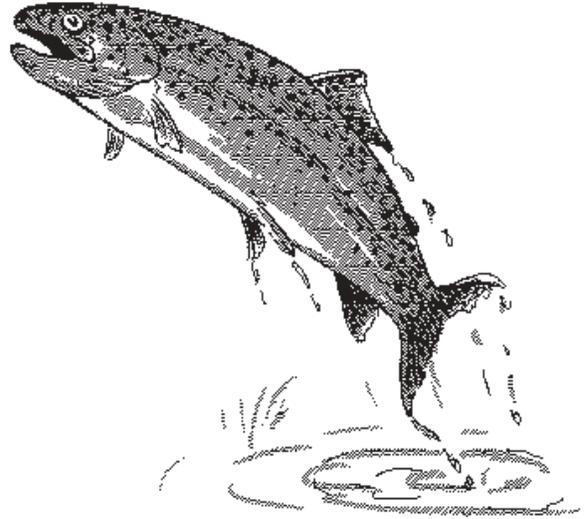




Electric

The Evergreen Trout



December 2003 The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited Vol. 21 No. 12

From The Prez, Saying Thanks!

Being Thanksgiving weekend, I feel like offering a few ETU Thank You's.

First, thanks to **Troy Thompson**, and others who helped us finally land a real project for Bear Creek. By this time next year, we should all be smiling about its successful completion, and hopefully have another project on the books.

Second, thanks to **all you new members**, we now stand at over 300 and growing. Keep in mind TU has a special promo offer right now, to garner NEW members (sorry, renewals are not eligible). We can sign up approximately 20 new members at the bargain rate of \$17.50 for a one year membership. Best of all -- most of that money comes back to us, instead of going to national. Talk to your fishing buddy about joining TU today. Call me for details on this great deal -- just in time for the holidays!

Finally, a big thanks to **all those who helped with this year's activities**, and/or donated to our meager coffers. I especially want to thank the **ETU Board of Directors**, who unselfishly continue to give up their personal agendas to make things happen for ETU. Most of the board has served for 10 years or more and yet they refuse to let themselves get 'bored' with their 'board' responsibilities.

That said, we have some other important matters to report. First, as you may be aware, Karen Christopherson agreed to donate up to \$1000 to ETU in the form of a matching gift. To date, we've only

collected about **\$100** towards that end. We need to come up with another **\$900** by 12/31. Please help, we could really use the money to help fund our Bear Creek endeavors. Keep in mind we are a 501c3 non-profit organization, so your donation may be fully tax deductible {Insert standard disclaimer here. Check with your accountant. Blah, blah, blah... - Ed.}, and will double its value to us with Karen's generous match.

Also, sales of the raffle tickets have been quite slow, so your **chances of winning** a complete custom rod outfit are **really good**. However, you **DO** have to buy a ticket (1/\$5, 5/\$20) in order to win. You have up until the drawing on December 13th, at the Holiday Party (details inside) to buy tickets. Contact any board member to get yours! You need not be present to win any of these great prizes.

Finally, for those of you who get the free local magazine Serenity, you may have noticed that we were featured in a nice ad for the Community Support Initiative (Capital Lending- Evergreen) last month. Thanks **Mike Goldblatt** for making that happen!

See you Saturday December 13th, at 5:00pm at Dick Wheeler's. **NOTE: NO REGULAR MEETING IN DECEMBER!!!**

Tight Lines,
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!

Show Your Support!

The long wait is over. **Just in time for the holidays**, we have received a new shipment of ETU embroidered logo clothing! Best of all, a significant portion of the proceeds go to ETU, to **support our local programs**. All clothing is from Ouray Sports (same brand found in most premium fly-shops) and they have the ETU logo embroidered on the left chest. New, are **fleece vests**, putty color with black trim - sized M, L, and XL (these are running slightly small), for \$16. Also new, are **long sleeved twill shirts** in forest green color, sizes S, M, and L remain - these just came in and we nearly sold out the first meeting they were offered, cost \$25 (we have "one" blue-jean shirt remaining, sized S. Also, we have 3 **polo shirts**, moss color, sizes S and M (these are running large). "One" **t-shirt**, forest green, sized M for \$15, and 3 very nice and cozy **micro fleece zipper t-neck** long sleeve shirts, sizes M and L, for \$30 (these are running small by about 1 size). Lastly, we are re-stocked with **hats**, forest green with brass accents, and moss green with Velcro closure - each \$10, and **ETU patches** for \$3. You can purchase these at the Holiday Party, or, call Randy or Lisa at 303-670-5083 (evenings).

Randy Huiting

Programs for 2004

As 2003 comes to an end, I'm very excited to announce ETU has a tremendous line-up for 2004 programs (program speakers are subject to change due to weather or other conflicts, but here is what we hope to have).

