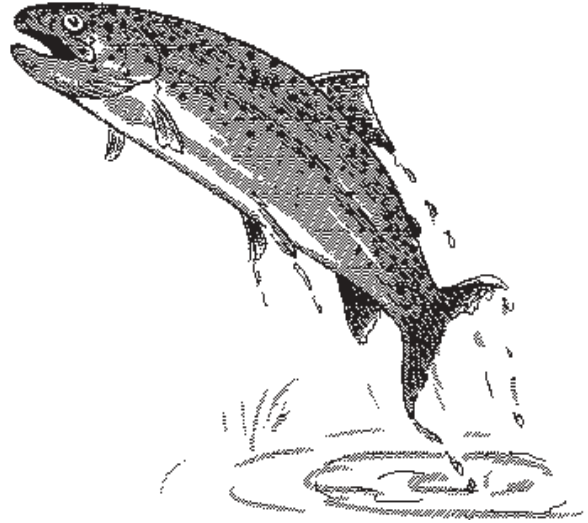


Electric

The Evergreen Trout



October 2004 The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited Vol. 22 No. 10

From The Prez,

I hope you have all been getting in some of the spectacular Fall fishing that Colorado has to offer. I've been a bit too busy to partake of much myself, but have been thinking about it a lot. Speaking of being busy, I know many of us tend to be that way anymore. It seems like most of our society is just racing to keep as busy as possible, but don't you still have a little time for TU? At our last general meeting, we had a total of fifteen people show up, which included four guys from Denver who came all the way up to Evergreen after seeing our meeting mentioned in the Denver papers. That means that **only eleven of our over 350 members** (many more if you consider families and corporate members) attended.

That's embarrassing, disappointing, and/or frustrating, however you care to term it. We used to average 30 people at almost all of our meetings. What gives??? We need your support to survive. Last month's program featured Kirk Deeter, one of the areas most renowned fishing experts, **AND he was discussing local fishing opportunities.** Our program director, Randy Huiting, spends countless hours booking great programs like Kirk's, but we can't keep getting this caliber of speaker without good attendance. All we're asking is for you to get off the couch one evening a month to show us that you care. **The board has taken this matter to heart and decided to change venues.** With that in mind, we will meet this month (and until further notice) at Beau Jo's Pizza in downtown Evergreen. Beau Jo's is reserving a separate room for us (NO POSTS!), and further agreed to rebate ETU ~20% of the food bill as a donation to help the chapter out. This month's program -- Wednesday, October 20th @ 6:30p -- features Paul Russell discussing fly fishing in northwest Colorado. See inside for more information.

Additionally, the board decided to cancel the Pat Dorsey

program in November, since our semi-annual **John Fielder program** is already firmed up and non-cancelable. We'll have only the Fielder program in November (**Saturday the 13th**), and we'll try to re-schedule Pat early next year. The Fielder program starts at 6:00p, and will be held at the **Evergreen United Methodist Church**, across from Safeway. Tickets are \$10, and include refreshments (a light buffet and non-alcoholic drinks) and door prizes (not necessary to be present, but you DO have to buy a ticket) if you're one of the three lucky ones. John's photo essay will feature spectacular pictures of our Colorado mountains from his new book, **Mountain Ranges of Colorado.** As a bonus, ETU receives a nice rebate on all book sales. Support ETU! Call a board member for a ticket. Also, we're looking for a couple of items to use for a silent auction. Call us if you'd like to donate something.

In other news, THANKS go out to the ten ETU'ers who helped with our Bear Creek Cleanup on Saturday, September 25th. You should have been there, because all the volunteers are getting a free t-shirt from CTU for participating in the First Annual CTU Statewide River Cleanup! *{The cleanup events held on September 18th and 25th drew more than 700 volunteers across the state. -- Ed.}*

We're still wrapping up red tape on the O'Fallon project and working on a kiosk, describing our work there, to put in the park. If you haven't stopped by yet, check it out -- it's quite a change. For those of you who'd like to help the chapter, try to stop by our next board meeting at the Tuscany Tavern on Wednesday, October 27th, at 6:30p.

