

The Evergreen Trout

March/April, 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS

extracted from the CTU Web site by Mike McGinnis

Wow! I wish I had this opportunity while growing up! CTU is now accepting applications for the seventh annual River Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp, June 9 through 14, 2013 at the High Lonesome Ranch near DeBeque, CO. Approximately 20 students are selected each year, based on their qualifications and a written essay on why they would like to attend the camp. Applications must be received by April 15, 2013.

The camp is designed to educate 14- to 18-year old students on the importance of coldwater conservation and provide hands-on fly fishing instruction. Classes include principles of ecology, hydrology, aquatic vertebrate and invertebrate sampling, trout behavior, stream entomology, the biology of pollution, acid deposition, politics of conservation and human effects on the Rocky Mountains. In addition, the camp will

include hands-on classes such as fly tying, fly casting, streamside ethics, angling literature, streamside botany, wader safety, and the evolution of an angler. Students will also participate in a watershed project to repair habitat in a nearby stream.

“Our hope is that kids who attend our camp today will become the conservation leaders of tomorrow,” said Shawn Bratt, a veteran youth camp counselor and winner of Trout Unlimited’s Outstanding Youth Education Volunteer. “It’s important for these students to understand the value of healthy streams and clean water and how they relate to our everyday lives. The camp curriculum has been structured to provide the necessary foundation for that education.”

Megan Branine, a participant last year, said of her experience, “The past

five days have been the greatest experience of my life. In this week, I have developed a love for a sport I aim to continue. All components of this camp—the science, the fishing and the social aspects—have all benefited me greatly. They have given me a passion to protect our rivers and wild lands as well as great memories to take with me.”

The River Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp includes faculty from various environmental fields and state agencies such as Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Forest Service. The cost to attend the six-day camp is \$450. Materials can be downloaded from the Web site at <http://www.coloradotu.org/river-conservation-and-fly-fishing-youth-camp> or contact Mike Nicholson at 303-987-8425 for more information. --Mike

THINK SNOW, article and photo by Ron Belak



Late October, 2009—a distant memory

Things are not upbeat for snowpack and water storage predictions for the next three months in Colorado. According to Mike Strobel, director of the National Climate Center, “The conditions for Colorado are very poor.” Mr. Strobel was recently quoted in Boulder’s Daily Camera.

Of course, Coloradans obtain most of their water from snowpack, and Colorado’s fish rely on it even more. Lower snowpack levels mean less runoff, and this is complicated by already low reservoir storage across the state. Add to this a prediction for above normal temperatures and things look even bleaker.

As of March 1, the amount of water contained within Colorado’s snowpack, known as snow water equivalent (SWE), is low across all major drainage basins. Year to date, it is running about 70 percent of the average of the last 30 years in the Gunnison, Upper Colorado, Arkansas and South Platte River Basins. Things are a bit better in the southwestern portion of the state and the North Platte, Yampa/White and Upper Rio Grande River Basins where SWE is at from 73 to 80 percent of the 30-year average for this time of the year. These numbers are even somewhat less than last year—a record drought year. (article continued on page 2)

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The Evergreen Trout is published in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Please send submissions to the newsletter editor (ronbelak@msn.com) by the 23rd day of the preceding month. The editor reserves the right to edit for length and content. All articles and photos are copyrighted by the authors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited meets the third Wednesday of each month except July and December at Beau Jo's Pizzeria in downtown Evergreen. Join us for dinner and chapter business at 6:30 PM and a program at 7 PM.

March 7, 2013: Evergreen Audubon meeting on the Bear Creek Watershed. Speakers include Russ Clayshulte of the Bear Creek Watershed Association and Mike McGinnis and Ron Belak of ETU. Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Road, Evergreen, CO, 7:00 PM.

March 12, 2013: ETU Board Meeting, Stagecoach Grill in Evergreen, 6:30 PM.

March 15, 2013: CTU River Stewardship Gala. Dinner and auction commemorating outgoing Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar at 5:00 PM, Arvada Center, Arvada, CO. See https://org2.democracynaction.org/o/7023/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=53871 for more information and to order tickets.

