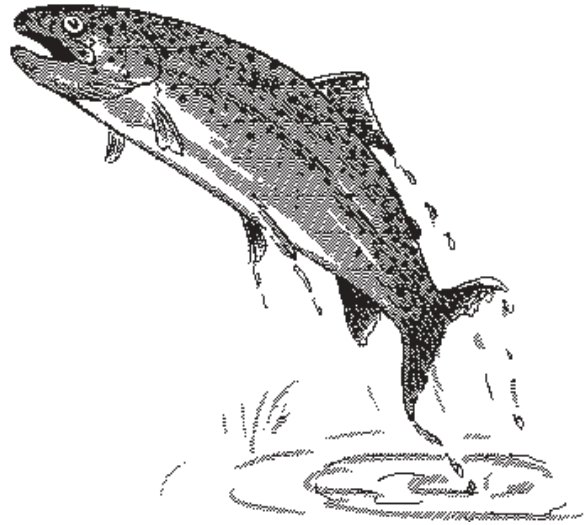


Electric

The Evergreen Trout



June 2005 The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited Vol. 23 No. 6

President's Drag Free Drift

The summer is upon us and the runoff is at its peak. I hope your stillwater techniques are up to speed.

Last meeting we had an interesting presentation by Todd Hosman on entomology in layman terms. I noticed that when he was speaking people were quiet, but not asleep. My experience has been that when somebody talks about entomology you try to look interested, but it is usually difficult. Todd, however, brought some humor into his presentation about insects.

Next meeting we are going to have one of our own, Ron Belak, doing his presentation on "Fishing the High Lakes in Colorado's Front Range". If you have not seen one of Ron's presentations, you are in for a treat -- his photography is breathtaking. Just recently, as I was complementing Ron on his skills, he came up with this quote: "When the doubters and naysayers come forth and when the crowd fails to find the truth in your teachings, let them smelleth your net, for it shall stinketh with the strong odor from the fishes of the lakes and streams. Then send them forth with orange ashers and let them too reap the bounty of the waters."

You can also enjoy some of Ron's work in the Special Edition of Colorado Outdoors 2005 Fishing Guide. He has an article on fishing with live worms and powerbait (just kidding). His article is "Fishing the Indian Peaks Wilderness". There is also a picture of Peggy Linn, fishing 'intently' as Ron puts it.

Our final dedication of the O'Fallon park project is still a ways off. The information kiosk sign is not yet completed. Once that is done, the final fitting into the frame and powder coating has to be completed. This may take another month or more, so please, be patient.

I had a good experience last month. Len Wheaton was short some help for the Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab fly-tying instruction. I decided to set aside some time in my work schedule and lend a hand. Len had asked me before but I

always too busy. To tell you the truth I did not know how I would handle 6th graders. My take on it was a bunch of unruly children really not wanting to be there. The good news is that I was wrong! The kids were well behaved, attentive, and generally fun to be around. The fly tying portion of the day went remarkably smooth, with some of the kids doing better than some adults I have watched. They all seem to be proud of their creations. They then go out to Jackson Pond and put some of their flies to work. The first day, nine out of the ten kids caught a fish, with some of them catching two or more. It took me a whole lot longer to catch my first fish on a fly, much less on a fly I had tied. The second day the weather changed a bit and the fishing was not as good. Even so the kids really seem to enjoy themselves. This was a rewarding experience and I plan to continue to make room in my schedule to help. Len has a more detailed report later in the newsletter. We all need to give our thanks to Len for being the ring leader. He does a great job.

Our first two free days at Buchanan Ponds were well attended. So much so that our bank account should be up quite a bit. I was told thirty people used the free days. That equates to \$150 extra voluntary dollars in the kitty. Well, I was told zero was collected. A question was brought up who is collecting? Well you can give your voluntary donation to any officer/board member, or you can send it to ETU, P.O. Box 1974, Evergreen, CO 80437-1974. Make sure you mark your voluntary donation for Buchanan Ponds trout stocking. I thought we would have more people to participate with our voluntary fundraiser to offset ETU's monetary help of the stocking cost. Five bucks per visit or \$25/year is not much considering the resource we have in our back yard. One visit to the pond would cost you twenty bucks.

