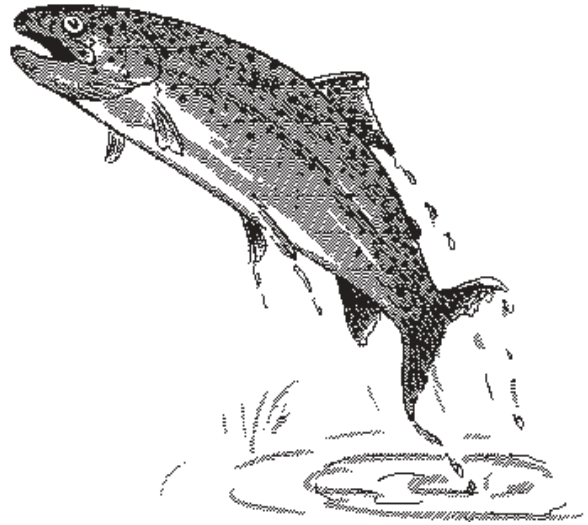


# The Evergreen Trout



September 2005 The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited Vol. 23 No. 9

## President's Drag Free Drift

As a follow-up to last month's column, I am going to continue to talk about volunteerism. On Saturday, September 24th, Evergreen Trout Unlimited will dedicate the O'Fallon Park Stream Restoration Project. This puts the final punctuation on the largest undertaking ETU has ever done. It still is headed up by our past president Rich Reynolds. There were many volunteer hours spent on this project. The obvious volunteer time included the auction, the actual restoration work, the clean-up, etc. What was not so obvious was the "behind the scenes" work. There were many board meetings, special meetings, paperwork by the reams, meeting with officials, and numerous other obligations that had to be performed to get this approved and completed. My hat is off to everybody involved.

Along with the dedication we are going to participate in a state-wide Trout Unlimited Rivers Clean-up. Our river will obviously be Bear Creek both in town and at O'Fallon Park. We need volunteers! The dedication will be at 10:00a, and there will be invited dignitaries present. The clean-up will start at 8:00a and after the dedication and clean-up we will be serving hot dogs/brats, chips, cookies, and soft drinks. **PLEASE COME OUT AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT.**

We also need volunteers to help us the next weekend, Saturday, October 1st. It is our annual support of the Mount Evans Outdoor Lab Open House. We cook and serve hot dogs and fixings for the masses. We need to get there by 10:00a and plan on staying at least till 2:00p. In the past we have had only five to seven people show up and this puts a strain on our old bones. It would be nice to have at least ten people so we can take a break and get off our feet.

In the last board meeting, I brought up an idea which was unanimously approved. Next year the Buchanan free days are only going to be available for volunteers in our organization. Everybody who has volunteered this year will be on the initial list starting in 2006. We are going to keep an updated list at the Buchanan Recreational District Office and only people

who have helped with ETU's activities will be permitted to fish for free at Buchanan Ponds. The reason we have this perk is that we help with the Buchanan Recreational District's Fishing Camp for Kids. It takes at least 10 people for this event alone. The volunteers that qualify will be for those who help with any event we sponsor (i.e. river clean-ups, auctions, fly-tying clinics, special programs, etc.) There will be a sign-up list at every event. After the event we will update the master list and give it to the district. If you volunteer in 2006 your name will be kept on the list for the 2007. If you do not volunteer in 2006 your name will be dropped until you volunteer again. The updated list will also be published in the newsletter. This is the board's way of thanking the numerous volunteers that keep the Evergreen Trout Unlimited Organization running.

The program for the upcoming general meeting, Wednesday, September 21st is going to be about Bear Creek. Our local District Wildlife Manager and several of our local experts are going to talk about Bear Creek's regulations, access points, hot spots, and what is needed to be successful fishing the stream. We are also going to start up our fly tying instruction again at 6:00p.

Have any of you lost track of the line weight of a fly line? I know I have. I am a gadget guy, and last year I bought a scale for determining line weights. If you have some lines sitting around without a label on them, bring them to the meeting and see what weight they really are. Here is what you need to do: measure the first 30 feet of your line, yes the first 30 feet determines the weight of the line, make five loose loops of the 30 feet and bring the line to the meeting. I will have my scale there, and I will weigh your line. Oh, for Wayne, don't cut the line at 30 feet, just mark it. Ha! Ha!

