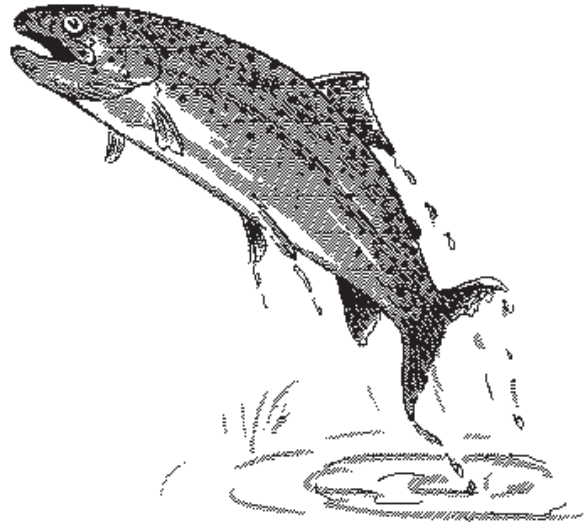


Electric

The Evergreen Trout



July/August 2003 The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited Vol. 21 No. 8

From The Prez,

If you didn't receive your newsletter last month, not to worry, because we didn't do one. We trust you didn't show up for our July general meeting -- preempted, as usual, by the annual Trapper's Lake trip. Our apologies to those who may have been inconvenienced.

Speaking of Trapper's Lake, the weekend of 7/18 was our big annual trip, and nearly twenty participated. As our advance scouts had predicted, our timing was nearly perfect this year for good dry fly action. Also, the cutts were bigger, averaging over 15" with a couple 18-19" ers landed. Earlier in the summer, some of us had excellent "ice-out" fishing at Trapper's as well. It was interesting to see the aftermath of the fires. Thankfully, the campgrounds were pretty much unscathed.

Thanks, to the approximately twenty volunteers who helped with the Fourth of July Kids Fishing Clinic at Evergreen Lake. It was certainly our most successful event in terms of numbers of fish landed. Over 2000 rainbows were stocked a week before the event. At least 10-15% of them were caught by the ~140 kids who went through the clinic. Most of the kids did release their catch, at our suggestion, but due to the bait fishing method, many succumbed and were killed and cleaned. I think I cleaned at least 60 myself. It seemed that stocking a week in advance helped the catch rate, so we will try to make that happen again next year. Dawson Swanson, our new local CDOW District Wildlife Manager, was on hand in uniform most of the day, which added some more credibility to the event this year. Also, midday we all

got to see nature at work as a cormorant came up from the depths with about a 14" rainbow, flipped it in the air once, and slid it down it's throat -- to a round of applause. Thanks again to all those who gave up most of their Fourth to endure the heat, the worms, some parents, and the dreaded cleaning station.

A couple of weekends ago (6/21-22 and 7/19-20) we helped with the annual Mt. Evans Hospice "Camp Comfort" program at Santa Maria. This program is for kids who have recently lost a loved one. We introduced fishing to over 40 kids, who were attending these camps. The fishing was a little slower this year, since a lot of the stocked rainbows had escaped into the big lake. But still, most kids caught fish. These youngsters come to us generally sad, and usually leave happy at the end of the afternoon. In my opinion, this is about our most rewarding kids program of the year.

Several of our Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab activities will commence for the school year, shortly after you receive this. We're looking for a few fly tying instructors (very little experience is required) for programs on 8/26, 9/30, and 10/1. Also, the big "Open House" is Sat. 9/13, and we need at least 8 volunteers to help serve hot dogs, man the aquatics lab, etc. In a related note, we have a few FREE six-month Youth memberships, courtesy of National TU. These are for potential new, young members that you've introduced to fishing and TU, and might be interested in learning more about what we represent/do.

In other news, our Rec Center fishing class for kids at Buchanan Ponds was cancelled due to insufficient sign-ups. Also, the new signs have now been installed around the ponds. We need a couple of

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!

The Prez, continued...

volunteers for the Sun. 8/17 "Splash for Trash" clean-up at Evergreen Lake. This will only take a couple of hours. Also, the weekend of 9/3-6 the TU National Leadership Conference (Convention) is being held in Denver (details inside). We need help manning a booth where we hope to sell raffle tickets, ETU gear, etc. Also, we have heard nothing yet, on our Fishing is Fun grant application for O'Fallon Park. We did hear 'through the grapevine' that our project was recommended by the committee for full funding, but until we get official notification we're still in limbo. Either way we still plan to transplant willows along Bear Creek sometime in October.

PLEASE, call me or one of the board members to if you can help w/any of the above. Your officers get busy this time of year too, and we desperately need your help to cover all of our committed activities. See you Wed. 8/20 for Hugh Gardner's slide show on fishing for *Gaicho Gold: The Fabulous Freshwater Dorado* which is being published in the upcoming issue of *Wild On The Fly* magazine.

Fish on,
Rich

Colorado Is Calling You...

