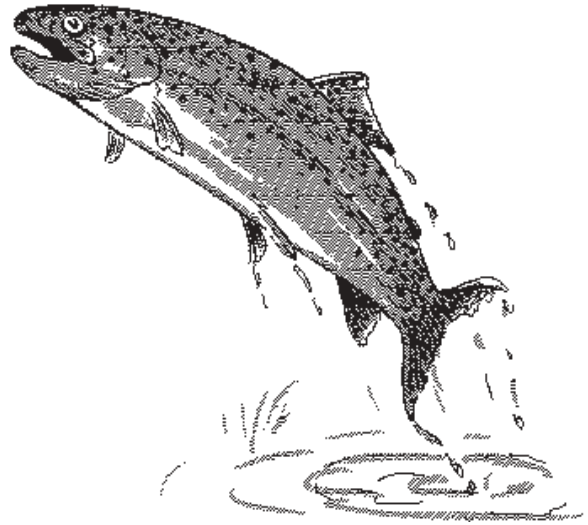


Electric

# The Evergreen Trout



April 2005 The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited Vol. 23 No. 4

## President's Drag-Free Drift

I hope everybody is having a fun and productive start to the Spring fishing season. Good news, we now have an additional free day at Buchanan Ponds. Our free days are the Friday and Saturday of the third week of the month. This is after our regularly scheduled Wednesday general meeting. ETU is helping with the stocking, so we are asking for a **voluntary donation** to the organization when you use the free days. A suggested amount was \$5/day or \$25/season. This will only used to defray the stocking cost.

Thanks go to **Pat Higgins** for the presentation last month on organizing your fly box. He had some good ideas. For our May program Randy has scheduled **Todd Hosman**, author of *Fly Fishing Colorado's Front Range* -- a newly released and updated edition. Don't miss this one. It should be very informative.

Our beginning fly tying has been well received. The expert fly tiers setup shop at 6:00pm before the general meeting. We brought some extra vises the last meeting and people got to tie a couple of flies for themselves.

The O'Fallon Park clean-up/picnic was a great success. Twenty-seven ETU members showed up to help. I was not in attendance because a good friend of mine and I were busy fabricating the steel mount for the sign we are putting in the park. The sign will tell the public what was done, the type of fish in Bear Creek, and how to help maintain a healthy stream. The commander-in-chief for the sign was Hugh Gardner. I think it turned out great. Thanks for all of your hard work.

Mike Goldblatt reported that John Langan, Bill Richardson and friend(s) went down to the Arkansas on Saturday, April 30th and found windy conditions. They caught some fish on nymphs and had a short period of surface activity. The ongoing report on the Arkansas caddis hatch has been sketchy -- it seems it warmed up too soon. Mike will continue to set-up these one day fishing outings. Day trips are tentatively scheduled for Cheesman and Clear Creek private waters later this spring. Check with Mike for details.

Speaking of trips, The **annual ETU Trappers Lake trip** has been scheduled for **June 22nd through the 26th**. We decided

to go a bit earlier this year to see if we can hit Trappers' infamous calibaetis hatch. Due to early Spring warming the last several years, we have missed the peak of this amazing hatch, but not this year, right Ron? This is always a fun trip. Come to the meeting or contact a Board member for info.

ETU had a booth at the Earth Day Fair at the Lakehouse again this year. Ron and Peggy set-up the booth and had some of our members, (Steve Murray, Tim Haller, and myself) tying flies for the kids. We tied some of the most ridiculously colored buggers, but the kids like them and that's what counts. Tim got bored, so he tied me a half-dozen of his famous polar midges in size 30. I still can't see them. He says they are there, I just need to feel for them, I guess. I told him I don't carry 9x tippet and a microscope on the water! *{They're there all right; and 7x will do in a pinch. - Ed.}*

I would like to extend an invitation to anybody in ETU to contribute to the newsletter. Examples can be fishing trips and fish stories, tips and how to's, a fly that is working especially well for you, or anything that you think may be of interest to the rest of the membership. I would also like to hear some input about what you would like to see in the newsletter. The newsletter is for you, and if it is not meeting your expectations, get involved.

