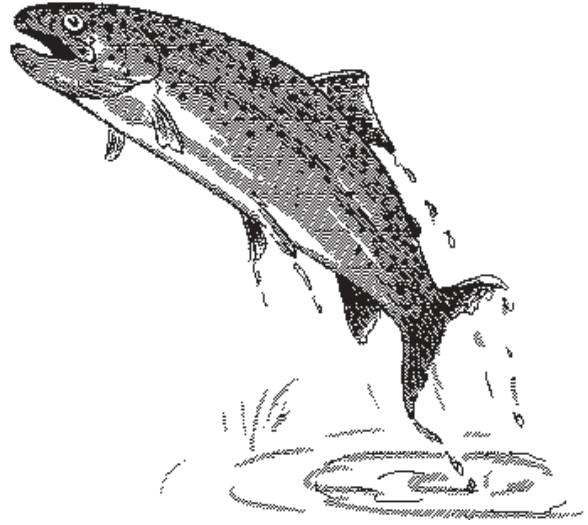


Electric

The Evergreen Trout



July/August 2004 The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited Vol. 22 No. 8

From The Prez,

I guess we all wanted the moisture to fill the waterways and forestall the forest fires, but enough already! Fortunately, I'm a carpenter and have the ark almost ready to go. Keep in mind seating is limited and preference points may be awarded to those who volunteer for ETU activities.

The board decided to forego a newsletter last month, so you needn't blame the post office or your internet service. There were just too many other pressing matters, like fishing at Trapper's Lake -- which was very good this year...

After two months, there's lots to report on. The biggest news came as a shock to all of us when we heard that **the EPA had overturned the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission's decision to NOT list Bear Creek as an impaired stream.** The EPA ruled that Bear Creek, as well as five other streams or stream segments, **SHOULD** be listed as "impaired". There will be a 45 day public comment period, after which the EPA's decision to **uphold the Clean Water Act** would be binding. This is dramatic news for Bear Creek. Listing as an impaired stream will require potentially major efforts by water dischargers, in order to adhere to the Clean Water Act. The decision should be final by early October. In the meantime, **we need some letters written;** and I encourage all of you to attend our next general or board meetings for the latest info on that campaign. Now is not the time to drop the ball, so to speak.

The other big news of course is our **Bear Creek project at O'Fallon Park.** As of today, all the contract

documents have been signed and returned to the DOW. The next step is called "external review". Three additional heads of agencies have to approve the docs, including the Colorado Attorney General and Controller's offices. We're hopeful that by "hand carrying" the package, we can get all remaining signatures by the end of next week. **If so, we'll start the heavy excavation on schedule -- Monday, August 16th. Even if red tape delays us one week, we can still have our major volunteer work weekend on August 28th and 29th.** If the final signoffs are delayed further though, we'll have to reschedule the work weekend a bit. Please keep your eyes on our web site (www.evergreentrout.org) for late breaking news, and **CROSS YOUR FINGERS!!!**

Speaking of work weekends, **we still need about 30 more volunteers** for that August weekend. By now many of you hopefully received the first installment of our E-mail Tree announcing our upcoming activities. It was sent to almost 200 of you, to give you a "heads up" about all the ETU commitments. A similar version is included inside the newsletter for those of you whose e-mail addresses we don't have. Our hope is that you'll help the chapter out and sign up for one or more of the listed happenings. To date very few of you have volunteered, which is disappointing. **Put something back into the sport you all love, please.** Be sure to keep in mind paragraph one above.

Even though the Evergreen area was hit really hard by hail and heavy rains on June 26th and 27th, we were spared up near Empire for the Camp Comfort fishing activities, held this year at the Rocky Mountain Easter Seals Camp. We and the kids had a blast, as

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 Continues...

the recently stocked ponds were "very much on fire". **All of the kids caught fish** (some with flies even); and in between sessions, us big folks landed rainbow after rainbow -- pretty much at will. As usual, we planted a Blue Spruce on Saturday for the kids to use as a memorial tree on Sunday. All in all, it was a tremendously fulfilling weekend for everybody.

