



OPTU NEWS

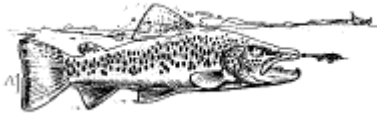


Old Pueblo Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU Chapter 531)

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 5

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

MAY 2005



President's Message

Greetings:

Well, it's the time of year that certainly excites me and hopefully excites the fish. Conversations with Fish and Game indicate that all lakes are filling (or filled nicely) and it should be a banner spring and summer for fishing. To the best of my knowledge a lot of the White Mountain lakes are still frozen or inaccessible so watch the G&F website for fishing reports. The larger lakes (San Carlos and Roosevelt) are still off color with a lot of debris but when it clears bass and crappie fishing should be terrific!

Our April meeting was a good one with our own Joe Fagan giving a report on the "retirees' trip" to southern Colorado in October. That looks like a great trip - and I can personally vouch for the beauty and fishing potential of that area in the fall having had many great fall trips to that area. There may be room on this year's trip but last I heard there was only 1 spot left. Call Rob Gillette if interested.

Our annual family outing will be at the private campground at Hawley Lake on May 28-30 (Memorial Day weekend). You can arrive Friday night (27th) and we hope to have direction signs to our site. YOU MUST HAVE A DAILY PERMIT FOR ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR PARTY WHETHER THEY FISH OR NOT!!! The permits are \$3 per day and can ONLY be obtained at Hon Dah Ski and Sports. As of today they don't know their exact hours of operation for the summer (can you believe it?). Safely, you can count on them being open 8-4 but that could change by Memorial Day - hopefully running later in the day. TO BE SAFE call Hon Dah Ski and Sports within a couple days of your arrival. They are located right next to the Casino in Hon Dah and their phone number is 928-369-7669. Remember, that daily permit applies to EVERYONE in your group including

very small children. Pets are exempt. That's all for now and have a great spring!

Tightlines,
Jim Maina

Hawley Lake Memorial Weekend Outing- More Info

May 27 (evening) - May 30 (morning). There will be a pot luck and BBQ. OPTU will supply the meat and if you want to participate you'll need to bring a side dish. A-H Hot side dish (beans, veggie, potato, etc...), I-N Salad (lettuce, cole slaw, etc.), O-Z Dessert (you decide). The potluck will be held Saturday night. There will be fishing contests for the kids and adults. Prizes will be awarded. Let's see who will dethrone me in the One Fly contest. When getting your license, *tell them you're with OPTU* to get the Special Use Permit for Hawley Lake.

To get to Hawley lake head to Show Low and take 260 east. You'll reach Hon Dah first (permit place) then continue to the Hawley lake turnoff south. When you get to the lake travel around the lake to the other side to find the campground. We'll have signs out. Hope to see you all there. Entrée's (steak/chicken) must be ordered for each individual in advance by contacting Rob Gillette no later than May 20 at (520-615-8141) at azflyfshr@comcast.net or rgillette@bournpartners.com or Jeff Collins to place your order.

Jeff Collins



First timer now - cover of Fly Fisherman in 15 years

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



Bead head Brassie

LIE & TIE

7 p.m. on May 18th 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

Regular meeting at Viscount Suites Hotel May 4th at 7 pm, 4855 E. Broadway Blvd. The speaker will be Mike Lopez from Arizona Game and Fish speaking about Big Lake.



OPTU's Save the Natives – Apache Trout

TU Bring Back the Natives Contacts

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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



CONSERVATION

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

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.



Fish on

Volunteering – OPTU Workdays 2005

The 2005 OPTU Apache Trout Workday season should be a busy and exciting one. New dates are as follows:

The May 7 OPTU Apache Trout Recovery Workday has been cancelled. After talking with the forest service and several others I think it is best that we cancel the May 7 workday due to snow. The roads are still close and Forest Service officials don't expect to open them until the first or second week of May at the earliest. Most of the work involves hiking and I don't think anyone would be up for snow shoeing. The next work day will be June 18. I will try and schedule a makeup workday for the May 7 date. On June 18 we will do the work we had planned to do in May. Sorry for any inconvenience but Mother Nature ruled.

