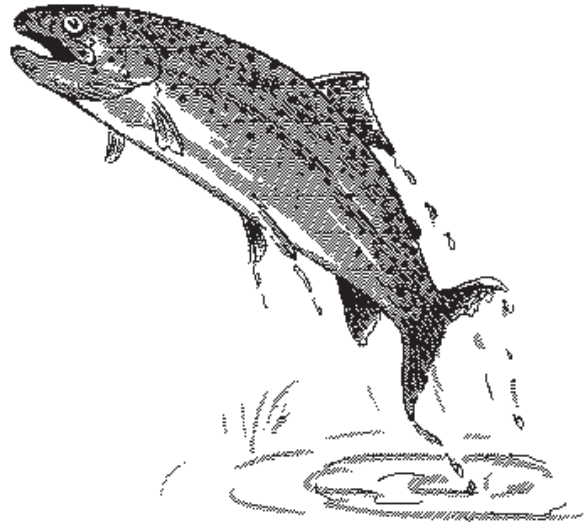


Electric

The Evergreen Trout



April 2004 The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited Vol. 22 No. 4

From The Prez,

Spring came early this year and, as such, we had our first "last Friday of the month" free fishing day of the year at Buchanan Ponds on March 26th. About a dozen ETU'ers fished, mainly late afternoon/evening, and caught a number of fish -- even a few on top with dries. We'll have several season passes and day passes available at our upcoming auction for those of you who want to ply those waters more often. Obviously the auction and general fund-raising for the Bear Creek project are taking most of our time lately.

The board has been meeting at least every other week to continue making all the arrangements. I want to thank the 6 or 8 new folks who've been helping out. Actually the attendance at the board meetings outstripped our last venue, so we've moved them to the AG Edwards offices. Thanks to Randy Huiting for opening that up for us. By now I'm sure you've heard about the auction, but I'll reiterate for those who are new. It will start at 6pm on Saturday April 24th, at the Hiwan Country Club in Evergreen. Tickets are \$20, and will garner you some tasty food stuffs (cash bar), a great program featuring the renowned retired federal wildlife agent Terry Grosz (Yes, the one that was on Animal Planet!), and a chance to win one of our great door prizes (winner need not be present) -- an Orvis rod outfit, a guided trip on private water, and a signed collection of Terry's books. In addition the auction committee has assembled an incredible array of gear, trips (~10), art, restaurant gift certificates, and a ton of other wonderful items.

One of the items bears special note. We have

received a very valuable British Columbia fishing trip for two, donated by our own Al Himmelman. It includes: five full days guided fishing (floating several spectacular native waters), room/board at the spectacular Northern Lights Lodge (I've been there. It's fantastic!), etc., etc. This trip retails for over \$5200 for two persons, our minimum bid is only \$3500.

The lucky high bidder (and a lucky friend) will spend the week of August 28, 2004 (prime dry fly fishing up there), at the Northern Lights Lodge in British Columbia. Two people could go together on this -- one bids, two split the price, both fish. It's a heck of a bargain for a British Columbia fishing trip, and will help ETU a lot financially. Talk to your fishing partner, and please **PASS THE WORD AROUND**.

Speaking of passing the word around, we need you and whoever else to get your ticket and attend the auction. We've acquired an awful lot of stuff to sell at the auction, but we need folks AT the Hiwan Country Club to buy it. There should be some great deals to be had. Please get your own tickets, and talk to your friends about coming along. We have a huge commitment for the Bear Creek Project, so come on out, bring your checkbook (we also take Visa, MasterCard and...oh yeah, cash), and **HELP US ACHIEVE OUR GOAL**. Call any board member (see back page) for more info/tickets. Thanks!!!

Please remember that the auction takes the place of our April general meeting!!!

Tight lines,
Rich 4/5/04

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/Charlie Business at 6:30pm followed by the program at ~7:00pm. We look forward to seeing YOU there.