Hope everybody has a good Fall -- it's my favorite time to fish.

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!

## August Board Meeting

Details of the O'Fallon Park kiosk installation and project dedication on September 24th were reviewed. It was agreed to start the Bear Creek cleanup at 8:00a that day.

A new microphone for the sound system was tested. Also, Beau Jo's will be contacted about possibly installing a folding door to help hold down sound at the back.

Hal said volunteers are still needed for the October 1st Open House at the Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab. A signup sheet will be circulated at the next meeting. ETU will be cooking.

Randy reviewed the rest of the year's programs, all of which are now scheduled. The annual ETU holiday party will likely be scheduled for either December 3rd or 10th.

The John Fielder event is set for the evening of November 12th, at the United Methodist Church. Tickets will be \$10. A small silent auction will be held as a fundraiser. Some food will be included for guests.

The board heard reports of various steps different interest groups are taking in response to the EPA's ruling declaring Bear Creek an impaired water, but voted against setting up a committee of its own to monitor the situation and propose actions that ETU should be taking to make sure the ruling is not overturned. The decision was to let Colorado Trout Unlimited play the lead role.

Hal will work with Mike Goldblatt to secure from the Division of Wildlife fishing reg signs for Bear Creek. ETU will handle installation.

Hal suggested the board consider for 2006 a plan that links the free fishing days at Buchanan Pond to volunteer work for ETU. He said few people have made the voluntary \$5 contributions for using the extra days this year, as was agreed when ETU contributed to stocking the pond. He will solicit other views and bring the issue back to the Board.

John Haile

## CTU Hosts TU National Meeting

Colorado Trout Unlimited will once again be hosting the Trout Unlimited national meeting -- the final year of a three-year run for the meeting in Denver. While the meeting will include business meetings for the National Leadership Council and the Board of Trustees, there will also be portions of broader interest for TU volunteers and supporters. First, on Thursday, September 8th, CTU will lead a full-day conservation tour to Severy Creek - site of an innovative restoration project for greenback cutthroat trout -- and to Elevenmile Canyon, to see the "Trees for Trout" project work taking place there. On Friday, September 9th, at the Adams Mark hotel in downtown Denver, the day will begin with the annual membership meeting and TU President Charles Gauvin's "State of TU" report (8:30 - 10:30a). At noon, the annual awards luncheon will be held to honor volunteers and partners for their contributions to trout conservation nationwide. In the evening, at Denver's Confluence Park, attendees and other guests will gather for a barbecue next to the South Platte River. The membership meeting is open, but registration is required for the tour, luncheon, or barbecue. If you would like to attend, please contact Sally Armstrong at [sarmstrong@tu.org](mailto:sarmstrong@tu.org) or 703-284-9410. CTU Currents - August 2005

## Operation Game Thief

To contact Operation Game Thief, phone: 1-877-COLO-OGT (1-877-265-6648); e-mail: [game.thief@state.co.us](mailto:game.thief@state.co.us); Verizon cell: #OGT; or write: Operation Game Thief, Colorado Division of Wildlife, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216. For more information visit <http://wildlife.state.co.us/OGT/>.

You may also contact our CDOW District Wildlife Manager, Dawson Swanson at (303) 291-7227 (Dispatch) or (303) 291-7155 (Voicemail).

## The Evergreen Trout

### O'Fallon Park Project Dedication AND.... Annual Bear Creek Clean-up

On Saturday, September 24th, ETU will host the formal dedication of our extensive stream restoration and improvement project, completed this year. The actual dedication will commence at 10:00a, but we're asking all volunteers to arrive at 8:00a to do a quick park cleanup -- taking down some of the orange protective fencing, etc. Our new kiosk/interpretive sign will be unveiled as well.

