



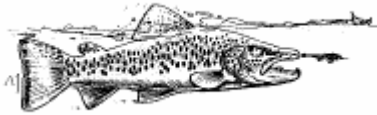
# OPTU NEWS



VOLUME 16 ISSUE 3

Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited Chapter  
(TU Chapter 531) [www.optu.org](http://www.optu.org)  
TO CONSERVE, PROTECT, AND RESTORE NORTH AMERICA'S  
COLDWATER FISHERIES AND THEIR WATERSHEDS

MARCH 2008



## *President's Message*

### **Greetings Fellow TUers:**

There is a lot happening in OPTU this month. We are moving our meeting from the Sheraton to the Martha Cooper branch of the Tucson Library on the first Wednesday of each month. As a conservation organization, we are able to save some money and make use of something that is already paid for with our tax dollars. The meeting will be moved up one half hour to 6:30 so we can be out of there by 8 pm when the library closes.

Whitey Keubler has an informal casting clinic each Saturday morning at 8 am on 14<sup>th</sup> Street just east of Craycroft. The park is the first street after the Church and apartments there, just south of Broadway. We have had a great turn out as fishing time approaches. People with all sorts of abilities, and rod weights show up. NOTE that Whitey will be at the San Juan 3/23.

The work day we have set for April 12<sup>th</sup>, looks like it may be a little too ambitious for us as our friends at the Forestry Service have voiced their concerns about the passability of the roads as well as whether the streams will be free of ice enough for us to do our work. As a result, we will cancel the April workday. We will try to schedule it later in the year. Our dates which are firm dates include, June 21, July 19, August 31, and September 20. Mark your calendars now, and we will discuss the work days in next months newsletter.

The annual OPTU banquet held at the Sheraton saw a number of our members taking home awards for their hard work and dedication to the club and our cause. The club was pleased to present engraved

Wheatley fly boxes to each of the following award recipients.

Dennis andCarolynn Barlett received their award for their long service to the OPTU board as previously outlined in our newsletter. It was great to see them and we look forward to catching up with them at future workdays and next year's banquet.

John Singley was recognized for his hard work and dedication to the OPTU board. John has single handedly arranged for our meetings to take place at the new **Martha Cooper library at 1377 N Catalina Ave.** the first Monday of every month at 6:30. He also was responsible for arranging for the design and the negotiating the purchase of the OPTU shirts and hats which you see modeled at the board meetings and work days by some of our better dressed members. As John pointed out at the banquet he is also organizing two upcoming fishing trips including this year's retirees' trip to Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, and Utah. He seldom misses a work day and in his spare time is involved in the restoration of the trolley on 4<sup>th</sup> avenue.

Jeff Collins received his award for his service as President of OPTU for the last three years. Before that he spent several years as the vice president. Jeff also wore the hat of Conservation officer for the club during his tenure as president. His hard work was the driving force behind our club's accomplishments, which garnered us a conservation award from Arizona Game and Fish at this year's awards banquet. Rather than riding off into the sunset as he certainly would have deserved to do, Jeff now is the chairman of the Trout Unlimited Counsel for the State of Arizona. He also maintains the position of Conservation officer for OPTU, and in addition to our work on the Black River in the White Mountains, Jeff is exploring along with Game and Fish the possibility of restoration work by our club in the Pinaleno Mountains (Mt. Graham), as well as the Chiracahuas. Look for the dates for the work days, and you will get to meet Jeff at just about any one of them during the course of the summer.

***Clay Hernandez***  
**President**

## Old Pueblo Chapter of Trout Unlimited (OPTU)

### President

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Volunteers requested

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Open

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### Public Relations Officer

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Tucson, AZ 85743

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



*Pheasant Tail*

## LIE & TIE

7 p.m. on March 19<sup>th</sup> 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 he will do his best to accommodate your request

## GUEST SPEAKER

Doug Buck on flyfishing the world. March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Martha Cooper Library at 1377 N. Catalina Avenue.



