OPTU NEWS

Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited

Volume 22, Issue 10

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



Index

Items that Change

- President's Message Volunteer opportunities, meeting, etc.
- Upcoming Fishing Trips and Outings Reports San Juan; Ferry
- Women's Activities -
- Conservation Report Rucker Creek
- Youth Activity Report Volunteer **NOW**
- Project Healing Waters Report Read about upcoming trips
- Tips and Tricks -
- Fishing Reports New Zealand
- Quotes & Jokes None this time
- For Sale / For Rent Boat and big sale
- OPTU Board Meeting Minutes Check them out
- Dry Creek Outfitters News Visit Eric and fulfill your dreams
- Photos: A few from around and about

Items that Don't Change Much

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Secretary: Kathleen Vitelli

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Membership Chair: Open

Conservation Chair: Robin Marsett

rmarsett@comcast.net

Healing Waters Chair: Captain Chris Allen and Major Mario Bracamonte

Fishing Trip Chair: Joe Vitelli

520-885-8357

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Trout in the Classroom Chair: Joe

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Youth Education Chair: Joe Fagan

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Fellow OPTU'ers

I wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving, a Joyous Holiday Season. For many people in Tucson, the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are enhanced and made more memorable through the generosity of others. If you are able, I hope you will consider donating either money or goods (food, clothing, toys, and so on), or volunteer your time to those less fortunate.

For all of you that don't get the AZGFD fishing reports, trout stocking is due to begin in the urban lakes this month, and to continue through March, 2015. As a reminder, the urban lakes fishing license is now part of the General Fishing License, and the license is good for a year from the date of purchase (it is no longer a January to January only license). Fishing urban lakes is a good opportunity to introduce youth to fly fishing, or to just enjoy a day outdoors by yourself, practicing your fly casting and maybe catching a fish or two for the frying pan...

On November 22, there will be a face-to-face meeting of the entire State Council of TU and representatives from Game and Fish, US Fish and Wildlife Service, 4-Forest Restoration Initiative (4FREI), and others. Much of what is to be discussed is native trout restoration and conservation projects for next year and up to 5 years in the future. An important attendee to this meeting is Brad Powell, the Southwest Region Native Trout Program Manager from TU. TU





National is making a substantial investment in both money and manpower to the southwest region conservation and restoration efforts. Minutes of this face-to-face meeting will be published and will be posted to our website.

Brad Powell has agreed to be our speaker for the December 3 meeting, and to re-present the information from his appearance at the face-to-face meeting. This is a great opportunity to meet our Native Trout representative from TU National, and discuss TUs plans for participation in Arizona and other SW States. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. in the Bristol Room at the Viscount Suites Hotel, Broadway at Arcadia. I hope to see you there.

....Best Regards,

Steve Reiter, President

WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

Women's Initiative (WI)

OPTU is looking for someone to take the lead for this work. Responsibilities include taking part in the monthly teleconference, attending a monthly board meeting and working with the board to encourage more women to participate in Trout Unlimited. The only requirements are that you participate in the phone meetings and let the board know the WI status. Please contact Roseann at 760.1659 or rzann@comcast.net for information on the next teleconference.

TU.ORG WEBSITE UPGRADE FOR OPTU

The OPTU Chapter is currently working with TU National to add our information to the TU.org web site. The new TU site provides for user stream reports, Chapter event notifications, individual and group blogs and many others. Stop by the tu.org site, add your profile and start exploring, post your fish porn, trip information and anything fishing related to the Old Pueblo – - 531 group site. Roseann Marsett (rzann@comcast.net) and Kathleen Vitelli (kayceesgarden@att.com) welcome your participation. If you have any questions, problems or help with postings please let us know. We hope to have the transition completed by the end of the summer but we are up for your participation in the meantime.

Thanks, Roseann Marsett

Calendar

DEC 3 Regular meeting at the Viscount - 6:30 pm - 4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711. Speaker Brad Powell, the Southwest Region Native Trout Program Manager from TU.

DEC 3 BOARD MEETING: 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Viscount Suites.

