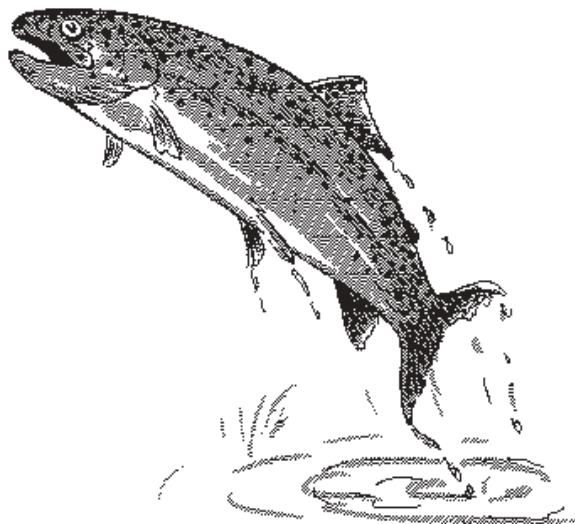


Electric

# The Evergreen Trout



April 2005 The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited Vol. 23 No. 4

## President's Drag-Free Drift

Well, I survived my first official month as Evergreen Trout Unlimited's President. To say the least, it has been fun and enlightening.

We had a great program put on by Dale Darling, owner of the St. Vrain Fly Shops. He agreed to help us at the last moment and in three days put together what I consider a great presentation with the underlying theme of "Let's Go Fishing". He made the observation that last year people were not getting out as much as before. An interesting fact Dale shared with us is that he helped Jim Cannon start the Blue Quill. I think he was one of the first guides.

Randy has setup some great programs for the upcoming months. See the calendar for more info. This month we are going to have Pat Higgins, Bear Creek Fly Fishing Company. His topic is "Organizing Your Fly Box". I know I need help.

Our Beginners fly-tying is off and running. We are going to have some vices set up this next meeting (6:00 PM) so you can actually try your hand tying a fly. When finished you will be able to keep the fly and fish it. There is nothing better than catching a fish on a fly you tied. I still have the ugly Hares Ear I tied that I caught a small brown on. It was one of those days you remember, like the first fish you caught flyfishing.

Good news! We received one of the final checks from the DOW for the Bear Creek Project. The chapter can now breathe a sigh of relief, as we are getting close to wrapping up the project. Remember we are having a Clean-up and Picnic Day on Saturday, May 7th. If you are planning to attend and have not signed up at the general meeting you need to contact me or one of the board members. We need to know how many of your family will be attending. Expect a fun day!

Our donated fly box for the CTU Auction netted a tidy \$110 bucks. A letter of thanks from CTU is included in this newsletter.

We have upcoming events that will require volunteers. Our Trappers Trip might fall on the same date as one of the Camp

Comfort weekends we annually commit to. Camp Comfort is a special event for kids that have lost a parent, parents, or have had some other tragedy in their family. I am going to lead the Camp Comfort volunteers, so if you are not planning on Trappers, please contact me to help with Camp Comfort. You will not regret this experience.

Two Saturdays ago, there was quite an onslaught at Buchanan Ponds. Three Reynolds brothers, yes three, our VP Ken, our president (me), and a friend were all fishing the lower pond in various crafts. The fishing was sporadic but when one was caught it was a nice size rainbow, all over 15 inches. My friend caught a 20 incher and Rich said there was a 24 incher caught a couple days earlier. At one time Mike Reynolds caught at least four fish in a ten minute period. He said it must be a honey hole. We could not move him with a stick of dynamite. Where's the sharing? Seriously the lower pond produced some nice fish. Rich said the upper was still a little cold but some smaller fish were caught.

The board is trying to work with the Evergreen Rec. District to obtain one or more additional free days on Buchanan Ponds. It may involve more participation on ETU's part. In the mean time, when you fish the ponds, please pickup trash and report any violations of the ponds' rules to the Rec. Center staff.

