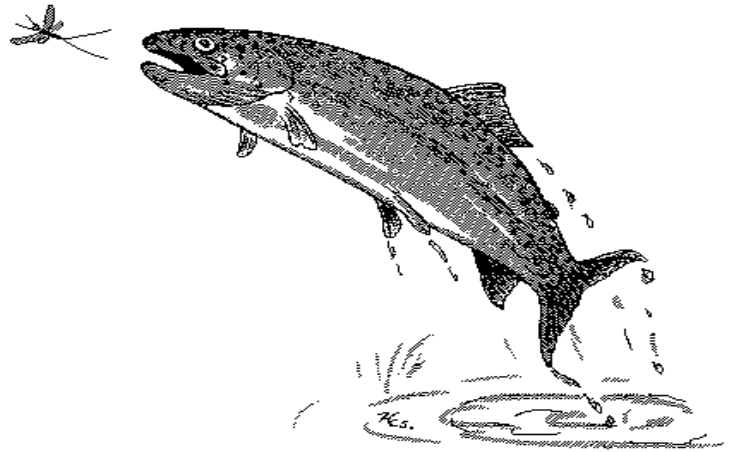


The Evergreen Trout



January 2007

The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Vol. 25 No. 1

The President's Drag Free Drift

A new year is upon us. I wish everyone a prosperous (many trout) and Happy New Year. ETU had an uneventful but good 2006. All of our youth programs went off without a hitch because we had ample volunteers this year. We had sixty-one people volunteering their time which makes our programs very successful. Let's see if we can make 2007 an even better year. Later in the newsletter will be the list of volunteers we had in 2006. All are eligible for the free days on Buchanan Ponds.

I would like to personally thank Lisa and Randy Huiting for opening up their home for our Christmas Party. It was a great success even though I was late with the smoked turkey. I believe this was the biggest crowd since I have been a member. We awarded Tim Haller the Man of the Year. I do not know how we did it, but he was actually surprised. He received dozens of flies, big ones, and dries that we thought he did not know how to tie. I also made him an extra large fly box so he could hold them. Tim, as everybody knows, is most deserving. He has been and still will be dedicated to the success of ETU and TU. Thanks again, Tim. (PS - We need to also thank Jill, Tim's lovely wife, for putting up with all the time Tim has dedicated to ETU and TU.)

We have been discussing different projects, like O'Fallon, to tackle either in '07 or '08. There has not been one we all are keen on, so I would like to have input from the general membership. It does not have to be a stream restoration project, just a project that goes along with the TU mandate.

As everybody knows, the newsletter is now electronic. We are still going to print some hardcopies to put in some of the fly shops and businesses here in Evergreen and surrounding areas. Now that we do not have page restrictions on content, I know Tim Stechert would like to have input from both the board and the general membership. It could be a new fly that is really working, a fishing trip that was

really enjoyable, a local fishing hole that is really producing (fat chance we will have that input), or any non-political conservation issues. I also want to start some advertising in the newsletter. We have not decided on a format yet but a new young member, TW Stites, attended our last board meeting and presented some good ideas. We are always open for new ideas.

I would like to welcome a new board member, Jim Wilborn. Jim is a retired school teacher and has been volunteering for our Mt Evans Outdoor Lab fly tying for about a year now. Jim has been fly fishing for a number of years. In fact he taught Mary Bartholomew how to fly fish. The next time you see Jim, congratulate him and encourage him about how good it is that he is president (just kidding).

If you missed our last speaker, Barry Reynolds, you missed a lot of fun. He talked about Carp on a Fly and had some pictures of monster ugly carp. I rigged up a couple of years ago to fish for carp after I met Barry. Unfortunately, I have not been able to pursue this freshwater bonefish but I plan to. Barry is going to have a cable show starting this January on the FSN or ALT Network. I believe it will be very interesting.

This month we were going to have our very own Ron Belak as presenter. But because of unexpected scheduling conflicts, Ron has to postpone his program until February. Our resourceful program coordinator, Randy Huiting, is searching for a replacement program. I'm sure Randy will find a great alternative. So please come to the January meeting.