The Trout Unlimited National Meeting for 2003 will be held in Denver, from September 5-7. The meeting will be the first national meeting for the new National Leadership Council and will be a critical step in shaping TU's future conservation and organizational development efforts.

CTU is working hard to make sure that it will be a good time for all who attend. For those who wish to arrive early, there will be hosted fishing trips on September 3, to several of Colorado's outstanding wild trout waters including the Arkansas, Big Thompson, Blue, and South Platte Rivers, as well as an option to fish for the threatened greenback cutthroat trout and add Colorado's state fish to your "lifetime list".

On September 4, there will be a conservation tour in the South Platte basin, visiting the Cheesman Canyon Restoration Project (featured in the Winter issue of TROUT) and giving you the chance to see first-hand the effects of wildfire on watersheds and trout streams and the kinds of measures that are being used to restore burned areas.

The national meeting itself will take place on September 5-7, including the annual membership meeting, election of TU's first Grassroots Trustees, the inaugural meeting of the National Leadership Council, a variety of training workshops for grassroots leaders, and presentation of the annual Trout Unlimited awards. We will also be offering a variety of activities for attendees and their families from visits to Denver's many cultural attractions to an afternoon big-league baseball game at Coors Field. Whether you are a council chair, a chapter officer, or an interested member, there will be something for you!

We hope you will join us in Denver this September and see first-hand why TU is "The Action Organization!" Please direct any specific questions to Trout Unlimited's customer service representatives at (800) 834-2419 or trout@tu.org.
NTU web site

Beer Money For CTU???

You can help our state council win a barrelful! CTU Vice President Sharon Lance was recently named one of four finalists for Budweiser's national Conservationist of the Year award. If she wins this recognition, Anheuser-Busch will donate \$50,000 to the conservation organization of her choice.

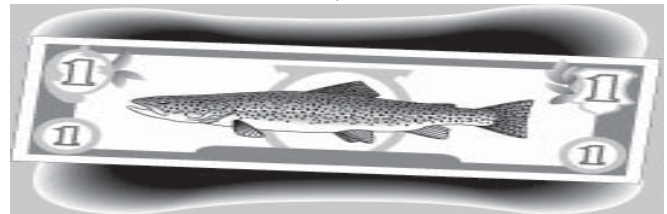
Sharon has already named Colorado Trout Unlimited. But whether or not CTU receives that \$50,000 is now up to us, since the finalist receiving the most votes will win. Sharon and CTU need your vote!

Entering your vote involves just a few simple steps:

1. On the World Wide Web, go to www.budweiser.com.
2. Type in your birth date to verify that you're over 21.
3. Click "lowband," so that the following pages will load faster.
4. Click on the "Sports" link, near the top of the home page.
5. Click on the "Outdoors" link, near the bottom of the sports page.
6. Click on the "Conservationist of the Year" link, near the top of the outdoors page.
7. Cast your vote for Sharon Lance!
8. Encourage all of your friends and family members (over 21) to do the same.

The voting deadline is November 28, 2003. Sharon and CTU thank you for your support!

Jim Crawford - Cutthroat Chapter



Gaicho Gold: The Fabulous Freshwater Dorado

Our August program features ETU member Hugh Gardner with a slide show on his recent trip to Argentina.

The dorado has been described as one of the greatest fighting gamefish in the entire world. This extraordinary jumper combines the swimming habits of a salmon with the ferocity and predatory instincts of a tiger shark. Join us for the evening as acclaimed flyfishing journalist and noted environmental supporter, Hugh Gardner, takes us on an exciting journey of discovery and adventure following the trail of *Gaicho Gold: The Fabulous Freshwater Dorado*. Hugh's story is being published in the upcoming issue of "Wild on the Fly."

Please join us on the 20th for a what promises to be a great program.

Randy Huiting

Kudos...

...to **Rich Reynolds, Randy Huiting, and Jill Haller** for their help with the newsletter.

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

Ed.

McInnis Opposes Referendum A

I strongly support new water storage. It is critical to Colorado's future. But, I oppose Referendum A -- the \$2 billion water bonding issue on the Nov. 4 ballot -- because of a few simple facts.

When you add them up, these facts represent significant risk for the Western Slope and rural Colorado, and our essential needs for a sufficient quantity and quality of water, a strong economy and the preservation of the environment.

The governor of Colorado has been fair to the rural Colorado and he has worked on the referendum in good faith. I trust the governor's word, but I cannot help but be concerned about what could happen when he leaves office - - we will be at the mercy of individuals unknown.

When it comes to water, keep in mind that the nice guy finishes last, or perhaps I should say is left "high and dry." To think of it another way, perhaps President Ronald Reagan said it best: "Trust, but verify." Unfortunately, there is no way to verify in this case.

Let me outline the facts that lead me to conclude that Referendum A is not a balanced approach, right for the whole State of Colorado:

Fact 1: The authority to bond water projects in Colorado already exists -- the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority already have authority to finance water projects and thirsty cities on the Front Range already have the financial resources to pay for water. Financing sources are not the problem; affordability, getting necessary permits and approvals for projects, and conflicts related to mitigation remain the big problems.