That's all folks, and please, PLEASE come to our next meeting. WE REALLY NEED YOU!

Rich



The Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited meets the third Wednesday of the month at **Beau Jo's Pizzeria** in downtown Evergreen (across from 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!

A Letter From A Friend

To all ETU'ers,

As one who learnt flyfishin' on Bear Crick, I must admit that it holds a very special place in my heart. The stream taught me a lot about trout behavior, fishing, and even aquatic ecology. Those of you who view Bear Creek as merely a small trout ('stocker') stream should know that I once watched the "Old Man" of Bear Creek -- an old timer who usually fished with a gray fox wet fly -- land a 7 1/2# rainbow at the head of the bend pool in O'Fallon Park, in the early 70's. And remarkable brownies are captured by worm dunkers in the lower river annually. To a certain extent, the stream in the 70's benefited from human habitation. The modest amount of sewage effluent and septic release enriched the stream. The leaf and tree limb litter thrown into the river by streamside residents provided substrate and sustenance to aquatic invertebrates, as well as cover for trout. The river long suffered from overfishing. Few trout survived long enough to become interesting to serious anglers. And rampant growth in the watershed inexorably led to water quality degradation and streamflow reduction.

Now, thanks to ETU and others, the stream enjoys special regulations that should help (although enforcement will be an issue). You've gotten the EPA to pressure the CDOH to list the stream as impaired, and have brought the plight of the stream's water quality to the attention of the local community. In addition, you've put your backs (and the sweat of local kids) into improving the stream's habitat. As one who's worked in the regulatory arena for most of his life, I believe that getting the local community involved, particularly the kids, is as important as getting protective rules in place. There's nothing like sweat to generate ownership, and ownership builds caring. After seeing all those dead and dying fish in 2000, I was disheartened. Now, living 1,500 miles away, I may only fish Bear Creek once every few years when I come back to visit, but I can still hope that there will be nice fish hanging under the alder roots and here and there among the stones.

Thank you all!

Rich Domingue

{Rich is an long-time friend of mine, and was active with TU in Colorado for many years before moving to the Portland, OR area a few years back. He was among those who said, "Yes, we can stop Two Forks!", and then helped to prove it. - Ed.}

New Members

Please join me in welcoming **Joseph Coyner, and Jason Gorsuch** 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: **341**

Randy Huiting

Kudos...

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

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

Ed.

The Evergreen Trout

CO Headwaters Chapter Helps The Frasier

CTU's newest chapter -- the Colorado River Headwaters Chapter in Grand County -- is already getting results for trout conservation. Through much of this summer, flows in the Frasier River and the Upper Colorado River have been alarmingly low, and anglers have reported high water temperatures in key reaches. In the midst of these problems, Denver Water has been using its water rights to divert large portions of the Frasier's native flows through the Moffat Tunnel for delivery to Gross Reservoir and the Front Range. While Denver has minimum flows below its diversions in the Frasier headwaters, they have the ability to reduce those minimums during drought periods when watering restrictions are in place for the Denver area.

When Denver relaxed its watering restrictions earlier this summer -- allowing an additional day for outdoor lawn watering -- members of the new chapter stepped forward to speak out for conservation. If Denver had enough water to relax restrictions, surely they could also provide enough water to meet their minimum flows on the Frasier watershed. The chapter composed a strong and thoughtful letter to the Denver Board of Water Commissioners, and in response learned that Denver had indeed restored its releases in the Frasier back to their full minimum flow commitments.

Unfortunately, even those flows are modest and that, combined with other diversions in the Frasier valley, continue to result in low flows and high temperatures in the lower reaches of the river. But the chapter's success in advocating for the upstream reaches - below Denver's diversions - has already demonstrated that they will be a strong and effective champion for the Frasier River fishery. Congratulations to CTU's "new kids on the block", and keep up the great work!

