

OPTU NEWS

Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited Chapter 531 oldpueblo.tu.org Editor: John E. Murphy 520-250-4083

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Fellow OPTU'ers

We in OPTU are continuing efforts to engage with our members and expand our numbers. So far, we have had good response to our fishing outings, monthly meetings and monthly Lie-N-Tie. We have also added several new members through Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing and students at the University of Arizona. Clay Hernandez is actively engaged with the U.S. Forest Service, Arizona Game and Fish and the Trout Unlimited State council coordinating conservation work opportunities for this year. As soon as he has information on conservation projects he will be scheduling work days and reaching out to chapter members for assistance.

This year marks the 8th annual Native and Wild Trout Conference at the Arizona Game and Fish Department Headquarters in Phoenix. It will be held at 9:00 am on the 27th of April. The address is 5000 W Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ. I am including a flyer with details and registration information for anyone interested in attending. We encourage your participation.

This year also marks the first time that the Trout Unlimited Western Regional Rendezvous is being held in Arizona. It will be held April 28-29 in Scottsdale at the Saguaro Hotel. Details and registration information are available at www.az-tu.com. We encourage participation in this event as well.

Tight Lines, *Robin*

NEXT SPEAKER

Our next speaker will be Peter Norton, who was raised spending weekends with his family in the mountains and coastal waters of Northern California. Instilled with a passion for fly fishing by his father, Peter has been roaming the waters of the southwest and beyond since moving to Tucson several years ago.

During his explorations Peter has discovered a fondness for fly fishing Southern Utah due to its relative closeness, it's variety of fish, and its lack of fishing pressure. Learn about the opportunities Southern Utah has to offer on April 5th at Viscount Suites at 7pm. Don't forget to bring a notepad!

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

No report this month. *Steve Reiter, Youth Education Coordinator*



Little brownie in the snow. Winter is almost over.

Tips and Tricks

- Google “fly fishing tips and techniques” for hundreds of useful links.
- Check out the Orvis Fly Fishing Learning Center

FOR SALE

Patagonia ultralight river crampons - never used. New \$199, for sale \$50. Call John 520-250-4083 <http://www.backcountry.com/patagonia-river-crampon?http://www.patagonia.com/product/ultralight-river-crampons/79196.html>

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH

Fishing Section (license, rules, etc.): <https://www.azgfd.com/fishing>
Stocking Schedule: <https://www.azgfd.com/Fishing/StockSchedule>

UPCOMING FISHING TRIPS AND MEMBER OUTINGS

San Juan 2018

The 16th Annual OPTU San Juan fishing trip will be sometime in 2018. Keep an eye on the newsletter for details.

Cluff Ranch

OPTU is sponsoring a fly fishing trip and conservation day at Cluff Ranch. The bunkhouses and camping will be available to us from Friday 24 March to Sunday 26 March. If women attend, we will hold one of the two bunkhouses aside for their exclusive use. Breakfast and dinner will be provided by OPTU on the 25th, Breakfast will be provided by OPTU on the 26th, and lunch makings will be available so people can make their own on the 25th and 26th. There will be stocked trout in Cluff pond, there should be stocked Gila Trout in Frey Mesa Reservoir, there will be wild Gila Trout in Frey Creek which is open to fishing from 1 Oct to 31 March. Grant Creek has wild Apache trout and is about a 45-minute drive from Cluff Ranch. It is not necessary to stay all three days. If you want to come up for only one night or even one day that is OK. If you want to attend, please RSVP either Robin Marsett or Clay Hernandez.

FISHING REPORTS

Six folks headed out to the 15th OPTU trip to the San Juan River. Though the river was often murky due to lake turnover, the fishing was quite good. The smallest fish I caught was 12 inches and the next smallest probably 18". I had several in the 20 to 22" range and almost all fish were not damaged. As is always with the SJ, some days were hot in certain sections then off the next, but that's fishing. We had good food (no weight lost on this trip), plenty of great conversation, and fine fishing. It was especially great for me because I was able to fish with my son on the Juan for the first time in more than 6 years. Always a great thing. *The editor.*

8th Annual Native and Wild Trout Conference

April 27, 2017

9:00a.m. – 4:30p.m.

Arizona Game and Fish Department Headquarters
5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ
Sponsored by AZGFD and AZ TU State Council

The conference is attended by those interested in meeting, networking, and developing future plans to promote restoration and management of native and wild coldwater fish species in Arizona and New Mexico. Over 100 individuals attend the conference and represent more than 35 agencies and organizations involved in water conservation and management, trout recovery and habitat enhancement.

Topics

- Keynote Speaker: Chris Wood, President & CEO, Trout Unlimited
- Trout Unlimited Southwest Native Trout Strategy and Projects
- Challenges with Native Trout Conservation in the Southwest
- Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) Programs
- Glen Canyon Dam / Lees Ferry: Long Term Experimental Management Plan
- Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI)
- Tonto National Forest “Needs to Change” Plan
- Citizen Science: Stream and Temperature Monitoring Networks
- Native and Wild Trout Recovery Programs in the Southwest
- Conservation Awards for Distinguished Service

Lunch and BBQ following the conference will be hosted by AZ Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation, AZ Flycasters and AZ TU Council.

Registration and information on prior year conferences at www.az-tu.com.

Registration closes April 22, 2017

Lie 'n Tie

This month's (April's) session of Lie 'n Tie is on the third Tuesday of this month, the 18th. It is being held at Eric Loeffler's Dry Creek Outfitters fly-shop (NE corner of Craycroft and River, SE corner of the little shopping center). We will be setting up equipment and materials at 5:30 PM and start fly-tying at 6:00 PM sharp – ending 8:00 – 8:30 PM.

