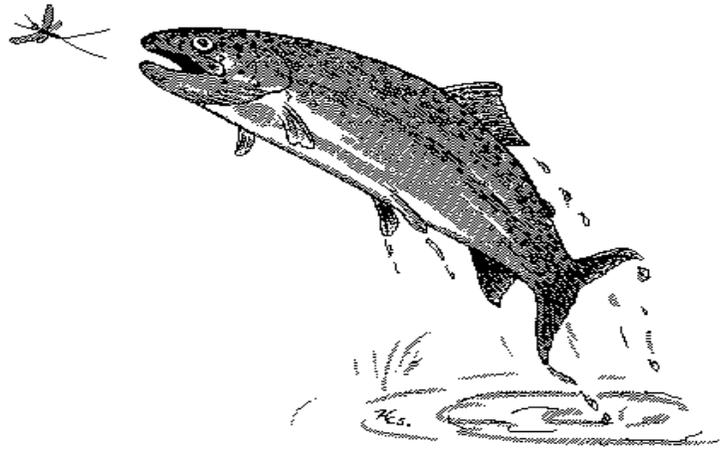


The Evergreen Trout



March 2008

The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Vol. 26 No. 3

The President's Drag Free Drift

How is everyone coping with the early switch to Daylight Savings time? I know when Bear Creek gets over the sewage spill, I am planning to use the extra hour to see if EMD killed all the fish. (*see the notice below about the sewage spill in Bear Creek —ed.*) I know this was an accident, but hope it will not cause major harm to our creek. I also was listening to my favorite news channel this morning and there was a report that very small traces of prescription drugs have been found in our drinking water nationwide. One of the drugs is a human sex hormone. A quote from the report, "Pharmaceuticals in waterways are damaging wildlife across the nation and around the globe, research shows. Notably, male fish are being feminized; creating egg yolk proteins, a process usually restricted to females." If you see a male trout behaving bizarrely, now you know what is going on. Please, no offense to our female members (my wife edited this and said it was ok).

On to more serious business. Unfortunately, our newsletter editor, Tim Stechert, has to step down. Some of you might not know Tim, but he is a quiet man that has been dedicated to the success of our chapter. I first met Tim during one of our general meetings when he came up to me and gave a generous donation to the chapter. I remember asking what the check was for, and he responded: nothing in particular; he just wanted to help. That was generous and ever since he has shown up for volunteer work. When I asked him to be a board member, he accepted without reservations. Then when our other Tim (Haller) had to step down as newsletter editor, Tim volunteered immediately and has been doing this thankless job ever since. He had no experience producing a newsletter, but that did not stop him from doing a fine job. What I like about Tim is that he is one of those individuals who volunteers, shows up, does not complain, and does not re-

quire or want recognition. Tim, thanks for your service. You will be missed.

To my delight, a member sent me an e-mail saying he was interested in taking over the job of ETU's Newsletter Editor. He wanted to volunteer for a probationary period making sure it would fit into his time commitments. He said, "I want to ensure that the project receives all of the attention it deserves." The board unanimously voted to give him the nod, except for the salary he requested: \$50 K/month. We countered with \$0/month and lo and behold, he accepted. Our new newsletter editor is Joe Kerper. He is a lifetime member of TU. He comes to us with experience in the field of visual media services. In other words, he knows what he is doing. Unlike Joe, when I took over as President of ETU, I had no idea what I was doing and probably still don't. With his expertise, we will be seeing some changes. I want everyone to welcome Joe aboard.

One final word: to my surprise a long time member, Len Wheaton, stepped up to be ETU's Vice-President. He was voted in along with our other officers at the last general meeting. Len made it clear that if he gave me any advice I was to snap to and heed. He also said that his taking the VP position did not mean I could groom him to take over as president. Therefore, I guess I am stuck. We all need to thank our volunteer board, officers and special position volunteers because they are what keep this chapter going.

- Hal

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.

Spring is almost here. Following are some early season prospects, some disturbing news and a look at a local tailwater.

