

OPTU NEWS

Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited

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

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Index

Items that Change

- President's Message - **Places to fish, great raffle, speaker, etc.**
- Upcoming Fishing Trips and Outings Reports **San Juan**
- Women's Activities -
- Conservation Report -
- Youth Activity Report - **Volunteer NOW**
- Project Healing Waters Report -
- Tips and Tricks -
- Fishing Reports -
- Quotes & Jokes - **None this time**
- For Sale / For Rent - **Boat**
- 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: Clay Hernandez

2nd Vice President: Roseanne Marsett

Secretary: Kathleen Vitelli

Treasurer: Cathy Hill

Conservation Chair: Robin Marsett
rmarsett@comcast.net

Project Healing Waters Chair: James Owen

Outings Coordinator: Joe Vitelli
520-885-8357

Public Relations Chair

Youth Programs Chair: Joe Fagan

Membership Chair: Sheryl Olson

Other Board Members

David Combs

Bryan Eto

Mick Fletcher

Scott Koktavy

Paul Olson

Bob O'Brien

Newsletter Editor: John Murphy
520-626-2327; 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

What a great time of the year to get outside! Days, for the most part, are sunny and mild, perfect weather for hiking, biking, gardening, fishing, or whatever moves you.

In mid-January a number of our members along with PHWFF troops had the opportunity to sample the newly-opened Frye Creek for Gila Trout. Some nice fish in the 12"-14" range, and many more in the 6"-8", were caught and released. Overnight accommodations were at the Cluff Ranch bunkhouses, with OPTU providing breakfasts and dinners for participants. The Cluff Ranch ponds provided an additional fishing opportunity, and lots of stocked trout and sunfish were caught and returned to the water. If you plan to go to Frye Creek, you should expect to make it an all-day trip. Transportation each way is at least two hours, probably more; and the hike to fishable water is at least 30-45 minutes to the lower reaches, and maybe an hour to the upper reaches of the creek. The creek will only be open to catch and release fishing until March 1, then will close to all fishing until next fall.

If Frye Creek is a bit too much of a challenge, try the urban lakes. They are stocked with trout every 2 weeks (the stocking schedule is posted on the AZGFD web site, www.azgfd.gov), and always have a population of sunfish. Urban lakes are a great place to practice your casting with that new rod you got for Christmas (you did get a new rod, didn't you?) or to try out that newly-created fly pattern. Reports are that Kennedy Lake and Sahuarita Lake offer the best chance at catching something. There are apparently some water quality issues at Lakeside, and I haven't heard any reports from Silverbell. If you try out any of these waters, please consider posting a brief fishing report on our web site, <http://oldpueblo.tu.org>.

I am happy to announce that we will be holding a fundraising raffle between now and May that I think will be of wide interest to the membership. The winner will receive two nights lodging at the X-Diamond Ranch and one day of guided fishing for one or two anglers with Cinda Howard of FlyFish Arizona, either on the South Fork of the Little Colorado at the X-Diamond, or on any water in the White Mountains including on the WMAT reservation, where Cinda guides. This package, if purchased, would retail for over \$700. Tickets will be only \$10 each or 3 for \$25, and a maximum of 250 tickets will be sold. The drawing will be at the May 6th General Meeting. Cinda will be our speaker that month, and will draw the winning ticket. Raffle tickets can be purchased at the February, March, April, and May meetings (or until all the tickets are sold), at Dry Creek Outfitters, or through our web site. You can also contact any me directly (e-mail sreiter4@cox.net), let me know how many tickets you want and how I can get them to you. (The "small print": No meals are provided except for lunch on the guided trip. Cabins are furnished with fully outfitted kitchens so you can provide your own hot or cold meals as needed. Additional guests may be possible in the X-Diamond cabins, but there may be additional cost for those guests. More information on the X-Diamond Ranch lodging can be found at



www.xdiamondranch.com.)

Our speaker for the February meeting is Tom Horvath, a long-time Board member of the White Mountain Lakes Foundation (www.wmlf.org). White Mountain Lakes Foundation is dedicated to improving Arizona's White Mountain fisheries through grassroots conservation, restoration and protection efforts. WMLF is a 100% volunteer organization where all the money raised goes directly to improving fishing in the White Mountains area. To date, the WMLF is probably best-known for all their time and efforts, in conjunction with the AZGFD, to make Becker Lake near Springerville a destination trophy trout lake. Next up - Crescent Lake. Tom will give us an overview of all the WMLF projects, both underway and long range plans. I hope to see you there....

....Best Regards,
Steve Reiter, President

CONSERVATION

OPTU continues to work with Arizona Game and Fish to enhance our local fisheries. This month we assisted placed a new species identification sign at Frye Mesa Reservoir and generated a report of the fishing in Frye Mesa Reservoir and along the lower and middle portions of Frye Creek. We continue to work with Arizona Game and Fish on these and other issues.

We are awaiting the announcement about the award of the Embrace a Stream Grants. If we were awarded any of this grant money will be active in the spring and summer working on further conservation efforts. I will keep the club apprised of these developments through the Newsletter and web site. *Robin Marsett*



My grandson Haydon's first fish on a fly rod. Nice little brownie.

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

FEB 4 Regular meeting at the Viscount - 6:30 pm - 4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711. Speaker Tom Horvath, a long-time Board member of the White Mountain Lakes Foundation (www.wmlf.org). He will speak about WMLF activities now and in the future.

