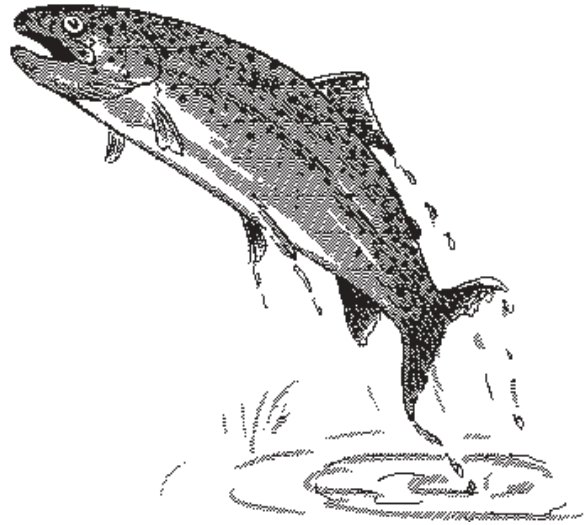


Electric

The Evergreen Trout



January 2004 The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited Vol. 22 No. 1

From the Sec,

Yes, once again, this letter is from the Secretary. Writing this letter is my punishment for not posting minutes from the November meeting in the December issue. I thought that since we had no board meeting in December, I could get away with it, but no such luck. We had December's board meeting last week, and punishment was administered.

I hope that everyone enjoyed the holidays and is ogling over their presents -- perhaps a new rod, vest, waders, or just some fly line. As for me, this is the first year that I can remember that I didn't receive even one piece of fishing equipment. And that includes my recent birthday as well. I was forsaken by my mother, my Atlantic salmon-addicted brother, a niece, a nephew, many good friends, and even Peggy! Although, I can't complain. All the ski and backpacking equipment that these fine people gave me is truly enough to open up an Evergreen outlet for REI. Nevertheless, there was sort of a fishing theme among the many presents -- one friend sent me an assortment of aquarium paraphernalia (Craig Dunham, eat your heart out), and my brother shipped me 3 pounds of smoked Alaskan salmon.

I hope everyone enjoyed the fantastic programs we sponsored in 2003. **We are starting off 2004 with a slight rescheduling.** Jackson Streit, originally scheduled for January, will be out of the country, so we have rescheduled him for February. He will also be altering the subject of his talk from bonefishing on Christmas Island to angling in New Zealand. Any clues as to where Mr. Steit may be in January? As for our January program, I'll be giving my presentation entitled "Best of 2002 and 2003," that was originally scheduled for February. This will be a collection of the best slides I took on ETU and other trips over the past 2 years, similar to presentations that I have given in the past. We'll go through the seasons of the year, examining ice-out fishing in British Columbia, the recovery at Trappers Lake, summer cutthroat fishing in the Wind Rivers, the Sangre de Christos, and the Mount Zirkel Wilderness, and angling for autumn silvers in Alaska. These are places that any one of you may find yourself

fishing over the next few years. See the enclosed flyer for more details.

At our Holiday Party on December 13th, we drew the winners in our raffle. **Andrew Murray won the first prize**, a lovely 3-weight Powell rod and an Orvis Battenkill disc reel. **Mike Reynolds won the second prize** of a guided trip to the Farmer's Union property. A fly fishing class at the Blue Quill College, our **third prize**, was won by **Terry Walters**. At the party, we honored **Craig Dunham** with the **ETU Person of the Year** award, for his great enthusiasm in introducing native fishes into the classrooms. **Thanks** to all members and guests that came, and **special thanks** to **Dick Wheeler**, who hosted the party.

Our project on **Bear Creek at O'Fallon Park** rolls on. Troy Thompson reports receiving favorable feedback from the USFWS and DOW during an October meeting. Troy's group, Ecological Resource Consultants, Inc., conducted a site assessment and field survey in November and developed a computer model in December to assist with the design of the proposed channel improvements. He anticipates approval of all necessary permits in April and the start of **construction as early as August**. Meanwhile, Bear Creek has been added back to a preliminary list of streams that the State Water Quality Control Commission is considering for recommendation under Section 303(D) of the Clean Water Act as **thermally impaired**. Further discussions between the commission, TU, and the Bear Creek Watershed Association are scheduled for January 14th.