March 20, 2013: ETU Chapter Meeting, Beau Jo's in Evergreen at 6:30 PM. Reid Baker, Freestone Outfitters will speak on streamer techniques. See p. 5 for more details.

April 9, 2013: ETU Board Meeting, Stagecoach Grill in Evergreen, 6:30 PM.

April 17, 2013: ETU Chapter Meeting, Beau Jo's in Evergreen at 6:30 PM. Nicholas Payne of the Roosevelt Conservation Partnership will speak on climate change. See p. 5.

April 19 to 21, 2013: CTU Spring Rendezvous at the Redstone Lodge, Redstone, CO. Workshops and conservation presentations at this historic hotel. See <http://www.coloradotu.org/event/colorado-tus-spring-rendezvous-at-redstone/>

April 20, 2013: Earth Day Fair, Evergreen Lake House, 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM. ETU has an educational booth. Contact Ron Belak (ronbelak@msn.com) to volunteer.

April 27, 2013: Bear Creek Spring Clean Up. Meet in the lot next to Beau Jo's Pizzeria in downtown Evergreen at 9:00 AM. Contact Ron Belak (ronbelak@msn.com) to volunteer.

THINK SNOW (continued from page 1)

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), which furnishes these numbers, also measures and reports average reservoir storage. As of February 1, 2013, the most recent month for which data are available, statewide reservoir storage was at 70 percent of the 30-year average. It varies across the state, from 51 percent in the Rio Grande River Basin to 103 percent in the Yampa/White River Basins.

The NRCS is forecasting well below average runoff volumes in the spring and summer in all of Colorado's major river basins. The agency says that unless above average precipitation occurs over the next few months, they see no relief from the current drought. Unfortunately, the Climate Prediction Center within the National Weather Service is calling for below average precipitation and above average temperatures for Colorado for March, April and May.

We obviously cannot change Mother Nature. However, we can plan accordingly. We can plan our stream fishing trips earlier in the year to avoid stressing trout when water levels drop and temperatures rise later in the summer. We can also move upward in elevation during the latter half of the summer and fish the small mountain streams and the high lakes.

For now, however, I am going to think snow. Not only for the fish but also because I have already left enough P-Tex on the rocks this ski season.

BIMONTHLY FLY: THE SKINNY MINNY, article by Len Wheaton, photo by Ron Belak



I am not sure that this fly has an official name. I discovered the tying method—which is quick and conservative of materials—years ago in a fly fishing book but can't find the picture that prompted me to experiment with this method of body construction. Nevertheless, we will call it the Skinny Minny.

The Skinny Minny is a great stillwater pattern that I frequently use at Buchanan Pond. It is effective when stripped on a sink tip or floating line. Although it can imitate a nymph, fish in Buchanan Pond probably think it is one of the resident flathead minnows. The skinny body helps with this illusion.

Hook: No. 12 Mustad R73NP-BR or similar 3X long streamer hook

Thread and Ribbing: black 6/0

Tail and Body: olive deer hair, covered with a fine layer of head cement

Thorax: peacock herl

Collar: brown, olive or grizzly rooster hackle

Wrap an underbody of thread from the eye to the hook bend. Select 8 or 10 olive deer hair fibers that are about twice the length of the hook shank. Form the tail by placing a hook-length of fibers such that they protrude tips first beyond the hook bend. Secure these fibers at the hook bend with the pinch technique, first with one firm wrap and then with two softer wraps to lay the splayed fibers straighter. Then place one wrap under the hook shank before stroking the fiber butts forward and along the shank, surrounding it. Hold the fibers in place with your right fingers as you use your left hand to wind the thread

up and over all the fibers three times in the same spot, making the first "rib" segmentation about 2 mm forward of the initial tie in. From this rib, move the thread forward and under to the next segmentation spot, and repeat the three wraps in the same spot. Attach peacock herl and form a short thorax with two or three wraps. Attach the hackle and make one or two wraps. Whip finish and coat body with head cement to produce a shine. Go fish.