FEB 4 BOARD MEETING: 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Viscount Suites.

FEB 25: Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, 5655 East River Road, Suite 131. Call Eric at 326-7847.

MAR 4 Regular meeting at the Viscount - 6:30 pm - 4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711. Speaker TBA.

MAR 4 BOARD MEETING: 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Viscount Suites.

MAR 25: Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, 5655 East River Road, Suite 131. Call Eric at 326-7847.

OPTU BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Steve Reiter, President	Roseann Marsett, Treasurer
Joe Fagan, TIC	Dave Combs, Banquet Chair
Joe Vitelli, Outings	Kathleen Vitelli, Secretary
Robin Marsett, Conservation	Bryan Eto, Member at Large
Paul Olsen, Member at Large	

Meeting was brought to order at 5:05 p.m.

Steve reported that Board member, Scott Koktavy's daughter passed away on 12/25/2014 and a memorial fund was set up in her name. Steve motioned that OPTU make a donation to same in the amount of \$100.00, seconded by Joe Vitelli.

Steve confirmed that Roseann Marsett would be stepping into the position of OPTU Treasurer to replace Cathy Koktavy. Roseann discussed the actual current organization funds and the project budget for 2015.

2016 BANQUET

A Banquet committee was suggested and the following members will take up the duties of preparing for the banquet: Dave Combs, Kathleen Vitelli and Steve.

Dave Combs indicated that he has a friend, Chris who is now working at Tanque Verde Ranch, the location of our 2014 budget. A discussion about having the banquet at TVR in 2016 resulted in members agreeing we should use this venue again. However, it was agreed that we should perhaps check other venues. Bryan Eto indicated that he would check with Hacienda Del Sol.

FUND RAISING FOR 2015

Steve reported that our raffle would be a 2 night trip to the X-Diamond Ranch and one day of guided fishing with Cinda Howard for two people. The cost to OPTU for this trip would be approximately \$605.00. The raffle will run until the May

2015 OPTU meeting. Cinda Howard will be our guest speaker and will draw the winner. It was agreed that tickets would see for \$10.00 each, 3 for \$25.00. Goal is to sell minimum of 200. Cinda will provide certificate to winner and will coordinate with that person regarding dates and cabin availabilities. Dave Combs suggested that we suspend bucket raffles at the member meetings until the completion of this fundraiser.

The Board reviewed the TU print shop and what it offers in the way of posters, tickets, flyers, etc. Samples were provided for the Board's review and it was agreed they were very professional. Roseann to advise board via email of the cost.

Steve reiterated the Member Chair vacancy and how we would fill it, with the possibility of using intern. The newsletter improvement was discussed with suggestions being welcomed by members.

Discussion about participating in Jim Click car raffle in 2015 it is pure profit and the car being raffled will be an anniversary addition Ford Mustang. It was suggested that Board member Jim Owen spear head this project.

The Board voted to support the Wrinkleneck organization by placing a half page add in their banquet brochure with Dave Combs composing the add.

CONSERVATION

Robin indicated that the EAS grants for which he applied will be discussed at a meeting on 2/28/2015, with the results being announced in March or April. Robin requested \$4500 which would cover one budget line item of \$4000 and \$500 towards the temp loggers.

Robin reported on fishing Frye Creek indicating that the fishing was not good with only one 12" brought to hand. The pool below the falls was high and no activity seen. There was also some mono filament line found which may indicate poaching. The OPTU signs will be installed during the Cluff Ranch trip which identifies the species. Robin will also be the second OPTU delegate to the State Council.

OUTINGS

Joe V. indicated that the upcoming trip to Cluff Ranch was full and OPTU would be providing the food and housing supplied by Forestry.

TIC

Joe F. reported that the fish tank at Flowing Wells has been leaking and was moved to another room. He indicated that Hector Ponce De Leon has volunteered to help him.

Roseann advised the Board that TU National will again be offering free membership for women this spring.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m..

Respectfully submitted by *Kathleen Vitelli*, OPTU Secretary

TO CONSERVE, PROTECT, AND RESTORE NORTH AMERICA'S COLDWATER FISHERIES AND THEIR WATERSHEDS

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING



No specific report this month (see President Reiter's report for some of the activities. Always great things going on.

Upcoming Fishing Trips and Outings Reports

13th Annual San Juan, New Mexico Trip

Dates will be Sunday April 12 to Friday April 17, 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



A brook trout from the Strawberry River in Utah

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.



Patagonia River Crampons (clip on to your rubber soled boots and cut down on slipping on slippery rocks. Originally \$199 and never used. \$79. Call 520-250-4083.

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. \$700 per week plus housecleaning fee. Extra beyond 4 guests. Call John at 520-250-4083 for info.

Arizona Game and Fish Interactive Stocking Schedule

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

QUOTES AND JOKES

None this time.

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?cmpid=enews040213&spPodID=030&spMailingID=17130073&spUserID=MzU4MjY4ODA3NTQSI&spJobID=213641885&spReportId=MjEzNjQxODgrSo>

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.lrc.tu.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>

Here is a great video on the "nutrient cycle"more so about salmon but is still a great lesson addition.

<http://aeon.co/video/science/alaska-the-nutrient-cycle-a-short-film-about-chum-salmon/>

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/eddiessubscribe/subscribe.cfm>