And lastly, **don't forget Karen Christopherson's generous pledge**. She will match all contributions to the Bear Creek project, up to \$1,000. So far, we have raised about \$680 toward this goal. These contributions are sorely needed as our recent raffle grossed only about \$635. If you didn't get a chance to buy raffle tickets, considering sending in \$20 -- what would have been the cost of 5 tickets. Of course it's too late to win a prize, but you'll win in knowing that **your funds will help Bear Creek**.

Tight lines, and think snow,
Ron

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!

To An Absent Friend...

Dear John,

I was deeply saddened when I was forwarded a copy of the e-mail from your son, Jeff, bearing the news of your untimely departure. The last time I saw you, you looked good, and didn't say otherwise. But you never did, did you?

We don't say, "Thanks for everything!", nearly often enough. After listening to your brothers' (Did I get the apostrophe in the right place, John?) eulogies last Monday, I realized that I was guilty of this same oversight. So, I'm writing this in hopes that you can still get "e-mail" of some kind...

Thank you, John.

Thank you for your friendship. I have known no better fishing companion -- a feeling that is shared by many. I will never forget the look on your face when you had a fish on -- gleeful eyes, set between the graying beard and the hat. Oh, that hat! And you never counted LDR's. In fact, I'm not sure you really counted fish at all. You just loved being on the water.

Thank you for your thoughtful guidance over the years. The Evergreen Trout would not be the publication that it is today, if not for you. A nit is a nit, be it mega-, micro-, or pico-. You always had an answer, an opinion, or a reference when I needed one. And you were always honest about which of the three it was.

Thank you for your insight into the political workings of organizations large and small. Your perspective always made sense, even if I disagreed. When I first became active at CTU, you 'showed me where the bathroom was'. And you were often the lone voice of reason in a vast sea of opinions. You showed me that honey really does work better than vinegar -- most of the time; and that sometimes, a thoughtful compromise is both necessary and acceptable.

Here's to you, John. Thanks for everything.

Your Friend,

Tim Haller

{Dr. John S. Connolly, Ph.D. was a Fulbright Scholar; an active member of the West Denver Chapter of TU (newsletter editor for 5+ years), CTU (Metro Area Co-VP), the American Chemical Society, the American Society for Photobiology, the Colorado Democratic Party, and the Jefferson County Cultural Council. He was also a close friend. John passed away at home, on December 25, 2003. He will be greatly missed. - Ed.}



John Connolly - CTU Silver Trout Award winner for 2002

Hatchery Reform: A Different Path (Part I)

Since the arrival of Euro-Americans in the Pacific Northwest, the relationship between salmon and humans has moved through a series of crossroads or points in time when critical decisions were made, decisions that collectively put the salmon on the path to depletion and extinction. Viewing the salmon's history as a series of crossroads raises important questions about the massive investment in salmon restoration. Is it possible to revisit those crossroads and correct what we now know were mistakes? Is it possible to take a different path or are we stuck doing the best we can on the path dictated by past decisions? If it is the latter, salmon recovery may be an illusion, at best an expensive delay in the time when salmon reach the ultimate destination of the current path. Many of the past decisions are not reversible, at least in the foreseeable future. For example, there is little hope that the series of man-made lakes in the heart of the northwest will once again be the mighty Columbia River. However, the four lower Snake River dams may one day be breached. The debate over the Snake River dams suggests that it may be possible to go back and re-think past decisions and if that were really possible it would be as valuable to salmon restoration as the region's billion dollar recovery budget. This essay, along with our subsequent report, examines another of the many crossroads and the prospect of returning to it and taking a different path.

In the early decades of the 20th century, biologists were faced with two long migrating species groups that were both in significant decline: the Pacific salmon and the North American waterfowl. Although salmon and waterfowl biologists arrived at this crossroad with similar problems, when they moved beyond it, they took very different paths. Waterfowl managers recognized the critical importance of habitat and focused efforts on the protection and restoration of wetlands. Refuges were created as the key to this approach. Salmon managers opted for a production approach to reverse the salmon's decline. It was implemented through the artificial propagation of salmon in hatcheries. Concrete ponds replaced salmon habitat and led to the notion that habitat destruction could be "mitigated" by fish factories.

