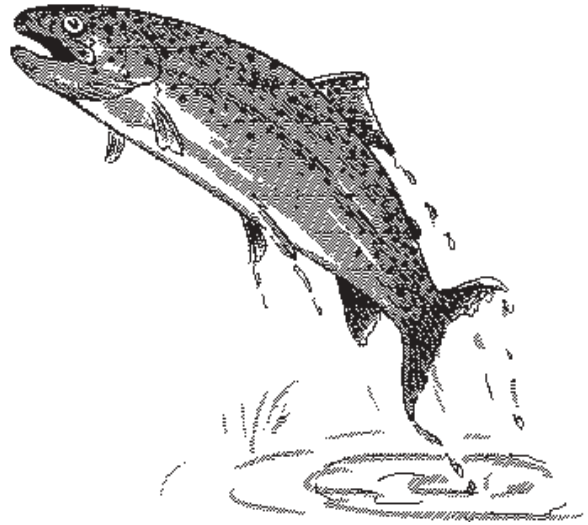


Electric

# The Evergreen Trout



April 2002 The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited Vol. 20 No. 4

## From the Prez, March Madness...

Yes, I've got it! Although I do have a "Jones" for b-ball and the Final Four, my madness stems from the fact that I haven't fished for over six months. Not normally a Winter fisherman, I sometimes go from November to February without a fix, but this is ridiculous. I hit Antero on September 28th, and won't wet a line again 'til the Green River trip in two weeks. Needless to say I'm excited. I spent nearly the entire weekend tying flies and prepping all my gear. I also managed to squeeze in the two ball games on Saturday while tying flies. For the Green River trip, I'll take two rods -- a wet fly rig for the raft, and a dry fly rod for shore fishing. While drifting, we usually fish buggers deep, trailing scuds or pheasant tails. I'm hoping the blue-wings will be hatching, for some good dry fly action. As of a few days ago though, they weren't quite on. I'll give you a full report at the next meeting.

The board apologizes to all of you, as well as our fine speakers, who came to last month's meeting. As you found out, the Sports Grill booked our back room to another group that night. We actually found out a few days earlier, but it was too late to react. We now have. I wrote a scathing letter to the owner, which our board intercepted and rejected, in favor of a "kinder and gentler" approach. That is -- John Ellis talking to the owner in person. If any of you know of another local venue that would work for our general meetings, let us

know. Currently, we don't really have any viable alternate sites, so my threat to "take our business elsewhere" would have threatened us as much as the Grill. Again, we do apologize. For those of you who stayed, Dan Beley and Bob Churchill's presentations were well worth the wait, and the competing decibel levels. We are "guaranteed" to have the back room and sufficient staff this month for Al Himmelman's program on "Flyfishing, British Columbia Style." Having been to Al's lodge, I can assure you of a worthwhile night.

This month will also feature the grand drawing of our three raffle prize winners. If you haven't gotten your tickets by now (or need more, to increase your odds) call a board member or better yet, come to the meeting. Who knows? "You may already be a winner..." We really can use the financial support, so "Buy early, buy often." as they say. Speaking of help, we also need help for the Bear Creek cleanup on Saturday, April 13th at 9a, Earth Day on Saturday, April 20th all day (several shifts available), and at Mt. Evans to teach four different kids groups on April 23rd, 24th, and 29th (Tu, W, and M respectively).

Oops! I just remembered that I didn't get any blue-wing emergers tied yet. Gotta fly!

See you Wednesday, April 17th at 6:30p in "our back room" at Evergreen's Sports Grill.

Rich



The Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited meets the third Wednesday of the month at Evergreen's Sports Grill in the Tanoa Center. Join us for Dinner/Chapter Business at 6:30pm followed by the program at ~7:30pm.

## Superfly 2002

You won't want to miss the annual SUPERFLY competition in the waters of the Upper Gunnison basin. This year's SUPERFLY is scheduled for Saturday, August 10th. The festivities begin with a relaxed reception on Friday evening, where all the participants can get to know each other and their guides. On Saturday, the day will kick off with breakfast and then teams will fish their first "beat". A box lunch is provided for midday, then teams move onto their second "beat" for the afternoon. Beats are drawn randomly and include a mix of public and private waters along the East, Taylor, and Gunnison Rivers. Then, on Saturday evening, all SUPERFLY contestants will receive complementary tickets to the Gunnison Angling Society banquet.

Each SUPERFLY team is made up of two anglers, each of whom can register two competition flies. Guides will measure the length of each trout caught on the competition flies, with prizes going to the team that catches the most total inches of trout as well as special prizes for the biggest fish, the top individual, and the top TU Chapter team (for those teams representing specific TU chapters).

