



Streamline



May 2020
Oklahoma Chapter 420 of Trout Unlimited &
Tulsa Fly Fishers a Charter Club of Fly Fishers International

Event Calendar

May 14 - General TU420/FFI meeting has been CANCELED

May 23 - Memorial Weekend - '15 Fish In 15 Week Challenge' begins

If you have a friend who is not a member who might be interested in this information please feel free to forward this issue to your friend. [Forward this message to a friend.](#)

A Message from Your President



Heath Tiefenauer

Hello {FIRST_NAME|TU/TFFer's},

Welcome to the May edition of Streamline. We hope this edition finds you well and in good spirits.

As we roll into May many of the recent health concerns will remain with us. Our meeting location, Hardesty Library will remained closed for group activities and out of respect for the health of our supporters we'll cancel our May meeting and outings.

Thankfully the weather is improving and we'll have more opportunities to be outside and enjoy the activities we all love. We're fortunate in a way, fishing lends itself to some distance and solitude and Oklahoma offers many different angling options. Stocking continues at the LIR and there have been a few chances lately to catch some nice trout. Let's cross our fingers for a moderate

May Meeting Is Canceled But Watch for the Fall Meeting Featuring Scott Hood



TU420/TFF will not have a venue available this Spring and have canceled the May TU420 meeting. Please check the TU420 website, our Facebook and future newsletters for updates to the meeting schedule. Scott Hood has promised to be available to talk about his experiences related to: "My Time With TU and the Current Status of the Lower Illinois River" this Fall should the library be available by then with all gathering and physical distancing restrictions lifted. Scott promised that it is a presentation you won't want to miss.

Trout Unlimited Chapter 420 and Tulsa Fly Fishers meet at Hardesty Public Library, 8316 E 93rd St Tulsa on the east side of Memorial Dr. and one block north of the Creek Turnpike. Doors open at 6 pm (open discussion and questions) and admission is free. Raffle and door prizes are presented at the end of the meeting.

Spring! Warm water fishing is also picking up and offering great opportunities in local ponds and rivers.

While we may not be able to get together for our events and share lunch, we can still share the experience. We have a great fishing challenge coming up and we hope you'll get involved. Luckily, we also have a great community of people to connect with virtually on our Facebook page. Watch for updates on activities and interests over the Spring and Summer.

As we wind down the meeting season for Spring 2020 I hope all of you continue to be healthy and safe. I look forward to greeting each of you in the future at an event, outing or banquet. Until then, be well and happy fishing!

Tight Lines,

Heath Tiefenauer

President of Oklahoma Trout Unlimited & Tulsa Fly Fishers

Trout In The Classroom

Trout In the Classroom Year-End Report

It started as a great season for Trout In the Classroom. A few new added schools and many, seasoned teachers, who now "know the ropes" of keeping a couple hundred rainbow trout alive for better than 6 months in a closed 55 gallon aquarium are still "in" and excited. It's really NOT an easy task.

Then came March and the Covid-19 and those releases that started slow and steady ended rather abruptly. We had only 3 schools that completed the year with the trip to the Lower Illinois River to release their trout. Sad because it is the day the kids get to see their little baby trout swim off to freedom. Plus, many of them get to see the Lower Illinois River for the very first time and that in itself is a special treat even for this 9-year veteran of the TIC program. It just never gets old when one of those kids comes over and thanks you for taking the time to talk to them about the trout, the habitat and the river. The rest of the trout were taken to the river by their tank leaders and rather "unceremoniously" released to the river.

2020-21 will be a new season for OKTU420 and the local Trout in the Classroom program and it is sure to be an exciting one. We have received additional funding from a generous donation from the Williams Foundation that will help us support several new TIC tanks this coming school year as well and help us with up keep and maintenance of the 12 tanks we already have. (Each new tank costs about \$1,200 the first year and about \$250 each year after.) If you feel like you'd like to be a contributor to the program you can go to TU420.com and contribute on-line or mail a check, subject TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM. Your contribution is tax

Outings/Challenge

May 23rd - Fishing Challenge

Time: 12:01 am

Location: Anywhere in Oklahoma

See the rules and description of the summer long event in column 1 and the link to sign up for the event or go here: [Challenge](#)

Contact:

Heath Tiefenauer at TU420outings@gmail.com

Youth And Adult Education

Other Education Resources

FFI Live Online Weekly Zooms

FFI will be offering fly fishing, casting, and tying instructions as well as presentations on fishing locations, conservation issues facing our fishery resources, the FFI initiative to create a stronger community among women fly fishers and talks on FFI's online Learning Center. Patrick Berry, President and CEO of FFI initiated the Zoom Series on April 29th with a presentation on 'FFI and Where It Is Headed'. FFI's website will have a schedule of coming presentations with lecturer and summary. Next week's events include: "Soft Hackles for Pan Fish", "Currier's Global Fish Quest" and "The Mystery of the Undiscovered Keys Bonefish Spawning Grounds". Learn more about this new and exciting learning experience and the upcoming

events by clicking on the following link: [FFI Online](#)

For instructions on how to set up your computer or install the app, you can follow the link on the FFI website on helpful information in the first paragraph.

Jim Mathewson

2020 General Meeting Presentation Schedule

Pat Daly would like to thank all those who participated in the guest speaker survey on facebook and provided feedback on presentations next year. He is beginning the process of inviting speakers and will continue throughout the summer.

The Hardesty library, where we hold our meetings, is closed until further notice. Watch for meeting details on our Facebook page and in the next issue of Streamline.

For information or to provide recommendations, please contact Pat Daly, pat@cimtel.net.

Kelly's Korner

What is in a Hybrid?

The venerable Rainbow trout is certainly a clear example of a well-known and easily recognized

deductible.

I'll leave this now with this invitation, if you know a science teacher in any near-by school system that might be interested in being a TIC tank teacher next year, have them reach out to me and I'll make sure that they know what they are committing to. Also, if you are a OKTU420 member and you'd like to be a TIC Tank leader, please reach out and I'll tell you what your commitment to the program would be.

I'd like to thank all the volunteers that took time to help with our program this year those that came out to assist on the releases that were completed and especially the Tank Leaders. They are ... Jim Mathewson, Ed Wampler, Ed Jones, Ken Fields, Joel Kantor, Ron Reese, Patty Baldwin, Russell Vaughn, Hager McClain and Bruce Burton (who are both Teachers and Tank Leaders)

Finally, for those doubters of the Spring release that say ..."Those trout will never make it." Well, the other day, on the LIR I caught and released a 4-inch parr marked rainbow ... could it be? I'd like to think YES!

Scott Hood

Youth Education Coordinator for OKTU420

2020 Conservation Issues

Oklahoma Fisheries and Water Conservation is our passion

2020 Conservation Issues

Most legislative bills that might affect our fisheries and waters will not be heard and carried over to the next session. We encourage you to take this time to reach out to your Oklahoma House and Senate representatives. Thank them for their service and tell them how important our great trout fisheries are to you. Our trout fisheries play an important part in the thriving \$1.4 billion Oklahoma recreational fishery and need legislative support for adequate stream flows, improved water quality, public access and protection from ever increasing industrial and agricultural pollution. Your voice can make a difference. Find your Oklahoma representative here: [OK Rep](#)

We'd like to thank the TU/TFF members who participated in our annual spring cleanup of the Lower Illinois river fishing areas. There was a strong turnout, the area got a much needed cleanup, and fishing after the event was good. Consider taking a biodegradable bag with you on your fishing trips and help clean up the river. Also, we're pleased to sponsor the TU420 trash receptacles at the Watts public access again this year keeping our home waters cleaner for all.

Trout Unlimited National Conservation

TU National engages in a broad scope of water protection, fisheries enhancement, land management, and watershed restoration programs. View the full scope, background and success

species. Fly-Fishing Celebrities and Orvis Acolytes consider this perfect piscine too grand and noble to touch with a barbed hook or considered a food fish!

Maybe not so fast on that judgement... many of my friends and family think it a delectable dish and the beautiful fish common to our local trout waters have a long and mongrel history.



The original Rainbow Trout came from the first Federal Trout Hatchery on the McCloud River, a tributary to the Sacramento River in Northern California. Livingston Stone, who on his way to

California successfully transplanted Striped Bass from the Atlantic to the Pacific in 1879 is responsible for one of the more successful hybrids of fish hatchery history.