In the last newsletter, I told everybody about losing our seven year old Chocolate Lab Chaz. In the past, Sandi and I have waited a long time before we would get a new puppy. Well this time, Sandi has gone back to work and I work from home, so it was really lonely. I got on the internet and started searching for an adult dog that we might rescue. At first I had no luck. Then I found a breeder in Glenwood Springs who was looking for a home for their female chocolate lab they were retiring. Here is where it gets interesting. This breeder bred Labradoodle which is a cross be-

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

The President's Drag Free Drift (cont'd)

tween a lab and poodle. This particular female was four years old and had three litters starting when she was two. I did a little more research and found out that this designer dog, a Labradoodle, sells for \$1500 each. I said, "Oh my gosh! A designer mixed mutt!" The only way we could get this dog was by signing a spay contract. I made a trip over to Glenwood Springs, saw the dog, fell in love with her, brought her back, had her spayed and now we have a new member in our family. Her name is Belle, short for Vixie's Tinker-Belle. I do not know where they come up with these names. She is small for labs, 65 lbs, but she is an English Chocolate Lab and they are more the original size for a lab. The American Lab has been bred to be larger for some reason. One thing that really attracted me to her was she is a water dog. The family breeder that owned her said they would get in the Colorado River at Grizzly Creek in Glenwood Canyon and she would swim all the way to Glenwood Springs without getting in the raft. So I now have a fly fishing companion if I can keep her out of the water.

Hope to see you at the general meeting. Remember that everyone is invited to our board meetings if you would just like to see what goes on behind the scenes. We meet the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm at Beau Jo's. We promise we will not hog tie you into being an officer or board member. Just come. You can participate or be a fly on the wall, your choice. Our meetings are very informal and we always like to hear different points of view. (January board meeting has been cancelled — ed.)

Hal

The Evergreen Trout Fishing Report

Mike Goldblatt has assembled another excellent fishing report for The Evergreen Trout. As Mike mentioned in his first installment, his report depends on information he gets from other members like you. So be sure to drop him a line at mike@lamtree.com to relate your experiences on local waters, and he will include them in his report. Thanks for another great report, Mike! - Ed.

Bear Creek - Fish are in their winter lies. The lower canyon is mostly iced over. Areas below Evergreen Lake are still very fishable. With low winter flows you'll find them in the deepest pools trying to conserve energy and find slightly warmer water. On December 16, just below Evergreen, I watched a pod of trout actively feeding, with several of them taking small midges on the surface. This is not uncommon during the dead of winter on Bear Creek if you know where to find them.

Clear Creek - I've been exploring lower Clear Creek this

fall and I believe it's a very underrated fishery. Clear Creek has been abused since the gold rush days and is still affected by acidic and mineral laden water from mine tailings. In recent years the worst abuse has come in the form of numerous tanker spills resulting in some major fish kills. The trout always adapt and survive though. Many people think that there is a very low population of trout in this river, but I find that it fishes pretty well. I've heard that there is good fishing as far down as downtown Golden, although I haven't made it that far downstream. I've been fishing the canyon area near the tunnels along Hwy. 6, with some success. I caught some very nice browns in early November near the tunnels using a #16 Red Copper John. My best fish of the day came up to take a foam ant on the surface. There is lots of public water all the way up to the headwaters above Georgetown. Surprisingly, Clear Creek stays fairly ice free quite late into winter so check it out. Flow is 36 cfs at Lawson.

South Platte - Cheeseman Canyon, Deckers, Dream Stream - These sections of the South Platte are very reliable during the winter months. Try the usual assortment of tiny midges and mayfly nymphs.

Arkansas - Below Pueblo Reservoir - Visibility is good and this section is flowing at 86cfs. Fish are taking #16 Copper Johns, #16-20 Pheasant Tails, #18-20 Disco Midges. They are also rising to #20 -22 Griffiths Gnats. Some very good fish have been taken recently on Olive and Brown Woolly Buggers. Excellent conditions right now (Dec. 26.) so try this great winter tailwater if you haven't yet.

Blue River - Flowing at 101cfs below Dillon.

Roaring Fork - Flowing at 326cfs at Emma. Try the Roaring Fork in winter if the weather is warm, otherwise head over to the Fryingpan. See info on the Pan below.

