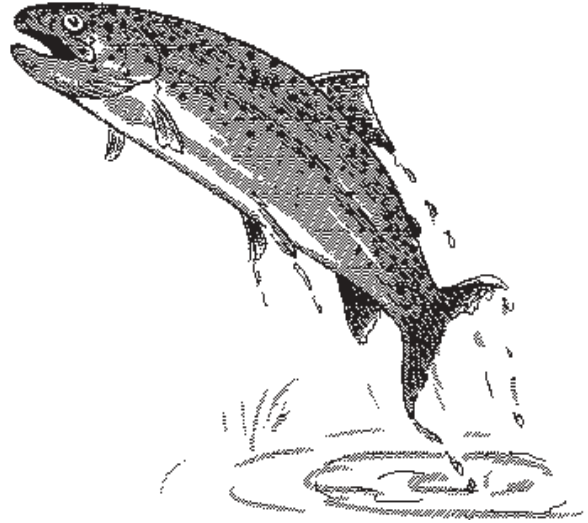


Electric

The Evergreen Trout



February 2002 The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited Vol. 20 No. 2

From the Prez,

There's lots to report to you this month.

For those of you who missed it, the January 16th edition of the Canyon Courier had a great cover story on the overuse of Bear Creek. This article portrayed TU in favorable terms (for a change) as an instigator in trying to facilitate proactive measures to avoid the low water problems and resultant fish kills seen two summers ago. In addition, the Colorado Trout Unlimited report, *A Dry Legacy*, mentioned in last month's newsletter, featured Bear Creek as one of ten streams (among many) in Colorado suffering from overuse. Hugh Gardner and Karen Christopherson will be meeting soon with Evergreen Metro Water officials to discuss strategies to alleviate some of the overuse conditions. Today's Rocky Mountain News mentioned that the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the agency who oversees instream flows in Colorado, just filed for instream flow protection on 22 new waters, after only filing for 9 in the past three years. This was probably done in response to CTU's report. Water rights in our state are incredibly complicated, but maybe some good things are in the works to help keep some water for the fish. I heartily suggest that you all read *A Dry Legacy*, which is available at www.cotrout.org. Full color hard copies are also available, on a limited basis, from CTU.

Continuing with the Bear Creek theme, ETU's Mike Goldblatt and Troy Thompson met with Mindy Clark (DOW Rep. for this area) and Al Veinberg and Mark Winnen (Hwy 73/74 bridge constructors team) on January 30th. As we told you before, the permits for this project were drafted quite loosely, so much so, that it's difficult to pin the contractor down on stream rehabilitation issues. They do seem to be doing an okay job, but still are somewhat lax on silt fencing. They claim to have an arrangement with the Evergreen Fire Department for ready response in the event of any toxic fuel spills, etc. They have stockpiled some medium and large rocks which are to be used for habitat improvement, and they've agreed to stay out of the stream during the fall brown trout spawn. Expected completion is

late this year. I can't wait 'til they're out of there!

Ron, Steve, and Len finally met with the Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab folks, and work is underway to replace the fish aquaria, which were quite old. Len and John had a great time this week showing a group of kids from Semper Elementary basic fly tying, etc. Hopefully, the new facility will be totally set up for aquatic studies soon.

On another front, Thank You to those of you who signed the petition at the January meeting to change the regs at Antero Reservoir. Momentum is gaining within the DOW and the Wildlife Commission, who both seem to be receptive to an emergency regulation change which would allow taking only one trout over 16" (of the four total allowed/day) instead of the four big fish currently allowed. To make a long story short, Antero seems to be on the way down the same path that led to Spinney Mountain Reservoir's demise, now that pike, perch, and suckers are reproducing there. The steering committee needs letters in support of the proposed change. They should be sent to: Chris Crosby, 210 Garfield St., Denver, CO 80206. Call me for further details. Letters need to be sent soon in order to effect the change prior to ice-out, when the heaviest harvest occurs. Friends of Antero has set up a list server for folks who want more information. E-mail Bill Edrington (rgangler@flyshop.com) to be added to the list.

