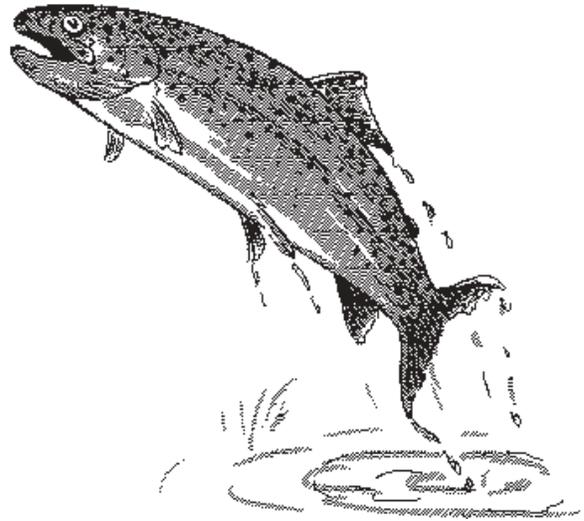


Electric

The Evergreen Trout



March 2004 The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited Vol. 22 No. 3

From The Prez,

It's been months (literally) since I've written to you. Thanks to professional writer/ETU secretary Ron for filling in so well for me. I actually thought I'd conned him into doing this page for ever -- oh well.

It was 60 degrees yesterday and I'm Jonesin' pretty bad to hit the water, but these ETU commitments are standing in the way a bit. Our biggest commitment is our grand Bear Creek Project, hereafter known as "The Project".

Our chief mission for the project at this stage is fundraising. With that in mind, we are hosting an Auction Saturday, April 24th at 6:00p at Hiwan Country Club. Tickets are \$20, and get you a chance at one of three door prizes (you need not be present to win). We'll have a great buffet, not to be construed as a full sit down meal. We're spending over \$15/head just for the food though, and having eating at Hiwan before, expect it to be damn good. We've also lined up a noted story teller and TV personality, Terry Grosz. Terry will do a short talk/slide show and a video from one of his TV specials. There also will be a silent auction and bucket

raffle, plus just a great time to mix it up with folks you haven't seen for a while. Please note that the auction takes the place of our April general meeting!!!

Your challenge is the daunting task of helping us raise the necessary funds for The Project. You can help by donating an item or two for the auction. Anything goes: gear (maybe that pair of size medium waders that you never wore because they should have been a large), flies (contact Tim Haller), artwork (that piece over the mantel that your wife has begged you to toss), or perhaps a service (something you or your business could provide), or anything else. Also, we need to get people to attend, so we need to sell tickets. Please talk to your fishing/hunting buddies, neighbors, or whomever; sell them a ticket, and then bring them to Hiwan (if you haven't been there, it's a great venue). Please call me or any board member for tickets or additional information. We really do need your support!

Hope to see you at the March 17th general meeting, and again at the auction in April.

Thanks and 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!

March Program

Our March program will feature two of the most famous folks in ETU -- Colorado's First Lady of Flyfishing, Karen Christopherson; and noted photographer and outdoor writer, Al Marlowe -- doing a presentation entitled *Fifty Colorado Tailwaters*. Yes, you read correctly, join us on March 17th at the Evergreen Hotel to learn all about FIFTY different Colorado tailwaters! ETU is pleased to present two of the most knowledgeable people on flyfishing in Colorado and the surrounding area.

Karen Christopherson is known by thousands as the webmaster of two of the best flyfishing sites on the web: coloradofishing.net and wyomingfishing.net. The responsibility of being a webmaster has allowed her the opportunity to fish many unique rivers, and answer lots of strange questions from readers. A fly fisherwoman since age 17, she has fished throughout the west and in numerous exotic international locations.

Al Marlowe is an extensively published author and photographer, with over 100 articles appearing in magazines which include: *American Angler and Fly Tyer*, *Backpacker*, and *Outdoor Photographer*. He has also written three books: *Fly Fishing the Colorado River*; *An Angler's Guide*, *A Hiking and Camping Guide to the Flat Tops Wilderness Area*, and *Fly Fishing the Flat Tops*.

Karen and Al's presentation will be based on their newly released e-book which is available on CD. They have combined their extensive knowledge and talents to produce a very exciting guide which provides information on 50 selected tailwater fisheries, from the well-known like the Frying Pan and South Platte to small, out of the way, lesser-known streams that offer a wide variety of angling. In addition to locations, information is presented on when, where, and how to fish Colorado's tailwaters. Each of the fifty tailwaters is described for size, location, specifics as well as a full-page map.

