

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

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Trout in the Classroom Chair: Joe
Fagan jfaganfished@gmail.com

Youth Education Chair: Joe Fagan

Banquet Chair:

Assistant Banquet Chair: Dave Combs
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Anglers:

On behalf of all the Officers and Board members, I wish you a very Happy Holiday season.

I hope you can make some time in your busy schedules to attend our Holiday Party on Saturday, December 8th, at the home of Joe and Kathleen Vitelli. Details can be found in the newsletter. OPTU will provide the appetizers, main dishes, sodas, water, plates, and cutlery. Guests, please bring a side dish or a dessert to share. If you wish to imbibe in some liquid Holiday cheer, please BYOB.

In lieu of the Holiday party, there will be no regular meeting in December. Regular meetings will resume on Wednesday, January 2, at the Viscount Suites on Broadway at Arcadia. Our featured speaker will be Sally Petre, a U of A graduate student who has spent the better part of the past year studying crayfish and Apache trout on the West Fork of the Black River as part of her post-graduate thesis. She will present the results of her research at the meeting.

Over the past couple of Board meetings, the Board has had some lively discussion about the 2013 fundraising banquet, traditionally held in mid-to late-February. The Board has decided to not have a banquet in 2013, and instead to encourage our members to support the San Pedro Flycasters at their annual banquet. Our hope is that by 2014, the economy will have improved and that we will have a much better turnout and more of the top-notch bucket raffle and auction items than we have been able to offer over the past couple of years.

My best wishes to all of you for a Happy New Year. I hope it will exceed all your expectations!

From the Executive Suite,
Steve Reiter, OPTU President

2012 OPTU HOLIDAY PARTY

We hope you can join us for this year's OPTU holiday party which will be held at the Vitelli residence on Saturday, December 8, 2012 at 6:00 pm.

The Vitelli's will provide several main dishes, soft drinks and appetizers. Party goers are asked to provide a side dish - something festive - perhaps a special dish you prepare for friends and family. You are also welcome to byob any beverage you wish to enjoy!

Please rsvp to Kathleen at 520-885-8357 or by email: kayceesgarden@att.net, by 12/4 if you will be attending and what you will be bringing for all to enjoy. We hope to see you there!!



CONSERVATION NEWS

We had a great day in the White Mountains being shown how to monitor water temperature, PH and conductivity as part of the Arizona Game & Fish ongoing research. The results of this data collection will aid AZGF in reintroducing native trout species in some areas of the White Mountains. The test themselves are not difficult but sometimes finding the temperature loggers was a challenge. We will go back in the spring and perform collections again.

Please contact Roseann Marsett, OPTU Conservation Chairperson, at rzann@comcast.net or 520-760-1659 if you would like to help and would like directions to the campsite. We understand that the Elk are bugling and the weather is beautiful, so come up and assist AZFGD and your TU Chapter!!



YOUTH ACTIVITY REPORT

by Joe Fagan

We are always open to having OPTU members volunteer for Youth Activities. As projects materialize members will be notified. Our active, current project is Trout in the Classroom.

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*

Joe Fagan posted a nice link on our Facebook page to a blog about **fly fishing etiquette**. Worth a read though I know all of you already know better. You may have to copy and paste the link because I couldn't make it work correctly.

<http://www.fieldandstream.com/blogs/flytalk/2012/09/don't-be-guy-guide-good-fly-fishing-etiquette?>

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING



This year's Operation Wild Trout, our fourth Healing Waters trip to Durango, was a success. In addition to the troops from Arizona, we had participants from both coasts and Alaska join us this year. We were joined by volunteers from Tucson, Phoenix, and Durango, Fort Collins, and Lake City, Colorado. There were twenty-one participants and twenty-four volunteers. It was a very large group.

This year we added a fourth day of fishing, which broadened everyone's fishing experience. We fished a small spring creek, beaver ponds, freestone creeks and tail waters along with a private pond. The fish caught were Colorado River Cutthroats, Rio Grande Cutthroats, Brook trout, Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout. Flies varied from dries to nymphs to streamers. It was a truly varied selection of waters, fish, flies and techniques.

Once again, the folks from OPTU stepped up to provide support along with the folks and merchants from Durango and Silverton. I want to offer my special thanks to American Legion Post #14, Bo Maloney and the staff of J Bo's Pizza and Ribs, the Iron Horse Inn, the Durango Silverton Narrow Gage Railroad, Serious Texas Bar B Que, Kip Dellinger and family and Jerome Gallegos and friends. Without the support from these people, merchants and organization, this endeavor would not be possible. Also a very special thanks to Steve Reiter, Joe and Kathleen Vitelli, Joe Fagan, Steve Brown, Dave Coombs and, Clay Hernandez of OPTU, without their support these trips would not be possible. *Robin Marsett*



Project Healing Waters Album

Upcoming Fishing Trips and Outings Reports

NOVEMBER 2012 OPTU OUTINGS REPORT

On November 7, 2012, ten members from OPTU and Project Healing Waters met at Rose Canyon Lake for a day of fly fishing.

