

OPTU NEWS

Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited

Volume 25, Issue 7

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



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers and Coordinators

President: Robin Marsett
rmarsett@comcast.net

Vice President: Mickey Fletcher
mmltfletch@msn.com

Secretary: Roseanne Marsett
rzann@comcast.net

Treasurer: Roseanne Marsett

Conservation Chair: Clay Hernandez
clay@clayhernandez.com

Project Healing Waters Chair: Jim Owen

Outings Coordinator:

Public Relations Chair:

Youth Programs Chair: Steve Reiter
sreiter@cox.net

Membership Chair: Steve Reiter

Other Board Members

Bryan Eto
Joe Fagan
Scott Koltavy

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

As you probably know Mt Graham experienced a severe wildfire this summer. Here is the latest information I have on Mt Graham after talking to the Region Five Game and Fish fisheries folks. While little information has been gathered at this point it is feared that there may have been severe damage to the fisheries.

They will be conducting, at minimum, a walk-through survey of Frey and Ash Creeks in September to determine the extent of damage to the fish habitat. The Gila Trout season on Frey Creek will most likely be cancelled at least for this year.

There has been no word on Frey Creek but Ash Creek has experience some severe flooding and debris flows this summer. Cluff Ranch has been adversely affected. At this point the pipe from Ash Creek to Cluff Pond three is gone.

The mountain is still closed as flood damage is sever on Swift Trail and the canyons and washes are flooding. For those of you familiar with Swift Trail you may remember the old CCC bridge at Wet Canyon. The flooding has carried enough dirt, debris and ash to bury the picnic tables at that pull off.

We will attempt to get up to Grant Creek in October to see if we still have data loggers in place. It may well be that they are headed for Klondike at this point. We will photograph the sites and make these and the old photos available to Game and Fish.

As more is learned the appropriate government agencies will determine what steps will be taken as regards the fisheries on Mt Graham. We will continue to stay in touch with them and keep the members of OPTU informed.

We are still waiting to see if there will be a willow planting on the west Fork Black River this fall. We are still planning for the Columbus Day weekend. Any updates will be on our Facebook page and sent out in blast emails.

Our new web page is up and running. Please visit the site oldqueblotu.org . An important addition to this site is the events calendar which we are working hard to keep up to date.

The September general meeting will be held on the **second Wednesday of the month**. This change is due to Labor Day falling two days before our normal meeting date.

On a sadder note, John Murphy is moving. He has agreed to continue doing the newsletter until I can find a replacement. If anyone is interested please contact me. Tight Lines, *Robin*

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

The trout in the Classroom program for school year 2017-18 begins on Saturday, August 5, with an orientation workshop at the AZGFD Headquarters in Carefree. In-classroom equipment will be up and running by August 24. The tentative date for egg delivery is September 14.

There are 4 returning schools: Agua Caliente Elementary, Svea Anderson's classroom; Palo Verde magnet High School, Patricia Wheeler's classroom; Robert Bracker Elementary (Nogales), Paulette McClure's classroom; and Santa Rita High School, Josh Ruddick's classroom. There is one new school this year: Tully Elementary Magnet School, Katherine Kuhn's classroom.

For anyone unfamiliar with TIC, it is an environmental education program, geared for 4th-12th grade students. Over the course of the school year, students:

- Raise trout from eggs to fingerlings
- Monitor tank water quality
- Engage in stream habitat study
- Appreciate water resources
- Foster conservation ethic
- Understand ecosystem connectivity
- Have opportunities to participate in conservation work projects throughout the state.

As always, volunteers to help with equipment setup and teardown, diagnose and fix problems when they arise, and make visits to the classroom from time to time will be greatly appreciated. Contact me at sreiter4@cox.net; I will be happy to provide any additional information.

Steve Reiter, Youth Education Coordinator

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.

New York Steelhead

Your editor is thinking about a steelhead trip in November. Here are the details from the guide (I met him in Alaska) if you might like to join the trip. If so, I need to know **ASAP** as this is generally the prime week (Call me at 520-250-4083). Fly to Buffalo and rent a car to get to the site.

We generally do hosted trips for groups of four or more, but for you guys I'd definitely do a two person trip. Cost is \$1750/person. Includes 4 nights lodging, food (Friday night we generally do a pizza night), and 3 1/2 days guiding. Check in is anytime after 5pm, let us know your anticipated arrival so we have the pizza ready when you get there.

Tentative fishing schedule subject to changes due to conditions is:

Saturday- Lake Erie Steelhead/Browns or Cattaraugus float (if possible)

Sunday- Cattaraugus float (if possible)

Monday- Lake Ontario Browns

Tuesday 1/2- Lake Erie Steelhead/Browns

NEXT SPEAKER

OPTU regular monthly meetings start again on Wednesday, September 13 (note the change of this meeting to the 2nd Wednesday on the month), 7:00 p.m., at the Viscount Suite Hotel on Broadway at Arcadia. Our speaker will be John Doss, Programs Chair and Communications/Social Media Chair for the Arizona Fly Casters in Phoenix. His presentation will be a slide show and commentary from a recent trip AFC made to Wyoming, guided by Grey Reef Anglers. Hope to see you there.

TUCSON PHWFF GROUP - FISHING IN TETON VALLEY, IDAHO

By Kathleen Vitelli, Tucson Chapter volunteer

As June approached, the excitement of our Tucson PHWFF participants was palpable. This is something that happens whenever our group prepares for a fishing trip, but this was something more than that.....this was special. Now, a hint of where we were headed and why the extraordinary excitement.

