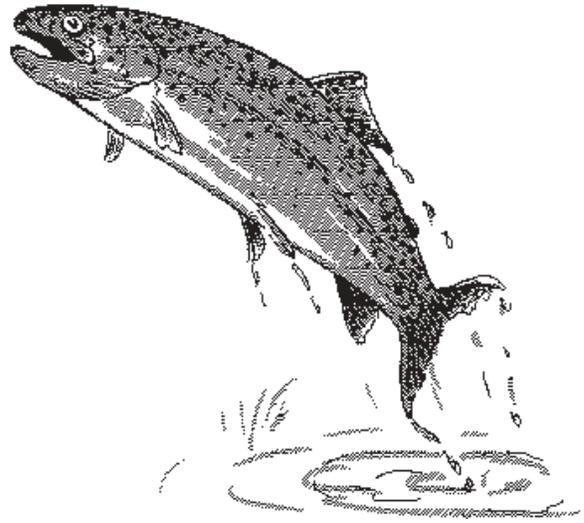


Electric

The Evergreen Trout



May 2003 The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited Vol. 21 No. 5

From The Prez,

I finally made it out fishing two weeks ago, after seven months off. We rafted the "A" (upper) section of the Green River below Flaming Gorge Reservoir and had a good time, although the weather was pretty ugly (snowed ~ 4" both nites).

Today we made our **formal presentation to the "Fishing is Fun" Committee**, for our Bear Creek project. Karen Christopherson, Hugh Gardner, and myself representing ETU, along with Troy Thompson and Dave Blauch from Ecological Resource Consultants, did the honors down at CDOW Headquarters in north Denver.

Our spiel was quite polished, and **very well received, we believe**. Last year, 11 of 14 projects were funded. This year there are around 15 proposed projects. The only negative in our proposal, is in the projected number of "increased fishing days", which was set at 100 by the CDOW staff. We felt it should have been higher, in light of similar figures for other projects. The thrust of this whole program is "to create or increase fishing opportunities", so a low number in the "fishing days increased" column is not good. My gut feel is that it will be funded, based on conversations with others down there.

Speaking of others, we were introduced to our **new District Wildlife Manager, Dawson Swanson (303-291-7227)**. He seems very helpful, and said that Bear Creek is one of his leading priorities. We quickly put him to work on a "Trout-in-the-Classroom" issue that came up recently. We also met the brand new (second day on the job) **area biologist for Bear**

Creek, Paul Winkle (303-291-7232). Both were encouraged to attend our meetings as soon as they can, and promised to do so.

In other Bear Creek news, the stream was **finally re-opened to fishing** two weeks ago, after being closed since early last summer due to the drought. Also, mark your calendars (one more time...) for the **Bear Creek Clean-up on Saturday, May 31st**. The April 26th clean-up was postponed at the last minute, due to very high runoff (a good thing) and the fact that on April 16th, Evergreen High's student volunteers cleaned the bank edges under the supervision of ETU member Brian Doctor (et. al.). We still plan to **finish the Idledale project**, and possibly work on another area of the stream this summer. We'll keep you posted.

In case you hadn't heard, ETU recently received one of the Colorado TU Council's "Outstanding Chapter Communications" awards (Thanks Tim) {et. al. -- Ed.}, as well as an "Exemplary Chapter Project" award (Thanks Karen and Hugh). Thanks to all who helped the chapter in one way or another, last year!!! Keep in mind those free 'last Fri. of the month' fishing days at Buchanan Ponds (call John Ellis or me for info), and upcoming trips: ice-off at Trapper's Lake (5/23 or 5/30), the Big Horn (date TBA), and Gray's Reef (ibid.).

Thanks for your patience for reading this to the end. See you **Wednesday, May 21st**, at 6:30pm, at the **Evergreen Hotel/Coffee Shop**, for a good slideshow on the Green River. Why wasn't this one last month???

Rich (5/7/03)

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!

April Board Meeting (And Fishin' Report)

Attendees: Ron Belak, Peggy Linn, Rich Reynolds, Steve Murray, Wayne Kosloske, Tim Haller, Len Wheaton, Craig Dunham, Troy Thompson, Hugh Gardner, and Hal Garwood.