Registration for SUPERFLY is \$400 through July 15th, and includes the Friday reception and all three meals on Saturday as well as guided fishing for both beats. After July 15th, registration goes up to \$450. All proceeds go to support the Gunnison Angling Society and Colorado Trout Unlimited.

For more information on SUPERFLY, contact Bruce Hoagland at [hoagy@pcrs.net](mailto:hoagy@pcrs.net).

Gunnison Angling Society

## Political vs Ecological Reality

With a key vote on opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling expected in the Senate this week, the Bush administration has rejected its own environmental review and demanded that government scientists instead issue a "quick follow-up report suggesting that the most likely drilling scenarios under consideration should have no impact on caribou" says the Washington Post 4/7. The original peer-reviewed analysis by government scientists looked at 12 years of research and warned that drilling in the Arctic Refuge could "pose substantial risk to caribou and other wildlife", but the scientists were given a whole week to come up with a new "revised", politically correct report.

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or visit their web site at:

<http://www.defenders.org/grnhome.html>

## New Members

Please join me in welcoming **John Cunningham, Rick Danger, Don Marshall, Bob Perkins, and Edward Stevenson** to ETU.

If you need help with a membership problem of any kind, call me and I'll do my best to get it straightened out.

Creel count: 299

Randy Huiting

## The Evergreen Trout

## CTU Spring Rendezvous 2002

The 2002 Spring Rendezvous will be held April 19th - 21st at the Redstone Inn in Redstone, CO. The Inn is located along the banks of the Crystal River, and near the legendary waters of the Roaring Fork and Frying Pan Rivers. At Rendezvous, CTU's officers are elected and positions on key coldwater issues are established. All interested CTU members are welcome and encouraged to attend!

The Redstone Inn offers a remarkable new venue for our Spring Rendezvous. The Inn is offering midweek winter rates (from \$46 for one of the Clock Tower rooms, to \$130 for a family suite) for Rendezvous attendees -- you can call to book your room at 1-800-748-2524. Be sure to mention that you are with CTU. Redstone offers a wide range of activities for both the anglers and non-anglers in your family. For those who are interested, tours of the Redstone Castle are available on weekends at 1:30p (\$10 for adults, \$5 for kids 12 and under).

The Rendezvous kicks off this year with a Friday evening reception for arriving guests, along with registration and sign-in. The annual membership meeting will take place Saturday morning, followed by a Grassroots Lunch where each chapter will get to talk about the successes, challenges, and goals for TU in their area. After lunch, we will have a number of workshop sessions on topics from recruiting women into TU, to improving chapter fund-raising, to communicating effectively through newsletters and the internet. The evening concludes with the annual awards banquet, silent auction, and a special presentation (speaker TBA).

Advance registration is \$55 (by April 15th), or \$65 at the door. Your registration includes breakfast, lunch, and banquet dinner on Saturday. Individual tickets may also be purchased for the banquet for \$35, or \$40 at the door. To register for the Rendezvous or buy banquet tickets, contact Ken Neubecker at 970-328-7266 (P.O. Box 1448, Eagle, CO 81631).

The Rendezvous is a fun and informative weekend, and a great way to meet other dedicated anglers and conservationists. Redstone offers a great venue for Rendezvous attendees and their families to enjoy a wonderful weekend. Please join us for this very special event. Thank you to the Ferdinand Hayden Chapter, our hosts for the 2002 Rendezvous!

P.S. For Rendezvous "first-timers", CTU has set aside a limited number of complementary registrations on a first-come, first-served basis. If you've never been to a Rendezvous, but would like to check it out, take advantage of this special offer and get your registration free! Contact Ken, or the CTU office for details.

Ken Neubecker and Paula Fothergill

## Kudos...

...to **Rich Reynolds, and Jill Haller** for their help with the newsletter.

...to **Master Printers Inc. of Evergreen** for copying and folding.

Ed.

## TU In The Colorado Supreme Court

On April 8th, Melinda Kassen, lead attorney for the Colorado Water Project, filed an amicus ("friend-of-the-court") brief with the Colorado Supreme Court in the City of Golden's boat chutes case. Previously, Golden filed to establish substantial in-channel water rights for its world-class boating course on Clear Creek. Golden's claims were upheld by the water court, and Golden obtained an in-stream water right for Clear Creek. The State of Colorado, Division of Water Resources and the Colorado Water Conservation Board, agencies which oppose Golden's claim, and similar claims for in-stream water, appealed that decision to the Colorado Supreme Court. TU filed its amicus brief in support of the City of Golden.

TU was joined in its brief by a number of other environmental and recreation groups, including the High Country Citizens, the San Juan Citizens Alliance, the Colorado River Outfitters Association, and the American Canoe Association.



