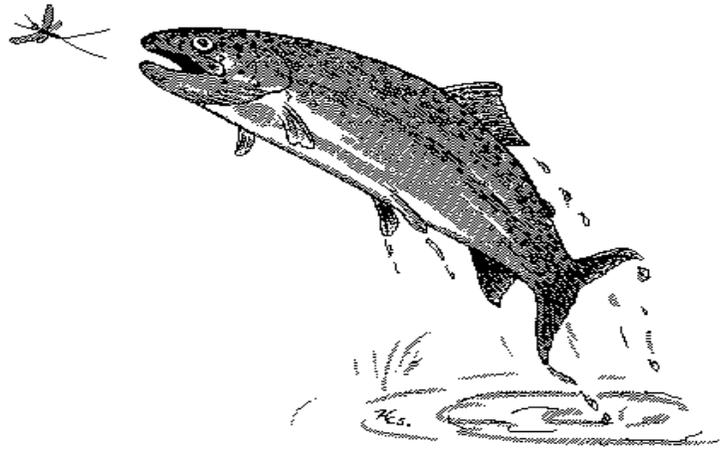


# The Evergreen Trout



April 2007

The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Vol. 25 No. 4

## The President's Drag Free Drift

Regretfully, our President's Drag Free Drift will not appear this month. Hal's wife, Sandi, suffered an accident, breaking her right leg and severely spraining her left ankle. Needless to say, Hal is very busy caring for her. We all wish Sandi our best and hope she has a speedy recovery.

The Editor

## Arkansas River Trip Planned - May 5th!

For anyone interested, Evergreen Trout Unlimited is planning a trip to fish the caddis hatch, May 5th, on the upper Arkansas river.

After a great day of fishing, you will also have the option to stay for the Annual Caddis Festival Banquet and Auction sponsored by the Collegiate Peaks Anglers Chapter of Trout Unlimited!

Here are the details about the banquet as posted on the Collegiate Peaks Chapter web site:

Location: Chaffee County Fairgrounds, Poncha Springs, CO  
10165 Chaffee County Road 120

5:00 pm: Doors Open: Cocktails, Music,  
Viewing of Silent & Live Auction Items,  
Bucket & Special Raffles

7:00 pm: Three Entree Catered Dinner Buffet

8:00 pm: Live Auction

Tickets: \$20 advance - \$25 at door

Banquet Information: Larry Bussey (719) 539-4040

**If you would like to make the trip, contact any ETU board member for additional details and logistics.**

## Youth Outreach Update

Our Evergreen T. U. Chapter has already brought off two very successful teaching sessions in February at Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab. We had "full houses" both days and wonderfully attentive sixth graders and their high-school leaders.

Since the pond was reserved for hockey practice, we modified our schedule to let the "fishing time" become a longer tying segment and included a fine entomology introduction by Jim Wilborn utilizing a display of bottled nymph specimens provided by John Ellis and beautifully mounted on wood by Hal Garwood. And then we took the kids out on the snow for their first fly casting instruction.

This curriculum expansion was possible, and very successful, because we had nearly a one-on-one teacher/pupil ratio. Yes, the fantastic volunteers of our chapter have made an outstanding difference in the quality of our efforts up at the school. Just naming the men involved does not do justice to their unselfish work in this program, but each of them receives so much satisfaction from what they do that they ask no additional thanks.

We are invited to provide **three** class sessions for Sierra Elementary school on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 24 and 25, at the Outdoor Lab. Very possibly the pond will be thawed and available. This affords the instructors a little special "perk" inasmuch as we can check out the fishing before and after class! These efforts, of course, are only to ascertain what flies might work and how best to coach the pupils.

However, we wish a few more Chapter members would sign on for these sessions. If we had a one-on-one session every time, that would be terrific! It is only one-half day each time. You need not commit to every session. You don't have to tie any flies unless you wish to do so. We need you to coach and support each of these children while they learn and, most often, take a fishing rod in hand their very

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!

## Youth Outreach Update (cont'd)

first time!!

Our Second Annual Buchanan Rec Fishing Camp is scheduled for Saturday, June 2, 2007, at Buchanan Rec Center and ponds. We propose to try a slightly different schedule this summer. The fish have suffered some lockjaw in the past and we wondered if it might be the time of day to blame? So, rather than fish through midday, we plan to start the program at 1:00 PM and go through to 7:00 PM with a picnic supper break around 4:30 PM. Any constructive suggestions are welcome.

