

OPTU NEWS

Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited

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Volume 25, Issue 1



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Fellow OPTU'ers

My best wishes to all for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Congratulations to Robin Marsett and Mickey Fletcher on their election as Chapter President and Vice President, respectively. There was a light turn out for the December meeting and potluck, but everyone there enjoyed good food, good drink and especially good company.

In the coming year and thereafter, we are going to focus more on "outside" events and less on "inside" events. We will have member meetings every other month, and some sort of fishing outing every other month. In addition, we are going to restart the Women's Initiative, try again to participate with the Boy Scout organization, and restart the Retiree's Trip in the fall if there is sufficient interest. We are also looking forward to some conservation work days in 2017, in addition to placing more temperature monitors. A lot of conservation work has been talked about by all the State and Federal agencies, planned, budgeted and on and on. It's (past) time to get some boots on the ground.

I will be wearing several hats next year, but only one will be new: Membership Coordinator. One of the first things on my agenda is to contact everyone on the membership roster by post card and either ask you to verify the e-mail address we have for you is accurate, or to send in an e-mail address if one is not listed on the roster. Virtually all communication to the membership about chapter news and events is done electronically now. We have heard more than once that a member, usually more than one, is not receiving an advanced notice of a meeting, an outing, and so on. I am going to make every effort to correct that problem, for everyone.

There will be a fishing outing at Sahuarita Lake on Saturday, January 14, starting about 0900. There will be an optional one-fly contest for anyone that wants to participate, with bragging rights and a prize for the winner. Sign in and rules sheet will be provided at or near the amphitheater at the south end of the lake. I hope to see you there. Best Regards, *Steve Reiter, Immediate Past President*

From Robin Marsett, President

A Big Thanks to Immediate Past President Steve Reiter

As 2016 comes to a close so does Steve Reiter's term as OPTU President. In 2011 Steve was the Vice President under President Mike Mehrer. When Mike became ill, Steve stepped up and assumed the role of President. Steve served OPTU ably as President for 5 years. Under his leadership OPTU received and managed the large Evitts benefit. This involved setting funding, financial and operational precedents that would assure OPTU's solvency for many years to come. Steve will not be going far. He will be serving Ex Officio to provide continuity and support and in addition he is leading the Trout in the Classroom and Membership Offices of the OPTU Board. We join with all the membership of OPTU thanking Steve for his dedication and service over the last 5 years. Thanks for a job well done!

PROJECT HEALING WATERS

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

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

Things are going well for TIC in Southern AZ. All classroom equipment has been assembled and in operation for the past month or so. Students have been doing daily water quality tests to get familiar with testing and record-keeping. Each school received 100 eyed rainbow trout eggs on Wednesday, September 21, so now the program begins for real! Soon the eggs will hatch. Following that the alevins will absorb their egg sacks for about 2 or 3 weeks, and will begin to look more like fish. All the students are very excited to be participating in this program. Perhaps one, or more, will make a career out of something they were exposed to in TIC. I would call that a real win!

Tips and Tricks

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

FOR SALE

I have ~26 old tackle boxes of antique fishing lures, flies, reels along with a huge bundle of rods. Some of the items date back to the 1800's. I started collecting old fishing tackle in the early 80's and stopped a couple of years ago. I decided it is time for it to go. If you are interested in seeing the items let me know. If you are interested in buying some you can get a really nice discount. Whitey 520 419 0686

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

OPTU will host an outing at Sahuarita Lake on Saturday, January 14, starting at 9 a.m. If the weather forecast is not favorable, Saturday, January 28 will be a backup date. Watch your e-mail during the week of January 8 for up-to-date information.

There will be an optional one-fly contest from 9 am – noon. Anybody interested in participating should meet at or near the amphitheater at the south end of the lake to sign in and get a copy of the rules. Bragging rights and a prize will be awarded to the winner. Everybody is invited to the event, especially young family members. OPTU will provide a few fly rods and reels for a novice or a family member that would like to try fly fishing, and a few Tenkara-style rods for anybody curious about that style of casting. Free fly casting instruction can be provided as needed. Any angler 10 years or older must have a valid fishing license, either a community fishing license or a general fishing license. Check the Arizona Game and Fish Department web site for current fishing regulations and license prices.

For questions or additional information, contact Steve Reiter, e-mail sreiter4@cox.net or cell # (520) 820-7485.

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 jemurphy51@me.com if you wish to be considered for the trip. See pictures from past trips on the next page.

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

A potpourri of San Juan trips through the years



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

Like red wine and white fish, watches and fishing don't go together. A watch tells you when to go home or go to work, not when to go fishing. If you see a fisherman cast, look at his watch, cast, look at his watch, land a fish, look at his watch, cast and look at his watch, you can pretty much figure he's got either a date in court or a bad marriage. *Paul Quinnett*

CONSERVATION

There are changes ahead for conservation. With my new position as president starting soon Clay Hernandez has agreed to fill the conservation chair for OPTU and new projects are being considered.

Clay has a great deal of experience with our past efforts in the White Mountains and is currently getting up to speed on current and upcoming projects. With some large-scale efforts envisioned for the West Fork of the Black River there should be a great many opportunities for OPTU to get involved. For a quick recap of the year let me say, that we continue to monitor water temperatures in local streams, the change in fishing regulations on Grant Creek a few years ago seems to be having a positive impact on both the upper and lower stretches of the stream. We have scouted several streams in SE Arizona in the Huachuca, Santa Rita, Catalina and Chiricahua Mountains, and thanks to Scott Koktavay we have a safe and sturdy ladder and deck system on Grant Creek.



14" Gila trout



Catwalk handrail

Calendar

JAN 4 No regular meeting

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

JAN 17 Lie and Tie - 6 pm every 3rd Tuesday of the month at Dry Creek Outfitters. All fly tyers welcome regardless of experience, even those just interested in what it's about. This is a no cost event sponsored by OPTU. If you have any questions contact Robin Marsett at rmarsett@comcast.net

FEB 1 Regular meeting at the Viscount - 6:30 pm - 4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711. Speaker TBA

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

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

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*



Getting the beads ready, a nice bow, and a beauty steelhead.