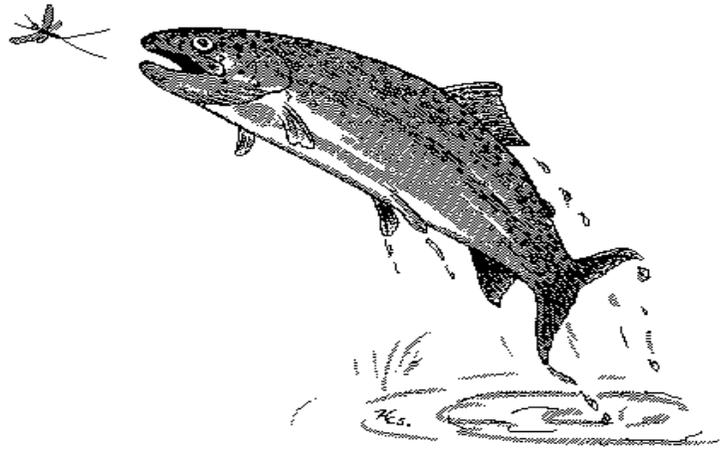


The Evergreen Trout



November 2007

The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Vol. 25 No. 10

The (Acting) President's Drag Free Drift

We haven't had a president's column for a while, but with lots of prompting from our hard working editor I'm trying my hand at penning a few words to the membership.

Be sure to check our chapter calendar the next few months. We are rapidly approaching the holidays and that always generates changes in our meeting and newsletter schedules. They are discussed in detail in other parts of the newsletter, but I am going to make an extra plug here so you don't miss them.

Our November chapter meeting will be postponed a week to the 28th since the third Wednesday falls right before Thanksgiving. (A few of the membership, including yours truly, don't really need the temptation of Beau Jo's wonderful pizza the day before the big feast!) Also, there will be no general meeting or newsletter in December.

Remember too that, weather permitting, our chapter volunteers can take advantage of the last free fishing days on Buchanan Ponds on November 16th and 17th.

Another important event this time of year is our annual Christmas party. It will be held on December 8th at Randy Huiting's home. Apparently, we didn't wear out our welcome last year, since this is a repeat! The Huitings are wonderful hosts and it is always a great time to meet up with friends from the chapter or to make new acquaintances. Fishing tales abound and talking tours of some of the best rivers and lakes in Colorado can be had for the price of an appetizer, side dish or dessert. You might even get lucky and walk out with one of our free bucket raffle prizes. I hope to see you there.

If you have been to our last two chapter meetings, you may have noticed a new seating arrangement at Beau Jo's. To encourage attendance, I'm shamelessly marketing the arrangement as combining the best elements of an Oktoberfest tent and a Basque restaurant. I hope it provides

everyone a better view of the speakers, makes seating more "conversation friendly" and gives better access for our servers. If you have an opinion pro or con or just want to be a restaurant critic, fire off an email to me or one of the board members!

Finally, if you read our board meeting notes, you'll see that our projects for next year are starting to take shape. We should have a John Fielder fund raiser in the spring and we are looking at the possibility of a small scale Bear Creek stream improvement project. All of our other youth education projects and Bear Creek cleanups will continue as well, so there will be plenty of volunteer opportunities in the new year.

Tight lines and a happy holiday wish to your families.

- Ken Wilbert, ETU Chapter president (Acting!)

The Evergreen Trout Fishing Report

Where have YOU been fishing lately? Let Mike Goldblatt know at mike@lamtree.com or give him a call and let him know about your latest trip.

Clear Creek continues to fish well with reports of good action fishing the seams with red San Juan Worms, Prince Nymphs and black Wooley Buggers.

I ran into ETU board member John Ellis on **Bear Creek** in Evergreen the week of October 15th. He was in my favorite hole when I pulled up, so I just watched as he moved numerous browns, hooking or just missing six or seven fish in just the ten minutes I was there. John had a BWO adult on with a small dropper, and they were hitting both. The creek is still flowing well for this time of year at 20 cfs.

I'm getting reports of exceptional fishing on the **Colorado River** below Glenwood. If you have never fished this stretch, give it a try. It is big water, currently flowing at 1910 cfs. Best success has been with Autumn Splendor streamers, San Juan Worms and Flashtail Eggs. There are

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!

