

OPTU NEWS

Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited Chapter 531 www.optu.org Editor: John E. Murphy 520-299-3278

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President's Report

Greetings Fellow TUers:

The monthly meetings have been terrific. May's meeting was outstanding, highlighted by Arizona Game & Fish representative Jason Kline's informative update on Gila Trout restoration in the Pinelenos followed by a lively Q & A.

Our June 2nd meeting is being held at, NOTE location change, Windmill Suites at St. Philips Plaza (Campbell at River). In response to feedback from some of our members we will occasionally hold our meeting in a different geographical location. This will test the assertion that a different location and a chance for a cocktail will increase attendance. There is also a format change to accommodate a fly casting workshop. The workshop will begin at 6:30. See more information on the workshop elsewhere in this newsletter and in your inbox on your personal computers. The meeting, and main speaker Peter Piconi, will begin at 7:30. Peter

owns So Cal Fly Fishing in San Diego and is an expert on fly fishing southern California salt water from beaches to deepwater. Do not miss this presentation on an excellent fly fishing destination.

Your Board of Directors passed by unanimous vote to continue with the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program. We are in the process of locating a new school to install the equipment and for more members to become involved. At the June 2nd meeting you will also hear from Sue Simpson, a teacher extraordinaire, who led the TIC project for the last several years. She is unable to continue and wants to address our club on the subject. So we have a casting workshop and presentations that should not be missed. I'll see you there.

The Trout Unlimited Annual Meeting will be held in New Hampshire on September 15-19, 2010. If anyone is going to be in the area during those dates and want to attend visit the TU web site or contact me for more information. It would be terrific if someone from our club could go.

I know it is early to discuss the banquet but we have one piece of

unfinished business in the planning process. Jay Elliott has agreed to chair the banquet this year but wants/needs an assistant to help with computer generated things like catalog and auction forms. Please contact one of the board members if you are interested in helping. This is a fun project to be a part of and our most revenue producing activity.

I'll remind you again next month but remember there is no meeting scheduled for July. Too many of us are out of town and vacationing, hopefully fishing.

This letter will be published before the CPR class being held May 19th. I hope to see many of you there. Also, do not forget the add-on class June 16th addressing first aid. These are very timely classes coming at the beginning of the vacation season. We thank Whitey for arranging these classes.

The next board meeting is May 26th. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as can make it. If not I'll see you at the meeting on June 2nd.

Your man in the executive suite,
Roger McKee, President, OPTU

Flycasting Workshops at Monthly Meetings

The June, August and September meetings (see the meeting schedule for time and place) will feature workshops on fly casting. The workshops will be held during the first hour from 6:30 to 7:30PM. Featured speakers will begin at 7:30 PM. The raffle will be held following the speaker.

Fly casting topics will be wide ranging including various casts such as the reach cast and tuck casts, rod weight casting characteristics, casting line variations and much more. All members are invited to participate in the workshop as instructors and/or learners. The sessions are not classes so much as give and take sessions. We expect these workshops to evolve into ongoing fly fishing workshops at our meetings and we invite and expect attending members to contribute ideas and skills to the project. Bring your fly rod(s) to the meeting and join the fun!

Learn FIRST AID

NOTICE. In lieu of the Lie and Tie in May and June, OPTU will be doing a CPR class in May and a First Aid Class in June. These classes will be held at SK Builders 1836 S. Research Loop Tucson AZ at 7:00 PM. The CPR class will be May 19th and the First Aid class will be held June 16th. There will be a \$10 charge for the CPR class and \$25 for the First Aid class. These funds will go to

Save A Life foundation. Save A Life is a group of active and retired Firemen and Police Officers who will be providing the service. The CPR class will last approximately 1 hour and the First Aid class will be ~ 2 1/2 hrs. We need a head count for these classes. Contact Whitey at Dry Creek Outfitters at 326-7847, home 885-5652 or email at jwkuebler@earthlink.net. The life you save may be your own. Lying will take place before and after.

Donate Laptop or LCD

If you have a functioning laptop and/or an LCD projector that you would be willing to donate to OPTU for use at its meetings, please contact any one of the officers (see list of officers on page 3). We would like to begin projecting fly tying demonstrations at each meeting in addition to the presentations. OPTU is a 501C organization so there might be tax advantages. Check with your accountant.

Reduced Rates at Rose Canyon Taken Away

The day use fee at Rose Canyon Lake on Mt Lemon can no longer be reduced by using the Golden Age Passport or Senior Pass.