In the last few decades, it has become obvious that both hatchery and wild fish need healthy habitat. It is also clear that mitigation through the use of hatcheries was the misguided product of an overzealous belief in the ability of technology to fix the environmental wreckage left in the wake of river development and massive change in the landscape. There are signs of a positive change in that thinking. The listing of salmon under the Federal Endangered Species Act spurred a modest increase in spending on habitat restoration and protection. More importantly the concept of a refuge for salmon is being resurrected and fledgling attempts to describe and even create refuges are taking shape. This is not a full reversal of the past choices, but it is an encouraging beginning. On the other hand, resistance to change is strong, especially when it involves undoing past decisions. Legislatures in both Oregon and Washington are attempting to dictate through statute that hatchery and wild fish are equal, a conclusion that is still the subject of scientific debate. This legislative action is really an

Continued on page 4

Kudos...

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

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

Ed.



EVERGREEN TROUT UNLIMITED

MONTHLY PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2004

LOCATION: EVERGREEN COFFEE SHOP

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



Evergreen Trout Unlimited is pleased to present noted photographer, author, and fly fisherman,

Mr. Ron Belak,

“The Best of 2002 and 2003”

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

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



Follow Ron Belak on a photographic safari in pursuit of silver salmon on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula, rainbow trout in the backcountry of British Columbia, and native cutthroats on the tundra of Colorado and Wyoming. Get up close and personal with Yellowstone bison and elk, Colorado bighorn sheep, sandhill cranes, ptarmigan, and the electrifying urban animals. Learn about the "monsters" at Monster Lake, re-vegetation after the fires in the Flat Tops, and the hot spots to fish and backpack in Colorado's Rawah, Sangre de Christo, and Mount Zirkel Wilderness Areas. Ron is a noted local writer and photographer whose work appears in *Colorado Outdoors*, *American Angler*, *Fly Fisherman*, and *Colorado Expression* magazines. He will present his best photographs from Trout Unlimited trips during 2002 and 2003 in a seasonal arrangement that will make you want to get out into the backcountry and do something wild!

[A Fly Fisher's Guide to the North Platte](#)

Are you planning a fishing trip to the North Platte? Do you need information on access? Equipment? Maps? Current (2003) Wyoming and Colorado regulations?

Well, Grab your laptop and pick up a copy of Al Marlowe and Karen Christopherson's latest publication on CD: *A Fly Fisher's Guide to the North Platte*, published by Hidden Lakes Press in Evergreen Colorado, and available for \$12.95 at www.coloradofishing.net.

This complete, up-to-date disc will give you all the information necessary to insure a great trip. The answers to all your questions will be found here. Included are **printable maps**; the locations of camping and access sites; patterns; hot links to shops, guide services, and the Wyoming Game and Fish website, among others. In short, everything you need except hands-on instructions on how to catch fish. And, after a number of dry trips with Al over the years, I can understand this omission -- I don't think he could catch a fish in the supermarket. I've never fished with Karen, but among Al's beautiful photographs is one of Karen with a most respectable trophy. This CD is a must-have!

To anticipate: Al and Karen are currently working on *A Guide to Fifty Colorado Tailwaters*, and, rumor has it, that Al is working on a five-hundred page *opus magnus* titled *Fly Fishing for Trophy Trout on the Republican River*. I can't wait.

Al is the author of several excellent hiking and fishing guides to various Colorado waters, some of which have been reviewed on these pages. Karen is a working geophysicist. Both are members of Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Anonymous (aka Harry Ledyard)



[28th Annual West Denver Fly Tying Clinic](#)

Five dozen of the best fly tiers in the West will be at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds **February 21st**, from 8:30a - 3:00p. This year's tyers are coming from Montana, Wyoming, Utah and Colorado. They will be demonstrating fresh and saltwater patterns, Steelhead and Trout, wet and dry flies, new materials and techniques, and talking about the rivers and lakes where they use their creations. **Dr. Tom Whiting** from Whiting Farms will talk about the genetics of raising chickens for fly tying hackle.

Several tiers will be featured in the fly tying theater, where two hundred people can see the smallest flies **up close and personal on the big screen**.

Admission is \$7 at the door. **Discount coupons (\$2 off)** are available at local fly shops, or may be printed from the West Denver Chapter web site (www.westdenvertu.org).

Food will be available, prepared by West Denver chapter members; and there will be **great bucket raffles**, as usual.

Also, the **2nd Annual West Denver TU Gear Swap** will be held at this same location on **March 6, 2004**, from 8:30a - 4:00p. Buy and/or sell fishing, camping and other outdoor gear. Bucket raffles too. Bring in your reel (any reel) for **FREE 30# backing**. Contact Harry Ledyard (526-0188) or Sandy Long (322-2122) for more information.

