



The Evergreen Trout

January 2011 | Vol. 30, No. 1



A time to be thankful....but more work to do

By Mike McGinnis, ETU President

All of us at Evergreen Trout Unlimited have a lot to be thankful for. Together with Colorado TU, National TU and other TU chapters, we have pulled off some great successes this past year. With everyone's support, we have been able to:

- Pass a package of legislative measures at the Colorado General Assembly to increase water conservation, helping keep more water in our rivers
- Protect native trout on the Roan Plateau through a legal challenge to an unbalanced BLM energy plan and on-the-ground volunteer restoration with our Grand Valley Anglers chapter
- Generate broad public support for protection of the Colorado headwaters, leading to meaningful negotiations with water providers on ways to protect the Colorado

- Defeat attempts by mining interests to dramatically weaken water quality standards for metals, ensuring that standards will still protect fish and wildlife
- Complete the first pilot effort for "Trout in the Classroom" in Colorado with the Cutthroat Chapter, bringing trout education right into a Colorado high school

Jim Wilborn, our ETU Person of the Year for 2010, continues his educational efforts at the Outdoor Lab teaching sixth graders entomology, conservation and the joy of being outdoors and fishing. He was recognized this year for his outstanding contributions to ETU.

Karen Christopherson, ETU Board member, received CTU's Outstanding Volunteer Award for 2010! Enough can't be said about her efforts to track water flows and temperatures on our home stream, Bear Creek. She tracks the data

like a hawk over a rabbit and fights to keep this great resource up to snuff for all of us.

We can take a breath, but we can't rest on our laurels. We, along with CTU, have lofty goals for 2011. The goals as stated by CTU are as follows:

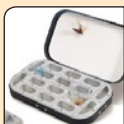
- Protecting Colorado's backcountry by strengthening the state's roadless rules and ensuring appropriate use of off road vehicles in sensitive riparian areas
- Ensuring the responsible and balanced use and development of our water resources, particularly in the upper Colorado and Fraser Rivers
- Expanding CTU's Youth Conservation Education programs to inspire the next generation of stewards. CTU hopes to hire a

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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, and classes at 6:30 pm followed by the program at 7:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

"A Time to be Thankful," from page 1.

- Youth Conservation Education Coordinator to spearhead these efforts and enhance existing programs like "Trout in the Classroom" and our annual youth camps
- Working with local chapters like ETU on projects protecting streams like Bear Creek monitoring water quality and on-the-ground projects to improve wild trout habitat
- Strengthening CTU's grassroots presence through expanded membership and fundraising efforts to ensure CTU's legacy of conserving and protecting the rivers and streams of Colorado
- Being sure that adequate funds are maintained in the state budget for fish habitat restoration and the maintenance of state parks

So, let's give thanks for where we are, but remember we have work to do. Pick a cause, volunteer, donate your time or money and let's keep the momentum!

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Editorial Policy:

All newsletter submissions must be received by the newsletter editor by the last Friday of the month. All items are subject to editing/space limitations. Articles are copyrighted by the author unless otherwise noted. Contact the newsletter editor for additional information.

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Tie One On: Bubble Back Midge

As tied by ETU's Jack Egender; written by John Haile

If midges are coming off the water pretty much all year long and trout are eating them all year long, it figures that trout anglers should be fishing midges pretty much all year long.

That's the logic behind ETU member Jack Egender's choice for our January fly of the month – the Bubble Back Midge. He uses it as a “go to” fly year-round on trophy trout streams throughout the region, figuring that if midges are in the air, then midge pupae are rising through the water column and the fish are eating them.

The thing that makes the Bubble Back Midge special is the bead tied to the top of the hook so that the fly appears to have the pupa air bubble that is pulling it toward the surface.

For those of us who enjoy spending some of these cold winter days building up our stock of flies, this also is a fairly easy fly to tie. And, it doesn't require a bunch of different materials.

Jack reports catching large trout with this fly on the Colorado, the Roaring Fork and on the Dream Stream section of the South Platte. He uses it as a dropper

behind a dry fly and fished deep as the second fly on a double nymph rig.

If you check out some of the different fly fishing sites, you will see that this is also a popular fly up in Montana and the Dakotas.

