



# On the Rise

NEWSLETTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED'S DIVERSITY INITIATIVE

Spring 2018



Tara Granke

The amazing group of young women at the TU Teen Summit invites HEADWATERS Director Franklin Tate to join in a photo. Adele and Alleigh pictured to the right.

## Women in Fly Fishing

By Adele Shirmer and Alleigh Raymond

If you were to ask me to name every female fly fisherman I've befriended, I could probably do it on just one hand. If you were to ask the same question of every male fly fisherman, I'd likely require more than three times that amount.

Fly fishing is an incredible sport with plenty of facets and quirks that make it easy for someone just getting into the sport to become overwhelmed. This is exacerbated when they feel isolated within the past time. When I began fly fishing roughly four years ago I was primarily surrounded by men. Meeting other females quickly became a rare occurrence.

So where does the disconnect between females and fly-fishing lie? It could be as simple as networking. Female fly fishers could be more private about their work and less competitive than their male counterparts. They could simply be less vocal about their love for the sport. The more likely answer, however, is the dated stigma subconsciously held in the majority of our minds: it is abnormal for females to participate in more difficult, masculine sports like fly fishing. How can we go about solving this issue? The only real remedy to our current

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## DI RESOURCES

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

Interested in starting or growing a Diversity Initiative in your state or chapter? The DI 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://www.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!*

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

## RECRUIT MORE DIVERSITY INTO TU

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

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

Simply send your fishing friends and river conservationists 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 member you sign up!

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## Women in Fly Fishing ...

absence of females in fly-fishing is with the assistance of our fellow Trout Unlimited members. With your help, we can make more women feel accepted in their favorite past time.

For decades fly fishing has been an almost entirely male-dominated sport and young women trying to get involved can feel intimidated, embarrassed, and unwelcome. For most of them, it isn't until they find dedicated groups like Trout Unlimited that they truly feel equivalent.

Organizations like Trout Unlimited Woman, United Women on the Fly, and many more are incredible outlets for eager woman looking to get involved in the industry and other women who share the same passion and desires as themselves. These organizations work tirelessly to break the sexist stigma every day and create future generations of lady anglers. They continue the legacy of their inspirational ancestors, like Joan Wulff, who revolutionized females in the fishing world and is still someone heavily admired.

If I can recruit more females into this incredible sport, so can you. Be the difference in your area, in your community, and in your state. Make what you're doing count. You have the power to do so. Next time you notice a girl who may be interested in fly fishing, meet her for an evening on the water. Who knows - maybe she'll even out fish you.



### Arizona Zane Grey Chapter of TU Attend the Gilbert Outdoor Expo

On February 24th, Zane Grey set-up a booth at the Gilbert Outdoor Expo. TU volunteers taught casting instruction to kids of all ages. It was a great day! We had such a great turnout, we are currently brainstorm ideas on how to start a youth fly fishing club or classes in the upcoming year.



We were also able to engage with children at our booth through art and education. We taught the children how to make Gyo-taku fish prints and talked about our state fish, the Apache Trout. We handed out Stream Explorer magazines and gave parents information about Trout In The Classroom to give to their kid's teachers. So much fun had by all!



*Text & photos by  
Susan Greer*



## Spring On The Rise

Spring is here! The grey winter skies will soon give way to bright and bluebird skies. As we look to the promise of the seasonal change, this is also a time of renewal and rebirth.

Many chapters and councils have new leadership just starting out with support of previous leaders and mentors. One of our goals in the DI is to promote leadership. Whether a current or new leader, be mindful of inclusive boards that promote diversity to enrich your board. Consider establishing roles for council/chapter level WI/DI, Youth and Veteran Coordinators.

be afraid to break the "that before" mentality and or change up an established

The upcoming months are and councils ramp up activate your practices and see enrich the experience. If

ment of people that you'd these programs, do a special mailing and reach out to those members. Look to schools, seniors centers, libraries, youth programs, community centers and more to involve people in the TU mission to protect, reconnect, restore and sustain our shared space. I challenge those reading this to be inclusive to a new segment of people and share with me your success or hurdles- let's work together to make good things happen. Contact me at [buchtake@gmail.com](mailto:buchtake@gmail.com) for information and ways to help your chapter or council support the growth of members and leaders in the Diversity Initia-



Share out ideas, do not "We've never done create one new event event.

when many chapters ties and events. Exam- what can be added to you're missing a seg- like to see involved in