If you have a favorite pattern, please share it with us. Contact Ron Belak at 303-674-2239 or ronbelak@msn.com. Please provide a quality photo of the pattern, tying instructions, and strategies on how to fish it. If you cannot photograph it, please send me a sample of the fly, and I will photograph it. If you are not into writing instructions, call me and walk me through them so that I can write it for you. We especially need new patterns for stream and river fishing.

NICE FISH STORY, by Skyler Yanish

For those of you who fish tailwaters, this may not be a huge rainbow, but it still would be a nice one. I did not measure it, but I estimate that it is between 16 and 17 inches. The exciting part of the story is that it is from lower Bear Creek. I caught it on a black Woolly Bugger that my buddy tied. I then caught a second nice rainbow that was not quite as long but had a much bigger girth. I caught these two fish on an outing last October. (Editor's note: Skyler did not reveal the exact spot in Bear Creek where this fish lives. However, you may ask him if you see him at an upcoming meeting. I'm sure you'll recognize him as he will stand out in our usual crowd.)

If you have a photo of a particularly large, colorful, or unique fish that you would like to share with us, please e-mail the photo to Ron Belak at ronbelak@msn.com along with a description of the fish, what you caught it on, and the location where it lives. Should you not want to disclose your favorite fishing hole, just give Ron a general location, like Rocky Mountain National Park or the South Platte River.



KITTREDGE TO HOST ICE OUT FISHING TOURNAMENT, by Ron Belak

The Kittredge Parks and Recreation District will be hosting an ice out fishing tournament in April. The event is a good-natured competitive response to Evergreen Park and Recreation District's Winter Festival last month at Evergreen Lake, which included an ice fishing derby. The event is to take place on Saturday, April 1 at 9 AM, although the location has yet to be confirmed.

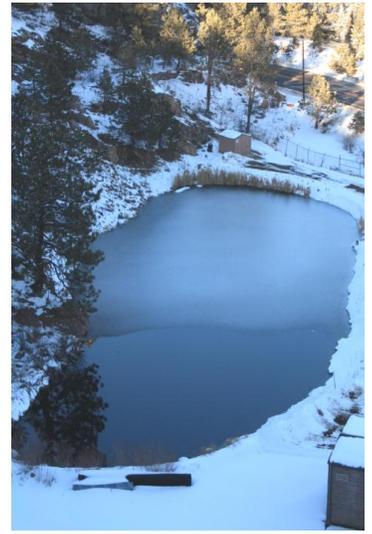
Harry Shiner, director of Kittredge Parks and Recreation, said that the event is open to the public—both children and adults—and will include demonstrations of ice out fishing strategies, selection of fly patterns and gear, and promotion of safety for wading and use of belly boats. The body of water to be selected will be stocked with rainbow trout to allow free public fishing under ice out conditions. Several trout will be tagged, and the lucky anglers that catch them will win prizes

The location of the event has not yet been finalized, but negotiations are already under way. Mr. Shiner said

he wants a smaller intimate setting and has ruled out Evergreen Lake and Buchanan Ponds because they are out of district and run by the competing Evergreen Parks and Recreation. Rumor has it that negotiations are under way to use the sewage pond at the junction of Highway 74 and Kerr Gulch near the east end of Kittredge.

George Milford, chief engineer with the Kittredge Department of Public Works, acknowledged being contacted concerning the appropriateness of the pond. Mr. Milford clarified that the pond in Kittredge is really a finishing pond, not a sewage pond. Water in a finishing pond has already been extensively treated and is being oxygenated and filtered prior to final release into Bear Creek. During warm months, the pond concentrates algae and prevents their release into Bear Creek, which would reduce the stream's dissolved oxygen content. Mr. Milford cited the mallards and Canada geese that frequent the pond as evidence of its good water quality.

Nevertheless, Mr. Milford believes that holding a fishing tournament in the Kittredge finishing pond is utterly ridiculous. He explained that ice out will be well over by April 1 and that the idea makes almost as little sense as ice fishing. Most readers of this article will regard this as one of the stinkiest April Fools jokes that they have ever encountered. (Editor's note: This article did not first appear in "The Onion.")