After a call-to-order by our distinguished President, the following business was discussed:

Bear Creek: Compared to last year at this time, it's hard to believe that **Bear Creek is running high**. The cleanup by Evergreen High School students on April 16th went well, but high water kept most of these eager young men and women on the banks. **We postponed ETU's cleanup until May 31st**, when we believe these waters will diminish. While we wait on approval of our "**Fishing Is Fun**" grant, Troy Thompson is devising a simple Bear Creek project for us this summer. He also informed us that the DOW is planning on stocking 5,000 rainbow fingerings in the fall.

Buchanan Ponds: Our signs informing would-be anglers that they need to register with the Evergreen Recreation District are in the works, awaiting approval. I hope that some of you enjoyed our free fishing day on April 25th, unfortunately, I had something else that surfaced. However, I have fished the ponds twice since then (April 27th and May 4th). I can't say they have been on fire, but they have **consistently produced trout** if you are willing to work for them. The water temperature has been hovering around 50 degrees, and the trout were 20 to 30 feet offshore on the bottom. The belly boat was most effective, but I did catch several in the early morning while casting from shore. I've caught the recently stocked fish (11 to 13 inches) on black Woolly Buggers fished on a sinking line. For the larger rainbows (15 to 18 inches), try a No. 8 red Carey Special or a No. 14 orange soft hackle. By publication time, these fish should **start rising to midges**.

Mount Evans Outdoor Lab: Len Wheaton informed us that 12 students at the Outdoor Lab thoroughly enjoyed a recent fly tying and fishing session there. They spent an hour tying and another hour fishing (**and hooked 4 trout**). On a similar note, Craig Dunham is planning on releasing the rainbow fry that were raised in local classrooms. On Friday, May 30th, amidst much revelry and a picnic lunch, the students will **release the fry** into Buchanan Ponds (I'm fishin' streamers there the next day!).

Awards: At the Rendezvous in Redstone, CTU bestowed onto ETU two awards -- **Outstanding Chapter Communications** (for Tim Haller's great job on our newsletter) and **Exemplary Chapter Project** (for our efforts on Bear Creek).

Trips: Free day at Buchanan Pond on May 30th. Trapper's Lake ice-out May 30 to June 1? Call Ron Belak for an ice-out update. **Annual Trapper's Lake Rendezvous and Picnic will be July 9th - 13th.** Look in the upcoming 2003 Colorado Outdoors Fishing Guide for my article on the fires last year in the Flat Tops, and their expected impact on the fisheries.

In the Oven: Evergreen Recreation Center **Children's Fishing Class** on Saturday, June 14th from 9:00a - 3:00p. **Camp Comfort Children's Fishing Activities** at Santa Maria on June 21st & 22nd, and July 19th & 20th. **Fourth of July Children's Fishing Clinic** at Evergreen Lake on July 4th (obviously). **Splash for Trash** (using scuba gear to remove trash from Evergreen Lake; ETU volunteers pick up the trash from shore) on August 17th. Rich Reynolds promises there will also be **adult fishing opportunities** at all of these events.
Ron Belak, Secretary

Earth Day At The Lake House

On Saturday, April 19th, Ron Belak, Peggy Linn, Hal Garwood, Craig Dunham, Tim Haller, Steve Murray, and Larry Flowers joined together to greet people at the **Earth Day Fair, at the Evergreen Lakehouse**. Although attendance was down a bit due to the snowy weather, enthusiasm was not dampened. The hit of our exhibit was the "world's record rainbow trout," a four-foot long rainbow trout pillow that hung from the ceiling. Nearly as impressive was Craig Dunham's 30-gallon aquarium stocked with fingerling rainbows and a bewildered telescope-eyed goldfish.

In addition, Ron, Steve, Hal, and Tim tied colorful flies and handed them out to passers by, many of which were children. However, one very well aged adult came by three times to secure a free fly (if only we could get him to sign up for membership). Meanwhile, Hal got his picture in the Canyon Courier and managed to do what I've been trying for 5 years -- teach Peggy to tie a Woolly Bugger. Tim and Steve also tied some flies that looked like they'd catch fish, and Larry, who dually manned the ETU and NREL booths, told some whopping fish tales from years gone by. Despite threats of torture, **Larry would not reveal the geographic coordinates of these hot spots**.