AUCTION THIS MONTH

March Board Meeting

Approximately 15 (that's not a misprint!) members attended this meeting, held at the AG Edwards offices. Most of the agenda revolved around the auction. Other items discussed were:

The Bear Creek Project - Permitting and rock staging occurring. Troy Thompson and Dave Blauch of ERC, and several of us met with and did a presentation for the Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society, hoping to further recruit their support. We plan to meet w/several other local non-profits in the near future.

Evergreen Community Service Day, Wednesday April 14th - Steve Murray, Ross Seline, and Karen Christopherson are organizing this stream cleanup with the Evergreen High School students.

Earth Day, Saturday April 24th - At the Evergreen Lake House. Ron Belak and Peggy Linn have things fairly well set up. Call Ron if you can help.

We're attempting to line up a program featuring John Fielder again for later this year.

We agreed to staff/help with the **Highland Haven Inn's 25th Anniversary Open House on Friday May 7th**. In return, they are splitting the profits with us. Call John Ellis or Mike Goldblatt if you can help.

Randy ordered a bunch more of the new discounted membership applications. These allow a new member to join TU for a year for only \$17.50, and we get \$15 of that back!!! Please, help the chapter and Trout Unlimited by signing up a friend.

Also, we discussed our plans for Evergreen Rec District youth fishing classes in June, Camp Comfort weekends for kids in June and July (at a new venue this year), and the Fourth of July Kids Fishing Clinic.

Rich (for Ron)

Western Public Lands Oil & Gas Development

First, a couple of quotes, then a couple of the opening paragraphs from *Western Public Lands Oil & Gas Development*, a new report released by Trout Unlimited. The full 32-page report, produced by TU's Public Lands Initiative, can be downloaded/viewed at <http://publiclands.tu.org>. If your internet connection is slow, go for the "low resolution" version. And, fear not! The report actually reads fairly quickly as there are a lot of detailed maps and other graphics. This should be (in my humble opinion) required reading for anyone who loves the outdoors. Check it out...

Tim Haller

"The Bush administration is deciding the fate of our public lands in secret meetings. If the administration wants to toss aside environmental protections or otherwise rewrite rules governing natural gas development on federal lands, it should let the American public in on the decisions."

Denver Post editorial, 7/13/2003

"It may turn out that coal bed methane can be extracted without damage to large ecosystems. Much (not all) of the water found in the coal beds is actually potable and

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can be used or injected back into the coal beds. It may be true that wastewater flows can be managed responsibly so that riverine aquatic systems and riparian zones are not damaged. But these outcomes are not assured unless serious scientific research is conducted and responsible environmental impact statements and zoning laws are written, enacted, and obeyed."

John Randolph - Fly Fisherman magazine, 12/2002

Introduction

Ongoing efforts to expedite energy development on public lands have turned traditional multiple-use management on its head by elevating oil and gas exploration to a dominant position. As a result, gas and oil development is occurring at an unprecedented rate throughout the Rocky Mountain West, affecting tens of millions of acres, in some of the wildest places -- with some of the best hunting and fishing -- in the United States. The cumulative effects of this development spread throughout such a large landscape, and proposed on such a large scale, will almost certainly have significant impacts on fish, wildlife, water, and hunting and fishing.

The purpose of this report is to document some of the linkages among the places that people hunt and fish on public lands and areas most likely to see dramatically expanded energy development. If armed with good information, the hope is that hunters and anglers will pay closer attention to these threats, and get involved.

Threatened Fisheries

More than 50 percent of our nation's healthiest, most prized trout streams originate on public lands. But many of these crucial waterways face an uncertain future thanks to, among other things, coal bed methane development, which can harm water quality and quantity. Coal bed methane development removes groundwater in order to access trapped gas seams. This water is generally pumped to the surface, dumped into rivers and streams, or stored in ponds. In some places, produced water pumped from coal seams is higher in sodium content than surface water, and may be unsuitable for irrigation, wildlife, fisheries and native plants. And with each coal bed methane well producing up to several million gallons of water per year, there is concern the industry could seriously deplete scarce groundwater sources throughout the arid West, as well as reduce crucial surface water and stream levels. Still, in other areas, there is concern about pumping too much produced water into streams, altering natural flows and affecting aquatic plants, insects and fisheries.