**Question of the Month: (three parts)** What year did Lefty Kreh start flyfishing, what is his real name, and what town and state did he grow up in? The same as last month; the first person to give me the answer wins a half-dozen flies tied by yours truly. (Again board members are excluded)

**Last month's answer and winner:** The Guadalupe River TU Chapter in Texas with over 4,300 members. Mickey Williams had the answer. I tied him half-dozen foam Carpenter Ants and one Cow Killer Ant. Mickey, I hope you can catch some fish on these creations. They do work when nothing else seems to.

Hope you are having a good month and the tax man isn't too mean.

Hal

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

## March Board Meeting

Update on the O'Fallon Park Bear Creek restoration project: The next-to-final reimbursement payment from the state has been received, earlier than expected. The final, smaller, payment will come once the kiosk at the park and the video documenting the project are complete. An article on the stream improvement project is expected in the Spring issue of Trout magazine.

Len Wheaton reported that the next fly tying class for students at the Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab is Wednesday, May 4th. Volunteers welcomed. Call Len if you can help.

John Haile reported on a meeting with the Evergreen Metro District regarding water flows in Bear Creek during a drought. EMD has new guidelines in place and has made improvements to the treatment plant just east of downtown, however, there are no provisions for keeping water in the creek through downtown when water flows from Upper Bear Creek reach very low levels. John said it will be important for ETU to monitor weather conditions and water flows and to work with EMD for the earliest possible implementation of water restrictions when flows from Upper Bear Creek are curtailed, so that water can continue to flow into Lower Bear Creek.

The fly box filled with flies tied by ETU members and donated for the Colorado TU auction brought more than \$100. The ETU online book auction has brought in more than \$60. A few books are still available. Check the web site.

The fly tying programs at the regular meetings have been very well received. The flies tied during the demonstrations will be given away at the end of the program to a name drawn from an ETU hat.

The Spring cleanup and picnic at O'Fallon Park is set for May 7. A large number of people have signed up. A sign-up sheet will be circulated again in April. Anyone who may not be at the meeting but wanting to help may call Hal.

Mike Goldblatt reported that periodic fishing trips will be scheduled, generally on the second weekend following the regular monthly ETU meeting. The timing will allow people to sign up and plan for what will normally be Saturday trips. The first trip is being planned to the Arkansas River for the weekend of April 30. Other trips under consideration include Cheesman Canyon in May and Clear Creek private water in June.

The annual ETU trip to Trappers Lake will likely be in late June this year, depending on the callabaetis hatch. Ron Belak is going to check on whether the lodge is to re-open this year.

ETU will have a booth at the Earth Day Fair on April 23.

Youth events scheduled for the summer: Buchanan Pond class June 11; July 4 fishing at Evergreen Lake; Camp Comfort June 25/26 and July 30/31.

John Haile

## The Evergreen Trout

### CTU Thanks You!!!

Thank you for your donation to Colorado Trout Unlimited's annual auction. With your generous support, our 2005 auction was a great success, raising more than \$37,000 for trout conservation. The proceeds we raised through your donation will be invested directly in our programs to conserve, protect, and restore trout streams - from on the ground projects for habitat improvement to partnerships with government agencies to promote responsible conservation. We will also acknowledge your contribution in *High Country Angler* sent to our 8,500 CTU members and distributed to thousands of other anglers through fishing and sporting good stores. Colorado Trout Unlimited is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations to CTU are tax deductible under IRS regulations.

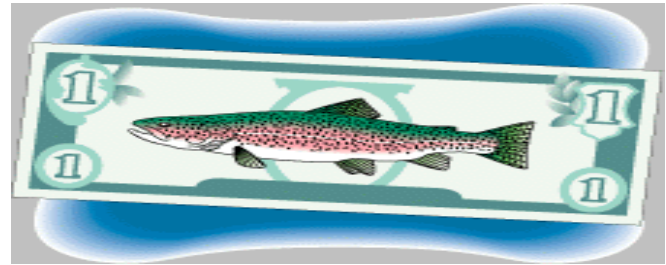
Our records show that you contributed the following for use with our annual auction:

A custom made wood fly box w/laser engraving and five dozen flies

Your support for CTU's conservation efforts is deeply appreciated. If you have any questions regarding the auction or about CTU's programs in general, please call me at (303) 440-2937 x12. Thank you again for your generous support!