Jack's Tying Instructions:

Start by cutting about a four-inch length of wire and take about an inch of that and double it back over to the half-way point of your wire length. You should now have a three-inch length, with the last inch being a double section of wire. Thread your bead onto the doubled-over section and set it aside.

Get your hook in the vise and crimp down the barb. Tie in your thread behind the eye of the hook and wrap back to the half-way point and then return the thread back to behind the eye. Keep your thread sparse.

Next tie in the doubled-up section of wire and bead, with the extra length of wire pointing out over the bend of the hook. Tie the wire in just behind the eye, then slide the bead forward and move your thread to behind the bead to tie it in place. Three wraps should do the job.

Bubble Back Midge:

Hook: #18 or smaller scud hook, TMC 2547

Wire: Ultra Wire, X small silver or gold

Bead: Mercury glass bead, x small

Thread: 8/0 black

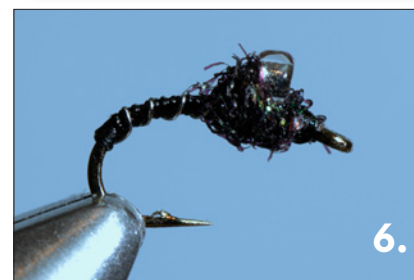
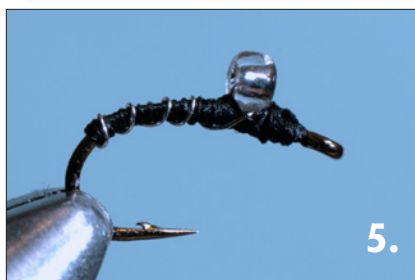
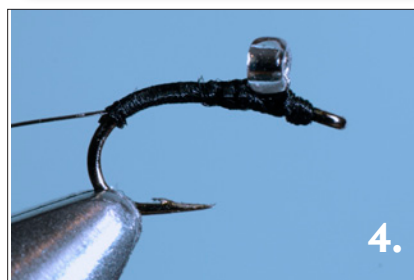
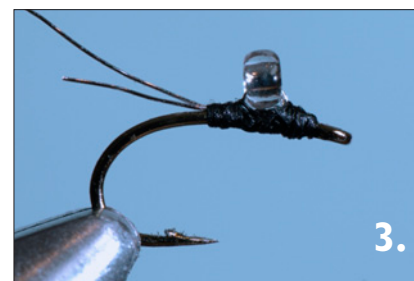
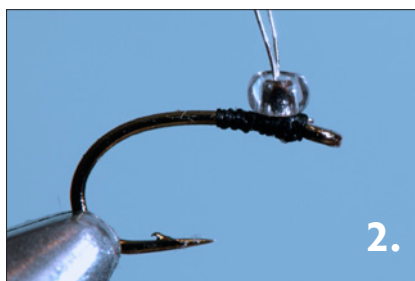
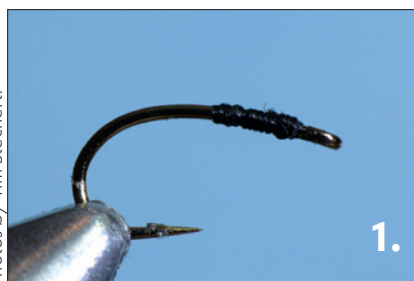
You are going to have a little extra of the wire that you doubled over, so go ahead and break or cut off that short piece and then continue to wrap your other, longer piece of wire back just past the bend of the hook. Leave the wire hanging there. Take your thread and wrap it back over the wire to the bend and then back up to behind the bead. Again, keep your thread wraps tight and sparse.

Now you will take the wire and spiral wrap it forward in about four or five turns up to behind the bead and tie it off. This time, break off the extra wire.

At this point you can finish off your fly with just a thread head in front of the bead, a whip finish and a drop of head

See “Fly of the Month” on page 4.

Photos by Tim Stechert.



“Fly of the Month” from page 4.

cement or you can build a thorax with ice dub and then finish it off.

You also can change the fly around by changing the color of thread and the color of wire. Jack has used silver wire to tie this fly, but gold wire also works great. You can experiment as well with some of the colored wires.

It is a beautiful fly and pretty easy to tie. Even this time of year, you should be able to catch fish on it.

