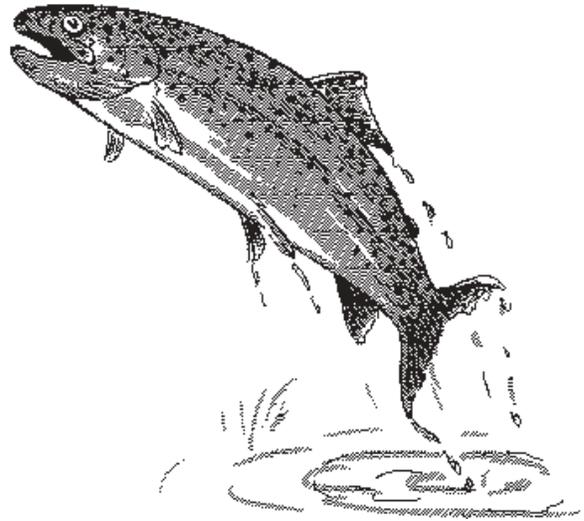


Electric

The Evergreen Trout



June 2004 The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited Vol. 22 No. 6

From the Secretary,

Peggy Linn, Rich Reynolds, Mike Reynolds, Doug Fox, and I ventured to Trappers Lake for some early ice-out fishing over Memorial Day weekend. Low snowpack and an early ice-out opened the lake really early and took us by surprise. Despite a miserable weather forecast for the weekend, our spirits were high and we hoped to repeat the excellent early season fishing we had last year. We had some doubt, however, since we did not know at that time the precise date that the lake had thawed and wondered if we would be too late. You see, three weeks after Trappers Lake thaws, the cutts migrate into the tributary streams to spawn, and these streams are off limits to fishing in order to protect the fish at this vulnerable time. Anyways, it would be difficult to catch these spawners since they have only one thing on their mind and it is not eating wooly buggers.

Friday afternoon on the lake greeted us with 20 to 30 mph winds and whitecaps. Peggy was being hopelessly tossed about in her belly boat, and the rest of us heavier men were getting tossed about a bit too. Despite the bumpy ride, we each managed to catch a fair number of cutts and a few brookies on a variety of wooly buggers and streamers. We declared the afternoon a successful fishing experience for all, ate a camp dinner, and retired after a nightcap. A few snowflakes blew about as we zipped the tents shut.

Saturday and Sunday would have been snow days had there been a school at Trappers Lake. The winds intermittently howled, and the snow came down with stinging force. Nevertheless, we were undeterred and put in 6 to 7-hour days of fishing

that were rewarded with plenty of plump cutthroat and a fair number of brookies to 17 inches. Needless to say, we were cold after a day in belly boats in mid-forties water temperature, and our fingers were numb. Both Rich and I are counters so we can vouch for catching 3 to 4 fish per hour on average and up to 10 fish during one's best hour. Not bad for a warm up trip to Trappers. The water temperatures were still in the upper forties the first weekend in June so our timing of the Callibaetis hatch for our trip from July 7th through the 11th will not be as late as we had previously anticipated.

Now that you have the fishing report, it's time to discuss our upcoming events. We need a number of volunteers to assist with our upcoming agenda of activities. Our next activity is Camp Comfort -- fishing instructions for children who are grieving the death of a family member or close friend. The location this year is at the Rocky Mountain Easter Seals Camp off Interstate 70 near the junction with Highway 40. We will be assisting with one program on Saturday and Sunday June 26 and 27 and another program on Saturday and Sunday August 7 and 8. We will, of course, be doing the Fourth of July Kids Fishing Clinic at Evergreen Lake again this year. This is an all-day affair co-sponsored by Evergreen TU, the Evergreen Recreation District, and the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Teaching 150 to 200 children and untangling and baiting their lines requires 20 to 25 volunteers who can donate part or all of their day.

Next up is our major conservation project -- the restoration of Bear Creek at O'Fallon Park. Troy

Continued on pg. 2

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!