About 600 millions years ago, this area was a shallow sea which remained intermittent for over 500 million years. Thousands of subsequent years of volcanic eruptions, glacial movements and tectonic movements created this beautiful slice of heaven now known as the Grand Tetons and the Teton valley! Within the Idaho side of the Tetons runs the trout rich Teton and Snake Rivers. Our destination this early June was a private 57-acre ranch situated on the banks of the Teton River we had been here once before and it was spectacular. The ranch is owned by Tucson businessman Jim Click, who has been very passionate and generous in his support of our Tucson PHWFF chapter since it's inception. He donated this week to our group.....not only the use of his beautiful ranch house at Rockin' S Ranch, but making sure his ponds were stocked with beautiful trout and that our participants were taken care of in every way. He even scheduled a catered event on the day of the main group's arrival!

Our Project Lead Jim Owen and volunteers Kathleen and David arrived a few days before the group to ensure we were fully stocked with food and beverages, and the menus were ready to go! Mr. Click was already there and excited for the arrival of the group on Tuesday. We also assessed the water conditions on the river and found the Teton quite high due to an almost record snowfall....the runoff had now swollen the Teton River beyond its banks with mountains still snow covered. This was surely a sign of what to expect on the Snake River as well. Luckily, our guide service, World Cast Anglers, were experts at their trade and our participants would be in good hands!

Tuesday came and our participants arrived. To watch their faces as they stepped out of the van and looked around at their home for the next five days was a joyful experience. After rooms were assigned and gear was stowed, the group strung up their rods and got down to fishing the pond and the river. A short time later, the food truck arrived!! Not just any food truck but one with a real wood burning pizza oven! We knew this would be fantastic. The neighbors arrived along with the whole World Cast Angler crew. Needless to say, everyone had a fantastic time! The guides got to meet the group, square away licenses and prepped them for the next mornings adventure.

On Wednesday morning, the kitchen was humming with breakfast preparation. A few of our vets were already honing their skills in the stocked pond as they readied for their day in the drift boat. The guides arrived and their teams were Bill Lane's catch, with Jim Click & Joe Luca Food Truck assigned.....the group would be heading to the Henry's Fork tributary of the Snake River since it was the safest and most fishable in this spring thaw run-off. The weary but happy group and guides trickled in by late afternoon full of the day's fish tales and the Rainbow and Brown trout brought to hand. Not to mention some pretty nice sized Whitefish, which was promising considering a kill off in 2016 due to Proliferative Kidney Disease.

Our vets enjoyed more drift boat fishing on Thursday and Saturday, leaving Friday open as an off-day to relax or fish the ponds. A small group of vets and volunteers chose to spend this day traveling to Yellowstone National Park and Jackson, Wyoming, an adventure filled with breathtaking scenery, a close encounter with a bison and lots of elk and grizzly bear sightings. Not to mention Yellowstone's wild and incredible geological features. Fun Fact: Did you know that 60% of the world's geysers and hot springs are in Yellowstone National Park? Incredible!

On our last evening at the Rockin' S, the participants returned from their final day of fishing. The guides and group gathered for their final dinner. Of course, the discussion turned to the fish that were brought to hand and the camaraderie enjoyed by participants and guides. Another shout out to World Cast Anglers....to CG and the guides who arranged the week and even donated boats everyday! Thank you!

On a final note, we should mention that the biggest Brown Trout was claimed by Terry Edwards and biggest Rainbow by Rene Suarez - both species are wild species as stocking has not been done since the 1950's. But most important of all, each of our participants have taken with them memories of a lifetime. For that we are most grateful!!!

Lie 'n Tie

This month's (August's) session of Lie 'n Tie is on the third Tuesday of this month, the 22nd. 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).

Last month's session had to be cancelled because Eric was unable to keep his shop open for July's Lie 'n Tie session. Joe Fagan was going to show how to tie one or two cicada patterns, time permitting. For the August 22nd session, Joe Fagan will show how to tie variations of the "Cicadas" that he didn't teach last month. 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.



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 oldpueblotu.com.

FISHING REPORTS

See Project Healing Waters report. No other reports from the members.



Cluff Pond (L)
and Frye Creek



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*

Retirees' Fishing Trips

OPTU has not had a Retirees' Fishing Trip for several years and a number of OPTU members would like to see them start up again. President Robin Marsett asked if anyone would be willing to put together a trip this year, with the notion of keeping it simple at first, and Joe Fagan stepped forward and suggested a trip to Becker Lake. He also agreed to be the organizer.

The Retirees' Fishing Trip this year is now being planned for November 6 – 9. For those wishing to participate, planning meetings will begin at Joe's newly remodeled home starting Monday, September 11th, at 7 PM. Please contact Joe by email (JFaganFishEd@gmail.com) or text message at 520-730-6398 if you are interested in going.

We would like to see Retirees' Fishing Trips grow to be what they were in the past, with more exotic locations as options. Members are optimistic and interested in them happening. All that is required is someone to step up and organize the trip. OPTU's policy is that if anyone wants to organize a trip they are encouraged to do so. Advertising for the trip can be through the newsletter or email blasts from OPTU.

Do you have experience fly fishing the west and/or other unique Stateside locations? If so, then you have the capability to organize a wonderful trip. Anyone interested in developing a trip should contact Robin Marsett, OPTU President.

Calendar

SEP 13 Regular meeting at the Viscount - 6:30 pm - 4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ, 85711. Speaker John Doss.; Slide show and commentary from a trip to Wyoming, guided by Grey Reef Anglers.

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

SEP xx Lie and Tie - 6 pm at Dry Creek Outfitters

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

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

OCT xx Lie and Tie - 6 pm at Dry Creek Outfitters