



OPTU NEWS

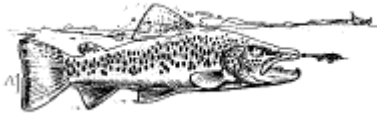


Old Pueblo Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU Chapter 531)

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 12

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

DECEMBER 2004



President's Message

Greetings:

As our year comes to a close it's important to think about helping the chapter with our biggest event of the year-our annual banquet on Feb. 12. Tickets are on sale now and as I've said repeatedly WE WILL SELL OUT! Get your tickets now while they're cheap but more importantly WHILE THEY ARE AVAILABLE. We are in need of additional bucket raffle and silent auction items so if you are in a position to solicit a business relationship or donate an item yourself – we would appreciate it.

Don't forget the holiday party at the Maina household on Friday Dec. 3rd at about 6:30. We will do a few raffles before dinner and have a short board meeting to elect officers, etc. Last names; A-L bring dessert, appetizers or salads; M-Z bring main courses. BYOB but soft drinks will be provided. We are just West of Pontatoc off of Skyline on the south side of Skyline (East of Campbell and West of Swan). Turn into Paloma Canyon - gate code#1980 - go through the gate and turn left and drive until you hit a stop sign and turn right (Pinnacle Ridge Pl.). We are at 4374 E. Pinnacle Ridge Pl. Look for the fish balloon. If you're lost call us at 577-6762. Hope to see you there.

Sorry about our speaker situation at the last meeting. Hopefully there was some good idea sharing that will ultimately benefit our club.

Happy Holidays and Tightlines. Jim

Tightlines,
Jim Maina



Babine Steelie

More Banquet News

Our banquet is fast approaching. There are only 150 tickets available and when they are gone, no more will be sold. Be smart and buy yours now. The items we have so far are as follows: Tibor Everglades Reel for 9 wt, Ross Canyon Reel for 8 wt, Ross Evolution Reel for 4/5 wt, Sage XP 5 wt, Norvise Rotating vise, Loomis Rod of your choice, Simms Guide Waders, Rio Lines, Custom 4wt Rod with Galvan Reel, Sony CD/DVD Player, Claude Cunningham's Fiberglass Rod, 2 St Croix 5 wt rods with a lesson on how to cast from Tightlines, Float tubes, Books and Videos, Chest pack, Loon fishing pack, Simms Vest, Hodgeman Vest, Tying Vise, Landing net, Etc. And it's only November! I still have letters out to various vendors so there will be more to come. I also expect to have restaurant gift cards, movie cards and other gifts.

Tickets are on sale now! You can purchase yours through the Newsletter form or any of the board members or Tightlines and Dry Creek.

And an important note about our fine flyshops; DON'T BUY Mail Order!!!! Make all your purchases at one of our flyshops; Tightlines and Dry Creek. They have supported our banquet for another year by offering great discounts and donations. They also have a wealth of knowledge and always support our members; LET'S GIVE BACK TO THEM by making our purchases there. More updates on the banquet to come!!! *Jeff Collins OPTU VP/Conservation Officer*

Old Pueblo Chapter of Trout Unlimited (OPTU)

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OPTU

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LIE & TIE

7 p.m. on November 17th at Dry Creek Outfitters, 5420 E. Broadway, Suite 254. Call Eric at 326-7847 for more information. If any one has special flies they would like to have tied at Lie and Tie please contact John Kuebler at 885-5652 and we will do our best to accommodate your request

GUEST SPEAKER

No speaker or regular meeting in December. Come to the holiday party at the Maina residence. See details in the President's report.



OPTU's Save the Natives – Apache Trout

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

The Old Pueblo Chapter of Trout Unlimited publishes OPTU News monthly.





Grassroots Activist Network

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.

As we work to protect fish and their waters, we need your support and involvement to carry the conservationist message. To join the Grassroots Activist Network, please send an email containing your mailing address to grassrootsactivist@tu.org

TROUT UNLIMITED – OPTU Chapter

2005 ANNUAL BANQUET – February 12th

Viscount Hotel – 5:30 pm to ~ 9:30 pm

Please send me _____ tickets for the 2004 Old Pueblo Chapter Trout Unlimited Banquet. I have enclosed \$25 if postmarked before Dec 6th; \$35 if Dec 7th to Jan 15th. After Jan 15th tickets are \$45 at the door or from a board member.

I can't make it to the Banquet, but want to support the Old Pueblo Chapter. My donation for \$_____ is enclosed.