Conducting this Fishing Camp for the Rec District is what secures the free fishing days on Buchanan Ponds for all volunteers of Evergreen Trout Unlimited. Please involve yourself. You are welcome, and it's fun!

Len Wheaton

## The Evergreen Trout Fishing Report

*Hey folks, We want your input!*

*The intent of the ETU Fishing Report is to share first-hand information about local fishing conditions among the general membership. That means we want to hear from YOU! Where are you fishing? What flies are you using? What hatches are you seeing? How are you finding conditions?*

*Mike Goldblatt has graciously volunteered to collect your input and assemble it for the newsletter. But he needs YOUR help. Please drop Mike a line at [mike@lamtree.com](mailto:mike@lamtree.com) or give him a call as often as you can to give him your input. The success of the ETU fishing report depends on you!*

**A**fter a tough winter, spring is finally here. Here's what I know about the current fishing prospects:

**Bear Creek** - Just when it was time to test the waters, the early season low elevation runoff started. Our local creek has been raging and is discolored from Cub Creek inflows. Current flow is 130 above Bear Creek Reservoir. (Good reports last week using an orange nuclear egg with trailing pheasant tail in O'Fallon and just east of downtown Evergreen. -Ed)

**Clear Creek** - Flowing at 121 cfs at Golden. (In mid-March, both browns and rainbows were consistently taking #18 Prince Nymphs in reaches below the junction with the highway to Blackhawk despite stained water. By late March, there were reports of heavy hatches of little brown stone flies in the upper canyon. - Ed)

**Roaring Fork River** - Blown out below the Crystal, but fishing great above it. Flowing at 420 cfs near Emma.

**Fryingpan River** - Fishing very well. Flow is at 145 below Reudi.

**Arkansas River** - I fished the Ark on Sunday March 25th and had a very good day. Fishing just below Salida, a buddy and I landed 12-15 fish each, mostly browns with a couple of rainbows. The spring Baetis hatch is getting started and we had lots of hookups on #18 pheasant tails and #18 sparkle RS2's. This river is amazing in that it is so loaded with scrappy 10"-15" healthy browns. It was flowing at a perfect and clear 475 cfs.

Mike Goldblatt

## Featured Fly of the Month: Foam Caddis

Here is a great fly just in time for the big caddis hatch on the Arkansas River over the next few weeks. Our guest tyer is Larry Kingrey, who lives down in Canon City. You will find his flies for sale in places such as Royal Gorge Anglers in Canon City and Anglers Junction in Salida. Royal Gorge also has a web site where you can see his flies and order them for quick shipment. You can call, too - 1-888-994-6743.

He calls this fly "Larry's Better Foam Caddis," and it is distinguished by a wrapped foam body that not only looks great but definitely keeps the fly on top of the water. It is also quick and easy to tie. I came across it - and Larry - one day when I dropped in at Royal Gorge. This has become the main caddis in my fly box.



## Featured Fly of the Month (continued)

Here's the recipe:

**Hook:** Standard dry fly hook, mostly 14s and 16s, but on down to a 22.

**Thread:** 6/0 gray or rusty dun for #14 or larger; 8/0 for smaller. Tan for versions with bleached wing.

**Foam:** 2 mm x 1 mm black, olive or gray strips for a #14 or #16 hook

2 mm x .5 mm tan strip on #18 hook (with bleached elk hair wing)

2 mm x .5 mm black strip on #20 hook (with dark dun coastal deer hair wing)

*Ed Note: Larry recommends foam strips by Wrightway Sports.*

**Hackle:** Olive-dyed grizzly for the spring hatch. Can just use something dark, or suit yourself. Use one hook size small.

**Wing:** Natural elk for darker patterns; bleached for lighter ones. Coastal deer for small patterns (20 or a 22)

### Larry's Tying Tips

Start your thread behind the hook eye and wrap back to the bend and then back forward to just above the point of the hook. Take a strip of your foam and, on one end, cut a taper on one edge. Position that tapered edge over the hook and tie down, with the strip trailing out beyond the bend of the hook. Tie down with snug enough wraps to secure the foam, but not so tight that you compress or cut it. Now advance the thread forward to about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hook-eye lengths behind the eye. By leaving some space between the wraps as you move forward, you will create a thread layer that later will grab the edges of the foam a little better than if you do really close wraps.

