



The Evergreen Trout

June 2008 | Vol. 27, No. 6



The Drag-Free Drift

[Hal Garwood, ETU President]

Sorry folks again this is going to be short. My new businesses are drilling me into the ground. Twelve to sixteen hours days, but the good news is that Sandi is back from visiting her parents.

We are having one of our biggest youth events on June 21st. We have over 25 kids signed up for our Youth Fishing Camp at the Buchanan Recreational District Facility and Buchanan Ponds. We provide education about Trout Unlimited, Water Conservation, Entomology, and we demonstrate fly-tying. We then provide fishing tackle, flies, and volunteers to take the kids fishing on the ponds. We also provide the kids lunch and a wooden fish badge with their name on it. It is a good time for all and the event has been growing ever since its inception. We have to give a big thanks to our hard working board members Len Wheaton and John Ellis. They are the volunteers in the background making this happen.

Just a reminder that tickets are on sale for our Bear Creek Fantasy Raffle. See one of the board members. This is going to help with

future projects. You probably do not know this but ETU does not get a penny of Trout Unlimited's annual renewals. We do get some monies for new members, but not much to speak of. We rely on our fundraisers to keep the chapter solvent. If the prizes are not something you can use, look at it as a contribution to keep our chapter running.

Along with the newsletter changes, ETU's website has and is undergoing a facelift led by Karen Christopherson with some help from her sister. It is so nice to have such talent volunteering to help ETU both in our website and newsletter. They make my job so much easier. Please visit the ETU's website at www.evergreentrout.org.

Later,

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The Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited meets the third Wednesday of the month at Beau Jo's Pizzeria in downtown Evergreen (across from the Little Bear). Join us for dinner, chapter business, and classes at 6:30 pm followed by the program at 7:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Evergreen Trout Unlimited Volunteer List

Updated June 9, 2008

The list represents people who have volunteered in 2007/2008. If you'd like to find out more about volunteer opportunities with ETU, please contact John Haile at johnhaile@aol.com or (303) 679-3262.

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| Dimeo, Art | Oliphant, Ford | Wilborn, Jim* |
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| Ellis, John | Pimsner, Richard* | |
| Fox, Doug | Rainey, Betty | |
| Gardner, Hugh | Rainey, Dave | |
| Garwood, Hal* | Regan, Paul* | |
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| Haile, John* | Reynolds, Rich | |
| Haller, Tim* | Rose, Brian* | |
| Harris, Suzanne | Rotolo, Gary | |
| Hastedt, Jim* | Ryan, Jim* | |
| Huiting, Randy | Ryan, Justin | |
| Jaeger, Bob | Schauder, Chris | |
| Johnson, Matt* | Schureman, Chris | |
| Kanemasu, Lance | Schvetz, John | |
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| Knoll, Dean | Sciarabba, Mike | |
| Kosloske, Wayne | Squire, Gregg* | |
| Kuberski, Mike | Stechert, Tim* | |
| Ledyard, Harry* | Stephens, Toni | |
| Linn, Peggy* | Stites, TW | |
| Lockwood, Tom | Thompson, Jim* | |
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* 2008 volunteers as of 6/9/08



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Editorial Policy: All newsletter submissions must be received by the newsletter editor by the last Friday of the month. All items are subject to editing/space limitations. Articles are copyrighted by the author unless otherwise noted. Contact the newsletter editor for additional information.

Tie One of These On: Bob Churchill's Sparkle Wing Emerger

[John Haile, ETU board member]

Many Colorado fly fishermen will tell you that Rim Chung's original RS II fly pattern was one of the best ever to come along, and they also will tell you that Bob Churchill's Sparkle Wing Emerger was then the best improvement ever made to it. It's hard to imagine anyone fishing



Bob Churchill: creator of this month's masterpiece.

the South Platte River without this fly in their arsenal.

For our purposes, as Bob shows this month, it's also an easy fly to tie, even for beginners. It is the perfect fly to kick off our series on the top dozen flies you absolutely must have in your fly box at all times pretty much anywhere in Colorado. Count guide Pat Dorsey among those who calls this his favorite RS II pattern.

Bob is well known to many Evergreen Trout Unlimited members because he taught fly tying at the Blue Quill Angler for a long time. He also has sat in on some of our informal winter fly tying sessions there and you can find him tying at most of the big sports expos in the area.

