

# 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 7



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<http://youtu.be/CwFry99OhqE>

#### Items that Don't Change Much

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#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

##### Officers and Coordinators

**President:** Steve Reiter (h) 520-795-2388  
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Healing Waters Chair: Robin Marsett

[rmarsett@comcast.net](mailto:rmarsett@comcast.net)

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**Fishing Trip Chair:** Joe Vitelli

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**Trout in the Classroom Chair:** Joe

Fagan [jfaganfished@gmail.com](mailto:jfaganfished@gmail.com)

**Youth Education Chair:** Joe Fagan

**Banquet Chair:**

**Assistant Banquet Chair:** Dave Combs

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##### Other Board Members

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Roger McKee (ex officio)

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Fellow Anglers;

As I write this there is thunder over Tucson and a smell of wet dirt in the air. Hello, monsoon! Welcome back. We have missed you. I hope you can stay around for a while.

At the last Board meeting, our President, Mike Mehrer, submitted his resignation, citing an ongoing medical condition that prevents him serving the remaining months of his term. As vice-president, the torch is passed to me until our traditional election date in December.

Over the past few years, Mike has been very involved with OPTU activities, including participation in many of the conservation work days, Women's Casting Clinic, Trout in the Classroom, Retirees Trip, annual OPTU banquet, family outings and much more. The officers and Board certainly appreciate all that Mike has done and sincerely hope that he can continue some involvement on the Board and in Chapter activities for a long time.

At our June meeting, Julie Carter, AZG&F Arizona Partnership Waters coordinator, presented a couple of conservation projects that AZG&F has identified and would like participation from OPTU. Included are: temperature loggers in the main stem and tributaries of the West Fork of the Black River, in both the burned and unburned sections; retrieve data from same and turn into AZG&F office in Pinetop right away; photo points in the same areas; installation of signage about Apache trout barriers and recovery efforts at the West Fork Black River campground and other areas; stewardship and support for the future lower West Fork Black River barrier and renovation of the main stem. We expect to schedule at least one workday this fall.

Just a reminder to the membership that there will be NO regular monthly meeting in July or August. Monthly meetings will resume on Wednesday, September 5 at 7 p.m. at the Viscount Suites, Broadway and Arcadia. Hope to see you there.

Best Regards,  
*Steve Reiter, OPTU President.*

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 ...

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## CONSERVATION NEWS

Please contact Roseann Marsett at 520.760.1659 or rzann@comcast.net for information on upcoming events.

### Arizona Game and Fish Department

#### NEWS RELEASE

May 30, 2012

### Whirling disease re-confirmed at Lees Ferry fishery

Anglers and boaters being asked not to spread this disease  
PHOENIX – The parasite known to cause whirling disease – that can affect trout but is not harmful to humans – has been reconfirmed at the renowned Lees Ferry fishery within Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in northern Arizona, advised Arizona Game and Fish Department officials.

“Although the parasite has been confirmed in fish samples from Lees Ferry, to date no trout have displayed any disease symptoms such as the classic whirling motion,” said Fisheries Chief Kirk Young. “In fact, just the opposite is true; the Ferry is currently providing some of its best fishing in more than a decade.”

Young emphasized that there are no human health implications for this fish parasite.

Whirling disease is caused by a microscopic parasite that damages cartilage and compromises the nervous system of trout and other salmonids, but no other fish species. The disease takes its name because it can cause fish to swim in an uncontrolled whirling motion.

This is the second detection of the whirling disease parasite in trout at the Ferry; the first was in 2007. While the parasite was detected in 2007, it did not become established in the trout population and until now was absent from annual samples taken since then.

“It’s pretty clear from the recent tests that this parasite is back again in the trout population at the Ferry,” Young said. “What we don’t know is how the parasite got to the Ferry, nor do we know how it may manifest itself.”

There have been no fish die offs detected due to the whirling disease parasite at Lees Ferry. “Its presence can, but does not always cause significant trout population losses and typically affects young or immature trout the most,” Young advised.

The whirling disease parasite is found at hundreds of waters in 25 states across the nation, including Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada. “We have been very fortunate in Arizona – we don’t have this parasite showing up anywhere else in Arizona. We want to keep it that way,” Young said.

It’s critical to have the conscientious cooperation of boaters, anglers and other recreational users along this stretch of the Colorado River and at other waters as well.