January, renowned author and fly fisherman, Jackson Streit, of Mountain Anglers fly shop in Breckenridge, on **"Bonafishing Christmas Island."**

February, ETU's very own perennial favorite writer, photographer, and yes, he even fly fishes (and holds down a 'real' job too), Ron Belak, presenting his **"Best of 2003 - Fly Fishing Tales and Exploits."**

March, Stoney Creek fly shop, **"Fly Fishing the North Platte - Encampment, Grey Reef, and Miracle Mile."**

April, North Park Anglers - **"Fly Fishing North Park."**

May, Trapper Rudd of Cutthroat Anglers (Silverthorne) presenting **"Fly Fishing the Blue, Gore Creek and the Colorado Rivers."**

June, Chris Eisenhard of Colorado Fly Fishing Adventures, **"Fly Fishing the North Fork of the South Platte."**

July will usher in our annual **Trappers Lake** trip, and the fall will bring a number of additional notable authors and guides to tantalize your fly fishing interests.

Randy Huiting

Kudos...

...to **Rich Reynolds and Randy Huiting** for their help with the newsletter.

...to **my wife, Jill**, for her MANY hours of folding, stapling, labeling, stamping. I couldn't have done it without her.

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

Ed.

The San Juan. Struck Again?

Anna, about 15 friends and members of Colorado Trout Unlimited, and I fished the San Juan River below Navajo Dam in northwestern New Mexico, from the end of October until November 2nd. This river had a terrible post-Halloween trick played on it by the Bureau of Reclamation on November 3rd, when the stream flow was reduced from about 400 cfs to 250 cfs. The effect of this reduction on the fish population and invertebrate life in the river is yet to be determined, but we will find out on our annual trek to this tailwater in October 2004. At the very least, the economic damage to the fishing-related industries in this part of the West will be significant.

This situation brings to mind the important mission of Trout Unlimited in protecting our cold-water resources and I want to thank all supporters, members, volunteers and staff members of Colorado Trout Unlimited for their efforts along these lines. 2004 will probably present as many important challenges as did 2003. So, be prepared and ever vigilant.

Thanks again to all of you. I hope that the holiday season brings you great joy and that the 2004 fishing season is the best ever for you and yours.

Ken McClatchy - CTU President

2003 in Review

It has been quite a 2003 for CTU! Thanks to the efforts of our lobbyist, Jen Boulton, we helped secure passage of legislation that will improve water conservation, by preventing future developments from using covenants that require water-intensive landscaping. We helped fund a variety of projects, from native cutthroat trout protection efforts in the Arkansas River basin, to habitat improvement on rivers suffering low flows like the Blue and Dolores. And of course, we were a leading voice opposing Referendum A -- a \$2 billion blank check for unspecified dams. In November, Colorado voters joined us in rejecting this unwise measure by a 2 to 1 margin.

The coming year promises to be equally eventful. There are numerous new dam proposals moving forward that could harm great trout rivers like the Arkansas and Colorado. We are working to put together another strong slate of on-the-ground projects to improve wild trout habitat and restore native trout in appropriate waters. We plan to organize the first-ever statewide river cleanup day. And we'll be adding a new staff person to strengthen our conservation work on the western slope. Your ongoing support makes all of these efforts possible. Thank you for helping CTU help Colorado's trout, and best wishes for a joyous holiday season and a very happy new year!

David Nickum, CTU Executive Director

Annual CTU Auction March 31st

Mark your calendars! The 2004 Colorado Trout Unlimited Annual Auction is scheduled for March 31. We will once again hold the auction in the Donald Seawell Grand Ballroom at the Denver Performing Arts Complex, in downtown Denver. The auction will feature a delicious catered buffet, a top-notch live auction, as well as bucket raffles and silent auction items. The auction is our single most important fundraising event of the year. We hope you can join us. As in the past, we will have a special offer for Century Club donors -- one free ticket to the auction with purchase of a second ticket.

If you would like to bring a group of friends, we also offer Gold Tables with reserved seating (and some special extras) for ten guests. Gold Table sponsorships are \$500, and they are a great way to support CTU's conservation programs while having a great evening for yourself, friends, employees, clients -- whomever you'd like to invite. And of course, it is a great chance to pick up some new gear, purchase a great fishing trip for the upcoming summer, buy flies tied by some of Colorado's finest tyers - all while helping CTU. Call David Nickum at 303-440-2937, ext. 12.

CTU Currents - December 2003

Whirling Disease Research Plan Unveiled

A new five-year strategic plan was recently released by the Whirling Disease Initiative of the National Partnership for the Management of Wild and Native Coldwater Fisheries. The National Partnership is the group that oversees federal funds that support a competitive grant program for whirling disease research -- a program that has given out more than \$500,000 per year in research grants in recent years. CTU Executive Director David Nickum is Trout Unlimited's representative to the National Partnership.

The new strategic plan calls for research and demonstration projects that will contribute directly to the development of a number of high priority management tools for addressing the effects of whirling disease:

Watershed and riparian management actions to reduce whirling disease severity - these include such actions as flow augmentation, channel modification or monitoring the effects of changed practices in the riparian zone or upland areas.

Filtration of whirling disease spores - straining of tributary flows and/or hatchery effluent to remove TAMs (the life stage of the whirling disease parasite that infects trout), using either constructed or wetland systems.