**Question of the Month:** (this will be easy) What is Ron Belak's favorite fly? As before, the first person to give me the answer wins a half-dozen flies tied by yours truly. (Again board members are excluded)

**Last month's answer and winner:** Lefty began fly fishing in 1947, his real name is Bernard, and he was born and raised in Fredrick, Maryland. Tim Stechert had all the answers and received a half-dozen Mysis shrimp. He then immediately gave them to one of our new members, Susan McCord. Susan also bid on and won a 6 wt Orvis rod that Tim brought from an estate. The good news is the proceeds from this auction will go to Camp Comfort *{More auction items to come. - Ed.}*. Susan, I hope you enjoy the flies and the rod.

Hope to see you at the meeting on May 18th.

Hal

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!

## April Board Meeting

The Board approved wording for kiosk at O'Fallon Park and authorized Hal to proceed with construction of the frame as he determines is appropriate, in accordance with park regs.

The May 7th clean-up of O'Fallon Park will proceed as scheduled. More than two dozen people signed up to work, so it was agreed to extend the clean-up to the downtown area if the water levels in Bear Creek are not too high. A picnic lunch will be served in the park afterwards.

Hal reported that details for ETU's support for stocking and maintaining the Buchanan Pond had been worked out. ETU will contribute \$300 to the project. Also, the Park and Recreation District is adding a second free day of fishing at the ponds each month for ETU members. The days will be the third Friday and Saturday rather than the last Friday of the month, as has been in the past. ETU will ask members who use the extra day for a voluntary contribution of either \$5 per day or \$25 for the season to help cover the costs of supporting the pond project.

A youth fishing clinic will be held at Buchanan Pond June 11th. Sign-ups for that are through the Rec. District. Volunteers will be needed to help with the children as well as with food prep. Other youth programs coming up include: Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab, May 24th and 25th; Camp Comfort, June 25th and 26th, and again on July 30th and 31st; and the Kids Clinic at Evergreen Lake, July 4th (we need lots of help).

The board signed off on wording for a "Certificate of Fishing Achievement" that will be given to kids who complete the various ETU fishing programs. The certificate will also entitle each child to a free pizza at Beau Jo's. This is part of the broader relationship ETU has with Beau Jo's, including a rebate on food and drink purchases at chapter meetings. A discount card is still being worked on.

It was agreed that nametags will be used at regular meetings to help everyone get to know each other, especially since we have had an increase in attendance among new members of late.

It was agreed that there would be no regular ETU meeting in July because of the planned trip in late June to Trappers Lake and the heavy schedule of family vacations that month.

ETU day trips in the works include Cheesman Canyon in mid to late May, and Clear Creek private water in late June. Details will be announced at the regular meetings and in the newsletter.

John Haile

## Kudos...

...to **John Haile, the entire Huiting family, Karen Christopherson, and Rich Reynolds** for their help with the newsletter.

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

Ed.

## The Evergreen Trout

### Bear Creek Cleanup

In a departure from recent years, on Saturday, May 7th, 27 volunteers did a thorough clean-up of O'Fallon Park. Normally, ETU does its semi-annual Bear Creek clean-up in downtown Evergreen, but this year we decided to attack the site of our huge stream rehabilitation project. Due to high water levels which limited our efforts to the stream banks, and high volunteer turnout which made for fast work, we cleaned up the entire park from stem to stern in just a few short hours.

Afterwards, we sat down to a picnic feast put together by Steve and Randi Murray. There were a few complaints about the prime rib, but the steamed lobster more than made up for that. And the champagne? What can I say??? Thanks for a great lunch!

Most of the plantings that we did last Summer seem to be doing quite well, as are (unfortunately) the invasive dandelions. We'll continue to monitor the plants, replacing any that might succumb over the summer.

Rich Reynolds

### May Program

Time to fly fish!! Do you find that living here in the Front Range doesn't necessarily mean you know where to fish along the Front Range (or what flies to use when, and how to fish them for Front Range waters)? We are very pleased to have an extraordinarily talented individual -- fly fisherman, speaker, author (and accomplished jazz recording artist/composer), Todd Hosman, return to ETU for his presentation of *Fly Fishing Colorado's Front Range: Perspectives from the New Book*. Todd is also the author of the best selling book, *Fly Fishing Rocky Mountain National Park*.