From The Secretary

Continued from pg. 1

Thompson advises us that all is on schedule. We anticipate delivery of boulders and logs to the park during the first two weeks of August, followed by instream construction the following week and a half. These initial events will not require other than the few key personnel that are already committed. The weekend of August 28 and 29, however, will require massive amounts of ETU support as we will need to plant over 400 native plants along the streambank. Twenty to fifty volunteers per day are our estimated needs, and we will be sending out requests for support to other Denver area chapters. To volunteer for this project, e-mail Troy at troyterc@aol.com. He has all of the info you might need.

Rounding out the year is the Mt. Evans Open House at the Jeffco Outdoor Lab on Saturday September 11. Volunteers are needed with introducing our fly tying classes to parents and students and with cooking the many hotdogs and hamburgers consumed by the visitors. For any of these volunteer events -- except the O'Fallon Park project -- please contact Rich Reynolds (303-674-4861) or John Ellis (303-674-1017), or add your name to the sign-up sheets that will be passed around at the general meetings between now and then.

Remember that free fishing days at Buchanan Pond are the last Friday of the month. Bring your membership card when signing up at the Rec Center.

Tight lines,
Ron

A Little Help, Please?

ETU could use your help with these upcoming events:
Camp Comfort - Sat/Sun June 26/27 and Sat/Sun August 7/8: This is a weekend bereavement retreat for kids who've lost a loved one, and is sponsored by Mount Evans Hospice. We take the kids bait fishing at some stocked ponds. The venue has changed this year to The Rocky Mountain Easter Seals Camp, located off I-70 near the Hwy 40 exit. From Evergreen, take I-70 west to the Hwy 40 exit, proceed west on the north side of I-70 for ~1/4 mile, then go back south over I-70 and you're there. We'll plan to be there Saturday at 10:00a for the usual tree planting and setup. Lunch is provided. We'll fish with the kids 'til ~5:00p, and then we're usually permitted to do a little fishing of our own afterward. This program is incredibly rewarding for us as well as the kids. We still need volunteers for all four dates. Call Rich Reynolds or John Ellis if you'd like to help. Please? You won't regret it...

O'Fallon Project Work Days - Sat/Sun August 28/29: The Bear Creek Project is moving right along, and we really need your help in August. By that time the major rough work will have been completed by the excavating contractor. Then it's our turn to plant trees, shrubs, etc., and do all of the fine tuning. The consultants say we need to have 50 people both days to complete all those tasks. We'll be under the gun with Denver Mountain Parks to "clean up and give them their park back." Mark your calendars and

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prepare your back for a tough weekend (there will be "light" work too!). Talk to your fishing buddy or anybody else who might help also. More details as we get closer, but we really need your commitment soon. E-mail Troy Thompson (troyterc@aol.com), or grab my infamous yellow pad at a meeting to sign up, please.

Accounting/Tax Preparation Certificate: We still have one item left over from the auction that we'd like to sell. Local accountants Steve Cannon and Bill Schleicher generously donated \$100 of their services to ETU, and thus far we haven't had a taker. One of you may already use their services, and if so, please help us out. Even if you don't currently use them, you could help us out. The certificate is valid through 4/30/05, so you could use them for next years' taxes. Call Rich if you would like to bid on this. Thanks!

Rich

ETU Needs More 'E-Members'

The ETU Board has decided to initiate an e-mail 'tree' for chapter announcements. We will be sending a brief e-mail to our members on a monthly basis. There are three reasons for this. 1) Our chapter has more than 300 members, and routinely only 20 or 30 attend our monthly program. Our e-mail to members will serve as a reminder for the upcoming meeting. 2) Our volunteer efforts always need more help. This will be especially important with our upcoming Fishing is Fun project at O'Fallon Park on Bear Creek. We also need volunteers for the many programs we help with, such as Camp Comfort, the Mount Evans Outdoor Lab, and our semi-annual Bear Creek cleanups. It seems like the same core group of people always volunteer. 3) Fishing trips to the Flattops and other areas are scheduled, sometimes without much notice. The e-mail may also notify you of upcoming trips.

