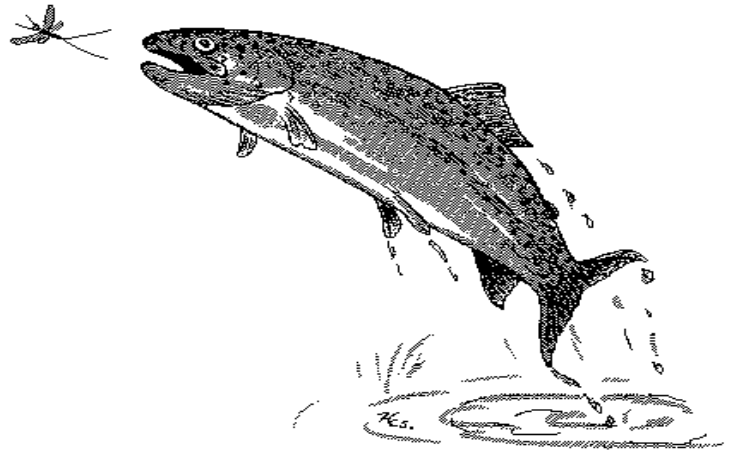


# The Evergreen Trout



February 2007

The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Vol. 25 No. 2

## The President's Drag Free Drift

**B**efore I start with my column, I would like to convey my thoughts about the loss of a dear friend to all of us at ETU. She was the wife of one of our most dedicated members. Joan Reynolds left this earth a better place to live. Her faithful involvement with many organizations here in Evergreen was evident with the huge turnout for her memorial service on a bitter snowy day. The outpouring of love for Joan was unbelievable. Thank you, Joan, for all you have done for us. We can all learn from her love and devotion to life.

You can contribute to the Joan Reynolds Memorial Fund. Please send your check to the Evergreen National Bank, P.O. Box 2020 Evergreen, CO 80437

**T**hanks to Brian Shipley, who graciously agreed to step in at the last moment to be our guest speaker in January. Our last general meeting was a successful evening. We also decided to start up our fly-tying again before the formal meeting. Four tiers showed up and I believe at least one of our new female members got excited about tying. We are planning to continue the fly tying, at least during the winter months as long as there is interest.

Along with prodding from one of our board members, I decided to try a small raffle at our meeting. Since all the items were obtained at a nominal cost to ETU, all the raffle proceeds went straight into the coffers. By my judgment, the raffle was a success, so we are going to continue until we run out of good merchandise. If anybody has some miscellaneous fly fishing equipment that they are not using, and would like to contribute please contact me. We would happily make sure that you can write it off as a contribution to ETU. We already have some great merchandise for this month's raffle, so don't miss out.

Speaking about this month's meeting, we are going to have

last month's scheduled speaker, Ron Belak. Most of the time Ron does not need any introduction, but I thought I would say some kind words about Ron. Let's see, I'm thinking, uh, oh, yea, I know, I know, he knows how to buy beer and uh his uh oh yea, I'm pondering uh yes yes, his significant other is Peggy Lynn, I just don't get it! Actually Ron is probably one of the premier high mountain lake fly fishers and photographers. His photos can rival the best in the business. So if you miss this one, you will regret it. Ron is probably the only speaker we want to have come back year after year.

Our fly tying classes for Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab started up this February. Some of you may not be aware that ETU volunteers give up some of their mornings each month to teach fly tying at the Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab. The outdoor lab is for Jefferson County's 6th Graders. Each student attends a week of outdoor activities which is part of their curriculum. The students participate in many activities and one of them is fly tying. When the trout pond is free of ice, we help the students fish for trout with their creations. This is the first time some of them have ever been fishing, and most of the time we get them into fish. It is really rewarding to see them catch a trout with a fly they just tied. I don't know about anybody else but it took me six months to catch a trout on a fly I tied. I still have that fly. If you want to have a fun, rewarding time, call Len Wheaton who can hook you up. By the way you really do not have to be a fly tier to help. Dave Underwood, who volunteers all the time, does not tie at all. He is very good with the kids and enjoys the activities. I mentioned Len as he is the boss, the wrangler, the guide, the one that keeps this all together, so give him a "thank you" the next time you see him.

I was told the Saturday Fly Fishing for Fun was a rousing success. The Blue Quill was very accommodating. We will continue this activity throughout the winter, which may be forever.

I am again starting a new endeavor in the fly fishing world. It is building fly rods, the graphite ones. Len intrigued me enough to give it a try. I am just beginning, and

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)

do not have much to report, but I will keep you posted. I do want to say we have a fledgling rod builder, the bamboo kind, in our midst. He is one of our regular volunteers and meeting attendees. I saw a couple of his rods at the fly fishing show and was duly impressed. Larry Drury is this masked man. I asked him if he would be willing to give us a talk on this fine art of rod building and he said "maybe" in the future. I, for one, am intrigued by this because it combines woodworking with fly fishing. Encourage Larry and maybe we can have a rod building demonstration or even a class. More to come!