“The life cycle of this parasite, which involves both trout and tubifex worms along with microscopic spores, results in this parasite being readily transportable unless anglers and boaters are conscientious about cleaning and decontaminating their equipment,” Young said.

Anglers and boaters are asked to:



- \* Never transport live fish from one body of water to another – anywhere, not just from the Ferry;
- \* Do not dispose of fish heads, skeletons or entrails in any body of water, this can spread the disease-causing parasites;
- \* Do not discard entrails or heads of fish down a garbage disposal. The whirling disease parasite can survive most water treatment plants and infect areas downstream;
- \* Carefully clean mud and vegetation from all equipment, such as boats, trailers, waders, boots, float tubes and fins. Rinse all mud and debris from equipment and wading gear, and drain water from boats before leaving the area where you've been fishing;
- \* Drain and dry boat bilges, live wells, and lower units.

BEFORE using waders, wading shoes, or fishing gear at another waterway, clean equipment with one of the following:

- \* Saturate waders and other gear with full-strength "Commercial Solutions Formula 409® Cleaner Degreaser Disinfectant" or "Formula 409® All Purpose Cleaner Antibacterial Kitchen Lemon Fresh" or other cleaners, that contain at least 0.3 percent of the quaternary ammonium compound alkyl dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride for at least 10 minutes or,
- \* Dip, wipe, or spray waders and other gear with 50-percent bleach solution (one part household chlorine bleach to one part water) or,
- \* Soak waders and other gear for 10 minutes in a 10-percent bleach solution (one part household chlorine bleach to nine parts water) or,
- \* Pour boiling water (at least 200°F) over your gear and allow to cool.

"The spores of the whirling disease parasite are known to adhere to these kinds of materials and can potentially be carried on gear from one water to another," Young advised.

Young added that there are also other reasons to clean and decontaminate equipment and boats.

"We have a long list of potential invasive species from New Zealand mudsnails, rock snot, to invasive mussels that can be spread from one body of water to another if simple precautions are not taken. Please make it a habit to Clean, Drain, and Dry, and don't give any of these invaders a free ride to a new water."

## YOUTH ACTIVITY REPORT

Our plans for an OPTU Youth Activity training Boy Scouts for the Fly Fishing Merit Badge at Camp Lawton in the Catalina Mountains in July have been dashed due to summer weather conditions. The week-long summer camps have been closed this year by the BSA Leaders of the Catalina Council due to the fire hazard and the lack of water. OPTU members Steve Reiter, Steve Brown, Mickey Fletcher, Tom Hall, and Joe Fagan had become Merit Badge Counselors for Fly Fishing and had Safety Training for working with the Boy Scouts. We may have other opportunities in the future.

At our next Board Meeting scheduled for June 27th the two schools that may do Trout in the Classroom will be selected. Training for the schools' educators and OPTU members that volunteer to assist in this youth oriented Program will be taught by Joe Fagan. The training at the schools is required before equipment for raising trout is set-up in the Tucson elementary schools. Educators at the schools will work with their students. OPTU



volunteers will learn from Joe this coming school year on how to assist and give advice to the educators.

We are looking for more members to volunteer to assist with Youth Activities, mostly for the coming school year. We may want to help special needs students catch trout at urban lakes when Rainbow Trout are stocked during the winter. Contact Joe Fagan, Chairman of Youth Activities, if you are interested in helping with these outreach activities.

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 FLY FISHING



I have two open seats available on our trip to the Kobuk River in July. See the notice below under fishing trips.

*Robin Marsett.*

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing is continuing to tie flies, build rods and take trips. We will be doing another trip one to Durango from 16-21 September and to the White Mountains from 28 Sep to 2 Oct. 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.

## FISH IN ALASKA THIS 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 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> and departure for the Kenai airport for return to Anchorage will be at 2:30 pm on the 14<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup>. 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>

### Calendar

**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.

**Aug 1: No regular meeting**

**Aug 15:** Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, NEW LOCATION. Call Eric at 326-7847.

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

## DRY CREEK OUTFITTERS: NEWS AND BARGAINS

***Fly Rod SALE at Dry Creek Outfitters!! Discounts are available on several Sage fly rods for a very limited time.***

We have several trips coming up. Join us for 6 days and 7 nights of flyfishing for bones, permit, tarpon and snook at Pesca Maya Lodge in the Mexican Yucatan. This trip is scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup> - August 4<sup>th</sup>. Also, we'll be in Bozeman, Montana from September 15<sup>th</sup> - September 20<sup>th</sup> and the San Juan from October 17<sup>th</sup> - October 21<sup>st</sup>. Call Eric & Whitey at 326-7847 for details.

