

OPTU NEWS

Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited

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

Volume 20, Issue 8



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Items that Change

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- Tips and Tricks
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- Dry Creek Outfitters News - **Check out the Montana trip and the Orvis rod swap**
- Check out this video of Chris Woods of TU talking about our efforts in the Southwest.
<http://youtu.be/CwF1y99OhqE>

Items that Don't Change Much

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Anglers;

Just a quick reminder that there will be no regular meeting in August, and I am sure much to the disappointment of many, there will be no July Board Meeting.

The Summer 2012 issue of TROUT magazine contains a couple of articles of particular interest to those of us in Arizona. In the first, under the "Our Readers Write" column (page 8), State Council Chairman Bob Youtz sends a rebuttal to a letter from the Spring 2012 issue, written John Roth of Smithfield, MI, which questions why TROUT is wasting paper and ink on yet another story about the Apache Trout. Mr. Youtz' letter is well written, and touches on all the reasons why TU, and especially OPTU, as well as AZG&F and other conservation organizations in Arizona are so passionate about the Apache recovery program.

Later in the same issue, under the "Stream Champion" heading (page 56), Jim Walker of the Zane Gray Chapter is recognized for all his efforts on behalf of TU's mission to "preserve, protect, restore, and reconnect" cold water trout species in Arizona. Jim has only been in Arizona for 8 years, but has been a very active volunteer for TU, is serving as the National Leadership Council liaison to the State Council, and is the originator of the annual Native Trout Workshop held in Phoenix. Congratulations to Jim for this recognition.

If you only flip through and then recycle your quarterly issue of TROUT, I encourage you to spend a little longer time and read some of the articles, even if they don't pertain to happenings in Arizona. Each issue has at least one article the should be of interest to you.

Hope to see you Wednesday, September 5, at our next regular meeting.

Best Regards,
Steve Reiter, OPTU President.

OPTU will **NOT meet** in August. We hope to see everybody - as well as some new faces - at our September meeting - speaker TBA next month. Watch the newsletter for details ...

CONSERVATION NEWS

Julie Carter from Arizona Game and Fish spoke to our General Meeting in June to inform us about Arizona Partnership Waters and the role OPTU can play. The purpose of Partnership Waters is to define projects with mutually beneficial goals for the AZGFD, chapters, agencies, and others - projects that will benefit fishery resources, facilitate partnerships, meet AZGFD fisheries management goals, meet angling chapter's missions and goals and one which meet other agency and organization goals whenever possible. To serve these requirements OPTU will be assisting AZFGD with the monitoring of their Temp Loggers in the West Fork of the Black River, providing photographs, assisting with signage at barriers and campgrounds and in the future assisting in barrier and restoration projects. The complete brief is available on our OPTU website under Conservation.

Please contact Roseann Marsett at rzann@comcast.net if you have any questions or want to volunteer. Our projects will begin in the fall.

This might be a good link for the Newsletter. *Joe Fagan.*

http://bittman.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/06/29/rainbow-trout-both-rare-and-ubiquitous/?nl=opinion&emc=tyb2_20120702

MT. GRAHAM, Ariz. – Arizona Game and Fish Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service crews prepare for transport to Ash Creek on Wednesday approximately 200 Gila trout salvaged from Spruce Creek, located within the burned area of the Whitewater-Baldy Fire in New Mexico. The fish were collected Tuesday, flown by helicopter out of the wilderness, and then trucked to Mount Graham. An additional 100 Gila trout were also trucked to the Mora National Fish Hatchery near Albuquerque. All the fish survived. The likelihood that they would be killed when ash, soil and fire debris choke Spruce Creek following summer rains prompted the move. The Whitewater-Baldy Fire, the largest in New Mexico history, burned 297,845 acres and is 87 percent contained. The Gila trout was down-listed to threatened status under the U.S. Endangered Species Act in 2006. Arizona Game and Fish and the Fish and Wildlife Service have been actively working to restore their populations in Arizona since 2009.