Tailwater of the Month - With winter setting in, each month I will highlight a tail water that you can fish during the cold months. Let's start off the series with my favorite winter fishery, the **Fryingpan**:

The Fryingpan below Reudi Reservoir is in a steep canyon, with red sandstone cliffs towering over the river. The river bottom is an unusual reddish-orange color and the fish are well camouflaged. This tail water section from Reudi Reservoir to the Roaring Fork confluence is a small to medium sized stream, averaging about forty feet across, with a typical flow of about 100 cfs in winter. This reach is about 14 miles long and is a fairly even mix of private property and public water. The road parallels the river the entire way. There are monster rainbows in the area immediately below the dam, which feed heavily on the mysis shrimp which flow out of the reservoir all year. Aside from

The Evergreen Trout Fishing Report (cont'd)

the shrimp, the aquatic insect life is amazing in this river. In the warmer months you can practically set your watch to the 11AM- 3PM hatches of PMDs, Green Drakes, BWOs etc. While the prolific hatches are more subdued in the winter, I have had great dry fly days here in the dead of winter. You will see some rising fish here almost every day of the year. In the winter there is usually a good midge hatch between noon and 3pm. The nymphing is consistently good year-round. In winter try using a sparkle baetis nymph, small pheasant tails, or your favorite midge pupa pattern. As you move downstream toward Basalt, the trout are not as thick as near the dam, but it is still chock full of browns in the 12' -16" range and rainbows that grow much bigger. The main drawback to the Pan is the crowds, but in the winter it is not much of a problem.

Mike Goldblatt

ETU Youth Outreach News

A new school year brings fresh requests from 6th grade teachers for our fly tying and fishing classes. We are already committed to February 6 and 7 at Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab each morning with classes of 10 to 12 pupils from Peiffer Elementary.

A fresh look to our curriculum features time for Entomology 101! John Ellis is providing a bug sample-and-matching fly exhibit mounted by Hal Garwood's wood working skills. The pond fishing time unavailable in winter may be used for Fly rod Handling 101 weather permitting.

Our search for a more interesting plan for The Buchanan Rec. Center Fishing Camp progressed to a Board idea that we build around a more desirable fishing time of day. A suggestion by Wayne Kosloske to use later afternoon and early evening hours (with a picnic supper) led us to approach Rec. Director Robbie Furler with a 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM plan which he enthusiastically approved.

Thus, with the possibility of more cooperative fish in the P.M. hours, we will announce a Saturday, June 2, 2007, Third Annual Fishing Camp in the Rec. Center catalog.

The Fishing Camp enrollment has been limited to 20 to 22 youngsters by the Rec. District rules. This is a very manageable size for us and we welcome all the E.T.U. help we can line up. We can manage with 10 or 12 helpers on the lake and 4 food prep people, but it is much better to have a one-on-one coaching ratio for actual fishing time. Please set this date on your calendar and plan to give all (or part) of the 2 to 7 time frame as your volunteer time to our club. This Fishing Camp program makes possible our continued **FREE DAYS FOR VOLUNTEERS** on the Buchanan ponds.

Len Wheaton

January Program — Rescheduled

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Ron Belak's planned January program will be postponed until February. Randy Huiting, ETU program coordinator, is working hard to find an alternative for the January meeting. — Ed.

On Wednesday evening, February 21, please join us for Evergreen's own **Ron Belak** and his presentation "Best of 2006." Ron has sorted through 1,500 slides that he shot in 2006, selected the very best, and arranged them in a seasonal format that has been popular with ETU over the past several years. Ron will take us on a light-hearted photographic safari and share his pursuit of greenbacks in Rocky Mountain National Park, the mining and angling history of the Tenmile Range, rodent-eating trout of the Holy Cross Wilderness, caribou on Alaska's North Slope, and the Canyonlands of Utah. Prepare yourself for majestic scenery, beefy trout, and a wee bit stretching of the truth. Ron is a noted author and photographer whose work appears in *Colorado Outdoors*, *American Angler*, and *Fly Fisherman* magazines.



Above: Wheeler Lake will be one of many featured destinations that Evergreen's own Ron Belak will visit in his presentation, "Best of 2006" at the February ETU general meeting. Below: Ron seems to be having a "bad hair" day! Be sure to attend the February general meeting to get the story behind the picture. - Ed.