Gila Trout Project

OPTU conservation officer Jeff Collins, has guided our chapter into a collaboration with the AZ Fish and Game Dept. (AZFGD) to stock Gila Trout in a number of

streams in the nearby Pinaleno Mountain range, only two hours away (home of Mt Graham). By using an Embrace a Stream grant from Trout Unlimited we have contributed a Backpack Electro Shocker at a cost of \$6,386 to AZFGD to count trout populations in Ash, Mirijilda and Frye creeks. The equipment will be used on more streams as well. According to Jeff, ...we are (also) looking at streams that feed the Gila River from the North; basically the lower Blue Wilderness area. AZGFD will be using it annually for fish counts or if problems arise....

The Pinalenos are in our backyard, just to the east off I-10, near Safford. It makes sense to work with AZFGD to restock these waters with Gila Trout. The fishing payoff will take 3-4 years and the streams require leg muscles to access.

In the meantime Game and Fish will be inviting us to participate in workdays. The hikers and iron men among us can help pack in and release fish, the more mature can serve as camp cooks and bottleshakers. Other chores between the two extremes, such as cleaning coyote spoor from the forest trails, will no doubt appear. Plus fishing in between chores, of course. This promises to be a rewarding project for our chapter. Members are encouraged to watch for workday scheduling on the website and updates at our meetings. Join the fun!

OFFICERS

President: Roger McKee

mcroger7@msn.com

Vice President: Mike Mehrer

520-762-4035 (h)

mehrog2@gainbroadband.com

Secretary: (Acting) Mike Mehrer

Treasurer: Cathy Hill

Cathy@skbuilders.net

Conservation Officer: Jeff Collins

520-744-8799 (h); 520-403-4062 (c)

jnc51@comcast.net

Membership Coordinator:

Michael Fletcher 520-744-1631

mmltfletch@msn.com

Outings Coordinator: Open

Youth Education Coordinator:

Steve Reiter (h) 520-795-2388 email:

sreiter4@cox.net

Public Relations Coordinator:

Open

Board

Scott Koktavay (h) 520-731-1134

John Singley (h) 520-318-4791

Stan Vanagunus (h) 520-743-0210

Robin Marsett

Newsletter Editor: John Murphy

520-299-3278; email:

murphy@pharmacy.arizona.edu

TU Bring Back the Natives Contacts

Amy Harrig, TU-BLM BBN Coordinator
(303) 440-2937 e-mail: aharrig@tu.org

Fred Rasmussen Regional Vice President
for the Southern Rockies (Region 8)
salmo@snobol4.com

Don Duff, TU-Forest Service Partnership
Coordinator (801) 524-3945 e-mail:
tudtrout@aol.com

Dave Nickum, Southern Rockies
Conservation Director Greenback and
Colorado River Cutthroat Trout (CO) (303)
837-9383 e-mail: dnickum@tu.org

Paul Dremann, Utah Council V.P. for
Conservation Bonneville Cutthroat Trout
(Utah/Nevada) (801) 467-3862

e-mail: pdremann@xmission.com

Jamie Hunter, So. California TU Council
Representative Little Kern River & Volcanic
Golden/Paiute Cutthroat (CA) (949)
493-2298

Mike Norte, Rio Grande Chapter - Rio
Grande Cutthroat/ Gila Trout (NM/CO)
(505)844-0935 e-mail: norte@earthlink.net

Jim Lynch, Old Pueblo Chapter - Apache
Trout (Arizona) (520) 742-7708



Theme photo for 2010 - Dolly Varden
and bead - Kenai River, Alaska

Calendar

June 2: Regular meeting at 6:30 pm. Speaker Peter Piconi of SoCal Fly Fishing will speak about fishing that area. **New meeting location for this month only** will be the Windmill Inn, St Phillips Plaza at River and Campbell. Also come enjoy the flycasting instruction. See page 2 for details.

June 16: Learn FIRST AID. for \$25 you can learn first aid techniques. Go to the Scott Kotavy offices. Lie and Tie will return in July (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, 5420 E. Broadway, Suite 254. Call Eric at 326-7847.

June 23: Board meeting at the Viscount Hotel on Broadway at Arcadia - 6 pm. Everyone is invited.

July 7: No meeting. Gone fishing.

July 21: Lie and Tie (6:30 pm); Dry Creek Outfitters, 5420 E. Broadway, Suite 254. Call Eric at 326-7847.

July 28: Board meeting at the Viscount Hotel on Broadway at Arcadia - 6 pm. Everyone is invited.