Ice out in Kittredge, photo by Ron Belak

FREE FISHING AT BUCHANAN POND IS NO JOKE

Even if you do not relish the thought of fishing the Kittredge Pond, you will enjoy free fishing at Buchanan Ponds. Ice out is expected in mid-March, and you can fish for free if you are a volunteer that appears on the list below. To qualify, you must have participated in at least two volunteer activities last year. But it is not too late. You can still qualify for this year by volunteering for two activities in 2013. It is your responsibility to ensure that your name is on the list below. Plan ahead and ensure that you are accurately accounted for. If you have questions, please contact Jim Wilborn at 303-670-3306 or jpwilborn@hotmail.com.

Andes, Chet
Belak, Ron

Bornhouser, Mike
Brame, Randy
Bunn, Matt
~~Depp, Johnny~~
DiMeo, Art
Drury, Larry
Egenter, Jack
Ellis, John
Festag, Keith
Forbes, Peter
Goldblatt, Mike
Hastedt, Jim
Johnson, Warren
Jones, Evertte
Kosloske, Wayne
Kuberski, Mike
Lawson, Dave
Linn, Peggy
Martin, Art
McGinnis, Mike
McKnight, Laura

McKnight, Margie
Murray, Randi
Murray, Steve
Nelson, Willie
Oliphant, Ford
Pantaleo, Michael
Reece, Brian
Regan, Paul
Reynolds, Nancy
Reynolds, Rich
Rotollo, Gary
Ryan, Jim
Schauder, Chris
Schumaker, Dave
Squire, Gregg
Underwood, Dave
Walters, Terry
Walters, Anne
Wheaton, Len
Wheeler, Richard
Wilborn, Jim

REID BAKER TO SPEAK ON STREAMER TECHNIQUES ON MARCH 20



On Wednesday March 20, Reid Baker, Guide Manager for Freestone Outfitters in Littleton, will be the guest speaker at Evergreen Trout Unlimited's monthly meeting. Reid will deliver a presentation on "Streamer Techniques in Colorado and Beyond." The idea: big flies, big grabs and big fish. If you've only thought streamer fishing involved cast and strip, you'll benefit from Reid's informative presentation that works on almost any fish, anywhere. As usual, the meeting will be at Beau Jo's Pizzeria in downtown Evergreen, starting with dinner and libations at 6:30 PM. A brief business meeting will follow at 7 PM, and the presentation will start at 7:15 PM.

Growing up on the trout and steelhead waters of Oregon, many of Reid's earliest memories revolve around fly fishing trips with his father. Since becoming a professional guide, he has come to understand how much he truly lives to watch his infectious excitement for the sport rub off on others. When not guiding, he travels the world, fly rod in hand, constantly amazed by the remarkable people and places fishing has shown him.

Freestone Outfitters is Denver's Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Guide Service, specializing in trophy public and private water on the South Platte and Colorado rivers. Freestone also works with Yellow Dog Fly Fishing Adventures on worldwide angling opportunities.

NICHOLAS PAYNE TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE IN COLORADO AT APRIL MEETING

Inspired by the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) is a coalition of organizations and grassroots partners working together to guarantee you a place to hunt and fish. Trout Unlimited is one of TRCP's partners. TRCP's staff is composed of policy experts, biologists and field representatives. They are headquartered in Washington, D.C, and maintain offices across the country. TRCP strives to influence Congress and the Obama administration as they craft policies that affect sportsmen. Issues that TRCP concentrates on include conservation funding, energy development, public land management and access, agricultural production, clean water, marine fisheries and climate change.

Nicholas Payne, Colorado Field Representative for TRCP, will address this latter issue—climate change—at our chapter meeting on April 17. The presentation is entitled "Beyond Season's End: A Path Forward for Colorado Fish and Wildlife in the Era of Climate Change." Mr. Payne graduated from the University of Minnesota with a B.S. in fisheries, wildlife and conservation biology. He has done field biology on Indiana

bats, sampled white-tailed deer for chronic wasting disease, and surveyed small mammals in Minnesota.

Come join us for the presentation at Beau Jo's Pizzeria in downtown Evergreen. Libations and socializing begin at 6:30 PM, followed by a brief business meeting at 7:00 PM. The presentation follows at 7:15 PM.

