

OPTU NEWS

Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited

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

Volume 21, Issue 6



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Anglers:

Our speaker for the Wednesday, September 4th meeting (Viscount Suites hotel on Broadway at Arcadia, 7:00 p.m.) is Ben Smith, who is making a return engagement to OPTU. Ben was our speaker at the September 2012 meeting. His presentation on fishing for carp, tilapia and bass in the urban lakes in Phoenix was both engaging and most informative. This year he will speak on a topic he is much more familiar with: small stream fishing. Ben is a frequent poster on the AZ Fly and Tie bulletin board (<http://www.azflyandtie.com>). He is regarded as something of a magician at finding and catching some large fish in some pretty skinny water. He is also the author and owner of the AZ Wanderings blog site (<http://azwanderings.com/>), where he chronicles his fishing adventures, sells flies which he ties (the most popular of which is the Mini-Hopper), furlled leaders he makes, and a couple of different styles of T-shirts. He will be bringing some of all of these with him for sale.

Our speaker for the Wednesday, October 2nd meeting is Dr. Scott Bonar, Unit Leader and Associate Professor, USGS Arizona Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Dr. Bonar will present his paper, "New Options for Managing Native Trout Habitat with Climate Change Implications", which he first presented at the Native Trout Workshop held at the G&F offices in Phoenix in April. Dr. Bonar is working with and advising several teams of Graduate students at the Uof A, and is using some rather innovative methods to study trout habitat with respect to pH levels, temperatures, food availability, and more. One of the students in his program is Sally Petri, who was our speaker in January and presented the preliminary results of research she did with respect to the co-existence of crayfish and Apache Trout in the West Fork of the Black River watershed.

The Board and Officers are looking forward to the coming year. We believe we have a number of interesting events planned. As always, we welcome your input and participation.

See you September 4th ...

Steve Reiter
From the Executive Suite,
Steve Reiter, OPTU President

BIANNUAL BANQUET - Important Date for Your Calendar

On March 8, 2014 the OPTU Banquet Fund Raiser will be held at Tanque Verde Guest Ranch. This biannual event is very important to all of us because it provides the funds necessary to support all our programs, such as Trout in the Classroom, conservation projects, Project Healing Waters, fishing excursions and our monthly meetings. Your support means everything to us, so please plan to attend. The planning for the banquet is well underway and we believe this will prove to be an excellent evening of fun, fellowship,



opportunities to buy some great things, and the trading of fishing stories (or tall tales). We promise you won't be disappointed.

Tickets will go on sale in September. If you have any questions, want to volunteer, or want to donate in any way please send me an email at vaughninaz@cox.net and thanks for your time and continued support of OPTU.

Vaughn A. Johnson, VP and 2014 Chairman OPTU Banquet

WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

Nothing to report.

CONSERVATION NEWS

We will be doing another data collection in late October or early November. The Spring collection went well. With only 4-5 sites it doesn't require a lot of people but anywhere from 4 to 6 make the job much easier and a one day event. If you think you might like to help please contact Roseann or Robin Marsett at rzann@comcast.net or 520.760.1659

YOUTH ACTIVITY REPORT

by Joe Fagan

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>

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING



Robin Marsett, Leader for PHW, is seeking a replacement for these activities as of January. Please contact him if you are interested.

Project Healing Waters continues to tie flies every Wednesday at Dry Creek Outfitters and every other week at the VA hospital. It is time for the annual PHWFF rod building contest and we have three contestants this year hoping to win a fly fishing trip to some exotic location. If you know a qualified veteran or active service member (qualified means a service connected disability) have them get in touch with us. There is always room in our group.

Project Healing Waters Alaska 2013

The big 2013 trip to Alaska is over. I guess we could call it the ten and ten trip. There were ten of us and we had ten days of fishing and sightseeing. We went from the interior of Alaska to the south end of Prince William Sound. We caught all five species of salmon as-well-as grayling, dolly varden, rock fish, ling cod and halibut. We canoed on a "wild and scenic river", walked across the tundra, rode ATVs into the Alaska Range,

crossed Prince William Sound on the Alaska Marine Highway (Ferry System), fished in a rain forest and walked on a glacier. We saw beavers, sea otters, eagles, moose, caribou, ptarmigan and a grizzly bear. We caught literally hundreds of grayling and hundreds of salmon. On at least two days my right arm was worn out from salmon and grayling.