Featured Fly of the Month

Our featured fly this month is a Bob Churchill creation he calls a Diamond Pearl Teardrop. He says it is a great cool weather fly that can be fished either dry, in the skim, or wet as a nymph, though he usually fishes it wet along with something such as a black beauty.

For those of you who may not have met him, Bob is the resident fly tying teaching pro at the Blue Quill. Lots of folks have learned tying in his classes.

He describes this as one of his favorites, especially on the South Platte and in "The Canyon". The one you see here is tied using pearl sparkle wing (yes, it's the same thing you use for those RS-IIIs), but it can also be tied with other colors of braid, holographic floss, etc. Red and green are good alternatives to experiment with.



Here is the recipe for tying your own:

Hook: #18- 24 TMC 101 or 200R (I like the 200R because of the bend) A #22 is a great choice.

Thread: Black, 14 preferred

Head: Diamond or Mercury Bead

Body: Pearl Sparkle Wing fiber

Thorax: Peacock herl

Legs: Black hackle

Slip the bead onto the hook. Tie in the pearl fiber behind the bead and secure it to the shank with thread wraps, extending partly down the bend. This will give the body just a slight amount of thickness.

Now wrap the pearl fiber back toward the bead and tie off leaving a slight gap behind the bead.

In the gap, tie in three wraps of peacock herl to form the thorax and tie off.

In front of the herl, tie in small black hackle and wrap just two or three times and tie off. Whip finish and you're done.

A special thanks to Bob for his recommendation and the recipe.

John Haile

ETU Volunteer List: Updated January 1, 2007

Refer questions or problems to Hal Garwood, President, at 303-526-2900.

The list represents people who volunteered in 2006.

Anderson, Ken	Murray, Steve
Belak, Ron	Oliphant, Ford
Chapman, Michelle	Regan, Paul
Christopherson, Karen	Reynolds, Joan
Conroy, Barb	Reynolds, Mike
Coyner, Mike	Reynolds, Rich
Drury, Larry	Riggio, Nicholas
Ellis, John	Riggio, Nick
Ellis, Sherry	Rotolo, Gary
Farthing, Craig	Ryan, Jim
Fox, Doug	Ryan, Justin
Fox, Troy	Schauder, Chris
Gardner, Hugh	Schutz, Glenn
Garwood, Hal	Schutz, Sharon
Garwood, Sandi	Seline, Ross
Goldblatt, Mike	Simon, Kent
Green, Dan	Snyder, Bob
Haile, John	Squire, Gregg
Haller, Tim	Stechert, Tim
Hardy, Matt	Thompson, Jim
Hargesheimer, Mike	Thompson, Troy
Houk, Zeke	Underwood, Dave
Huiting, Randy	Untener, Bob
Kanemasu, Lance	Walters, Terry
Knoll, Dean	Waters, Phil
Kosloske, Wayne	Waters, Sandy
Ledyard, Harry	Wheaton, Anita
Linn, Peggy	Wheaton, Len
Lockwood, Tom	Wheeler, Dick
Marshall, Debbie	Wilbert, Ken
Marshall, Don	Wilborn, Jim
Masters, Marc	
Murray, Andrew	
Murray, Elias	
Murray, Randi	

Thanks...

...to **Mike Goldblatt, John Haile, Ron Belak** for their help with the newsletter.

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

...to **Randy and Lisa Huiting** for hosting the annual ETU Christmas party.

...to **The Blue Quill Angler** for letting ETU use their classroom to hold our fly tying clinics this winter.

Ed.

Fly Tying For Fun: Mark Your Calendars

ETU's monthly fly 'tying for fun' get-togethers will kick off again in January and run through April. The sessions will be the Saturday following our regular monthly meeting. We'll meet at 2 p.m. in the back room of the Blue Quill Angler, which has offered to host us again this year. That also means supplies will be nearby just in case.

The first session will be Saturday Jan. 20. So, the big fly fishing show is behind us and the big sports expo will still be a week off. If there is a football game of note scheduled that afternoon, we'll make arrangements to have that available, too. Just don't hold out for wide screen HD.

So, just show up at 2 and we will plan to hang around until about 4 p.m. Bring your tying gear, or not, if you prefer to watch. Come with a fly in mind that you can tie for the rest of us to see and learn, or not. There will be plenty of ideas flowing. Also, some of the guys from the Quill say they want to come in and tie with us at different times.