Tiers of all abilities are welcome, because experienced tiers will assist those less experienced. Materials will be provided, though tiers should have their own fly-tying tools and at least some tying thread (usually black).

For the April 18th session, Ernie Gradillas will show how to tie a variations of the “Parachute Dun” pattern and a “Stonefly” pattern.

Space is limited so show up on time to get a place to tie flies with us. OPTU members and friends are welcome to participate.

For suggestions of fly patterns and/or instructors, please contact Joe Fagan, 520-730-6398, JFaganFishEd@gmail.com.

PROJECT HEALING WATERS

The group is off to a fantastic start for the 2017-fishing season!

On February 7 -9, 20 of our disabled veterans and volunteers, along with several participants from the Las Cruces and Phoenix Chapters, headed to Silver Creek for 3 days of fishing.

We were not disappointed – all of the Rainbow Trout caught were 20 inches or above with quite an active 3 days of fishing. The majority of the fish were caught on leeches, bead head nymphs and midges.

On the third day of fishing, the weather turned warm with a rise of 6 inches in the water level from runoff, which caused muddy water conditions. A number of participants switched to large black leeches, which turned out to be quite successful. I am able to report that all had a wonderful time, not only fishing, but also were able to share their stories and experiences. All were able to take with them many memories and photos of their catches.

We would like to thank Ken McGowan of Arizona Game and Fish, Director of the Silver Creek Hatchery, for accommodating our group and opening the road so our members could park near the stream.

We would also like to thank OPTU for their assistance in funding this trip!

Jim Owen, Program Lead, PHWFF – Southern Arizona

WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

Women's Initiative (WI) is in need of a leader to provide support to OPTU women and to interact with the National TU Women's Initiative. Communication Team is in need of a person to add weekly bits of info to update the OPTU web page. Both of these roles require little commitment. Each should take about 3-4 hours a month, max.

Please contact Roseann Marsett if you're interested in helping. rzann@comcast.net.

WEBSITE FOR OPTU

The OPTU Website is at oldpueblo.tu.org. Do not use a www in front of the words.

QUOTES AND JOKES

"The main difference between experts and duffers in the world of fishermen – and perhaps also the beginning of trout wisdom – is that the expert knows he can't ever make trout feed when they don't want to, while the duffer keeps flailing away ... Yet the old hands have one big strike on them. They cling to their pet stupidities with all the zeal of Grandma to her old home remedies. Indeed, more than once I have seen the time when the duffers won all the glory and fairly fished rings around us old hands. They did so because in their innocence and uncluttered willingness to experiment they stumbled upon the precise medicine ... and because they had possessed the humility that finally found nirvana. Moral: Humility and open-mindedness sometimes catch far more fish than all the wise guys." *Robert Traver, Anatomy of a Fisherman (1964)*

"All the charm of the angler's life would be lost but for these hours of thought and memory. All along the brook, all day on lake or river, while he takes his sport, he thinks. All the long evenings in camp, or cottage, or inn, he tells stories of his own life, hears stories of his friend's lives, and if alone calls up the magic of memory." *W.C. Prime, 1888*

CONSERVATION

No report this month



Juan Days

Calendar

APR 5 Regular meeting at the Viscount - 6:30 pm - 4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711. Speaker Peter Norton: Fishing Southern Utah

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

APR 18 Lie and Tie - 6 pm at Dry Creek Outfitters

MAY 3 Regular meeting at the Viscount - 6:30 pm - 4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711. Speaker Peter Norton: Fishing Southern Utah

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

MAY 16 Lie and Tie - 6 pm at Dry Creek Outfitters

DRY CREEK OUTFITTERS: NEWS AND BARGAINS

Make 2017 the year you organized all your fly-fishing accessories. Check out the following tackle bags at Dry Creek Outfitters: The Fishpond Castaway Roll-Top Gear Bag, the Fishpond Big Horn Kit Bag, Fishpond Cloudburst Gear Bag, Simms Headwaters Tackle Bag, Orvis Waterproof Boat Bag...to name a few. It's amazing how much more quickly you're able to start fishing when your reels, spools, tools and fly boxes are well organized. Make sure your fly lines are in good shape. Floating fly lines eventually begin to lose their buoyancy, which will have a profoundly negative influence on your ability to mend line. Remember...floating and sink-tip fly lines for rivers. For lakes, floating and full-sink fly lines are the ticket. Lastly, make an effort to shield your arms from harmful UV rays by wearing some of the new, lightweight fly-casting shirts from Simms and Orvis. We are fully stocked with several styles and color choices. See you soon.

Our exceptional year of sales has enabled us to comfortably stock between 45 and 55 fly rods. If it's a premium fly rod you seek, check out the Sage X or Salt, the Scott Radian or Meridian or the Orvis Helios 2. We also have entry-level fly rods like the Sage Approach, the Redington Vapen, Hydrogen or Classic Trout, or the Orvis Clearwater. Two fly rods that will not disappoint you are the Sage Pulse and the Orvis Recon. At half of the price of our premium fly rods, they might be the best value in the shop.

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. *Eric*

Dry Creek resides at the River Center mall; NE corner of River and Craycroft and is open **Tuesdays through Saturdays** from 10 am to 6 pm. Address: 5655 East River Road, Suite 131, Tucson, AZ 85750 and phone (520) 326-7847. 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*

OTHER FISHING NEWS

Reminder that Silver Creek will become open to taking fish on the 31st. This is the last weekend/week to get up there before the fish start getting harvested. The Project Healing Waters report above and these pictures below should make you want to go!