Angler's Edge - January 2004, and Sandy Long

[CTU Auction Set For March 31st](#)

Mark your calendars! The **2004 Colorado Trout Unlimited Annual Auction** is scheduled for March 31st. The auction will be held in the **Donald Seawell Grand Ballroom, at the Denver Performing Arts Complex**. 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 fund-raising event of the year. We hope you can join us. As in the past, we will have a **special offer for Century Club donors -- but one ticket, get one FREE**. Details on ticket prices and ordering information will be available soon, on our website (www.cotrout.org).

CTU

["Stream Champion" Nominations Wanted](#)

Those of you who read TROUT Magazine -- I hope this includes all of you -- may have come across a feature within the Action Lines section of the publication entitled **"Stream Champion"**. This feature, which has highlighted exemplary volunteers for two years, is a fabulous way to recognize those individuals who inspire, motivate, and embody TU's mission through their commitment to grassroots conservation and outreach. In keeping with the tradition that has been established by Stream Champions to date, **[We] really need new nominations for the coming year's issues of TROUT**.

Nominators, please include contact information both for yourself and for the nominee. Submit all nominations to Trout Unlimited Volunteer Operations' Russ Schnitzer at (703) 284-9423 or rschnitzer@tu.org. Nominations are being welcomed on a rolling basis.

TU Lines to Leaders - December 2003

[Hatchery Reform](#)

Continued from page 2

attempt to make sure we stay on the production path at the continued expense of habitat.

There is another angle that must be considered here. In many watersheds, a return to the crossroad that set us on the production path no longer presents us with an either/or choice: hatcheries or refuges, concrete ponds or habitat. We did trade habitat for hatcheries and in many cases that choice is not reversible, at least in the foreseeable future. That means we have to learn how to integrate artificial and natural production systems in watersheds where they must coexist. Hatcheries cannot be treated as a substitute for habitat or operated as fish factories independent of the other fishes in the watershed. Hatcheries are part of a watershed, they are part of the landscape and their operations must be in concert with the natural ebb and flow of environmental conditions, life histories and constraints that the landscape imposes on its residents. It is not possible to go back and reclaim all the habitat that was surrendered in exchange for hatcheries, but it may be possible to go back and re-think the role of hatcheries in relation to the remaining habitat and natural production. Can natural and artificial production systems be integrated? The report by Rick Williams, Jim Lichatowich, Phil Mundy and Matt Powell, which was commissioned by Trout Unlimited, outlines important steps leading to the integration of natural and artificial production systems. It shows how we might step back to an important crossroads and take a different path.

Jim Lichatowich

ESA Turns Thirty

Nearly three decades ago, Congress overwhelmingly passed the **Endangered Species Act** by an overwhelming 355-4 margin in the House, and 92-0 in the Senate. Our most revolutionary, our strongest -- and our most maligned -- environmental law was signed by President Nixon with little fanfare on December 28, 1973. How little we understood the enormity of the ESA then, the incredible -- positive -- effect it was to have on our country far into the future.

Because of the visionary leadership and **overwhelming bipartisan support** behind its passage, the Endangered Species Act of 1973 was much more than earlier laws protecting imperiled wildlife -- the ESA promised to protect not just the individual imperiled plants and animals, but the land critical to their survival and recovery. Only because of it do hundreds of unique species which share the nation with us still exist at all. Just as significantly, millions of acres of forests, beaches, wetlands, and wild places -- those species' essential habitats -- also survive -- an irreplaceable heritage which surely would have been lost otherwise.

The Endangered Species Act, however, has been much more than just a magnificent law to protect America's most imperiled natural heritage. **It is a profoundly moral statement, uniquely American in its vision, its optimism, and its promise.** Back in 1973 the legislators of a great nation said -- for the first time in history -- that henceforth, that nation would not permit any of the living species of plants and animals which shared its national territory to become extinct -- not if we could prevent it.

Today there are over 1250 US animals and plants on the list. There ought to be more, and the whole enterprise needs better funding and support. Like all laws it's not perfect, but we should ask ourselves: What if the ESA had never existed at all? What then? How many species, forests, open spaces, wild places now protected, would there still be? More importantly, if this magnificent vision falls, **what will happen to what's left?** What will become of those plants and animals and wild places that continue to wait for ESA's promise to fulfilled?