Nadine and Jack Johnson and their entire crew were outstanding and took great care of us at Tangle River Inn. Heath Emmons of the BLM lead the canoe trip down the "wild and scenic river" passage to put us on one of Jack Johnson's favorite grayling holes that could not be reached this year by boat. We owe Heath a lot for this great experience. The nine mile round trip canoe trip was not enough to discourage the group so some of the folks went twice and I even let them talk me into paddling a canoe.

The folks at Orca Adventure Lodge in Cordova, Alaska were great. They went way out of their way to put us on great fishing in spite of the bad weather and blown out rivers. We want to express our thanks to Steve Ranney and his crew for a magnificent time. The guides, Ian, Austin, Chris, Chris, and Carl insured we got on the fish. We caught so many salmon on flies one day that my arm gave out.

And last but not least I want to thank Joe Vitelli. Without his help and support we never could have taken this many wounded troops for ten full days on their trip of a lifetime. Thanks Joe – great job and much appreciated.

Contact for Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing is: Robin Marsett rmarsett@comcast.net



The crew in Alaska - definitely enjoying themselves.

Upcoming Fishing Trips and Outings Reports

None to note

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*

Tips and Tricks

Fun facts about WD-40 <http://wd40.com/about-us/myths-legends-fun-facts/>

FISHING REPORTS

New Zealand Fishing Report – July 2-5, 2013

Day 1; July 2nd – Arrived at the Auckland airport after the 13 hour flight, picked up a rental from Ace Rent a Car and started the 4 hour drive down to Turangi for 3 ½ days of fishing. I only drove on the wrong side (our side) of the road once when leaving a strange intersection. Noticed a car coming directly toward me in my lane and quickly corrected the error before tragedy occurred. Stopped for my first meat pie (mince and cheese) about halfway through the trip. Last stop before fishing was in Taupo to collect a fishing license and do some banking then it was on to Turangi to check in at the Tongariro River Motel. Ross Baker, manager of the motel with his wife Pip, gave me some advice on fishing and said that the fish were big this year but had moved upriver. He suggested I hit the Blue Pool way upriver and gave advice on other places to go the next few days. I went to the Blue Pool and hooked a large fish that I never saw and also was reminded by a Kiwi angler that the only indicator that can be used is one made of yarn. I was using my traditional balloon so decided to go get some yarn at one of the fly shops rather than risk a ticket, though that was pretty unlikely as far out as I was. The more important reason for departure was that I hadn't hooked any more fish. After picking up a couple of indicators I headed to the Bridge Pool. The river left side, facing downstream, was pretty packed with 5 or 6 anglers so I headed to the right side and started out on my own. I landed two very nice rainbows in the 4 to 5 lb range and watched many more landed on the other side of the river before heading to the grocery store for supplies. After some soup, toast, and a little Rugby on TV it was time to sleep (by 8 pm = 1 am Tucson time).

Day 2; July 3rd – I decided to get back to the Bridge Pool since the fishing looked good the day before. At 0 Dark 30 (7 am and dark) I headed the three blocks to the river and the river left side closest to the Bridge Motel and Restaurant already had the same 4 or 5 cars as the night before. I again went to river right and

was on my own. In the first hour I had hooked six or so and by the time I took off around 10 am I had hooked 8 nice fish. A father and his son (a fly fishing store worker from Auckland) came to the spot and surrounded me, but we managed to all pretty much keep our lines apart. After some lunch of Wattie's baked beans and spiced tuna fish and another trip to the fly shop to pick up some trailing flies (note to self – remember to bring mayfly type naturals in 12 to 14 – olive or brown), I headed back. On arrival my colleagues from the morning reported the landing of several large brown trout. Guess that's what I get for slacking off. That afternoon I hooked another 4. The total landed was 8 of the 12 hooked fish. All were in the 4 to 6 lb range. Of interest this evening, I did the traditional end of day routine on how to decide when to leave by determining I would do 10 more casts. On the 10th cast I let my fly swing across the river at the bottom of the drift. It seemed to tap a couple of times and then a fish whacked it and the fight was on. Always nice to catch a fish near the end of the day. After Ross heard about the successful day he posted a funny report about giving me advice.