This date is timely as it coincides with **Colorado Trout Unlimited's (CTU) 2nd Annual Statewide Rivers Cleanup**, and it also happens to be **National Public Lands Day**. As such, we'll be just some of the many volunteers -- 90,000 across the country last year -- out building trails and bridges, planting trees, picking up trash, and more. Other Colorado chapter events are:

**September 10th:** Roaring Fork River Cleanup - Ferdinand Hayden Chapter; Eagle River Cleanup - Ferdinand Hayden Chapter (with Eagle River Watershed Council). **September 24th:** Boulder Creek Cleanup - Boulder Flycasters; Big Thompson Cleanup - Alpine Anglers and Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapters; NIMBY Fest/South Platte River Cleanup (in Denver) - Wild Trout Chapter (with Greenway Foundation); South Platte Elevenmile Canyon Cleanup - Cheyenne Mountain Chapter; Bear Creek Cleanup - Evergreen Chapter; Upper Colorado River Cleanup - Colorado River Headwaters Chapter; Arkansas River Cleanup - Collegiate Peaks Chapter; Gunnison River Cleanup - Gunnison Angling Society Chapter; Clear Creek Cleanup - Cherry Creek Chapter, Cutthroat Chapter, and West Denver Chapter. **October 8th:** Blue River Cleanup/Make a Difference Day - Gore Range Chapter

This \$185,000 project stands, by far, as the biggest endeavor ETU has ever undertaken. Hopefully, numerous **local/county/state dignitaries will be in attendance** including representatives from CTU, Denver Mountain Parks, the Division of Wildlife, and more. **We really need to have a large ETU turn-out at this event, so please plan to attend. Those of you who haven't already signed up, PLEASE e-mail or call Rich or Hal if you can attend, so we can get an accurate count for food, etc.** Speaking of food, Steve Murray and crew will be serving hot dogs, chips, cookies, and soft drinks afterwards, so don't miss out!!!

A few volunteers will be needed to conduct project tours for the attending dignitaries. Nothing fancy, just basically show them the before/during pictures and the final results. Who knows? You may have the opportunity to say, "I helped plant that tree, and by the way, did you know that *<insert question here>???*" to someone you might not otherwise have face-to-face access to...

Again, **PLEASE try to let us know if you will be attending this event so that we can get our order in -- free t-shirts (courtesy of CTU - see insert) will be given out while supplies (based on the aforementioned order) last.**

Rich Reynolds

### Kudos...

...to **Hal Garwood, Ken Neubecker, Ken and Michelle Wilbert, and John Haile** for their help with the newsletter.

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

Ed.

# THE GREAT COLORADO RIVERS CLEANUP



BROUGHT TO YOU BY COLORADO TROUT UNLIMITED &  
YOUR EVERGREEN CHAPTER FEATURING THE  
CLEANUP OF BEAR CREEK!

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> 2005**

CONTACT EVERGREEN REP. RICH REYNOLDS AT 303-674-4861  
JOANSEW@AOL.COM



**EVERGREEN TROUT UNLIMITED**  
**MONTHLY PROGRAM**  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2005**



**LOCATION: BEAU JO'S**  
**(Downtown Evergreen, 303-70-2744)**

**DINNER 6:30 PM, CHAPTER BUSINESS AT 7:00 P.M., FREE PRESENTATION AT 7:15 P.M.**

**\*\*\*FREE FLY TYING LESSONS @ 6:00 P.M.\*\*\*** [www.evergreentroutrout.org](http://www.evergreentroutrout.org)

## *“Fly Fishing Bear Creek”*

**Featuring Dawson Swanson, Hugh Gardner, and Mike Goldblatt**

Our monthly program takes on a new format this month, featuring a panel of experts, beginning with Dawson Swanson, district wildlife manager for the **DOW** in Evergreen. Dawson will provide a detailed overview of the fishing regulations for Bear Creek. Then, our two resident Bear Creek fly fishing maniacs, Hugh Gardner and Mike Goldblatt, will discuss everything to get you started: public access points (from Upper Bear Creek to Morrison), how the seasons affect how you fish Bear Creek, what type of trout are in what sections of the river, what flies to use when and where, what fly fishing technique is best for what time of year and what section of the river, what type of bugs are found on what sections of the river. Pretty much they'll cover it all, and if they miss something in their discussion, you'll have an opportunity to ask!



