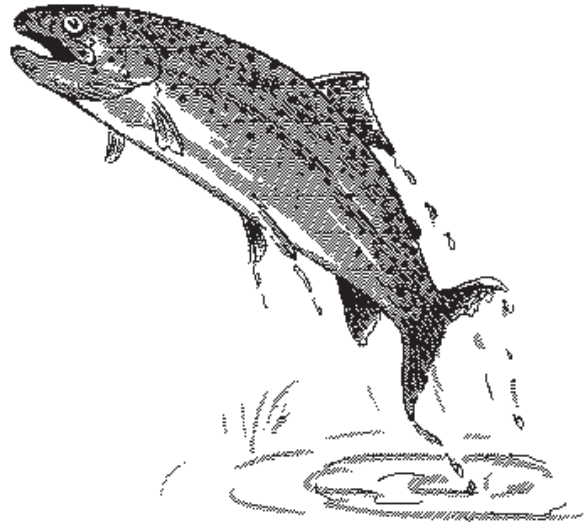


Electric

The Evergreen Trout



September 2004 The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited Vol. 22 No. 9

From The Prez,

Whew!!!

I think we're about done with the O'Fallon project -- the handwork that is. Thanks to ~40 volunteers on Saturday the 28th and ~30 on Sunday the 29th, the difficult, back breaking, callus generating, very, very hard manual labor is pretty much over. **Thank Heaven!** We raked and shoveled tons of dirt/rock; moved boulders; planted six trees (~250 lbs each), ~400 five gallon container shrubs/willows/small trees, and close to 3000 grass plugs (~ten inches deep); installed five big sections of fence; planted grass seed; spread mulch; cleaned up debris; and actually had a good bit of fun, especially when the hot dogs were served and the beer came out. This project demonstrated teamwork at it's finest! Thanks to all (too many to list) who helped!

Special thanks go out to Denver Mountain Parks, especially **A. J. "Tripp" Addison** who really donated a lot of time and materials. Also, special thanks to local **Boy Scout Troop #737 and Josh Clark**, who organized a bunch of his fellow scouts and parents to help both days. Some of them also volunteered to help with future watering and maintenance. Thanks also, to **Troy Thompson**, who with partner **Dave Blauch** and their company **Ecological Resource Consultants** helped develop and implement the project. As of today, the major work is almost done, with a little excavation, retaining, and planting yet to do. We're already starting on plans for a kiosk (based on the project) to place on site.

The next biggest subject this month regards the EPA's decision to overturn 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 is a 45 day public comment period that ends September 20th, after which the EPA's decision to uphold the Clean Water Act would be binding. The decision should be final by early October. In the meantime, **we definitely need many letters written to the EPA**. Look inside for info on how and where to respond. Of note is the fact that the EPA may already feel that the dischargers have been exceeding existing permits' temperature standards; and as such, the EPA could fine them. On the surface this sounds good, but with the leverage of fines, the EPA may now feel less need for the listing. At any rate, it's vital that we get our comments in soon. Please help us respond!!!

Keep those letters coming,

Rich

P. S. Mount Evans Outdoor Lab Clarification - Last month we told you that the Mount Evans Outdoor Lab pond was being rotenoned and greenback fingerlings stocked in place of the rainbows. This was based on direct quotes from a Forest Service representative. Well, now after conversations with Paul Winkle, the area CDOW biologist, we have better information. First of all, two weeks ago the DOW set a net to live capture the existing rainbows. Unfortunately, this was rather unsuccessful -- only one live and two dead fish were captured. Paul said they now plan to electroshock and live capture the remaining fish later this school year, and move them to Evergreen Lake. Then they will plant catchable sized greenbacks in the pond. This is much better news, as we all hated to see any of the current fish killed, and the larger greenbacks will enable the kids to continue fishing at the pond. Sorry for the misinformation. RR

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!

September Program

Looking for an un-crowded place within an hour's drive, to wet your line? Oh, and that has fish too? The North Fork of the South Platte in Pine may be just the change of pace you need. Have you seen the new Fly Fishing trade magazine (our September speaker is the editor)? Have you ever wondered what salt water fly fishing opportunities exist on the coasts around the US? How about fly fishing for Makos? And just what does the "Survival Guide," say about landing a thrashing Mako into a small boat (then again, just about any boat is small when you have a thrashing Mako gnashing at your ankles...). ETU presents an evening full of great fishing stories and spectacular photos, with author, consultant, fly-fishing guru, magazine editor, and Warren Zevon look-alike, Kirk Deeter, who has just returned from Chile. A book signing session will follow the program (just in time for the holidays!).

Randy Huiting

Settled, Mined & Left Behind

Abandoned mines pose one of the most significant and least understood problems for people, fish and water quality in the western United States. "Settled, Mined & Left Behind" highlights 10 different watersheds throughout the West that have been affected by abandoned mineland pollution. This report presents opportunities for volunteer-led conservation efforts, examples of restoration successes such as the Blackfoot River in Montana and the Animas River in Colorado, and identifies steps that must be taken in order to reclaim a toxic legacy of abandoned mines for a future of clean and healthy watersheds.