DEC 24?: Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, 5655 East River Road, Suite 131. Call Eric at 326-7847.

JAN 7 Regular meeting at the Viscount - 6:30 pm - 4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711. Speaker TBA.

JAN 7 BOARD MEETING: 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Viscount Suites.

JAN 28: Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, 5655 East River Road, Suite 131. Call Eric at 326-7847.

Youth Activities

I am about ready to give up my chairmanship of Youth Activities because no other members have stepped forward to join me to help plan educational and conservation activities with youth. I would like to have a team of at least 4 or 5 members to help plan and execute youth activities for our Chapter 3 or 4 times a year. Team members would be required to obtain certified Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) volunteer credentials.

The Youth Activities team would assist on conservation projects, Trout in the Classroom, and maybe teach BSA Fly Fishing Merit Badge requirements. The team would focus on trout conservation and fly-fishing.

Youth Activities team members, as AZGFD Certified volunteers, would be accepted by school groups allowing teaching youth. The Youth Activities team would function jointly with OPTU and the AZGFD. With connections to the AZGFD the Youth Activities team could borrow fly-fishing and tying equipment from the AZGFD. None of the persons fishing with the team would need fishing licenses when the team would teach as certified AZGFD volunteers.

There may be a required training session some Saturday in January. It would last 4 hours. During the training finger-printing would be done to obtain 1st class clearance with the State and Federal authorities. The training session teaches ethical behavior of adults working with youth rather than how to fish. The training session teaches how to conduct a Fishing Program.

Please contact me for more information and/or to let me know that you would be willing to participate on the OPTU Youth Activities team. If I do not have 3 or 4 more OPTU members willing to work with me by the end of December 2014, I will assume our OPTU membership does not want to have Youth Activities in our Chapter. My cell phone number is 520-730-6398. My email address is JFaganFishEd@gmail.com. Thank you. Joe Fagan, OPTU Youth Activities Chairman.

Conservation

Conservation is moving ahead. As a reminder Grant Creek and Frey Creek will be catch and release, single barbless, artificial as of January 1, 2015. Arizona Game and Fish has removed the Spruce Creek strain of Gila Trout from Ash Creek. They weren't reproducing there very well, so the fish have been taken to Mora fish hatchery were they will be used as brood stock. Future plans for Ash Creek will be discussed by Arizona Game and fish and other concerned agencies in the near future.

I accompanied Nate Berg of Arizona Game and Fish on 12 November to Rucker Creek to place temperature loggers in the creek. We went upstream about four miles to the Gates, placing four loggers in the upper two miles. Rucker Creek is being considered for introduction of Yaqui Trout. The placement of temperature loggers is the first step in assessing the suitability of the stream. More on this effort as it evolves.

The trail suffered major damage during the last heavy rains in September and I would estimate at least half of it is completely washed away and much of the rest is in sorry shape with lots of debris to include downed trees, loose gravel and large rocks. There was at least one new six foot deep head cut that crossed the trail.

We may be placing more temperature loggers in the upper reaches of Rucker Creek and Cave Creek in the near future. Both efforts will require younger legs than mine. Nate is willing to work out weekend days for this work so some of our young folks can give him an assist. I will provide onsite moral support. Onsite moral support is defined as me at the truck smoking a cigar and having positive thoughts.

Additional conservation efforts are in the works for next year that include the Black River and a tributary to the Blue River in the White Mountains.

Keep a watch on the new OPTU web site oldpueblo.tu.org for updates.

OPTU BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Steve Reiter, Pres. Kathleen Vitelli, Secretary Roseann Marsett, 2nd V.P. Joe Vitelli, Outings

Robin Marsett, Conservation Joe Fagan, Youth/TIC

Meeting commenced at 5:15 p.m. on 11/5/2014

Motion was made by Roseann to accept the October 2014 Board meeting minutes, second by Robin. In the near future, our Board meeting minutes will be posted on the new OPTU website once Roseann completes the set-up.