Speaking of Buchanan ponds, Len Wheaton and John Ellis, our Youth Education Directors, and a host of ETU volunteers are helping with the Evergreen Rec. District's Youth Fishing

Continued on pg. 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!

President's Drag Free Drift

Day Camp this Saturday, June 11th. We are going to have fly-tying and fly-casting demonstrations, basic entomology, hot dogs, and two hours on the ponds. There are 17 children signed-up. This is another way that ETU keeps the free days on the ponds. If you are one of the pond users, think about helping out when we have these youth activities.

We have some more events coming up that need your help. ETU volunteers with Camp Comfort, June 25th and 26th. If you have not signed up and would like to help, contact John Haile. We also have the annual Forth of July Kids Fishing Clinic. As of the last meeting there were 12 volunteers on the list to help. Rich Reynolds says we need 20 to 25, minimum, to make this a success. So if you have not signed up, please contact Rich, John Ellis, or myself and we will put you on the list.

Our Trappers Lake trip is set for June 22nd thru 26th. Ron Belak will be talking about the trip at our next meeting. We have about 15 signed up. If you are planning to go to Trappers, please contact Ron.

At the next meeting we are going to have, weather permitting, fly casting demonstrations instead of our beginners fly-tying. Some of our experts will be demonstrating line handling techniques right outside Beau Jo's on Bear Creek. Be there a 6:00p and witness some of our own, demonstrating the elusive "drag free drift".

I am going to stop the question of the month due too lack of interest. Also remember we are not going to have a general meeting in July, and the newsletter editor is going to take a break as well.

Hope everybody has had a good start to their summer!
Hal

P.S. I just received an e-mail from David Nickum, Executive Director, Colorado Trout Unlimited. It reads as follows: "EPA has listed Bear Creek as "impaired" on the 303d list. Of course, this is only a start -- the key will be development of TMDLs, plans to address and correct the impairment, and that will be a slow process. Unfortunately, Bear Creek was listed as "low" priority meaning it won't be cutting in line ahead of other impaired waters that are still in process. But it is a foot in the door, and certainly something you can use vis a vis the dischargers up there, if they are balking at cooperation to protect the stream."

"Karen - your work on this effort was stellar, you built a case that ultimately won the day with EPA through your data collection and analysis. Congratulations, and thank you!"

Dave is referring to our own Karen Christopherson. I, along with all of us who hold Bear Creek dear to our hearts, want to thank Karen and everybody else that was involved.
HG

Kudos...

...to **John Haile, Ron Belak, Ken and Michelle Wilbert, and Len Wheaton** for their help with the newsletter.

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

Ed.

The Evergreen Trout

New And Old Technologies Combine At Trappers

Most people who know me would hardly call me a technology junkie. I drive a seven-year old Subaru, don't own a cell phone, still run Windows 95 at home, and won't give up my film-shooting camera. I resist computerization in my private life because all my patience is used up at work where I have to keep up on the latest technology just to survive. However, the possibility of spectacular ice-out fishing is a powerful motivator and resulted in my daily internet monitoring of Trappers Lake in the month preceding ice-out.

The USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service maintains a website on which it posts snowpack information for different basins within the western US. The agency maintains about 100 sites across Colorado that measure snow depth, the amount of water in the snowpack, and temperature on an hourly basis. These data are then transmitted via satellite, in much the same manner as that used by stream gauges, and are then posted on the internet. I noticed several years ago that there was a site at Trappers Lake and that snowpack went to zero at this site about the same time when Trappers iced-out. By careful monitoring of these data, I can predict ice-out to within a couple of days about 10 days in advance. With the closing of Trappers Lake Lodge and infrequent visits to the lake by Forest Service employees, use of means other than calling these people has become increasingly important in finding out if the lake is open.