The mining industry played a significant role in opening and settling the American West. The minerals and raw materials that fueled westward expansion provided jobs and opportunity, and fueled our national economy for decades. Such economic progress was not without cost. Today over 500,000 abandoned mine sites litter the western landscape, affecting 16,000 miles of streams, largely on public lands. The Sacramento River watershed alone, profiled in this report, is estimated to have between 1,000 and 2,000 abandoned mine sites, though no accurate inventory exists.

With the support and commitment of federal agencies (such as the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the Environmental Protection Agency), state resource management agencies, restoration professionals and non-profit partners such as Trout Unlimited, communities can redress the problems associated with abandoned mines and their impacts on water quality, human health and fisheries. "Settled, Mined & Left Behind" is a first step in that direction. Existing law discourages remedial action and funding is woefully scarce for restoration efforts. Trout Unlimited believes that with issue familiarity, options for restoration participation, and the knowledge that a difference can be made through local restoration projects, a legacy of abandoned mineland pollution can be transformed into healthy, productive and diverse watersheds for the benefit and use of future generations.

The full report can be viewed at www.tu.org. Click the "Settled, Mined & Left Behind" link on the main page.

NTU web site

The Evergreen Trout

Bear Creek Still Needs Your Help!

{Because this issue is so important I am running this item again this month. - Ed.}

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&WAIAction=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

Kudos...

...to **ALL of the folks who gave up part of their weekend to help with the planting in O'Fallon Park.**

...to **Jill Haller, John Haile, and Rich Reynolds** for their help with the newsletter.

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

Ed.

O'Fallon Park Project Workdays A Huge Success!!!

A hearty **THANK YOU!** to all of the volunteers who helped with the planting on August 28/29. Here are just a few glimpses of the fun. My thanks to John Haile for the pics on this page. - Ed.



Dave Blauch (L) and Troy Thompson (R) of Ecological Resource Consultants demo proper "rock rolling" (aka soil preparation).



At least the kids paid attention during their training...



Then comes the fun part -- planting. How many softball-sized rocks did you jam your shovel into? Ouch...



Hey Rich! Are you qualified to run that piece of equipment?



Finally, grass plugs -- nearly 3000 -- will give things a head start next Spring. Small crews made short work of 'em.



Meanwhile, another crew finishes planting a narrow-leaf cottonwood. It took six of 'em to get it into the wheelbarrow!

More O'Fallon Park Workday Pics

I took these. Do you have more? Send 'em to me at troutguy@speedtrail.net and I'll try to get 'em in. - Ed.

"THANK YOU" TO ALL WHO HELPED THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THIS PROJECT!!!



Hearty souls moved plants -- by wheelbarrow -- from this staging area to their new homes.



The 'tractor tracks' will have to be filled and seeded too. We couldn't have done it without all the volunteers!



(L - R) Tom Lockwood, Dick Wheeler, Peggy Linn, Ron Belak, Leah and Randy Huiting (purple hat), and CTU President Sharon Lance (trying to escape the pic?) work the north bank.



Before we started, the area being planted here was part of the wide, shallow streambed. The newly narrowed and deepened channel's riffle/pool structure will provide great year-round trout habitat. If you haven't been down to the park yet to see what we have accomplished, maybe you're due for a short trip down the canyon. This is what it's all about!



We're almost finished! Cold beverage anyone???

Denver Water Taking Wrong Path On Rates

Denver Water will be holding public meetings [this] week to solicit public input on their proposed rate increase. Unfortunately, Denver's proposal raises base rates on all users rather than adopting an aggressive "block rate" structure under which those who use the most water pay a higher rate. Adopting an aggressive block rate could help Denver use water pricing as another powerful tool in encouraging conservation -- thereby reducing the need for expensive and damaging new dams and diversions. To make matters worse, Denver has said that they need this rate increase because their customers were so effective in conserving water that their sales (and therefore revenues) were down. That sends the message to customers not that conservation is good, but that their conservation efforts will be punished by higher rates. That is exactly the WRONG message for Denver to send through its pricing of water.

We encourage TU'ers and others who care about Colorado's rivers to attend one of the upcoming meetings. They will be at:

September 15 - Park Hill United Methodist Church (5209 Montview Blvd. at Glencoe) - Denver - 6:30-8:30 pm

September 16 - Citizens Advisory Committee meeting at Denver Water Three Stones Building - 1600 W 12th Avenue - Denver 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Both meetings will open up with a presentation on the proposed rate increase followed by 45 minutes for questions on comments from the public on the rate increase (please limit comments to 2 minutes per person) then another 45 minutes for questions and comments on other topics as brought up by the public. These public meetings are our opportunity to raise concerns and try to get Denver Water to change their proposal into something that promotes instead of punishes conservation!

Please spread the word and help us get a good turnout of conservation-minded folks at these important meetings.

