



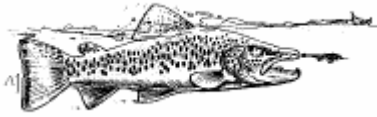
OPTU NEWS



VOLUME 14 ISSUE 1

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

JANUARY 2006



President's Message

Greetings Fellow TUers:

I hope your holidays are wonderful this year. The holiday party was a good time. Thanks to the Singleys for hosting it. Many prizes were won and new officers elected. I was voted as President for 2006, Clay Hernandez was voted as Vice President, Lauren Lucas was voted as Treasurer and Secretary remains open. If you might be interested in serving in one of the open positions please give me a call. Special thanks go out to past officers Jim Maina and Tom Stash. Also the Membership Coordinator spot was left vacant as Carolynn Barlett has assumed a new role on the Board. Thanks Carolynn for the past few years of service as Membership Coordinator. The board will assume responsibility of this position until the need arises to fill it again. OPTU would also like to extend its thanks to Gilbert Castillo for many years of service to OPTU Board and Officer. You are definitely welcome back to the Board if you choose to.

I'd also like to announce that our past two Eagle Scout Candidates were chosen to officially receive their Eagle Scout. Congrats go out to Michael Lynch and Austin Brown. Michael headed our 2004 HOBOTemperature unit placement and Austin captured over 1200 crayfish in our Apache Trout work areas in 2005. Hopefully in 2006 we will have more Scouts helping and becoming Eagle Scouts.

Remember to get your tickets for the upcoming banquet on February 18th; it should be a good one. We already have many of the prizes which include An ABEL Big Game Reel, a Sage 6wt. Salt water fly rod, a Sage SLT 4wt., Sage 2540 Reel, Simms G3 Waders, Simms Rivertek Wading boots, Orvis Superfine Rod, Orvis CFO Reel to name a few. There will be more Orvis items to come as we can get many items direct from Orvis this year at significant savings. Remember proceeds from the banquet support our year round work such as

Apache Trout Restoration and this year Gila Trout Restoration. We also use funds to support sending two of our youths to Youth Conservation/Flyfishing Camp in Michigan. We also support Casting for a Cure which helps breast cancer survivors. Funding also supports our Meeting Raffles and Lie and Ties and our monthly meeting place. So your dollar goes a long way.

I would like to speak a little more on Youth Camp. If you have a youngster in your family or know a good candidate please encourage them to do a short written report on a conservation project they would like to do with OPTU on Apache Trout or Gila Trout. It doesn't have to be a big project. For more information contact me or a board member. I need to have the winning reports by March.

Check the Fishing Reports for my latest adventure story from Work Related Fishing trips.

March 1 at the regular meeting we will have Jim Herriman do a presentation on Basic GPS. Jim is a Civil Engineer by trade and a good friend of mine. He is also involved heavily in the Boy Scouts and is married to our Hostess of the Four Seasons, LeeAnn Herriman. *Bring your GPS units if you have one.* I will also do a short presentation on Installation of Our HOBOTemperature Units for Our Workdays, time permitting.

**Fish to Live and Live to Fish,
Jeff Collins
President/Conservation Officer**



Hooper's Hawaiian Bonefish

Old Pueblo Chapter of Trout Unlimited (OPTU)

President

Jeff Collins (h) 520-744-8799
(c) 520-403-4062
email: jnc51@aol.com

Vice President

Clay Hernandez (h) 520-529-4621
(c) 520-248-6954
email: czhernandez@comcast.net

Secretary

Open

Treasurer

Lauren Lucas
email: lk1629@aol.com

Conservation Officer

Jeff Collins See above for numbers

Membership Coordinator

Open

Outings Coordinator

Rob Gillette (h) 520-615-8141
email: azflyfshr@comcast.net
robgillette@comcast.net

Youth Education Coordinator

Steve Reiter (h) 520-795-2388
email: sreiter4@cox.net

Public Relations Officer

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Carolynn Barlett (h) 520-749-1398
Dennis Barlett (h) 520-749-1398
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Scott Koktavay (h) 520-749-0625
Debbie Lynch (h) 520-742-7708
Jim Maina (w) 520-577-6762
John Singley (h) 520-318-4791
Tom Stash (h) 520-572-0600
Linda Wintin (h) 520-795-7746

Newsletter Editor

John Murphy (h) 520-299-3278
email: murphy@pharmacy.arizona.edu

OPTU

c/o Jeff Collins
7698 N. Sombbrero Peak Dr
Tucson, AZ 85743



Stimulator

LIE & TIE

7 p.m. on January 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

John Perry of John Perry's Montana Fly Fishing and Outfitters and Clarke Fork River Lodge. John made a fly tying video called "Genie Guide to Fly Tying" and he will do a fly tying demo at a date to be announced. January 4th at Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Campbell/Speedway 7 pm



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.





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



Bill's Silver

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.

2006 OPTU Workdays

I am getting this out early this year as we have lots of work to do. Dates are subject to change but you can get an idea of what to expect. This year I would like to extend the workdays into 1 1/2 days; Saturday from 8am to about 2pm and Sunday 8am to noon. You don't have to participate each day, remember it's voluntary and we still want to have some fun.

