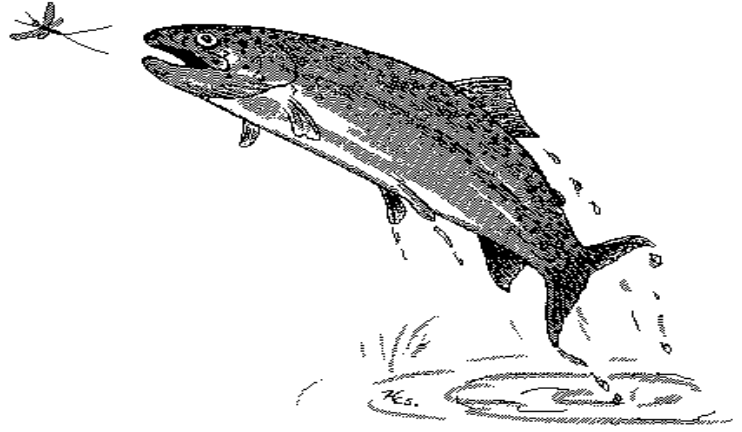


The Evergreen Trout



October 2006

The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Vol. 24 No. 8

The President's Drag Free Drift

Good news! Our Secretary Tim Stechert has stepped up to take over the job as Newsletter Editor. I told Tim I would be the editor if he would be the president which did not go over so well. All kidding aside, Tim will do a great job as our editor. This is his first edition, so let's make sure we thank him for volunteering for the post.

I again want to thank our outgoing editor Tim Haller for all his volunteer work, not only as our editor, but for being our CTU Area VP and the great source for all that is going on statewide and on a national level. Tim attended numerous CTU Rendezvous and has been the computer/money manager/go to guy for the CTU auctions for many years. Tim has many other entries on his TU resume, but the one I like is that of a good volunteer. This is not Tim's ETU obituary because he has assured me that he is still going to be active in ETU as time permits.

The newsletter will continue for the next couple of months as is, but some changes will be forthcoming. The biggest change is that we will do only electronic mailing starting January, 2007. This means we will no longer be sending out hard copies via the postal service. The newsletter will be sent via email only. It will also be available to view and download from the ETU Website. Between now and the end of the year, people with positively no access to the internet can contact either Tim or me. We will take note and address some alternative arrangements. We will print limited copies for some local businesses to have on hand, but that will be all. By doing this we will save the chapter over \$300/month and will be able to get the newsletter out earlier. Much time will be saved in volunteer hours spent folding, stapling, stamping and addressing 400 copies each month.

An electronic newsletter opens up new doors for content, links, color pictures and graphics without all the mailing delays.

Speaking of delays, Tim, our new editor, wants all submissions by the **last Friday of the month**. This is the new edi-

torial policy spelled out on the last page of the newsletter. This hurts me more than anyone else because the Tim of old was more tolerant of my tardiness than the Tim of new will be.

We want to encourage input from the general membership for possible columns (i.e. advice, fishing reports, fly tying, Bear Creek etc.). I received an email today from a member who wants to do a fishing report. It is a start folks, so step up and help the chapter.

I know that I am talking too much about the newsletter, but here is one more wrinkle. ETU can now easily sell some ad space with an electronic newsletter. We can even have space for used gear (members only). The possibilities are endless. A bit too dramatic, huh. But we are definitely looking for fundraising ideas.

Our next general meeting will feature Marty Bartholomew and his new book on fly tying. I sat in on one of Marty's fly tying demonstrations, and from my viewpoint nobody will be disappointed. Barry Reynolds will be our presenter in November. Barry, like Marty, will also not disappoint. Barry is known for hunting many different fish species around the world on a fly rod. Best of all, he can almost take you there in his photos and presentation.

The board voted to purchase a new Public Address system because the current one is not adequate for our noisy venue. When I got back from a fishing trip, UPS had delivered a new system. I tried it out on my wife and our Chocolate Lab, Chaz. Well to say the least, Chaz went nuts. He could not figure out where the loud speaking was coming from. This new system should help with our meetings. I was told as a speaker I did not need an amplified speaker system. I cannot figure out whether this was an insult or a compliment. Ha! Ha!

That's it for this month. Remember the electronic newsletter will be here sooner rather than later.