All-in-all, the Earth Day Fair was a spectacular success. I learned a few things about the illegal trade of endangered species, the bald eagle brought by Hawk Quest did not swoop down on our aquarium, and the Democrats did not battle the Republicans, because only one of them was there...

Ron Belak

East Yellowstone Chapter Fund-raiser

The East Yellowstone Chapter of TU out of Cody, Wyoming was just awarded what is known as a **Commissioner's Elk Hunting License** as a fund-raiser. Here's your chance to bid on it.

A Wyoming elk hunting license is very difficult to draw for a nonresident. It would be highly prized by any hunter. This is a **guaranteed draw for the 2003 season**, and is good in any legal hunting area of the state, for any type of hunt -- general season, late season, or archery.

The license is being offered on E-Bay (www.ebay.com) starting on May 27th at noon and will run for 10 days. It will be awarded to the **high bidder**, assuming that the reserve has been met. Bidders can find the license by typing "elk hunt" or "elk license" in the search box on e-bay.

Details of the license can be reviewed on e-bay, as well. We have also listed contact information for prospective bidders. The entire **winning bid is tax deductible** as a contribution to TU. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at davidps@cody.wtp.net.

Dave Sweet, Fund-raising Chairman, East Yellowstone TU

Kudos...

...to **Jill Haller, Ron Belak, Randy Huiting, 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



WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2003

LOCATION: EVERGREEN COFFEE SHOP

(Inside the Historic "Evergreen Hotel", next to the Little Bear)

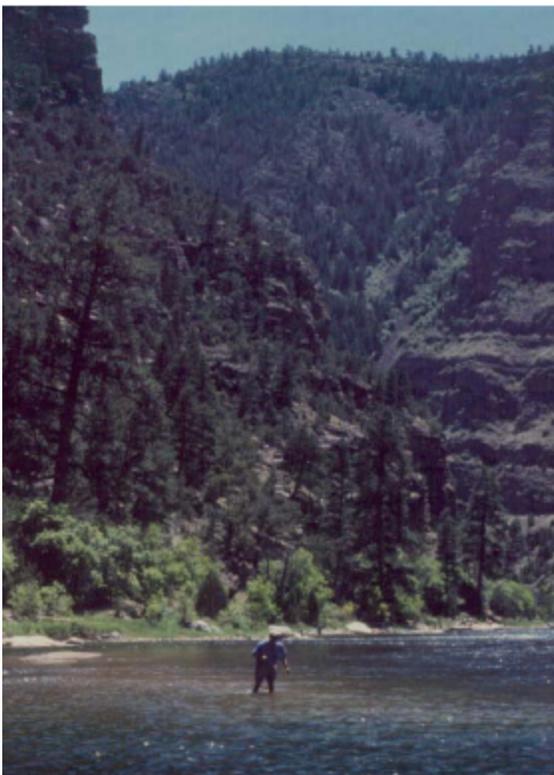
DINNER AND CHAPTER BUSINESS AT 6:30 P.M., FREE PRESENTATION AT 7:00 P.M.

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

FEATURING COLORADO FLYFISHING GUIDES OF KINGFISHER DRIFTERS,

BRIAN SHIPLEY & DAN STUBBS

Fly Fishing the Green River



It's been said the Green River offers a fishing experience unparalleled by any other river. Brian Shipley and Dan Stubbs, owners and guides of Kingfisher Drifters (Ft. Collins)

will present a slide show and discussion on floating through majestic red rock canyons and sight fishing for trout in crystal clear water which will leave you mesmerized. Brian and Dan will discuss the "seasons" of the Green, the hatches, most effective patterns, and different ways to fish the Green.

Wrong Questions, Wrong Answers

Colorado is struggling with an **historic drought** that has left streams depleted, led many cities to adopt watering restrictions, and limited the water available for irrigated farmlands. Living with drought is periodic and sometimes harsh reality for a state with an arid climate, and legislators and policy-makers have been looking at a variety of measures to "deal with" the drought. Unfortunately, many of the proposed solutions will do little to help and in fact **may do more harm than good**. In searching for quick answers on complex issues, policy-makers too often take an approach of "ready....**FIRE**....aim...."

