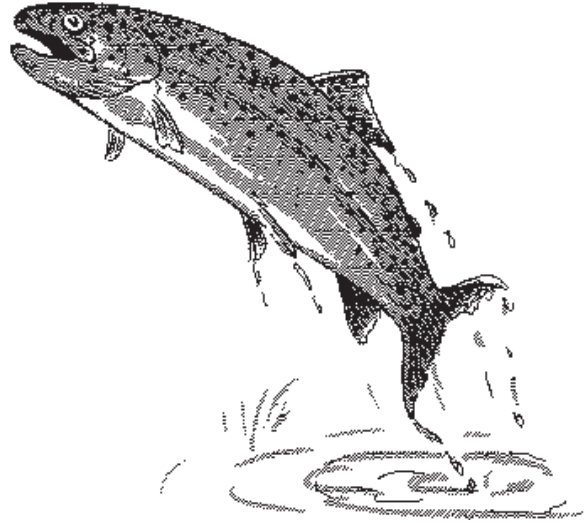


Electric

The Evergreen Trout



March 2003 The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited Vol. 21 No. 3

From The Prez,

My page this month will also recap the February Board Meeting, since Ron Belak couldn't attend.

The ETU Board Meeting was held February 26th, at the Rib Crib Otherside, at 6:30p (4th Wednesday, as always). About a dozen members attended. Dave Blauch, Senior Ecologist with Ecological Resource Consultants, Inc. kicked things off with a presentation of the final Bear Creek Project grant proposal.

This exciting project entails **stream rehabilitation (and more), of 1,500 linear feet of Bear Creek**, in O'Fallon Park. The total estimated project cost is **\$184,000**. We are seeking approximately **\$120,000** from the Colorado Division of Wildlife's (CDOW) Fishing is Fun program. These "FIF" grants are funded, federally, by license fees and taxes on outdoor related purchases by all of us. The CDOW administers these grants in Colorado. ETU has committed to raise **\$10,000 cash** for the project, and approximately **\$50,000 in 'in kind' donations**. 'In kind' refers to our volunteer labor, donations of boulders from CDOT, labor from Denver Mountain Parks, labor from TENAS (The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society), etc. Conditional approvals will be announced in June 2003, although the actual work wouldn't begin until September 2004.

As the time approaches, we'll need **strong chapter support** with this, in many ways. We're all very elated to finally have a meaty project in the works. We'll keep you posted as this progresses.

Other items reviewed included our fly tying classes at **Mount Evans Outdoor Lab**, which have

been running smoothly under Len Wheaton's direction. We're trying to correct the problems with their fish tanks. Also, the **"Trout in the Classroom"** aquaria are doing well under Craig Dunham's supervision. Our venue change to the Evergreen Hotel for the general meetings also went off without a hitch. We will attempt to have the doors open at 6:00p for the March meeting. Details on this month's program -- Flyfishing the North Platte River -- are inside.

In other news, we're in need of volunteers for the annual **Earth Day Fair** on Saturday April 19th, and our semi-annual **Bear Creek Cleanup** on Saturday April 26th. We're also looking for any of you to help sponsor the newsletter (which costs us \$150/month). More on this inside, as well. ETU has approximately \$8000 to our name currently, and with the commitments we've made, we'll need to do more fundraising this year. Keep in mind, ETU a registered non-profit organization, and any donations may be tax deductible. (Obligatory disclaimer: Your actual mileage may vary. Contact to your favorite tax accountant for details).

Finally, **a correction**. The minutes of the January Board meeting (in last month's issue) incorrectly attributed the Bear Creek Study to Ecological Resource Consultants. It was actually produced by **Chatwick Ecological Consultants**. We apologize for any copnfusion that this may have caused.

That's all folks. See you March 19th!

Rich

The Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited meets the third Wednesday of the month at the Evergreen Hotel in downtown Evergreen (next to the Little Bear). Join us for Dinner/Chapter Business at 6:30pm followed by the program at ~7:30pm. We look forward to seeing **YOU** there!

Newsletter News

Yes, it's time again for my semi-annual **ETU Newsletter Begathon**. I need your help!

First, you may have noticed that starting with the January 2003 issue, we have had a **newsletter 'sponsor'**. We are looking for individuals, businesses, or ??? to **sponsor The Evergreen Trout for a month**. The cost is \$150 -- copying and postage. In return, we will do anything from, "This issue was sponsored by an anonymous friend.", to a quarter page ad (3.4" x 4.75" - you provide the art/copy). Every dollar that we can save on the newsletter, is a dollar that we can put to use on other chapter projects.