Now wrap your foam strip forward with just enough tension to smooth the edges. Overlap each wrap about half of the foam width. The object is to create a reverse tapered body - thicker at the rear. The fly will float better if these wraps are snug rather than so tight that the foam is compressed. Tie off the foam and wrap the thread to about mid-shank.

Tie in your hackle. You can X wrap or pile wrap the hackle to force some fibers to flare toward the rear of the abdomen. Larry points out that a caddis has legs that point that way, too.

Use a hair stacker to line up the tips of a small clump of your elk or deer hair. Now tie in a Troth style wing, with the natural tips extending beyond the bend about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hook

gap. Some folks will want to clip a "V" notch in the hackle so the wing will lie down better, though Larry just lets the hair push the hackle down and back.

Whip finish in front of the hair butts and clip the extra length of hair so that you leave a small clump for a head.

Put a drop of head cement on the wing to tie down the wraps. This will also help anchor the wing to the foam.

John Haile

## Alpine Lakes Offer an Alternative to Crowded Fishing

Mention "alpine lake" and the average Coloradan will generally remember a beautiful photograph in a calendar or a picture hanging in the doctor's office. Bring up the subject to serious anglers, however, and they will think of ice-out brookies or summer dry fly fishing at one of Colorado's high country lakes. For them, the secret is out - these lakes offer exceptional fly fishing for trout in uncrowded and unspoiled settings.

Our Front Range offers great stream fishing, but only at a high lake can we have the water all to ourselves. Most of these lakes are miles removed from roads, thereby giving the angler a true wilderness experience. The angler will also be treated to breath-taking scenery, courtesy of alpine glaciers that carved the cirque basins in which these lakes now sit. Also, anglers can forget about short-line nymphing and strike indicators, as most of their fishing will be with dry flies or streamers. There will be no doubt when a trout strikes. Many of the trout will be cutthroats that grew their last 10 to 16 inches right where they were caught. Some may be monsters—Colorado's state record for brook trout and former records for cutthroat and mackinaw come from high lakes.

Most of Colorado's 2,000 high lakes lie on public lands between 9,000 and 12,000 feet and are accessible by a few miles of Forest Service trail. Hikers will enjoy the challenge of reaching the remote timberline lakes in the rugged Holy Cross and Mount Zirkel wilderness areas. Horseback riders may prefer the more accessible and gentle terrain of the Flat Tops. Those launching float tubes and canoes will appreciate being able to drive within spitting distance of the many lakes and small reservoirs on the Grand Mesa. There is also a host of lakes accessible by short day-hikes in the Front Range, stretching from Guanella Pass northward into Rocky Mountain National Park.

Most fly fishers already possess much of the equipment necessary for fishing high lakes but will want to add to their arsenal. For those lakes accessible by auto or horse, a float tube is indispensable for reaching fish beyond casting distance from shore. High country anglers prefer a four-piece 5 or 6-weight rod for casting into the seemingly ever-present wind. They carry interchangeable spoils

armed with floating line for dry flies and nymphs and a full-sinking line for streamers and wet flies. Adequate rain gear and layers of polypropylene, pile, or wool are necessary for protection from the severe weather possible at higher elevations.



*One of numerous lakes beckoning the high country angler is Loch Lomond at 11,200 feet near James Peak in Colorado's Front Range. - Ed.*

The high country angler will find the entomology significantly different from lower elevation streams and rivers. Midges provide the brunt of a trout's diet in high lakes, so anglers should carry an assortment of midge pupae and larvae in black, green, blood red and tan. Adult midges are imitated with Nos. 16 through 20 Orange Ashers, Griffith's Gnats, Black Gnats and parachutes. Caddis are also important, so don't forget the good old Elk Hair Caddis for the adult and a No. 14 Gold-Ribbed Hare's Ear for the pupa. Although mayflies are less important, anglers should be ready to imitate Callibaetis and Gray Drakes with No. 14 Adams and Mosquitoes. Pheasant Tails do a good job of imitating mayfly nymphs. One should never visit a high lake without black Woolly Buggers, Orange Soft Hackles and Royal Coachman streamers. These flies are deadly when vigorously stripped on a full-sinking line, both at ice out and during the summer when surface activity slows.

