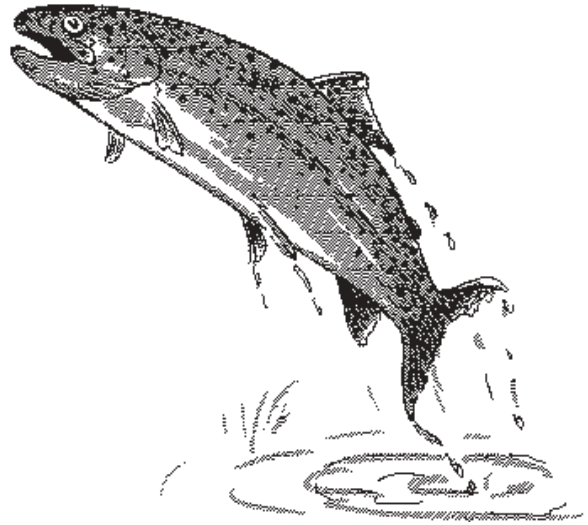


Electric

The Evergreen Trout



March 2005 The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited Vol. 23 No. 3

President's Drag-Free Drift

I first want to acknowledge our outgoing officers. **Secretary Ron Belak**, who just turned the big 5-0, has been our resident Trapper's Lake Guru and Earth Day organizer. We thank you for your service to our organization and know you will not fade away, but just keep tying Orange Ashers and ugly Pink Wooly Buggers.

I also want to thank **VP John Ellis** -- the man who knows everybody in Evergreen -- for his unending enthusiasm. John always shows up, with a smile on his face and eager to help, whether it is standing in twenty-degree weather selling event tickets outside of King Soopers, or helping a young child catch his or her first fish. Thanks John, you are indispensable to ETU.

Last but not least, I want to thank **Rich Reynolds** for his steady devotion to ETU, as President for the last six and a half years. Rich, in his quiet way, brought our organization to be one of the premier Chapters in Colorado. His vision spearheaded many projects, including our Bear Creek Restoration, which is a great success and on the verge of completion. I think we need to change the name of O'Fallon Park to Reynolds Fly Fishing Paradise. Rich, we all thank you for a stellar job of leaving the Chapter in great standing with Trout Unlimited's mandate for conservation of our coldwater fisheries.

Thanks go to **Steve Murray** for continuing as our Treasurer, **Tim Haller** as our Newsletter Editor, and **Randy Huiting** as our Programs/Membership person. We also have an active board membership who regularly attend board meetings and eventually talked me into throwing my hat into the ring for President. I would also like to thank **Len Wheaton**, who has been leading the Outdoor Lab youth programs. This activity has been very successful due to Len's involvement. They are the unsung heroes that keep our Chapter running smoothly.

Everybody has assured me that they will not disappear and will continue to be an integral part of ETU.

Our new VP is **Ken Wilbert** and our new Secretary is **John Haile**. I'd like to thank them for stepping up to help continue ETU's success.

Ken Wilbert has been in Evergreen for about fifteen years and a member of TU since 1996. He's a life long fisherman and outdoor enthusiast whose interest in fly fishing began when he moved to Colorado. His flyfishing activities primarily involve stillwaters and his 'go to' fly is the immortal wooly bugger! He is employed as a telecommunications manager for a federal land management agency, while his lovely wife, Michelle, is a research scientist specializing in water treatment technology. They have three great kids who are pursuing their varied interests in music, public education and international business. If you want to know how to fish Buchanan Ponds, Ken's the man.

John Haile worked for many years as a state and national political reporter in Nashville; then as editor of the Orlando Sentinel for 15 years before retiring and moving to Evergreen about two years ago. Focused now on flyfishing, painting, a few boards; and a little consulting on integrating news operations for print, TV, interactive, and mobile, John's background will be a great asset to ETU.

I would also like to introduce myself to those who do not know me. I am a native Texan. My father was a native Coloradan and worked in the Texas oil business. When he retired, he came back to Colorado, and built a home in Evergreen on land that has been in our family since 1930. After college and a stint in the United States Air Force, I found myself in Colorado. Sandi came into my life in 1977, and we married four months later (it was love at first sight). Martin Marietta recruited me out of the Air Force for a

Continued on page 2.

The Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited meets the third Wednesday of the month at Beau Jo's Pizzeria in downtown Evergreen (across from the Little Bear). Join us for Dinner/Chapter Business/Classes at 6:00pm followed by the program at ~7:30pm. We look forward to seeing **YOU** there!

February Board Meeting

Discussion of upcoming programs, with plans to continue the focus on local area fishing opportunities. The initial fly-tying demonstration by Tim Haller at the January meeting got a good response and will be continued, with equipment on hand for people to tie the flies being demonstrated.

The John Fielder event originally scheduled for last fall now will be offered in November if that date works with John. This also will be ETU's major fundraising event for the year.

The O'Fallon Park stream restoration project is complete except for editing of a video documenting the project and the construction and installation of the kiosk that will illustrate what was done and what trout may be caught. The target date for completing both is late April or early May. Until those pieces of the project are completed, ETU will not be able to get state reimbursement for all expenditures, meaning ETU's finances will be tight, but manageable, until then. A spring cleanup of the O'Fallon Park project area will be held in late April. The effort will target noxious weeds that may be coming up along the stream bank.

Len Wheaton reported that the next fly-tying class for students at the Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab is set for May 4. Volunteers welcomed. Call Len at 674-4243.

Hugh Gardner reported that the state is holding hearings on fishing regs, including along Bear Creek, on March 10th and 11th. Hugh will follow up to see who needs to attend from ETU. Hugh also reported that there is no ruling yet from the EPA on whether to list Bear Creek as an impaired water. Hugh and John Haile will meet with Evergreen Metro District about the Bear Creek issues, including an offer of ETU's support in opposition to a developer's plans to use water in upper Bear Creek for a housing project. Water rights from the Turkey Creek area are being offered by the developer in exchange, but the project would reduce the already often-critical water flow in lower Bear Creek.

John Ellis and Len Wheaton were named to coordinate youth programs for the chapter.

Mike Goldblatt will coordinate chapter outings. The first ETU fishing outing is being scheduled for late April or early May on the Arkansas River. Details will be announced shortly. Other outings already are being considered, including Clear Creek and Bear Creek.

The fundraising relationship with Beau Jo's is off to a good start, with about \$150 coming back to ETU from the January and February meetings. The chapter gets back 20% of all purchases at the regular chapter and board meetings. Beau Jo's will soon make available an ETU discount card with 10% off all purchases at any time, with another 5% coming back to ETU. Beau Jo's also will be a sponsor for the July 4th fishing clinic at the lake and for certain other ETU youth projects.

Ken Wilbert and John Ellis will finalize plans with Evergreen Park and Recreation District for an early summer youth clinic at Buchanan Pond. They also are exploring an additional ETU free fishing day at the pond each month, possibly on weekends.

The board agreed to put together a nice fly box with several dozens flies tied by chapter members for the Colorado Trout Unlimited auction in March. Tim Haller is coordinating.

John Haile

President Garwood's Inaugural Address

Continued from page 1.

position as a design engineer on the Space Shuttle. In 1985, I left Martin and have owned and operated numerous businesses over the years.

In 1994 Sandi and I took over my parents home in Evergreen on Nob Hill at the top of Kerr Gulch. About seven years ago, I was consulting in the telecom business and was traveling all over the western states. I saw a guy flyfishing on the Gunnison River casting what I consider almost a perfect loop. I was hooked. I dove in feet first and have never looked back. I enjoy both stream and lake fishing. My most successful and enjoyable fishing is in a float tube or pontoon boat. When I was traveling, I started tying flies in the evening. The challenge of flyfishing is what keeps it alive for me.

I am relatively new to Trout Unlimited. Sandi and I joined about five years ago. Trout Unlimited is an ideal organization because you can give back to your community via youth education, special water conservation projects, etc., and enjoy the camaraderie of flyfishing. I want to continue with our annual projects and start doing more outings and programs for our membership.

We had a great program in the February general meeting put on by Greg Felt, co-owner of ArkAnglers fly shop. He talked about the famous Mother's Day caddis hatch on the Arkansas River and commented they needed to change it to the Tax Day hatch. You had to be there.