Portions of Wyoming's famed Green River, Colorado's San Juan River and Montana's Tongue River are among the trout fisheries threatened by gas and oil development.

Kudos...

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

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

Ed.



**EVERGREEN TROUT UNLIMITED
BEAR CREEK FUNDRAISING
AUCTION @ HIWAN COUNTRY CLUB
SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2004, 6:00 P.M.**



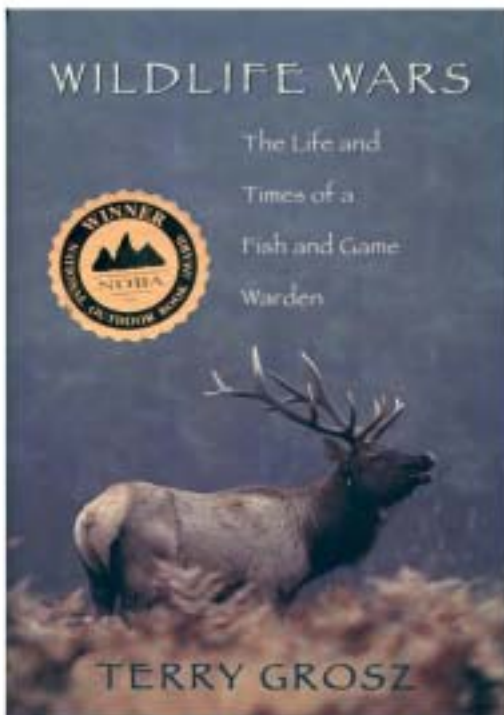
DOOR PRIZES, BIG SILENT AUCTION, HOR'S D'OEUVRES

PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT ETU'S 2004 BEAR CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

Tickets, \$20. Visit our web-site at: www.evergreentrount.org

*FEATURING NATIONALLY RENOWNED AUTHOR, WINNER OF
THE "NATIONAL OUTDOOR BOOK AWARD", and TV STAR
(Animal Planet - Wildlife Wars):*

MR. TERRY GROSZ



Evergreen Trout Unlimited is raising money to help fund their \$185,000 Bear Creek restoration project which will be completed this year.

Auction extravaganza! There will be a wide array of door prizes and auction items, including custom made fly rods, dinners, gift certificates, guided fly fishing trips by some of the area's best known fly fishing guides, hand tied flies, all types of fly fishing gear—this is one fund raiser you won't want to miss!!

Nationally renowned author, and TV star, Terry Grosz, will present a riveting evening of fish and game story telling and also show scenes from his recent TV show on Animal Planet, highlighting the plight of the amazing Sturgeon and Salmon. Terry will be on hand afterwards for follow-up discussions and book autographs.

??? What's Happening ???April 2004

- 22nd (Th) Final Auction meeting
Steve Murray's house - call 674-7942 for directions
- 24th (Sa) Earth Day Fair
10:00a - 4:00p - Evergreen Lakehouse
Call Ron Belak if you can help.
- 24th (Sa) **EVERGREEN TU AUCTION**
Hiwan Country Club
COME ONE, COME ALL
Doors open at 6:00p

May 2004

- 7th (F) Highland Haven 25th Anniversary
Join the fun from 5:00p - 7:00p
Half the proceeds benefit ETU!!!
- 19th (W) ETU Chapter Meeting
Evergreen Hotel - 6:30p
Mathill Shilo - Fishing the North Platte
and Encampment Rivers
- 26th (W) ETU Board Meeting
AG Edwards Conference Room - 6:30p

New Members

Please join me in welcoming Mike Gree, William Bennett, Brian Le Blanc, Craig Black, Bob Brownlee, Curt Lamprecht, Bob Bartman, Peter Diehl, and Wiley Dean 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: 313

Randy Huiting

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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 <troutguy@speedtrail.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.

Evergreen Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 1974
Evergreen, CO 80437-1974



Working to protect America's streams.

Evergreen Trout Unlimited
1999 Outstanding Chapter Communications Award
2000 Outstanding Youth Education Program Award



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