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)

2008 is shaping up to be a great year for river fishing in Colorado. With the massive snowpack in most drainages, the fishing should be good pre-runoff, and it should be a long post-runoff season, especially in the western slope drainages. The Rio Grande drainage has its highest snowpack in 29 years. Depending on spring precipitation, look for runoff to last well into July in some west slope drainages, with excellent late summer and fall fishing. Closer to home, the Arkansas is at about 140% of normal and the South Platte drainage is at about 100% of normal.

For early spring fishing, some of the places I would recommend checking out are the **Roaring Fork Valley**, where the Fryingpan, the Roaring Fork and the Colorado all fish well in March. Also, **Steamboat Springs** is a good early season destination, where The Yampa wakes up early and has two tailwaters. Another choice is the **Arkansas Valley**, where I am already getting reports of good fishing in the Salida area. Put a golden stone with a midge dropper in a deep run and you'll likely feel a tug. And by late March, baetis will already be very active.

The disturbing news is on two fronts. The first has to do with Antero Reservoir. Probably the premier stillwater destination in Colorado the past few years, it is experiencing a severe winter kill problem again. Just two months ago I reported here that huge fish were coming through the ice. Since then, the outlook has become bleak for the fish in Antero. Due to thick ice and crusted snow, the oxygen levels are dangerously low. Decaying vegetation is also causing the release of toxic hydrogen sulfide. Large fish are the most susceptible to these problems. The D.O.W. is working to mitigate the situation, but we won't know for sure how bad the kill is until spring. This impoundment is always subject to problems because it is so shallow.

The other troubling news is the situation at the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel. There is concern about a catastrophic collapse of the tunnel, which would likely cause loss of life and certainly cause severe property damage. But as coldwater fishery advocates, we should be concerned about damage to a great fishery. As the federal government begins to pump out the contaminated water, the possibility of a catastrophe lessens, but what about the leaching of heavy metals into the headwaters of the Arkansas drainage? The Arkansas has historically had problems with high content of heavy metals, and this development reminds us that this river is still in danger.

Tailwater of the Month - Elevenmile Canyon

The section of the South Platte referred to as Elevenmile Canyon sits immediately below Elevenmile Reservoir near the town of Lake George. It is about a 2 hour drive from Evergreen. It is very fishable year-round, although it can get quite cold in the steep canyon in winter. But unlike

most of South Park, the wind is not usually too bad there because of the protection provided by the canyon walls. It is a beautiful canyon, reminiscent of Cheeseman Canyon, with large boulders and big trees. In 2001, the D.O.W. installed a catch and release section in the first 4 miles below the dam. This section goes to Springer Gulch where it then becomes a put and take fishery that sees a lot of bait angling. Since the C&R regulations went into effect in 2001, this fishery has improved greatly. There is a \$4 fee that must be paid to enter the canyon. Midges hatch every day of the year, so there is a chance to catch trout on a dry fly at any time. In the warmer months you will see most of the common Colorado insect hatches. Trout tend to range from 12 to 15 inches in the canyon, but of course larger ones lurk in the deep holes.

Some flows around the state:

Dream Stream 49 cfs
 Cheeseman Canyon 38 cfs
 Deckers 79 cfs
 Elevenmile Canyon 63 cfs
 North Fork of the Platte at Grant 75 cfs
 Williams Fork 69 cfs
 Colorado at Parshall 128 cfs
 Blue below Dillon 52 cfs

- Mike Goldblatt

Sewage Spill in Bear Creek

The following public notice was issued about a recent accidental release of sewage into Bear Creek and one of its tributaries —ed.

PUBLIC NOTICE

During the weekend of March 1st & 2nd, Evergreen Metro District experienced a mechanical failure of a sewage lift station. The failure resulted in the spill of about 70,000 gallons of untreated sewage to a drainage creek located below the El Pinal rodeo grounds. The affected waterways include: the drainage creek from the lift station below the rodeo grounds to the confluence with Troublesome Creek, Troublesome Creek below El Pinal to the confluence of Bear Creek, and Bear Creek from Kittredge to Bear Lake Park. The District is monitoring the Creek at various locations. Please keep out of the affected creeks until further notice, this includes pets. For additional information please contact Evergreen Metro District at (303) 674-4112 or Jefferson County Health Department at (303) 271-5755.