TU's Stream Clean-Up Day: June 26

Join TU volunteers in our second annual stream clean-up days on Saturday, June 26. Volunteers around the country will join together on their local rivers and streams, planting trees, removing trash and working together to continue their dedication to protecting and conserving coldwater fisheries. Prizes will be given to the chapter that brings out the most volunteers and gathers the most trash. TU created a guide for chapters and councils to help you create your own successful clean-up event. The guide includes tips about selecting a location, getting the word out, materials and services needed, how to thank volunteers, and how to win a national prize. On April 17 I'm looking to partner with the Tucson branch of AZGFD to work on a Pinalenos stream. I think most of us have never ventured into this world of trout streams that is in the heart of our work to restore the Native Gila Trout. Should be an interesting trip. As for the June 26 workday, I'm looking into working with the tribe on the North Fork of

the White River; Ditch Camp area. Last time I was there I picked up a garbage bag full of trash just walking and fishing along the stream. This is the sight of an ESPN Documentary on Apache Trout some years ago. More info will be provided in the coming month, check the website.

Partnership with AZ Elk Society June 11, 12, 13

Annual Burro Creek/26 Bar Adopt-a-Ranch Project, Big Lake area. Come join us together with the AZ Elk Society. Last year several OPTU members made the trip and joined about 100 AZ Elk Society members on this project. They were very gracious hosts and served up some fantastic meals on all the days. Camping is around a knoll north of Crescent lake on the road from Eager. I'll post more precise directions in the next month. I recently found out that the AZ Elk Society invested \$315,000 into the Burro Creek Allotment. I'll be talking with them and AZGFD on a joint venture to improve Burro Creek as well this year.

I am also organizing some workdays in the White mountains with AZGFD. They will be sending me a schedule shortly. I'd like to do at least one week long workday trip similar to last year where people can stay the week or come and go as they please. Keep an eye on the website.

Clay Hernandez will be Co-Conservation Officer this year with me so hopefully we can bring a full schedule of workday events. I'd like to track many hours this year and spend our Grant on Gila trout. Hopefully AZGFD will have more ideas for an Apache Trout Grant for next year.

Invest in your future, bring a kid on an OPTU Conservation Workday.

Jeff Collins, Conservation Officer



At the center of TU's efforts to raise the profile of coldwater conservation is the **Grassroots Activist Network** - TU members who have volunteered to contact their members of Congress, Governors, members of state legislatures and natural resource agencies on issues of importance to trout and salmon.

Grassroots Activists receive brief summaries or Action Alerts of issues pending before government decision-makers that could harm or help coldwater fisheries, and guidance on how to be an effective voice for trout and salmon.



DEDICATED TO RESTORING THE APACHE TROUT IN ARIZONA

The Old Pueblo Chapter has worked over the years to remove Apache Trout from the endangered species list and also is focusing on restoring the Gila Trout. We exist to promote wild fish and the joy of fishing.



PROJECT HEALING WATERS



Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing took a group from Ft Huachuca to the White Mountains for a little clean up and a lot of fly fishing. We spent the morning of 13 May cleaning up trash from the banks of the Little Colorado River at the X_Diamond Ranch as a way of paying back Wink Crigler for her support over the past year.

Once again Ted Diepstraten hosted a day on his private water in Greer and once again we caught a lot of nice Rainbow Trout. He has generously opened his water to us on several occasions and each one has been a great success.

Our last day was spent on the White Mountain Apache reservation fishing the lakes along highway 260. It was a challenge but we caught a few and the troops had a good time.

I wish to thank Jim Ackerman of San Pedro Fly Casters along with Whitey Kuebler and Roseann Marsett of OPTU for their support during this trip and a new friend, Paul Kramer of Southern California a guest of Wink's, for graciously giving up his afternoon to act as a mentor for the soldiers. I also wish to thank Kim Holaway of Holaway Enterprises, Eagar, and Susie Finch and Shaea Noth of Reeds Lodge in Springerville for providing us with free lodging and ShaeLynn Harris of the Safire Restaurant in Springerville for

hosting a very nice dinner for us all. I would be remiss if I left out Wink Crigler of the X_Diamond who allows us time on her water. Please help us show our appreciation by patronizing these businesses if you are in the area.

Trout were not the only species targeted by the PHWFF troops this month. Dale Linder of San Pedro Fly Casters took us to Parker Canyon Lake for a day of Blue Gill fishing. Scott Kerr, the proprietor of the store at the lake once again provided us with free boats and gave up his time to keep his store open for us on a day it would normally be closed. The Blue Gill population of Parker

the hands of Dale Linder and Will Hawkins, one of our soldiers.