Hal Garwood - ETU President

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 6:30pm followed by the program at ~7:00pm. We look forward to seeing YOU there!

September Board Meeting

Attendees: Hal Garwood, John Ellis, Len Wheaton, Tim Haller, Hugh Gardner, John Haile, Jim Wilborn, Tim Stechert

Len Wheaton reported the two classes held in September at Mt. Evan Outdoor Lab School were successful and had good turnouts of ETU volunteers. As additional classes are scheduled, dates will appear in the newsletter and at the general meetings.

As reported last month, ETU has an opportunity to share space in the newly restored Evergreen Lake warming hut. This past month, Hal Garwood and John Ellis met with representatives from the Evergreen Recreation District and The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society (TENAS) to discuss a vision for the space as a nature center. The board agreed that ETU will form a planning committee. Hal believes our participation in the formation of the nature center has the potential to become our 2007 project.

The board discussed the recent decision by the EPA to overturn the state on the status of Bear Creek, once again listing it as an impaired water and putting it on the 303(d) list. John Haile commented that there were 70+ individual letters filed with the EPA, one of the largest responses ever received on a local issue like this. John believes that with this ruling and renewed interest in the stream by various organizations, there is a greater possibility for funding initiatives. Hugh Gardner reported there may be a planning grant available from EPA for 2007 and that he will pursue it.

The board reviewed the general meeting program schedule for the remainder of 2006. Marty Bartholomew is scheduled for October followed by Barry Reynolds in November.

The fall clean-up of Bear Creek was scheduled for September 30th and good turn-out was expected. Thanks to Karen Christopherson, who appeared on local TV for CTU and made a plug for our planned clean-up.

Hal introduced a proposal to replace our public address system to better suit our needs and improve sound conditions at the general meetings. The board agreed to pursue the measure, with Hal to find a new system.

Dates of December 2nd or 9th were proposed for the annual Christmas party. A firm date will be decided once the location and availability have been determined.

As reported at the last general meeting, Tim Haller is stepping down as newsletter editor. Tim Stechert will be transitioning into the position.

Tim Stechert - ETU Secretary

Kudos...

...to **John Haile, Hal Garwood, and Ken and Michelle Wilbert** for their help with the newsletter.

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

Bear Creek Listed as "Impaired" Again

Bear Creek has once again been listed as an "impaired water" in a decision by the Environmental Protection Agency, which ruled last month that continuing problems with fish populations below Evergreen Lake show the stream is not meeting water quality standards.

This reverses a decision earlier this year by the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission to list the stream only for "monitoring and evaluation." It is also a repeat of what happened two years ago when the EPA also overturned the commission and placed the stream on the more critical "impaired water" list.

Evergreen Trout Unlimited, with support from Colorado Trout Unlimited, was one of the lead petitioners in asking that the stream be listed as impaired.

The listing has no immediate effect on the stream, but it could help make funds available for stream improvements. The EPA also urged the state and various parties with direct interests in the stream to work together toward solutions. Already, ETU and Evergreen Metro District, two leading players, have begun discussions and have taken some steps.

The listing also keeps the stream on a long-term timetable that could bring tougher water quality regulations if conditions in Bear Creek do not improve. If the stream had dropped off the "impaired" list and on to the "monitoring and evaluation" list, there would have been much less incentive to solve the problems that have affected the trout population.

During the hearing process late last year and early this year, ETU presented evidence that sections of Bear Creek from about O'Fallon Park to just below Evergreen Lake had seen a precipitous decline in Brown Trout several years ago and a subsequent lack of recovery.

In assessing the health of the stream, only brown trout are considered, since rainbows are stocked in that area. ETU's arguments were based on the Division of Wildlife's annual electro-shocking fish counts along the stream, and the DOW presented similar evidence that supported the ETU position.

While ETU could not specifically identify the causes of the decline, it did present evidence of ongoing problems with high temperatures in the stream, something the EPA cited in its ruling as well.

The EPA decision came after a public comment period during which 77 individuals and groups responded. EPA officials said it was one of the largest responses for a fairly narrow, single-stream issue. Many comments came from ETU members as well as a large number from members of West Denver Trout Unlimited, which sent out an alert to its members. Columns by Charlie Meyers of The Denver Post and Ed Dentry of the Rocky Mountain News also generated responses.

The listing remains in effect for two years after which the state and EPA will review the stream once again.