Speaking of green, I am going to start using more color in the newsletter. **HOWEVER**, you will have to subscribe to *The 'Electric' Evergreen Trout* in order to see it! Sorry hard copy fans. Color copying is just not economically feasible yet. But color is free in an electronic environment! So... If you want to see things in all their colorful beauty, **send me an e-mail** (you'll find my address on the back page), and I'll add you to the 'E' list.

Would you believe that this list has grown to include **more than 25% of our membership?!?** My personal "Thanks!!!" goes out to all of you, for reducing chapter expenses, saving my time (bend/fold/spindle/mutilate/grunt), and a few trees to boot. But, I suspect that more than 75 of you have e-mail accounts. You have my word that your address will not be given to anyone (except, of course, to the local Game Warden in the performance of his or her duties, pursuant to local/state/federal/galactic law, etc., etc., etc.). **Best of all, it's easy!** All you need on your end is a PC/Mac/PDA/??? running Adobe Acrobat Reader (v4.0 or newer) and an e-mail account. This extremely useful tool is **absolutely FREE**, and can be downloaded at www.adobe.com/acrobat. Give the electronic version a try. I think you'll like it.

[Insert unsolicited testimonial here.]

Finally, I can always use copy -- articles, fly patterns, trip tales, equipment/book reviews. Anything. I know that some of you can right -- I've seen you do it. And, between the two of us, we'll probably even get the spelling write. E-mail an item to me, and I'll try to use it. Word docs are fine, but I like raw ASCII text better (**Grunt, grunt. Notepad good!**). I'll even copy/paste it right out of an e-mail, if that's easiest for you.

Okay, okay, I'll hop down from my soapbox. Now, it's your turn...

Tim Haller aka Ed.

Kudos...

...to **Rich Reynolds, Jill Haller, and Len Wheaton** for their help with the newsletter.

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

Ed.

Outdoor Lab Wants You

An important part of ETU's ongoing youth outreach, is our participation at the **Mount Evans Outdoor Lab** -- providing them with instructors for their very popular fly tying and fishing classes.

These classes involve the sixth graders from Jefferson County elementary schools and, in the **unanimous opinion** of the ETU members who have helped with these youngsters over the years, is a **very wonderful and happy experience**.

Our most recent crews of instructors have included: **Ray Gallagher, Phil Waters, Ford Oliphant, Steve Murray, Wayne Kosloske, Karen Christopherson, John Ellis, Hugh Gardner, Mike Goldblatt, Mark Masters, and myself**. And these members have been preceded by many others over the years that we have worked with the Outdoor Lab. Now we need some fresh faces to join in this effort! **Expertise is welcome, but NOT required**. Remember, these kids think we are ALL experts. If you have any fly tying experience at all, you will be very welcome. We attempt only the basics, and introduce them to the simplest patterns. When Jim Jackson Pond is ice free, we include fishing with a spin rod, bubble and fly.

The next day at the Lab is Tuesday, April 1st (really!) from 9:00a til noon. We are always invited to lunch (**which comes complete with a sincere ovation**), so please join us for a fun and rewarding morning. You are needed! Call me at 674-4243, if you can help.

Len Wheaton

TU/VOC Team Up in 'The Canyon'

Trout Unlimited and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) are excited to announce that we are joining forces to complete the **Cheesman Canyon Restoration Project!**

The **Gill Trail**, a primary access route for Cheesman Canyon, and a roadless section of the South Platte River, is a popular destination for anglers and hikers. The addition of new trail will further improve recreational access to the South Platte River. Furthermore, the new trail will connect to a second trailhead, closer to the reservoir, thus spreading out use along the entire route. VOC will provide the trail building expertise and Crew Leaders that will work hand and hand with Trout Unlimited volunteers, **with the goal of completing the project in 2003**. Please review the dates listed below, and sign up for a rewarding day of trail work in a canyon that is special to all fly fishing people, and work with the best volunteer organizations in this state.

Project dates include: **March** 15, 16, 22, 29; **April** 5, 19; **May** 3, 31; **June** 14, 21; **July** 26, 27; **August** 23, 24; **September** 13, 20, 21; and **October** 11, 12, 25, 26.