While the amicus brief addresses complicated points of Colorado water law, the overall theme is quite simple: in-channel water rights for recreation are not "second class" water rights but must be treated just as any other claim of water for beneficial use. The State has argued that these water rights should be subject to a number of tests and limitations that apply to no other water users, while the TU brief points out that there is no basis in law for that kind of discriminatory approach to recreational water rights.

While the brief focuses on points of law, recognizing recreational and in-channel uses of water makes good sense from a public and economic policy standpoint as well. Water-based recreation is increasingly important to Colorado's economy -- for example, fishing generates \$1.3 billion to the state's economy each year, and commercial rafting generates another \$123 million. Beyond dollars and cents, flowing streams also contribute to the quality of life for Coloradans. TU continues to support these in-stream uses of water. While the state has argued in this case that such in-channel uses of water are somehow less beneficial and should be more tightly limited than other water rights, TU believes that in-stream water rights should be given fair and equal treatment with out-of-stream uses. Colorado Water Project Press Release

## Oil and Gas Plan Threatens Fisheries

TU is deeply concerned that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is backing away from existing protections to coldwater fisheries and allowing new development of oil and gas resources on public lands without adequate commitments to reclamation and monitoring.

Current efforts to implement the Administration's energy plan by BLM assert oil and gas development as a dominant use of public lands and place protection of watershed health as an "impediment" to production. Emphasizing the production of public land energy resources at the expense of fish and wildlife habitats and drinking water supplies is a short road to prolonged conflict and long-term ecological degradation. Once rivers are polluted or watersheds are damaged, their recoveries are slow and expensive. Existing regulations opened millions of acres of land to drilling activities throughout the Rocky Mountain Western states. TU encourages the BLM to continue its current policies to aggressively protect our waters and rivers at the same time oil and gas activities are allowed.

At a recent press conference in Denver, TU's Wyoming Water Project Director Laurie Goodman said, "People from Wyoming and Colorado support multiple use management of public lands, but only if it does not compromise the health of our rivers and watersheds."

The "Pinedale Anticline" development in Wyoming may provide an example of how development and conservation may co-exist. In early March, a Federal District Court upheld the BLM's Record of Decision on an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for over 200,000 acres of land that was completed within 25 months. This required an Adaptive Management Process and the court praised BLM's adoption of the system, along with continued public participation in the monitoring of impacts. This EIS should be a model for future National Environmental Policy Act and permitting decisions allowing oil and gas operations by the BLM. It can provide for full public involvement, minimize industry uncertainty, and provide flexibility in leasing decisions so that land managers may retain the discretion to take prudent steps to protect land and watershed health.

TU Lines to Leaders - April 2002

## CA Tribes Want More Water For Salmon

The Hoopa and Yurok tribes in northwest California are asking a federal judge to leave more water in the Trinity River for salmon, instead of diverting about 75% of the flow for hydropower and Central Valley agribusiness says the SF Gate, AP 3/14. Irrigators are challenging a decision by former Interior Secretary Babbitt to preserve about half the Trinity's natural flow for the fish.

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or visit their web site at:

<http://www.defenders.org/grnhome.html>

**??? What's Happening ???****April 2002**

- 13th (Sa) Bear Creek Cleanup  
Meet in the downtown parking lot at 9:00a  
Lunch (on us) at the Little Bear afterwards
- 17th (W) ETU Chapter Meeting  
Evergreen's Sports Grill - 6:30p  
Al Himmelman  
Flyfishing British Columbia

**AND DON'T FORGET...****\*\*\*THE GREAT ETU RAFFLE DRAWING\*\*\***

- 20th (Sa) CTU Spring Rendezvous  
Redstone, CO  
Call the CTU office for registration info
- 20th (Sa) Earth Day Fair  
Evergreen Lakehouse  
Call Ron Belak if you can help
- 23rd (Tu) Teaching aquatics to 6th graders  
Mount Evans Outdoor Lab  
8:45a - Noon (Wed. the 24th and Mon. the 29th also)  
Contact John or Hugh if you can help
- 24th (W) ETU Board Meeting  
Rib Crib (Other Side) - 6:30p

**May 2002**

- 15th (W) ETU Chapter Meeting  
Evergreen's Sports Grill - 6:30p  
North Park Anglers
- 22nd (W) ETU Board Meeting  
Rib Crib (Other Side) - 6:30p

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On the web - [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org); [www.cotrout.org](http://www.cotrout.org); [www.evergreentroutrout.org](http://www.evergreentroutrout.org)  
Contact any of us with questions, suggestions, or spare time.

**Editorial Policy**

All submissions to the newsletter must be received by the Editor by the **1st Friday of the month**. Submissions may be on 3 1/2" disc or e-mailed. All items are subject to editing/space limitations. Articles are copyrighted by the author unless otherwise noted. **All phone numbers are Area Code 303 unless otherwise noted.** Call me for additional information.

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