The idea is for this to be a really informal gathering where we can learn from each other, tie some flies and simply have a good time. This is an especially great opportunity for someone who is just getting started or still learning. Oh, and if someone wants to bring along a snack for the group, that's ok, too. Or not.

When the weather gets warmer again, then we'll quit tying and start fishing. But, for now, it's a great time to be filling those fly boxes and this is a great way to learn some new tricks or pick up some pointers from some guys who are pretty darn good at this.

John Haile

Fly Tying For Fun: A tail water pattern

To kick-start ETU's winter 'tying for fun' sessions, here is a variant pattern that I created from some other designs I have seen. I guess I might call it a 'Royal Midge Soft Hackle'. I haven't seen one quite like it, but that's not to say it hasn't already been invented. If it has, I relinquish credit and acknowledge its originator. Admittedly, the design does bear resemblance to Bob Churchill's fly on page 4, but isn't quite the same. I'll bring my fly along to the first 'tying for fun' session for open discussion and critique.

I came up with the idea starting from a small midge pattern made locally popular by Ford Oliphant. That fly has a body tied with purple silk, includes a sparse black hackle, and is found to be very effective when fished in the surface film. To make mine into a sub-surface attractor, I incorporated a red bead, peacock thorax, and copper ribbing (ideas I stole from Greg Garcia's Rojo Midge) and used a soft hackle.

Although I have had limited opportunity to test the pattern, the fish found it acceptable earlier this fall in the



reach above Deckers on the South Platte. I fished it as the trailing fly in a two-nymph rig weighted to fish near the bottom. As the trailing fly, my intent was to position it near, but not on the bottom. This winter and spring, I'll also be testing it closer to the surface behind a dry fly.

Here's the recipe:

Hook: #20-24 Dai Riki 310

Thread: 8/0 UNI-Thread, black

Abdomen: Pearsol's purple gossamer silk

Ribbing: Lagartun extra-fine copper wire

Thorax: Peacock herl

Bead: Ruby, silver lined

Hackle: Starling

Slip the bead onto the hook and tie in the thread behind the bead.

Lay a base of thread along the shank. Tie in the wire ribbing just ahead of the bend, leaving a tag end along the shank.

Behind the wire, tie in the silk. Advance the thread a couple turns down the bend with both silk and wire underneath.

Wrap the thread forward, keeping the tag end of the wire aligned along the shank, leaving a gap behind the bead. Follow by neatly wrapping the silk forward and tie off.

Counter wrap the copper ribbing and tie off, again leaving a gap behind the bead. The purpose of the gap is to accommodate the bulk added by the thorax and hackle.

Wrap the tying thread back a couple turns and tie in the peacock herl. Make 3 to 4 wraps with the herl and tie off.

Select a small hackle from a Starling wing (the really small webby feathers near the shoulder). Tie in behind the bead and make 2 to 3 wraps. Good quality hackle pliers make the process easier. Whip finish to complete the fly.

Tim Stechert

??? What's Happening ???

January 2007

- 10th (W) **ETU Board Meeting**
Cancelled
- 17th (W) **ETU Chapter Meeting**
6:30p Dinner and chapter business
7:00p Program - TBD
- 20th (S) **ETU Fly Tying for Fun**
2:00p Blue Quill Angler

February 2007

- 6th (T) **Youth Fly Tying: Mt. Evans School**
contact Len Wheaton to volunteer
- 7th (W) **Youth Fly Tying: Mt. Evans School**
contact Len Wheaton to volunteer
- 14th (W) **ETU Board Meeting**
6:30p Beau Jo's
- 21th (W) **ETU Chapter Meeting**
6:30p Dinner and chapter business
7:00p Program - Ron Belak
- 24th (S) **ETU Fly Tying for Fun**
2:00p Blue Quill Angler

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Contact any of us with questions, suggestions, or spare time.

Editorial Policy: All newsletter submissions must be delivered to the News Editor by the **last Friday of the month** and may be on 3.5" disc or e-mailed. All items are subject to editing/space limitations. Articles are copyrighted by the author unless otherwise noted. Call the News Editor 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
2004 Outstanding Chapter Project Award



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