YOUTH/TIC

Joe F. indicated he had enough supplies to keep Trout in the Classroom gooing through the end of this school year in 2015. Some of the equipment for TIC was sold for a profit of \$900.00. Joe F. discussed getting more involvement of OPTU in Youth Activities which is overseen by AZGFD.

BUDGET - 2015

The following budget requests were discussed: Robin for Conservation: \$4,000 (will take \$2000 in 2015 and \$2000 in 2016); PHWFF: Robin requests \$1,000 donation from OPTU; Steve anticipates \$2100 need for operating i.e. meeting venues, raffle items, miscellaneous; Joe V. request \$1,000 for outings.

Roseann discussed new budget form she prepared. Board discussed at length how items would be accounted for and the person ultimately responsible for maintaining this form would be OPTU Treasurer Cathy Koktavy. Additionally, Cathy is required to be a TU member. Steve would speak with her to find out her membership status.

Robin indicated that the previous budget preps were hard to decipher.

The board discussed fundraising for 2015 to keep positive cash flow between now and 2016 biannual banquet. Discussion about creating fundraising committee and who will lead the group. Joe V. indicated that OPTU member Jim Owens would be a good candidate and he expressed some interest in serving on the Board. Steve reminded Board members to pick up items that might be useful in our monthly bucket raffles and will be reimbursed.

Continued on next page

NEW BUSINESS

Steve reported that all member volunteer hours will now have to be reported each month on the main TU website - PRRS programs. This should be available soon. Also, there are training courses available to TU members via the website.

Steve discussed having Board members attend some monthly meetings via conference calls. The company, World Wide Conferencing. The cost is reasonable but it would cost each board member 2.7 cents per minute...an hour call would cost approximately \$1.62. A motion was made to agree to this format by Joe Fagan, seconded by Roseann Marsett. Steve would find out all the details and get information out to the Board members.

Steve indicated that Scott Koktavy has sold the S & K Building with closing to take place on or before 12/1/2014. OPTU has equipment stored there and it needs to be moved to the OPTU sotrage unit which is a 5 x 5. Steve indicated he would go to S & K on Monday 11/10 along with Robin and Joe Fagan to go through our items and purge what would not be used.

Steve will contact Mark (old website maintainer) to discontinue the old website which is paid in full until the end of the year.

BOARD MEMBERS - ATTENDANCE AND NEW NOMINEES

The board discussed the fact that a number of Board members have not regularly attended meetings, i.e. Dave Combs, Mick Fletcher and Cathy Koktavy. Joe Vitelli nominated Jim Owens for a Board member position and will follow-up, seconded by Robin Marsett. Robin nominated Bryan Eto who is a CPA, and will follow-up, seconded by Joe V. Joe Fagan nominated Paul Olsend, will follow-up, seconded by Roseann Marsett.

It was also discussed that board members who fail to attend in person or on a conference call meeting for longer than two months may be subject to removal from the board unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Steve indicated that we should have a specific format for general member meetings which may include members sharing pages they visit and may be interesting to other members and perhaps doing a quick fly tying demo prior to speaker or during a break.

CONSERVATION

Robin reported that he is applying for two EAS (Embrace a Stream) grants: one to do improvements to Grant Creek including ladder and decks, anticipated cost per Scott Koktavy would be approximately \$3600-\$4000. Scott will donate labor; and two, Rucker Creek and Cave Creek, \$10,000 for temp loggers. This will negate his OPTU budget request if approved.

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING



On November 18, 2014, PHWFF and members of OPTU are planning on fishing Rose Canyon Lake located on Mount Lemmon. Although the road leading to the lake is now gated for the winter, the 1.5 mile hike in is well worth it. The crowds will be gone and we will have the lake virtually to ourselves. On a previous outing to the lake in early November, I found a well stocked lake and caught about 20-30 browns and rainbow trout. Dry fly fishing was as productive as nymph fishing. If the snow fall stays above the 7000 foot level, it should be a productive lake for winter fishing.

At our OPTU November meeting, Robin Marsett, OPTU Conservation chair indicated that Frye Creek on Mt. Graham will be opened on January 1, 2015 for the first time. It will offer Gila Trout catch and release fishing. An earlier trip revealed a very healthy population!