*Find out if Rich Reynolds really caught this 'bow in Bear Creek!*



## CTU Fights For Water Quality Regs

When Congress passed the Energy Bill of 2005, there was little notice made of one benefit created for the oil and gas industry. Oil and gas development is now exempt from requirements of the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. The industry now enjoys a free pass from federal regulation when it comes to polluting our rivers, streams, ground water or domestic water supplies.

Colorado still has the ability, through our Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC), to impose more stringent standards and regulations on the oil and gas industry if there is a compelling reason and sufficient evidence. The compelling reason lies in protecting public health, safety and the environment. The evidence lies in the fact that oil and gas development is no different than any other polluting industry or developer. Gravity and rain still work to erode disturbed soils and wash pollutants into our streams, no matter who owns the bulldozer. Disturbance of land for oil and gas development is no different from disturbances by any other developer -- and other developers are expected to comply with storm water discharge regulations.

Back in March the WQCC felt strongly enough about both the need and the evidence to take action, and they ruled that the oil and gas industry must comply with state's Storm Water Discharge regulations as of June 30. The Colorado Oil and Gas Association (COGA) promptly sued to have the ruling overturned by judicial review. CTU and our partners in the West Slope Water Network (WSWN) filed to intervene in support of the WQCC. After the Energy Bill was passed, COGA offered to stay their suit if the WQCC would hold another hearing in January to revisit its ruling. The WQCC agreed and in January there will be a new rulemaking hearing. The Oil and Gas industry will be there in force, and CTU and the WSWN must do the same. CTU is already working to gather crucial evidence and gaining the support of many West Slope counties and municipalities as well.

For now the ruling requiring storm water compliance for oil and gas development is still in force and is "the law of the land", although compliance is sketchy. Aerial surveillance of drilling pads and construction sites in Garfield County quickly reveals that many of the operators are disregarding the requirements. Steep fill slopes are deeply etched by gullies, washouts and collapsing sides from the recent monsoonal rains. Sediment and other industrial contaminants are open to run freely into streams and rivers. The Town of Parachute had its irrigation system choked off by sediment washing in from a recent storm on Parachute Creek. The concentration of wells and drilling pads is extremely high in the Parachute Creek drainage, on the steep sides and top of the Roan Plateau north and west of town.

Some of the operators are doing a good job of containing the sediment and pollution from their sites, but many are not. As the drilling increases so does the threat to cold water resources and our drinking water supplies. It is anticipated that another 4000 wells will be drilled in Colorado alone before the end of this year.

CTU is working hard to make sure that the Storm Water Discharge regulations currently in place are not removed. We are also working to improve enforcement of these regulations. The simple preventative measures needed to address storm water discharges are easy to put into place and are hardly cost-prohibitive. There is no reason for oil and gas development to be exempted.

CTU, Chapters and members are encouraged to support the WQCC and urge them to maintain the regulations which they have put in place. Let the Commission know that they did the right thing, and should continue to do so! Letters can be sent to the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission at 4300 Cherry Creek Dr. South, Denver, CO 80246-1530. Please send or e-mail a copy of your letter to CTU as well!

Ken Neubecker - CTU West Slope Organizer

## TU Project To Help Upper Arkansas

Trout Unlimited's Abandoned Mineland Restoration Program staff continues to enjoy a busy summer while rapidly expanding our abandoned mineland pilot restoration and research projects throughout the West.

Here in Colorado, things have been moving full-steam ahead with the development of a pilot project at a location known as Colorado Gulch. Colorado Gulch is a tributary to the Lake Fork of the Upper Arkansas River, not far from Leadville. Under the guidance and leadership of the Collegiate Peaks Chapter and Vice President Mark Cole, we have carefully prepared a project proposal and strategy to deal with the acid mine drainage impacting the Lake Fork and, ultimately, the Arkansas itself just downstream. In addition to the Collegiate Peaks Chapter, the Colorado Gulch project team consists of the Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Mountain College and its Natural Resources Management Institute, the Lake Fork Watershed Working Group, and a local private landowner.