CTU Currents - August 2004

Colorado River Agreement Signed

According to the Washington Post (9/15/04), "The federal government and three western states joined forces yesterday to launch a **50-year, \$620 million project to restore wildlife habitat and protect endangered species** along 342 miles of the lower Colorado River that have been heavily stressed by development." According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the project to protect endangered species, restore habitat, create new marshes, forests and pools is "the largest river habitat project ever proposed under the Endangered Species Act." Environmental groups say the plan does not go far enough. "The federal government and the states are trying to apply a Band-Aid approach over a 50-year period, and I fear the Band-Aid won't last that long," said Jennifer Pitt, a scientist at Environmental Defense.

Greenlines (Endangered Species Coalition) - 9/15/04

Kids' Ideas Sought On T&E Protection

Mutual of Omaha is seeking essays from children between the ages of 9 and 12 for their 2005 Wild Kingdom Kids' Summit, according to a press release, 10/6. To enter, kids simply need to answer in a one-page essay: "**What threatened or endangered species in North America do you most want to save and how would you help save it?**" One aspiring conservationist from each state will be selected to attend the Kids' Summit in Los Angeles on May 4-6, 2005. For official rules and entry forms, kids and their parents can logon to <http://www.mutualofomaha.com>, or call (800) 754-9542.

Greenlines (Endangered Species Coalition) - 10/6/04



EVERGREEN TROUT UNLIMITED
MONTHLY PROGRAM
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2004



LOCATION: BEAU JO'S
(Downtown Evergreen, 303-670-2744)

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

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

PRESENTING THE OWNER OF YAMPA RIVER OUTFITTERS,

PAUL RUSSELL,

***"FLY FISHING NORTHWEST COLORADO—YAMPA RIVER,
ELK RIVER, & CATAMOUNT TAILWATERS"***



This evening presents a unique opportunity to learn the secrets of fly fishing northwest Colorado as Paul Russell brings his stories and expertise to town! Paul is the owner and head guide for Yampa River Outfitters, located in Steamboat Springs (operates primarily through The Steamboat Fishing Company). He's guided for over 9 years in the Yampa Valley, and has a long list of accomplishments: FFF certified casting instructor, Sage endorsed casting instructor, Simms field tester, Ross Pro staff, and is an Umpqua signature fly tier. Please join us for this informative and lively presentation about an area not far from our 'backyard' - you'll soon learn why Steamboat Springs has much more to offer than some of the best skiing in the country....



EVERGREEN TROUT UNLIMITED

SPECIAL PROGRAM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2004

LOCATION: United Methodist Church of Evergreen



PRESENTATION AT 7:00 P.M.

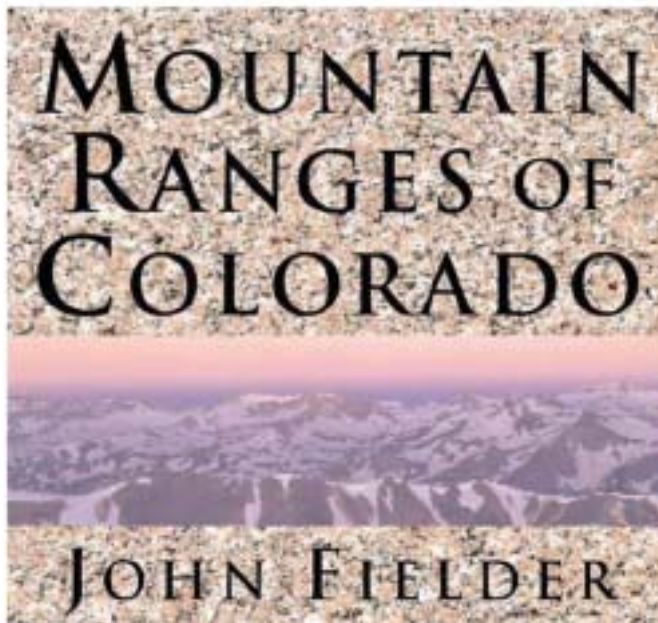
Admission \$10, Doors open at 6 P.M. DOOR PRIZES & REFRESHMENTS

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

Featuring Colorado's premier nature photographer,

John Fielder,

Presenting a night of spectacular photography and stories.