Our annual July 4th Kids Fishing Clinic at Evergreen Lake was also a huge success this year. Additionally, we helped with the US Forest Service Fishing Clinic for Deaf and Handicapped Kids last Saturday. This event, previously held at Georgetown Reservoir, was staged at Mount Evans Outdoor Lab this year. One shocking bit of news surfaced when we heard the Jackson Pond is slated to be Rotenone'd and restocked with greenback cutthroat fingerlings. There's been talk of doing this for years, but to kill off the lake just after stocking 300 catchable rainbows seemed a bit untimely at best. Also, the ETU board is rather disappointed at not being kept "in the loop" on such a major decision. We've had similar communication problems for years though, so it's not out of character.

I won't elaborate on all our other upcoming activities, which are many, but **we do need your help**. Read on inside to find out what's coming up and give us a hand.

Hope to see you at the next meeting -- 6:30p on Wednesday, August 18th at the Evergreen Hotel.

Don't forget your raincoat...

Rich 8/7/04

P.S. A couple of new items have just come in:

The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society (TENAS) has **donated \$2000** towards the Bear Creek project at O'Fallon Park. You may remember that TENAS had co-signed as one of the project sponsors w/ETU and others for our Fishing Is Fun grant, and plans to help however they can. John Ellis and I went to their recent general meeting to personally thank them. At that meeting, a lively discussion ensued regarding the project, and also the recent EPA decision to list Bear Creek as an impaired stream, which TENAS heartily endorses. Thanks TENAS for your support!!!

In late 2003, TU and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado decided to team up to conduct desperately needed trail work along upper Bear Creek, from Groundhog Flats west towards the Camp Rock property boundary of the wildlife area. The plan is to define one main trail along the north bank of the stream, and to bring that trail up to usable standards. This will reduce future maintenance and safety issues, increasing the enjoyment of fishermen and other trail users. Remaining work days this year are August 29th (which conflicts w/our O'Fallon work weekend), September 3rd, and October 3rd. If you'd like to help, e-mail Sharon Lance (CTU Prez) at stlance@comcast.net, or just show up at 8:00a at Keyes on the Green.

Rich

August Program

Scott Graham, of the North Park Anglers flyshop in Walden (www.northparkanglers.com) will dazzle us at our August meeting, as he unravels the mysteries of fly fishing North Park. The North Platte River, populated by pugnacious rainbows and secretive brown trout, is revealed. Numerous smaller streams which flow from the high mountains towards their confluence with the North Platte River provide countless fly fishing opportunities -- riddled with deep pools, beautiful riffles, and beaver ponds, can provide great dry fly fisheries. If this were not enough, numerous 'sagebrush lakes' populate the area, teeming with callibaetis, damselflies, and chironomids, resulting in thick, well fed trout that readily eat flies, fight hard, and... Pinch me, I must be dreaming! It's no dream -- if you haven't been to North Park, you can't afford to miss this program!

Randy Huiting

TU Assails Rollback of Roadless Rule

Trout Unlimited (TU) today denounced the Bush Administration's proposal to overturn the original roadless forest protection rule and in its place substitute a weak, bureaucratically burdensome policy.

The original roadless rule, established by the US Forest Service (USFS) in January 2001 after several years of formulation, provided strong protection for 58 million acres of inventoried roadless areas in public forests and grasslands. More than 90% of the record 1.6 million public comments received by the USFS supported the protections in the original rule.

Despite such broad public support, the Bush administration delayed full implementation of the policy, and failed to support it during legal challenges. Maintaining for two years that it was seeking ways to fine tune the policy, "the administration today proposed revisions to the rule that offer little in the way of durable protection for roadless areas, but lots of new red tape," according to Chris Wood, TU Vice President for Conservation Programs.

Under the administration's new plan, state governors would have to petition the federal government on a case-by-case basis if they want roadless areas protected. Under the original plan, roadless areas received blanket protection, and states could petition for an exception if they sought to build new roads in roadless areas.

"The new policy increases the pressure on roadless lands from timber and mining interests," said Steve Moyer, TU VP for Government Affairs. "Meanwhile, the administration effectively has shifted a huge bureaucratic burden to the states, and it has simultaneously slashed needed protections for landscapes critical to fish and wildlife."

Earlier this month, TU released two reports, available at www.tu.org, that illustrate the value of roadless areas in Idaho and Oregon to fishing, hunting and habitat. Among the reports' key findings:

83% of bull trout spawning and rearing habitat in Oregon is found in areas with roadless lands.