*OPTU's Save the Natives – Apache Trout*

## TU Bring Back the Natives Contacts

**Amy Harrig**, TU-BLM BBN Coordinator (303) 440-2937  
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**Fred Rasmussen** Regional Vice President for the Southern Rockies (Region 8) [salmo@snobol4.com](mailto:salmo@snobol4.com)

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

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

**Paul Dremann**, Utah Council V.P. for Conservation *Bonneville Cutthroat Trout (Utah/Nevada)* (801) 467-3862 e-mail: [pdremann@xmission.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:grassrootsactivist@tu.org)

### Joe Fagan needs volunteers for Sport Fishing Programs!

OPTU member, Joe Fagan, has recently been awarded the contract of *Sport Fishing Educator* for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. He is in need of a cadre of volunteers to assist him with various Fishing Programs in Tucson and other towns in southern Arizona. E-mail Joe ([JFaganFishEd@gmail.com](mailto:JFaganFishEd@gmail.com)), call him on his cell phone (520-730-6398), or speak to him at OPTU meetings. He can provide you with a volunteer packet to complete. The AZGFD office on Greasewood Road (across from Pima Community College) can do your fingerprints, essential for certified volunteers. The completed form and fingerprints are sent to the AZGFD main offices in Phoenix. Then, calendars of Fishing Program events will be mailed to you. Joe can inform you of programs he'll be doing any time.



*Jeff accepting the award from AzGFD*

## State Report from AZTU

We had a State council meeting this month. Zane Gray(TU Chapter of Phoenix) was largely in attendance. There were several issues they were concerned with; both issues should concern OPTU as well.

Issue one- Zane Gray were board members to an organization called Environmental Fund of Arizona (EFA). This organization is the Conservationists equivalent of the United Way. They go to employers who have their employees donate directly out of their paychecks to EFA or can have funds go directly to an org who is a member of EFA; example Zane Gray. The person who occupied the seat on EFA for Zane Gray resigned from the Council and Zane Gray Board this past year due to illness. Zane Gray has also been inactive with the funds they received from EFA and therefore were removed from EFA. AZTU (Arizona Council) was asked by EFA to be a member which we gladly accepted. This means that funding that goes into AZTU from EFA can be used toward projects presented by any of the Arizona Chapters. Not just Zane Gray. We, the Council, feel that this is the best scenario for all of Arizona as money from EFA will only go towards an active project and not sit unused. We hope you all agree.

Issue two- Canyon Creek (lower portion) is being looked at by the AZGFD to possibly make it a "Put and Take" Fishery. It presently is one of the few Arizona Blue Ribbon Fisheries and is designated "Catch and Release". AZGFD is presently doing creel studies to determine if this fishery is used enough in its "Catch and Release" state. If you have fished this lower portion of Canyon Creek or ever wish to, please write to Curtis Gill [CGill@azgfd.gov](mailto:CGill@azgfd.gov) to let him know of your wonderful experiences or future desires for Canyon Creek. Please note the Mr. Gill is heading the process of determination and not the "bad guy", so please be kind with your emails. I also urge you to write to the AZGFD Commissioners as they will make the final determination. This Canyon Creek project was lead by the Zane Gray Chapter of Phoenix back in the 80's and 90's. They did a wonderful job on this stream which shows what significance TU can have on restoration projects. OPTU still has it's own restoration project which will have several workdays this year; PLEASE GET INVOLVED!

AZTU will be having its next meeting in April, all TU members are invited. This years OPTU workdays are in the Presidents Message in this month's Newsletter; they will also be posted on the Website, [www.optu.org](http://www.optu.org).

OPTU was given the 2007 Award of Excellence by the AZGFD Commissioners. It will be on display at Dry Creek Outfitters.

