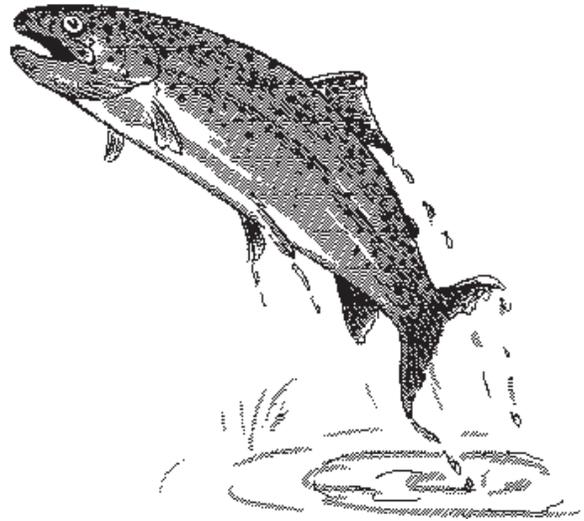


Electric

The Evergreen Trout



October 2002 The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited Vol. 20 No. 10

From the Prez,

Last month was another busy, as well as controversial, one for ETU. Saturday, September 14th was the Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab's Annual Open House. **Craig Dunham, Doug Fox, Hal Garwood, Mike Goldblatt, Marc Masters, Dave Underwood, and I prepared and served ~\$2100 worth of hot dogs, etc.** for the mass of parents and kids. In addition, we manned the new aquatics lab, demonstrating fly tying and showing off Craig's refurbished aquariums.

The following Saturday, we held our biannual **Bear Creek Cleanup**. Those helping were **John Ellis, Doug and Jonie Fox, Michael McGoldrich, Randi, Elias, and Steve Murray, Jean and Chris Tindall, Len Wheaton, and yours truly**. We collected the usual debris, plus some extra boards, etc. that probably washed down from the new 73/74 bridge project.

Speaking of that project, we also took another look at the construction area, and noted that the upper portion has been put back together better than we expected. We hope to get a press release in the Canyon Courier on both of the above, to help counteract last week's editorial blasting us for our stances against EMD and their policies/actions during this Summer's drought. A rebuttal and partial apology will be sent to the paper this week. {Note: *The Courier* printed it, unedited, in the October 2nd edition. -- Ed.}

Also, last month we received our first contribution (**\$256**) from the **Community Support**

Initiative (CSI). The founders of CSI, Brent and Tricia Langevin, aka Alliance Home Lending of Evergreen (674-1912), haven't asked for any advertising or promotion of any kind from us -- they wouldn't even give us a brochure -- but we feel that a huge "Thank You!!!" is owed to them.

In the biggest news, tickets are now available for the highly touted **John Fielder Program and Silent Auction, Tuesday, November 19th, at 6:00pm, in the historic Chief Hosa Lodge**. A \$10 ticket gets you entry PLUS a chance at several door prizes (need not be present to win). We're still looking for a few more auction items, corporate sponsors, and other help. We hope to have at least some of the silent auction items available to view/bid on at the October general meeting. For any of you who may not be able to attend, John's books, which make great holiday gifts, will be available -- and **we make 40%** on all sales. **PLEASE NOTE: The John Fielder program will take the place of our November general meeting. Also, due to the Thanksgiving holiday, we've rescheduled the November Board meeting from Wednesday the 27th to Tuesday the 26th.**

See you at the general meeting on Wednesday, October 16th, when we've booked two famous local guides -- Andrew Steketee and Kirk Deeter -- presenting a slide show, featuring their new book: **Castwork, Reflections of Fly Fishing Guides and the American West**.

Until next time,

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.

August And September Board Meetings

Attendees: Rich Reynolds, Ron Belak, Hal Garwood, John Ellis, Craig Dunham, Len Wheaton, Randy Huiting, Peggy Linn, Wayne Hazeldine, Pete Janik, Steve Murray, Mike Gardner, Wayne Kosloske, Tim Haller, and Hugh Gardner.

Bear Creek Project: Under a permit secured by Denver Mountain Parks, restoration work is slated on Bear Creek at O'Fallon Park, probably mid-October. CDOT will supply the rocks and Renaud has volunteered to move and place them in the stream. Troy Thompson has been advising us on the project. In addition, the DOW is interested in electroshocking the stream again this fall.

Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab: Craig Dunham has completed the installation of chillers at the Outdoor Lab as well as Bergen Valley and Wilmont Schools. Since the cost of chillers exceeded the grant the Craig acquired, the Board unanimously voted to cover the additional cost of about \$230. Due to our inability to acquire greenbacks, we stocked rainbows but are hoping to get some fry in the future. Our culinary skills at the Outdoor Lab open house netted \$611 for the Outdoor Lab.

Buchanan Ponds: The Board voted unanimously to refurbish the four signs at Buchanan Pond for a total cost of \$400. Stay tuned for possibly one more free fishing day, if the weather holds.