Livingston's job was to create a fish hatchery to strategically supplement the nation's food sources. Apparently everyone eating their way west was leaving some rivers without trout. Livingston noted a great abundance of wild trout with a vivid red band as well as a much larger trout available in the Fall in the waters around Mount Shasta.

The first successful transplants came from hybrids from the McCloud River which we now know as Red Band Trout and Steelhead. "California Mountain Trout" were stocked far and wide by rail and wagon effectively spreading hybrid trout across the country in most of the larger cold-water rivers and lakes in the US. Thanks to Livingston's husbandry, every hatchery rainbow we catch today has a little bit of steelhead go-juice and a few have vivid red bands. I have caught a few of these examples so did Scott Hood and Brett Wilmer this past year.

The fish commonly called a Hybrid in this corner of the world is a cross between a Striped Bass and a White Bass. A Striper is a long silvery fish with strong black bars that has a mouth that can open nearly as large as its head. Small ones are about the shape of a pickle. A Sand bass has a pronounced bump on the forehead not present with a Striper and small mouth relative to the body depth. A hybrid of a Striper and Sandbass has broken stripes and intermediate body shape. A better tell is when the fish is both longish for a Sandbass and has a bump on the forehead.

If you catch a Greenish bass with a jawline that extend back past the eye and a smooth tongue, this is the Largemouth Bass, present just about everywhere in Oklahoma. If you catch a bass with well-defined spots on the belly and teeth on the tongue you can be reasonably certain you have a Kentucky. As it turns out, Biologists in Kentucky and Alabama intentionally crossed these two species of sunfish to create what they called a Mean Mouth bass. In Oklahoma or Missouri, if you

from the rain cooper, baughtons and success stories here: [TU National](#)

Pat Daly

Conservation Chair

2nd Annual All Fish All Oklahoma Fly Fishing Challenge

15 Species in 15 weeks On the Fly!

Challenge #2 runs from 12:01am Saturday, May 23rd until midnight Labor Day September 7, 2020!

Fee to participate \$25.

Winner gets 1/2 the pot, a traveling trophy and bragging rights. OKTU420 Chapter retains the other 1/2 of the pot.

Awards and prizes presented at the September OKTU/TFF meeting.

All species must be caught in Oklahoma, on a fly rod and fly.

Species are:

1. Rainbow Trout
- 2.) Longear
- 3.) Smallmouth Bass
- 4.) Largemouth Bass
- 5.) Striped Bass
- 6.) Crappie
- 7.) Bluegill
- 8.) Green Sunfish
- 9.) Redear Sunfish
- 10.) Channel Catfish
- 11.) Drum
- 12.) Sand Bass
- 13.) Kentucky Bass
- 14.) Hybrid Striper/Sand Bass
- 15.) Wild card fish ... Blue Catfish ... Brown Trout ... Flathead Catfish ... Gar ... Buffalo ... Common Carp ... Warmouth ... Redspot chub.

RULES: Participant must agree to pay the \$25 entry fee once they register the first catch on our closed FB page with the same name: All Fish All Oklahoma Fly Fishing Challenge. You must have a Facebook page. You must take a photo of the fish with something having your name on it, or as a selfie. Pictures must each be posted to the Facebook Group within one week of the catch. It is not a race. You'll have all summer to complete the challenge. Complete all 15 categories to be eligible to win the challenge. If more than one person completes the challenge, the winner will be determined by random name draw in September. Separate prizes awarded for largest Rainbow, Smallmouth, Largemouth, Striped bass, Sand Bass and Bluegill. Carry a tape measure and include it in

the picture, with your name to qualify. Do the best you can and you may round up to the nearest inch. We don't want to kill fish to get an exact measurement. Enter your largest catch anytime you catch a larger fish than the first entry. In the event of a tie for largest catch in any species, the winner will also be drawn by random name draw. This is to be a fun fundraiser and each individual participating is expected to be honest and all catches are to be made in a legal manor obeying all Oklahoma fishing regulations.

Team Challenge Event:

catch a bass with the bronze/brown colors of a smallmouth, a jawline that does not extend beyond the eye, but irregular spots on the belly, you can be "in the know" and call that fish a Mean Mouth which are not uncommon in our streams flowing out of the Ozarks.