April 15, 16 Saturday and 1/2 Sunday

We will be working on placing temperature units for Gila trout in the Blue watershed. We will work on the lower parts of the watershed, weather permitting. Last year we got 4 units in this area late in the season. I'd like to get these in early this year to get readings throughout the summer. We will also have a new camping area for this workday; to be determined.

May 6, 7 Saturday and 1/2 Sunday

We will be working on placing more temperature units for Gila Trout. This time we will be working in the upper tributaries of the Blue watershed. Hopefully we can complete the installation of these units on this and the April workdays. We will be camping in a new area, to be determined.

June 10, 11 Saturday and 1/2 Sunday

Hopefully our EAS Grant will pass for this one. We want to purchase 1000 Arizona Willows to plant along the banks of the WF of Black near the Thompson Ranch. I might stay another day to hike into Hayground creek and place some temperature units. This is the only watershed we do not even have one temperature unit in; it was also stocked with wild Apache Trout late last season. Camping at the site on FR113.

July 8, 9 Saturday and 1/2 Sunday

We will be gathering data from temperature units already in place and possibly placing new ones. The hikes will include Stinky Creek, WF of Black, Thompson and Burro. We will camp at the FR113 site.

July 29, 30 Saturday and 1/2 Sunday

We will be gathering data from Temperature unit already in field and placing some new ones. The hikes will include EF of Little Colorado, WF of little Colorado and SF of Little Colorado. We will camp at FR113.

August 19, 20 Saturday and 1/2 Sunday

We will hopefully gather any remaining temperature units already in place and finish placing any new ones. hikes into Home Creek and possibly Bear Wallow and Fish Creek. We will be camping on the lower WF of Black at this time. I will have maps indicating where to go. This is below the WF of Black Campground near Home Creek.

September 16, 17 Saturday and 1/2 Sunday

This will be barrier repair time. I know that Stinky Creek Barrier is still leaking and we will repair any other Barriers noticed in need of repair during the season. I would also like to electroshock between the barriers on the WF of Black. Last season we noticed some browns cruising above the lower barrier. If the AZG&F can't get time on this perhaps the UA Student Chapter can do it as they have an electroshocker. We will discuss this possibility with AZG&F sometime soon as this issue definitely needs to be addressed. Camping at FR113.

October 7 Saturday

To be determined; finish up some last minute needs. Perhaps read some Temperature units in the Lower Blue area.

Date to be determined

There is a meeting on December 2 in Pinetop to set up some work of placing habitat structure in the WF and EF of the Black. I will try to work this into one of our workday weekend or create a new one. As you can see this is probably going to be one of our busiest workday seasons in a long time. Let's get active, I'm excited about this and hope you all are. Last year we had some great times at our workdays and accomplished plenty; I want to thank all that participated. My goal is to drop 20 pounds this winter so I will be prime for the hikes. I'm already off to a good start after my recent surgery has had me drop 8 pounds already!

Jeff Collins
OPTU President/Conservation Officer



Nice Steelhead in the net

MISCELLANY

Fishing Reports

Well I said I would try to tell about some of the spots I fish while out of town for work. This one is in New Mexico near a small town called Ramah. In fact the lake is called Ramah Lake. It has large Rainbows and a small population of smallmouth and largemouth bass all eager to hit your fly. The lake is shaped like an "L" and curves around a small mountain with a window rock on top that can only be seen at certain angles or with the right amount of liquor in you (just kidding). Remember I'm working! This lake sits at about 6,000 feet and fishes well in Spring, Fall and Mild Winters. It is located southeast of Gallup, about a 40 mile drive from there. Take NM Route 53 to the north out of the town of Ramah. On one fishing outing there I was with co-worker Mike Sweetapple who was an OPTU member back in the 80's and early 90's. He's since moved to Papua New Guinea, got married to a native there and moved again to Perth, Australia where he flyfishes successfully for Baramundi. Well enough with that tangent. We were fishing Ramah one day and catching 20" plus Bows on almost every cast when a group of teenagers stood on the dam. We were in float tubes and they had BB guns. Well these two just don't mix too well. They started shooting at our float tubes and laughing up a storm while Mike and I floundered to get back to shore

cussing every word we could think of. By the time we reached shore the boys were gone. Luckily they were using cheap Red Ryder BB guns and there was no penetration to our tubes. We were pretty upset that day but I laugh about it now. This lake is a great float tube lake but fishes well off the dam especially with a Red Ryder BB Gun; who needs Sage. *Jeff Collins*

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

To suggest new trips Contact Rob Gillette at 615-8141) or robgillette@comcast.net or azflyfshr@comcast.net for more information.

OPTU San Juan 2006 – February 22 – 26. Trip limited to 12. Trip tentatively full but not all deposits received yet. So if interested contact John for the alternate list. \$150 will hold a space. Cancellations within 3 weeks of trip require deposit forfeiture unless another participant found. Contact John Murphy at murphy@pharmacy.arizona.edu.