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.

Dry Creek 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.

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

The right way to hold fish for pictures:

<http://www.deneki.com/2012/05/taking-pictures-of-fish-the-right-way/>

## FISHING REPORTS

### Mormon Lake

I was at Mormon Lake Lodge for an "Outdoor Festival" and Free Fishing Day this past Saturday on June the 9<sup>th</sup>. Participants with me (AZGFD Sport Fishing Education) caught at least a one to two hundred stocked rainbow trout. Nine hundred trout were stocked on Monday June 4<sup>th</sup>, so the trout were acclimated by the time of the Free Fishing Day. There was excellent catching during the entire event with me bait fishing. *Joe Fagan.*

### Provo River, UT

I was up at my place in Heber City (15 miles from Park City) and had the opportunity to spend several days on the Provo, some with my son Patrick, which definitely added to the quality of the experience. Getting up to Utah is definitely a treasure this time of year. The elevation in Heber is ~ 6,000 feet and the daily temperature variation actually ranges over about 40 to 50 degrees. I was always impressed with our 30 degree swings here in Tucson till I spent time there. Morning temps ranged from 34 to 42 and afternoon from 78 to 86 during the two weeks I was there this June. Driving back to 105 in Tucson was hard.

Patrick and I fished the middle Provo river about 3 miles from the house. We did best on "the item," which those of you who have come on the San Juan trips will know about and others will need to bribe me to find out about. Other occasionally effective patterns included dark pheasant tails and black midge imitations.

The report I want to tell about though was the last fish of the day on one of the days I was able to fish. The time to depart the river and return back to the house was rapidly approaching at the same time that I managed to create a nest in my tippet after a long distance release of a fish. I was too lazy at that point to

redo the rig and just clipped off many pieces of tippet till I ended up with some semblance of a line with several different "knots" that weren't of my making. Since the fish had been in the 10 to 14 inch range, I had already caught a bunch, and it was time to leave, I figured a few more casts and another possible small fish that might break off were an acceptable risk.

With that scene setting I'm sure you can guess the outcome. I sent my line to the top of the pool, made the appropriate mends, and watched the indicator take a dive just as the fly passed by a large boulder. I dutifully set the hook only to watch a 22" to 23" thick-shouldered brown erupt out of the water 10 feet in front of me. The first thing that crossed my mind was the memory of a video I had watched where the anglers changed their tippet each time they caught a nice fish to make sure that there would be limited chance of losing a trophy due to line failure. I obviously had severely broken that rule and had little reason to expect that this beauty would be landed. The fish took line easily and moved around the



*Patrick with a fairly typical middle Provo Brown.*



*The one that (fortunately) didn't get away*

small pool with me being as gentle as possible. It jumped two more times, which is always a good time for a fish to break off, but I managed to hold tight. After a 3 to 4 minute fight (at least it seemed that long), the fish was brought to shore for a couple of quick pictures and a release.

I probably didn't deserve to land the fish with my laziness, but it sure was nice to be successful instead of having to berate myself for lack of effort (something I had to do in Alaska one time with a big rainbow and a wind knot that I didn't remove). *Your Lucky Editor*

### **Arizona Game and Fish Interactive Stocking Schedule**

[http://www.azgfd.gov/pdfs/h\\_f/fishing/stocking/2012SumTroutStockSchedule.pdf](http://www.azgfd.gov/pdfs/h_f/fishing/stocking/2012SumTroutStockSchedule.pdf)

### **QUOTES AND JOKES**

I will always choose to fish alone rather than not fish at all, but fishing with friends and family make the experiences all the richer.

-John Murphy (1951 -)

### **FOR SALE**

Everyone is keeping their stuff.

### **OPTU BOARD MINUTES**

Not available at this time.

*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



## 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.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.

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](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)

## 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/eddiess/Subscribe/Subs.cfm>