The Sparkle Wing Emerger, created in 1996, is his trademark fly, but it has several variations, including a couple pictured here this month.

One is the "thorax style" Sparkle Wing Emerger, shown in the photos, which is tied with just a thread body and then a regular dubbed thorax.

Another is the "Extreme Emerger," also shown here, which has a thread body ribbed with fine silver wire and then the

Bob's Sparkle Wing Emerger Recipe:

Hook: Tiemco 101 or Dai Riki 310, # 16 - 24

Thread: Grey, 8/0 - 14/0

Tail: Hair fibers from an elk's mane or neck

Body: Muskrat, grey rabbit fur or Adams grey dubbing

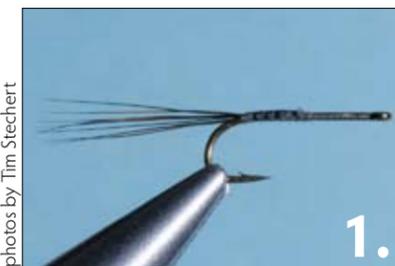
Emerger Wing Bubble: Opal metallic ribbon floss

Note: For Blue Wing Olive, PMD and Trico patterns, use olive, tan and black dubbing with the corresponding thread color. The tail and wing bubble material remain the same for all colors.

dubbed thorax. It also has two wraps of hackle that are put in between the tying steps of the wing, with the top of the hackle trimmed off before the wing is looped back and tied down. (Details below)

See "Emerger" on page 5.

Bob Churchill's Sparkle Wing Emerger Fly Tying: By the Numbers



photos by Tim Stechert



Evergreen Fishing Report

[Mike Goldblatt]

Where have YOU been fishing lately? Let Mike Goldblatt know at mike@lamtree.com or give him a call and let him know about your latest trip.

Most rivers are raging torrents as I write this in late May. For example the Colorado River is flowing at 14,500 cfs at Glenwood. Here are some places that you can possibly fish moving water and not drown:

The South Platte River near Deckers has been flowing in the 300-400 range lately depending on downstream water demands. This is an excellent flow and you can have success with a variety of techniques. The Fryingpan is flowing at 340 and is fishing well. The Blue River below Dillon is another good option right now. It is flowing at about 500, which might sound high for those of you who fish there often. However, the "normal" trickle that usually comes out of

Dillon Reservoir is not really normal for a river valley of that size, and 500- 1000 is a great flow. Use small flies and tippets in the tailwater section, and look for good hatches, especially caddis to start soon downstream. In fact I was up there today (May 31) and it is flowing high and clear and looks great. Unfortunately, I was there on business, and didn't have time to fish it.

"For stillwater opportunities try the "Sagebrush Lakes" of North Park and the reservoirs and lakes in Grand County. They have all recently opened up after a brutal winter and early spring, and the fish are hungry."

For stillwater opportunities try the "Sagebrush Lakes" of North Park and the reservoirs and lakes in Grand County. They have all recently opened up after a brutal winter and early spring, and the fish are hungry. Spinney and Elevenmile have fished well early in the season, but the

fish kill at Antero appears to be pretty bad. Blue Mesa is also fishing well this spring.

I got in one hour of fishing this month. I fished Bear Creek between Evergreen and Kittredge on Sunday June 8th. Our home creek was flowing slightly high but pretty clear at a perfect temperature of 58. I had to compete with a huge blue heron for my favorite spot, but he eventually flew off. I threw a Royal Humpty at them with a Hares Ear dropper. There was no surface feeding going on, but the Humpty drew a few browns up, and a couple took the dropper as well. The fish weren't big, but they fought hard and were very healthy. I believe at that water temperature the fish are in a perfect environment, and give a good fight. The 8"-10" fish felt pretty strong, especially on my 2 weight rod.

To see up to date fishing reports from E.T.U. members go to <http://etufishingreports.blogspot.com>. You can also become a contributor to the fishing report blog. Contact me at mike@lamtree.com if you want to become a contributor. By using our blog this fishing report can become what I had intended - a group effort. 

Our members have already promised 22 volunteers and we can use them all plus anyone who can show up and help coach the kids as they fish. Please call John Ellis at Evergreen National Bank at (303) 674-4243 to sign up to help. 

of all the types of casting rods/reels/lures, small group cleanups of several kinds of fly tying, presentation of a box of flies to each youngster, a free tee shirt and practice with spin road and bubble before the actual pond fishing scheduled for an hour and a half before the actual pond fishing scheduled for an hour and a half before the free picnic lunch and another two hours after lunch.