A special Thank You to Nick Jones for donation of his father Ken's vast collection of fly tying materials, books, and equipment. Much of this is being donated to Mt. Evans for the kids fly tying lab with the more exotic materials being held for an auction or other fundraiser.

For those others of you wishing to help us out, come to our 4th Wednesday of the month (note the change) Board meeting -- 6:30 pm. at the Rib Crib's "Other Side".

See you at the general meeting, February 20th at the Sports Grill, for Rick Lofarro's program on bonefishing in Belize.

Rich

The Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited meets the third Wednesday of the month at Evergreen's Sports Grill in the Tanoa Center. Join us for Dinner/Chapter Business at 6:30pm followed by the program at ~7:30pm.

January Board Meeting

Attendees: Hal Garwood, Ron Belak, Rich Reynolds, John Ellis, Steve Murray, Len Wheaton, Tim Haller, Glyn Lemmon, Mike Uhes, Hugh Gardner

Outdoor Lab: Ron Belak, Len Wheaton, and Steve Murray visited the lab on January 19th to assess the condition of the aquariums, inventory fly tying materials, and check fishing rods. The aquariums and filtration system were in such disrepair that we recommended replacement. Fly tying materials, exclusive of vises, were plentiful; we cleaned the cabinets and discarded remnants. Ron worked diligently on the 14 spinning rods whose lines were tangled into a hopeless bird's nest -- obvious penance for his many bird nests during a youth in which his father was the designated unraveler. We will return in April and set up the rods with flies and bubbles for the students. If anyone is interested in tying some flies for the students, please call Ron. We are in need of some basis dry flies, such as Elk Hair Caddis, Mosquitoes, Black Gnats, and Adams. We will also check the water quality of the pond and assess the fish population following ice-out.

Highway 73/74: Our general observations are that the contractor, TARCO, could do much better in protecting Bear Creek but that they are probably working within the scope of their generalized work order. The contractor's budget is a paltry \$5,000 to restore the creek after completion. In comparison, ETU spent \$5,000 of our own money restoring Bear Creek behind the downtown parking lot and the Blue Spruce Amoco Station. We have scheduled a meeting with the contractor to discuss future restoration efforts.

Antero Project: Antero Reservoir is famous for large trout, much like Spinney was just a few years ago. However, the four fish per day bag limit (possession limit is eight) is adversely affecting the quality of this fishery. Please write to the Colorado Wildlife Commission to encourage more restrictive regulations so that Antero does not go the way of Spinney. We will also be circulating a petition encouraging catch-and-release, so please sign it at the next chapter meeting.

Raffle: Steve Murray has tickets printed and ready for purchase. First prize is a Walton Powell 3-weight rod with reel and other gear. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. This will be an only fundraiser for the year, so please be generous.

Got Mail? Hopefully, it's your ETU newsletter. Please sign up for e-mail delivery of our award winning newsletter and save the chapter about \$6 in printing and mailing costs per member per year. Currently, nearly 20% of our membership receive their newsletter via e-mail, resulting in a savings of about \$400 per year.

Ron Belak

Trip Report

Green River: April 11-13. A phone call to Flaming Gorge Lodge found them fully booked for this weekend so those of you who don't already have reservations can either get on the wait list at Flaming Gorge Lodge (435 889-3773) or try nearby Red Canyon Lodge (435 889-3759), Spring Creek Ranch in Dutch John about 10 miles from the River (307 350-3005), or the Rainbow Inn in Manila (435 784-3117) about 35 miles away. Check with Rich Reynolds to work out a rendezvous.