Cash Check MC VISA (please circle payment type)

Acct. # _____

Exp. Date ____/____/____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Mail this form to: Debbie Lynch, 3542 W. Amber Terrace,
Tucson, AZ 85741

Apache Trout Recovery

Hello to TU Apache Trout Interests - I wanted to introduce myself to those I haven't met and alert you that we have a NFWF Apache Trout grant. The grant will provide a minimum of \$200,000 for Apache trout work. Funds may be expended over the next 2 years. The award is in the form of a "block grant," so there's no specific earmarking of funds.

The general intent is to enhance or expand on existing Apache trout recovery plans and to blend the grant into the ongoing Apache trout organization and partnership efforts. Anyone interested in updates, please phone (703-284-9407) or e-mail for more information jmcgurrin@tu.org Joseph McGurrin
TU national staff - Director of Resources

Miscellany

Letter to the Editor

Mr. Maina, Let me introduce myself. I'm Jim Neff and live in Safford. I joined TU last year and have been receiving your (OP) newsletter. Before the Nuttel Complex fires on Mt. Graham last summer, I was campaigning for a change in regulations for Frye Mesa reservoir; the effect hoped for was to make it a quality water. Now that the run off from Frye Creek drainage has killed the fish in the lake and silted it in, my hopes for the area have changed. I read an article in the Eastern AZ. Courier that stated Gila Trout may be planted after the streams return to pre-fire ph, temp, etc. I would like to see "natives" established on Mt. Graham and have some thoughts on the subject. In the remote areas of the Mountain, (Marijilda, Crazy Horse, North Lefthand and possibly Deadman/Gibson) Gilas would be less apt to be harassed by people due to the remoteness of the streams. But Frye Creek /lake and Ash Creek are easy to access and therefore should possibly be stocked with Apaches. (if the lake is ever dredged) At any rate, the above are my thoughts, I would like to see an Apache quality water at Frye Mesa and I believe it would not only benefit the fish, and would help the Gila Valley economically. Imagine being able to fish for natives in SE AZ when the White Mountains are snowed in!

Notes from the Fly Shops

Dry Creek will host a day of **free** flycasting instruction and demonstrations on Saturday, December 4 from 10am-6pm. Hutch Hutchinson of the Orvis Company and Master Level FFF Instructor, will give one-on-one flycasting instruction and many demonstrations. He will put on a fly casting contest late in the afternoon with prizes! Rick Weisberg will highlight some of his new products from Oasis Fly Tying Benches - excellent gift ideas. Free hot dogs and soda!!! Bring the family. We have the new Wayfarer Fly Rods from Redington - come down and cast the 5 piece 5 weight w/lifetime guarantee (\$195). The new Buzz Off line of clothing from Exofficio has arrived - get your holiday shopping done quickly as these pieces will be in short supply. Need a fly box for all of your White Mountain lake streamers? Check out the "Bigger Barn" from Cliff Outdoors (made in Wyoming). We have Simms products, including G3 Waders and Guide Jacket.

Volunteering - AZ Game & Fish Sport Fishing Program

Email Titus Piper (fishedaz@earthlink.net) with your name, address and zip code to receive a volunteer packet from Game and Fish. For members without email call 622-9597. After completing the packet, go to G&F to get fingerprinted, then send the packet to Phoenix. After a background check you will receive a calendar of events.

Fishing Reports

Retirees' Fall Fishing Trip

This year's fishing trip to Colorado and New Mexico was a great success for the 7 men that traveled from October 1st thru the 10th. The first and last days were spent traveling in SUVs driven by Bill Hall and Don Maggert. Bob Drake, who expertly arranged the trip, rode with Bob Howard and Bob Rohen in the vehicle driven by Bill.

Though fishing is the main purpose of the trip, the entire journey made up what was an outstanding adventure. Fall scenery was magnificent, especially in the Rocky Mountains. All the fellows enjoyed each other's company. I think all of us learned new things from each other, novice fishermen learning the most. (Steve showed us how he turned felt soled boots into studded boots with 3/8 inch machine screws).

Lodgings were conducive to camaraderie during off-times in mornings and evenings with enough room and furniture that we were able to start off most of the fishing days with breakfasts together in one of the cabins. All our evening meals were eaten out at local restaurants.

Details of all the fishing experiences by each of the fishermen could be the grist for a lengthy article in an *American Angler* magazine. You are encouraged to meet and talk with the fishermen at OPTU meetings to pick up details.