Fact 2: Referendum A will create a \$2 billion pot of money, with the imprimatur of the state of Colorado, that can be used to hire the best water lawyers and engineers to buy water rights and divert water from the Western Slope and rural areas. Bear in mind that about 80 percent of the state's precipitation falls in the mountains, while most of the state's population is in the cities.

Fact 3: As noted above, the population of Colorado's cities and metropolitan areas greatly exceeds the population of Colorado's rural areas, which means that when push comes to shove, the votes are with the cities.

Fact 4: There is no ironclad mitigation in Referendum A for the basin of origin (like the Western Slope or other rural areas in Colorado) for out-of-basin water transfers - - zip, zero. If it is not in writing, you leave it up to future power struggles, and I have already noted above the cities have the advantage there.

Fact 5: We all move on and know that our personal word is not binding on those who follow us. An issue as important as mitigation must be cemented in the law, with sufficient clarity and detail, so those who follow understand and will live by that promise. The first advice in business is "get it in writing," and that advice rings true in this case.

Fact 6: There is an inherent conflict between those who represent the cities and population centers and those of us who represent rural areas. Referendum A doesn't appear to end that conflict. Indeed, the referred measure could lead to a zero sum process, with big winners and big losers.

I recognize that it is the job of those who represent the cities to provide their constituents with what the rural areas have -- water -- and they have a fiduciary duty to obtain that water under the best deal possible.

But this duty is what causes me such alarm. Metropolitan planners are doing a "good job" for the city when they can divert more, at the least possible cost. Their gain is rural Colorado's loss, and we simply cannot expect them to voluntarily mitigate or be "fair" in a water diversion project unless they are bound to do so. To believe otherwise is, to me, naïve.

Fact 7: Colorado is one state and one family. Any solution to our water challenges must work for the whole family, both the population centers and the rural areas. It must be balanced and must contain assurances that provide security to the entire state.

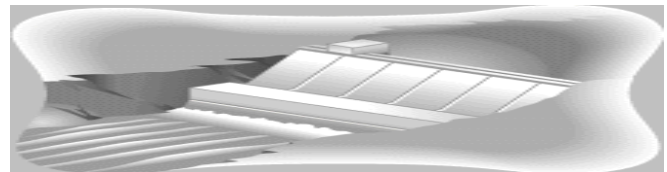
Let me be clear, I believe concrete and binding mitigation for basins of origin benefits the whole state. Protecting the character and beauty of the Western Slope and rural areas of Colorado is a value the whole state can appreciate.

Moreover, I am not interested in perpetuating past conflicts between rural areas and cities. I believe that solutions to Colorado's water challenges will require balanced approaches that recognize and respect all parts of Colorado.

After considering the facts, though, I have concluded that Referendum A is fundamentally flawed, and I cannot support an initiative that does not provide binding assurances and protections for each and every part of Colorado.

US Rep. Scott McInnis, a Republican from Grand Junction, represents most of Western Colorado in his 3rd District. He formerly represented Summit County until redistricting put the county in the 2nd District.

US Rep. Scott McInnis



{At a recent press conference, all but one of the state legislators from the Western Slope (BOTH houses) echoed Rep. McInnis' opposition Referendum A, largely for the same reasons. They don't oppose dams. In fact, some of them love dams. What they oppose is this kind of BLANK CHECK approach!!! Here are two important facts to remember about this issue: 1) NEVER in Colorado history has a dam NOT BEEN BUILT due to insufficient funding (i.e. MONEY IS NOT THE PROBLEM!), and 2) Pouring concrete doesn't make it rain...-Ed.}

New Members

Please join me in welcoming **Gary Nelsen, Edward Griffith, Robert Campbell, David Dick, Andrew Oscar, Jack Farmerie, Robert Grassia, Al and Gayle Veinberg, and Claudia K. Benedict** 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: **292**

Randy Huiting

??? What's Happening ???

August 2003

- 17th (Su) **Splash for Trash - Evergreen Lake**
Call Tim Haller for details.
- 20th (W) **ETU Chapter Meeting**
Evergreen Hotel - 6:30p
Hugh Gardner - Dorado in Argentina
- 26th (Tu) **Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab Fly Tying**
Call Len Wheaton if you can help.
- 27th (W) **ETU Board Meeting**
Rib Crib (Other Side) - 6:30p

September 2003

- 5th (F) **National Leadership Council Meeting**
thru the 7th **Contact Tim or Rich if you can help**
with our booth.
Contact the national office to
register for the various events.
Contact the CTU office if you can
help with an event (Numerous
volunteers are needed).
- 13th (Sa) **Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab Open House**
Call Len or John if you can help.
- 17th (W) **ETU Chapter Meeting**
Evergreen Hotel - 6:30p
Program TBA
- 24th (W) **ETU Board Meeting**
Rib Crib (Other Side) - 6:30p
- 30th (Tu) **Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab Fly Tying**
Call Len Wheaton if you can help.

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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**. 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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