**Kelly E. Buchta**  
NLC DI Workgroup Chair  
NJ NLC Representative  
NJTU DI Chair

### Upcoming Diversity Initiative Events

**2018 Western Regional Rendezvous**  
Friday-Sunday, April 27-29  
Keystone, Colorado  
Contact: DI leaders or Stefan Jackson / [sjackson@tu.org](mailto:sjackson@tu.org)

**2018 Southeast Regional Rendezvous**  
Friday-Sunday, May 18-20  
Davis, West Virginia  
Contact: DI leaders or Stefan Jackson / [sjackson@tu.org](mailto:sjackson@tu.org)

**2018 Northeast Regional Rendezvous**  
Friday-Sunday, June 8-10  
Lake Placid, New York  
Contact: DI leaders or Stefan Jackson / [sjackson@tu.org](mailto:sjackson@tu.org)

**2018 TU Annual Meeting**  
Wednesday-Saturday, September 19-22  
Redding, California  
Contact: DI leaders or Stefan Jackson / [sjackson@tu.org](mailto:sjackson@tu.org)

**2018 Diversity Initiative Brunch**  
Sunday of Annual Meeting  
September 23  
Redding, California  
Contact: DI leaders or Stefan Jackson / [sjackson@tu.org](mailto:sjackson@tu.org)

**TU STREAM Girls**  
Consider hosting a Program or Event  
Contact: Tara Granke / [tgranke@tu.org](mailto:tgranke@tu.org)

**Trout/Salmon in the Classroom**  
Outreach to school kids near you  
Contact: Tara Granke / [tgranke@tu.org](mailto:tgranke@tu.org)

## Join the Movement!

**Become a Diversity Initiative Coordinator  
for Your Chapter or Council!**

**All are welcome to serve as**

**Diversity Initiative Coordinators and Officers!**

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



**Trout Unlimited Chapter 722:  
Partnering to Offer Orvis Fly Fishing 101 School for Women Initiative**

Chad Kneeland, an owner of a local Fly shop, The Ozark Angler has graciously partnered with our TU Chapter 722 to offer his Orvis Fly Fishing 101 School for Women! He and I advertised through social media only and less than 48 hours we had 30 ladies registered! We immediately organized another class and are currently planning a third class!

This was so exciting for us to see this kind of response!

We have great community partners working together- Trout Unlimited, Ozark Angler, Orvis and many volunteers! Gotta love it!!!

By Kim Rowland Dollins



The poster features a central photograph of a person in a light-colored shirt and shorts, seen from behind, wading in a river and casting a fly. To the left of the photo is a vertical white bar containing three logos: an orange square with 'APRIL 7', the Trout Unlimited logo (a fish jumping), and the Orvis logo (a green leaf). Below the photo is a yellow banner with the text 'FREE WOMEN ONLY FLY FISHING 101'. At the bottom is a teal banner with the text 'The Ozark Angler Heber Springs 8am until 2 pm', a paragraph of details about the class, and contact information: 'KIMDOLLINS@YAHOO.COM OR CHAD@OZARKANGLER.COM'.

**APRIL  
7**

  
**TROUT  
UNLIMITED**



**FREE WOMEN ONLY  
FLY FISHING 101**

**The Ozark Angler Heber Springs  
8am until 2 pm**

Learn all about fly fishing in this fly fishing 101 class. We will show you all about the fly rod and reel, flies and how to use them, knots, casting and so much more. Classroom instruction will start at 8 am and we will hit the river following the class with professional guides. Please email one of the addresses below to register. Class size limited to 12.

**KIMDOLLINS@YAHOO.COM OR CHAD@OZARKANGLER.COM**

## STREAM Girls Comes to PA: Training Opportunity for DI Volunteers in Region



by Amidea Daniel and Judi Sittler

In partnership with National Trout Unlimited, The Girl Scouts In the Heart of PA and the PA Fish and Boat Commission, we are launching a STREAM (Science, Technology, Recreation, Engineering, Arts, Math) Girls pilot program in Pennsylvania. It is a TU-designed conservation patch the Girl Scouts can earn during a two-day (weekend) program. The program has been successfully piloted in a few other states by National TU and local TU chapters. The program not only connects young females to coldwater resources through investigation, discovery and art, but also, to recreational opportunities and the organizations that work to protect coldwater resources (e.g. Trout Unlimited, State agencies, conservation districts etc)!

We are coordinating the first PA STREAM Girls program with the guidance of National Trout Unlimited. The “PA STREAM Girls” Program will be held on July 28th and 29th at the Sieg Conference Center, Lamar, PA (along the banks of Fishing Creek, Clinton County, PA).