The weather was picture perfect with light winds, lending to great casting conditions. Although a few trout were caught on nymphs, the majority of the fish caught, in excess of 50 I might add, were caught on dry flies. The pattern did not seem to matter as long as the fly was dar in color and sized in the 16 to 18 range. Most of the trout were small but catching them on dry flies kept everyone well focused on fishing, with very little down time.

One of the best moments of the day was watching a first year fly fisherman, wounded warrior Mario bring eight trout to hand and hooking up a total of twenty times! I would like to thank Robin Marsett for his fine work with Project Healing Waters which continues to produce fine fly fishermen. The day ended with a slow walk back to our vehicles parked on Catalina Highway due to the road to the lake being closed for the season. The walk was enjoyed while we smoked a good cigar and talked about the great day fishing!

There will be a joint December outing with OPTU and PHWFF, though the date has yet to be set. A blast email will be sent to all members once we have scheduled this outing.

If you have any suggestions for an outing, please let me know. *Joe Vitelli*



Rose Canyon Expedition

Calendar

Dec 8: Holiday party. Home of Kathleen and Joe Vitelli. Main course and soft drinks provided. BYOB and one side dish. See directions for RSVP in body of newsletter. Brief board meeting and election of officers will also occur

Dec 19: Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, 5655 East River Road, Suite 131. Call Eric at 326-7847.

Jan 2: Regular meeting at the Viscount - 6:30 pm - 4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711. Speaker Sally Petre, a U of A graduate student who has spent the better part of the past year studying crayfish and Apache trout on the West Fork of the Black River. She will present the results of her post-graduate thesis.

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

Jan 23: BOARD MEETING XXX



A VERY BIG BROWN TROUT



A reportedly 39.7 lb brown trout caught in New Zealand in a hydro canal (essentially where the dam flows out of a lake and the food concentrates). Just one more reason to go down under.

FISH ALASKA THIS JUNE

Ever wanted to fish in Alaska? If so, consider joining my annual trip there next June. OPTU members and friends are most welcome. Fishing will be for King Salmon from boat, beach at the lodge, or in small rivers; Sockeye Salmon (one of the best fighting fish on a fly rod); halibut; grayling; rainbows; and dolly varden. After a day of guided fishing you can fish till midnight from the beach if you have the stamina. Cullen caught a 70 lb King off the beach. A weeklong Lodge package from June 15 to 21, 2013 is \$3995 plus \$150 for a plane shuttle from the Kenai airport to Anchorage at the end of the stay (total of \$4145). Includes all room, board, happy hour, and daily guided activities. Note that I do not receive any portion of the payment - so its just an opportunity for getting together in Alaska with friends. Contact me at 250-4083 if interested. *John Murphy*



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.

New products offered at Dry Creek Outfitters. We are 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 resides at the River Center mall; NE corner of River and Craycroft and is open **Tuesdays through Sundays** from 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 is *closed Mondays*. 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

I have two Aquapac waterproof camera bags (one for camera and one for video camera) that are used for filming underwater with non-waterproof cameras. Google the bags to see what they are like. Have never used. \$10 each. Call John at 520-250-4083.

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

Fishing Lees Ferry

Five OPTU members had a spectacular time fishing Lees Ferry at the end of October. Falling into the "medium rare" skill level, their catch was surprisingly successful with the help of our very adept guide, Natalie Jensen.

We had beautiful sunny days and the flow of the Colorado was a constant 8,000 FPS with temperatures little warmer than usual. There was a prolific hatch and we caught fingerings to 17" trout. We used a variation of nymphs and scuds on tiny rigs (#18-20).

There was not much luck to be had at Walk-in. Slippery and mossy (terrifying at times) at the upper bolder field above the Paria. Tried to hit the pockets in the boulder field and the seams below big rock.

We learned a great deal and are looking forward to attacking Lees Ferry again.

The intrepid anglers were Kathleen Sullivan, Marie LeBreck, Judy Montalto, Gay Frank, Mary Frances Ruddick

Kathleen Sullivan



The Lees Ferry Crew

Arizona Game and Fish Interactive Stocking Schedule

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

QUOTES AND JOKES

Nothing funny this month.

FOR SALE

I have two dry bags for underwater filming for use with a regular camera or video camera that are not waterproof. Neither has been used. Would be good for filming your fish as they come in or for scuba/snorkeling trips. They are Aquapacs (check out on the web). \$10 for each. 520-250-4083.

OPTU BOARD MINUTES

OPTU BOARD MEETING - OCTOBER 24, 2012

ATTENDEES:

Steve Reiter, President; Robin Marsett, PHWFF; Dave Coombs, Banquet Chair; Joe Vitelli, Outings Chair; Roseann Marsett, Conservation Chair; Kathleen Vitelli, Secretary; Vaughn Johnson, Vice President Candidate

The meeting was held at SK Builders and commenced at 6:00 p.m. Steve introduced Vaughn Johnson who has expressed interest in the Vice President's vacancy. Vaughn spoke to the board for a few minutes about his background and his interest in contribute by filling the VP vacancy. Election will be held in December for this vacancy. Steve also indicated we need to fill the membership chair since Nan Phillips resigned.

