

# OPTU NEWS

## Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited Chapter 531 [oldpueblo.tu.org](http://oldpueblo.tu.org) Editor: John E. Murphy 520-250-4083

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Greetings, Fellow OPTU'ers ....

It is the beginning of a new year, and OPTU has plans to increase its member activities. We will be holding monthly Lie 'n Ties at Dry creek outfitters, going on a few fly fishing outings, participating in ongoing and new conservation efforts, and holding raffles for quality items. Information about these activities will be in the monthly newsletter, on the OPTU white board at Dry Creek Outfitters, posted on OPTU's Facebook page and sent out to the membership in blast emails. We are endeavoring to improve our communication with our members by utilizing these various media.

We are returning to monthly general membership meetings to be held from September to May at the Viscount Suites on Broadway. We are pursuing a mix of interesting speakers covering topics in both conservation and fishing. If anyone has a suggestion, please let us know.

Please read through this newsletter to get the details on upcoming events.

Tight Lines, *Robin*

### **NEXT SPEAKER - Be Sure to Come to the Next Meeting**

Gentry Smith is a graphic designer and illustrator, as well as a freelance writer and photographer who lives in Chandler, Arizona. Through his ongoing contributions to Southwest Fly Fishing magazine, he shares his passion for fly fishing the Copper State's diverse fisheries. During his presentation, Becker Lake: Arizona's Newest Trophy Trout Lake, Mr. Smith will discuss tips and techniques for successfully angling Becker and other White Mountain lakes.

## **PROJECT HEALING WATERS**

No report this month. *Jim Owen, Program Lead, PHWFF - Southern Arizona*

## **TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM**

Submitted by Steve Reiter, Youth Education Coordinator

TIC in Southern Arizona is pretty much on life support. The participating schools have only a few fish remaining of the initial 100 trout eggs delivered in October. Phoenix schools are not faring much better. There has been a lot of head scratching among the instructors and volunteers statewide about the cause of the die-offs. In virtually all cases, water chemistry tests have been good, chillers, aerators, and filters have been working properly. With so few fish remaining there is not a very good chance of homing in on the root cause of the problem. However, the teachers and students are continuing with daily testing and record keeping with hopes to end the school year with at least a couple of fish surviving.

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## **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 2017**

The 15th Annual OPTU San Juan fishing trip will be Friday March 10th to Thursday March 16, 2017. Departure early morning on the 10th allows a half day of fishing for those willing to get up. Five full days of fishing Saturday to Wednesday then return departure for Tucson early Thursday morning. Trip is limited to 9. We'll be staying at the Octagon Inn. Estimated cost is \$450 - \$475 but may be \$10 to \$20 higher. All meals provided except in transit. Email John at [jemurphys1@me.com](mailto:jemurphys1@me.com) if you wish to be considered for the trip. See pictures from past trips on the next page.

### **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.

### **OPTU Outing Report - submitted by Steve Reiter**

Saturday, January 11, was a perfect day for fishing at Sahuarita Lake. Overcast skies and temperatures in the mid-60's brought about 10 members 25 miles south to tempt recently-stocked trout with all manner of fur and feather. Fishing was good, but catching was not so much. Even with normally successful efforts by anglers like Joe Fagan and Gary Locker, only 1 fish was landed, that by David Koenst to win the one-fly contest. David won a \$25 gift certificate and bragging rights until the next competition. The next scheduled outing will be March 24-26 as described above. Watch for details in your e-mail and in the March newsletter.

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## **Lie 'n Tie**

A monthly session of ***Lie 'n Tie*** has been rejuvenated on the third Tuesday of each month. 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 less experienced. Materials will be provided, though tiers should have their own fly-tying tools and at least some tying thread (usually black).

Teachers will generally be volunteers from our local fly-tying community. Suggestions from participants are welcome as to who will be scheduled to tie each month. Also, requests are welcome for specific flies, though we will not have time to tie fancy salmon flies.

For January's session Joe Fagan showed how to tie a "Wet Muddler" and "Cone-Headed Zuddler" patterns.

For the **February 21<sup>st</sup>** session, Gilbert Castillo will show how to tie the "**Peacock Lady**" and "**Reservoir Whore**" patterns.

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](mailto:JFaganFishEd@gmail.com).



A few pix from the El Jefe, the president



## 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](mailto:rzann@comcast.net).

## WEBSITE FOR OPTU

The OPTU Website is at [oldpueblo.tu.org](http://oldpueblo.tu.org). Do not use a www in front of the words.

## QUOTES AND JOKES

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." *Norman Maclean*

## CONSERVATION

No report this month

Braving the cold  
in Utah. Worth  
it!



### Calendar

**FEB 1** Regular meeting at the Viscount - 6:30 pm - 4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711. Speaker Gentry Smith, subject Becker Lake and other White Mountain Lakes

**FEB 1** BOARD MEETING: 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Viscount Suites.

**FEB 15** Lie and Tie - 6 pm at Dry Creek Outfitters

**MAR 1** Regular meeting at the Viscount - 6:30 pm - 4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711. Speaker Andrew Grogan: Fishing the Black Canyon of the Gunnison River

**MAR 1** BOARD MEETING: 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Viscount Suites.

**MAR 15** Lie and Tie - 6 pm at Dry Creek Outfitters

April Speaker: Peter Norton: Fishing Southern Utah

## **DRY CREEK OUTFITTERS: NEWS AND BARGAINS**

Check out the new Simms Rogue Fleece Jackets at Dry Creek Outfitters - only \$89.95 each. Replace that old floating fly line that no longer floats too well. Dry Creek has the Rio In-Touch Fly Line Series in stock - they float high and shoot far. Also, we have generous inventories of breathable Simms waders (Freestone \$249.95, Headwaters \$349.95 & G3 \$499.95) and Simms & Redington wading boots. Many of us discover leaks in our old waders during our last summer outing. Why not replace those waders before your late season trip to the San Juan, Lee's Ferry, Silver Creek or wherever your secret spot flows? Lastly...I know that checking out the newest fly rods is almost as much fun as buying one. Our exceptional year of sales (we had the best August since we opened 17 years ago!!!) 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*



October Steel in AK, Nice bow on the Tongariro in New Zealand, and a little bow from Mt. Lemmon.