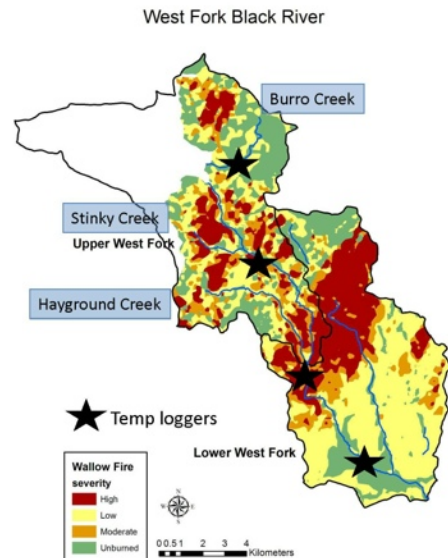
Mark A. Hart

Public Information Officer

Arizona Game & Fish Department

555 N. Greasewood Road

Tucson, AZ 85745



YOUTH ACTIVITY REPORT

Currently there are no activities scheduled for youth during August with OPTU. However, preparations are being made to begin Trout in the Classroom (TIC) for the 2012-13 school year. The two schools selected by the OPTU Board are Rivera Elementary School (public) and Desert Sky Community School (charter). Both schools are in Tucson. Three staff members from each school will be conducting the TIC program primarily with students in fifth grade.



The principal of Rivera Elementary School, Ms. Patti Gamez, is one of the 3 educators. They will orient a lot of their TIC work towards record keeping, viz. water quality measurements, using computers. TIC will enable the students and teachers to have a biological/ecological project relating living organisms to computer records, analysis, and reports.

The educators at Desert Sky Community School are happy to have a hands-on scientific project raising trout from eyed-eggs to fingerlings and learning more about the biology and ecology of trout. They do not have computer resources for all the students to use. Students



will log information into notebooks and journals.

Some of our OPTU members have stepped forward to volunteer to assist Joe Fagan to learn how to address problems with raising the trout, how to find information to reconcile the problems, and how to advise educators to resolve the problems. Those volunteers that will train with Joe when they are ready and able are Sally Petre, Gay Frank, Kathleen Sullivan, Harry Heiman, and Don Baer. They have already been receiving information from Joe about problem solving using national TIC resources of Trout Unlimited.

OPTU volunteers will attend some of the training sessions that Joe will be providing to educators at the two different schools. Exact dates have not been set but the training may be given in late August or early September.

Joe has ordered most of the equipment needed, with some miscellaneous items still to be obtained locally. Much of the equipment is already on-hand from previous years of TIC programs completed. Equipment will be sorted and arranged at Joe's home.

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



Project Healing Waters is having a busy summer. We will be on the Kobuk River of Northwest Alaska when this newsletter comes out and we will be back at Tangle Lakes, Alaska before the next one comes out.

I am including comments from some of the troops who are or were in our local program. I trust these words will help chapter members to understand how important the support of OPTU has been and remains. I cannot improve on their words, I can only second them.

“I cannot thank you enough for all of the opportunities and experiences you have afforded me. They really help me. The trips are some of the only times I am able to relax a bit they are a much needed respite from school, and problems of life. You and Project Healing Waters have been a God send. I would never have been able to do these things without you. Someday the bad memories will be outnumbered by the new good ones. I think that is one of the most important things of PHW.” *Sergeant US Army*

“When I first met the guys running the local group I was distant and pissed at being asked to join, but I was drawn in by their kindness and patience. I started making flies which instantly gave me headaches and after several weeks I started to notice I was focusing for a little more time prior to the onset of the headaches. Eventually I was able to start and finish a fly in the same session and that was a great improvement for me. Then I went on an outing and although I did things a little differently than the rest of the group the mentors always helped me and never judged me and I soon began to relax a little and eventually even noticed I was enjoying the peace and tranquility of the nature around me and when I actually caught a fish it was like I won big at a casino (I had never fly fished before then). As I would continue to meet with the PHWFF group I would become less distant and would relax more and just allow myself to heal. The mentors of the group were so easy to talk to and patient that I began talking with them and realizing that just sitting around tying flies was not only about the details of wrapping a hook it was more about self-discovery and opening up with other wounded warriors so not only was I beginning to recover but I was also helping others in their recovery while they helped me. I found myself looking forward to the PHWFF meetings and getting excited about the outings, knowing that not only was I beginning to heal but I was sharing in and helping others to also heal while learning new skills and having fun.” *Captain, US Army*

“...taking the time to sit down and concentrate on something other than my physical condition, surgery or how I was going to cope with possibly being forcibly retired from the Army was extremely invaluable. I

honestly didn't think tying flies was going to be such a big challenge – that is until I actually tried to tie one.