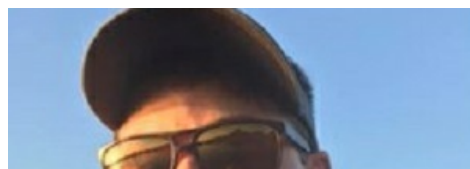
Bluegills and Long Ear sunfish are easy to identify, as they are the perch with very small mouths. Even on a larger fish, their mouths are not much bigger than a pencil eraser. The Bluegill can have a bright orange breast but little or no stripes or spots. The Long Ear has very distinctive Turquoise and Orange stripes across the cheek area with patterns unique as a fingerprint. Long Ears are arguably the prettiest native gamefish in Oklahoma.

The other sunfish with pronounced green strips across an olive cheek is a green sunfish. Green Sunfish have longer bodies and large mouths. Instead of a pencil, think half-dollar sized. They usually have dark speckles as well, even up their fins. Apparently Green Sunfish will hybridize with anything that does not eat them first. A hybrid of a Green Sunfish and a Bluegill is well enough thought of by the biologist in our State agencies that they intentionally hybridize them and put them in places like Veteran's Park in Jenks and Lake Venita for sport. Hybrids with Green Sunfish often retain the green stripes across the cheek but have smaller mouths and deeper bodies.

Even catfish can be confusing. I am aware of at least six species of catfish in Oklahoma and usually you catch them in different places, except maybe below our dams where you can catch nearly all. Can you name at least six? Ask me next time you see me.

Red Ear Sunfish are highly sought after in the Deep South where they are known as Shell Crackers. Less common and recognized in Oklahoma, Red Ear have provided some of the more memorable moments of last years 15 fish challenge. An adult Red Ear will have a mottled brown and green

coloration, but a distinct red band on the ear. If you think you have one, look closely at the cheek area. If there are green stripes, then this fish is likely a hybrid with a Green Sunfish. Scott Hood landed one last year that had orange stripes on its cheek, my guess a Long Ear Red Ear. I bet Dad was not happy about that couple dating.



Register a 4 member angler team to complete the 15 fish challenge and win a hosted fishing trip on the Upper or Lower Illinois River. Team Entry Fee is \$100. Make your team with 4 of your friends and/or workmates. In the team challenge the only additional requirement is that each team member must contribute at least 3 of the species and post the catch properly labeled and otherwise identify the angler and the team with the catch. Anyone can participate as an individual or as a team mate, but a catch can only be counted one time, in the individual challenge or in the team event, but not in both.

If more than 1 team completes the challenge, winner will be selected from teams completing the challenge by random drawing at the September OKTU/TFF meeting. Contact Kelly Brown if you are interested in sponsoring a PHWFF veteran's team. Oklahoma Fly Fishing and KB Outdoors is providing the hosted trip on one of our great Oklahoma waters.

To sign up for the Challenge, click on the following link to the TU420.com website and register for the event: <http://tournaments.tu420.com/>

A Few Words From Jake

Fishing a true migration is an experience I would wish on every angler. When almost all of a species is crowding into a water that you happen to be fishing on, it tends to impact your perspective on that fish in an exceptional way. I've been lucky enough to fish two of those special events, and am reminded of those places and those fish, each time I step into the Arkansas River.

One of those migratory events happened last spring. I was lucky enough to get invited on a guided trip to Casco Bay. A couple of friends were meeting me up there on a business trip, and we decided to split the check on a local captain who promised to put us on Striped Bass. We were motoring across a cove at 5 AM the day after we landed. I was voted first to fish and stepped up to the bow of the skiff. I had placed my popper a few feet in front of me, so I could begin taking line off of my reel to prepare for a proper cast. While I was trying to get my line organized at my feet, multiple bass started tailing around my popper. I eventually had a solid take and had to set the hook holding multiple handfuls of line. Just like that we had our first bass in the boat before a single one of us had made a cast. I threw a 9 and a 10 wt rod the rest of the morning. I'm not sure if it was the fish we were catching, or the doll-sized flies on large gear, but I couldn't lift my arms by noon. If Striped Bass fishing was called one thing, it would be grueling.



This brings me finally to my point. If the fish followed the rules, identification would be easier. Mother Nature cares little about whether the fisher is lackadaisical or pretentious about fish ID and she makes a mess out of the best-intentioned guidebooks and fishery rules. We humans might be a little less judgmental about who they go out with if we only paired up once a year in a large group of our cousins.