Fishing Report (continued)

large trout in this stretch. The best way to fish this stretch is with a drift boat, so arrange for a guide or put your boat in at Glenwood or several other put-ins downstream. It's fairly easy rowing, with many put-ins and take-outs all the way down to Rifle. This big river remains ice-free well into winter.

The **Blue River** between Dillon Reservoir and Green Mountain Reservoir is fishing very well. The tailwater section in Silverthorne has been on fire. The flows have been steady in the mid-100's and the fish have been eating sub-surface as well as on top. Productive patterns have been Flashback WD-40's, Grey RS2's, Black Beauties and Parachute Adams on top. Downstream the Kokanees have been traveling up from Green Mountain in pods and resting in the deep pools during their travels. For the salmon use a Bead-head Pheasant Tail, Egg Pattern, San Juan Worm or your favorite streamer pattern.

The stretch of the **Arkansas River** from Salida downstream has continued to fish well into November. Currently flowing at 491 cfs at Wellsville, I'm getting reports of post-spawn browns returning to feeding positions to take advantage of relatively warm water temperatures and available food. Midday fishing has been very good using a micro-mayfly nymph trailing a mercury baetis or an RS2. Late in the day, try throwing a Wooley Bugger into a deep hole.

Recent flows on the **South Platte tailwaters** have been steady at 90 cfs coming out of Spinney Reservoir. The Dream Stream section is fishing pretty tough. Spawning browns from Elevenmile are in the river, so respect their redds. The Kokanees are late in arriving this year, but colder weather will bring them soon. As far as the Deckers/Cheesman Canyon area goes, Denver Water hasn't been letting much water out of Cheesman lately, but if you wait a few days, they will probably change the flow. When it's low, it is very challenging, but try a small midge below a pheasant tail. Flows have been steady in the mid-60's in Elevenmile Canyon. The fall dry fly fishing has been very good with blue-winged olives coming off steadily. With the low flows, weed growth makes nymphing difficult, but the weeds will die off soon and nymph fishing will improve.

Personally, my only day on the river in October was spent on **Tarryall Creek** just below Tarryall Reservoir in late October. It was some challenging fishing. This stretch of river is a mostly slow moving, meandering piece of water. With low autumn flows and bright sunshine, it was almost impossible to get a cast to a fish without spooking it. At times, I was literally crawling upstream along the bank and still spooking them from 40 feet away. I took only two fish in about six hours, both on a #20 parachute Adams, but these two rainbows were very good sized. While this was extremely difficult fishing, I enjoyed it immensely. Like most people, I would prefer to catch a lot more fish and I

wouldn't want all my trips to be like this, but it was fun hiding behind a small alder tree watching a large rainbow sipping flies on the surface while I figured out my next move. Most of the time my next move spooked them, but it is quite rewarding when you win the battle.

November Outlook - November is an interesting month for fly fishing in Colorado. Low flows tend to make for experiences like mine on Tarryall, but fish are bulked up from summer feeding and continue to feed voraciously in anticipation of winter. Also, there are the spawning browns, which give you an opportunity to catch a large fish. In November, fish will start to move into their winter lies, which means that until spring you must find the pods of fish, usually in the deepest holes. Most rivers in Colorado will begin to ice up in November, so get out there.

- Mike Goldblatt

Fly of the Month:

It's midge time - Try Willy's Pip

This is a Midge pattern that can be fished as a dropper on a nymph rig or as an emerger. It can be fished in ponds or streams. It is simple to tie and you can create many variations. Willy's Pip is closely related to the Palomino Midge. I found this nymph while fishing the San Juan River in northwest New Mexico three years ago. I came home, tied a few and had good luck on the North Fork of the South Platte but forgot about it until John Haile called asking if I had a fly for the ETU Newsletter Fly of the Month. I tried it on Clear Creek and caught three fish in fifteen minutes before I lost the only one I had with me.

- Ford Oliphant



Fly recipe:

Hook: Scud or Emerger Hook (Dai Riki #135 #125)
Size #16-24 (20-24 preferred)

Thread: 8/0 Thread (Match to Color of Midge)

Fly of the Month (continued)

Tail: Floss, red, white, grey, tan, black or green
(see variations)

Collar: Peacock herl.