We are raising funds to take three or four soldiers to Fernie, British Columbia for a trip on the Elk River. This trip is being hosted by Dave Brown and will include soldiers from the United States and Canada. Our wish is to make this an annual event. If you wish to donate please contact Dave Brown (520) 604-2729 or Robin Marsett (520) 760-1667.

ROD BUILDING CLASS

We had three students in our first class. With three, 1-1/2 hour meetings, and work at home between meetings, two built a 11'- 4 piece "switch" rod using a kit, and one built a 7-1/2- 2 piece rod. All seemed to enjoy the experience and were anxious to test them on the water. They all had the use of a newly designed rod building jig that seemed to work quite well. With the success of the first class, OPTU will be offering additional classes as the demand warrants. To that end, if you are interested in learning how to make your own rod, please contact John Singley @ 318-4791, or woodenfly@cox.net. Classes will be set up for a minimum of 3 people to a maximum of 10. As before, a donation to OPTU of \$25 will be required for which students will have a jig furnished for use during the class and all miscellaneous equipment and materials. You can either build a "kit" rod or, with assistance from the instructor(s), select all of the components from suppliers. It is



Canyon Lake suffered a reduction in numbers that day, primarily at

not difficult, very satisfying, and a lot of fun, so give it a whirl!

John Singley

NEWS FROM DRY CREEK OUTFITTERS

Dave Brown, a guide in Alberta, Canada, will be at Dry Creek Outfitters May 20th at 7 PM doing a slide show and presentation about fishing the Bow and Old Man Rivers in Alberta. No fee to attend and free soft drinks and snacks. Everyone is welcome.

Dry Creek is sponsoring two trips this year. One is to Pesca Maya in Mexico and the other to the Bow River area in Canada (come to the event May 20th to see what's in store for the latter). Call Eric or Whitey at 326-7847 for more information and to sign up.

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

Upcoming Fishing Trips

No trips scheduled at the moment. Don't forget there is fun fishing in southern Arizona's lakes. It's always a fun day of fishing with fellow OPTU members locally.

FISHING REPORTS

None submitted. Guess everyone is working instead.

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

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*.

FOR SALE

Whitey Kuebler has a large number of items for sale from an estate. These include reels, rods, books, videos and other miscellaneous items. If you are interested look at the November newsletter or contact Whitey at jwkuebler@earthlink.net or cell 419 0686

Jack Kleine (a founding OPTU member) has an ORVIS bamboo rod made by the master, Wes Jordan. It is in great condition, 3 piece with extra tip, 8 ft long. Jack would entertain \$500 as the price. Call him at 686-0019 if interested.

MOVIE LINKS

If you send the link to movies you have seen on YouTube or other places I'll check it out and post. Here are a few:

Flyfishing New Zealand <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6VRNO4tTwo>

Polar bears and huskies playing http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_____J_____Nyt4Bmi8&playnext_from=TL&videos=bRJPgHuw9n4&feature=gre

Here's a nice one Stan Vanagunas sent around about **baby moose** playing in a sprinkler.

<http://www.wimp.com/babymoosel/> Alaska Hog Rainbows

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywq-mcJZU5U>

Fishing Isla Holbox, Mexico

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WaneWpIRmw>

JOINTROUT UNLIMITED

Join Trout Unlimited and you will be assigned to a chapter (or you may designate one). The link below is to the TU website membership form area.

<https://www.tumembership.org/member>

Here is the general information about membership on the TU website.

Join the Community

We'd love to have you as a member, whether or not you fish.

Healthy streams benefit everyone, not just anglers.

We'll assign you to a local chapter. Chapters meet regularly to hear about fishing hot spots from Maine to the Bahamas, discuss conservation issues, plan work days on their home waters, organize fundraisers, and of course, swap a few fish tales and learn how to tie the latest fly patterns. Looking for a fishing partner? Many chapters sponsor "Fish with a Friend" programs that connect members in search of fishing companions.

All members also receive TROUT, TU's award-winning color magazine. You'll get four issues a year, full of conservation news, updates on TU activities, grassroots success stories, and fishing destinations.

TU offers a variety of membership categories which allow individuals and businesses to contribute to TU's mission at the conservation support levels of their choosing:

[Membership Level Yearly Dues](#)
[Stream Explorer](#) (18 and under)
\$12

Senior (62 or older) \$20

Regular \$35

Family/Contributor \$50

Sponsor \$100

[Outfitter, Guide and Business](#) \$295

Conservator \$250

Stewardship \$500

Life (One Time Payment) \$1000

**Canadian members add \$5; other countries add \$20 per membership.

[Join Trout Unlimited Now](#) and receive a free gift.

