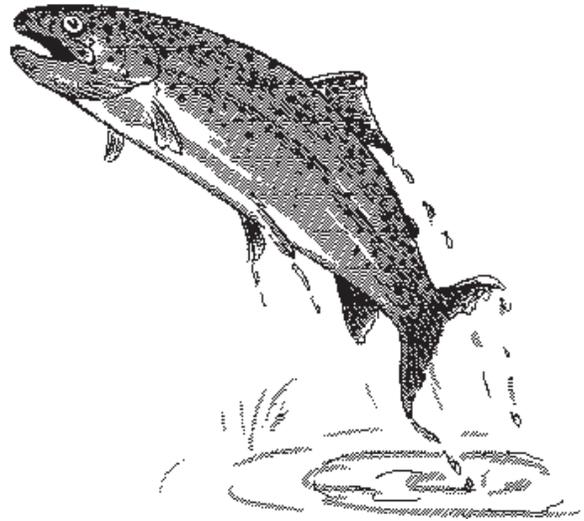


Electric

The Evergreen Trout



April 2003 The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited Vol. 21 No. 3

From The Prez,

With the war in Iraq in full gear, it's a little tough to find motivation for trout right now. My thoughts are with our troops over there, and we all wish for a quick resolve to the conflict. As one Army Master Sergeant was quoted though, "We're fighting to protect America's way of life, not to put it on hold." With that in mind here we go.

I trust you're somewhat over the 'Blizzard of 2003' by now. Well, we wanted the moisture, so **No Whining!** The snowpack at Mt. Evans is nearly 100% of normal, and with a few more spring storms (smaller ones please), Bear Creek might be in decent shape this summer. We still plan to do some water conservation publicity to keep the momentum up in that area. Earth Day, Saturday, April 19th will be a good forum for that. We still need some helpers at the Lakehouse that day. Please call Ron Belak if you can help.

As we mentioned last month, our "Fishing is Fun" grant application was submitted for rehab work in the O'Fallon Park reach of Bear Creek. We should know by the second week of June, if we are likely to be approved. Cross your fingers! In the meantime, Troy Thompson is trying to define another area of the stream to do some minor hand work on this summer. Wednesday, April 16th, from 9:00a to 2:00p, students from Evergreen High School have volunteered to do some cleanup along Bear Creek, as part of their Community Service Day. We need a couple of folks to supervise them for a while (at least to get started) that day. Call me or Brian Doctor

(670-4162) if you can come down that morning. We will still do the chapter stream cleanup on Saturday, April 26th, as previously planned. Meet in the big parking lot across from the Little Bear at 9:00a, with your waders and a hoe/cultivator/rake.

We also need help at Mount Evans Outdoor Lab, with a few kids classes in April and May. Call Len Wheaton if you can help. Keep in mind, you potential volunteers, that numerous studies (Consumer Reports for one) have shown that people who help others live substantially longer than those who don't. The similar Law of Karma you've all heard "What goes around, comes around," also applies. Give the chapter and your weary Board a boost! Please! As always, feel free to stop by the next board meeting on Wednesday, April 23rd, 6:30p, at the Rib Crib Other Side.

Hope you didn't drive (ski, snowshoe, etc.) downtown for the last meeting (cancelled due to a little bit of snow).

Please NOTE!!! Due to a previously scheduled event, this month's meeting will be held on TUESDAY, APRIL 15th, at the Evergreen Hotel, in stead of Wednesday the 16th.

We will go back to our regular third-Wednesday-of-the-month thing in May.

See you there,
Rich

The Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited meets the third Wednesday of the month at the Evergreen Hotel in downtown Evergreen (next to the Little Bear). Join us for Dinner/Chapter Business at 6:30pm followed by the program at ~7:30pm. We look forward to seeing **YOU** there!

March Board Meeting

Attendees: Rich Reynolds, Ron Belak, Hal Garwood, John Ellis, Craig Dunham, Tim Haller, Troy Thompson, Peggy Linn, and Steve Murray.