Hence, we will send out an initial e-mail to those folks for whom we have e-mail addresses. The e-mail will come from Tim Haller (our newsletter editor). If you do NOT want to be on our e-mail list, please reply to Tim and opt out of the e-mail tree. SECOND (pleading) -- if you would like to be on this list, please e-mail him and opt in. Tim has e-mail addresses for only about 70 of our members. His e-mail address is troutguy@speedtrail.net.

At the same time, you can help the chapter by opting to receive the monthly newsletter via e-mail. The newsletter is provided in Adobe pdf format, so you'll need Adobe Reader, which is free from www.adobe.com. Most people already have this installed on their computer. This is a great way to help the chapter save money on copying and postage. What's more, the electronic version of the newsletter is in color! And you'll receive it as fast as our digital lines can fly (i.e. faster than the USPS).

Thanks for helping to get the new species of E-trout swimming!

Karen Christopherson

Kudos...

...to Karen Christopherson, Jill Haller, Rich Reynolds, and Ron Belak for their help with the newsletter.

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

Ed.

Colorado River Headwaters Chapter

CTU is pleased to announce that we have an active TU chapter in Grand County once again! They have modified the name of the old, inactive chapter and will call themselves the Colorado River Headwaters Chapter. This is TU chapter #547. The new chapter President is Robert (Bob) Weiby of Fraser. Bob is a ski tune specialist in the winter and has a small fly shop and guide service in the summer (he has some pretty nice private water up on the Williams Fork, about 4 miles above the Reservoir). Scott Linn of Granby is the VP. We held meetings in Winter Park on May 4th and in Granby on May 18th. Each meeting had 25 to 30 people attending. A good turnout! And there is a lot of enthusiasm for TU and things that the chapter can do.

The Colorado River Headwaters chapter will be assisting with at least two instream projects over the next couple years. One is the Fraser River Enhancement Project (FREP) in Winter Park and Fraser. This project will improve the trout habitat in various places along a six mile stretch of the Fraser from the Winter Park ski area, through the town of Winter Park and on into Fraser. The second project will hopefully be in Granby, improving about half a mile of the Fraser River on the east side of town. There may also be a future project in Pioneer Park in Hot Sulphur Springs.

The chapter is also well poised to provide a local anglers voice in the upcoming hearings for Denver's Moffat expansion project, and the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District's Windy Gap firming project.

Ken Neubecker - CTU West Slope Organizer

Low Impact Hydropower??? (Part I)

The following is excerpted from The Power Scorecard which is sponsored by Environmental Defense, The Izaak Walton League, Natural Resources Defense Council, The NW Energy Coalition, Pace University Energy Project, and The Union of Concerned Scientists, and is endorsed by American Rivers.

I strongly recommend a visit to the Low Impact Hydropower Institute (<http://www.lowimpacthydro.org>). To learn about their certification program and criteria go to <http://www.lowimpacthydro.org/package.html>.

Electricity from Hydro

Harnessing the force of falling water may be the world's oldest source of mechanical power. Hydropower currently supplies 10 percent of the nation's electricity and 80 percent of the electricity now produced from renewable resources. Normally, rain water and melting snow flows by gravity, producing streams, rivers, and lakes. Hydropower facilities intercept the water on its downward path, converting its mechanical energy into electricity. Because the cycle of water evaporating from the heat of the sun and falling back to earth is continuously renewed by the sun's energy, hydropower is often considered a renewable energy resource. However, the construction and operation of hydropower dams impact natural river systems and fish and wildlife. Whether specific hydropower projects create unacceptable environmental damage requires a case-by-case review.