Exploitation of fish disease resistance - capitalizing on genetic or life-history traits that confer resistance to whirling disease in wild or stocked fisheries.

Diagnosis - assaying fish, water and worms for the presence and intensity of a whirling disease infection. Characterizing *Tubifex* habitat (i.e., habitat for the worm that is the necessary alternate host for whirling disease) is also of interest.

Vector control actions - these will depend on what are judged the most important modes of disease spread: fishing gear, wild birds, stocking of infected fish into private ponds, "bucket biologists," interbasin transfer of water, etc.

Semi-quantitative risk assessment - using a simple scheme to prioritize among risk factors and identify streams most at risk of disease introduction and spread.

The plan also calls for increased efforts on outreach - to get research results into the hands of fish managers, landowners and land managers, and other interested publics who can put them to use. Altogether, the plan represents an important transition in the research on whirling disease, a shift from more basic research into understanding the basics of the disease to applied research that will directly help in managing fisheries to reduce the effects of whirling disease. In the future, this research may help provide a road map for maintaining wild trout fisheries despite the presence of the whirling disease parasite. CTU is proud to be a continuing part of the research efforts on whirling disease, and for the upcoming year plans to help support important studies by the Colorado Division of Wildlife on filtration systems being used along the Frypan River to help reduce whirling disease levels in that gold-medal fishery by treating "point sources" that contribute whirling disease spores into the river.

CTU Currents - December 2003

TU Fights For Black Canyon Flows

Trout Unlimited's Colorado Water Project has filed a lawsuit in federal court against the United States Department of the Interior, challenging the Department's management of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. Specifically at issue is an April 2, 2003 agreement between the United States and the State of Colorado under which the United States relinquished its right to protect natural flow patterns through the park.

Under the law, the United States is entitled to the quantity of water needed to fulfill the purposes for which special federal lands, such as national parks, are set aside. The Black Canyon National Park was established to preserve "in an unimpaired condition" the fish, wildlife and other natural and aesthetic features of the canyon, and the United States has acknowledged that natural flow patterns, with higher surges during the spring and summer run-off months, are essential for protecting the natural environment of the park. But under pressure from the State of Colorado and others thirsty for Gunnison River water, especially on the Front Range, the US has agreed that it will guarantee only a minimum base flow of 300 cubic feet per second (cfs) through the canyon.

The agreement raises the threat that flows through the park will rise and fall to accommodate hydropower demand but not the needs of fish and the environment. Also left open is the possibility that large volumes of Gunnison water will be diverted out of the river above the park, possibly to the Front Range, with the result that flows through the canyon could remain at 300 cfs for extended periods. Scientists agree that unnatural flow patterns and low flows could be devastating to the Black Canyon's fishery and natural resources.

Alleging that the April agreement violates several provisions of federal law and provides inadequate protection for the park's water-based resources, TU's lawsuit asks the court to order the United States to secure more natural in-stream flow patterns through the canyon. "The federal government has shirked its legal obligations to preserve the natural resources of the park," said Drew Peternell, Colorado Water Project attorney. "You can't preserve the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park without protecting the river that is its heart. Because it feared just such a move by the United States, earlier this year American Rivers named the Gunnison River as one of the four most endangered rivers in the county."

According to Peternell, the lawsuit was a last resort. "The Bush administration's proposal for the Black Canyon is so inconsistent with the ecological needs of the park that we felt we had no choice but to file the federal complaint. We would love to see the federal and state governments working together to protect our natural resources, but in this case, we simply haven't seen any genuine effort to protect the Gunnison River or the Black Canyon."

TU is joined by a coalition of six other conservation groups in the lawsuit.

CTU Currents - December 2003

??? What's Happening ???

December 2003

13th(Sa) **ETU Holiday Party**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

The big Raffle drawing, food, drink, prizes, fish stories and more. Join us for a FUN evening.

For details and directions, contact any Board member.

17th (W) **NO MEETING!**

January 2004

13th (W) **ETU Board Meeting**
This is a tentative date. Check with Rich for details.
Rib Crib (Other Side) - 6:30p

20th (W) **ETU Chapter Meeting**
Evergreen Hotel - 6:30p
Jackson Streit - Bonefishing Christmas Island

New Members

Please join me in welcoming **Bill Tyler** 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: **295**

Randy Huiting

The Evergreen Trout

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
Secretary	Ron Belak	674-2239
Programs	Randy Huiting <rhuiting@att.net>	670-5083
Membership	Randy Huiting <rhuiting@att.net>	670-5083
Newsletter	Tim Haller <thaller@pcsys.net>	674-5426
Youth Education	Peggy Linn	674-2239
Trips	Peggy Linn	674-2239
Special Projects	Hugh Gardner <hgardner@dimensional.com>	697-5876
At Large	Wayne Kosloske	674-4092
At Large	Mike Goldblatt <mike@lamtree.com>	674-7122
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.

Evergreen Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 1974
Evergreen, CO 80437-1974



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