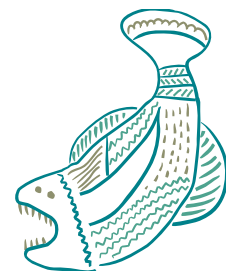
North Platte River/Gray's Reef: April 26-28. Wayne Kosloske fished this stretch last year with Dick Wheeler with nice results, and Wayne is organizing a return there this April. He will give us a description of fishing this river and an update on the trip at the February 20th general meeting.

Big Horn River: May 16 - 18. One of the great rivers of the West. We have reserved Claire Brazenton's cabin in Fort Smith for this year's trip. This is where a number of ETU members have stayed the past two years, and it was designed by a fisherman for fishermen. Those who wish to do the trip and want to stay here need to get a \$50 deposit to me ASAP. There is limited capacity in the cabin, and it will be first come, first served.

Black Canyon of the Gunnison: Suggestions and great information regarding fishing this stretch of the Gunnison has been coming in from various club members, including Ken Cohen, who has been fishing the river since the early 1990's. A proposed trip for June or July this year is a possibility. More to come.

Cody, WY: Ever since Joe Butler's presentation on fishing for trophy sized trout, interest in a trip to the Cody, area has been stirring among our members. Apparently, this east entrance to Yellowstone Park area provides some very fine fishing in some beautiful country. Members with interest and/or information on this area should contact me.

Mike Uhes



Kudos...

...to **Ron Belak and Mike Uhes** for their help with the newsletter.

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

Ed.

Incredible ETU Raffle Gets Underway

Win one of three fabulous prizes in the 2002 ETU Raffle!!! This year's **Grand Prize** is a custom made (Thank You, Len Wheaton!) Walton Powell 9' 3-weight rod (2 pc.), complete with an Orvis Battenkill 3/4 Disc Reel, Orvis WF-3 Wonderline, backing, rod case, and 6 dozen assorted flies. **Second prize** is a Sage DS-2 9' 5-weight rod (2 pc.), outfitted with a Cortland LTD-60 Disc Reel, WF-5 line, backing, and rod case. **Third prize** is a pair of Cabela's Dry-Plus Waders and a 10 punch Buchanan Ponds pass.

You need not be present to win, but you can't win without a ticket. **Where can I get them, you ask?** Tickets are available from any Board member, and will also be on sale at our February 20th, March 20th, and April 17th meetings. The cost is a mere **\$5 each, or 5 for \$20**. The drawing will be held at our general meeting at Evergreen's Sports Grill on April 17th, at 7:30pm.

This will be our only fundraiser this year, so please be GENEROUS in your support of ETU's continued conservation efforts. BUY EARLY, BUY OFTEN!!! Who knows? YOU just might be one of this year's LUCKY WINNERS!

Tim Haller



CTU Auction 2002

The CTU auction will be held on March 26, 2002 in the **Donald R. Seawell Grand Ballroom** at the Denver Performing Arts Complex. We hope you can join us for a wonderful evening, with all proceeds going to benefit Colorado Trout Unlimited's conservation programs.

Doors open at 5:30pm with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Live auction begins 6:45 pm. Advance tickets are available for \$25, or \$45 for two. Or, reserve a gold table for your business with prime seating plus some special extras for ten guests.

The auction will feature a great line-up of trips and merchandise, including: a **16' Clackacraft driftboat**, a one-week Alaska fishing vacation, fishing trips on great rivers throughout the Rocky Mountains, a full-year family **membership at the Arrowhead Ranch** in Fairplay, a great collection of rods and reels, the **finest collection of flies** you may ever see by top tyers from Colorado and beyond, a wide array of fish and wildlife art, ski trips, **bed and breakfast getaways**, and other non-fishing items.

Call (303) 440-2937 today to reserve your seats!

CTU Press Release

TU Supports Sustainable Hydropower

Fish and anglers sometimes have a problem with hydropower -- dams block fish migration, and turbines can kill the fish. Yet **proven and affordable measures can often dramatically reduce hydropower dams' impacts on fish and fishing**, while still providing for the economical generation of non-fossil fuel power.