Later this Spring our trip coordinator, Mike Goldblatt, is planning a fishing day on the Arkansas (details to follow later). We also started a new program, beginners fly tying. Tim Haller, our famous resident big bushy fly tying expert, held court to about ten people explaining the different tools of the trade. I noticed there were some ladies taking an interest, as well. *{In the fly tying, that is... - Ed.}* Next meeting there will be four or more vices set up, and you will be able to try your hand at tying a bug for yourself. Tim promises to bring a hook larger than a 32. Yeah, right! Attendance was super at 42 people. March's program will be Dale Darling of St. Vrain Angler. Dale will also be doing a fly tying presentation, beginning at 6:00p.

Our next board meeting will be the usual 4th Wednesday (March 23rd at 6:30p at Beau Jo's). Anybody is welcome to attend, just show up and see what's going on behind the scenes.

Question of the Month: Which Trout Unlimited Chapter has the most membership in the nation? First person to give me the answer wins a half-dozen flies tied by yours truly. (Board members are excluded)

Thanks for the confidence in me to lead our Chapter. I hope to continue the good works of our outgoing Board.

Hal

Kudos...

...to Hal Garwood, the entire Huiting family, and John Haile for their help with the newsletter.

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

Ed.

The Evergreen Trout

March Program

Dale Darling, founder and owner of St. Vrain Angler and Estes Angler flyshops (Longmont and Estes Park) will do **both** a fly tying clinic at 6:00p and then a presentation, "Spring Flyfishing." Some of his favorite local waters include the Big Thompson and areas throughout Rocky Mountain National Park. If you are looking for insight on where to flyfish in the spring, AND what fly to use where (and how to tie them) this is the program for you! Dale is also an accomplished and well traveled salt water fly fisherman. While he won't be discussing salt water at this presentation, he'll certainly be available to answer any questions about salt water destinations and techniques.

Randy Huiting

The 'Electric' Evergreen Trout

Hey folks, get your newsletter the easy way. **The Evergreen Trout is available via e-mail!** It's a simple and painless process. Really! Just e-mail your request for an electronic copy to me, troutguy@speedtrail.net, and I'll get you on the 'E' list. The newsletter will arrive by e-mail in Adobe's pdf format. All you need to read it is the FREE Adobe Reader, available at www.adobe.com. You probably already have it on your computer!

Currently about 25% of our members receive their newsletter this way. Let's see if we can increase that number. Every electronic copy saves the chapter more than \$6/year. **And it's in COLOR!** These savings add up fast, since we "snail mail" nearly 300 copies per month. To take the Electric Evergreen Trout out for a test drive, visit our web site -- www.evergreentrout.org -- and take a look at a past issue. If you like it (and we think you will), sign up!

Tim Haller

Annual WD Conference Offers Hope

This February, the Whirling Disease Foundation hosted the annual Whirling Disease Symposium at the Brown Palace in downtown Denver. CTU was a contributing sponsor for the symposium, which brought together more than 100 top researchers and managers from throughout the United States and beyond to present the latest findings on whirling disease.

Among the more intriguing findings reported at the symposium were promising results with disease resistance in certain strains of rainbow trout and of *Tubifex tubifex* worms (the worms are the alternate host for whirling disease and produce the spores that infects fish). It appears that certain strains of worms are more resistant to the disease, and that they may out-compete and displace the more susceptible worms -- a possible "bio-control". Work is also underway on resistant trout strains, including an effort in Colorado to cross "Hofer" strain rainbows -- a highly domesticated strain that is very resistant to whirling disease -- with some of Colorado's wild rainbow strains in the hopes of lending resistance to our susceptible wild rainbow strains. While such resistance is not a panacea -- for example, it doesn't help our unique native stocks of cutthroat trout -- it could help restore reproducing stocks of rainbows to WD infected waters like the Gunnison and Colorado Rivers. CTU will continue to support whirling disease research and help in the battle against this deadly trout disease.