In other news, the eggs have arrived at Sahaurita Middle School for our pilot Trout in the Classroom. There are 500 eggs and came in Whitlock Vibra Boxes. I received a good article on vibra boxes and am going to present this article to AZGFD for use on our Apache and Gila Trout Recovery Streams. The vibra boxes can be placed directly into the stream full of wild apache or gila trout eggs. The claim is they have a 95% success rate. More to come on

both of these projects. Thanks. *Jeff Collins, AZTU Council Chairman*



*A Vibra Box*

## MISCELLANY

### Sharing Your Fishing with OPTU Members

Would you be willing to provide a fishing slideshow and discussion at an upcoming OPTU meeting? We are always looking for speakers who have power point or slides and stories to tell. *We have the equipment for showing.* If interested please contact John Murphy at [murphy@pharmacy.arizona.edu](mailto:murphy@pharmacy.arizona.edu) to set up a month.

### WIN A HAT

As you know Trout Unlimited is a conservation organization dedicated to the protection and maintenance of our cold water fisheries in this country. Each month we offer one of our newly designed OPTU hats to the member submitting the best water saving tip for use in and around our homes. You can submit the tip to me by email @ [czhernandez@comcast.net](mailto:czhernandez@comcast.net). The winner will be notified by email each month and announced in the next newsletter. The winner will receive their hat at the next monthly meeting.

### Conservation Tip of the Month and Hat Winner WATER CONSERVATION

We have a number of water conserving features built into our house, but one practice that doesn't take any construction planning is to run the pre-hot water coming out of the shower into a bucket rather than down the drain. Use it to soak your feet, water your plants or cool down an overheated imagination. In our house that's about a gallon or more of water each shower. Credit goes to my wife, Julia, for this idea.

Mike Mehrer

*Mike has won an OPTU hat for his tip which will be awarded at the March meeting.*

### Photography Contest

We would like to hold a photography contest for OPTU members. Let's begin one with the next meeting. Bring a copy at

least 5 x 7 or email it to John Murphy [murphy@pharmacy.arizona.edu](mailto:murphy@pharmacy.arizona.edu) for display onscreen or on our website. Three categories: Nature (no people), Fish without people, and "My favorite fish picture" (you and cool fish). Prizes will be determined later for the winners.

## New Meeting Site

Beginning this month our regular OPTU meetings will be held at the **Martha Cooper Library**, 1377 N. Catalina Avenue and at a new time: **6:30 pm**. If you are coming south on Swan (from Grant), turn right at E. Fairmont Street (about 6 blocks down from Grant) and go 0.4 miles to Catalina Avenue. Turn left and go 75 feet to the library. From Speedway, Fairmont is about 2 blocks up on Swan and turn left. Or just come south or north on Catalina from either Grant or Speedway, respectively, till you arrive at the library.

**A BARGAIN!** - If you are over 70, and have lived in Arizona for 25 years you can get a Pioneer Fishing License - free for lifetime! Go to the Game & Fish office at 555 N Greasewood Road. Their phone is 628-5376. *Clay Evitts*

### Upcoming Speakers

*March* – Doug Buck on Fly Fishing the World

*April* – Jerry Estruth on Fishing Kamchatka

*May* – Danny Hooper and John Murphy on their New Zealand adventure

### 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 will likely develop plans for the following trips in **2008**: Family Outing, Fall Retirees Trip, and based upon interest one additional trip to either the San Juan or Lees Ferry. 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.

**Lees Ferry:** April 1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup>. 2 boats and 4 rooms are reserved, which would handle 8 people. *Four spots remain.* Total cost will be about \$300, but will depend on prevailing gas prices. All arrangements must be completed by Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>. Call John Singley at 318-4791 if interested. **To suggest new trips** Contact Rob Gillette at 615-8141) or [robgillette@comcast.net](mailto:robgillette@comcast.net) or [azflyfshr@comcast.net](mailto:azflyfshr@comcast.net) for more information.

### Fishing Reports

The OPTU San Juan group is heading out this weekend and will submit a report next newsletter.

## 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.

## FOR SALE or RENT

Nothing for sale this month.