Day 3; July 4th – Independence day in the US is not celebrated in New Zealand as one might expect. The fireworks for me were on the Tongariro in the Bridge Pool yet again. The Bridge Pool is not for the faint of heart or those desiring isolation. After fishing the Kenai in Alaska for many years, I have come to accept competition for fish so it was OK for me. OBVIOUSLY, it would be nice to have the whole pool to oneself, but that isn't going to happen. In previous years I have done well in other parts of the river, but this year the fish were reportedly not as readily available further up and my experience in the Blue Pool, though limited, seemed to verify that. I also spoke with local guide Andrew Christmas and he had a similar experience with his clients the first full day I fished. I do enjoy being off on my own, but I enjoy catching big strong fish with frequency even more. Today the man and his son from Auckland were at the island on river right when I arrived. I went to the bottom away from them and promptly began catching fish. For the day I was 11 of 19 with two being only in the 14 to 18" range. All the rest were big. I also hooked one beast that I couldn't budge off the bottom and have decided that it must have been a huge brown trout (one was landed that day in the 8 lb range). A number of the fish today were caught as the fly swung at the bottom of the drift. Though this isn't a consistent way to get them it can work. Overall another wonderful day. I fished till near dark and then went home to change and back to the Bridge Restaurant for a couple of Speights Darks and a dinner of Bangers and Mash, which was pretty good.

Day 4; July 5th – another exceptional day on the Tongariro at the Bridge. This morning I arrived earlier than yesterday to increase my chances at the upriver portion of river right (though fish can readily be caught all along the way). On this day I hooked slightly fewer than yesterday but landed more, with the final tally being 12 landed of 17 hooked. One of the exceptional aspects of the day today was a hookup that I thought had gone aground. I grabbed the flyline to try and pull it free of the rock/stick and instead it started moving upstream. This has happened to me on a number of occasions during my time flyfishing and the result is always a big fish. This one was no exception. This brown trout took me to my backing twice after I had him within 5 feet of the bank. Unfortunately it isn't possible to walk far downstream due to water depth on this side of the river or I would have followed. Instead it moved way downstream, nearly to some fast rapids where it would certainly have gotten off. I released pressure so that it wouldn't fight and it thankfully headed back upstream in the direction it really wanted to go. I got it back to 15 feet away and it turned and headed

Calendar

SEP 4: Regular meeting at the Viscount - 6:30 pm - 4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711. Speaker is Ben Smith, who is making a return engagement to OPTU. His Previous presentation was on fishing for carp, tilapia and bass in the urban lakes in Phoenix was very good. This year he will speak on a topic he is much more familiar with: **small stream fishing**.

SEP 18: Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, 5655 East River Road, Suite 131. Call Eric at 326-7847.

SEP 25: BOARD MEETING

OCT 2: Regular meeting at the Viscount - 6:30 pm - 4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711. Speaker Dr. Scott Bonar, Unit Leader and Associate Professor, USGS Arizona Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Dr. Bonar will present "New Options for Managing Native Trout Habitat with Climate Change Implications."

OCT 16: Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, 5655 East River Road, Suite 131. Call Eric at 326-7847.

OCT 23: BOARD MEETING

back downstream and got me into the backing again. I repeated the previous process with a little more force this time and got it to within 10 feet. I saw its huge tail and body several times during the fight but just as I thought I might be successful it broke free. Bugger. After another great day I headed home early (about 3 pm) to pack and then on to a wonderful dinner with Ross and Pip and two of their friends. Love that Kiwi hospitality. Tomorrow I will arise at 2:40 am for the drive to Auckland to start the workshops for the University of Otago and then its back to the States Sunday evening.



A selection of NZ pictures. There are quite a few "Trout Fishing Capitals of the World" in New Zealand

Arizona Game and Fish Interactive Stocking Schedule

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

QUOTES AND JOKES

Nine times out of ten it's the folks more than the fish that define the character of a trip.... *John Gierach*

FOR SALE

I found a website for custom rods that some of you may be interested in viewing
www.cbcustomflyrods.com

OPTU BOARD MINUTES

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:

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)

<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.lrcu.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/eddie/Subscribe/Subs.cfm>