In a narrated slide show, Todd will discuss critical aspects of Front Range aquatic entomology, fly patterns, and presentation techniques. His book covers over 55 great fly fishing destinations along the Front Range, complete with hatch charts. Q & A and a book signing will follow, and his books will also be for sale. You can also visit Todd's website - <http://www.concept88.com/ffcfr.html>.

Randy Huiting

### Wild Trout Chapter Project

*{The Wild Trout Chapter (Denver) will be doing a project in Upper Bear Creek this Summer. If you'd like to help, read on... - Ed.}*

The focus of this project is a simple trail maintenance event with dirt and rock-work as our primary focus for now. We need to build a ramp with field stone and then some steps at the trailhead just so we can access the rest of the trail. The Eagle Scout who did the trail had a real problem with a large rock outcrop near the start of the trail and we have to remedy that problem first.

Please bring your own lunch, plenty of water, work gloves, sturdy hiking shoes, sunscreen, and any personal items you may require.

Volunteers should plan on meeting at 8:00am at the Evergreen Golf Course parking lot in Evergreen and carpool to the Mount Evans wildlife area. Work should end around 2:00pm. After work, volunteers can fish a little and then meet up at the Little Bear for beers, music, and refreshments. Contact Eric Schwab with any questions at [easchwab@yahoo.com](mailto: easchwab@yahoo.com).

People will have to sign-up through the Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) office -- 303-715-1010 x19, speak with Ms. Aleta Katra -- or through a website called V Outdoors at <http://www.voutdoors.org/index.cfm>. If people go with V Outdoors, they will have to create a user profile and have a password, etc. It is pretty simple, but if people don't want to hassle with it, simply call Aleta at VOC and either talk to her or leave a voice mail message. They can also e-mail her at [aleta@voc.org](mailto: aleta@voc.org)

Workdays are June 26, July 10, July 24, and August 7.

Jason Randall - Wild Trout Chapter

## The Evergreen Trout

### Fishing Upper Bear Creek

Mount Evans State Wildlife Area is great destination close to Evergreen that offers some great brookie and cutthroat fishing. If you enjoy small stream fishing, and hiking, this portion of Bear Creek makes a great one-day getaway.

The Wild Trout Chapter of TU will be doing trail restoration on a certain part of the creek in the next two months, and this will unfortunately bring more attention to this otherwise undervisited fishing location. So I may as well tell everyone about it.

A portion of Upper Bear Creek flows through the Mt. Evans SWA on public property between the junction with Lost Creek and Groundhog Flats. There are two ways to fish this area. Both are open only after June 15 each year.

**Area 1 Groundhog Flats:** Drive to Mt. Evans SWA on Upper Bear Creek Rd. When you enter the SWA, follow the road past the manager's residence, and park at the first parking area (there is a T-junction here. Stop and park, or turn left to parking). You'll hike up a road to the southwest for about one-half mile. The road eventually drops down in elevation to Bear Creek, and the area known as Groundhog Flats. Good fishing starts right away with plunge pools, flat stretches, beaver dams, and bend pools. The creek seems surprisingly wide, and much of it isn't that tight. This area is serene and peaceful, and offers a relaxing time for anglers and non-anglers alike. Mostly brookies inhabit this section, and these small fish are very keen to take a dry during much of the summer. You won't catch large fish, but you will catch a lot. It's best to fish upstream and the gradient is shallow. Besides hiking up the hill near the parking lot, this is an easy day hike.

**Area 2 Lost Creek Junction:** Drive to Mt. Evans SWA as above, but continue past the T-Junction, turning to the right. This road can be rough, and it is narrow, so I would suggest a 4WD vehicle. Follow the road for about two miles, to a parking area on your right, and a trailhead on your left. There is a hike downhill (300+ feet descent) along Lost Creek Trail, so it's a good idea to wear hiking boots, changing into wading shoes or boots when you reach the creek. When you get to the creek, there is an old trail, Fisherman's Trail, which follows the creek downstream. This is the portion of the trail which benefit from the restoration, as VERY few people use it. It may seem odd to fish downstream, but it is about the only way to fish this section. If you're really in luck, and feel like a long day hike (with some climbing), get one of your good friends to drive your vehicle back down to the parking area at Groundhog Flats. You can hike and fish downstream. But beware, portions of this 'hike' require some major negotiations to get up and over many of the large rock outcrops that narrow the creek. You need to be sure-footed, and prepared for sudden thunderstorms that can crop up on most summer afternoons. Take a day pack for your boots, jacket, food and water. This is not a hike for the timid, and you should have a radio with you to communicate with your friends hanging out at Groundhog Flats. The hike and fish trip can take the better part of a day, even though it is only a little over two miles.