We will be planning a PHWFF/OPTU joint one or two trip in January to Cluff Ranch to fish Frye Creek. Be sure to log on to the "new" OPTU website, oldpueblo.tu.org for further details in the near future. We will be asking you to join this website so you can receive updates on outings and other events we will be planning.

Robin Marsett



Rucker Creek Conservation

Upcoming Fishing Trips and Outings Reports

13th Annual San Juan, New Mexico Trip

Dates will be Sunday April 13 to Friday April 18, 2015. If you are interested the cost should be about \$450 for all food, lodging, transportation, and fun. Contact the editor at jemurphy51@me.com to sign up. Trip is limited to 9 people and is half full at present. Money won't be due till about December.



San Juan and Lees Ferry



Lees Ferry, AZ - March 23 - 26, 2015

Once again we are very excited to announce the 2015 OPTU fishing outing will again be held at Lee's Ferry, Arizona. We had a great time at Lee's Ferry this past March.....the wild Rainbow trout were in full spawn, showing off their beautiful color and aggressively hitting our lines.

For those not familiar with this water, Lee's Ferry is a massive, clear running cold water fishery. It runs 15.5 miles from the outflow of Lake Powell at the Glen Canyon Dam to the upper end of the Grand Canyon. The scenery is breathtaking and just enhances the view while fishing. There will be two days of guided fishing provided by Lee's Ferry Anglers owned by Terry and Wendy Gunn. All guides are full time professionals....no part-time guides. They will provide the boats which will allow us to fish the entire stretch of the Colorado River in this area.

We will be staying at the Cliff Dweller's Lodge at the base of the Vermillion Cliffs. The lodge was built in the 1950's and was purchased by the Gunn's in 2001 and has since been renovated.

We estimate the cost of the trip will be \$650 per person. The following will be included in the price: three nights lodging at Cliff Dwellers; two full days of guided fly fishing on the river; tips for all guides and lunch will be provided on fishing days.

Unlike last year, OPTU will not be providing transportation. If you reserve a spot for this trip, please indicate whether you would be able to drive...this will help us organize car pooling so gas costs can be shared. Attendees will also be responsible for paying for their own breakfast and dinner which will be at Cliff Dweller's Lodge restaurant. Also, if your guide provides you with flies during guided fishing, you will be responsible to that guide for reimbursement.

Please note: spots are limited so we will reserve them on a first come, first serve basis.....you must send me an email to reserve a spot at kayceesgarden@att.net. Upon reserving your spot, a \$100 deposit will be required by our OPTU November member's meeting which will be November 5th. The balance of the payment will be due by our January 2015 meeting.

I look forward to hearing from you via email. If you have any questions, you can also reach me on my cell phone, 570-762-2020. *Joseph Vitelli, OPTU Outings Coordinator*

Tips and Tricks

- Store your wader repair glue in the freezer. It lasts much longer and warms up quickly.
- Google "fly fishing tips and techniques" for hundreds of useful links.
- Check out the Orvis Fly Fishing Learning Center: Here's one on tips for winter fishing appropriate right now. http://howtoflyfish.orvis.com/tests/tips-for-winter-trout-article?
 ADV=556337&EID=jemurphy51@me.com&cm_mmc=orvisemail-_-Art%20Of%20Fly%20Fishing%202-_-oi-_-BOD_READI

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*

FOR SALE

Outcast setup is for sale at \$3500 for boat, frame, and trailer (originally - \$7k in gear). Call 602-722-5143. Chris Carlson. SilverCreek fly fishing guide service.



Fly fishing sale Dec. 13 @ 9am. 8' Walker Bay boat, trolling motor, etc. Rods, reels, clothing, accessories, tons of books and magazines. 6112 E. 20th St. Tucson. *Vinnie McHale*

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. \$600 per week or \$100/night - plus housecleaning fee. Extra beyond 4 guests. Call John at 520-250-4083 if interested in checking it out.

Arizona Game and Fish Interactive Stocking Schedule

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

QUOTES AND JOKES

None this time.