Fly of the Month: Greg's Yellow Sallie

Greg Garcia was tying this fly at the West Denver exhibition several weeks ago when ETU board member Tim Stechert spotted it as one of the real beauties of the show. Turns out, it is one of Greg's originals and, as he describes it, is really effective come early summer pretty much all over Colorado and up into Wyoming and Montana when you begin to see the little Yellow Sallie stoneflies come off.

Greg, whom you normally find at Charlie's FlyBox over in Arvada, is scheduled to appear at an ETU program in the near future, so watch the newsletter. As you see here, he ties a really nice fly. And just as Bob Dye of the Blue Quill kept emphasizing with the fly we had in the newsletter last month, Greg makes a point of tying his flies sparse. As he says, "make every turn of the thread count."

Recipe

Hook: TMC 2312 #14-16

Thread: Uni 8/0, chartreuse

Tag: Flashabou, red

Body: Harrop caddis dubbing, yellow (Greg says he believes the brand of material matters, but don't get so hung up on the brand that it keeps you from tying the fly.)

Underwing: Krystal Flash, Fl. yellow, 8 strands; and Metz Mirror Flash, yellow, 2 strands, or pearl flashabou, 2 strands. (Again, don't get hung up on the brand)

Wing: Nature's Spirit yearling elk, bleached

Thorax: Dubbing, yellow

Hackle: Whiting rooster cape, pale yellow

Tying Instructions

Start by tying in the red flashabou about 1/3 of the hook length behind the eye and wrapping back over the flashabou down about 1/3 of the bend of the hook and then bring your thread back up to where the bend begins, or just above and behind the barb. Take the loose end of

flashabou and wrap it back up to the same spot and tie off. At this point you should have a nice red tag on bend of your hook and thread the rest of the way up to where you originally started.

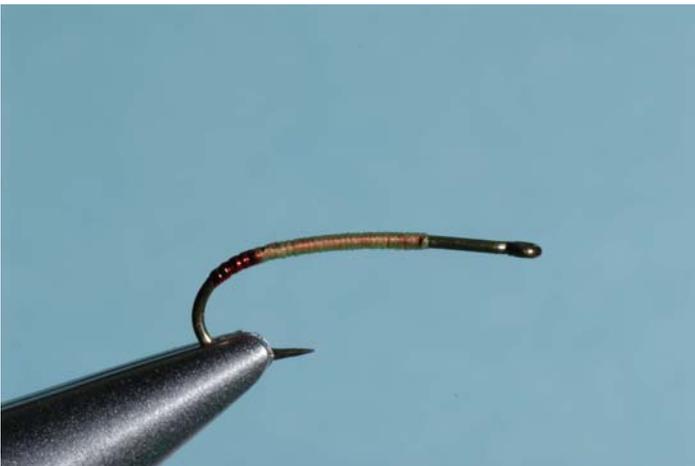
Now apply the caddis dubbing to your thread, very lightly, and wrap forward to make a smooth, tapered body up to the original starting point about 1/3 of the hook length behind the eye of the hook. The taper should be cigar shaped, with the narrowest part back toward the bend of the hook.



Mix together and tie in 6 to 8 pieces of Krystal Flash and the Mirror Flash on top of your hook at the original starting point, with these pieces pointing back toward the bend of the hook. You don't want any excess up toward the eye. This is your underwing.



Next, clean and stack some bleached yearling elk. You will need only a good pinch for the fly. Tie this in on top of the underwing. You want the elk hair to extend just about the length of the hook or very slightly longer. When you tie it off, trim close and finish up the area nicely, making a smooth, tapered wrap toward the front of the hook. At this time, Greg also takes his thumbnail and flattens out the wing. That's because, he notes, stoneflies have a flat





wing, not tent-shaped like a caddis. Now cut the underwing back to the length of the elk hair.

The next step is to select and measure your hackle. Greg says he undersizes his hackle for the hook since he is working with a tapered tie-in area. Tie the hackle in right in front of your elk hair.



Now, before wrapping the hackle, bring your thread up to the edge closest to the eye. Put a very light wrap of dubbing on your thread and then lightly dub up to the edge of the wing and back down. This will keep the dubbing from falling off toward the eye. Grab the hackle with your



hackle pliers and wrap forward with 4 or 5 evenly spaced wraps.