Randy Huiting

Lawsuit Threatens Salmon Protection

Agribusiness interests and developers are suing to overturn ESA protection for steelhead in the Willamette and Columbia rivers, a lawsuit that if successful "could bring about the end of federal safeguards for 26 stocks of Pacific salmon," says the Oregonian 3/5. The case signals a renewed wave of challenges following affirmation last week of a 2001 court ruling on Oregon coast coho, which ordered the NMFS to reconsider the role of hatchery fish in determining whether salmon warrant ESA protection. Similar lawsuits are challenging listings of salmon in Puget Sound, Oregon's south coast and California, potentially jeopardizing "one of the nation's largest and most costly species recovery efforts" and habitat protections for much of the Pacific Northwest.

GREENLines - 3/8/04

Kudos...

...to **Rich Reynolds, Randy Huiting, Jill Haller, and John Bozis** for their help with the newsletter.

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

Ed.

The Evergreen Trout

CWQCC Denies Bear Creek Listing Upgrade

In hearings before the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission, held March 9th and 10th, CTU and ETU presented their testimony for upgrading Bear Creek's status to the 303(d) 'impaired' waters list. The listing process is rather lengthy, governed in part by the US Clean Water Act. Bear Creek was one of two segments presented by Melinda Kassen and Dave Nickum of CTU (the other segment being the Dolores River, below McPhee Reservoir).

Bear Creek is currently listed on the 'Monitoring and Evaluation' list. CTU/ETU presented evidence for upgrade to the 'impaired' list based primarily on temperature as a pollutant. We had the backing of the EPA, DOW, and the CWQCC staff. Impaired status would have meant that efforts would be required to maintain the stream at temperatures of 20C or less. Some of the mitigation could have involved reducing temperatures of the recharged effluent (from Evergreen Metro District, Kittredge, and others) and/or shading or other stream improvements to help reduce temperature.

However, on Wednesday, the Commission voted not to upgrade for Bear Creek to impaired status. The EPA can challenge the Commission's decision. We will know more about this in the coming weeks. And we will continue our temperature monitoring program (started in 2001) to provide evidence for future hearings. Also, ETU has been invited to participate in Evergreen Metro District's monitoring program and meetings -- they have also been monitoring stream temperatures for the past two years.

We will keep you up to date as this process continues...

Karen Christopherson

New Water Quality Standards For OR

Oregon has issued new EPA approved water-quality standards for every fish-bearing waterway in the state in order to better protect endangered salmon and trout says the Salem Statesman Journal 3/3. The new standards defining "optimal water temperatures depending on time of year and waterway" and discharges from both point and nonpoint pollution sources are the result of a lawsuit by Northwest Environmental Advocates of Portland which successfully argued that the 30 year-old standards failed to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act and ESA.

GREENLines - 3/4/04

Rangeland Protection Eased

Ranchers are "cheering" plans by the Bush administration to relax environmental protection from grazing on some 160 million acres of BLM lands says the Denver Post 2/10. The new grazing regulations would take effect as early as December and require the BLM to document damage from livestock before changing lease terms, reduce public participation in decision making and "eliminate the public's ability to challenge agency findings on endangered-species issues." A BLM draft EIS admits that the new rules would "do little to promote recovery of damaged streamside vegetation or to stem declines of potentially endangered plants and animals."

GREENLines - 2/11/04



**EVERGREEN TROUT UNLIMITED
BEAR CREEK FUNDRAISING
AUCTION @ HIWAN COUNTRY CLUB
SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2004, 6:00 P.M.**



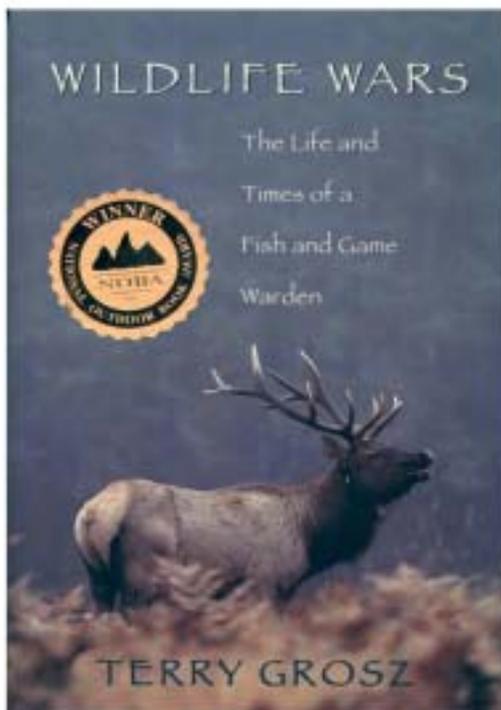
DOOR PRIZES, BIG SILENT AUCTION, HOR'S D'OEUVRES

PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT ETU'S 2004 BEAR CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

Tickets, \$20. Visit our web-site at: www.evergreentrout.org

*FEATURING NATIONALLY RENOWNED AUTHOR, WINNER OF
THE "NATIONAL OUTDOOR BOOK AWARD", and TV STAR
(Animal Planet - Wildlife Wars):*

MR. TERRY GROSZ



Evergreen Trout Unlimited is raising money to help fund their \$185,000 Bear Creek restoration project which will be completed this year.