74% of Idaho's chinook salmon habitat is roadless.

Oregon's remaining westslope cutthroat trout populations are found in roadless areas of the John Day River Basin.

88% of the Idaho land in units yielding more than 90% branch bull elk hunting success is roadless.

61% of Idaho's historic steelhead habitat has been lost, but 74% of the remaining habitat is in roadless areas.

72% of the Idaho land in units yielding more than 40% four-plus-point mule deer hunting success is roadless.

Oregon's Lahontan cutthroat populations have been reduced from eight watersheds to just two, and both are within roadless areas.

TU Lines to Leaders - August 2004

ETU Needs Your HELP!!!

Evergreen Trout Unlimited **NEEDS YOU!!!** We have a lot of things going on right now, and without your help we won't be able to make it all happen. Below is a listing of upcoming events, along with contacts for each. **PLEASE call or e-mail one of us and volunteer to help with one of these worthwhile projects/events.** Contact information is on the back page, except for Troy Thompson who can be reached via e-mail at troyterc@aol.com.

August 16th - O'Fallon Park Project begins. This is just an FYI. If you would like to see how the big rocks get rolled, stop by and have a look (but please, stay out of the way). The work will start on the 16th and should take about 2 weeks to complete.

August 18th - ETU general meeting. Scott Graham on fishing in North Park.

August 24th - Mount Evans Outdoor Lab. We need 3 or 4 volunteers to help teach fishing to a group of 6th graders. Contact Len Wheaton if you can help.

August 27th - ETU members FREE FISHING day at Buchanan Ponds. The last Friday of the month (April - October) is ours at "The Ponds". Just go to the new Rec Center, show 'em your TU membership card, and you're in! It's the closest "BIG FISH" opportunity to Evergreen.

August 28th & 29th - O'Fallon Park Project volunteer workdays. **This is the BIG ONE! We need ~50 volunteers both days, to help with everything from planting trees and shrubs, to cleaning up after the construction.** We have been working on this project for more than a year now (fundraising, permits, etc.). Join us in O'Fallon Park to see the "new and improved" Bear Creek, and lend a hand in returning the park to the way it was before we started (except for the creek, of course). We have asked for help on this from several other chapters in the metro area, but would like to see the majority of the labor from the Evergreen Chapter! This means that **WE NEED YOUR HELP. Bring a favorite shovel, rake, fishing partner, etc. and give Bear Creek a hand!!!** Contact Troy Thompson or Tim Haller to sign up. You never know who might be there (and that's all we're sayin')...

September 8th - Mount Evans Outdoor Lab. We need 3 or 4 volunteers to help teach fishing to a group of 6th graders. Contact Len Wheaton if you can help.

September 11th - Mount Evans Outdoor Lab Open House. We need 10 - 12 folks to help with the annual open house (for parents and kids who will be attending Outdoor Lab in '04/'05) at Mount Evans Outdoor Lab. Tying and casting demonstrators, and cooks needed! Contact Len Wheaton if you can help.

September 15th - ETU general meeting.

September 24th - ETU members FREE FISHING day at Buchanan Ponds. The last Friday of the month (April - October) is ours at "The Ponds". Just go to the new Rec Center, show 'em your TU membership card, and you're in! It's the closest "BIG FISH" opportunity to Evergreen.

September 25th - CTU sponsored statewide river clean-up. We are still considering whether or not to try and participate in this event. If you are interested in participating in or helping to coordinate this event, contact Tim Haller.

November 13th - John Fielder Program on his new book "Mountain Ranges of Colorado". Another FYI item here. We have confirmed this date with John Fielder, but we don't know where yet. If you have a suggestion for a good local venue (needs to seat 100 - 150 and have food/beverage service available), please contact any Board member!

As you can see, **we have a VERY busy Summer ahead of us**, and could really use your help. **PLEASE VOLUNTEER** for one or more of these great events!!!

Evergreen Trout Unlimited **THANKS YOU** for your support!

The ETU Board of Directors

Bear Creek Needs Your Help Too!