TROUT UNLIMITED – OPTU Chapter

2006 ANNUAL BANQUET – February 18th

Sheraton Four Points Hotel – 5:30 pm to ~ 9:30 pm

Please send me _____ tickets for the 2006 Old Pueblo Chapter Trout Unlimited Banquet. I have enclosed \$30 if postmarked before December 11th; \$35 if Jan 19th to Feb 7th; \$40 at the door.

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)

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City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Mail this form to: Debbie Lynch, 3542 W. Amber Terrace,
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Rebates for Chapter New Members

Renewal Rebates for New Members

TU National gives rebates to chapters for new members. If you know of someone wanting to become a new member

of TU, have them put chapter #531 on their application. This will help us receive the rebate. Thanks for your support.

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 murphy@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

Wading Difficulty Scale

Wouldn't it be great if before driving hundreds of miles to go fishing you could look up a simple number that explained the level of wading difficulty you could expect on the stream of your interest, or even on a particular stretch of it! You could adjust your destination to your age, goat-like daring and spryness, type of waders, whether to revise your will or not, etc. Well, I am suggesting here just that kind of a "Wading Difficulty Scale".

The idea came to me during OPTU retirees outing last October in Southern Colorado. At the time I was clinging to a large boulder as the high and nasty Piedra River was rushing by me, an inch or so below my waders. "What the hell is my 67 year old hide doing here?" I mused, my nails peeling the primordial granite, "To move or not to even stir that is the question!" It was pointless to shout for aid because the other five senior citizens were also somewhere in the canyon risking their lives and limbs.

Anyway, for the sake of our sport, I offer the following scale. In the left hand column you will find a number that expresses the level of wading difficulty. It roughly corresponds to the prospective flyfisher's age, say 40 for example. But you should give it a plus or minus of at least 5 years as some of us are treadmill-fit while others are master couch potatoes who, after the divorce, have trained their dog to get a beer. To the right there is a summary explanation of the degree of wading difficulty that applies to a given number on the scale.

20 Be able to rappel up and down sheer canyon walls to reach promising trout pools. Wet wading only, rain or shine, summer or winter

30 Be able to swim, rod clenched in teeth, to cross the river or otherwise to reach promising spots. Waders are usually left on shore.

40 Cleats are a must as some mossy boulder-to-boulder hopping in swift current is required.

50 Felt soled waders will be needed for intermittent wading over slick rocky ledges. Wading staff is recommended.

60 Wading over sand and gravel. Felt soles, wading staff, a change of dry clothes are a must. First aid kit recommended.

70 Slack water, sandy bottom. Felt soles, wading staff, several changes of warm dry clothes, a first aid kit, and life

jacked are required. Taking a cell phone and grandkid along recommended.

80 Beach-type fishing on a calm day. Wet wading in loose shorts. Absolutely no chest waders. Recommend wearing a lifeline tied to a tent peg driven into the shoreline.

Stan Vanagunas

FOR SALE or RENT

Orvis ultralight wading boot, super comfortable very light speed laces size 13 (for size 12 street shoes). 1 year old – paid \$90, sell \$45. Call Jim at 297-9156

Near Mint **Hardy Bros. Palakona Bamboo Fly rod**. 8Ft 2pc 3oz-14drms. Agate eyes with matching 3 3/8" **St George reel** agate guide; original line. Purchased around 1960 from Abercrombie/Fitch. \$800 for both. Call 818-9305.

Russell wading boots felt soles, size 9, used but in good shape \$15.00. Two pair rubber, aluminum cleated over shoes, 1 size large & 1 medium, used but still some life, \$5.00 each. 1 pair large James Scott "flats booties" used in good condition \$10.00. All OBO. email jiferenz@msn.com phone 520 896-2905 (Oracle) ask for Pete

Going to New Zealand this year? Rent *Trout Cottage* in Lumsden (80 rivers within 1 hour) on the South Island. 2 BR, 1 BA, kitchen, etc. Daily, weekly, and monthly rates available. Guiding services also available for the area. Email chu.wilkie@clear.net.nz for details or fishing advice.

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OPTU JANUARY CALENDAR

- Jan 4** Regular meeting. Speaker John Perry of John Perry's Montana Fly Fishing and Outfitters, and Clarke Fork River Lodge. John made a fly tying video called "Genie Guide to Fly Tying" and he will do a fly tying demo at a date to be announced. Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Campbell and Speedway 7 pm
- Jan 18** Lie & Tie – 7:00 pm at Dry Creek Outfitters, 5420 E. Broadway, Suite 254, Call Eric at 326-7847 for more information.
- Jan 25** Board Meeting at Four Points Sheraton, Campbell and Speedway, at 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 1** Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Campbell and Speedway 7 pm
- Feb 15** Lie & Tie – 7:00 pm at Dry Creek Outfitters, 5420 E. Broadway, Suite 254, Call Eric at 326-7847 for more information.
- Feb 18** Annual Banquet – Sheraton Four Points Hotel
- Feb 22** Board Meeting at Four Points Sheraton, Campbell and Speedway, at 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited.

March 1 at the regular meeting we will have Jim Herriman do a presentation on Basic GPS. Jim is a Civil Engineer by trade. *Bring your GPS units if you have one.*