To sign up call VOC at (303) 715-1010, e-mail us at voc@voc.org, or contact Jerry Arni at (303) 791-1932. **When signing up, please include your full name, mailing address, telephone numbers, and e-mail address**. Two weeks before the workday(s) for which you register, you will be sent a fact sheet that includes everything you need to know about the workday. Workdays are limited to 20 volunteers.

Heath Mackay - VOC Projects Director

Jerry Arni - Trout Unlimited



EVERGREEN TROUT UNLIMITED MONTHLY PROGRAM



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2003

NEW LOCATION: EVERGREEN COFFEE SHOP
(Inside the Historic "Evergreen Hotel", next to the Little Bear)

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

Visit our web-site at: www.evergreentrount.org

FEATURING WYOMING FLYFISHING GUIDES,

SHILO MATHILL & PAUL GAUGICH

Fly Fishing Wyoming: Grays Reef, Encampment, Miracle Mile



Shilo Mathill founder and owner of Stoney Creek outfitters of Laramie, Wyoming, and Paul Gaugich, bring their years of guiding experience to reveal the when, where and with what, to fish some of the most spectacular waters within a few hours drive of Denver. Being residents of this area, they are particularly familiar with the impact of the recent drought, and will discuss how the continuing situation may impact the fishing seasons and hatches.

Programs

As the winter winds howl outside, warm up with an exciting program by **Stoney Creek Outfitters** from Laramie, Wyoming, as founder and owner Shilo Mathill, and guide Paul Gagich, bring their years of guiding experience to reveal the when, where and with what, to fish some of the most spectacular waters within a few hours drive of Denver. Their slide program, "**Fly Fishing Wyoming: Grey Reef, Miracle Mile, and Encampment,**" is punctuated with spectacular "action" shots of some truly unbelievable trout. Being residents of Wyoming, they are particularly familiar with the impact of the recent drought, and will discuss how the continuing situation may impact the fishing seasons and hatches. Catch the action early at www.fishstoneycreek.com.

April brings Mr. Bamboo, otherwise know as **Rich McGaughey**. Rich is an expert at **bamboo fly rod restoration** and building and will bring lots of "hands on" materials. He will walk us through the creation of a rod as well as demonstrate the splitting of bamboo. Check out his website at www.geocities.com/macsrods/macrods.htm, for a preview of his exciting program.

The month of May takes us to the northwest corner of the state, with Brian Shipley of **Kingfisher Drifters**, presenting a slide show on fly fishing the **Green River** -- all the hows, whens, and where-tos will be presented, so bring your questions and be ready to find out some secrets of this gem which flows year-round.

Randy Huiting

AB Lateral Threatens Gunnison River

In 1984 and 1988, respectively, the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users' Association (UVWUA) was awarded two conditional water rights for the **AB Lateral Hydroelectric Project** (conditional rights are water rights that would maintain UVWUA's priority date pending actual construction of the project). The rights would allow it to **divert water from the Gunnison River** above the Black Canyon to the Uncompahgre Valley for hydropower production. The AB Lateral Hydroelectric Project is still not operational, and accordingly the water rights remain conditional. As is required by Colorado law to retain conditional rights, UVWUA recently filed applications in water court seeking to demonstrate that it has been diligent in its efforts to complete the project.

UVWUA already possesses water rights to divert water from the Gunnison for irrigation purposes in the Uncompahgre Valley. The AB Lateral rights, if ever perfected, **would allow UVWUA to substantially increase its diversions, particularly in the non-irrigation season**. The results would be destructive for both the Gunnison and Uncompahgre Rivers. On the Gunnison, the project will deplete flows for the world-class trout fishery in the Black Canyon and Gunnison Gorge. While the Gunnison does sometimes experience 300 cfs minimum flows, such **low flows could become a permanent way of life** for the river if the AB Lateral project is completed. On the Uncompahgre, which naturally has much lower flows than the Gunnison, the reverse is the problem: after the water is used for hydropower production it will be discharged to the river, causing **flooding and erosion** of farms, ranches and riparian wetlands.

In the forthcoming water court proceedings, UVWUA

will be required to show that it has made diligent efforts towards applying its conditional water rights and that, going forward, it can and will complete the project in a reasonable time. Trout Unlimited has filed statements of opposition with the water court and plans to challenge both showings.

Drew Peterzell, TU's Colorado Water Project staff attorney, explains, "For more than twenty years the Water Users' Association has been thinking about this project, and it is still nowhere close to being on-line. There are a number of **serious obstacles, especially with regard to environmental permitting and compliance**, that the Association would have to overcome before this project can be implemented. We simply don't believe the Association can and will complete the project."