Funding for the first phase of this project's implementation has been solicited from state and private granting programs. As it stands, it looks like we'll have enough funding committed in order to begin working on Colorado Gulch in earnest next project season. This abandoned mineland restoration project has gone from a) identifying a very challenging problem, b) conceptualizing possible remediation alternatives, c) drafting project plans and to, d) securing at least partial funding... All in less than one year. This is a testament to the project team, and in particular the commitment of Collegiate Peaks volunteers and their excellent reputation as effective project partners serving the watershed and its communities. We're excited to begin reporting on project progress in future issues.

The Abandoned Mineland Restoration Program was further bolstered in late July with the approval of \$450,000 over the next three years to fund the completion of our American Fork Canyon restoration project, and expanding subsequent pilot initiatives focusing on a unique collaborative approach to restoring abandoned mine sites in two to three additional watersheds. The American Fork Canyon work has been made possible in part by a willing private landowner partner who happens to also own Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort. Snowbird and TU will be working together to develop an outreach and education strategy highlighting that partnership and the restored water quality in the canyon viewable from atop the Snowbird summit. I am happy to report that our expanded effort is very likely to include a Colorado watershed in partnership with a major resort. More details will be available soon!

In other news, we're excited to soon unveil a new web-based abandoned mineland restoration resource through [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org). The website, which should be up and running by early Fall, features case studies, diagrams, photos and a wealth of indexed information and references -- all designed to provide interested Chapters and Councils with the resources necessary to begin tackling abandoned hard rock mine issues in their watersheds. Look for an announcement in the coming weeks and let us know what you think.

Finally, it is with gratitude that we wish Carol Russell well and regretfully send her back to the Environmental Protection Agency. During her year of service to Trout Unlimited and our Abandoned Mineland Restoration work, Carol's experiences and working relationships paved the way for this program to make quantum leaps in both growth and effectiveness. In return, Carol was able to meet and work with a number of Trout Unlimited volunteers. She has even been able to get out fishing a time or two. Though her official time with TU is over, we're confident that Carol's support of TU's coldwater conservation mission has just begun. Please join me in thanking Carol for her dedication and commitment to Trout Unlimited.

Thanks again for all that you do as CTU members and volunteers. Please get in touch if you have any abandoned mineland restoration questions -- or with any good fishing stories or fly patterns to share.

Russ Schnitzer - TU Abandoned Mineland Restoration Program

??? What's Happening ???

September 2005

- 7th (W) Mount Evans Outdoor Lab fly tying classes
- 20th (Tu) Mount Evans Outdoor Lab fly tying classes  
**Please, call Len if you can help with either of these dates!!!**
- 21st (W) ETU Chapter Meeting  
6:00p Pre-meeting fly tying demo  
6:30p Dinner and chapter business  
7:00p Fishing Bear Creek - Several local experts will share their knowledge of our "home water"
- 23rd (F) ETU fishing day at Buchanan Ponds  
and 24th (Sa) You **must** sign in at the Rec Center
- 24th (Sa) O'Fallon Park Dedication \*\*\*\* !!! PLUS !!! \*\*\*\*  
Bear Creek Cleanup, in conjunction with CTU's 2nd Annual Statewide Rivers Cleanup  
Festivities start in O'Fallon Park at 8:00a  
Lunch provided by the Murray's and ETU!!!  
**CALL Rich to sign up TODAY!!!**
- 28th (W) ETU Board Meeting  
Beau Jo's - 6:30p

October 2005

- 1st (Sa) Mount Evans Outdoor Lab Open House  
10:00a - 2:00p Meet the new Principal, Sandy Stevens, and help ETU feed the parents, students and staff at the Lab  
**Please, call Len if you can help!!!**
- 19th (W) ETU Chapter Meeting  
6:00p Pre-meeting demo TBA  
6:30p Dinner and chapter business  
7:00p Mike McCormick of Wolf Creek Anglers Fly Fishing the Rio Grande
- 26th (W) ETU Board Meeting  
Beau Jo's - 6:30p

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

The Electric Evergreen Trout

If you or someone you know would like to receive the electronic version of our newsletter (**Anyone, not just TU/ETU members**), send me an e-mail and I'll get you/them on the "E" list! Remember, the electronic version is in **color**, **AND** it saves valuable chapter funds for other uses!!! -Tim

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