Bear Creek: Troy Thompson submitted the "Fishing Is Fun" grant, designed to improve habitat in Bear Creek through O'Fallon Park. We expect a decision by mid-June. If we receive the grant, we will start work during low flow in the fall of 2004, prior to the brown trout spawning season. Kip Bossong, a hydrologist with the US Geological Survey, is reviewing the report on Bear Creek, contracted by the Bear Creek Watershed Association. This report seemed to exonerate Evergreen Metro District of contributing to the fish kills during the summer of 2002. The Board scheduled Saturday, April 26th, as the day for our semi-annual cleanup of Bear Creek. Meet at 9:00a in the parking lot across from the Little Bear and bring waders and gloves.

Earth Day: Evergreen's Earth Day Fair will take place on Saturday, April 19th at the Lakehouse. Ron Belak and Peggy Linn will be tying flies, and Craig Dunham will set up a small aquarium with trout. We will also be promoting our "Fishing Is Fun" grant proposal. We could use another couple of hands, so if you can help for a couple of hours on the 19th, please call Ron Belak or Peggy Linn at 674-2239. Volunteers will assist with tying colorful flies for the many children that stop at our booth, discuss ETU with adults, and suggest favorite fishing holes.

Youth Education: Our children's fly tying classes continue periodically at the Mount Evans Outdoor Lab. Len Wheaton coordinates these classes, and if you can help, call Len at 674-4243. Tentatively, we have classes scheduled for April 21st and May 1st. Len and Peggy have worked on a letter, specifying ETU's desires to improve these classes, including firm commitments on a minimum number of students and minimum class time of 90 minutes. The Outdoor Lab has budgeted funds for replacing their broken aquarium, which is to be stocked with trout. On a sad note, we lost the trout fry in the tanks at Wilmot School. Craig Dunham reported that the power outage during the "Blizzard of 2003" was lethal to the trout. Craig plans to restock the tanks. On a similar note, Ron and Peggy learned that you can keep a tank of goldfish alive by hooking up an airstone and tubing to a bicycle pump. Of course, you need to be on location and perform this task every 3 or 4 hours.

We will co-host the Children's Fishing Clinic again this spring with the Evergreen Recreation District. This year, we will plan one Saturday session in June, possibly the 14th. We will also assist with fishing at Camp Comfort the following weekend. Camp Comfort, at Santa Maria on Hwy 285, provides counseling to children who have lost someone close to them.

Trips: Green River, April 17th through 20th, contact Rich Reynolds (674-4861). Bighorn River, May 4th through 7th, contact Len Wheaton (674-4243). Trappers Lake Ice-Out, May 30th through June 1st(?), depending on snowpack and weather conditions, contact Ron Belak (674-2230). 10th Annual ETU Trappers Lake Rendezvous, July 9th through 13th, contact Ron Belak (674-2239). See the article on Trappers Lake posted on our website. Also look for an upcoming article on the impact of the fires on the fisheries in the Flat Tops. This article, written by Ron Belak, will appear about mid-May in Colorado Outdoors 2003 Annual Fishing Guide.

Ron Belak, Secretary

Peggy Linn, Trips Coordinator

Blue River Festival

When: April 26th from 4:00p - 8:00p

Where: Silverthorne Pavilion, in Silverthorne Colorado - Just off I-70 on Hiway 9, exit 205

What: Fund-raising Event for restoration on the Blue River in Silverthorne

The Gore Range Anglers Chapter of Trout Unlimited and several partners are involved in a major restoration project on the Blue River. Colorado's Blue River is a Gold Medal fishery with a well-deserved reputation for excellent fishing and big, trophy size trout. The restoration of this valuable site will improve the fishing experience for residents and visitors alike, and insure the protection the Gold Medal status the river currently holds. In addition to the restoration plans, this section of the Blue River offers an unparalleled opportunity to implement a public education and outreach program, a critical component to insuring the continual health of this and other riparian habitat.

TU is a strong supporter of the Blue River Restoration project. Our local volunteers are actively involved in the planning and fund raising aspects of this project. We have a major fund raising event on April 26th in which we are hoping to raise 15% of the \$94,750 matching grant we have already received from the National Forest Foundation.

The partners of the Blue River Restoration Project include Summit County Government, The City of Silverthorne, Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, Trout Unlimited and many others. We have also received support from the White River National Forest (USFS), Colorado Division of Wildlife, and The Colorado Water District.