As you may have read recently in the Canyon Courier, the EPA has disapproved the Colorado Water Quality Commission's attempt to NOT list Bear Creek as "impaired" under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Public comments on the addition of Bear Creek and several other Colorado waters will be accepted through September 20th, 2004, after which the EPA will finalize its decision.

We are asking you to write a short note (e-mail, snail mail, or fax) to the appropriate address below, in support of the addition of Bear Creek to this list.

E-mail:

hernandez.kathryn@epa.gov

Snail mail:

Kathryn Hernandez, TMDL Team (8EPR-EP)

US Environmental Protection Agency Region VIII

999 18th St., Suite 300

Denver, CO 80202-2466

Fax:

(303) 312-6339

Your letter should be simple and to the point -- something like, "I agree with EPA's addition of Bear Creek to Colorado's 303(d) impaired water list. I believe that the data shows that elevated temperatures in the stream contributed to fish kills in 2000 and 2002." should be sufficient. And please remember, you are writing as John Doe, an Evergreen Trout Unlimited member; not John Doe speaking FOR Evergreen Trout Unlimited. The Board is composing a letter of its own.

Now here's where it gets ugly. I apologize in advance for the huge URL's, but if you want to know more...

The item in the Federal Registry can be found at <http://frwebgate1.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/waisgate.cgi?WAISdocID=28799075966+2+0+0&WAISaction=retrieve>. (no spaces in that whole thing and case matters!) For the EPA's rationale in disapproving Bear Creek's omission from the list (don't ya just love GOVSPEAK??), go to www.epa.gov/region08/water/tmdl, and click the link to *Region 8's Decision Letter on Colorado's 303(d) Waterbody List*. Lots of info there.

Bottom line? We haven't won this one yet, but we are VERY close. Your letters can make a difference. Got two minutes? Give Bear Creek a hand.

Tim Haller

South Platte Protection Plan Adopted

Colorado Trout Unlimited announced its support for a newly-issued Record of Decision from the US Forest Service amending the Forest Plan for the Pike-San Isabel National Forest and supporting the South Platte Protection Plan (SPPP). The decision, signed this week by Forest Supervisor Bob Leaverton, grew out of the Forest Service's study of the South Platte River for possible designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The SPPP was a local alternative under the study that was developed through negotiations over the past seven years among conservationists, local governments, water utilities, and other interested parties. The working group that developed the plan was co-chaired by Denver Water and CTU.

"The South Platte Protection Plan is a great example of how conservationists, water users, and government agencies can work together on river protection," said CTU Executive Director David Nickum. "While our views on Wild and Scenic designation were very different, we were able to build a common vision for the South Platte that meets all of our needs."

- The SPPP was developed as a local alternative to federal Wild and Scenic designation. Key elements include:

- A flow protection plan with minimum flow commitments below Spinney Mountain, Elevenmile, and Cheesman Reservoirs, as well as target flow goals and ramping rates to benefit fish habitat.

- A \$1 million endowment, to be established through contributions from local water utilities and some local governments, that will support recreation and conservation projects far into the future.

- Cooperative management of properties among Denver Water, Jefferson County Open Space, and the US Forest Service, to enhance recreational opportunities. A partnership involving Colorado State Parks may be a possibility in the future.

- Prohibiting any new water development projects in Cheesman and Elevenmile Canyons.

- Placing a 20-year moratorium on any development of Denver's Two Forks right-of-way, and setting up a process by which alternative, environmentally-sound water supplies can be developed so that the Two Forks right-of-way can be withdrawn.

- Establishing an ongoing process for diverse interests to coordinate on future challenges facing the South Platte watershed.

Tom Krol, a former CTU President who has been involved with the development of the SPPP from its inception, said, "Under this plan, the South Platte River will remain a crown jewel of the Front Range, and suburban water providers will be able to develop smart water projects without harming the river."

In support of the SPPP, the Forest Service's new Record of Decision amends the Pike-San Isabel National Forest Plan to ensure land management that is consistent with the resource protection goals of the SPPP. The key provision of the plan amendment requires activities (including any water projects) to avoid "significant long-term adverse effects" on the river's values, after mitigation. The Decision also announces that a decision on the river's suitability for Wild and Scenic designation will be postponed indefinitely to allow time for the SPPP to work as a local protection program. This was an important point, as conservationists could not support a decision to rule the river "unsuitable", while water users could

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not support a finding that it was "suitable".