"Dams and turbines are tough on fish, but for anglers, the hard work is convincing a **cumbersome federal bureaucracy**, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the owners of hydropower plants to adopt effective and affordable modern mitigation measures," stated Charles Gauvin, president of the fish conservation organization Trout Unlimited. "**The regulatory system is designed to encourage delay**. That stacks the deck against the fish and anglers," he continued.

FERC grants non-federal hydropower owners licenses to operate their **projects on public rivers**. About half the nation's hydropower is licensed by FERC, amounting to 5% of the national electricity generation. FERC's licenses to operate are good for a period of 30 to 50 years, after which the project is subject to a review and relicensing. Relicensing is the time when projects that have been **operating under decades-old conditions** are brought up to modern standards. If a project has not completed relicensing by the time the existing license expires, the project continues to operate, sometimes for additional decades, under the old license terms.

"The **Federal Investment in Sustainable Hydropower Act** (FISH Act), introduced today by Representative John Dingell (D-Mich.) and Rep. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), would **greatly improve conditions for fish and wildlife** by speeding up the process of relicensing, and discouraging delay in obtaining a new license," Gauvin said. "Dropping the relicensing term to 15 years brings this process more in line with other environmental permits and licenses. Allowing modern conditions to be required when a license ends, even if the relicensing process is not yet finished **removes some of the incentive for delay**."

The FISH Act would also encourage FERC to create and keep to **reasonable timelines** in the often lengthy licensing process by requiring it to publish schedules and report on its own performance in meeting those schedules. It **encourages FERC to work with other federal and state resources agencies** to streamline and improve workflow, and to review groups of related hydropower projects at the same time.

"There is an **enormous opportunity** to create better systems and procedures within FERC that will streamline the process and improve decisions, as well as conditions for fish," Gauvin stated. "Congress needs to direct FERC to take that project on -- fish, angler, hydropower owner, we will all be better off if they do."

TU Press Release - 2/7/02

??? What's Happening ???

February 2002

- 20th (W) ETU Chapter Meeting
Evergreen's Sports Grill - 6:30p
Rick LaForre - Bonefishing in Belize
- 27th (W) ETU Board Meeting
Rib Crib (Other Side) - 6:30p

March 2002

- 20th (W) ETU Chapter Meeting
Evergreen's Sports Grill - 6:30p
Jim Cannon and Dan Beley
Fantastic Fly Tying
- 26th (Tu) CTU Auction
Denver Performing Arts Complex
Donald R. Seawell Grand Ballroom
5:30p Doors open
6:45p Auction
- 27th (W) ETU Board Meeting
Rib Crib (Other Side) - 6:30p

New Members

Please join me in welcoming **Warren Arnold, Jeremy Caudill, Bob Garioto, Lee Huston, Stan Johnston, Bruce Law, Jason Miller, Stafford Morriset, Richard and Sydne Nelson, and William Young** to ETU.

If you need help with a membership problem of any kind, call me and I'll do my best to get it straightened out.

Creel count: 296

Randy Huiting

The Evergreen Trout

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At Large	Len Wheaton	674-4243
Webmaster	Karen Christopherson <kc@coloradofishing.net>	674-0252
CTU Office	Various nice folks	440-2937

On the web - www.tu.org; www.cotrout.org; www.evergreentroutrout.org

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

Editorial Policy

All submissions to the newsletter must be received by the Editor by the **1st Friday of the month**. All items are subject to editing/space limitations. Submissions may be on 3 1/2" disk (**UNFORMATTED ASCII TEXT ONLY, PLEASE**), or e-mailed to: thaller@pcisys.net. Your disk will be returned. Articles are copyrighted by the author unless otherwise noted. **All phone numbers are Area Code 303 unless otherwise noted.** For further information, call me at the number above.

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1999 Outstanding Chapter Communications Award
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