Saturday, June 18

Saturday, July 16

Saturday, August 27

Saturday September 24

There will probably be some additions due to Fred Fillmore's EAS Gila Trout Project and Mike Lopez asked for some help on Gila Trout Restoration on the Blue Drainage.

Youth Camp

We have two winners of the Youth Camp contest. The lucky winners are Thomas Estruth and Kyle Bujak. They are 13 years old and very excited about their project and the camp. the following is the proposal that Thomas and Kyle submitted:

I, Thomas Estruth, and my friend Kyle Bujak, are extremely interested in helping Trout Unlimited in its Arizona project to restore the habitat for the endangered Apache Trout. Kyle and I have worked together before and have recently been made aware of the danger this beautiful fish is in. We are willing to dedicate ourselves to restoring the environment for this fish. We know that this fish, in the Black River, lives among a predator, the crayfish, that feeds on the Apache fish eggs that provide for future generations. The crayfish are simply a danger to the future of the Apache trout.

Fortunately, there seems to be a solution to the problem. Kyle and I would like very much to work with the Old Pueblo chapter of Trout Unlimited to reduce this threat. We understand that there are traps that can be used to capture and eliminate these crayfish that are preying on the eggs of the Apache Trout.

We are willing to direct and supervise a project that will place traps, bait them and capture the crayfish that enter into them. We would like to place traps all over the river and set rows and rows of traps and monitor them to eliminate as many crayfish as we possibly can. We would like to bait the traps and remove them and refresh them as often as necessary in order to reduce the threat to the wonderful trout living there.

Sincerely, Thomas Estruth Age 13

OPTU will be sponsoring Thomas and Kyle to go to Michigan for Youth Conservation/ Flyfishing Camp with all expenses paid. OPTU would like to extend its thanks to Kyle and Thomas for their project and to the Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited for offering their camp to 2 of our youths.

Apache Trout

We have several things to report on the Apache Trout front. First off, Jason and Julie Burger, local OPTU members have applied to the Trout Bum Tournament that the magazine Rod and Reel hosts. Jason came to the board and asked if he could sponsor OPTU Apache Trout Restoration for the money he

receives if he is selected and participates. Rod and Reel magazine gives him \$500 to fish as a Trout Bum would in various places and people donate toward his cause. All proceeds come back to OPTU for Apache Trout Restoration. Please thank Jason Whenever you see him; he's probably flying over us right now out of DM in his Helicopter as he is in the service protecting this great country of ours. OPTU wishes Jason the best of luck in his upcoming tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Secondly, there is an outdoors freelance writer in the White Mountains interested in our Apache Trout Restoration Project. Stephanie Rainey wants to come to our workdays to film and interview us. This should be great publicity for OPTU and Apache Trout. More to come on that.

The following is taken from the AZG&F website on what is left with Apache Trout Restoration:

There are 13 pure historic lineages of Apache trout, all of which reside in the Fort Apache Indian Reservation streams. Five lineages have been successfully replicated and eight still require replication.

Recovery (delisting) will be considered when all of the 13 known historic lineages of Apache trout stocks are replicated into protected, secured streams. The replications are necessary to preserve all genetic variability for the species and to ensure that natural or human-induced disasters do not extirpate unique lineages.

Remaining recovery actions include:

- Constructing double fish barriers on east, west, and south forks of the Little Colorado River and a single large barrier on the West Fork of the Black River near the confluence with the East Fork of the Black River, for a total of seven new barriers.
- Completing maintenance on three existing fish barriers on Fish, Centerfire and Hayground creeks within the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. Also completing barrier maintenance on Little Bonito and Boggy/Lofer Creeks on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.
- Renovating all or portions of 11 streams on the national forest – West Fork Little Colorado River Little Colorado River, East Fork Little Colorado River, South Fork Little Colorado River, Stinky Creek, Hayground Creek, Boggy/Centerfire Creek, Fish Creek, Conklin Creek, Snake Creek and Bear Wallow Creek – to ensure protection and isolation of pure Apache trout from non-native trout. Similarly, renovate Big Bonito, Little Bonito, and Little Diamond Creeks on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation to protect existing Apache trout populations.
- Translocating pure populations into previously renovated streams.
- Completing the revised recovery plan.