Try it and see if you can match Jack’s photo.

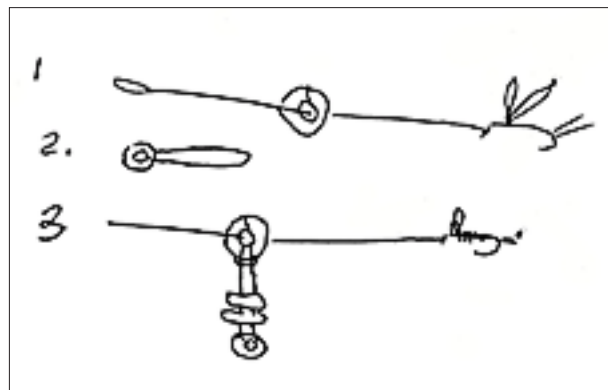


*Caught 5 Rainbows this size on a float trip this Oct. on the Colorado River. Every one of them took the Bubble Midge.
Jack*

How to Save Half the Room in Your Fly Boxes

By Harry Ledyard

1. Don't tie/buy/use bead head flies.
2. Carry a small jug of hollow shot in various sizes.
3. Slip one on your tippet before tying on the fly. Loose, it will slide down to the fly eye when you cast.
4. Take an extra wrap or two through the hole to position the shot up on your leader for depth control (Illustration #1).
5. Rig a small shot on a fairly stout loop of tippet material: about 2-3 inches long (Illustration #2).
6. Slip additional shot onto the loop (Illustration #3) and girth hitch the loop onto your previously fixed shot for additional weight and depth control.
7. Plastic dental floss pullers are useful for pulling your tippet through the hole on small sized shot.



San Juan River Update

Sent in by John Tavenne

Hope everyone had a great holiday season! We had a great Christmas and then it got really cold for New Years. Right now the weather is excellent and the winter fishing is excellent, couldn't ask for a better combo!

We are preparing for a new stream project on the San Juan. The Fish and Game department is planning to fix the Rex Smith Wash (the wash above Texas Hole that flows into the Kiddie Hole) and change the runs from the kiddie hole up to the upper flats and divert most the water into those runs. This new habitat

sounds very interesting and we are looking forward to seeing what it will look like. They are planning 20 new holes in this stretch, so the fish will have better habitat. These new holes could be up to six feet deep when finished.

We should expect to have a very normal water year, with a high water release. We surely missed it last year and are looking forward to it this year. Our fishing should fall back into normal when we get our high water. The Lower River should be excellent this year after a high water release. Hatches should continue being awesome. Many of you didn't get

to see the great PMD hatch below Simon Canyon this summer, but it was great to see it again like the old days! July through September was when it happened. The new structure in this section really helped, cant wait to see what it does to the braided section above Texas Hole.

Hope to see all your smiling faces again this year, and keep in touch. Tight Lines.

Former Chapter Member Writes In

Sent in by Tim Haller

The steelhead fishing has been lousy this year. Even Rich hasn't caught as many as he usually does. My total, on the other hand is a big fat zero, in 10+ trips to the Deschutes. I did do a one day offshore trip out of Ilwaco, WA, and got a couple of nice fresh salmon -- one king, one coho. I too have gone over to the dark side of fly fishing -- spey casting. It's almost a necessity up here. Because the trees grow right down to the bank, and the rivers are big enough that you don't wade out very far, there's NO room for a back cast. Spey pretty much eliminates that problem. It's also a lot easier on the shoulder. Casting a 15' type VIII sink tip with a one-handed rod, is not pretty. But if you attach it to a 540 grain Skagit style shooting head, on a 12' 4" two-hander, you can throw it 60' with a single movement. Pretty cool.

That trip was quite an adventure though. Crossing the Columbia Bar was

interesting, to say the least. Twenty foot rollers can really toss a 43 ft boat around! Once we got out to sea it wasn't so bad. That said, those salmon cost me about \$15/lb. I could have bought the same fish at one of the tribal roadside stands for \$6/lb. It was a lot of fun though.



Obituary: Ralph "Pete" Parker

Pete was born August 3, 1932, in Monongahela, PA, to Agnes and Ralph Parker. From the very beginning Pete was always looking for adventure, and would often run off on his own to find it.