If successful in challenging the AB Lateral diligence claims, Trout Unlimited will ask the court to terminate the conditional water rights. This would finally put to rest a threat that has been looming over both the Gunnison and Uncompahgre Rivers for more than twenty years.

CTU Currents - February 2003

CTU Annual Auction - March 31st

The 2003 CTU Annual Auction will be held on Monday, March 31st, at the **Denver Performing Arts Complex** in the Donald R. Seawell Grand Ballroom. Outdoor writer and radio personality **Bob Newman** will be our **guest Master of Ceremonies** for what promises to be a fun-filled evening. Doors will open at 5:30p for cocktails and viewing of silent and live auction items. The live auction will begin at approximately 7:00p. A delicious buffet dinner will be provided, and there will be a cash bar for beer and cocktails.

Tickets for the 2003 Auction are \$25. **To reserve your seats, please call David Nickum at the CTU office, (303) 440-2937 x12.**

Donations are still coming in, but already we have a great lineup of trips and merchandise, including:

- A beautiful 16-foot **Clackacraft driftboat** -- perfect for floating great Rocky Mountain rivers like the Bighorn, the Green, or the Colorado.
- A fabulous **New Zealand** fishing vacation for two.
- A one-week **Alaska** fishing vacation for one at Painter Creek Lodge (airfare to Alaska not included). Visit their website at <http://www.paintercreeklodge.com/>.
- A three-night, two-day fishing trip at the **North Platte Lodge** in Wyoming. Visit their website at www.northplattelodge.com.

Of course, these items are only the beginning. The CTU auction also features:

- Fishing trips and lodging packages on many of the Rocky Mountain region's great rivers, such as the Madison, the Gunnison, the San Juan, and others.
- A great collection of **rods and reels**.
- The finest selection of **flies** you may ever see.
- A wide array of fish and wildlife **art**.
- Ski trips, **bed & breakfast getaways**, and other non-fishing items.

Call 303-440-2937 x12 to order your tickets or for more information.

CTU Currents - February 2003

The Evergreen Trout

UT Dam Removal One Step Closer

A recently announced dam removal agreement, brokered among a private utility, federal and state agencies, and conservation groups, represents another in a growing number of examples of **traditionally divergent interests working together** for fish and other natural resources.

The agreement, which still must be approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, provides for the removal of Pacificorp's American Fork Hydroelectric Project and the restoration of **American Fork Creek**, beginning in 2006. Located in a popular canyon along Utah's Wasatch Front, the project consists of a small diversion dam, several miles of pipeline and a powerhouse. The 96 year-old project runs through the Uinta National Forest, including portions of the Lone Peak Wilderness, and the Timpanogos Cave National Monument. At its peak the project could generate about one megawatt of power.

"We thank all of our partners in this agreement for their diligence in the negotiations and their common commitment to this valuable resource," said Alan Matheson, who represented TU in the settlement. "It goes to show that **with a little vision and a lot of hard work** we can take the steps necessary to protect these irreplaceable resources."

Removing the dam and restoring American Fork Creek to a more natural condition will immediately improve water quality, safety and fish migration. A popular recreational fishery for both brown and rainbow trout, **the creek is also home to a fragile population of native Bonneville cutthroat trout, Utah's state fish.**

TU Lines to Leaders - March 2003

Write for TROUT!

The Spring TROUT will introduce a new feature, called "**Notes from the Field**," in which we invite our members, volunteers and staff to **share your insights** on conservation, fishing or the natural world in under 100 words. "Notes from the Field" aims to give more visibility to the names and faces of TU, as well as provide personal insights on all topics near and dear to TU.

Send us your journal entries from a memorable fishing trip, essays on your discoveries in nature, your musings on a river or stream that helps you connect to the natural world, or reflections on a favorite fishing buddy.

The first installment of "Notes from the Field" features Warren Colyer's observations on the first time he experienced a flood. Warren works out of Logan, Utah, for TU's Strategies for Recovering Native Trout Program.

Entries selected for publication will appear **with the author's name and photo**. Send text and a photo of yourself to carena@tu.org, or TROUT, Notes from the Field, 1500 Wilson Blvd., #310, Arlington, VA 22209. Remember, entries must be under 100 words.