The steps for successful STREAM Girls implementation in PA include –

1. Cultivate a partnership with a local Girl Scout Council
2. Provide the National TU STREAM Girls training for instructors
  - a. Instructors who are trained will assist with the PILOT program in July if possible
3. Coordinate STREAM Girls program
4. Evaluate and adjust for future programs
5. Based on the PILOT experience and suggested adjustments, trained instructors from other regions work together to implement the STREAM Girls program in their region.

**Step 1** is complete! Help us complete **Step 2 through Step 5** by participating in the training and the program!

*(Continued next page)*

### **STREAM GIRLS INSTRUCTOR TRAINING DETAILS**

Training will be conducted by National TU's Franklin Tate and Tara Granke, assisted by PATU's Youth Chair, Judi Sittler and PATU's Diversity Co-Chair/PFBC's Youth & Women Coordinator, Amidea Daniel.

**WHO** - We are looking for TU members or other conservation organization members, interested in becoming a STREAM Girls Instructor!

1. **STREAM Girls Orientation Webinar Training** – The webinar will serve as your initial orientation to the STREAM Girls program, as well as, discuss program logistics. **(Complete PRIOR to attending the “In-Field” training. NOTE – The same webinar training will be held on two different date, in hopes to accommodate busy schedules.)**

**WHEN** - **April 18, 2018 (1p.m.) OR April 19, 2018 (7p.m.)** The webinar training is the same for both dates.

**WHERE** – From your computer using a weblink provided by the PA STREAM Girls organizers.

2. **“In-Field” STREAM Girls Training** – This is the “hands-on” training for instructors. Showing how to set-up the program, run a few of the stations and do a “walk-through” of what your program could look like.

**WHEN** – **May 5th & 6th, 2018**

**WHERE** – PFBC's Centre Region Office (595 East Rolling Ridge Drive, Bellefonte, PA 16823)

- We will utilize the office building for the “in-class” portion of the training
- We will utilize PFBC's property at Fisherman's Paradise for the “in-field” portion of the training

**PILOT “PA STREAM Girls Program”** (This is the actual STREAM Girls event with the Scouts!)

**WHEN** – July 27th – 29th

**WHERE** – Sieg Conference Center, Lamar, PA (Along Fishing Creek)

**TO REGISTER for the Instructor Training or for QUESTIONS:**

Contact: **Judi Sittler** (814) 861-3277, [jsittler@comcast.net](mailto:jsittler@comcast.net), or,  
**Amidea Daniel**, [adaniel@pa.gov](mailto:adaniel@pa.gov)





## Through the Eyes of a Child

Text & photo by Linda McAteer, DI,  
Zane Grey Chapter, Arizona

In the mad rush to get the STREAM Girl program up and running in Arizona, I was completely wrapped up in materials, presentations, volunteers... all the things we do trying to present a successful TU program. As the first Girl Scout leaders' training approached, I faced a few challenges, but with the support of the TU team, especially Lisa Beranek, we were ready for the opening day of the Arizona Girl Scout Cactus to Pine Council Wilderness Weekend.

The program was going along as planned, I was totally focused on the training, the Girl Scout leaders, the macro activities, and the schedule. While my volunteers had the group working on macroinvertebrates, I found myself upstream where I was joined by two girls, the daughters of Scout leaders. The girls were quite young and were excitedly telling me about all the fairies along the creek.

While they played, I saw this lovely old tree which put me into the spirit of the moment. I called the girls over to see what looked like a fairy castle. They came over and excitedly examined the twisted and rock adorned root system. Suddenly, they cried out, "The fairies are here and they're coming out to greet us!" I looked over, ready to pretend that I could see the fairies, too - and then I saw them – it was a mayfly hatch.

The leaders' training went very well, friendships were made and lots of interest in the future of the program was developed. But for me, that moment on the water, enjoying the magic of a mountain creek, will be my favorite memory of that event.



## Zane Grey Special Olympics Fishing Derby

Text & photos by Susan Greer



Zane Grey chapter of Trout Unlimited hosted the Special Olympics Fishing Derby on March 3rd, 2018. There were 30 athletes signed up and in attendance. It was a beautiful day and everyone had a great time fishing and enjoyed the free food that was provided! A local TV station covered the day. It was great to touch about 100 people in the community and have the news coverage extend the message of the day to even more.