Fishing started in the Rio Grande near Creede, CO. This was a difficult river to fish. Bob Howard did very well banging and slapping muddler minnows into water on the opposite bank (of course) of the fast flowing, rocky bedded stream. Where most of us only caught one or two fish there, Bob H. caught over 20.

The next day our group split up into two teams. The group with Bill's vehicle fished the upper part of the Rio Grande near our cabins at Cottonwood. They were disappointed with the fishing. The other team went off further to fish further downstream. However they met up with a local fisherman, Tony, who took them to private lakes for a great fishing experience [see the story in future newsletter].



Here's Tony with some of his fish that he's required to kill in his fishing club, obviously not Trout Unlimited.

On the third day of fishing the same teams split up again to fish for a half-day before traveling on to Fireside Inn in Pagosa Springs. Don's team had only moderate success where they had fished. However, the team with our leader Bob Drake had great

success. Two days later all of us would return to the same waters of this successful team.

A trail ride on horseback was on the agenda on the 4th day for Steve, Don, Bob D. and Bob H. They traveled down into the Canyon of the Piedra River (below Williams Creek) on horse and mule backs for 90 minutes or so to what was to be great fishing. They expected 20 or more large fish each to be caught, but were disappointed with only about 10 small trout each. All agreed, however, that the scenery was breathtakingly beautiful, perhaps as much as some of the trail was breathtakingly precipitous.

Meanwhile, Bill, Joe and Bob R. fished 3 streams in the area. Two of the streams were in beautiful locations, but were unproductive. Bob and Bill fished the Williams Creek in two places. However, Joe didn't fish the 2nd location so that he could take photos of the returning trail ride. Both teams were fishing at the same time rain and snow began to fall. When a great bolt of lightning with thunder urged the team on the trail ride to leave fishing and start heading back up the canyon, the same thunderclap was ignored by Bill, Bob R. and Joe who were catching brown trout with Copper Johns in their stream. While Joe was taking photos of the returning Canyon fishermen, Bill and Bob R. were catching a more trout at the Williams Creek and confluence with the Piedras.



Bob R. & Bill (right) on Williams Creek

On the fifth day we were scheduled to travel on to the famed "Blue Ribbon" San Juan River in New Mexico. However, we all wanted to spend another half day on the water where the Drake team had such huge success on the 3rd day. The half-day on this stream was so good that we've all sworn to secrecy. But we'll go to it on the next Retirees' Fall Fishing Trip. That's when you can find out where it is. We had it all to ourselves too, though there was some debris that indicated bait fishermen know about it too.

Our accommodations at *Abe's* on the San Juan River below the Navajo Dam were not as comfortable as the cabins stayed at previously. They were adequate and had the restaurant on the same property. The San Juan fishing experience was all that they said it was and more for this writer – his first time fishing there. He was amazed at the huge trout swimming around at his feet not unlike "chickens in a barnyard." They were all huge! If you had the proper flies, knew how to present them to the trout, knew how to set a #24 hook on a 20 inch trout without breaking a 6x tippet, then you could catch 25 BIG trout in a morning as

someone did when we were there. A few of the guys had some guiding for "sight fishing." It was immensely valuable to them, being "worth 10 days of experience fishing without a guide." Some experienced fishermen in the group advised the less experienced how to fish the unique fishery.



This was one of Steve's many fish caught on the San Juan River

Collectively, we caught and released nearly 400 trout on this trip! This was a great fishing deal arranged by Bob Drake for 10 days (8 days of fishing) for only \$350.

If you want a similar experience next year, sign up as early as openings are announced for next year! To ensure a quality fishing experience, openings are limited so as to not instantly overcrowd a stream when the Retirees arrive to fish.

Joe Fagan

Photos

Send in photos to the editor if you would like them in the newsletter - preferably by e-mail. This is important if you tire of seeing the editor's family, friends and pets featured.

Upcoming Fishing Trips

OPTU San Juan River - February 23rd to 27th, 2005

Trip limited to 16. Leave Wed the 23rd bright and early; stay at the Enchanted Hideaway Lodge. Fish Thurs, Fri, Sat with return to Tucson Sun. Cost is \$295, which includes round trip transportation, 4 nights lodging (2-3/rm), and food for all meals (all who come participate in clean up & preparation). Drivers will go for the cost of their gas only. \$150 will hold your space. Cancellations within 3 weeks of trip require deposit forfeiture unless another participant found. Contact John Murphy at murphy@pharmacy.arizona.edu.