Step 1: Secure your hook in the vise and attach the thread to the hook leaving it 1/3 to 1/2 of the hook length behind the hook eye.

Step 2: Attach one end of the floss to the hook. Twist until the floss is tight. When you release the tension, it will wrap back upon itself into a tail. Adjust your materials until you are happy with how the tail looks. Tie in the long end of the floss at the same place and trim. A drop of cement will make it more secure. The tail should be 1-1/2 to 2 times the length of the shank.

Step 3: Now tie in a single strand of peacock herl in front of the floss. Make one wrap of Peacock behind the floss and then wrap it forward to the to form the collar. Make sure you don't crowd the head too much.

Step 4: Form a nice head and whip finish.

Variations:

1. Skip the peacock herl and make a bigger thread head.
2. Add a mercury bead head for more sparkle.
2. If your floss is multi-stranded, try one strand for the size 20 hook through size 24 hook. The smaller hooks and the thinner bodies are more realistic. I have had good luck with the full floss tied on a size 16 hook but it does not spiral as tightly as the thinner floss. Wayne Kosloske suggested the thinner, smaller body.
3. One strand of multi color Krystal Flash added to the floss before spinning will add extra flash. You can use white ostrich herl for the thorax.

Pictured below are some variations tied by the editor. A slide show of the images can also be viewed for a limited time at <http://web.mac.com/tstechert>



Red bead-head - size 20



Ostrich herl - size 20



Starling herl with krystal flash added to floss - size 20

No Newsletter or Meeting in December

In accordance with tradition, and because it is just a very busy time of year, there will be no newsletter published and no general meeting in December.

- Tim Stechert, editor



Slightly sparser from the original - size 20

Bear Creek Update

Bear Creek came through the summer in pretty good shape, thanks to a good runoff, regular rains and temperatures that never got unusually hot. Now the state Water Quality Control Division is proposing to remove the stream from its protected status.

The state's argument is that the stream has been showing steady improvement over the past four years and, therefore, no longer qualifies to be listed even for "monitoring and evaluation." The state cites improvements in the number of fish, the total weight of fish and new studies showing a generally healthy bug life in most parts of the stream.

A group from ETU and Colorado Trout Unlimited met with the state the last week in October to discuss the basis of their findings and to point out that while the stream has improved, it still is not back to where it was before the fish kills of several years ago and that the underlying temperature problems in the stream have not been solved.

We have argued for some time that the stream "lives on the edge," aggravated by the normal fluctuations in temperature, rain and runoff because of the added heating caused by the lake and EMD's treatment facility. The stream does fine in good years, but gets hammered in not-so-good years.

Our group also found during our meeting that the state had used data supplied by the Bear Creek Watershed Association, which has long opposed any regulations of the stream, as the basis for its decision on the fish counts. That data is an "interpretation" of the actual fish surveys done by the Division of Wildlife and excludes certain years of data that are not favorable to the Watershed Association's position.

The state had no explanation for why it used that data, but after being challenged by both us and an EPA representative at the meeting, appeared prepared to go back and create its own set of data from the DOW files. We have no expectation that will change the state's position, however.

If we are to have a chance of keeping the stream listed either for the lesser "monitoring and evaluation" or "impaired," as it is currently listed by the EPA, we will have to file our arguments with the state Water Quality Control Commission by Dec. 4 and then rebuttal arguments again in early January. Even then, there are certainly no guarantees.

Currently Karen Christopherson and I are working with Mely Whiting, an attorney for Colorado Trout Unlimited, and John Roach, a biologist for CTU, on these issues. All of us were in the meeting with the state officials in late October. Karen and I have supplied a tremendous amount of background and data, Karen in particular, but the support from CTU also has been outstanding. We will be working

over the next few weeks to decide on next steps.

In the meantime, we have begun discussions with Evergreen Metro District about the possibility of working together on a silt trap on Cub Creek that might keep some of the silt from settling into Bear Creek below the dam. As you probably have seen, one of the problems we are dealing with on the stream is the filling in of the deeper holes and gradual flattening of the stream generally. All this contributes to making the stream subject to summer warming and to having fewer places where fish can go during winter icing.