Be sure to add Chapter 531 to your application to ensure linking to the Old Pueblo group.

NOTE: All new members attending their first OPTU meeting please let us know on arrival and you will receive five bucket raffle tickets for the raffles on items for that evening. You might win some nice things while meeting the nice folks at OPTU.

BOARD MINUTES

April 28, 2010

Attending

Steve Reiter Robin Marsett

Joe Fagan Mickey Fletcher

Roger McKee Scott Koktavay

Mike Mehrer

Roger McKee, President, called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM

Trout in the Classroom

Joe Fagan (both a member of OPTU and an employee of AZF&G), presented background on the TIC project at Sahuaro School. A full and fascinating report is available in the current newsletter. In conclusion, after a successful 3 years this TIC project must be discontinued because Sue Simpson, the science teacher who has ably mentored it can, due to

family demands, no longer afford the extra time demanded by the project. AZF&G, continues to enthusiastically support TIC and advises that it will be easy to find another school in which to run the program. Joe asked, does OPTU want to continue sponsoring TIC or turn it over to AZF&G? He asked the question because only a few OPTU members, all board members, have contributed time to the project. He wondered whether OPTU was truly interested in TIC. Extensive conversation followed. Questions were asked about skill sets required of a member to participate, about how much it will cost to continue the program, and about how to promote the program to the membership. In principle it was agreed that the OPTU board views TIC as a valuable program and one which we should support. It was also agreed that OPTU participation needs better planning for success.

A working committee composed of Mickey Fletcher, Steve Reiter, Joe Fagan and Roger McKee will follow-up on a TIC plan. It was also suggested that perhaps John Murphy would be able to help with contacts at the U of A and that Doug Thornburg should be involved in the planning process representing AZF&G. The working group agreed to prepare recommendations for the board ASAP.

Treasurers Report

Cathy Hill reports that after recent expenses our checking account balance is \$11,649.21.

Conservation Report

We reviewed the cancelled workday in April. We discussed the scheduled workdays in June,

listed on the website. It was also noted that Jeff Collins has reported AZF&G is working on a replacement stream clean-up workday in the Pinalenos. The following email was received from Jeff Collins subsequent to the board meeting ...I have not heard back from Mike Lopez on workdays in the White Mountains; as soon as I get that info, it will be posted. I sent a letter to the Electro Shocker to AZGFD for review. As soon as I receive a quote we can purchase the equipment with the EAS Grant money. This will leave about \$1,800 in that account which will be used on the upcoming work on the Pinalenos Gila Trout Project. It was written to be designated for Gila Trout only. Funding for White Mountain workdays will need to come from the general fund unless it is for Gila Trout.

Member Meetings

Steve Reiter reported that Peter Piconi of SoCal Fly Fishing In, San Diego, will be the featured speaker at the members meeting in June. His fee will be \$350 plus travel. Steve was authorized by unanimous vote of the board to find a one time alternate meeting location for June closer to the Northwest to test whether a change in location might improve member attendance. It was agreed any change in venue must be announced in the next newsletter and that a special email announcement would also be made. Other speakers under consideration for future meetings are John Rohmer from the Payson area, an entomologist, Rory ---- from AZF&G and several others.

Mickey moved that the July meeting, as has been our tradition,

be cancelled, given so many members are traveling at that time. Scott seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mike Mehrer suggested that fly fishing lessons at the member meetings might be a good idea. Casting, fly tying, and net building were among many of the fly fishing disciplines that might be offered. Others suggested that OPTU members had many skills that would permit recruiting instructors from within the club. Certified fly casting lessons were also mentioned. It was agreed to create a working committee to develop a plan and make recommendations to the board on this matter. Joe Fagan, John Singley, Scott Koktavy, Mike Mehrer and Roger McKee will participate in the working group.

Healing Waters

Robin Marsett reported on fishing trips to the White mountains, Parker Canyon and Durango. One of the Fort Huachuca HW soldiers took third in a national rod building contest. Dave Brown is contributing fishing trip for the men. Fly tying instruction at Dry Creek and before the OPTU monthly members meetings continues. In summary, the program is alive and well.

Miscellaneous

John Singley told the board that he and Roger had talked to Eric about buying OPTU shirts and possibly other clothing through Dry Creek at a discount thereby offering a better selection of outfits and less up-front investment by the club. John also reported that the raffle at the last meeting had raised \$70. At this rate the original investment in

raffle prizes of \$300 will be paid off quickly.

With no further business to discuss Roger adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary *Mike Mehrer*