He started fly fishing at 5 yrs old. His first fish in 1939 was a California Golden



Trout. Pete learned to tie flies in 1946 from his dad.

Pete was an excellent athlete, as well as always being top of his class. Pete moved to California as a young boy and attended St. Catherine's Military Academy and later Riverside Polytechnic High School where he graduated in 1952. Pete proudly served in the Marines from 1952-56. Later residences included New York and Colorado. Pete married the love of his life, Barbara Duquette on Halloween, 1953. Barbara predeceased him in 2005. Pete and Barbara had three children, Ralph M Parker III, Patricia (McClure) and Pamela (Parker-Martin) and 7 grandchildren (Morgan, Adam, Jackson, Genna, Emily, Sarah, and Margo).

While living in New York Pete began fly fishing for blues and striped bass off Long Island. In 1976 he, and his family, moved west to Colorado. There Pete co-founded the Evergreen Chapter for Trout Unlimited. Pete began giving fly

tying demonstrations at local events and in 1989 was asked to appear as a featured tier at International Sportsmen's Expos.

1991 he was asked to assume duties as the 'Director' of the Fly Tying Video Theater for all ISE shows. Pete has been blending the talents of approximately 150 fly tiers each season ever since. You knew you had "made it" in the shows when Pete gave you a personalized, and very colorful, introduction.

Pete fished all over the United States, Canada, Alaska, British Columbia, Belize, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, San Salvador, Mexico, plus seven long range blue water trips off Baja, Mexico and Midway Atoll in mid Pacific. He had four International Game Fish Association world records on the fly, with his favorite being the Giant Trevalli caught at Midway.

Pete was often found swimming with tiger sharks, diving into snake and crocodile infested waters, or sitting with bears for a morning coffee. At the age of 73, Pete worked as an Alaskan fishing guide for the Goodnews Lodge.

His flies have been featured in many books such as "Salt Water Flies: 700 of the Best;" "Blue Water Fly-fishing;" "Supernaturals;" "Patterns of the Masters" (past 3 issues); "Secrets of the Salt Water Fly;" "Anglers Profiles". Recent magazines to feature Pete's flies have been "Fly Fisherman;" "Fly Tier;" "Gray's Sporting Journal;" "California Outdoors;" "Fly Fishing in Salt Waters;" and "Southwest Fly-Fishing."

Although Pete was known to tie unusual patterns (i.e.; the "literal" blue winged olive, a Christmas tree, mice, and his world famous helicopter out of deer hair), many of his more conventional flies have been placed in the American Museum of Fly Fishing, Vermont; and the National FFF Museum, Livingston, MT. A man once stared at Pete's flies for a

moment, looked up and said: "We're all nuts". Who else but Pete would tie a helicopter fly with spun deer hair, complete with rotating blades and pontoons.

Throughout Pete's life he was a gifted salesman, a hilarious practical joker, a leader, a loving and tough father, a deeply devoted husband and romantic, an animal lover, a computer whiz, a skilled mechanic, a craftsman, a woodworker, a potter, a singer, a deep sea fisher, a scuba instructor, a fishing guide, an entertainer, a loyal friend, a Master fly tyer, and a somewhat decent caster. He was a champion ballroom dancer, a skilled unicyclist, and in recent years had begun teaching jazz piano. Pete truly was a Super Hero, and could, and did, do everything.

One of his closest, lifelong friends had this to say:

"a John Wayne with the heart of a poet, a member of society of Mensa and a 'dirt biker,' a 'boxing Marine' and a 'potter.' The first one to come to your (my) defense, fiercely loyal and Mr. Macho with a sensitive soul.

Now it is as if a light some where deep inside of me has gone out, my Best Friend Pete is gone but I know that I am, and have been, the better for knowing him."

Pete is now off on his Greatest Adventure, embarking on his own on January 12, 2011. He was 76.