We received our first donation (\$256) through the Community Support Initiative, sponsored by Alliance Home Lending of Evergreen. Alliance donates a portion of the origination fees on mortgages they close, to the charity of the borrower's choice.

New board members include Wayne Hazeldine, Trips Coordinator; and Peggy Linn, Youth Education.

Ron Belak

New Members

Please join me in welcoming **Joseph Azzarelli, Cristen Brandt, Douglas Emerick, Rick Harvey, Richard Hawes, Mark McCulloch Jr., Shawn Morrissey, Zach Sahker, Terry Smith, Robert Thomas, Stephen Wheeler,** 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: 281

Randy Huiting

Kudos...

...to **Ron Belak, Peggy Linn, Jill Haller, and Randy Huiting** for their help with the newsletter.

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

Ed.

The Evergreen Trout

Upcoming Programs - Mark Your Calendar

October showcases two ETU'ers and co-authors, Kirk Deeter and Andrew Steketee, presenting their highly acclaimed new book, *"Castwork, Reflections of Fly Fishing Guides and the American West."* Their book features stunning black and white photography combined with insightful interviews with some of the country's most experience flyfishing guides. Their program will feature a slide presentation accompanied by a lively discussion of the guides and the author's experiences in writing their book. A book signing session will follow the program (Get ready for the holidays!).

Remember, the **John Fielder** program (November 19th at the Chief Hosa Lodge) will take the place of our regular meeting in November, and we will be having our annual **Holiday Extravaganza** (December 7th at Dick Wheeler's home - details next month) in lieu of a meeting in December.

On another front, many of you have been asking about the effects of the Big Fish Fire on our beloved Trappers Lake. Plan on attending our January 2003 meeting to have your questions answered. On Wednesday evening, January 15, 2003, Evergreen Trout Unlimited members Ron Belak and Peggy Linn will present a slide show on *"Trappers Lake - After the Fire."* Ron and Peggy visited the area two weeks after the fire, and will present their photos and a discussion of the impacts of the fire on fishing, hunting, and recreation in the Trappers Lake area.

The Big Fish Fire, that had been smoldering in the Flat Tops for about a month, blew up on August 16, 2002. Fanned by winds from an advancing cold front, flames raced down Himes Peak, jumped the road near Lake of the Woods, destroyed Trappers Lake Lodge, and eventually blackened 17,000 acres of forest surrounding Trappers Lake. **The area is forever changed...**

Ron is a free-lance author and photographer whose work has appeared in Colorado Outdoors, American Angler, and Fly Fisherman magazines. ETU members know Ron as the author of the Trappers Lake article on ETU's website, and for organizing our first Trappers Lake trip nearly 10 years ago. As a natural resource analyst for the US General Accounting Office, Ron studied wildland fire with the US Forest Service and the Department of the Interior in 2000 and 2001. Peggy is an ex-Forest Service employee who has fought forest fires in Utah, Colorado, and Idaho, and has provided fire information to the public in these states, as well as California and Texas.

Randy Huiting



The Evergreen Trout

Black Canyon of the Gunnison

"The Black Canyon of the Gunnison's unique and spectacular landscape was formed slowly by the action of water and rock scouring down through hard Proterozoic crystalline rock. No other canyon in North America combines the narrow opening, sheer walls, and startling depths offered by the Black Canyon of the Gunnison." - National Park Service web site.

The Bush administration announced on September 30, 2002 that it would abandon most of its water right claims [for protection of] the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. Established in 1933 to preserve "the roar of the river," the park is not only a spectacular landscape, but is also home to one of the best trout fisheries in Colorado. In January 2001, during the final days of the Clinton administration, the federal government filed an application to quantify its previously-awarded water right for the Black Canyon. That application sought flows that would permanently protect the river and its resident fishery -- with both a year-round 300 cubic feet per second (cfs) base flow and a spring peak flow ranging from 2000 to 12,000 cfs, depending on water availability in a particular year. But, in a move that represents a major reversal of the federal position on the Black Canyon, the Bush administration has agreed to administer its Black Canyon water right as if subordinate to upstream reservoirs and other upstream water diversions, leaving open the possibility that water could be taken out of the Gunnison River and sent over the Continental Divide to feed urban sprawl near Denver. The opportunity to provide permanent and meaningful protection for the Black Canyon appears to have been squandered away.

CTU Press Release

Drought, Fire, And Fish

Colorado has been suffering through one of the worst drought and fire seasons in memory and it has effected all of us, whether you are a homeowner in or near a burn zone, a metro-area resident facing mandatory water restrictions, or a farmer seeing your irrigation water dwindle away. At the CTU office, we have gotten many questions about how the fires and drought effect trout and what CTU is doing to help.