Whip finish. Put a thin drop of gloss coat on the tag and the head. You're done. Oh, and remember when tying this fly: keep it sparse. It really is a beauty.

- John Haile with special thanks to Greg Garcia for tying the flies and providing the instructions for ETU

Opportunities Abound

ETU is about to enter its "high season" of regularly scheduled projects and events. These events have been very successful for us in the past because of the great commitment ETU volunteers consistently make.

As reported in last month's newsletter, we have the annual **Kids' Fishing Camp at Buchanan Ponds** on June 21st. This is an important one for us because it helps to get our next generation turned on to fly fishing and tuned in to responsible stewardship of our waterways. It also fulfills our commitment to Buchanan Rec. Center, letting us offer free fishing days to ETU volunteers at the ponds a couple days each month.

On June 28-29 and again on July 26-27, we share our love of fishing at **Camp Comfort** with kids from our community who have suffered the loss of a family member.

And on July 4th, we offer an organized **Fishing Derby at Evergreen Lake** for kids in the community.

These are a few of the activities that are coming up. Keep the dates in mind and volunteer if you can.

Bear Creek Cleanup Planned

Two times each year, ETU volunteers meet in downtown Evergreen to improve the habitat for the fish living in Bear Creek. On one Saturday morning in the spring and again in the fall, we pull trash from the stream and from its banks in the downtown section. We frequently make a pass through the improvement section in O'Fallon Park as well; although we may have to skip that section this spring due to the recent sewage spill.

Although conditions have improved in recent years, we still find plenty of unsightly articles that are not particularly fish-friendly. Aside from the mundane styrofoam cups, cans, bottles and shopping bags, some of the more unusual items found in recent years include unopened liquor bottles, money, underwear, flags and skis. Old timers have some very tall tales about articles found in the creek over the years.

This year's spring cleanup is scheduled for April 26th. Please consider donating a Saturday morning to benefit Bear Creek. Volunteers qualify for a free lunch at Beau Jo's following the morning cleanup. We hope to see you there!

- Tim Stechert



EVERGREEN TROUT UNLIMITED MONTHLY PROGRAM



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2008

LOCATION: BEAU JO'S
(Downtown Evergreen, 303-670-2744)

DINNER AT 6:30 P.M., CHAPTER BUSINESS AT 7:00 P.M.

FREE PRESENTATION AT 7:15 P.M. www.evergreentrout.org

DIRECT FROM NORTH PARK ANGLERS

SCOTT GRAHAM,

“The Best of North Park”

Scott Graham, of North Park Anglers (www.northparkanglers.com) will dazzle us as he unravels the mysteries of fly fishing North Park. The North Platte River, populated by pugnacious rainbows and secretive brown trout, is revealed. Numerous smaller streams which flow from the high mountains towards their confluence with the North Platte River provide countless fly fishing opportunities. Riddled with deep pools, beautiful riffles and beaver ponds, they provide great dry fly fisheries. If this were not enough, numerous ‘sagebrush lakes’ populate the area, teeming with callibaetis, damselflies and chironomids, resulting in thick, well fed trout that readily eat flies, fight hard, and...pinch me, I must be dreaming! It’s no dream—if you haven’t been to North Park, you can’t afford to miss this program!



North Park Anglers, Walden, Colorado

High Mountain Lake Cutthroat

Caught and Released May 31, 2004

??? What's Happening ???

March 2008

- 12th (W) **ETU Board Meeting**
6:30p Beau Jo's
- 19th (W) **ETU Chapter Meeting**
6:30p Dinner and chapter business
7:00p Prog. - Scott Graham:
The Best of North Park

April 2008

- 9th (W) **ETU Board Meeting**
6:30p Beau Jo's
- 16th (W) **ETU Chapter Meeting**
6:30p Dinner and chapter business
7:00p Prog. - Tucker Ladd:
Fly Fishing for Peacock Bass
in the Amazon Jungle
- 26th (S) **Bear Creek Spring Cleanup**
9:00a Downtown Evergreen
We need volunteers!

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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.

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1999 Outstanding Chapter Communications Award
2000 Outstanding Youth Education Program Award
2004 Outstanding Chapter Project Award
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