EVERGREEN TROUT UNLIMITED

Preserving, Enhancing and Protecting Colorado Fisheries
Evergreen, Colorado



MONTHLY PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2011

EVERGREEN BEAU JO'S (Downtown Evergreen, 303.674.2744)

DINNER AT 6:30 PM, CHAPTER BUSINESS AT 7:00 PM

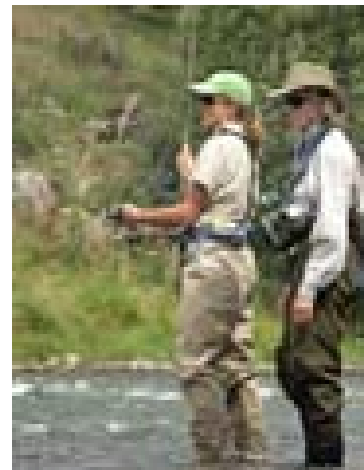
FREE PRESENTATION AT 7:15 PM www.evergreentrount.org

"Spring Fishing on the Arkansas River"

presented by Greg Felt

When people think of fly fishing in Colorado, they picture boating a wild freestone river, walking a high meadow stream, casting to cruising cutthroats at timberline, or landing unexpectedly large rainbows in the high basin of South Park. They hope for success, be that two fish, twenty, or maybe just the pleasure of leaving the world behind for a day and learning some new skills. And they crave solitude - the chance to share the river with a friend or two, a companionable guide, and the fish.

ArkAnglers fly shops in Salida, Buena Vista, and Pueblo, Colorado are ground zero for fly fishing in Central Colorado. Greg Felt, manager of guided services for ArkAnglers will share some stories & experiences from his experiences Spring fishing on the Arkansas. Greg has guided float-fishing and whitewater on the Arkansas since 1985. "The end is not in sight," says Greg. "I've spent my best years doing this and, at this point, I am untrainable for any other occupation."



ArkAnglers



'Protect Our Rivers' Plate Scheduled for Committee Hearing

Courtesy of Colorado Trout Unlimited

The bill required to officially establish the 'Protect Our Rivers' license plate will be discussed this Wednesday, January 26th during its first hearing in the House Transportation Committee. To ensure successful passage

of this bill, please contact your representatives today. Colorado Trout Unlimited developed the 'Protect Our Rivers' license plate to raise awareness and funding for river protection across Colorado. Thanks to our members and partners,

we've secured the support of over 3,000 Coloradans for the plate. The 'Protect Our Rivers' bill is sponsored by Rep. Roger Wilson and Sen. Gail Schwartz.



January

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and/or Thursdays: Mt Evans Outdoor Lab; Assist with teaching entomology, fishing, and fly tying to students; Schedule varies - ongoing program; Volunteer schedule is very flexible - help with one class or many!; 9:30am to noon; Contact Jim Wilborn jpwilborn@hotmail.com or 303-670-3306

February

8th (Tues): ETU Board Meeting; Stagecoach Sports Grill; 5:00pm NOTE new time

16th (Wed): ETU Monthly Meeting and Program; 6:30 pm; program at ~7pm; Beau Jo's Pizza, downtown Evergreen; Program: Steve Parrott, Blue Quill Angler - "Czech Nymphing"

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and/or Thursdays: Mt Evans Outdoor Lab; Assist with

teaching entomology, fishing, and fly tying to students; Schedule varies - ongoing program; Volunteer schedule is very flexible - help with one class or many!; 9:30am to noon; Contact Jim Wilborn jpwilborn@hotmail.com or 303-670-3306

March

8th (Tues): ETU Board Meeting; Stagecoach Sports Grill; 6:30pm; 16th (Wed): ETU Monthly Meeting and Program; 6:30 pm; program

at ~7pm; Beau Jo's Pizza, downtown Evergreen; Program TBA

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and/or Thursdays: Mt Evans Outdoor Lab; Assist with teaching entomology, fishing, and fly tying to students; Schedule varies - ongoing program; Volunteer schedule is very flexible - help with one class or many!; 9:30am to noon; Contact Jim Wilborn jpwilborn@hotmail.com or 303-670-3306

Complete volunteer list may be found on our website: www.evergreentrout.org



Evergreen Trout Unlimited | www.evergreentrout.org

2006 Exemplary Chapter Award | 2004 Outstanding Chapter Project Award | 2000, 2009 Outstanding Youth Education Program Award | 1999, 2009 Outstanding Chapter Communications Award