Foremost among these misguided measures is Senate Bill 236, which calls for a referendum asking voters to authorize **\$10 billion** {Yes, that's **BILLION!** - Ed.) to build new dams. Even if you believed that Colorado needs more big dams, this measure is ineffective. When it comes to water projects, **money isn't the problem**. No water project in Colorado has failed for lack of financing. The Narrows had **engineering problems**. Two Forks **failed to get its required federal permits** under the first Bush Administration. Union Park **failed in water court** because there wasn't enough water legally available for it in light of other existing water rights. Even these ill-advised projects, however, could have been financed. Water utilities can and do issue their own bonds, or if they wish they can work through the Water and Power Authority.

At best, \$10 billion in bonds is a **solution in search of a problem**. At worst, this huge blank check will act as a **magnet for bad projects** that couldn't be funded otherwise. Either way, SB 236 should be dismissed as a fiscal conservative's nightmare. Unfortunately, this measure (or one similar to it) will likely be on the ballot in November.

A second non-solution being promoted is "**logging for water**", another simplistic solution that creates a host of new problems. The idea is that water supplies can be increased by clear-cutting sections of forest. While logging can increase water yields, you get the **extra water when you don't need it**. Studies show that the extra water comes almost entirely during the lead-up to runoff and is greatest in wet years, with little to no change in base flows and dry years. But the environmental costs, including **increased erosion and sedimentation**, are very real.

One thing that we know can help Colorado, right now, during this current drought as well as in the future is to **use our water more carefully**. With a modest effort, we can become much more efficient in using water. A number of legislative measures were introduced to encourage wise use of limited water supplies, including SB 87, which would have required cities to adopt stronger plans for water conservation. **Sadly, SB 87 was killed -- as was every other conservation bill that was introduced to the General Assembly this year**. One small bit of progress was the passage of a CTU-supported amendment to HB 1001 that prohibits bluegrass-only covenants for future developments.

CTU supports **common-sense approaches to water supply**, including smart-supply efforts to maximize existing resources and smart-storage proposals that provide new water in environmentally and economically sound ways. We have contracted with water engineer Dan Luecke to assist us on proposals being developed by water suppliers that we

hope can be crafted in trout-friendly ways. We made that investment because **we believe there are reasonable ways to deal with Colorado's water supply needs while still protecting streams**. But based on the proposals we are seeing, it seems that many folks aren't asking "how can we address Colorado's water future", but rather are asking "how can we resurrect ideas from Colorado's water past" -- and mainly these are ideas that are better left dead, from Union Park to logging for water. Until our decision-makers ask the **right questions**, there is little reason to hope that they will come up with the **right answers**.

David Nickum, CTU Executive Director

US Relinquishes Gunnison Water Rights

Officials from the Bush administration and the state of Colorado announced at a joint press conference on April 2, 2003 that the administration has agreed to the state's demands to reduce the federal claim to water flow for the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. The administration's concession is an **historic sell-out** that opens the door for the Gunnison River, home to one of Colorado's most productive trout fisheries, to be depleted.

Carved over millions of years by the Gunnison River, the Black Canyon is unique for its narrow opening, sheer jagged walls and depth of over 2,000 feet. It was designated as a national monument in 1933 to "**preserve the roar of the river**," and elevated to national park status in 1999. Though the United States is legally entitled to enough water to serve the purposes for which the monument was established, as outlined in a 1978 water court decree, the decision announced earlier this month would give the United States a water right for the park of **only 300 cubic feet per second (cfs) year round**. In exchange for the federal concession, the state of Colorado has promised to acquire Gunnison River water through its in-stream flow program, administered by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB).

"**The United States' decision basically gives away the entire river**," said Drew Peternell, staff attorney for Trout Unlimited's Colorado Water Project. "There is very little unappropriated water left in the Gunnison River. Despite how the administration and the state are trying to portray this arrangement, trading a healthy federal water right, with a 1933 priority date, for what is left over in 2003 is **in no way a fair deal** for the Black Canyon."