HOLIDAY PARTY

The party will be held in lieu of a regular December meeting. The Board historically has also held their December meeting (shortened version) at the party. Vaughn indicated he would not be able to attend, nor will Joe Fagan. Steve may make a brief appearance as he has another function on that evening. The party is scheduled for December 8th at 6:00pm and will be held at the home of Joe and Kathleen Vitelli. Several main dishes and appetizers will be offered along with soft drinks, all attendees are asked to RSVP and bring a side dish and their libation of choice.

JANUARY 2013 MEMBER MEETING

Steve discussed the regular member meeting would fall on January 2nd. Steve suggested maybe having Sally Petri do a presentation on her graduate work or perhaps have reps from Fishheads do a presentation.

OPTU BANQUET

The Board discussed changing the banquet from an annual event to a bi-annual event which is how the Sierra Vista club conducts their banquet. Their next banquet is scheduled for early 2013, which would give us the opportunity to support their fundraiser with an OPTU contingent. We could then hold our banquet in early 2014 with Sierra Vista reciprocating by attending our banquet. A review of the 2011 banquet indicated we made a profit of about \$2,000. The bi-annual schedule would be beneficial to Dave Coombs, who does the bulk of the outreach to local businesses for donation, by not having to pressure businesses to donate each year. Roseann made the motion for a bi-annual banquet which was seconded by Steve. Steve indicated he would contact Rick Weisberg from Sierra Vista to confirm the date of their banquet and the exchange of support between both organizations.

BUDGET

Roseann briefly discussed the balance of money kept by OPTU in various accounts and the fact that we have approximately \$28,000. She stressed that we are a non-profit group and may want to consider spending some money to better the organization for all the members, while keeping a threshold minimum reserve of perhaps 10 to 15 thousand. The board discussed spending additional monies on conservation, outings by supplying and paying for transportation for members, perhaps food as well to fishing locations within driving distance. The proposed 2013 budget was reviewed and proposed money was line itemed for each budgetary item.

OUTINGS

Joe Vitelli indicated that aside from the monthly day trips in the Tucson area, he was recommending that we consider two longer fishing trips: one to the White Mountains and one to perhaps southern Utah or Lee's Ferry. He requested the Board approve spending money on a van rental which would accommodate six or seven TU members. Steve brought up perhaps there is a need for more outings coordinators, maybe someone taking responsibility for each month's outings.

CONSERVATION

Roseann reported on upcoming conservation outing near the Black River in the White Mountains which would involve AZGF and instruction how to read the temperature logging equipment which they have in place. Volunteers would need to be in their camp early Saturday morning for breakfast after which they will

proceed with AZGF to read temp logs. Lunch and dinner will also be provided at the Marsett camp. Roseann will schedule another outing in the spring in conjunction with an OPTU/PHWFF White Mountains fishing trip to again read the temp logs.

PHWFF

Robin discussed a White Mountains trip in the spring and a 2013 Alaska fishing trip that will take 3-4 wounded warriors down the Gulkana River. Additionally, another Tangle River trip will be scheduled for 2012 which will be a seven day trip. Robin reported that the Durango trip may be in question for 2013. Should that be scheduled, it will be limited to 12 wounded warriors, using one or two the more seasoned veterans as fishing volunteers.

MISCELLANEOUS

Steve brought up subject of raising revenue for OPTU by charging members a yearly fee, which is done by some other organizations. This would be in addition to the yearly TU membership. Will discuss further. Discussion ensued about when to hold bi-annual banquet in 2014 and it was agreed that February was an extremely busy month in Tucson. Perhaps holding it in the latter part of March. Dave will start soliciting early for fund raising donations. Perhaps some of the early donations could be used for bucket raffles at regular meetings.

Roseann will oversee the women's fly casting clinic in 2013 with Nan. It should be advertised early and perhaps can have clinic in April or May.

Kathy indicated that she was contacted via email by a couple who will be living in the Tucson area for the winter who have their own fly casting instruction business. She will contact to see if they would be interested in doing a men's clinic for OPTU.

The November member meeting will again be held at the Viscount. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

FORRENT

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.

RIO SALADO CASTING CLUB

The next club cast is Saturday, December 1 at Granada Park, 6505 N. 20 Street, Phoenix at 8:00. Arrive early to rig your gear. At 8:00 AM sharp we'll warm up with wet fly, roll cast round of trout fly & 1/4oz plug. Following warm-ups & review, club members are invited to play for score.

Scheduled Games:

- Wet Fly
- Trout Fly
- Open plug
- Bass Bug

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:

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>

Check out this video of Chris Woods of TU talking about our efforts in the Southwest.

<http://youtu.be/CwF1y99OhqE>

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/CwF1y99OhqE>

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>