How ETU Helps: Fish Camp Update

[Len Wheaton, ETU board member & Vice President]

Would you believe that we had 19 children reserved for the June 21st Buchanan Fish Camp five weeks in advance?

That's how famous we've become in only three years. We must cut off registrants at 25, so a full group is pretty much a sure bet.

We plan a basic entomology introduction, a simple knot tying lesson, a demo

"Emerger," from page 3.

How to Tie it

Before putting thread to hook, go ahead and clip your elk mane and use a hair stacker to even up the ends so that the elk mane is ready to tie in later. Also, cut a two- to three-inch strip of floss so that is also ready. If you don't have the floss already, you can find it at the Blue Quill either in little packets or on a roll.

After de-barbing your hook and setting up the hook in the vise, start tying by putting in a thread base, starting at the eye of the hook and wrapping back to the bend. Keep it neat and thin. Now select your elk fibers for the tail.

"Bob says that for tying sizes 22 and 24, he uses only three fibers, and for sizes 18 and 20, he uses four to six fibers. For a bigger size 16 hook, he will use as many as eight fibers."

Bob says that for tying sizes 22 and 24, he uses only three fibers, and for sizes 18 and 20, he uses four to six fibers. For a bigger size 16 hook, he will use as many as eight fibers. Tie in the fibers right at the top of the bend of the hook and wrap forward to just short of the halfway point. Trim off the butt ends.

The completed tail should be about the same length as the hook and slightly flared.

Next apply your dubbing in a very thin coat to your thread and, starting where you tied the tail in at the top of the bend, dub forward to form a tapered body. The body should end up just past the halfway point of the hook shank. Bob emphasizes that by keeping the dubbing thin on your thread, you will be able to control the shape of the fly body much better.

At this point, tie in the pre-cut section of floss with four to six wraps of your thread. As you make those wraps, move your thread back slightly up the front of the dubbed body.

The photo shows the floss now hanging back over the back of the fly.

Now pick up that floss and bring it forward so that you form a loop or "bubble." Bob recommends that right-handed tiers do this by pulling the floss over with their right hand and then pinching it down between the thumb and forefinger of their left hand, just as you would do when managing the tie-down of any other material. From above, the loop should be flat, like a wing. From the side, you should barely be able to see through the loop.

Once it is pinched down, you can size the loop so that, when pushed down, it extends about to the tail. I've seen some folks form the loop and then adjust it to its proper size, after securing it with just a couple of wraps, by using a

bodkin or dubbing needle pushed through the loop and pulling on the tag end of the floss. This lets you adjust the loop back and forth while keeping everything nice and smooth.

Tie the floss down at the same point as your original tie-in point for the floss. Cut off the excess.

Bob offers a nice tip for those smaller flies that will keep that loop from getting too big: on the size 22s and 24s, remove six to eight fibers from the floss. You will see how easily this is done.

Now that the wing is done, the fly is just about finished. Just apply a small amount of dubbing to your thread and finish the thorax by tapering it from the front of the bubble to just behind the eye of the hook. Form a thread head and whip finish. You're done and ready to fish one of the great flies of all times. 

Got a few **BIG** ideas for our newsletter?

- Found a new places to fish?
- Developed a crazy new fly that WORKS?
- Have some advice for members new to the area?

Then please e-mail them to the editor. Right now. editor@evergreentrout.org

Gear Locker

Got extra fishing gear? Sell it here.

TWO OUTCAST SUPER FAT CAT FLOAT TUBES. One NIB, other less than six hrs use. One Dave Scadden Escalade float tube/kayak. All great for Stillwater fishing. Make offer for all three or individual. Hal @ (303) 526-2901; hal-etu@earthlink.net

Caveat Emptor. (That's Latin for 'Let the Buyer Beware.') Gear Locker is a fishing-related listing service from the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited for our members. We can't verify the condition of items listed, so please use common sense. We reserve the right to limit the number of items listed, as well as the right to refuse listings at our discretion, and make other common sense decision as they occur to us. All listings will be listed for one month only. Only e-mailed listings will be accepted and must include a brief item description, your name, phone number, and e-mail address. Photos will not be accepted at this time. E-mail your listings to: editor@evergreentrout.org.