We have also received donations from a few chapters. We are hoping that other chapters that have an interest in the Blue River will help out also. TU Chapters (and members) that have an interest in the Blue River can help out in many ways: financial donations, donations of items for the silent/live auction, and volunteers to help with the event.

We currently have donations for the auction of several guided trips, rods, reels, tying materials, local restaurant gift certificates, and much more. We are planning on having live casting demonstrations, tying demonstrations, and local guides on hand to answer questions about local rivers.

Any company or individual donation over \$100 will also receive special recognition on the river. Special accommodations are also being made for larger donations as well.

Tickets are on sale now, and can also be bought at the door or we can send them to you. They are \$15 each. We goal is to sell 250 tickets, which should get us to 20% of our goal for the event.

If you have any questions or wish to donate to the fund-raiser you may contact me directly at 970-262-7573, or e-mail me at andygentry@earthlink.net.

Andy Gentry - President, Gore Range Anglers

Kudos...

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

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

Ed.



EVERGREEN TROUT UNLIMITED MONTHLY PROGRAM



Tuesday, April 15, 2003

NEW LOCATION: EVERGREEN COFFEE SHOP
(Inside the Historic "Evergreen Hotel", next to the Little Bear)

DINNER AND CHAPTER BUSINESS AT 6:30 P.M., FREE PRESENTATION AT 7:00 P.M.

Visit our web-site at: www.evergreentrount.org

FEATURING THE "KING OF BAMBOO",

RICH MCGAUGHEY

"BAMBOO FLY RODS"



Rich brings over 40 years of flyfishing experience to his local bamboo fly rod building and restoration business. Rich will discuss how to select, fish, construct and restore bamboo fly rods. His entertaining discussion will also have several "hands-on" materials and he will demonstrate some of the construction steps. Don't miss this opportunity to learn what a select few have already discovered—the mystery and beauty of Bamboo! Check out Rich's website:

www.geocities.com/macsrods/macsrods.htm

Western Water Campaign

TROUT and salmon need water. They need enough water to hide from predators, find food, migrate and reproduce. In many parts of the West, where water is scarce, there is not enough water left in the rivers for the fish.

Through a system of state water laws that put little value in water left flowing in rivers and streams, mining, agriculture and municipal uses often drain rivers dry. This lack of water is one of the main reasons why many of the West's native cutthroat and rainbow trout species, as well as almost all of the salmon and steelhead, are in trouble.

Of all of the threats to trout and salmon, addressing the issue of leaving enough water in rivers is perhaps the most difficult. There's an old saying in the West that still holds true today: "Whiskey's for drinkin', but water's for fightin' over." Legal rights to divert water, often issued over a century ago, allow farmers to completely drain rivers and send the water over considerable distances to irrigate crops. Legal rights for water left in the rivers are either not recognized in many states, or are of low priority in a system that gives the highest priority of use to the people who hold the oldest rights.

To address the problem of dry and depleted rivers in the West, Trout Unlimited started the Western Water Program in 1998. In partnership with WaterWatch of Oregon, TU opened offices in Montana and Colorado staffed with experienced water law attorneys. The goal of these offices is to protect and restore water in rivers for healthy fisheries and to open up state decisions on water allocation to meaningful public participation.

The WWP is already making a difference. Highlights include:

- working with ranchers on Montana's Blackfoot River to develop a plan to keep water in the river during a recent drought
- leasing water from irrigators to restore water to depleted Montana streams
- fighting efforts by Colorado ski resorts to dewater streams for snowmaking
- contesting efforts by the city of Denver to take additional water from streams on the western front

Based on our successes in Colorado and Montana, the WWP has recently opened offices in Wyoming and Utah. To learn more about the WWP, subscribe to the Western Waterfront e-mail list and read the newsletters published by the state offices of the WWP.

NTU Website

New Members

Please join me in welcoming **Timothy Lane, Ryan Koch, Claudia Serafin, Neil Serafin, Steven Parks, Thomas Lockwood, and Larry Hall** 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: **290**

Randy Huiting

The Evergreen Trout

Trout Action! Speak for the fish!

*Ad*vo*cate - v. to defend, support or speak in favor of a cause*

TROUT and salmon across the nation are in trouble from years of abuse and neglect and ever-increasing population and development pressures. These fish can't speak for themselves; they depend on concerned citizens to speak for them. And Trout Unlimited members do just that. At 130,000 strong and growing, our members and volunteers are the best friends these fish have.