This technologically obtained knowledge inspired Ken Wilbert, Doug Fox, Rich Reynolds, Mike Reynolds, Dan Belay and I to venture to Trappers Lake for the Memorial Day weekend. Powered by internal combustion engines that have functioned much the same for about 90 years, we arrived in three separate groups on Thursday night and Friday morning. Most of the campsites at Trappers Lake were unavailable behind a locked Forest Service gate, but we were able to obtain sites in the Shepherd's Rim "subdivision." We shared the campground with maybe 10 other groups and shared the lake with maybe 3 or 4 other groups of fishermen over the weekend. At one time, I counted 8 fishermen on the lake. Let's see -- at 320 total surface acres, that's 40 acres apiece to fish. I could even do that one in my head -- without a calculator.

We launched belly boats on Friday morning and immediately began hooking 15-inch cutthroats on wooly buggers. There was nothing fancy to the fishing -- just throw out a sinking line, slowly strip in the fly, and keep the rod tip pointed down at the water. Debate around the campfire in the evenings centered on whether flashy buggers hooked more fish, if fluorocarbon leaders were an advantage, and what level of sinking line worked best. All in all, none of these factors seemed to make significant difference in the catch rate among us. Everybody caught dozens of cutts, and we did a little thinning out of that pesky brook trout population. Of course, different areas of the lake were better than other areas, and Doug, Mike, and Dan sailed clear to the southern end of the lake where they reported considerable action. The weather was clear and reasonably warm the entire time except for Sunday afternoon when we were greeted with a typical Flat Tops thunder boomer. We missed possible snow on Monday afternoon by leaving early. I must admit that the water was cold -- about 46 degrees in

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the upper foot or so of water and somewhat cooler down where our toes were dangling. Rich Reynolds reported breaking through a thin layer of ice along shore on Friday morning and refused to believe the subsequent readings on that technologically advanced piece of equipment known as the thermometer. It was a technology-free weekend except for Ken's digital camera, which brings you a delightful picture of a colorful cutthroat, and his digital depth finder, which didn't seem to give him an advantage because he is already a fine-tuned fish-catching machine.



We have planned our next Trappers Lake trip for the weekend of June 25, and some anglers will arrive as early as Thursday. The fishing will be quite different then. We will primarily wade the lake and look for rising trout, which should be feeding on the first of the *Callibaetis* mayfly hatches. Please see my article on fishing Trappers Lake that is accessible on our website at www.evergreentroutrout.org. Belly boats can help in the evening with the midge fishing that continues to dark. Please call me at 303-674-2239 or inform me at the June general meeting if you plan to come. We may be able to "reserve" some spots at the Bucks campsite within the Trappers Lake Campground. The lodge will probably be closed the entire season, and the campground lacks water so don't forget to bring a few gallons. If we can't convince the Forest Service to get water to this campground, maybe we can talk them into installing a webcam for even more accurate monitoring of ice-out next year!

Ron Belak

Speaking Of Technology...

OPS! Even us techie types get bitten once in a while... It became painfully obvious to us that many of you (nearly half) didn't get last month's newsletter (US Mail). An investigation revealed that I had found a 'feature' in MS Excel (in case you were wondering, there are NO bugs in MS applications, only features...). To make a long story short, when they say WYSIWYG, they REALLY mean WYSIWYG (emphasis on the S)!!! Bottom line? The labels didn't print correctly. My thanks go to all of the mail carriers out there who helped us by delivering whatever they could, given truncated addresses...

I apologize for the error and won't utilize that 'feature' in the future. We will be re-mailing last month's issue (the ones that were returned) along with this one.

Did anyone notice the other error?