The Lees Ferry trip will be held in June/July 2005. More bugs, better fishing, and less crowded than a winter trip. Watch for details.

Going fishing this fall? If you want to join up with other club members, make the announcement about when and where you'll be at the monthly club meeting.

For information on fishing trips contact Rob Gillette (323-1005 W/ 531-8141 H) or azflyfshr@msn.com for more information.

Rebates for Chapter Renewals (IMPORTANT)

T.U. National provides an opportunity for chapters to earn rebates. There is a **special introductory rate of \$17.50** for new members and TU returns the **entire first year's dues as a rebate** - \$15 directly to the chapter. Have prospective new members go to the website [Twww.tu.org/intro](http://www.tu.org/intro) where they can join. Enter our chapter number 531 so we get the credit. Renewals sent by the chapter to National also earn rebates. Members can bring their renewal notices to meetings or special events or the chapter can use the roster to identify your expiration date. Bring your next renewal to a meeting or event. This will give our region more dollars to invest in the preservation of our coldwater fisheries. Help stretch your dollars for the benefit of Arizona fisheries. Thanks.

OPTU Website

Newsletter By E-Mail (*Save Trees and \$*)

If you have access to a computer and e-mail an easy way to help reduce mailing costs is to receive this Newsletter electronically. Just e-mail Tmurphy@pharmacy.arizona.edu & cc: sreiter4@cox.net, Subject: e-mail newsletter. In the body of the e-mail, give your name, the zip code where you normally receive the printed version and the e-mail address where you want to receive the electronic version. **Please note - it will be your responsibility to inform us of changes in e-mail address. Otherwise, you may begin missing newsletters.** The newsletter is also available on our OPTU website www.optu.org where you can find lengthier reports that could not be placed in the newsletter.

Humor/Quotes

OPTU Regular Meetings - Special Upcoming Speakers

January - Scott Gurtin of Az Game and Fish. His topic will be "Apache and Gila Trout Recovery."

There will be dinners before the meetings at Wilburs so you can get a more personal introduction to the speakers, please feel free to join us. We usually start dinner at 5:45pm. Thanks, *Jeff Collins*

FOR SALE and RENT

1. Sage XP 386-4 - This a new 4 pc that's never been fished. Graphite IIIe B. Still has the plastic on the cork. Comes with sack only, \$395.
2. Sage 390 RPL Graphite III, 2 pc. 9' 0" 2-11/16 oz. Tip is 1" short but still casts beautifully, includes original sack & case. \$295.
3. Sage 790 Graphite II with sack & case. Very firm rod that I cast with an 8 wt. line. \$150
4. Orvis Power Matrix 10 9' 6 wt. comes with original sack & case. \$200.
5. Scott 995 Graphite 3 7/8oz 9'6", 9 wt. sack & case. \$200
Call Jim Jackson with any questions at 648-2813

Going to New Zealand this year? Rent *Trout Cottage* (2 BR) in Lumsden (80 rivers within 1 hour) on the South Island. Day/week/month rates available. Guide services available. Email chu.wilkie@clear.net.nz for details or fishing advice.

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1/12 th page	NA	NA	\$50
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Name _____ Phone _____ Old Zip Code _____

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Send to: OPTU, 4374 E. Pinnacle Ridge Place, Tucson, AZ 85718

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OPTU DECEMBER CALENDAR

- Dec 3:** Holiday party at the Maina's at 6:30 pm. See President's message for directions.
- Dec 15:** Lie & Tie – 7:00 p.m. at Dry Creek Outfitters, 5420 E. Broadway, Suite 254, Call Eric at 326-7847 for more information.
- Dec 22:** Board Meeting at Viscount Suite Hotel Wildcat Bar, 4855 E. Broadway Blvd., at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 5:** Regular meeting – Viscount Suite Hotel, 4855 E. Broadway Blvd., at 7 p.m. Speaker will be Scott Gurtin of Az Game and Fish. His topic will be "Apache and Gila Trout Recovery."
- Jan 19:** Lie & Tie – 7:00 p.m. at Dry Creek Outfitters, 5420 E. Broadway, Suite 254, Call Eric at 326-7847 for more information.
- Jan 26:** Board Meeting at Viscount Suite Hotel Wildcat Bar, 4855 E. Broadway Blvd., at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.
- Feb 12:** OPTU Annual Banquet at the Viscount – 6 pm to 10 pm