"We deeply appreciate the Forest Service's willingness to support an innovative, collaborative river protection effort," said Nickum. "Their Forest Plan Amendment will provide the public land protections that are needed for the local plan to succeed. We look forward to working together to conserve and restore the South Platte."

CTU Currents - July 2004

From The CTU Prez...

Dear Fellow Members of Colorado Trout Unlimited and trout anglers across the state,

Colorado Trout Unlimited or CTU is entering a new phase -- the phase of partnerships. On the communications front, we are very excited to enter into a partnership with a new publication, *High Country Angler*. I would like to thank Frank Martin, the managing editor, for giving us the opportunity to present our voice in this free publication that focuses on Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region. With this partnership, we can reach residents of Colorado beyond TU's current membership, and share with them our important work in preserving and protecting Colorado's water.

We had a successful event in a partnership with the Boy Scouts and the US Sportsmen's Alliance on May 15th in Elbert, CO. Approximately 200 children and parents attended. Cub Scouts from 7 districts participated. It was so exciting to introduce 6 to 10 year old boys, their four year old sisters, and parents to the sport of fly fishing. When I heard the enthusiastic words, "I caught a fish!!!" yelled across Silver Lake, I knew it was going to be a great day. We introduced them to the idea of "catch and release" which was a new concept for most of them. They even enjoyed watching the fish swim away.

Denny Bohon, a US Forest Service biologist led the entomology station with insects in pools and a tank with live fish, borrowed from Scott Gilmore at the Division of Wildlife. Scott also provided us with new spinning rods and reels. Along with bugs and live fish, Denny also offered some basic biology, giving the kids an up-close look at a dissected fish -- it was about half and half between kids saying "fish guts - gross!" and "fish guts - cool!" But they all walked away smiling. Rob Anderson and Tom Tuley headed up the fly tying station and even managed to catch some small mouth bass after the exhausting day. Steve Johnson at Royal Stevens fly shop and John Bailey from Dan Bailey's shop donated the materials for fly tying.

Steve Bailey ran the fishing station and we fished with bobbers donated by Joe Brenton. One boy even insisted that we take the fly off of his line and put the fly he tied on his line. Sure enough, he caught a fish on his own fly! We even managed to keep all barbless flies out of hands and faces. Mark Lance taught the children how to cast with some yarn and dowels. When he showed them a fly rod, they all wanted to watch him cast it. They even pretended they were fish and grabbed the end of the line.

I would also like to thank the other volunteers for taking a Saturday off to help us -- Heather and Robert Sarfi, Bob Hilton, Ken and Mike McClatchy, Elbert Bivins, Ross Custer, Marty Knappe, John Vaught, Harry Hall, Steve Lopez, Charlie Nelson, Doug Jones, David Nickum, Ben Hawkins, Pamela Middleton, Kathleen Reynolds and John Osborn. We could not have done it without each and every one of you.

We are having another fly fishing event with the Boy

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Scouts on August 13, 14 and 15th up at Camp Tahosa near Estes Park, where we will be using TU's First Cast curriculum. Please contact me (stlance@comcast.net) if you would like to volunteer. I also hope that many of you can also join us next year with the Cub Scout family camp. We hope to make it an annual event.

Thank you for your support of CTU!

Sharon Lance - CTU President

Low Impact Hydropower??? (Part II)

Continued from June. {Yeah, yeah, yeah, I know I said next month. - Ed.}. Excerpted from The Power Scorecard (www.powerscorecard.org/tech_detail.cfm?resource_id=4).

Hydroelectric facilities disrupt natural river flows.

By diverting water out of the river for power, dams remove water needed for healthy instream ecosystems. Stretches below dams may be completely de-watered. By withholding and then releasing water to generate power for peak demand periods, dams may cause downstream stretches to alternate between no water and powerful surges that erode soil and vegetation, and flood or strand wildlife. These irregular releases destroy natural seasonal flow variations that trigger natural growth and reproduction cycles in many species. Peaking power operations can also cause dramatic changes in reservoir water levels -- up to 40 feet -- that can degrade shorelines and disturb fisheries, waterfowl, and bottom dwelling organisms.