We are hoping to get together with AZ Game and Fish this year to reintroduce some streams to Apache Trout. When we do this, it is our plan to invite Governor Napolitano and/or Senator McCain. We feel that this is a big enough event in recent Apache Trout Recovery to warrant these two Officials to be present.

I hope to see all of you at least one workday. They're fun and you get to meet other members with the same interest as you. We always do some fly-fishing while we're there and what better place to visit when Tucson is soaring into the 100 degree mark. As last year, all participants will be eligible for the final drawing of a custom fly rod. Last years winner was Merle Bradley; I'm sure we'll see him at a workday this year toting his custom 4 weight.

Jeff Collins, OPTU VP/Conservation Officer



Jeff and an SJ Bow

MISCELLANY

Fishing Reports

The Big Hole River

As western Montana rivers go, the Big Hole takes a back seat to the Madison or Yellowstone. But, it circles through one of the impressive valleys in a state known for its spectacular scenery. Most of the valley is occupied by large cattle and haying operations and river access is limited. That's probably why it isn't the most famous of Montana waters. But what a river it is for two guys and a good guide to float. Last summer a pal and I, under the watchful eye of Master Guide Tom Jenni (jenni@mcn.net), spent two days afloat on the Big Hole. Our catch was mostly browns, but rainbow and cutthroat were among the fish caught and released. Jenni does not allow kept fish on the Big Hole as it was deeply effected by five years of drought in western Montana. For those who own boats, there are several retrieval services in the valley at Wisdom, Wise River and Melrose. The river is best fished after the April run-off (we fished over the July 4th Holiday). The river is a short haul from Butte, MT, which is served from Tucson by Delta Airlines with a single stop at Salt Lake City. Jenni guides on most of southwestern Montana rivers and is a fully equipped outfitter and guide based in Bozeman, MT. *Brice Schuller*



Nice Rainbow

Some of my favorite spots:

BARTLETT - This is a fishing hot spot. Lake level is at 1,799 feet (99-percent full). The lake is murky from recent runoff and full of debris. Lots of reports from anglers who are catching 1- to 4-pound bass consistently, sometimes racking up 30 or 40 catch-and-release fish in a day using a variety of methods. This week should be the best in awhile for quantity. Try Crawdad imitations. Crappies are moving into 4-10 feet of water to spawn. Try newly submerged vegetation along the shoreline and in coves. Try small Clousers.

OAK CREEK - Was stocked with 1,350 rainbow trout on April 7. The water flow was good but the pools in the upper reach about Troutdale Campground were blooming with algae. Water temperatures were measured in the 50s. This stream is being stocked on a weekly basis. Expect it to be good for rainbows and fair for browns.

BEAVER CREEK - Stocked last week with 900 trout. Creek flows good and water temperature was 53 degrees.

WEST CLEAR CREEK - Was stocked on April 5 with 900 trout. Water flows were good and the water temperature was 55 F. Scheduled for stocking again the week of May 2.

BECKER LAKE - The lake is ice-free and full. The boat ramp is accessible. Fishing is fair to good. The lake is open to artificial lure and flies only from Oct. 1 through May 24. There is a two-fish limit. Fly-fishers should try brown woolly buggers, damselfly and dragonfly patterns, Montana nymphs, peacock ladies, and midge larvae patterns. Fly-fishers are catching 8-10 inch rainbows and a few rainbows over 15 inches.

ARIVACA - The bass fishing (along with the other warm water species) is starting to pick up. The water level still is not at the level it was last year at this time; however, you still should be able to launch most boats.

Get out and fish, this should be a great year!

Jeff Collins OPTU VP/Conservation Officer Tucson AZ

Notes from the Fly Shops

Tightlines will host a flycasting clinic on Saturday, May 7 at Ft. Lowell Park from 9a - 1p. Beginner/Intermediate casters welcome – cost is \$40/person. Call 322-94444. Montana guide Drew Mentzer will be teaching dryfly salmonfly patterns on Thursday, April 21 from 7-9 pm at Tightlines. Free flytying sessions are every Thursday from 7-9 pm. Ask about Alaska trips in August through October, locally owned silver salmon/steelhead lodge. White Mtn. schools offered this summer. Finally, some water in Arizona this summer!

