan is provided by professionals who donate their time, which frees up most of the volunteers to do whatever they wish. I have two open seats available on our trip to the Kobuk River in July. See the notice in this newsletter. *Robin Marsett.*

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing is continuing to tie flies, build rods and take trips. We will be doing another trip to the White Mountains from 28 Sep to 2 Oct and one to Durango from 16-21 September. Contact me if you are interested in helping out with these.

Upcoming Fishing Trips and Outings Reports

Fish the Arctic with Project Healing Waters and Robin Marsett

Two places are still open for world class fishing in the northwest Arctic of Alaska from 17 to 22 July 2012. Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing has the opportunity to take four of our troops to the upper Kobuk River for a week of fly fishing for world class Sheefish, and Grayling. It is likely that the Arctic Char will be running at the same time and Northern Pike are always available in the area. The cost of this trip is normally \$3800 plus transportation. You can take advantage of the Healing Waters discount and go for \$2500 plus travel. That is a 33% percent discount. Travel is estimated to be about \$1400 round trip.

If you are interested please contact Robin Marsett at rmarsett@comcast.net or (520) 760-1667. I would like to have this wrapped up by mid June.

Calendar

Jun 6: Regular meeting - Julie Carter and Mike Lopez from AzG&F will speak about a conservation project in the White Mountains that they would like to have participation from OPTU. Also Hadley and Anthony Castanada from Cimarroncita Ranch in northern New Mexico will make a presentation about their ranch, amenities, and the first-rate brown trout fishery available to guests. -Viscount 6:30 pm

Jun 20: Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, NEW LOCATION. Call Eric at 326-7847.

Jun 27: Board meeting at TBA - 6 pm.

Jul 4: No regular meeting

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

Jul 25: Board meeting at TBA - 6 pm.





FISH IN ALASKATHIS SEPTEMBER

Have you ever dreamed of fishing in Alaska? If its on your bucket list, 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. <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qH3Hs3tzp40&list=UUU447p5-</u>TJiJ1BoypkwmDOw&index=3&feature=plcp

DRY CREEK OUTFITTERS: NEWS AND BARGAINS

Dry Creek Outfitters is now residing at the River Center mall on the NE corner of River and Craycroft and is open **Tuesdays through Sundays** with hours of 10 am to 7 pm Tuesday to Friday, 9:30 am to 6 pm Saturday, and 11 am to 4 pm on Sunday. The shop will be *closed Mondays* so get your purchases in on the other six days. 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.

New products offered at Dry Creek Outfitters. We recently became an authorized dealer for Hardy & Greys fly rods. The new Hardy Zenith and Proaxis fly rods have received high praise from many in the industry including famed tarpon hunter, Andy Mill. Additional brands now available through Dry Creek are Lamson/Waterworks fly reels, Loomis fly rods and accessories and R.L. Winston fly rods.

Are you looking for a fly reel that manufactured in the U.S. and machined from aluminum and priced below \$200? Come by and check out the Ross CLA 2.0 fly reel. This reel is appropriate for line weights from 4-6 and is priced at \$195.

Although we are stocking several of the new Simms wading boots that are equipped with the Vibram Streamtread soles, we also have the Simms Freestone boots with felt soles. We advise those flyfishing enthusiasts still wearing felt soles to soak them in bleach solution before embarking on their next adventure.

We have a trip to **Bozeman, Montana** scheduled from 9/15 to 9/20. We hope to flyfish the Madison, Yellowstone, maybe some wading on the Gallatin and some challenging spring creek fishing on the De Puys. There are currently 7 people from Tucson and we have room for at least 2 more. Give Eric or Whitey a call at 326-7847 for further info.

In addition to the new brands mentioned above, Dry Creek Outfitters is an authorized dealer for Orvis, Sage, Simms, Redington, Rio Products, Scientific Anglers, Ross Reels, Abel Reels, Tibor Reels, Scott Fly Rods, Smith Optics, Outcast/Fishcat Pontoon boats and Float tubes, Temple Fork Outfitters, Korkers, Galvan Fly Reels, Airflo fly lines and several other brands... You'll always receive free shipping with Dry Creek. We have moved to the shopping center on the NE corner of River and Craycroft. This 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*

Eric is a long-time supporter of OPTU and we all need to be sure to support him. So get over to the "new and even better" DCO and buy some of those essential things you know you need (or at least want very much). *The Editor*

Tips and Tricks

Offset Hooks Catch More Fish

Here's a great tip. When tying a very small fly, slightly bend the hook point to the right or left. An offset hook will increase your number of hookups. Always bend the hook prior to tying the fly in case it breaks. This is also an excellent time to crimp the barb. *From the Rogue Angler website - by David Klausmeyer*

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=MTcxODkxODQ1NDMS1&spJobID=264643744&spReportId=MjY0NjQzNzQ0S0

FISHING REPORTS

Dan Malone and I went to the fabled *Situk River in Yakutat, Alaska* with dreams of catching 20 or more steelhead per day. Unfortunately, the weather and conditions weren't going to have it. We ended up with about 14 metalheads total over six days (lost a small number more) and even got skunked on a halibut trip - something we would never have gone out on if the steelies were cooperating. To top that off I was sick from about the 4th day onward. They had more snow up there this year than in the last 30 years and the water apparently wasn't warm enough to interest the big numbers in coming upriver. So, instead of several thousand fish in a 15 mile stretch there were several hundred. We did our best but were often outfished by anglers using spinners - though they weren't that productive either.