Dams also slow down the flow of the river. Many fish species, such as salmon, depend on steady flows to flush them downriver early in their life and guide them upstream years later to spawn. Slow reservoir pools disorient migrating fish and significantly increase the duration of their migration.

These impacts can, at times, be mitigated by technological and operational enhancements to the hydro project -- e.g., minimum flow turbines, re-regulating weirs, and pulsed operation at peak efficiency. Impoundments can be managed to create new upstream and downstream habitat for fish species and to provide minimum discharges and improved habitat during seasonal or annual drought conditions.

Hydropower may alter river and riverside habitat.

Construction of a dam can flood riverside lands, destroying riparian and upland habitats. Construction of a dam can also convert river habitat into a lake-like reservoir, threatening native populations of fish and other wildlife. Warm, slow moving reservoirs favor predators of naturally occurring species. Dramatic changes in reservoir water levels, described above, can degrade shorelines and disturb fisheries, waterfowl, and bottom-dwelling organisms.

Dams alter water quality.

Impoundments can cause changes and variation in temperature or the amount of dissolved gases in the river.

Surface temperatures in the reservoir may rise when the flow of the water is slowed. If water is released from the top of the dam, this warmer water may increase river water temperature down stream. Cooler downstream temperatures may result when cool water is released from

the bottom of a reservoir. Such altered conditions can affect the habitat, growth rate, or even the survival of fish and other species.

For hydropower projects with intakes located deep in the reservoir, water with low dissolved oxygen (DO) levels released to the river downstream may harm aquatic habitat in the river and contribute to other water quality problems. Applying mitigating technologies can improve dissolved oxygen levels.

Water sometimes passes over a spillway, rather than through the turbines. As water plunges into the pool at the base of the dam, too much air can be trapped in the water, creating "gas supersaturation," a condition that in some fish species fosters something called lethal gas bubble disease. This can be mitigated by installing structures to keep fish away from such areas.

A dam or a powerhouse can be a significant obstacle to fish migration.

Ladders or lifts can be installed to pass certain fish species upstream, though multiple dams on a river reduces the success rate of these fish passage devices. Fish migrating downstream can become disoriented, bruised, stressed, or mortally injured from contact with turbines or other parts of the facility. Bypass systems can improve survival rates for migrating juveniles. When fish are trucked or barged around the dams, they may experience increased stress and disease and decreased homing instincts. Survival rates for fish passing through large turbines vary but may approach 90-95 percent. In the case of multiple dams along a river these effects can significantly harm migrating populations of important, sensitive juvenile fish populations.

Impoundments also slow down the flow velocities of rivers. Slow reservoir pools may disorient migrating fish, increase the duration of their migration, which in turn may increase their mortality rate.

The steep decline in salmon populations in the Pacific Northwest and California is perhaps the best known negative environmental impact associated with hydroelectric facilities. Although several factors have affected this decline -- including commercial fish harvests, habitat degradation, and artificial fish hatcheries -- hydropower dams have contributed significantly. The causes for these declines and the best strategies for restoring these important fisheries are currently the subject of a major public policy debate.

Hydropower projects can impede the natural flow of sediments.

Flowing water transports sediment. When the flow velocities are reduced in an impoundment, sediment drops out and collects on river and reservoir bottoms, where it can affect habitat for fish spawning. The loss of sediment downstream can degrade in stream habitat and cause the loss of beach at the mouth of the river. The deposited sediment also may contain chemical or industrial residues from upstream sources. Dams may block and concentrate contaminated sediment in the impoundment. Dredging is used in some cases, though it is costly and may raise questions regarding disposal of the dredged material. Various flushing and piping techniques are available for moving non-contaminated sediment downstream.

Jo Evans pointed me at this item. - Ed.

??? What's Happening ???

Way too much for this space!!!

Check out page 3 for a FULL calendar of upcoming events.

Kudos...

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

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

Ed.

New Members

Please join me in welcoming Stephen Personius, Bob Artale, Austin C. Funk, Ron Edwards, Kyle Ultishney, Larry Harpster, and William P. Harroon 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: 352 WOW!

Randy Huiting

The Evergreen Trout

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On the web - www.tu.org; www.cotrout.org; www.evergreentroutr.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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Working to protect America's streams.

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