## **Working For the WI Weekend ...** ***PNW Leadership Development Weekend Update***

by Lisa Beranek / TU Leadership Development Manager

**“It was amazing to be able to make so many connections with other ladies doing the same things as I am. Having the opportunity to collaborate and bounce ideas was seriously priceless.”**

Words cannot describe the positive energy cultivated by the Trout Unlimited Women's Initiative (WI) Leadership Development Weekend held in early February. More than twenty TU leaders from four different states converged in a rustic cabin on the flanks of Mt. Hood, not far from the mighty Columbia River, for a weekend of community building, skills training and strategic planning.

**“I was relieved to learn more about the inner workings of TU and how the WI fits into that mold. It has cleared up a lot of questions I've had.”**

Over a year ago, Heather Hodson (WI Western Ambassador) and Lisa Beranek (then PNW Volunteer Coordinator) had dreamed of creating an opportunity for WI leaders to get together through a leadership development event. It took some time to build enough momentum but when the time came, the WI Leadership Development Weekend announcement was welcomed with open arms by leaders across the region.

With a wide range of backgrounds and knowledge, the participants were able to connect, build community and cultivate mentee/mentor relationships to strengthen the WI support network within the first few hours of the event. Sessions focused on tangible skills in addition to sharing WI history, goals and the support offered by staff, the National Leadership Council as well as individual chapters and councils. Participants left knowing that the support network exists to empower individual WI efforts to engage diverse audiences in coldwater conservation through angling opportunities. The support network exists for them.

**“I'm finding that TU has some really great resources that I initially didn't know about. Knowing I can utilize those is eye opening.”**

With participants ranging in age and experience—we had a teen participant and the average age was 38—there was a lot of insight to share and absorb. The agenda offered opportunities for specific skill building but also left room for organic networking and information share.

During the large group discussion, there was a lively conversation about how to effectively fulfill a need (a safe and welcoming space for women to learn about fly fishing and conservation) while incorporating the WI within the chapter or council as an effective alternative engagement group. Participants shared ideas, discussed concerns and left feeling emboldened to facilitate the process.

**“Now that I know how to meet a need AND mesh my WI with my chapter, I feel really confident about the future.”**

For more information on how to organize a leadership development event, contact the Leadership Development Manager, Lisa Beranek or visit [www.tu.org/women](http://www.tu.org/women) for more information.



*All photos by Lisa Beranek*





Sara Thorne

## *Spending Time with “The History of Women in Fly Fishing” Guru*

Have you invested any time at all wondering how long women have been involved in fly fishing? Some may not care! But I thought it was really cool when I found out that back in 1496 Dame Juliana Berners authored the earliest known book on sport fishing. I was familiar with Joan Wulff being the Queen of Fly Casting, the Mary Dette flies, but who knew there are many more women who add to the “History of Women in Fly Fishing”.

Well, ladies, Jen Ripple did. She wondered and she put the time in to research it. Jen is the founder and Editor in Chief of DUN Magazine, accomplished fly fisher and much more. DUN Magazine is a of coffee table quality magazine packed with a collection of information for women by women, but not excluding men and sharing of experiences.

What an education she shares in her “History of Women in Fly Fishing” presentation! If you have a chance to have Jen tell you about it, DO IT!

A group of ladies from Arkansas, some traveling 2-3 hours, were privileged to spend some time with Jen to hear her presentation and share a Brunch with her the next day. She was brought to the area to “bring some life to an otherwise dead little town in the middle of winter”, as explained by the guide who sponsored the event.

I was excited to see the 12 ladies (that I knew) and the 5 men they brought with them when I got to the old hotel where the presentation was being held. I think everyone, including the men, were pleasantly surprised to learn the extent that women have been involved with fly fishing, from the first to write the “recipe” for tying a fly to organizing flies in categories, teach casting and more.

The Potluck Brunch the next day with Jen was a success with 19 ladies, including Jen, sharing food, experiences and information, we had 3 Women’s Initiative Chairs (Jill Rorhbach from # 514, Kim Dollins from # 722 and Sara Thorne # 698) and a Project Healing Waters Coordinator. Some of the attendees were new to fly fishing, new to the area or just looking for a group they could relate to and get involved with. Swag was provided from the hosting chapter for all as well as DUN Magazines.

by Sara Thorne

Our next Diversity Initiative call will be on Thursday, April 19, 2018 @8pm EST. All are invited to participate. Call number is 866-740-1260. Access code: 2829092#. We look forward to hearing from you on the call.