There was about 9 feet of snow on the banks, which made for challenging walking (e.g., dropping into a hole 4 ft deep). The Yakutat Lodge gives you a car (junker of course) and your own driftboat and sends you on your way. Thus, don't take this option if you have never rowed before. A guide package can be had for about twice the amount we paid and I would recommend that for novice rowers. Though it is a fairly small

river, there are still opportunities to get in trouble. The shuttle service to take your vehicle to the bottom is \$100/day so it is important to plan for that - we hadn't of course. I would say the best outcome of the trip overall was in pretty significantly enhancing our previously rudimentary rowing skills. By the end we rarely crashed into obstacles and mostly provided a good drift for the person angling. The river small and clear so it is important to have the line quite a bit ahead of the boat.

If you are thinking of heading to the Situk feel free to give me a call to ask about details. *The Editor*



Some "Dennis Rodman" beads prepared for the Situk. Polished dark roe was still best.

QUOTES AND JOKES

I never lost a little fish - Yes, I am free to say. It always was the biggest fish I caught, that got away. -Eugene Field (1850-1895)

FOR SALE

Everyone is keeping their stuff.

OPTU BOARD MINUTES

OPTU BOARD MEETING MINUTES - APRIL 25, 2012

ATTENDEESJoe Fagan, Youth CoordinatorMike Mehrer, PresidentJoe Fagan, Youth CoordinatorSteve Reiter, Mtgs. CoordinatorJoe Vitelli, Outings CoordinatorMick Fletcher, PR (AZTU Chair)Kathleen Vitelli, SecretaryNan Phillips, MembershipThe Board meeting was held at SK Builders Office and was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Joe Fagan reported that he had sent out letters to all elementary and middle schools in Tucson with respect to the Trout in the Classroom project for the 2012-2013 school year. He indicated that he had possibly one or two schools that have shown interest. However, he reiterated to the Board that this project would require a number of volunteers who he could train to help him. He would need this help in order to properly manage the project.

There was some discussion by the Board as to whether perspective volunteers should have some expertise in the areas which would be beneficial for the project, such as electrical, refrigeration or carpentry. It was suggested that perhaps the president or other Board members should talk with members at a future meeting to address these needs. Joe will keep the Board posted on all questionnaires he gets back so a school selection could be made.

MEETINGS COORDINATOR REPORT

Steve reported that Dave Brown will be our keynote speaker for the May membership meeting. The June membership meeting will highlight a speaker from Cimmaroncita Ranch resort in New Mexico. A discussion was made regarding making sure we have a bucket raffle at the May meeting. There were no raffles at the March and April meeting where there was a large turnout. Joe Vitelli made a motion to approve a \$100.00 expenditure to purchase items for the raffles to be held at the next two meetings. Motion was seconded by Joe Fagan.

There will be no member meetings in July and August. Steve will be working on the September meeting speaker and we will have AZGFD return in October for an update on the fishing areas impacted by the 2010 wildfires in the White Mountains.

MEMBERSHIP/WOMEN'S INITIATIVES REPORT

Nan reported on the upcoming women's casting clinic which was to be held on May 5th and 6th, 2012. The Saturday clinic was for beginners and the Sunday clinic was for advanced casting. She currently had 10 enrolled for Saturday's clinic and 3 for Sunday. Nan presented flyers which were given to Board members and asked if some could be left at Dry Creek Outfitters. Joe Vitelli agreed to get them to Eric. Joe Fagan would be assisting Nan along with Mike Mehrer.

CONSERVATION REPORT

No official report was given due to Roseann's absence. Joe Vitelli did briefly discuss the Frye Mesa conservation Saturday which took place in April. While it was a success due to the large turnout of volunteers, they were unable to complete a clean-up due to severe weather conditions.

OUTINGS REPORT

Joe Vitelli indicated that there was no report. The Vitellis were heading back to Pennsylvania for the summer/early fall months and no outings will be planned until November.

OPTU FUNDRAISING ITEMS

Joe and Kathleen Vitelli presented the Board with patches and embroidered T-shirts, which will be available for purchase at the member meetings beginning in May. The Board agreed to set the price of the items as follows:

Patches - \$3.00 t-shirts - \$20.00 polo Shirts - \$30.00

Joe Vitelli indicated that the initial \$500 that was approved by the Board in February was able to pay for the set-up fee for the embroidery for the shirts and purchase a total of 16 shirts (8 each). Joe made a request for an additional expenditure of \$1500.00 so that additional shirts could be purchased in time for the May member meeting. Motion made by Kathleen Vitelli and seconded by Joe Fagan. It was also agreed that each new member of OPTU would receive a welcome letter from the President along with a patch. These letters will be sent by Kathleen Vitelli, who will check the TU roster each month for new members and send along a patch with that letter.

PHWFF REPORT

No report due to Robin's absence.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. 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.

Newsletter Items That Don't Often Change

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

JUNE 2012

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

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.lrctu.org/movies/TheWayofaTrout/

Trout in the Classroom Video http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWlnuFkCPFg

Alaska 2011 "Murphy Trip" Trailer <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qH3Hs3tzp40</u> 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. <u>http://www.headwatersofhistory.com/2012/01/interviews-with-anglers-past-dame-juliana.html</u>

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:

<u>http://optu.org/FISHING%20WATERS%20HELP.doc</u>. 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* <u>vanagunas@msn.com</u>

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. <u>http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/eddies/Subscribe/Subscribe/Subscribe</u>