TU Lines to Leaders - March 2003

TU Applauds Clean Water Bill

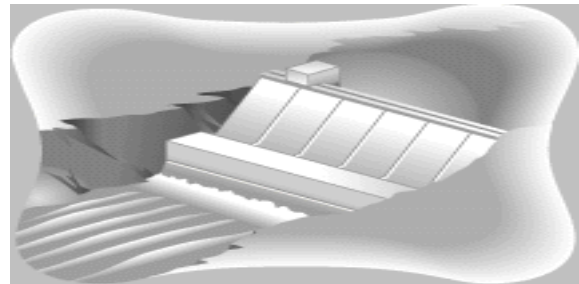
Trout Unlimited has announced its support of the **Clean Water Authority Restoration Act**. The bill was introduced [recently] in the Senate by Senators Russ Feingold (D-WI), Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Jim Jeffords (I-VT), and in the House by Representatives James Oberstar (D-MN), John Dingell (D-MI), Jim Leach (R-IA) and Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY).

"For the last 30 years Americans have come to take the protections of the Clean Water Act for granted," said Charles Gauvin, President and CEO of Trout Unlimited. "The Clean Water Authority Restoration Act **makes clear what Congress intended when it passed the Clean Water Act in the first place** -- that the Act's protections apply to the broadest range of waters possible."

The purpose of the bill is to restore the full authority of the Clean Water Act in the wake of the **Supreme Court's decision** restricting that authority in the Solid Waste Authority of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) case. This decision, and interpretation of it by the Army Corps of Engineers and EPA, could allow the development and loss of potentially millions of acres of wetlands.

"The Clean Water Act has been critical to fisheries recovery in the United States, and any rollback in the scope of the Act would be a **serious blow** to our trout and salmon watersheds," Gauvin said. "Trout Unlimited strongly supports the bill, and we applaud the sponsors of the bill for their strong conservation leadership."

TU Lines to Leaders - March 2003



TU Grassroots Volunteer Hours Up

TU grassroots chapters and councils had another **record-breaking year in 2002**. Based on financial reports submitted for fiscal year 2002 (ending 9/30/02), TU chapters and councils logged a total of **389,862 volunteer hours**, or an average of **over 1,000 hours per chapter**. Nation-wide, this is the equivalent of over 200 full-time staff members.

These hours were spent on a wide range of activities that help protect trout and salmon habitat including: stream restoration and monitoring projects, youth education programs, outreach activities, chapter and council meetings and fundraisers. **TU's network of grassroots volunteers have always been the backbone of our organization.**

TU Lines to Leaders - March 2003

??? What's Happening ???

March 2003

- 19th (W) ETU Chapter Meeting
Evergreen Hotel - 6:30p
Shilo Mathill and Paul Gagich - Flyfishing
North Platte from the Colorado border to
Grays Reef
- 25th (Tu) 6th graders at Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab
9:00a - Noon
Call Len or Rich if you can help.
- 26th (W) ETU Board Meeting
Rib Crib (Other Side) - 6:30p

April 2003

- 1st (M) 6th graders at Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab
9:00a - Noon
Call Len or Rich if you can help.
- 15th (Tu) **NOTE: Due to a scheduling
conflict, the April meeting will be
held on Tuesday the 15th at The
Evergreen Hotel
Rich McGaughey - Building and
restoring bamboo fly rods.**
- 23rd (W) ETU Board Meeting
Rib Crib (Other Side) - 6:30p

New Members

Updated member information was not available at press time, but you know who you are. WELCOME!

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: 295 (as of Dec '02)

Randy Huiting

Chapter Contacts

President	Rich Reynolds <joansew@aol.com>	674-4861
Vice President	JohnEllis <cutthroattrout47@aol.com>	674-1017
Treasurer	Steve Murray <murray_sp@msn.com>	670-7942
Secretary	Ron Belak	674-2239
Programs	Randy Huiting <rhuiting@att.net>	670-5083
Membership	Randy Huiting <rhuiting@att.net>	670-5083
Newsletter	Tim Haller <thaller@pcisys.net>	674-5426
Youth Education	Peggy Linn	674-2239
Trips	Peggy Linn	674-2239
Special Projects	Hugh Gardner <hgardner@dimensional.com>	697-5876
At Large	Wayne Kosloske	674-4092
At Large	Mike Goldblatt <mike@lamtree.com>	674-7122
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. Submissions may be on 3 1/2" disc or e-mailed. All items are subject to editing/space limitations. Articles are copyrighted by the author unless otherwise noted. All phone numbers are Area Code 303 unless otherwise noted. Call me for additional information.

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