Tim Haller

Youth Outreach Program Report

Our dedicated members responded to requests from Dutch Creek, Hutchinson and Normandy Elementary Schools and provided five sessions for sixth grade boys and girls in groups of ten students in each class at the Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab.

The tying vises provided by Evergreen Trout Unlimited about five years ago needed replacement and our request for new vises was promptly honored by the school. They do appreciate our services. We shall miss principal Kathy Weiss and assistant principal Rich Goben, both of whom retired at the end of this semester, after working with us for several years.

And our efforts were further recognized by a gift check from Normandy Elementary to be used in our program.

There has been a cadre of five "regulars" to call upon for our classes, but there are times when some cannot make a date. At such times new volunteers (like Bill Richardson and Hal Garwood who came on board for our May 24th and 25th classes) are really welcomed. And we want to express deep appreciation to expert fly tier Rich Pilatzke of the Cutthroat Chapter who has donated specialty tying materials to us this year, and who led our May 24th class at the Lab when our regulars were thinned out.

So our season was very rewarding in every respect, and encouraging that new faces such as John Haile, Bill Richardson, and Hal Garwood are lending new talent and enthusiasm to the Outdoor Lab program.

We are already booked by Kendrick Lake Elementary teacher Lauren Deen for September 7, 2005. And remember that Mt. Evans usually calls on the chapter to cook and serve at their Annual Open House in September.

The regulars mentioned are Ford Oliphant, Dave Underwood, and Phil Waters who have been our backbone over the past three years. We owe them....BIG TIME!

{Add your name to that list too, Len! - Ed.}

Len Wheaton

May Board Meeting

The board reviewed and signed off on final wording for the kiosk that will go in O'Fallon Park explaining the stream restoration project. Wording now "encourages" catch and release. A date has not been set for installation.

The May 7th cleanup at O'Fallon and along Bear Creek from Evergreen down to the park was a big success despite the high water and cool weather.

About 30 people used the Buchanan Ponds during the two free fishing days in May. The chapter continues to encourage those who are able to take advantage of the extra days to make voluntary \$5/day contributions to reimburse the contribution ETU made this year to help stock the ponds.

The youth fishing clinic at Buchanan Pond is set for June 11th, and registrations as of mid-May had already exceeded the number required for the program to "make." Another program may be scheduled for late Summer or early Fall.

The Camp Comfort youth program is set for June 25th and 26th, and still needs volunteers. Call John Haile if you can help.

The July 4th youth fishing clinic will be held at Evergreen Lake, and additional volunteers are still needed. Several hundred children are expected. The possibility of extending the area stocked for fishing was discussed.

Len Wheaton reported that three fly tying and fishing classes were conducted in May at the Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab for about 30 6th graders from Jefferson County schools.

Plans for the Trappers Lake trip the end of June were reviewed. Ron Belak will also discuss as part of the June program.

John Haile

??? What's Happening ???

June 2005

- 15th (W) **ETU Chapter Meeting**
6:00p Fly casting - Join us before the meeting for casting demonstrations along Bear Creek near Beau Jo's
6:30p Dinner and chapter business
7:00p Ron Belak - Fishing the High Lakes in Colorado's Front Range
- 17th (F) **ETU fishing day at Buchanan Ponds**
You **must** sign in at the Rec Center
- 18st (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 Ron Belak for info or sign up at the June meeting
- 25th (Sa) **Camp Comfort**
and 26th (Su) **Easter Seals Camp near Georgetown**
Contact John Haile if you can help with this great youth project!

July 2005

- 4th (M) **ETU's annual Kids Fishing Clinic**
Evergreen Lake from 9:00a - 3:00p
We NEED volunteers!!! Contact Hal Garwood or John Ellis if you can help
- 20th (W) **NO MEETING or newsletter in July**
- 22nd (F) **ETU fishing day at Buchanan Ponds**
and 23rd (Sa) You **must** sign in at the Rec Center

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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