Help us Pick 12 Flies to Save Your Life (Figuratively speaking, of course.)

[John Haile, ETU board member]

Bob Churchill's beautiful Sparkle Wing RS II Emerger this month kicks off something new in our fly-of-the-month series and that is a look at the 12 must-have flies to fish Colorado's prime trout streams. But I'm not going to pick the flies; you are.

I just took a guess that the RS II was almost certain to end up on the list and had Bob tie what is widely considered



Might this fly help salvage a bad day on the stream? Help us pick a dozen lifesavers.

the most popular version of Rim Chung's original. Now I need to hear from you on what you absolutely must have in your fly box to fish Colorado trout streams.

To encourage participation, Bob tied a few extra of his Sparkle Wing Emerger that I am offering as an incentive. For the first three people to submit their list of top 12 flies, along with very brief notes as to why for each of the flies and in what sizes, I have two of Bob's originals. As you can see from the photos this month, these are flies you may choose to frame rather than fish. They're really nice.

I'll also be surveying some of the top fishing guides around the state for their lists and comparing their notes with what our members come up with. After a couple of months, I'll compile the lists into a master list of the top two or three dozen flies and then ask everyone on the e-mail list to vote for the final 12.

Along the way, we will be using some of the obvious contenders as our flies of the month. Ultimately, we will work our way through the full dozen flies selected for our "must have" list. Well, maybe most of the list. If the Copper John makes the list, I'll have to check with some of the really good tiers to see if maybe that one is really too tough for most of us. I've never tied one.

So speak up. Tell us what really works for you and why. I'll admit I caught more fish last year on the lowly and ultra-simple Black Beauty, fishing streams as diverse as the Blue River and Bear Creek. Whatever we end up with will make a great collection for our web site. There are no right or wrong answers.

Send your list of 12 must-have flies to me at johnhaile@aol.com



How ETU Helps: Bear Creek Cleanup

[Ron Belak, ETU member]

On Saturday morning, April 26, over 20 dedicated ETU volunteers gathered in downtown Evergreen with rakes and garbage bags in hand. Their mission was to participate in our biannual Bear Creek cleanup. The weather threatened, and snow flakes briefly filled the air over the dam at Evergreen Lake. Volunteers expeditiously cleaned trash along the banks and in the streambed from the dam down to Meadow Drive. Peggy and I took a long lap around the lake, picking up a wide assortment of bottles, cans, paper bags, fishing line, power bait, and doggie bags (not the type you get from a restaurant). I never thought I would find picking up power bait preferable to picking up other things.

Then we hopped into our vehicles and gathered at O'Fallon Park to clean around our stream restoration project. All-in-all, there was less trash than normal both in O'Fallon Park and in downtown Evergreen. Strategically placed garbage cans seemed to have helped at the lake. There were only a few unusual items collected along the banks including a belly boat foot pump, cell phone, and credit card. I talked to one excited woman at the lake who had a fat, 18-inch brown on a stringer. Although we would have preferred to have seen it swim away, it was nice to know that there still are a few old browns left in the lake.

About noon we gathered at the Rib Crib for pulled pork sandwiches, burgers, and malted adult beverages. Fishing lies were swapped, Avalanche hockey was viewed, and new friends were made. Steve Murray—our Treasurer—spoiled the fun and kept us honest; he would not let us use our new-found credit card. We plan on another cleanup in the fall so check our newsletter in September.

DOW Sees New Strain of Whirling-Disease Resistant Rainbow Trout Hatch in Wild

[courtesy of CO Division of Wildlife website]

For the first time since whirling disease decimated most naturally reproducing rainbow trout populations throughout Colorado more than a decade ago, new strains of rainbows have reproduced naturally in the Gunnison River and in ponds located along the Frying Pan River near Basalt.

Colorado Division of Wildlife biologists are hopeful that the successful natural reproduction will lead to re-establishing wild, self-sustaining rainbow trout populations in Colorado where whirling disease has precluded wild rainbow trout recovery efforts. The fish, a cross of the Hofer rainbow trout and other rainbow strains that are used for stocking, appear to be resistant to whirling disease.

The fish were "young of the year", and hatched in May 2007. They were captured in October when DOW aquatic researchers conducted electro-fishing operations in the two areas.

"They were plump, colorful fish, they looked good," said Barry Nehring, an aquatic researcher for the DOW in Montrose who has been working on whirling disease since 1994. "This is indicative that we've had successful reproduction."