FISHING REPORTS

Your editor traveled to New Zealand for work and some fishing in early November. Like many trips at this time of year, fishing was dramatically impacted by weather - either rain or blistering wind. The rain raises the rivers like everywhere in the world and the wind can easily reach 50 mph, most often directly in your face.

After work was completed in Dunedin on the South Island, I headed out to fish in what is called Northern Southland, an area from about 30 minutes south of Queenstown down toward Gore. On the trip to Lumsden, home of my friend's "Trout Cottage," I stopped at a river and managed to spot and land a couple of nice browns in a couple of hours. Then it was off to the Buzz Cafe for the first of many excellent curry dishes. The next day I returned to the same river with hopes of previous glory. The water had risen due to rain and being a dark river, spotting was basically impossible. I moved to an area of success in previous years and found a good number of fish rising to mayflies. Slipping in behind them I managed to coax two of them to hand and then the feeding stopped. Faced with the potential for limited further success, I headed to my favorite spring creek for the afternoon rise. Before going to the creek I stopped on the famous Mataura River and spotted several fish but couldn't interest any despite several fly changes and adding more and more weight. At the spring creek, no fish can be spotted in the crystal clear water till about 2 to 3 pm when the hatch starts, and then heads can be seen rising up and down the creek. Game on. I had the creek to my lonesome on this day and landed two browns in the 4 to 6 lb range and lost another that jumped three times before breaking off. He was also about 5 - 6 lbs.

Rain held forth throughout the night and all the rivers were way above average flow the next day - more than my limited spotting capabilities could handle. My guide friend Chris Dore (highly recommended if you ever head over) fishes every day no matter what and knows where to go no matter what - but not me. I checked out two rivers and both were pumping too fast to even consider, leaving me to try the spring creek again later in the afternoon. On this day a guide was there first with two clients so I didn't think fishing would be too likely as the creek is only a few hundred meters long. However, after they started fishing the guide invited me to try a small section. I hooked two and landed one but didn't mention the success to his client when asked (I don't think he hooked any). I landed another after they left after changing nymphs 5 times and 50 or so casts and finally trying a dry and another 30 casts before he rose to the challenge. He had me racing downstream before landing what was a nice 5-6 pounder (you can see why I like to go to this place).

The next day included continuous rain and 50 or so mph wind so I read a novel all day. Not what I wanted to do on such a short trip but sometimes you just have to give in.

The next day still had rivers pumping and beyond my limited capabilities. Again I returned to the spring creek but this time on a bluebird sunny day - the worst possible conditions for the creek (snowing, raining and wind behind your back are the best). The hatch barely came off and I only managed one nice fish of about 4 lbs. Met a guy who owns a ranch with two miles of the Gunnison running through it that day. He spends 5 months in NZ because the fish are so much bigger. Must be nice.

On my penultimate day I went to a small dark "burn" (creek) where I have had success in the past. It was a little high and off color but I spotted 3-4 fish, none of which succumbed to my offerings. I again headed back to the spring creek in the afternoon and managed to land two nice ones after hundreds of casts, one on a dry fly that I has to present off to his left near the bank to arouse interest.

On the last day I returned to the river of my first success on this trip and the wind was blowing about 40 to 50 mph in my face in the area where I last caught fish. The odds looked bad so I headed to the most sheltered river I know as it was finally down to a reasonable flow. I spotted one right away and had about 30 casts to it, mostly losing flies on the sticks around its lie. Got tired of that and found a riffle that dropped to a deep hole where three fish were lined up across the riffle. I got all three of them and then 5 more blind fishing the same hole. All in the 2 to 3 lb range and almost all jumping 3 to 4 times. Amazing. Then it was off to the airport for the long slog home. *The Editor*

Newsletter Items That Don't Often Change

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?

cmpid=enewso40213&spPodID=030&spMailingID=17130073&spUserID=MzU4MjY4ODA3NTQS1&spJobID=213641885&spReportId=MjEzNjQxODg1S0

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

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* <u>irdaz@cox.net</u>

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/Subscribe