



# On the Rise

NEWSLETTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED'S DIVERSITY INITIATIVE

March 2017



## Diversity in the Zane Grey Chapter (AZ): *On the Rise!*

“Diversity, noun, the state of being diverse; variety.  
A range of different things.”

In September 2017 I was attending a fly fishing club meeting and happened to look over the large crowd of fly fishers who'd come to hear the guest speaker. I noticed that of the 80 plus people in the room there were two women present, including me. At that very moment John Doss of Arizona's Zane Grey TU Chapter came up to me and asked if I'd consider helping TU with their diversity project. I could see that he was surprised at how quickly I agreed.

I spent the next few weeks pouring over the TU website, speaking to numerous TU diversity leaders and members, and formulating a plan. My first step was to introduce myself to the local fly fishing clubs at their monthly meetings and let their members know that I was available for input and suggestions. During this time the AZTU met and I was introduced to Chapter leaders, and the fly fishing staff of Bass Pro Shops in Tempe.

“Cooperation, noun, the process of working together to the same end.”

*(Continued on page 2)*

### IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 — Diversity in the Zane Grey Chapter: On The Rise!
- 2 — Bits of Difference
- 3 — From the Co-Chair; 2017 Events—Mark Your Calendars!
- 4 — Partnering with The Fly Fishing Show for Women's Showcase Success!

### DI/WI RESOURCES

VISIT [WWW.TU.ORG/WOMEN](http://WWW.TU.ORG/WOMEN)

Interested in starting or growing a Diversity Initiative in your state or chapter? The DI/WI resources online can help get you started!

From example invitations, to event planning documents with step-by-step guides—you'll find a host of support and tools.

### JOIN US ONLINE

#### “JOIN” OUR FACEBOOK GROUP

Nearly 900 TU members and leaders, anglers and more have joined our Facebook group for lively discussions and to share information, ideas and support.

Like us today:

- 1) Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)
- 2) Search for “Women of Trout Unlimited” or use direct link [facebook.com/groups/48497943543](https://facebook.com/groups/48497943543)
- 3) Click “Join” and start talking!

## CONTACT US

*The Diversity Initiative of TU is made up of people like you who care about our rivers and streams, are passionate about mentoring the next generation and enjoy getting out to fish as often as they can. Don't hesitate to reach out to us for help, advice or support!*

### CO-CHAIR

**Kerri Russell—Arkansas**

kerri.russell@cox.net  
(479) 640-8319

### CO-CHAIR & NLC Representative

**Bill Thorne—Arkansas**

thornewillie@yahoo.com  
(870) 453-4212

### VICE - CHAIR

**Kelly Buchta—New Jersey**

buchtake@hotmail.com  
(201) 669-2369

### Secretary

**Jackie Kutzer—Vermont**

kutzerj@orvis.com  
(802) 379-5389

Find a Diversity/Women's Initiative member in your state by contacting one of us, or visiting our resource page online at [www.tu.org/women](http://www.tu.org/women)

## RECRUIT MORE WOMEN INTO TU

Did you know that you can help us continue to grow and shape the face of TU by recruiting women like you to join us?

It's easy to do, and even better, [the women you recruit can join for HALF-PRICE! \(\\$17.50\)](#)

Simply send your fishing friends and gal pals to [www.tu.org/intro](http://www.tu.org/intro) where they can join online today.

Along with helping us grow our presence in TU, your local chapter will also receive a \$15 rebate for every new lady angler you sign up!

(Continued from page 1)

## Diversity in the Zane Grey Chapter (AZ)

A few days later, I got a phone call. The Arizona Fly Caster's Club wondered if I'd like to share their annual weekend at Dead Horse Ranch State Park to create a Women's Fly Fishing Meetup. They'd provide volunteers, put me in touch with a guide for a pond-side clinic, and bring equipment to share with beginners. How could I say no? ZGTU offered 20 free memberships and a cap for the first 20 new members who signed up, and the AFC offered 50 free memberships. After that start, these two events just put themselves together, with plenty of support from Trout Unlimited and Arizona's community of fly fishers. Cinda Howard, one of Arizona's premiere fly fishing guides, agreed to donate her time to conduct the clinic. The ZGTU president, Jim Walker, helped me with a budget, and the communications guru set up a Facebook page for Arizona Women of Trout Unlimited, an Eventbrite account, and added the Diversity Initiative to the ZG chapter's website.

This all came together quickly and it was due to the support of many. I am humbled by the experience, and awed by the teamwork.

Please visit these websites, and like the Facebook pages for all the groups who have helped me in this effort.

- ◆ Zane Grey Trout Unlimited: <http://www.zanegreytu.org/>
- ◆ Arizona Trout Unlimited: <http://az-tu.com/>
- ◆ Arizona Flycasters Club: <http://www.azflycasters.org/>
- ◆ Arizona Women of Trout Unlimited: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ArizonaWomenofTroutUnlimited/>

Linda McAtter  
WI Chair, Zane Grey TU

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## Bits of Difference

We are always looking for resources — workshops or other things— out there that could drive action to further diversity and inclusion at TU.