In 1978 a Colorado water judge awarded the Park Service a water right to "**conserve and maintain in an unimpaired condition** the scenic, aesthetic, natural, and historic objects of the monument, as well as [its] wildlife." The judge directed the federal government to return to court to quantify and finalize this water right.

The Park Service's quantification application, filed in January 2001, sought a natural flow regime, with both base flows of 300 cfs and much higher spring peak flows and shoulder flows. Though TU did not support the exact quantities of water attached to the peak flows, the concept of **restoring a more natural flow pattern** to the park was one that TU viewed as very important. In addition to assuring the protection of the Park's scenic and ecological values, the US proposal would benefit the Gunnison's world-class trout fishery and four other fish species in the Colorado

Continued on page 5

State Water Rights Junior, Insufficient

Continued from page 4

and Gunnison Rivers listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Peternell explained that the problem with the CWCB's in-stream flow program is that new in-stream flow appropriations are assigned **the most junior priority**. In times of water shortage, other more senior water rights would be satisfied completely before a junior in-stream flow right could take any water. **"There just isn't enough water left in the Gunnison for a new CWCB in-stream flow to provide the kind of protection our fisheries and environment need, the kind of protection the federal right would have provided."**

Peternell said that under the proposed plan, water that is being stored in Blue Mesa and two smaller upstream federal reservoirs (collectively, the "Aspinall Unit"), to which the national park is legally entitled, could instead be delivered to irrigators and front range developers **to be sprinkled on alfalfa fields and bluegrass lawns** hundreds of miles away. "Diverting water out of the Gunnison before it ever reaches the Black Canyon could be devastating not only for the aesthetic qualities of the national park, but for the fish, animals and plant life that depend upon healthy flows in the river."

The Colorado Water Project is considering legal action to try to stop the federal plan from going into effect. Additionally, Water Project staff plan to work with representatives of the federal and state governments and with water users in an effort to ensure that the federal-state agreement, if ever implemented, is done so in the manner most consistent with the long term health of the Gunnison River and its fishery.

CTU Currents - Spring 2003

TU Applauds Maine Salmon Ruling

Trount Unlimited (TU) applauded US District Judge Gene Carter's ruling yesterday [4/24/03] upholding the federal decision to list Maine's Atlantic salmon as "endangered".

In a summary judgment released Thursday [4/24/03], Judge Carter **upheld the listing decision** and dismissed claims by the State of Maine and a coalition of industry groups opposing the listing that the decision was "arbitrary and capricious."

"This is the right decision," said Jeff Reardon, TU's New England Conservation Director. "Last year the National Academy of Science found that the listing decision was **based on sound science**. Now Judge Carter has rejected claims that there were legal or procedural mistakes."

Trout Unlimited called on Governor Baldacci and the State of Maine to end its opposition to the listing. "The science and the law are clear. **It's time for Maine to end four years of opposition and focus its efforts on salmon recovery**," said Greg Ponte, Chair of TU's Maine Council.

When Maine's Atlantic salmon were listed in November, 2000, Governor Angus King and industry groups asked for a 6 month delay to address concerns about the science supporting the listing. Maine's Congressional delegation arranged funding for the National Academy of Science (NAS) to review the scientific record. The NAS report on salmon genetics was released in January, 2002 and found that: **"Maine streams have salmon populations that are genetically as divergent from Canadian salmon populations and from each other as would be expected in natural salmon populations anywhere else in the Northern Hemisphere."** The NAS is scheduled to release a second reporting with recommendations for recovery within the next few months.

"Judge Carter's decision gives the state an opportunity

for a fresh start. It's time to **stop wasting money** on fruitless challenges to the listing decision and start working with all concerned parties to prevent salmon extinction," said Ponte.

TU noted that last year **fewer than 10** wild salmon returned to the 3 rivers with counting facilities.