There are several types of hydropower facilities:

"Storage" projects impound water behind a dam, forming a reservoir. Water is released through turbine-generators to produce electricity. The water storage and release cycles can be relatively short, for instance, storing water at night for daytime power generation. Or, the cycles can be long, storing spring runoff for generation in the summer when air conditioner use increases power demand. Some projects operate on multi-year cycles carrying over water in a wet year to offset the effects of dry years.

"Run-of-river" projects typically use relatively low dams where the amount of water running through the powerhouse is determined by the water flowing in the river. Because these plants generally do not hold back water behind storage dams, they tend to affect upstream water levels and downstream stream flow less than storage projects. Electricity generation from these plants will vary with changes in the amount of water flowing in the river.

"Pumped-storage" projects use off-peak electricity to pump water from a lower reservoir to an upper reservoir. During periods of high electrical demand, the water is released back to the lower reservoir to generate electricity. There are only about 40 pumped-storage facilities in the US, but some are very large. (Note: the Power Scorecard rates electricity from pumped storage on the basis of the electricity used to pump the water and the impacts of the storage operations.)

What are the environmental impacts?

It is the dams and powerhouse operations essential to hydropower plants that cause the primary environmental impacts. The changes in river conditions and the land and vegetation bordering the water bodies caused by dams and powerhouse turbines may impact fish populations and other wildlife significantly. Even small dams can cause big impacts on the health of regional fish populations. The impacts of large dams are wide-ranging. The impacts of any dam depend upon many important factors, including the location of the dam, the facility design, the sensitivity of the local environment to effects of the hydropower facility, and steps taken to modify the design and/or operation of each facility to reduce potential impacts.

Many impacts (see list below) can be significantly reduced by changing operations of the dam. For example, installing fish passage systems can reduce impacts on migratory fish; and converting a dam from peaking to "run-of-river" operation can ensure the natural flow of the river remains undisturbed and can adapt the hydropower facility to the unique conditions of each river system.

Because every river and every dam are different, the type and severity of impacts caused by each dam differs. Because these potential impacts are severe, it is important to distinguish the plants that have successfully reduced or eliminated specific impacts from those that have not.

Since 1987 the licensing and review process conducted by the Federal government has more thoroughly addressed environmental impacts. Before 1987 the environmental impacts of facilities were considered inconsistently and sometimes not at all. Recently the Low Impact Hydropower Institute has created a Low Impact Hydropower Certification program to identify and reward efforts by dam owners to minimize the impacts of their hydropower dams. The program certifies hydropower facilities with impacts that are low compared to other hydropower facilities based on eight environmental criteria:

- a. river flows
- b. water quality
- c. fish passage and protection
- d. watershed protection
- e. threatened & endangered species protection
- f. cultural resource protection
- g. recreation
- h. facilities recommended for removal

The following paragraphs {Next month - Ed.} outline some of the kinds of environmental impacts hydropower plants can create and measures that can be used to mitigate such impacts. The scope and severity of such impacts vary from facility to facility, and depend on site conditions and the extent to which possible mitigation measures are actually used.

Jo Evans - CTU AVP at Large

Next month: Part II - Potential environmental impacts.

??? What's Happening ???

June 2004

- 16th (W) ETU Chapter Meeting
Evergreen Hotel - 6:30p
Program TBA
- 23rd (W) ETU Board Meeting
The Rib Crib 'Other Side' - 6:30p
- 28th (F) ETU FREE fishing day at Buchanan Ponds
Sign in at the new Rec Center.
- 26th (Sa) Camp Comfort
Easter Seals Camp near Georgetown.
Volunteers needed! Contact Rich, John, or
Randy if you can help.

July 2004

- 4th (Su) Kids Fishing Clinic
Evergreen Lake 9:00a - 3:00p
- 7th (W) Trappers Lake Rendezvous (thru the 11th)
Join the fun at Trappers Lake!!!
Please let Peggy Linn know if you're
planning on being there so we can plan for
the Saturday dinner.

Remember, NO chapter meeting in July.

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

New Members

Please join me in welcoming new members 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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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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