The last major project we did on Bear Creek was the \$184,000 restoration of the stream through a major section of O'Fallon Park and now that is contributing to the comeback of fish in that part of the creek. That work completed just over three years ago has been a success, so much so that the increased fish count is now being used as one of the arguments against us in our battle with the state and the Watershed Association.

As we have looked for our next major project, we have identified a potential site in the downtown area and have begun discussions with property owners. We also identified the silt trap as a possibility, and EMD expressed an interest in working with us on that.

- John Haile

October Board Meeting

This was a special meeting ahead of the regular chapter meeting Oct. 17 at Beau Jo's and, therefore, limited to about 30 minutes.

It was agreed to wait until spring to see whether we need to test the water at the Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab to see if it may be contributing to a decline in fish. The Lab is expected to restock in the spring as well. No dead fish have been seen at the pond, although a Blue Heron has been sighted, and it can be a very efficient fisher. Meanwhile we continue an aggressive program of working with sixth graders at the Lab with our fly-tying and fishing classes.

The new seating arrangement for general meetings at Beau Jo's has received favorable reviews. The management is also cooperating by turning off the sound system outside the meeting room, making it quieter in the back of the room.

It was agreed to move the November general meeting to the Wednesday following Thanksgiving.

It was agreed to move ahead with plans for a John Fielder event in the spring. Gary Rotolo is coordinating and will come back with recommendations on dates, a location and the possibility of related fundraising activities. He has a tentative commitment from Fielder.

It was agreed to accept business card size ads for the

Board Meeting (continued)

newsletter. Tim will coordinate and develop standards.

The board agreed to continue discussion of a possible silt trap on Cub Creek to reduce the silt coming into Bear Creek below the dam. We will work with Troy Thompson on the engineering issues and then with Evergreen Metro District, with whom this would be a joint project.

- John Haile, ETU Secretary

Bear Creek Watershed Planning Grant

Friends of Bear Creek has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board's tax-checkoff Watershed Protection Fund to begin the process of creating a long-range watershed plan for the Bear Creek basin.

Friends of Bear Creek (FOBC) was created several years ago as an advocacy group for reforming Bear Creek fishing regulations and responding to the fish kills of 2000-2002. Receipt of this grant marks FOBC's evolution into a more mature and inclusive "watershed stakeholder" group, striving to improve communication and cooperation among many divergent interests whose decisions affect the future of Bear Creek. I serve as FOBC's director in addition to my ETU board position for special projects.

"Planning in watershed terms is recommended by all agencies concerned with water," the grant proposal stated, "but it is still an unfamiliar concept to most residents and stakeholders of the Bear Creek basin. The key goal is therefore to reach out to all major conservation and recreational groups, civic and merchant groups, parks, open-space, transportation agencies, water suppliers and dischargers, etc. - and bring them together around the collaborative watershed-planning concept, gathering information about their special concerns and data resources, building an ethic of watershed stewardship and stimulating commitments to participate in the planning process."

Full-scale watershed plans can be very expensive and take years to complete. The exemplary Clear Creek Watershed Plan took seven years and over \$250,000 to complete, but today it's a living blueprint and ongoing forum for protecting and improving conservation values in the basin. This is the most essential long-term legacy project for groups like ETU and FOBC in defending the future of our home stream. It won't be easy and it won't be cheap, but the CWCB grant allows us to lay the preliminary groundwork. Just getting everybody on the same page will be a great first step.

FOBC has committed to 100% matching funds, or an additional \$10,000, to be raised locally. Most match is pledged in the form of donated professional services, but a minimum of \$2,000 must be in cash. Raising that amount

would be a worthy holiday goal. Those wishing to help or to make donations to Friends of Bear Creek may contact me at 303-697-5876 .

- Hugh Gardner

San Juan Proves Challenging

I was recently privileged to be invited by Anna and Ken McClatchy to participate in Cutthroat Chapter's annual fishing trip to the San Juan River. After a night in Durango, with enough shopping to severely damage one's credit rating (Anna left with new socks, new boots, new waders, new gloves; and was the very essence of river elegance), we landed at Abe's Motel and Fly Shop, a short dozen of us. The river was low, running about 750 CFS, clear as gin and with more greasy, slippery weeds than I have ever seen in any river. Fish were seen, fish were lost and fish were to the net. But none scaled into the 20-plus inch range. Anna, as usual, was probably top rod, although no formal census was taken. She hosted her pot luck dinner for the group, accompanied by Ken's superb selection of both red and white wines and enough long tales to bedazzle the unwary. Needless to say, it was well up to their high standards.