John Fielder has worked tirelessly to promote the protection of Colorado's open space and wild places. His photography has influenced people and legislation, earning him awards from many major conservation groups, including the Sierra Club's Ansel Adams Award. He was an original governor-appointed member of the Board of Great Outdoors Colorado, which uses lottery profits to protect open space and wildlife habitat. He speaks to thousands of people each year to rally support for land-use and environmental issues. John is the photographer of more than 30 exhibit-format and guide-books, all but four about Colorado.

Join us for this very special evening which will include a book signing at the end of the program.

John's newest book: "Mountain Ranges of Colorado." Fifteen years in the making, these images were created on the most remote and strenuous backpacking excursions of Fielder's career as a nature photographer. For the first time in any publication, this book delineates and celebrates the 28 distinct mountain ranges that define Colorado's Southern Rockies. Made with 65 pounds of large-format camera equipment, this collection of 200 mountain images manifests infinite and primal details not possible with any other camera.

New Threat To Greenbacks In RMNP

Ongoing studies by National Park Service and US Geological Survey scientists reveal that air and water quality in Rocky Mountain National Park are declining. Specifically, increased levels of nitrogen deposition in the park are saturating the Park's soils, and changing the pH balance in lakes and coldwater streams. **Annual nitrogen deposition levels in the park are now 15 times greater than pre-industrial, natural levels!** These pronounced increases, which have already begun to change algae species composition in Park streams, are disproportionately affecting the eastern side of the Park. The major sources of nitrogen pollution (usually in the form of NO_x or NH₃) are industrial emissions, motorized vehicle exhaust, and agriculture. Fortunately, as shown by the improvements in air quality achieved in Denver in the last 15 years, there are ways to reduce nitrogen and ozone producing emissions that would improve air and water quality in important fisheries such as Rocky Mountain National Park.

Rocky Mountain National Park is a fragile ecosystem in the sense that it has a naturally low acid buffering capacity. This means that as further nitrogen deposition occurs and waters begin to acidify, certain pH sensitive species such as trout may become the first victims of nitrogen loading. One recent Park publication stated, **"Eventually these resources become acidic and cease to support sensitive species such as fish."** The Park is the largest protected management area of the federally threatened Greenback Cutthroat Trout, Colorado's state fish and a species formerly on the brink of extinction. Dedicated Colorado Trout Unlimited members have already put some 7,000 volunteer hours into Greenback Cutthroat habitat restoration and conservation, but this work could be undermined if we do not act now to improve the Park's air and water quality.

Write a letter urging the US Department of the Interior to stop air and water quality degradation in Rocky Mountain National Park, and to protect sensitive Park resources such as the Greenback cutthroat trout from further nitrogen loading of soils and waters. **Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton is a former resident of Colorado**, so remind her how special the Park is and what it means to our state.

Ask Secretary Norton to:

1. Formally recognize the adverse air and water quality impacts in Rocky Mountain National Park.
2. Establish standard nitrogen levels for the Park that must not be exceeded.
3. Call for the Environmental Protection Agency and State of Colorado to lower nitrogen levels in the park and to prepare a plan to decrease inputs in the future.

Talking points for your letter:

- Park and USGS scientists have reported increased nitrogen loading that jeopardizes the Park's soils, lakes, and streams. Observations have also shown heightened levels of ozone in the area.
- Scientists believe that these increases, if not slowed and eventually remediated, could have serious adverse impacts on both ecosystem and human health.
- Ecological consequences of nitrogen loading are already evident, as species within different communities are changing.
- Federally threatened species such as the Greenback Cutthroat Trout could be put at further risk because of their sensitivity to these environmental factors.