Auction extravaganza! There will be a wide array of door prizes and auction items, including custom made fly rods, dinners, gift certificates, guided fly fishing trips by some of the area's best known fly fishing guides, hand tied flies, all types of fly fishing gear—this is one fund raiser you won't want to miss!!

Nationally renowned author, and TV star, Terry Grosz, will present a riveting evening of fish and game story telling and also show scenes from his recent TV show on Animal Planet, highlighting the plight of the amazing Sturgeon and Salmon. Terry will be on hand afterwards for follow-up discussions and book autographs.

ETU Needs Your Help!!!

We are still looking for donations for our April Auction, and would like your help. The auction is a huge undertaking, and with the Bear Creek Project looming ever closer, timing is critical to our success. The following letter and activity summary has been sent to various businesses soliciting donations for our auction. If you know of someone that you think might be willing to donate an item, please contact any ETU Board member (so that we don't duplicate our efforts), and we will send them a copy. Please remember that items do not necessarily have to be 'fishing related', as we always try to appeal to a broad audience at the auction. Thanks in advance for your help!

Dear Friend,

Evergreen Trout Unlimited is the local chapter of a nationwide non-profit conservation organization. Trout Unlimited is North America's leading coldwater fisheries conservation organization, dedicated to the conservation, protection and restoration of trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. We have more than 130,000 members in 450 chapters in North America.

We are contacting you today to let you know about an exciting endeavor that we have planned for this year. In addition to our many other community activities, we have committed to do a major stream improvement project on Bear Creek in O'Fallon Park, near Kittredge. The project will include creation of overwintering trout habitat, stabilization of eroding banks, narrowing the overly wide channel, revegetation, and will provide easily accessible fishing access points. The total cost of the project is \$183,700, for which we have received a \$119,400 Fishing Is Fun grant from the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

We are asking for the support of local merchants, other non-profit groups, and private individuals to help raise the necessary additional monies for the project. On April 24, 2004 we will host a program and silent auction fundraiser at Evergreen's Hiwan Country Club. The guest speaker will be noted author and retired US Wildlife Agent, Terry Grosz. We are requesting donations of merchandise or gift certificates for the auction, or cash contributions to help meet this large financial obligation.

Your support would be greatly appreciated, and is tax deductible.

Please see the back of this page for a list of the Evergreen Chapter's community activities.

Thank you.
ETU 2004 Auction Committee

ETU Community Activities

Bear Creek - As self-proclaimed "River Keepers", we do stream cleanups two to three times per year. We also monitor stream temperatures and flows, and work closely with local water agencies and users to maintain flows and water quality. We are currently petitioning the state to effect long term monitoring of many stream variables. We've also completed many stream improvement projects over the years. This Fall's O'Fallon Park project will be our biggest yet.

Mount Evans Outdoor Lab School - We assist the school (for Jefferson County 6th graders) in various fishing/aquatics related functions throughout the year, including fly tying/entomology classes, native fish programs, and maintenance of several aquariums. We also cook and serve food at their annual Open House to raise additional money for the school, and we assisted in the construction of a new pond by building the handicapped access fishing pier there.

Fishing Clinics/Education - We annually host or help with numerous fishing clinics including: The Evergreen Lake Fourth of July Fishing Clinic for Kids, similar clinics at Georgetown Lake and elsewhere in the state, the Evergreen Park and Recreation District's summer fishing program for kids, the Mount Evans Hospice Camp Comfort for kids at Santa Maria, and more. We assist with the very successful and educational Trout in the Classroom program at local elementary schools. We also participate in the Evergreen High School Community Service Day, Earth Day, Scouts, and other community events.

Donations - We've donated money to different scholarships, Colorado Division of Wildlife (for Whirling Disease Research), Colorado Trout Unlimited (for various statewide projects), the Mountain Area Land Trust (MALT), and others.

Miscellaneous - We hold monthly meetings (open to the public) with updates on local activities, stream work, and water issues, and then have a program featuring a speaker on fish, wildlife, and the environment.