Catching fish is more fun than naming a fish, but you can learn a lot attempting to recognize gamefish and ultimately catch more fish as well. Anyone claiming to a "pure" strain of a fish is somehow better likely does not know what they are talking about. I hope you join me in fishing our 15-fish tournament this summer and know that the point is to learn as you go rather than correctly ID the fish in our waters.

Author Kelly Brown will be documenting his general thoughts in the fall. If you see him at the next General Meeting, be sure to thank him for putting these projects together.

TU420 And Friends Clean Up the Lower Illinois River



Clean up crew practicing social distancing

The TU420 Chapter would like to thank the 89'er Chapter and the Arklahoma Chapter of Trout Unlimited for providing volunteers to help with our annual Lower Illinois River Cleanup last Saturday. We were able to maintain social distancing during the cleanup as well as the fishing afterward.

Did You Know ?

- Did you know that there is a website that provides detailed information on all Lakes in Oklahoma? This website documents lake locations, sizes, miles of shoreline, resident species, boat-launch ramps, marinas, parks/campgrounds and more. If you look down at the bottom of the page you will see that this detailed information is also available for all 50 states. <https://www.aa-fishing.com/>

- Did you know that a study by the Oklahoma



The second migratory event occurred almost seven years ago when I was working for an outdoor school. The school was located on the Chester River, which is a large, brackish tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. During the Striper migration, our schedules would be relaxed to allow us some rare free time to chase the state fish. I had never fished for Striped Bass before, so I followed some locals to the river when the fishing season had begun. We would walk to the edge of the river, cast and retrieve for no longer than 5 minutes, and if we didn't get a bite, we would immediately retreat back into town for some other activity. That baffled me. Fishing had always been about the eternal suffrage of endless casts into water you knew held no fish. Even if you knew better, you stayed until dark to prove it. The 5th day that we went out, I hooked into a bass the first cast. And every cast after that for that matter. Live silversides, streamers, and every possible guise for the word 'bait' were met with the same fate that evening. In less than 2 hours, the 5 of us had caught over 100 bass, and none of them were below 22". That was the best day of fishing I had ever had. And also the day that Striper permanently moved into whatever sacred space fishermen reserve for their most treasured obsessions.

Two weeks ago, I decided that even though it was early, I was going to make a run to some of my favorite spots along the Arkansas. The Stripers here don't migrate from the ocean, but we're lucky to have one of the most successful landlocked populations there is. The first spot takes a little bit of bushwhacking to get to. I don't mind that, because I've never seen another person fish here. I wade across 40 feet of shallow water to a sandbar. Once on the bar, I begin fishing a deep trough on the southerly side of the river. I cast slightly up from me, let it sink until it's just below me and then begin an erratic retrieve. I also fish the swing. Depth and coverage are the two factors that get all of my attention. After 15 minutes, I move further down the river to a spot known to produce. The sun is a little lower now and the Sand Bass are definitely making themselves known in this run. I watch for a few minutes and identify that they're feeding on shad. A good sign. As I'm rigging up, I hear it. It's an unmistakable sound. A big bass expanding its gills, displacing water, and annihilating a shad. You can almost feel the vibration when you're next to these feeds. I look up just in time to see its enormous tail turn back into the rapid water. My hands are shaking. I finish tying up and make my first cast. It's a terrible cast.

Did you know that a study by the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service concluded that: 1) more than two-thirds of all sport fishing trips in Oklahoma are to public reservoirs, while another 10% are to rivers. 2) on average, an angler fishes 31 days/year and 3) that even small lakes in Oklahoma may attract 10,000 visits per year and generate hundreds of thousands of dollars in spending by anglers. You can download their publications at: [Oklahoma Lakes](#)

Seeing big fish always returns me to my most elementary condition. My second is better. It finds the seam right where the fast and still water meet. There are multiple large fish feeding now. I let it sink. I begin the retrieve, and with it begins my favorite season in all of fishing.

Jake Miller

Mark Your Calendar For These Coming Events

September 10 - TU420 General Meeting - Scott Hood - "My Time With TU and the Lower Illinois River" - Pending COVID-19 issues

"Streamline" is published on the first of the month about a week before the next general meeting.

If you have content ideas, comments, complaints or suggestions please contact the Editor: Jim Mathewson at Tel: (918) 346-3093 or Email: jmathewson3@cox.net

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