It only took one fishing trip to figure out that I was “hooked” on tying and fly fishing for the rest of my life. PHWFF is a wonderful organization that gives wounded or injured warriors an outlet and escape from the worries of daily life. The unselfish acts that the sponsors provide and the lengths they go to accommodate veterans in the program go beyond anything that words could describe.” *Chief Warrant Officer, US Army*

“There are too many people to name but the term Healing Waters is truly a revelation of what they do. I was one of the first people who signed up with Robin and I honestly don't know where I would be without Project Healing Waters (PHWFF) and Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited. I'm attaching a piece I wrote over a four week period and, to be honest, I found the courage I write about when I got involved with these guys and learned that I now have friends who deal with similar situations all the time. I have a lot of respect for the healing waters of PHWFF and I continue to keep them a part of my life.” *Sergeant, US Army*

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.

Calendar

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.

Sep 5: Regular meeting at the Viscount - 6:30 pm. Speaker is being arranged so keep your eye out for the next newsletter.

Sep 19: Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, NEW LOCATION. Call Eric at 326-7847.

Sep 26: Board meeting at TBA - 6 pm.



New OPTU member Paul Olson
with a cracker San Juan rainbow

Upcoming Fishing Trips and Outings Reports

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 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-TJjIBoypkwmDOw&index=3&feature=plcp>

DRY CREEK OUTFITTERS: NEWS AND BARGAINS

Still availability for Dry Creek's **Montana trip in September:**

Sept. 15 - Sept. 20, 4 days drift boat flyfishing, 5 nights meals and ground transportation included.

Yellowstone and Madison rivers

\$1587 per person, double occupancy

We also have a San Juan trip from October 17th - October 21st.

Call Eric & Whitey at 326-7847 for details.

Just a few days left in the **Orvis Rod Swap program**. Bring in a fly rod to be donated locally (must be in working condition) and you'll receive a 20% discount on any Helios, Superfine Touch or Access fly rod.

Come in and check out the Rio Extreme Tippet... 5x has a breaking strength of 10 lbs., 4x diameter is 15 lbs. and 3x gives you a 20 lb breaking strength!! This tippet is great for fishing deep in the white mountain lakes.

Also, try the new Trout Shock Gum and Nymph Shock products from Rio. These highly elastic materials are designed to be attached between the fly line and the leader and will provide ultimate tippet protection when using fast action fly rods or... for those of us who strike a bit too hard.

Our fly selection is strong as we head into August. In addition to having most of the core patterns available, we have the following patterns on hand for your flyfishing pleasure...

- Diamond hair minnow in several colors
- Several damsel nymph patterns
- Simi Seal Leeches
- Several scud patterns for Lee's Ferry
- Zebra Midges
- Tiny midges and mayfly emergers for the San Juan

- Shane Stalcup's foam hopper
- Umpqua Swimming Frog (deer hair)

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.

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.

Thank you, as always, for your support. *Eric*

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

I had the opportunity to fish for four days on the North Island of New Zealand at the Tongariro River in Turangi the first few days of July. This is the fourth year in a row I've had that good fortune. Even better, as payment for an article I wrote for New Zealand Trout Fisher, the hotel accommodations at Tongariro River Lodge (very angler oriented and definitely recommended if you go there) were covered. Trout move up into the river from Lake Taupo for spawning purposes so you target them much like steelhead since they are on the move. Unfortunately, the weather had been dry for some time and remained dry during my trip, so there wasn't as much movement upriver as in years past and the water was vodka clear. That said, I managed to land 3 to 5 nice rainbows per day and got a 4 lb brownie one afternoon. Its a tough life but I have to do it. If you ever need recommendations for New Zealand feel free to give me a shout. *The editor*



Arizona Game and Fish Interactive Stocking Schedule

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

QUOTES AND JOKES

Some people seek big fish and aren't happy if they only catch small fish. I love any fish that takes the time to bite my fly and give me a tussle. I'd rather catch 20 small fish a day than cast hundreds of times to catch one bigger one. Of course I also like to catch dozens of big fish.

-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 checking it out.

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=qH3Hs3tzc40> 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 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>