As for the fishing. This section below the junction with Lost Creek is quite different from Groundhog Flats. The creek is much narrower here, and some very deep plunge pools have been carved into the bedrock. The fish are also larger too, and some Snake River cutts co-habitate with the brookies. My theory is that the deep pools allow for the fish to winter better in this stretch than in the shallower sections at Groundhog Flats. Check out some of the deep pools -- perch up on the rocks and peer into the pools. You will see some incredible trout. Then dangle a nymph in (without spooking them) and watch them chase

that fly.

There's some great 'tight' fishing in here too, where the reasonably large (12") cutts take cover under slash near the banks. If you are careful, and quiet, you can tempt them out with either a dry or a nymph. The gradient in places is steep, and canyon quite narrow. At sections created by the large outcrops, you may need to go up in elevation and return back down to the creek. As you go downstream, fish the various pools and enjoy yourself. Just be careful, because if you get hurt it's a long hike out!

This area will benefit from trail restoration, but it will become more well-known too. So let's all remind fellow anglers to "practice catch and release" in Upper Bear. There are no special regulations in the SWA.

Karen Christopherson

### NZ Mud Snail In South Platte

*{Dale did a program for us recently, and when we received this e-mail, we felt compelled to pass it along to you. - Ed.}*

Hi:

This is not a reason I wanted to write to you, but I don't feel that I should wait to share this info. Many of you will be going fishing on the South Platte system soon and you need to know this info.

It is important.

*The New Zealand Mud Snail has been found in the South Platte in 11-Mile Canyon below the dam.*

This is very bad news, according to the DOW and other organizations.

I have more info, but will share it in more detail as I become acquainted with it.

At this time, please beware of your waders, nets and boots -- anything that is in the water and might attract a wayward mud snail. If the critters attach, they will stay alive for several days or longer even though they are not in the water. Next time you wade or net a fish, they'll let go and we'll have them in Spinney, Spinney Mnt. Reservoir, Boulder Creek, Clear Creek, the Arkansas, the Big Thompson, the Poudre, the...

You get the idea.

It only takes one mud snail to build an extended family.

*Please: when you are done fishing, be certain to completely clean and dry your waders, boots, nets and anything else that hits the water.*

Mud snails are very small, and they present a significant problem for our fisheries.

Dale Darling - St. Vrain Angler



*New Zealand Mud Snails - Photo by D.L. Gustafson*

**??? What's Happening ???**

May 2005

- 18th (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 Todd Hosman - Fly Fishing Colorado's Front Range
- 20th (F) ETU fishing day at Buchanan Ponds  
You must sign in at the Rec Center
- 21st (Sa) **NEW!** ETU fishing day at Buchanan Ponds  
You must sign in at the Rec Center
- 24th (Tu) 6th graders at Outdoor Lab  
Contact Len Wheaton if you can help on the 25th too!
- 25th (W) ETU Board Meeting  
Beau Jo's - 6:30p

June 2005

- 15th (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 Ron Belak - Trapper's Lake maybe?
- 20th (F) ETU fishing day at Buchanan Ponds  
You must sign in at the Rec Center
- 21st (Sa) **NEW!** ETU fishing day at Buchanan Ponds  
You must sign in at the Rec Center
- 22nd (W) **It's OFFICIAL!** The Great Belak has spoken! ETU's annual trek to Trappers Lake will be from the 22nd (W) thru the 26th (SU). Contact a Board member for info or sign up at the May or June meeting

**The Evergreen Trout**

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On the web - [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org); [www.cotrout.org](http://www.cotrout.org); [www.evergreentroutr.org](http://www.evergreentroutr.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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