COMPARING the Management of Conventional and Landscape Hatcheries

	CONVENTIONAL HATCHERY	LANDSCAPE HATCHERY
Are these Physical Attributes of the Ecosystem included in the Hatchery Blueprint?		
Temperature cycles of stream	x	
Nutrient cycles in stream including carcasses	x	
Availability of good habitat in stream and estuary	x	
Seasonal stream flows and overall water quantity	x	
Diseases present		
Water pollution		
Number of fish the stream can support	x	
Are these Biological Attributes of the Ecosystem included in the Hatchery Blueprint?		
Migration timing	x	
Size of fish	x	
Egg size	x	
Straying	x	
Genetics	x	
Egg to adult survival	x	
Does the Hatchery Blueprint include these Performance Standards?		
How many fish are released?		
How many fish are harvested?		
Is the hatchery meeting its goals?	x	
Is hatchery production overwhelming the wild population?	x	
Does the hatchery contribute nutrients to the watershed?	x	
Are the wild fish recovering because of the hatchery?	x	
Has the wild population maintained its genetic integrity?	x	
Is the hatchery monitoring, evaluating and changing its operations accordingly?	x	
Is the river/ocean better off?	x	

TU's Recommendations For Hatchery Reform

Know The River Ecosystem

Managers should have a robust understanding of the ecological landscape and its components that will host any hatchery. This includes the historic and current species present, at least some knowledge of the genetic composition of the species directly impacted by the hatchery, the carrying capacity of the freshwater, estuary and ocean environs, the nutrient cycle and food web dynamics, among other basic biological information. The use and type of hatchery will be dependent on the known landscape, its needs and the needs of the people who use the watershed and its products.

Work Within The Context Of That River's Landscape

All hatcheries should be managed in the context of the watershed and ecological landscape in which they operate. Production should be metered to the capacity of the watershed and the overall river system, including the estuary and ocean productivity. Hatcheries should contribute to, or at the very least not disrupt, the ecological structure and function of the watershed in which they are located.

Raise The Right Fish

The genetics and other biological attributes (including life history and behavior) of the fish released should mirror the genetics of the wild populations of the watershed unless doing so poses a greater threat to the wild population. Hatchery operations should be directed at achieving "effective population size" as opposed to pure numbers, with particular attention paid to family cohorts. ("Effective population size" means that the population has the requisite diversity to avoid genetic bottlenecks. Thus, a population of 2,000 fish that are closely related -- siblings or cousins -- may not be as healthy as a population of 500 fish with more diverse

family groups). Further, the hatchery genetic operations should not alter the genetic structure of the wild populations except in rare, intentional situations that are strategically implemented under the strictest biological monitoring regime, such as captive broodstock programs.

Mimic The Natural Landscape

Operations "inside the hatchery fence" should mimic natural systems as much as possible. In addition to making raceways more closely resemble natural streams, it means strategically locating hatcheries depending on the landscape and management needs, using local broodstock, meaning from the same stream and even geographical reach where the hatchery is located, raising fewer fish, replicating natural nutrient and temperature cycles and cues, and staging releases to mimic natural processes.

Be Economical: Reduce And Eliminate Harmful And Wasteful Practices

All hatcheries, especially production hatcheries, that are in conflict with the Endangered Species Act and wild fish should find a way to operate with minimal to no adverse impact on wild fish and within the landscape model. If it is not possible to modify these hatcheries, then managers should consider moving the hatchery operations to more appropriate watersheds, and if not possible, then they should close. Funding for closed and restricted hatcheries should be shifted to provide more support for watershed scale hatcheries that assist in the recovery of native stocks, and for habitat restoration that allows for salmon abundance through healthy watersheds.

Rick Williams, Jim Lichatowich, et. al.

{This concludes the series on hatchery reform. Sorry about the readability of the above graphic -- but you get the idea. - Ed.}

??? What's Happening ???

March 2004

- 17th (W) ETU Chapter Meeting
Evergreen Hotel - 6:30p
Al Marlowe and Karen Christopherson
Fifty Colorado Tailwaters
- 24th (W) ETU Board/Auction Meeting
AG Edwards Conference Room - 6:30p
- 26th (F) Western Colorado Fly Fishing Exposition
Adams Mark Hotel - Grand Junction
Thru the 27th
- 31st (W) CTU Auction
Donald R. Seawell Ballroom
Denver Performing Arts Center
Contact the CTU Office for info/tickets

April 2004

- 7th (W) ETU Board/Auction Meeting
AG Edwards Conference Room - 6:30p
- 24th (Sa) **EVERGREEN TU AUCTION**
Hiwan Country Club
COME ONE, COME ALL
Doors open at 6:00p

New Members

Please join me in welcoming **Jerry Henderson, Jimmy Kenfield, Sean Scott, Sachi, Peter Hedlund, Allen Klein, Cindy Gansert, Lance Willis, Monroe Coleman, Paul Czarnecki, Mike Leko, Jonathan Eubanks, and Douglas Martin** 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: 315

Randy Huiting

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Trips	Peggy Linn	674-2239
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At Large	Len Wheaton	674-4243
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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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