Sincerely,

David Nickum - CTU Executive Director



### Trappers Lake Trip

ETU has traditionally held its Trappers Lake Trip on the weekend following the Fourth of July. Fishing on this particular weekend has not been ideal for the past several years mainly because our timing has been a little off. Due to the early ice-outs and drought conditions over the past several years, we have visited Trappers in the waning days of the Callibaetis hatches, rather than the initial days of the hatches, during which the bugs are generally more prolific and the fish are more reckless. My check of snowpack conditions at Trappers indicates that this year is probably going to be another early ice-out and that the Callibaetis hatches will be early. Hence, the ETU Trappers Lake Subcommittee is considering moving up the trip to the last weekend in June, depending upon how much additional snow we get in April. We will have a firm date in the next newsletter.

Ron Belak

### Kudos...

...to Hal Garwood, the entire Huiting family, and Len Wheaton for their help with the newsletter.

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

Ed.

## Update On Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab

Our small group of ETU volunteers who provide the talent to instruct the 6th grade youngsters (essentially 12 year olds) eager to learn about flytying and flyfishing are already booked for three mornings in May.

Teacher Sue Shucard of Hutchinson Elementary called in February to assure their position in our schedule on Wednesday morning, May 4th. And teacher Carrie Jordan of Normandy Elementary said she had 45 students asking for us and could we do 3 sessions for her? We promised her two morning sessions on May 24th and 25th.

The sessions are approximately 3 hours each from 8:45a to 11:50a. The introduction to flytying usually consumes about 2 hours and then the group scurries to the Lab's Jackson Pond and fishes their newly created flies for about an hour.

Over the last year we had these faithful members contributing their time and expertise to help our youth: Ford Oliphant, Dave Underwood, Phil Waters, Mike Goldblatt, John Haile, Craig Dunham, and Len Wheaton. And in years past there were Steve Murray, Rich Reynolds, Tim Haller, Karen Christopherson, Wayne Kosloske and John Ellis who started the program.

Really, guys and gals, we can use a few more of you to help manage the kids!! You need only to like to work with these fine boys and girls for 3 hours on an occasional morning. If you know anything about tying, fine. But if you do not that is fine also. What we offer is very beginning rudiments of flytying and an opportunity to "go fishing." It is as much fun for the instructors as it is for the kids!

### Here's how it works at the Lab:

ETU's group of instructors gather at The Barn, which houses the room, aquaria and tying table, at 8:30a. We mount the tying vises and position the chairs and tying materials for our 'ideal class' of ten students. Sometimes we get 12 kids in the class so we squeeze them in! It would be neat to have enough instructors to be two kids to each adult helper.

The students are offered a brief welcome and intro to the subject and tools and then at least two, sometimes three or four, fly patterns are demonstrated, one at a time. After each demo the kids proceed to tie that fly with coaching from us. Only the simplest fly patterns with easy techniques are attempted.

There is an easy and very informal exchange of questions, information and banter.

As we approach the 10:45 hour we finish up the tying and herd the class downhill to the pond where they fish their hand-ties to the rainbow trout population. This is done on spinning rods with casting bubbles. We do not try to make fly casters of this beginning class. There are usually a few fish caught and released. The students finish just before noon and hurry off to lunch.

The tying room is quickly tidied up, and the instructors who wish to remain and join the lunch crowd are welcome. They are treated as special guests in the dining hall.

That's all there is to it!

Please call (303) 674-4243 and get involved to any degree you wish.

Thanks!