CTU Currents - February 2005

CDOT Seeks Comments On I-70 Corridor

The Federal Highway Administration and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) issued a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for future development of the Interstate 70 mountain corridor. The EIS identifies nine preferred alternatives ranging from development of a six-lane highway in different configurations, to use of a dual mode or diesel bus for transit. Mass transit options (i.e., rail or "advanced guideway system") were dismissed from consideration as too costly -- denying the opportunity to fully evaluate such options and their social and environmental costs vis a vis the more traditional options that were identified as "preferred".

CTU's major interest in the I-70 plan is the implications for habitat and water quality of streams effected by the highway development -- specifically, Clear Creek, the Blue River (and tributaries such as Straight Creek), and the Eagle River (and tributaries such as Gore Creek). Earlier in the EIS process, the CDOT convened a group under the "SWEEP" initiative -- Streams and Wetland Environmental Enhancement Program. CTU was ably represented in that effort by Gary Frey, Resource Chairman for the West Denver Chapter. The SWEEP process was intended to help identify mitigation needs and policies for the EIS but was abruptly terminated by CDOT before it was allowed to complete its mission, severely limiting the EIS' ability to responsibly address aquatic and wetland concerns.

The EIS also fails to adequately address the cumulative impacts of proposed and past actions -- impacts which are already substantial and are revealed in problems such as major sedimentation along Straight Creek (and into the Blue River) and Gore Creek, and limited fisheries in highway-impacted portions of Clear Creek. Water quality is a major concern. The aforementioned reaches as well as others like Black Gore Creek have been significantly degraded due to the massive amounts of traction sand applied for winter maintenance which, in turn, washes into and eventually clogs the streams with sediment. CDOT's mitigation measures are designed to recover somewhere between 25 and 80 percent of the sand applied -- meaning that tons and tons of sand will continue to wash into streams each year, worsening an already serious problem.

The EIS also does not address the presence of greenback cutthroat trout in the Clear Creek drainage near the Eisenhower Tunnel. Different options may have different implications for the existing greenbacks, as well as for the potential of Clear Creek to support a restoration project that could expand their range. This issue is not only about the threat to greenbacks of different alternatives, but about the opportunities for some excellent native trout mitigation efforts -- should CDOT choose to engage them. At this point, the EIS is silent.

Through comments and at public hearings, CTU is calling on CDOT to better address aquatic habitat concerns in the EIS process and to more openly consider a full range of alternatives. To assist in that effort, we have urged CDOT to reconvene the SWEEP process and let it complete its work and feed into a revision of the programmatic EIS. We encourage you to contact CDOT to share your thoughts and concerns as well. Comments should be submitted by May 24th, and can be sent to: Cecilia Joy, Project manager, CDOT, 18500 East Colfax Avenue, Aurora, CO 80011. More information is available, as is the opportunity to submit comments online, at www.i70mtncorridor.com.

CTU Currents - February 2005

??? What's Happening ???

March 2005

16th (W) **ETU Chapter Meeting**
 6:00p Fly tying - Join us before the meeting for Fly Tying with Dale Darling
 Go ahead, give it a try. ALL are welcome!
 6:30p Dinner and chapter business
 7:00p Dale Darling - Spring Fishing

23rd (W) **ETU Board Meeting**
 Beau Jo's - 6:30p

April 2005

20th (W) **ETU Chapter Meeting**
 6:00p Fly tying - Join us before the meeting for Fly Tying with ETU's finest
 Go ahead, give it a try. ALL are welcome!
 6:30p Dinner and chapter business
 7:00p Program TBA

27th (W) **ETU Board Meeting**
 Beau Jo's - 6:30p

New Members

Please join me in welcoming Gary Murray, R. James Stelzig, Chip Oakes, Michael Fulcomer, Chris Laurita, Sherry Nielsen, Matthew Taylor, Nick Kulsalaas, Howard Witbeck, Greg Trouth, Greg Anderson, Dave Kinser, Robert W. Schmac, Sean Lynch, Hudson Dean, Maria Henderson, Andre Nieuwenhuizen, John Schvetz, Adam Cox, Brad Lefay, and Ervie Robinson 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: 383

Randy Huiting

The Evergreen Trout

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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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