Unfortunately, the entire law, not to mention its funding and legal support, is under the **fiercest and most sustained assault in its history.** As we prepare today to celebrate the Endangered Species Act and consider what our country's landscape, and the precious living web of wondrous other beings it supports would be like if it had never existed, we must ask if there is really any alternative to defending and preserving the ESA. For us, the answer is simple: we must keep its vision and its promise intact. If the ESA is lost, we lose something even more precious than the marvelous and wondrous creatures that will surely go extinct without its protections. We also lose our hopes for a better, a more gentle future for this great, yet troubled nation of ours.

For over twenty years, the Endangered Species Coalition (ESC) has worked to save endangered species in the United States from extinction by defending the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and organizing the grassroots community in support of conserving our nation's imperiled biodiversity. The ESC speaks on endangered species issues for some 380 environmental, conservation, religious, scientific, humane, sporting and business groups around the country. Through grassroots organizing, education, discussions with lawmakers, and the dissemination of information, **we work to ensure that the Act itself as well as the species it protects, can be passed on safely into the future.**

ESC web site

TU's Public Lands Program

Protecting public lands is **critical** to the survival and restoration of native trout and salmon. All of the most threatened and endangered trout and salmon spend some portion of their life cycle in watersheds on federal lands. Not only are they reservoirs for rare species, but public lands provide outstanding hunting and fishing opportunities. In fact 50% of the nation's blue ribbon trout streams are found on public lands. Eighty percent of the most critical habitat for elk is also found on public lands managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Unfortunately, these public lands, administered in trust for all of the American people by the Forest Service and the BLM, are not always managed with the interests of fish and wildlife in mind. For example, recent proposals by politicians and political appointees that oversee the agencies would: **weaken protections** on public lands for fish and wildlife; **do away with requirements** to analyze the effects of management activities on habitat; and **reduce citizen involvement** in land management decisions. These proposals should be of great concern to anyone that hunts or fishes on public lands or otherwise cares about maintaining our national fish and wildlife heritage.

Recognizing the unparalleled value of public lands habitat to coldwater fisheries, drinking water, and wildlife habitat, and the growing threats these lands face, Trout Unlimited has launched a new Public Lands Initiative to protect remaining pristine fish and wildlife habitat and restore streams and rivers degraded by past mining, energy development, and logging.

TU's mission is to protect coldwater fisheries and the watersheds upon which they depend. The public lands initiative is not limited to anglers, however. We recognize that many of us who fish on public lands also hunt. More important, over time we have come to recognize that all of our actions on the land are ultimately reflected in the quality of fish and wildlife habitat. Because our interests and passions are so interconnected we are reaching out to anglers and hunters. Over 50 million Americans hunt and fish. Too often, their voices and interests are lost in the din of controversy that has come to define public land management. The intent of TU's Public Lands Initiative is to cut through the noise and:

- Develop sound scientific and technical information demonstrating the importance of public lands to coldwater fisheries, wildlife and fishing/hunting opportunities;
- Build an alliance of TU members, wildlife and fisheries conservation groups, hunting and angling clubs, and fish and wildlife professionals to advocate for management policies on public lands that protect the long term health of coldwater fisheries as well wildlife;
- Inform the broader public on how incredibly important public lands are to protecting and restoring coldwater fisheries and wildlife habitat, and the tremendous fishing, hunting and other outdoor opportunities public lands provide.

Under this Initiative Trout Unlimited has established specific field programs to address three major management issues affecting fish and wildlife habitat on public lands:

- Restoring lands degraded by abandoned hard rock mines;
- Oil, gas and coal bed methane development in the Interior West; and
- Roadless and wilderness area protection.

All three programs **emphasize sound science, education and citizen involvement** in conservation. To learn more about a specific program visit <http://publiclands.tu.org> (no www).

TU web site (www.tu.org)

??? What's Happening ???January 2004

- 21st (W) ETU Chapter Meeting
Evergreen Hotel - 6:30p
Ron Belak's Best of 2002/2003
- 22nd (Th) Denver Int'l Sportsman's Expo
Colorado Convention Center
Thru the 25th
visit www.sportsexpos.com for info
- 28th (W) ETU Board Meeting
Rib Crib (Other Side) - 6:30p

February 2004

- 18th (W) ETU Chapter Meeting
Evergreen Hotel - 6:30p
Jackson Streit
Flyfishing New Zealand
- 21st (Sa) WDTU Fly Tying Clinic
Jeffco Fairgrounds 8:30a - 3:00p
- 25th (W) ETU Board Meeting
Rib Crib (Other Side) - 6:30p

New Members

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 TroutChapter 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



Working to protect America's streams.

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL



Return Requested

Time-Sensitive Material