## OPTU Website and Newsletter By E-Mail

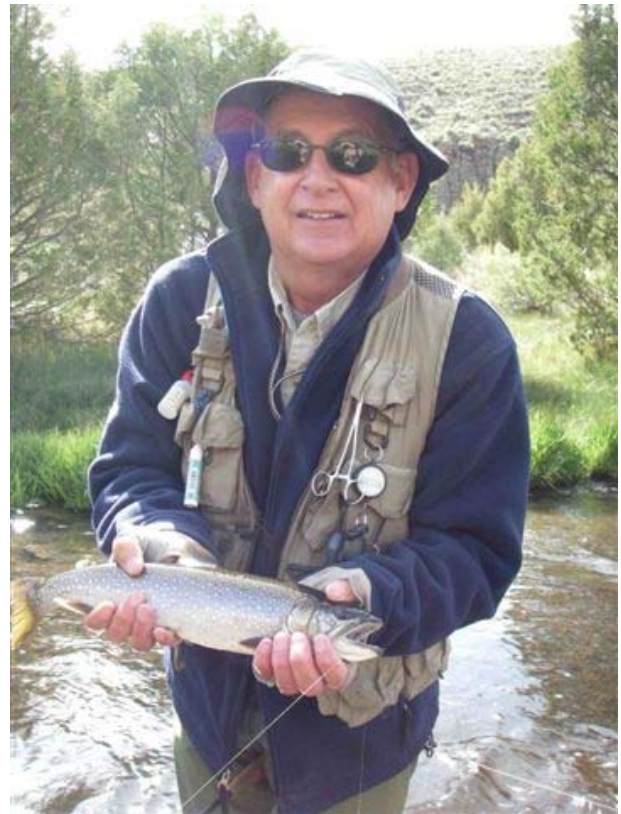
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*Let's hope they're not grilling the Apaches*



*Big Silver Creek Bow*



*A nice Dolly*

## Notes from the Fly Shops

Come down to Dry Creek Outfitters and take the newest fly rods for a test drive. Compare the Orvis ZG Helios to the Sage Z-Axis... a very difficult decision!! We have over 80 fly rods in stock starting below \$200.

Mark Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, on your calendar...Our Sage and Simms rep, John Sherman, will be here for the annual Sage Demo Day. There will be casting instruction, demonstrations, slideshows and food – all complimentary. We look forward to seeing you.

Call Dry Creek (326-7847) if you are interested in joining one of our shop fishing trips. We are going to fish Lees Ferry in April, Baja in mid-June and the Yucatan (Ascension Bay – Pesca Maya Lodge) in late July. Ink in your trip now before it's too late!

## RIP

The editor wishes to acknowledge the passing of the **Tightlines** fly shop. Rod McLeod has moved on to other ventures and closed the shop. I would personally like to thank Rod for all he has done for OPTU, for me personally (taught me how to fly fish), and for fly anglers in Tucson. Rod, on behalf of those you have helped over the years, I wish you the best in your new endeavors. *The editor*

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### **OPTU MARCH CALENDAR**

- Mar 5** Regular meeting: Doug Buck on Flyfishing the World. **Martha Cooper library at 1377 N Catalina Ave at 6:30 pm. NOTE NEW SITE AND START TIME.**
- Mar 19** Lie & Tie – 7:00 pm at Dry Creek Outfitters, 5420 E. Broadway, Suite 254, Call Eric at 326-7847 for more information.
- Mar 26** Board Meeting at El Charro - Speedway and Swan at 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited.

### ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

- Apr 2** Regular meeting: Jerry Estruth on fishing in Kamchatka. **Martha Cooper library at 1377 N Catalina Ave at 6:30 pm.**
- Apr 16** Lie & Tie – 7:00 pm at Dry Creek Outfitters, 5420 E. Broadway, Suite 254, Call Eric at 326-7847 for more information.
- Apr 23** Board Meeting at El Charro - Speedway and Swan at 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited.