

OPTU NEWS

Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited

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

Volume 22, Issue 9



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 - **Chiricahua Mountains**
- Youth Activity Report - **TIC**
- Project Healing Waters Report - **Read about the latest trip**
- Tips and Tricks -
- Fishing Reports - **Alaska 2014**
- Quotes & Jokes - **Norman Maclean quotes**
- For Sale / For Rent - **Let the editor know if you have stuff**
- 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

Officers and Coordinators

President: Steve Reiter (h) 520-795-2388
sreiter4@cox.net

Vice President: Open

Secretary: Kathleen Vitelli

Treasurer: Cathy Hill

Cathy@skbuilders.net

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

Public Relations Chair: Michael

Fletcher 520-744-1631

mmltfletch@msn.com

Trout in the Classroom Chair: Joe

Fagan jfaganfished@gmail.com

Youth Education Chair: Joe Fagan

Other Board Members

Jeff Collins (emeritus)

Roger McKee (ex officio)

Newsletter Editor: John Murphy

520-299-3278; email:

murphy@pharmacy.arizona.edu

Address:

Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited

P O Box 14822

Tucson, AZ 85732-4822

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Fellow OPTU'ers

From time to time, I receive word of a conservation project needing volunteer help. In the past couple of months there were two such opportunities: Canyon Creek - move gravel to provide spawning grounds for brown trout; and Grapevine Creek - stock approximately 250 Gila trout. When these opportunities arise, I try to notify the membership as soon as possible in case someone wants to help out. However, Game and Fish is in charge of the schedule and, as we saw with the Grapevine Creek project, can change on a moments notice. (Grapevine was originally scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 16, then changed to Wednesday, Oct. 8, and finally changed at the last minute to Tuesday, Oct. 7.) These changes are out of our control, and are probably out of G&F's control as well, but I will continue to try to keep you informed of these opportunities, as well as any schedule changes.

I am told by Mike Anderson, Native Fish Coordinator for G&F, that there will be some conservation work on the West Fork of the Black River, he hopes by next spring. The work will involve installing elk/cattle exclosures and planting willows along the banks of the river in the Thompson Meadow section, with the intent of trying to lower water temperatures in sections of the river by providing more shade on the water thus making the habitat more suitable for Apache Trout. I know that for many in OPTU, the WFBR is "home water" for conservation projects, since many of you participated in the stream reconstruction and stocking efforts in the late-1980s and early 1990s. I will do everything I can to keep you informed of this project, in particular, and hope to see many of you there when the call for volunteers is made....

Our featured speaker for the November 5th meeting will be Ben Smith, who is making his third appearance at OPTU. If you have been to one of the previous talks, you will know that Ben is a good speaker, well-informed and with a dynamite slide show. I expect this presentation will be no less. His topic will be "Pyramid Lake and Large Lahontan Cutthroat Trout on a Fly Rod". 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

A memory for past attendees of the San Juan trips. RIP Gretchen.



Calendar

NOV 5 Regular meeting at the Viscount - 6:30 pm - 4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711. Speaker Ben Smith on Pyramid Lake and Large Lahontan Cutthroat Trout on a Fly Rod.

NOV 5 BOARD MEETING: 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Viscount Suites.

NOV 26: Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, 5655 East River Road, Suite 131. Call Eric at 326-7847.

DEC 3 Regular meeting at the Viscount - 6:30 pm - 4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711. Speaker TBA.

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.

Youth Activities

Flowing Wells H.S. Agricultural Science will be doing TIC this school year. It will be started after Thanksgiving with setting up equipment before Winter Holidays and getting trout eggs afterwards. *Joe Fagan*

Conservation

Conservation efforts on Cave Creek in the Chiricahua's will be on hold due to the road being washed out by the recent storms. We hope to relocate some of our efforts to Rucker Creek on the south west side of the Chiricahuas. More as we get word from Arizona Game and Fish.

On a positive note, Frey Creek will open on January 1st to catch and release for Gila Trout. Frey creek is home to a restored population of Gila trout that are now reproducing and doing well. The season closes the end of March. We are planning a work day at Frey Mesa Reservoir in January with fishing on the creek to follow. More on this as we firm up the details.



Hankster with Chinook on a fly

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING



Project Healing Waters just returned from our annual trip to Silver Creek. The fishing venues this year were Silver Creek, Acker Lake and Becker Lake. We were joined by Emerson Craig who helped us out on Becker Lake. Everyone caught fish and had a great time.

Once again Reeds Lodge in Springerville, the Safire restaurant in Springerville, and the Trail Riders restaurant in Springerville were more than generous in their support of our troops. Without them this would not be possible. Please support them with your business when you are up that way, and let them know we sent you.

Soon we will begin our monthly day trips to Rose Canyon and Mt Graham. We look forward to seeing you there. Once we see how much we get from National for our 2015 budget we will be able to plan further fund raising events for the coming year.

Robin Marsett

OPTU BOARD MEETING MINUTES - OCTOBER 7, 2014

ATTENDEES:

Steve Reiter, President

Joe Fagan, Youth Activities

Joe Vitelli, Outings

Kathleen Vitelli, Secretary

BUDGET

The new budget template created by Roseann Marsett was discussed with respect to how debits and credits will appear and who will be updating it each month. It was agreed that Cathy Kockavy, who is the treasurer, would be the person who should handle that.

The board will discuss changing up the meeting venue to save money. Additionally, we need to keep our board meetings on time.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Joe Fagan indicated he is retiring from his Sport Fishing Educator, which is a contracting position. He will consider becoming a volunteer with the the state's volunteer commission.

Joe will do one TIC after Thanksgiving and expressed concern that there is not much volunteer participation from OPTU members.

OUTINGS

Joe Vitelli reported that since the 2015 Lee's Ferry outing trip was announced at the end of August, only two participants have signed on. Joe indicated that we will need at least five or six more participants to register by the November deadline or the trip will have to be cancelled.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m..

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Vitelli, OPTU Secretary

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. For those of you who attend our OPTU meetings, I will not be back in Tucson until the October 2014 meeting. *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-_01_-_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

Let the editor know if you have things to sell.

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

Some of my favorite quotes from *A River Runs Through It* by Norman Maclean

Now nearly all those I loved and did not understand when I was young are dead, but I still reach out to them. Of course, now I am too old to be much of a fisherman, and now of course I usually fish the big waters alone, although some friends think I shouldn't. Like many fly fishermen in western Montana where the summer days are almost Arctic in length, I often do not start fishing until the cool of the evening. Then in the Arctic half-light of the canyon, all existence fades to a being with my soul and memories and the sounds of the Big Blackfoot River and a four-count rhythm and the hope that a fish will rise.

To my father, the highest commandment was to do whatever his sons wanted him to do, especially if it meant to go fishing.

One reason Paul caught more fish than anyone else was that he had his flies in the water more than anyone else. "Brother," he would say, "there are no flying fish in Montana. Out here, you can't catch fish with your flies in the air."

FISHING REPORTS

Silver Creek October 2014

Cullen and I headed up to Silver Creek on the Monday after opening. Silver Creek is just outside of Show Low in the White Mountains if you haven't been before. The ground was still a little muddy from the flood that had occurred just before the Project Healing Waters folks went up on the opener October 1. The fish were very large as usual up in the "pond" at the top and it was almost shoulder to shoulder on Monday and Tuesday. We weren't expecting that number of folks having never gone this early in the season before. Many fish over 5 lbs were landed, most by other people but we did get some nice ones too. The first afternoon Fish and Game planted 1,400 lbs of fish in the lower part of the river and they did the same the next day. I assume this planting would have been done the week earlier if the dirt paths hadn't been muck from the floods.

I tried the pond again the next day and landed a few but it was much slower than the day before by all accounts. On walking down to the lower river later in the day I found out why there weren't quite as many people up top on Tuesday - a bajillion fish were down below. I probably caught 20 or so rainbows in the two pound class and another half dozen smaller Apaches in an hour. However, it was quite crowded. For those in the know the "item" worked well in the lower and upper portion but up top in the "pond" I think the best success was on dead drifted leeches. Of course everything is dead drift up there since the "current" is about 0.001 mph, kind of like watching paint dry while you wait for a fish to find your offering. Keep changing flies until you find something that works. It could be any manner of thing.

On a sad note we saw about 8 dead rainbows of 5 lb. or greater size. Some people just don't treat the fish correctly. Saw way too many people with fish out of the water for more than a minute taking pictures. They may swim off but they aren't in good shape. My guidance has always been to run a 100 yard dash and the hold your breath. Time how long you can do it and that should be the time the fish is out of water. Sometimes it isn't easy but that should be your goal.

Since many anglers bring long nets and no waders they often also handle the fish with dry hands. That is another reason why the numbers drop off during the season I assume.

Take a trip up to Silver Creek if you haven't been. The opportunity to catch that size fish doesn't occur in many places.

The Editor



Not a picture from this trip but you get the idea :-)

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?](http://www.flyfishinsalt.com/news/top-10-fly-fishing-videos?cmsgid=enews040213&spPodID=030&spMailingID=17130073&spUserID=MzU4MjY4ODA3NTQSI&spJobID=213641885&spReportId=MjEzNjQxODg1So)

[cmsgid=enews040213&spPodID=030&spMailingID=17130073&spUserID=MzU4MjY4ODA3NTQSI&spJobID=213641885&spReportId=MjEzNjQxODg1So](http://www.flyfishinsalt.com/news/top-10-fly-fishing-videos?cmsgid=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.lrcctu.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>

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/eddies/Subscribe/Subs.cfm>