Several of the fish were then sent for genetic testing to a laboratory in Boulder that verified the fish were offspring of Hofer-cross rainbows stocked in the river and the ponds in 2004 and 2005.

Hofer cross fingerlings were also stocked in the upper Colorado River near Kremmling in 2006 but researchers did not find any young fish there in 2007. Biologists said that fish grow more slowly in the Colorado River because the water is very cold. Consequently, researchers speculate that Hofer crosses stocked there might not yet have reached sexual maturity. They'll look for young fish again this fall.

The Gunnison River is lower in elevation, water temperatures are warmer and it is renowned for producing large trout. Brown trout - which are resistant to whirling disease - thrive in the river. The ponds on the Frying Pan River also provide relatively warm water.

But judging from research conducted on the Hofer strain, scientists are confident that the fish will survive and continue to reproduce.

Whirling disease is caused by a microscopic parasite that passes through the fish's skin. The organism attacks the cartilage of young fish and distorts the spine. The affected fish move in a whirling motion, basically swimming in circles when excited or when trying to escape predation. This type of behavior greatly reduces their ability to survive in the wild.

The disease was found in Colorado in the mid-1990s and it devastated most wild rainbow trout populations throughout the state.

During a whirling disease seminar in 2002 in Denver, a German scientist delivered a research report about a rainbow strain that was resistant to whirling disease. The Hofer rainbow trout was raised in a German hatchery. The DOW moved quickly to determine if the fish could survive in Colorado. Early in 2003, DOW researchers worked with the University of California at Davis to import the eggs and start a brood stock at the Fish Research Hatchery near Fort Collins. The fish were exposed to the disease and then dissected to see how many parasite spores had developed.

Schisler said researchers were stunned by what they saw. Spore counts in Colorado River Rainbows - which have been used for stocking by the DOW for years - exposed to the disease could reach 4,000,000 per fish. The highest count in

the Hofers reached only about 3,000 and did not affect the fish.

DOW aquatics staff then started crossing the Hofers with existing rainbow stock and conducting more tests. Not only were the new strains of fish resistant to the disease, they also grew faster than traditional stocker strains. Hofers grew to catchable size - about 10 inches - in about 14 months, four months faster than the other rainbow trout strains.

In 2004 fingerlings of the new cross strains were first released into the Gunnison River. They were first released into the Frying Pan River ponds in 2005 and into the Colorado River in 2006.

Some catchable-size crosses were also stocked in two reservoirs near Berthoud in the spring of 2006. The fish continued to grow in the reservoirs and anglers were successful in catching them.

Mark Jones, aquatic research leader for the DOW, said Colorado leads the nation in the whirling disease war.

"No other state has conducted more research into identifying real solutions to the whirling disease problem," Jones said. "We could tell this was a good thing from the start."

Based on the extensive research, the DOW hatcheries are expanding production of the various crosses. In 2008 more than 1 million sub-catchable and catchable fish of the Hofer crosses are planned to be stocked in lakes and rivers throughout Colorado.

Research to examine the resistance of the Hofer crosses to whirling disease and their ability to survive in the wild is ongoing.

June 2008

- 6th (Fri); Free fishing for ETU Volunteers Buchanan Ponds; Must be "on the list" - check in at Rec Center
- 18th (Wed); Monthly Meeting and Program; 7pm Beau Jo's Pizza - downtown Evergreen; Program - TBA
- 13th (Fri) OR 14th (Sat); Free fishing for ETU Volunteers Buchanan Ponds' Must be "on the list" - check in at Rec Center
- 21st (Sat) Fish Camp

July 2008

- 4th (Fri); Free fishing for ETU Volunteers Buchanan Ponds; Must be "on the list" - check in at Rec Center
- 9th (Wed); ETU Board Meeting; 7:00pm
- 18th (Fri) OR 19th (Sat); Free fishing for ETU Volunteers Buchanan Ponds; Must be "on the list" - check in at Rec Center

Fishing Stories (and photos) Wanted

Photo by Dennis McKinney



Photo courtesy of CO DOW



Send the editor a photo of your latest catch and a brief story about how you landed it, and you just may see it show up here in the near future. Email Joe Kerper at editor@evergreentrout.org with the photo and story you'd like us to consider for publication. (Please keep all attachments under 5MB in size.)