Just like streams, high lakes fish better at certain times of the day and season. Lakes below timberline fish best during early season when trout are cruising close to shore. In midsummer, these trout seek cooler and deeper waters farther from shore. Mid-morning and evening are the best times to fish, since they coincide with peak insect activity. Above timberline, however, fish generally become more active later in the day because it takes longer for the air temperature to rise and stimulate aquatic insects to hatch. Here, fish cruise shore the entire open water season since near-shore water temperatures rarely exceed the trout's comfort range.

Anglers should be aware that each lake has its own personality, resulting from differences in entomology, limnology and fishery management. Generally, several day-trips

or a multi-day trip to a given lake is necessary to appreciate the daily fishing cycles. It is often this figuring-out of the trout's feeding habits that will bring back an angler on a repeated basis.

Ron Belak

*Ron Belak, a longtime ETU member, has been an avid high lake angler for nearly 30 years. His freelance writing and photographs appear regularly in Colorado Outdoors magazine.*

## CTU Files Protest of BLM's Roan Plateau Plan

*Reprinted from the CTU website*

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently released the Final Plan for the Roan Plateau in September. This new Plan is not one of the Alternatives originally presented to the public for review and comment. It is something different, presented as a final document with no further public review or comment allowed, only formal protests.

Colorado Trout Unlimited (CTU) is gravely concerned about the Plan's potential impacts on trout, including rare populations of genetically-pure Colorado River cutthroat trout. We are also troubled by the lack of opportunity for public review on the new plan and by the document's bureaucratic doublespeak, which calls the whole plan's credibility into question. For example - the BLM's "No Surface Occupancy" restrictions don't mean "no surface occupancy" at all, but allow it for up to two years - and perhaps even longer, under possible waivers.

The BLM's new plan calls for phased development of clustered wells on the Roan, and has been presented as "fair and balanced." As Colorado's "voice for trout," CTU cannot agree with that characterization - since the BLM's own analysis indicates that the plan would result in "impacts [that] could never be reversed, especially those that eliminate genetically unique resources represented by populations of rare or disjunct species such as genetically pure Colorado River cutthroat trout."

Localized extinction of native cutthroat trout doesn't seem very "fair and balanced." Accordingly, CTU has filed a protest with the BLM, urging them to reconsider aspects of the Roan Plan that put watersheds and their unique trout fisheries at risk.

The proposed Plan does have some intriguing elements. As proposed, development would occur in phases with a "clustered well" strategy. Drilling would be restricted to one of several development areas, not allowed to move into the next area until substantially completed in the current zone. That way the impacts and damage will be limited. The phased, clustered well approach is an interesting concept for doing development in an incremental way.

What about protections for the streams, rare fish in streams such as Trapper Creek and Northwater Creek, wildlife and other unique features found only on the Roan, such as the hanging gardens and the highest waterfall in Colorado? The BLM asserts that stringent planning, regulation, stipulations and monitoring will protect and preserve these public resources. Unfortunately, the protection measures, Best Management Practices and mitigation proposals that are supposed to protect the Roan's natural resources are in reality woefully inadequate. Some of the major points of concern are outlined below.



*A Roan Plateau cutthroat trout.*

#### When does "no" mean "yes"?

Stipulations such as No Surface Occupancy (NSO) and No Ground Disturbance (NGD) are cited in the Plan as providing protections for streams, rare trout, etc. Indeed, TU requested NSO protections for key cutthroat trout watersheds. Unfortunately, in this Plan "NSO" doesn't mean "No Surface Occupancy" at all. It means no "long term use or occupancy of the land surface...". Development and surface occupancy can occur for as long as two years. That's more than enough time to do a lot of damage. The same goes for NGD. The ground can be disturbed on a "temporary basis," up to two years, or even longer. Unfortunately, there are many other examples of official double-speak like this throughout the Plan.

As if this loophole weren't sufficient, there are also a number of "outs" available to over-ride the proposed protections. Waivers and exemptions can make the alleged protections meaningless. And if issued, waivers are deemed to - "by definition" - mean that there is no adverse impact. This doesn't mean that the BLM must ensure that waivers do not result in adverse impacts, but rather means that any time a waiver is granted it will be assumed that there is no adverse impact ... regardless of what the data or the public may say.

#### What does protection and mitigation really look like?

While the BLM indicates that "a variety of BMPs [best management practices] and mitigation measures would be implemented to protect aquatic habitat," the document offers no specifics as to how, where, and when these practices would be used or how they would be monitored and enforced. Without more specifics, the BMPs offer little more than wishful thinking - not any assurance that habitats will be protected.