Fires have already had an effect on TU projects. Most notably, the ambitious Cheesman Canyon Restoration Project -- to rebuild the Gill Trail -- has been postponed due to the Hayman fire (but is resuming this month). Publicity about the fires, coupled with low flows due to drought, are also creating major challenges for fishing outfitters around the state. We encourage TU members to book a day with their local guides - they will help you find good fishing in these adverse water conditions, and it is an important way of helping those businesses that help CTU and trout conservation.

Fire and drought will both have significant effects on the trout themselves. Drought conditions throughout the state -- coupled with diversions for a host of human uses -- will leave many key Colorado streams at extremely low flows and may allow water temperatures to climb dangerously close to lethal levels for trout. Extreme low flows in the Dolores River tailwater are expected to kill virtually all the remaining trout. While prospects for this year are dim, CTU and other environmental groups like The Nature Conservancy are working with water right owners to see whether some are willing to donate or lease water for instream flows under the newly passed SB 156.

The effects of fires on trout are less widespread but just as troubling. Post-fire rainstorms have led to serious erosion on the unstable soils left behind in burned areas, causing major sediment problems for rivers including the South Platte (where the Hayman fire burned along gold-medal stream reaches) and Mitchell Creek (a native cutthroat trout stream jeopardized by the Coal Seam fire). Buffalo Creek experienced a worst-case scenario of that kind a few years ago, with sediment flows several feet deep rushing down unstable slopes and into the stream. CTU has offered volunteer support to the Forest Service for soil stabilization and rehabilitation in the aftermath of fires. We are currently working with our chapters to line up volunteer days for fire rehabilitation work. If you are interested in volunteering, please call me at the CTU office - 303-440-2937 x12.

David Nickum - CTU Executive Director

National Convention A Huge Success

Kudos to TU's Maine Council for hosting a wildly successful gathering! Two hundred TU volunteer leaders from across the nation met for three days in Portland last month to shape TU's National Conservation Agenda for the coming year, tend to other important organizational business at the national level, and "network" with other leaders and staff (OK, so there was some fishing and fun, too). Here are the conservation and organizational highlights of the business meetings:

TU's National Conservation Agenda: TU's conservation agenda is already quite broad, encompassing virtually all challenges facing coldwater resources. There were no proposed deletions, and only one proposed addition, which came from the Southeast Region. Leaders there proposed that TU examine the impact of forest health issues on riparian forest zones and coldwater fisheries habitat. Among other tree species, Eastern Hemlock's are being devastated by pest infestations creating a large-scale change in the relationships between trees and streams. National Resource Board members passed a motion to instruct staff to review the scientific literature on this problem, and develop a report addressing potential impacts on coldwater conservation and opportunities for TU chapters and councils to participate in research and control initiatives by federal and state agencies.

NRB Supports Organizational Changes: TU's national volunteer leadership voted unanimously to support major changes to TU's grassroots structure and support over the coming year. The organizational changes are designed to capitalize on TU's most distinguishing feature -- our huge grassroots force -- and better position the organization to carry out our conservation mission in today's political, economic and social climate. The proposed changes are the first of this magnitude since the current national volunteer leadership structure (the NRB) was established a decade ago, a move that dramatically strengthened TU's ability to help trout and salmon. NRB members proposed one amendment (concerning selection of grassroots trustees), and voted unanimously to endorse, with that one amendment, the NRB Futures Committee's recommendations entitled, A Strategic Plan for Strengthening TU's Grassroots Organizational and Leadership Capacity to Carry Out Mission. The NRB Secretary is preparing a formal advisement to TU's Board of Trustees to accept the proposed changes, which will be voted on at the Trustees' mid-September meeting in Denver. {The Board of Trustees did, in fact, adopt the proposed changes. - Ed.}

TU Lines to Leaders - September 2002

??? What's Happening ???

October 2002

- 16th (W) ETU Chapter Meeting
Evergreen's Sports Grill - 6:30p
Kirk Deeter and Andrew Steketee
See pg. 2 for details.
- 23rd (W) ETU Board Meeting
Rib Crib (Other Side) - 6:30p
- 25th (W) FREE fishing day at Buchanan Ponds
ETU members only
Contact John or Rich for details.

November 2002

19th (Tu) ETU PROUDLY PRESENTS...

John Fielder's

"Best of Colorado"

Slide show and book sale/signing!
Evergreen TU Silent Auction!

Chief Hosa Lodge at 6:00p

Tickets (\$10) available from any board member.

Seating IS limited, so get your ticket NOW!!!

- 26th (Tu) ETU Board Meeting
Rib Crib (Other Side) - 6:30p

December 2002

- 7th (Sa) ETU Annual Holiday Extraveganza
Dick Wheeler's home
Details next month

The Evergreen Trout

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On the web - www.tu.org; www.cotroun.org; www.evergreentroun.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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Working to protect America's streams.

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1999 Outstanding Chapter Communications Award
2000 Outstanding Youth Education Program Award



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