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

Memorial Day: OPTU's Memorial Day Family Outing will be held Friday, May 27th through Monday, May 30th at Hawley Lake. A campground has been reserved that will accommodate tents, RVs or motor homes. The entire family is invited. Saturday will feature a children's fishing contest (bait allowed) and the annual One Fly/One Fish/One Hour contest for everyone. Enter for \$5 at the chance to win and be the proud holder of the Traveling Trophy. Fish from 10 oz. to 4

lbs. have won over the past few years. Saturday night will be a pot luck dinner with OPTU providing the entrée. Entrée's (steak/chicken) must be ordered for each individual in advance by contacting Rob Gillette no later than May 20. Contact Rob (520-615-8141) at azflyfshr@comcast.net or rgillette@bournpartners.com to place your order.

Fall Retirees' Trip: The one everyone has been waiting for news on. The dates are set for October 3rd through October 12th. Fishing will be at Pagosa Springs, Durango, and the San Juan. Cost is estimated at \$375 to \$400 dollars. Non-refundable deposits of \$300 are required to hold a position. An optional horseback trip is possible while in Pagosa Springs provided there are enough sign ups. Contact Rob Gillette (615-8141 hm/318-6637 wk/azflyfshr@comcast.net) for more information or to make deposit arrangements. There is a 4 driver position and one other available. Drivers must have a 4 door vehicle capable of carrying four with gear that can travel off road.

Lees Ferry: The summer trip will be announced shortly.

San Juan 2006 – February 22 – 26. Save the dates.

Alaska Great Alaska Lodge (<http://www.greatalaska.com/>) is offering a 5% discount on any fishing or adventure package that is booked in connection with John Murphy's continuing education meetings in June and Sept 2005. So, *non physician/pharmacists* can come the same time and get the discount. Call John 250-4083 or murphy@pharmacy.arizona.edu. Email John if you would like a comparison of daily costs between Great Alaska and Creekside Inn (our other discount offer). You'll be surprised.

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. Prospective new members can go to the website www.tu.org/introT to join. Enter our chapter number 531 so we get the credit. Renewals sent by the chapter to National also earn rebates. 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 and Newsletter By E-Mail

If you have access to a computer and e-mail help us reduce mailing costs by getting the Newsletter electronically. Just e-mail Tmurphy@pharmacy.arizona.edu & cc: sreiter4@cox.net, Subject: e-mail newsletter. 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. **Note – it will be your responsibility to inform us of changes in e-mail address. Otherwise, you may begin missing newsletters.** The newsletter is available on our OPTU website www.optu.org.

Humor/Quotes

For attractive lips, speak words of kindness. For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people. For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry. For beautiful hair, let a child run his or her fingers through it once a day. For poise, walk with the knowledge that you'll never walk alone. *Audrey Hepburn*

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OPTU MAY CALENDAR

- May 4:** Regular meeting – Viscount Suite Hotel, 4855 E. Broadway Blvd., at 7 p.m. Speaker Mike Lopez from Arizona Game and Fish speaking about Big Lake.
- May 18:** Lie & Tie – 7:00 p.m. at Dry Creek Outfitters, 5420 E. Broadway, Suite 254, Call Eric at 326-7847 for more information.
- May 25:** Board Meeting at Viscount Suite Hotel Wildcat Bar, 4855 E. Broadway Blvd., at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.
- May 27-30:** Memorial Weekend Outing: Hawley Lake in the White Mountains

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jun 1:** Regular meeting – Viscount Suite Hotel, 4855 E. Broadway Blvd., at 7 p.m. Speaker TBA.
- Jun 15:** Lie & Tie – 7:00 p.m. at Dry Creek Outfitters, 5420 E. Broadway, Suite 254, Call Eric at 326-7847 for more information.
- Jun 22:** Board Meeting at Viscount Suite Hotel Wildcat Bar, 4855 E. Broadway Blvd., at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.