Letters should be sent to:

Gale Norton, Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240
Phone: (202) 208-7351

CTU Action Alert

TU Helps Protect MT's Rocky Mountain Front

Thanks to cooperative efforts by the Coalition to Protect the Rocky Mountain Front, the Montana Wildlife Federation, The Wilderness Society, the Montana Wilderness Association, National Wildlife Federation, Trout Unlimited, landowners, businessmen and others, the US Department of Interior recently shelved a plan that would have opened up areas along Montana's Rocky Mountain Front to exploratory drilling for natural gas.

The proposal to allow drilling in the Blackleaf Canyon area of the Rocky Mountain Front evoked **strong opposition from an unusual coalition** of anglers, hunters, ranchers, outfitters and guides, Blackfeet tribal leaders, environmentalists and others. During a recent public scoping process conducted by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), more 49,000 Americans responded, with **93 percent of Montanans and 99 per-cent nationwide** urging the BLM to protect the Front and halt the drilling proposal. The Front has been rated in the top one percent of best wildlife habitat by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and provides important habitat for westslope cutthroat trout, elk, bighorn sheep, grizzly bears, wolves and other wildlife.

"We welcome this decision by the Department of Interior," said David Stalling, a western field coordinator for Trout Unlimited who focuses on energy issues from Missoula, MT. "It shows they have listened to the public, and that they recognize the value of this place to fish and wildlife, and hunters and anglers. **Our hope is that they will listen to similar public concerns** in other special, wild places, such as New Mexico's Valle Vidal and Colorado's Roan Plateau, among others."

TU Lines to Leaders - October 2004

CTU Supports Proposed Conservation Stamp

While the 2005 legislative session is five months away, and (until after elections) we do not even know all the senators and representatives who will serve in the General Assembly next year, it is never too early to be preparing. That is exactly what CTU and other outdoor groups are doing in working with the Colorado Division of Wildlife to develop a proposal for a State Conservation Stamp that would help provide a solid base of new funding for DOW programs to conserve and restore habitat. The concept of the stamp is to have a certificate required with all fishing and hunting licenses -- and also required for non-hunters and non-anglers who wish to recreate on DOW properties (such as birdwatchers, picnickers, etc.) -- that can provide reliable funding for habitat programs for big game, fisheries, waterfowl, small game, and non-game wildlife. At the moment, the proposal would call for a \$10 certificate - with only one certificate required per person regardless of how many different licenses they get. The funds generated by the new Colorado Wildlife Conservation Stamp would be managed by the DOW and Colorado Wildlife Commission, with guidance from an advisory panel from a variety of outdoor interests. It would provide an important opportunity to boost funding for habitat programs and to get participation from non-hunters and non-anglers in helping to fund the work of Colorado's Division of Wildlife. Look for more information on this proposal later this year and during the 2005 legislative session.

CTU Currents - August 2004

??? What's Happening ???

October 2004

- 20th (W) ETU Chapter Meeting
NOTE: New meeting place!!!
Beau Jo's (Evergreen) - 6:30p
Paul Russell, Steamboat Fishing Co
Flyfishing Northwestern Colorado
- 27th (W) ETU Board Meeting
Tuscany Tavern - 6:30p
- 29th (F) ETU FREE fishing day
Buchanan Ponds
Sign in at the new Rec Center

November 2004

- 13th (Sa) **** ETU Proudly Presents ****
******* John Fielder *******
Presenting his NEWEST book
Mountain Ranges of Colorado
Evergreen Methodist Church
Tickets are \$10 and are available
from any Board member
Doors open at 6:00p
Program at 7:00p
- 24th (W) ETU Board Meeting
Tuscany Tavern - 6:30p

Chapter Contacts

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------|
| The Prez | Rich Reynolds <joansew@aol.com> | 674-4861 |
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| 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 Ed/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 |
| At Large | Kirk Deeter <kirkdeeter@aol.com> | 838-8708 |
| At Large | Gary Rotolo <gdrotolodds@aol.com> | 679-1114 |
| Webmaster | Karen Christopherson <kc@coloradofishing.net> | 674-0252 |
| CTU Office | Various nice folks | 440-2937 |

Check us out 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.

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
- 2002 Outstanding Chapter Communications Award
- 2002 Exemplary Chapter Project Award



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