Len Wheaton

## Upcoming Programs

In April, Pat Higgins of the Bear Creek Fly Fishing Company, will present "Organizing Your Fly Box" - a great Winter topic to get everyone ready for Spring and Summer. Pat will discuss the various types of fly boxes, types of flies, different 'systems' that both beginners and experts can use to organize and stock their fly boxes to make your time on the stream both more enjoyable and productive. Pat is an accomplished fly tier, rod builder, casting instructor, and guide, who is very familiar with the surrounding waters, from Bear Creek, Clear Creek, Colorado River, Arkansas River, Clear Creek near Georgetown Tarryall Creek, The Fraser river (Winter Park), Middle Fork of the South Platte, and North Park Streams. While he won't specifically be discussing these streams during the presentation, he'll field questions about how, when and where to fly fish them as well as how to stock your fly box for them.

May: Todd Hosman, does a return performance after about a 3 year hiatus, with "Fly Fishing Colorado's Front Range," which will also correspond to Greg's newly released updated book of the same title.

June: Ron Belak, is always one of our best presenters. Ron's program will nicely compliment May's program and prime everyone for the annual Trappers trip! Ron will be presenting, "Fly Fishing the High Lakes in Colorado's Front Range."

July: No general meeting, annual Trappers trip.

Randy Huiting

## Fraser River Endangered

American Rivers has listed the Fraser River in Grand County, Colorado, as the third most endangered river in the United States for 2005.

The Fraser, at healthy flows, is a Blue Ribbon trout stream. In fact, the Fraser was President Eisenhower's favorite fishing water.

Diversions from the Fraser River have had a dramatic impact on the river, reducing its flow by as much as 65%. At times the upper Fraser is almost completely dewatered. Yet current plans would divert even more water from the Fraser and take it to Front Range cities.

Colorado Trout Unlimited and Trout Unlimited's Colorado Water Project (CWP) join American Rivers in expressing grave concern about the future of the Fraser, indeed, for the entire upper Colorado River Basin.

Both Denver Water and the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District have plans to take more water from the Fraser and upper Colorado Rivers and move it over the Continental Divide for the rapidly growing Front Range. How these increased diversions are built and operated will determine the fate of these rivers and their Gold Medal fisheries.

Colorado Trout Unlimited and the CWP are actively involved in the planning process for these new diversions and are working to ensure that all potential adverse impacts to the Fraser and upper Colorado are considered and minimized before the new diversions come online.

For more on this story, visit the Colorado Trout Unlimited web site at [www.cotrout.org](http://www.cotrout.org).

**??? What's Happening ???**April 2005

- 20th (W) ETU Chapter Meeting  
**6:00p Fly tying - Join us before the meeting for Fly Tying with ETU's finest Go ahead, give it a try. ALL are welcome!**  
 6:30p Dinner and chapter business  
 7:00p Pat Higgins - Organizing Your Fly Box
- 27th (W) ETU Board Meeting  
 Beau Jo's - 6:30p

May 2005

- 4th 6th graders at Outdoor Lab  
 Contact Len Wheaton if you can help on the 24th and/or 25th too!
- 18th (W) ETU Chapter Meeting  
**6:00p Fly tying - Join us before the meeting for Fly Tying with ETU's finest Go ahead, give it a try. ALL are welcome!**  
 6:30p Dinner and chapter business  
 7:00p Todd Hosman - Fly Fishing Colorado's Front Range
- 25th (W) ETU Board Meeting  
 Beau Jo's - 6:30p

New Members

Please join me in welcoming Steve Harvath, Rob Gibboney, Dewayne Neel, Todd Rezac, Dean Hittle, Jessica Neumiller, Al Mach, John Frederick, Charles Penrod, Roger Felch, Michael Schmidt, T Hood, Charlie Szekely, Chad Sessions, Russell Bennetts, Robert J Murdock, Philip Beranato, Chad Bowers, Ursula Smith, Thomas Minyard, and John Tighe 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: 388

Randy Huiting

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On the web - [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org); [www.cotrout.org](http://www.cotrout.org); [www.evergreentroutr.org](http://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.

**Evergreen Trout Unlimited**  
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 2000 Outstanding Youth Education Program Award



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