TU members from all walks of life advocate for our coldwater resources -- locally, statewide, regionally, and nationally. Our chapters take on local issues like stream restoration or hydropower relicensing. Our state councils advocate for trout and salmon in the state legislature or governor's office. TU's national office advocates in Washington, DC, in the courts, and in supporting our chapters and councils.

In all of this action, our members are the most potent weapon. Politicians pay attention when a number of people give them a message. In the biggest states, a few thousand letters on any given topic will get attention. In the smaller states, a few hundred letters will make the decision makers sit up and take notice.

We need your help. Join thousands of other TU members in letting the politicians and agencies know that we speak for the fish. Here are four ways to learn more about opportunities to take Trout Action!

Review and comment on our current issues (<http://capwiz.com/tu/issues/>)

Sign up for Trout Action Alerts by e-mail (<http://capwiz.com/tu/mlm/>)

Get advice on effective advocacy (http://www.tu.org/campaigns/speaking_trout_manual.htm)

Learn more about Trout Action (http://www.tu.org/campaigns/about_trout_action.htm)

NTU Website

National Wildlife Refuges 100th Anniversary

IT all began with one man and one boat, protecting pelicans on a tiny five-acre island in Florida. From that humble beginning arose the world's largest and most diverse network of lands dedicated to the protection and management of a vast array of wildlife. America's National Wildlife Refuge System now encompasses over 95 million acres on more than 540 refuges and thousands of waterfowl production areas.

March 14, 2003, marks a milestone in the history of wildlife conservation in America -- the Centennial Anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System. It began in 1903 when President Theodore Roosevelt set aside a tiny island off the east coast of Florida for the protection of pelicans and other species from market hunters.

Outstanding public-domain historic images from the National Wildlife Refuge System's 100 eventful years exist on the US Fish and Wildlife Service's online image inventory (www.fws.gov). Reporters who anticipate writing "curtain raisers" before the March 14, 2003 kick-off centennial celebration at Pelican Island, Florida, would do well to check out this new collection of interesting and unusual photos from the Refuge System's eventful history.

TU Lines to Leaders - March 2003

The Evergreen Trout

ESA Troubles...

Is It Real Or Voluntary Protection

The Center for Biological Diversity has asked Interior Secretary Gale Norton to extend ESA protection to the roundtail and headwater chubs says the Arizona Republic 4/2. The listing petition maintains the two Southwestern fish have "been pushed toward extinction by urban sprawl, cattle grazing, dam building and other forces that have allowed non-native fish species to take over their habitat." For its part, the USFWS said it has "mull[ed] whether to add the fish to the endangered list for some time" and "prefers to see if voluntary actions would restore the fish to healthy numbers." In line with a new Bush administration policy, it seems the agency has "decided" that "proposed candidate conservation agreements" can protect the fish without listing it.

Another Policy To Prevent Listings

Conservationists are highly skeptical of a new Bush administration policy for evaluating how current and future conservation efforts affect decisions to grant plants and animals ESA protection, says Environment News Service 3/31. They fear that the "Policy for Evaluation of Conservation Efforts" is yet another way that the administration can avoid ESA listings "under the guise" of delegating conservation to state agencies. The Bush administration, particularly Interior Secretary Norton has "come under sharp criticism" for failing to implement the ESA. "A law that she has opposed at every turn through her career", says Defenders of Wildlife.

Reprinted from the 4/8/03 issue of GREENLines, from the GrassRoots Environmental Effectiveness Network of The Endangered Species Coalition. To subscribe to this free e-mail service of environmental news, e-mail:

listproc@envirolink.org,

or visit their web site at:

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

Protection Delayed Is Protection Denied

Conservationists are once again suing the USFWS over its de facto moratorium on listing new species, claiming that it is "illegally endangering" the Sierra Nevada mountain yellow-legged frog, says SFGate.com, AP 4/1. Since November 2000, citing a backlog of lawsuits over previous listings, the USFWS says it would act only in response to court orders. The Center for Biological Diversity and Pacific Rivers Council, represented by Earthjustice, have already won a lawsuit to force the frog's listing and while the USFWS agrees that the "species in trouble," it also claims to be "just chasing our tails around a tree." According to the Center the average time that a species remains in a protection-less "regulatory purgatory" is 17 years.