One disturbing piece of what the BLM does say about mitigation is that one of its strategies would be to use "habitat banking." This concept - banking "improvements" in one area to offset degradation or loss of habitat in another - isn't broadly accepted to begin with, and in the case of the Roan's trout fisheries wouldn't work at all. One simply cannot improve a stream elsewhere and consider that an appropriate replacement for a unique population of an at-risk native trout. The Roan's core conservation populations of Colorado River Cutthroat trout can't be replaced, and so need to be protected - not traded for stream improvements elsewhere.

#### What about state water quality regulations?

Last year, the state of Colorado adopted regulations requiring ground disturbance by oil and gas development to go through state storm water planning and permitting, as other ground-disturbing activities are required to do. These common sense regulations help make sure that sedimentation doesn't become a serious problem from disturbed sites - generally, through the use of simple technologies like hay bales and settling basins. Even though federal agencies are required to follow these State standards, the Roan Plan says nothing about how compliance with the water quality regulations will be assured.

The Plan also gives no meaningful response to concerns about the potential for accidental spills of hazardous materials (such as drilling fluids, fracturing fluids, or other hazardous substances). The BLM claims that the risk of accidental spills affecting streams is very low - but given the thousands of truck trips that are planned, many hauling hazardous materials in clustered areas - makes the risks much greater for the areas of proposed development. Meaningful plans to help prevent accidents - and measures to help ensure that if accidents occur, impacts are contained - need to be added to the plan so as to protect water quality.

#### **Thanks...**

...to Ron Belak, Mike Goldblatt, Hal Garwood, John Haile, and Len Wheaton for their contributions to the newsletter.

### ??? What's Happening ???

#### April 2007

- 11th (W) **ETU Board Meeting**  
6:30p Beau Jo's
- 18th (W) **ETU Chapter Meeting**  
6:30p Dinner and chapter business  
7:00p Program - Chris Wells  
**Secrets of Saltwater fly fishing in the Bahamas, the Gulf and in Mexico**
- 21st (S) **Bear Creek Cleanup**  
9:00a Downtown Evergreen

#### May 2007

- 5th (S) **ETU Arkansas River Trip**
- 9th (W) **ETU Board Meeting**  
6:30p Beau Jo's
- 16th (W) **ETU Chapter Meeting**  
6:30p Dinner and chapter business  
7:00p Prog. - TBA

### Chapter Contacts

President	Hal Garwood <hal-etu@earthlink.net>	526-2900
Vice President	Ken Wilbert <k_wilbert@msn.com>	674-5162
Treasurer	Steve Murray <murray_sp@msn.com>	670-7942
Secretary	John Haile <johnhaile@aol.com>	679-3262
Progs/Members	Randy Huiting <rhuiting@wispertel.net>	670-5083
News Editor	Tim Stechert <tstechert@wispertel.net>	674-1337
Special Projects	Hugh Gardner <hughgardner@gmail.com>	697-5876
Youth Ed	John Ellis <jellis@enbcolorado.com>	674-1017
Youth Ed	Len Wheaton	674-4243
At Large	Mike Goldblatt <mike@lamtree.com>	674-7122
At Large	Wayne Kosloske	674-4092
At Large	Rich Reynolds <MDIRich@msn.com>	674-4861
At Large	Tim Haller <troutguy@speedtrail.net>	674-5426
At Large	Jim Wilborn <jpwilborn@hotmail.com>	670-3306
At Large	Phil Waters <philh2o@aol.com>	670-1344
Webmaster	Karen Christopherson <kc@coloradofishing.net>	
CTU Office	Very nice folks	440-2937

**All phone numbers are area code 303 unless otherwise noted**

On the web: [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org) [www.cotrout.org](http://www.cotrout.org) [www.evergreentroutrout.org](http://www.evergreentroutrout.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.

Evergreen Trout Unlimited  
P.O. Box 1974  
Evergreen CO 80437-1974



Working to protect America's streams

Evergreen Trout Unlimited  
1999 Outstanding Chapter Communications Award  
2000 Outstanding Youth Education Program Award  
2004 Outstanding Chapter Project Award  
2006 Exemplary Chapter Award



Return Requested

Time Sensitive Material