John Haile

A Shocking Development

A team of volunteers from the Evergreen and West Denver Trout Unlimited chapters helped with the annual electro-shocking fish counts on Bear Creek and Clear Creek in late September and early October. Here is an account by Bob Untener, a member of WDTU who also attends some of our ETU meetings.

Other ETU volunteers on Bear Creek for the count were Larry Drury, Lance Kanemasu, Hugh Gardner, Karen Christopherson, Bob Snyder, Steve Murray and his son, Elias, and John Haile, who coordinated the project for ETU. Harry Ledyard from WDTU was also on hand.

Well, believe it or not, I can actually say I had a 400 fish day.

I had the opportunity to work with the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited as we did a fish count/shocking along a few stretches of Bear Creek.

Our volunteers joined with a group from the Division of Wildlife to shock the heck out of ourselves and actually see a few fish come out of the creek to be counted.



Above: DOW's Paul Winkle leads the electro-shocking crew up Bear Creek with an electric probe in one hand and a net in the other. Behind are volunteers from the Evergreen and Denver West chapters of Trout Unlimited catching the fish as they float downstream.
- Photo by Russ Clayshulte

There were about 10 volunteers and 5 or 6 D.O.W. folks working two stretches that day in the count. In the process, one team led with DC voltage probes. They snagged the majority of fish up front and we followed behind to transfer the fish to holding bins being pulled behind us. The current thrown into the water shocks the fish enough that they wildly shoot up to the surface. But some kind of freeze up and just start drifting. So we had many nets working behind the D.O.W. team to help snag the stragglers.

After an initial pass, we packed up and did it again from

the starting point to catch any that may have been missed. Each and every fish was measured and weighed and was returned to the water not much worse for wear. Mortality rate was extremely low. Maybe 6 fish all day.



Above: DOW's Paul Winkle measures a nice Brown Trout taken from the waters around Idledale. Every fish taken from about a 100-yard section of the stream was weighed and then measured before being returned to the stream.

- Photo by John Haile

If any of you are wishing to get out to Bear Creek, let it be known that you better be ready for small trout as I would have to say the average fish, rainbows less than browns, are 6 to 8 inches with a few 10 inch hogs thrown in. There are some sucker fish a little larger and some dace that are quite small. All look to be quite healthy.

We also landed two large stone flies and a couple of water worms. Which means that the Charlie Nelson San Juan Worm, in a micro form, just might work on Bear Creek. (Now, that's my only inside tip of the day.)

The D.O.W. does many rivers and creeks in this count every year and you should take the time to be a part of this adventure. It does give a true idea of what it is we have in our waters. It will fascinate you to be a part of this operation, and they appreciate the help.

Good luck finding that 13 1/2 inch brown as he knows to hide under the lowest hanging trees out there. But would that stop me? I don't know.

Our thanks to the Evergreen Chapter for accepting Harry Ledyard and me from WDTU on this adventure, and we will be forever grateful knowing that you need a 2-weight to make it a real fun fight for the average 7-inch trout on one of my favorite creeks.

I'll leave out the moments of me spilling a whole bucket of fish in the grass, Harry getting over the wall and poor volunteer Bob Snyder from Evergreen going in up to his neck. I swear we counted the one he pulled out of his waders.

Bob Untener: WDTU

??? What's Happening ???

October 2006

- 18th (W) **ETU Chapter Meeting**
 6:30p Dinner and chapter business
 7:00p Program -
Marty Bartholomew
 with a new fly tying book
- 25th (W) **ETU Board Meeting**
 6:30p Beau Jo's

November 2006

- 18th (W) **ETU Chapter Meeting**
 6:30p Dinner and chapter business
 7:00p Program - Barry Reynolds
- 25th (W) **ETU Board Meeting**
 6:30p Beau Jo's

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On the web: www.tu.org www.cotrout.org www.evergreentrout.org

Contact any of us with questions, suggestions, or spare time.

Editorial Policy: All newsletter submissions must be delivered to the News Editor by the **last Friday of the month** and may be on 3.5" disc or e-mailed. All items are subject to editing/space limitations. Articles are copyrighted by the author unless otherwise noted. Call the News Editor for additional information.

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Working to protect America's streams

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 2000 Outstanding Youth Education Program Award
 2004 Outstanding Chapter Project Award



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