TU Press Release - 4/25/03

Buy Flies, Support WD Research

The Whirling Disease Foundation has been and continues to be a major player in funding vital research on whirling disease. Among other projects, the Foundation has been active in **supporting Barry Nehring's work** here in Colorado on the Fryingpan River, where he is developing a pilot project to filter out disease spores from "point sources" of infection within the watershed. Now, CTU and the Foundation are pleased to offer you an opportunity to **support whirling disease research by purchasing a dozen quality flies**. The Whirling Disease Foundation recently received an "in-kind" donation of Rainey's trout flies and Scientific Angler six-compartment fly boxes from Scientific Anglers Company and the 3M Foundation. While I have not yet had the chance to try out the flies personally, Dave Kumlien, executive director of the WD Foundation, has used them and testifies that **they do work!**

With your donation of \$25 (the retail value of the flies) or more for whirling disease research, we will send you an SA fly box with one dozen Rainey's flies. To participate, send your donation to Colorado Trout Unlimited - Whirling Disease Fund, 1320 Pearl Street, Suite 320, Boulder, CO 80302. Thanks for supporting CTU and the vital work of whirling disease research!

David Nickum

CO "Critical Watch List"

Colorado Trout Unlimited has a seat on the Wildlife Committee of the Governor's Drought Task Force. The committee has come up with a **"critical watch list"** of dry or potentially dry rivers across the state. CTU members can help us with this project by **e-mailing us reports** of stretches of rivers that seem abnormally low. We will compile the list and add the stream segments to the this list every month. The list will be of use to government agencies and organizations who are working to **keep water in streams** during dry years. Your help with this information is essential! CTU members play a vital field role for our organization and **your observations are very helpful**. If you have information to report please e-mail Elizabeth at erussell@tu.org or call (303) 440-2937 x10.

Arkansas River Basin: Arkansas River (Below Pueblo), Beaver Creek (Below Skaguay), Grape Creek, Greenhorn Creek, South Hardscrabble Creek, Middle Taylor Creek, Texas Creek, North Fork of Pugatoire River, Cottonwood Creek (Below lake), Chalk Creek, Little Arkansas River, 4-Mile Creek (Lower section)

Colorado River Basin: Dolores River (Below McPhee), Eagle River Basin, Upper Colorado River (Below Granby), Frying Pan River, Roaring Fork River, Colorado River (Glenwood stretch), West Antelope Creek, Crystal River (Below Rockford Ditch), Yampa River (above and below Stagecoach), Gunnison River, San Juan Basin, Cochetopa Creek, San Miguel (Below CC and Pinon Ditch)

Rio Grande Basin: Mainstem, Mendano Creek, Conejos River, LaJara Creek, Trinchera Creek, Sangre De Cristo Creek, Alamosa River, Saguache Creek, Rio San Antonio, Ute Creek, North Clear Creek, South Clear Creek, San Luis Creek, 4-Mile Creek, Surface Creek, Shallow Creek

South Platte Basin: Mainstem (Lake George to Strontia Springs Dam), N Fork South Platte (Bailey to Buffalo Creek), Four-mile Creek (Boulder), Garber Creek, Clear Creek (Below Georgetown), Poudre River, Big Thompson River, Middle Fork, **Bear Creek**

??? What's Happening ???May 2003

- 21st (W) ETU Chapter Meeting
Evergreen Hotel - 6:30p
Fishing the Green River
- 23rd (F) Trapper's Lake ice-out trip
or 30th (F) Call Ron for an update
- 26th (Sa) Bear Creek Clean-up
Meet across from the Little Bear at 9:00a
Lunch afterward on ETU
- 28th (W) ETU Board Meeting
Rib Crib (Other Side) - 6:30p

June 2003

- 14th (Sa) Evergreen Rec District Kids Fishing Class
Buchanan Ponds - 9:00a - 3:00p
Call John or Rich if you can help
- 18th (W) ETU Chapter Meeting
Evergreen Hotel - 6:30p
Fishing the Green River
- 21st (Sa) Camp Comfort @ Santa Maria
and 22nd (Su) VERY rewarding event - Call Rich for
details
- 25th (W) ETU Board Meeting
Rib Crib (Other Side) - 6:30p

New Members

Please join me in welcoming **Edward Frayer, Luke Reece, Josh Blair, and Troy Thompson** 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

Chapter Contacts

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------|
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| At Large | Len Wheaton | 674-4243 |
| Webmaster | Karen Christopherson <kc@coloradofishing.net> | 674-0252 |
| 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.

Evergreen Trout Unlimited
1999 Outstanding Chapter Communications Award
2000 Outstanding Youth Education Program Award



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