David Nickum - CTU Executive Director

CTU Holds Inaugural Statewide River Cleanup

Colorado Trout Unlimited and its local chapters throughout the state will sponsor the first-ever statewide river cleanup September 18-25, 2004.

Volunteers will patrol designated stretches of the South Platte, Eagle, Big Thompson, Uncompaghre, Blue, Fraser, Arkansas and Gunnison rivers, and Elevenmile Canyon, Roaring Fork, and Boulder and Clear creeks, removing trash from their banks.

"We hope to encourage new river cleanups throughout the state by holding well-organized, coordinated events that elevate the health of our waters," said David Nickum, Executive Director of the TU Colorado Council. "We've teamed with a great group of partners on existing river cleanup efforts and established some new ones. Our hope is that all Coloradoans who care about their local rivers will take part in a cleanup in their area, and that in future years we can get even more streams covered and volunteers involved."

Volunteers of all ages are welcome, and steps are being taken to ensure that all events are safe and family-friendly. Volunteers will receive free lunches and t-shirts for their efforts.

"Clean water is one of Colorado's most valuable natural resources, and its supply is far from guaranteed," said Sharon Lance, Chair of the Colorado Council. "We're working hard - and we need members of every Colorado community to join us -- to make sure it keeps flowing."

Details and contact information for each local cleanup project follow:

{NOTE: Evergreen TU has tentatively scheduled a Bear Creek Cleanup for September 25th. Details at the general meeting, or call any Board member for info. - Ed.}

September 18: NIMBY Fest/South Platte River Cleanup (in Denver) - Wild Trout Chapter, in partnership with the Greenway Foundation - contact Greg Oehmann at GregOehmen@catholicealth.net or 720-875-7714.

South Platte River - Elevenmile Canyon Cleanup - Cheyenne Mountain Chapter - contact Bill Burd at bjeagle@worldnet.att.net or 719-590-6615.

September 19: Eagle River cleanup - Ferdinand Hayden Chapter, in partnership with the Eagle River Watershed Council - contact Ken Neubecker at eagleriver@eagleranch.com or 970-328-2070.

September 25: Arkansas River Cleanup (Salida/Buena Vista) - Collegiate Peaks Chapter - contact Dusty Yaeger at yaegerf@chaffee.net or 719-942-3955.

Big Thompson cleanup - Alpine Anglers and Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapters, in partnership with the Big Thompson Watershed Forum - contact Austin Condon at AWCFflash@aol.com or 970-586-1762, or Greg Sheets at gjsheets@aol.com or 970-667-8596.

Blue River Cleanup - Gore Range Chapter - contact Andy Gentry at andygentry@earthlink.net 970-262-7573.

Boulder Creek Cleanup - Boulder Flycasters Chapter - contact Mike Malec at mike@coloradohomesandrealstate.com or 303-413-6643.

Clear Creek Cleanup - Cutthroat and West Denver Chapters - contact Ray Carney at raythefly@aol.com or 303-972-2976, or Sandy Long at slong@eazy.net or 303-322-2122.

Fraser River Cleanup - Colorado River Headwaters Chapter - contact Jim Woodside at 970-726-2080.

Gunnison River kokanee cleanup (picking up dead kokanee to help prevent spread of whirling disease) - Gunnison Angling Society - contact Tra Lowell at drifters@pcrs.net or 970-641-4243.

Roaring Fork Cleanup - Ferdinand Hayden Chapter - contact Paula Fothergill at pfotrgil@sopris.net or 970-328-2070.

Uncompaghre River Cleanup - Gunnison Gorge Chapter - contact Joel Evans at fishboycolo@msn.com or 970-249-1336.

CTU Press Release - 8/31/04

New Members

No update on new members from NTU this month.

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**

Randy Huiting

??? What's Happening ???September 2004

- 15th (W) ETU Chapter Meeting
Evergreen Hotel - 6:30p
Kirk Deeter on flyfishing the
North Fork of the South Platte
and other exotic places
- 22nd (W) ETU Board Meeting
The Rib Crib 'Other Side' - 6:30p
- 24th (F) ETU FREE fishing day at Buchanan
Ponds Sign in at the new Rec
Center
- 25th (Sa) Bear Creek Cleanup
TENTATIVE - Please contact a
Board member for details

October 2004

- 2nd (Sa) CTU Fall Rendezvous
Holiday Inn Express in Montrose
Contact Tim Haller if you are
interested in attending
- 20th (W) ETU Chapter Meeting
Evergreen Hotel - 6:30p
Program TBA
- 27th (W) ETU Board Meeting
The Rib Crib 'Other Side' - 6:30p

The Evergreen Trout

Chapter Contacts

President	Rich Reynolds <joansew@aol.com>	674-4861
Vice President	JohnEllis <jellis@enbcolorado.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
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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 or 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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Working to protect America's streams.

Evergreen Trout Unlimited

1999 Outstanding Chapter Communications Award
2000 Outstanding Youth Education Program Award
2002 Outstanding Chapter Communications Award
2002 Exemplary Chapter Project Award



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