Which Came First Underfunding Or Litigation?

USFWS Director Steve Williams recently told a Senate panel that his "agency's priorities are being driven largely by lawsuits, court orders and settlements rather than what's most important biologically", says Greenwire 3/19. The USFWS assistant for endangered species also testified that "clearing the backlog of lawsuit related problems and meeting all the ESA requirements would cost \$20 million to \$25 million annually." Editor's Note: Most non-industry

lawsuits are the result of intentional, prolonged and chronic under funding of the service's listing and critical habitat program, which has caused them to miss legally mandated deadlines, thus prompting citizen enforcement lawsuits to gain protection for imperiled species in a timely manner.

Reprinted from the 4/7/03 issue of GREENLines, from the GrassRoots Environmental Effectiveness Network of The Endangered Species Coalition. To subscribe to this free e-mail service of environmental news, e-mail:

listproc@envirolink.org,

or visit their web site at:

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

Klamath River Troubles...

Fear For Klamath Growing

With the Klamath Basin facing the prospect of another dry summer, "there are growing fears among scientists, tribes and fishermen that low-river levels could lead to another disaster," such as the death of at least 33,000 fish last fall, the "largest salmon die-off ever recorded in the American West", says the San Jose Mercury News 3/20. Water deliveries to agribusiness are slated to begin April 1, and the "Bush administration is poised to issue a decision that is likely to put even less water in the Klamath River of Northern California this year than last." "It's setting up a perfect situation for another massive fish kill.", says the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations.

Whistle Blower Investigation Denied

The Bush administration will not investigate a whistle blower complaint by a NMFS biologist who "accurately warned that diverting water from the Klamath River to farm fields would kill off the river's salmon", says CNN.com, AP 3/24. State wildlife officials, environmentalists, fishermen, and Indian tribes say that agribusiness water diversions "caused the deaths of 33,000 fish, nearly a quarter of the river's projected fall salmon run." The biologist's complaint, which was filed last October with the US Office of Special Counsel, alleges that Bush administration water diversions violated ESA protections for salmon and that "his team's recommendations were rejected twice under political pressure."

Water Policy Blamed For Fish Kill

Scientists at the recent American Fisheries Society conference linked the deaths of at least 34,000 mostly chinook salmon to warm water and low flows caused by the US Bureau of Reclamation irrigation project in the upper Klamath River, says the Eureka Times-Standard 3/16. According to presentations at the conference, "Nearly every run of fish in the river has been beaten down. Coho salmon are threatened, the spring run of chinook salmon is decimated, summer steelhead are scarce, green sturgeon look as if they are fading away, cutthroat trout may become protected, and the tiny candlefish -- once a massive run -- may be all but gone."

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listproc@envirolink.org,

or visit their web site at:

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

??? What's Happening ???

April 2003

15th (Tu) NOTE: Due to a scheduling conflict, the April meeting will be held on Tuesday the 15th at The Evergreen Hotel Rich McGaughey - Building and restoring bamboo fly rods

16th (W) EHS Community Service Day
See pg. 1 for details.
Call Rich Reynolds or Brian Doctor if you can help.

19th (Sa) Earth Day Fair
Evergreen Lakehouse
Call Ron Belak if you can help..

21st (M) Mount Evans Outdoor Lab
6th graders
Call Len Wheaton if you can help.

23rd (W) ETU Board Meeting
Rib Crib (Other Side) - 6:30p

26th (Sa) Bear Creek Cleanup
Meet across from the Little Bear at 9:00a

May 2003

1st (Th) Mount Evans Outdoor Lab
6th graders
Call Len Wheaton if you can help.

21st (W) ETU Chapter Meeting
Evergreen Hotel - 6:30p
Fishing the Green River

28th (W) ETU Board Meeting
Rib Crib (Other Side) - 6:30p

Chapter Contacts

President	Rich Reynolds <joansew@aol.com>	674-4861
Vice President	JohnEllis <cutthroattrout47@aol.com>	674-1017
Treasurer	Steve Murray <murray_sp@msn.com>	670-7942
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CTU Office	Various nice folks	440-2937

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

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2000 Outstanding Youth Education Program Award



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