Did you know TU has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Girl Scouts, one current outcome is: STREAM Girls?

Did you know TU has a Memorandum of Understanding with the American Camp Association, one current outcome is: Summer on the Fly?

Cast into wild water: Read the Reports at [www.diversegreen.org](http://www.diversegreen.org); Green 2.0 is an initiative dedicated to increasing racial diversity across mainstream environmental NGOs, foundations and government agencies.

For more information on these bits, please contact:  
Diversity Initiative Leaders or Stefan J. Jackson / [sjackson@tu.org](mailto:sjackson@tu.org)

From the Co-CHAIR

## Springing Ahead: Our Diversity Initiative!



Some of you are digging out of snow and some of us are digging in the dirt already! We continue to have record high temperatures once again in the south this winter. I am not complaining because it has been great fishing weather!!

We are still working on the results of the TU Diversity/Women Survey and plan to have this analysis with conclusions available at the Regional Meetings and upcoming newsletters. This year we will have DI/WI presentations and panels at the Southeastern, Western, and Northeastern Regional Meetings. These regional meetings are a great way to learn from TU staff and volunteers on new initiatives as well as volunteer training. I find them to also be a great way to network and meet people who are active in the organization. I hope to see you at some of these meetings! The results of this survey will also be used to develop a new strategic plan for the Diversity NLC Workgroup.

Our next WI Conference Call will be Thursday, March 15, 2017 at 8 pm EST. All are invited to participate. Call in information is 866-740-1260, access code 2829092#. We look forward from hearing from you!

Stay warm and Tightlines!

Kerri Russell  
NLC DI Workgroup Co-Chair  
DI Council Chair - Arkansas

### Upcoming Diversity Initiative Events

#### **Women's Fly Fishing Class**

Spring is coming! How about scheduling one or more for your Chapter?

#### **Upper Midwest Regional Rendezvous**

Friday-Sunday, March 31-April 2  
Dubuque, Iowa

Contact: DI leaders or Stefan Jackson /  
sjackson@tu.org

#### **Southeast Regional Rendezvous**

Friday-Sunday, April 21-23  
Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Contact: DI leaders or Stefan Jackson /  
sjackson@tu.org

#### **Western Regional Rendezvous**

Friday-Saturday, April 28-30  
Scottsdale, Arizona

Contact: DI leaders or Stefan Jackson /  
sjackson@tu.org

#### **Northeast Regional Rendezvous**

Friday-Saturday, May 5-7  
Clinton, New Jersey

Contact: DI leaders or Stefan Jackson /  
sjackson@tu.org

#### **2017 TU Annual Meeting**

Fall 2017

Site: TBD

Contact: DI leaders or Stefan Jackson /  
sjackson@tu.org

#### **Diversity Initiative Brunch**

Sunday of Annual Meeting  
Fall 2017

Contact: DI leaders or Stefan Jackson /  
sjackson@tu.org

## **Join the Movement!**

**Become a Diversity/Women's Initiative Coordinator  
for Your Chapter or Council!**

**All are welcome — women & men — to serve as  
Diversity Initiative Coordinators and Officers!**

**[www.tu.org/women](http://www.tu.org/women)**



## Partnering with The Fly Fishing Show for Women's Showcase Success!

In conjunction with the Fly Fishing Shows in Denver and Somerset, each hosted a three-day event showcasing women. We thank all those that came out to support the event at each location and hope to see more Women's Showcases at other shows.

Highlights from Denver: A breakfast discussion on "The Reflection Pool: Women in the Angling Community" offered commentary on how fly fishing has touched so many women's lives. The question posed to the group "How has fly fishing made a positive impact on your life?" engendered stories that touched many of the participants. From Casting For Recovery experiences, to tales of courage to go out and explore, and forging friendships, the stories of impact were positive and energizing. Joining in the talk were the

founders and leaders of Sisters on the Fly, along with Jackie Kutzer, Secretary of the NLC DI workgroup and Jen Ripple, Editor of Dun Magazine.

Highlights from Somerset: Seminars and presentations that ranged from destination trips, photography and gear; the Showcase Social with over 80 people in attendance; a meet & greet with industry representatives from Orvis & Patagonia; and, a Women's Roundtable breakfast discussion "Sharing Our Passion With Others" sponsored by NJTU State Council. This annual tradition brought together over 45 people to share their success stories and ideas for future events and programs. Participants shared in conversation that ranged from industry experience to first time adventures. Others talked about the need to find

some tranquility in the world as well as the competition of the sport. Jeff Yates, Vice-President of Volunteer Operations, attended along with Kelly E. Buchta, Vice Chair of the NLC DI Workgroup and NJTU Diversity Coordinator, Jen Ripple of Dun Magazine, and Jackie Kutzer, NLC DI Secretary.

Overall, both Women's Showcases brought up similar themes: networking, support structures of social media and newsletters to inform; and, the power of volunteering that extends beyond giving back and feeling good to learning new things and sharing ideas with others. The widely-shared outcome: there are opportunities for us all that present a chance to share passion, increase awareness and promote the mission of TU.

— Kelly E. Buchta