Having waved a stick in a river for some seventy years, I have to admit that the 'Juan has to rank with Cheesman Canyon as among the most deceptively difficult and technical rivers I have ever fished. Short-range casting in six to ten inches of water with #26 and #28 flies on 7X and 8X tippet and a lot of fast-water mending was not and is not my forte; nor is it my choice of tackle and technique. Neither are boot chains, although I would not have been able to wade without them. I can't wait for my invitation for next year.

- Harry Ledyard



Anna McClatchy ready to take on the San Juan

ETU Holiday Extravaganza

Food! Fish Stories!! Fabulous Prizes!!! FUN!!!!

When: Saturday, December 8, 2006, at 5:00pm

Where: Randy Huiting's home

RSVP: Randy (670-5083) or Ken (674-5162)

ETU will provide the entree and beverages.

If your last name begins with:

A - H bring a side dish (salad, veggie, etc.)

I - Q bring a dessert

R - Z bring an appetizer

To get to Randy's house (2580 S Pinehurst Drive): From the light in downtown Evergreen, take Highway 74 approximately 3 miles N towards I-70, turn right on Brookline Drive (that is the Hiwan entrance opposite Means Meadow Park), take the first right onto Pinehurst Drive. Follow Pinehurst Drive about 0.2 mile to Randy's house.

If you're coming from I-70, Brookline Drive is about 4 miles south on Highway 74 from I-70.

November Program

The next general meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 28th, one week later than usual, to avoid conflicts with the Thanksgiving holiday. Join us at Beau Jo's in downtown Evergreen at 6:30 pm for dinner. There will be a short business meeting at 7:00, followed by a free program at 7:15.



This month's program will feature **Jim Neiberger** presenting "Fly Fishing the Colorado River." A native Coloradoan who grew up fly fishing throughout the state, Jim will share his decades of experience fly fishing the wondrous Colorado River. Jim's slide and video show will focus on the area around Glenwood Hot Springs and will discuss the nearby Frying Pan and Crystal rivers, including access, seasons, flies and techniques for fishing these waters.

Be sure you do not to miss this highly informative and entertaining presentation of spectacular fly fishing on some of Colorado's finest rivers!

Just in time for the Holidays!!!



Long Sleeve T-shirt
 \$15.00
 S: 0
 M: 2
 L: 2
 XL: 1
 XXL: 1

Short Sleeve T-shirt
 \$15.00
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 M: 3
 L: 4
 XL: 7
 XXL: 4



Sweatshirt
 \$25.00
 S: 1
 M: 1
 L: 3
 XL: 3



\$15.00



\$25.00
 S: 1
 M: 3
 L: 0
 XL: 2

Long sleeve Jean Shirt

Just in time for the Holidays!
 Shop early for best sizes. You can purchase at the November general meeting, ETU holiday party, mail, or call and come pick up at my office or home. I can mail them out to you for about \$6. All checks made payable to Evergreen Trout Unlimited. Randy Huiting, 670-5083.

??? What's Happening ???

November 2007

- 14th (W) **ETU Board Meeting**
6:30p Beau Jo's
- 16th (F) **Eligible free day @ Buchanan Ponds**
weather permitting
- 17th (Sat) **Eligible free day @ Buchanan Ponds**
weather permitting
- 28th (W) **ETU Chapter Meeting**
6:30p Dinner and chapter business
7:00p Prog. - Jim Neiberger

December 2007

- 8th (W) **ETU Holiday Party**
5:00p Dinner and Fun!!!

No Chapter Meeting in December

Chapter Contacts

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Vice President	Ken Wilbert <k_wilbert@msn.com>	674-5162
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At Large	Phil Waters <philh2o@aol.com>	670-1344
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CTU Office Very nice folks 440-2937

All phone numbers are area code 303 unless otherwise noted

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.

Evergreen Trout Unlimited
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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

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