Hope to see you at the next general meeting. I foresee a large crowd so don't be late. The only reserved seat is mine and if you would like to put your name on the waiting list please contact me.

Hal

## The Evergreen Trout Fishing Report

*Mike Goldblatt continues with another installment of his excellent fishing report for The Evergreen Trout. Remember to send Mike your contribution so he can include it in his report. Drop him a line at [mike@lamtree.com](mailto:mike@lamtree.com) about your experiences on local waters. Thanks for yet another great report, Mike! - Ed.*

Since most of the rivers in Colorado are frozen over, I will break from the usual routine for the February fishing report, and just give you some stream flows on local tailwaters. You know the rest of that drill - small flies, carefully presented in deep runs. In addition I will highlight another great tailwater, and give you something to dream about for a future winter trip.

### Stream Flows:

South Platte below Spinney Reservoir: 53.5 cfs  
 South Platte at Lake George: 76.4 cfs  
 South Platte below Cheesman Reservoir: 99.2 cfs  
 Blue River below Dillon Reservoir: 63 cfs  
 Taylor River below Taylor Reservoir: 75cfs  
 Yampa River below Stagecoach Reservoir: 59cfs  
 Fryingpan Below Reudi Reservoir: 83 cfs  
 Williams Fork below Wms. Fork Reservoir: 64 cfs.

**Tailwater of the Month: the San Juan River below Navajo Reservoir.** Many fisherman, myself included, have a love/hate relationship with the San Juan tailwater. You've got to love the big, strong rainbows that will fight for all they're worth. But you've got to hate the crowds that usually are present. Fortunately winter crowds aren't as bad as the rest of the year, except for warmer weekends, and the fishing is excellent. While most of the fish-

ing will be subsurface, there is usually an excellent midge hatch mid-day, even in the dead of winter. For the hatch, use a Griffith's Gnat or a your favorite adult midge pattern, probably a size 20-22. Under the surface use small midge larva/pupa patterns such as a Disco Midge, Red Hot, Thread Midge etc. Putting on a red, pink or orange San Juan worm as your lead fly can get their attention before your smaller pattern gets in front of them, and they'll often take the worm. Egg patterns are a popular choice as well. 6x tippet is probably what you want to be using, but you'll lose some fish. I know people who will go as stout as 3x or 4x. A 9ft. 5 weight will do just fine. The quality water section immediately below the dam is loaded with big, fighting rainbows and as you go farther downstream, browns begin to dominate. If you go below the quality water, you will find a lot fewer people and a lot fewer trout, but some big browns and a little peace and quiet. The water flows out of Navajo Dam at 41 degrees consistently year-round. New Mexico Game and Fish Dept. estimates there to be 80,000 fish in the first 4.25 miles below the dam, so there's no excuse for not catching some. It's a pretty six hour drive from Evergreen, and well worth it.

**Destination: South Island New Zealand.** With the toughest winter in 25 years lingering in the front range of Colorado my thoughts have turned recently to the South Island of New Zealand, where it is the middle of summer right now, and it is light until 10pm. I was lucky enough to spend 6 weeks there a few years ago during February and March exploring the amazing fisheries of that area. If you ever get a chance, you should do the same. Everyone has their own version of fly fishing nirvana, but mine is sight casting a size 10 Royal Wulff to a 6-8 pound wild brown trout in a gin clear river. This can be an almost daily occurrence on the South Island. Sometimes that wild brown has never seen an artificial fly before. New Zealand fishing differs from the U.S. in a few ways: There are so many rivers it is hard to figure out which one to fish on a given day, there are significantly fewer fish in the rivers but they are bigger, and there are not nearly as many insect hatches as over here. There must be some small trout in those rivers, I've just never seen one. Stalking these trout is a lot like hunting. Typically, your buddy or guide will walk upstream, hopefully on a bluff, trying to find a feeding trout. You may walk 2 miles before one is sighted. Once the trout is found you make your plan for casting and give it a go. If you haven't been seen by the trout and you can make a delicate cast with your heart racing, there will be an excellent chance for a hookup. Landing it is another story. Not enough space here for more details, but we can all dream a little on a winter's day. Next month, back to reality and some reports on the best places to find some great early spring fishing right here in Colorado.

Mike Goldblatt

## Featured Flies of the Month

Len Wheaton has long been recognized as one of the many expert tiers in Evergreen Trout Unlimited, able to match pretty much any of the traditional patterns as well as tie variations all his own. He also heads up the instructional programs ETU does for students at the Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab, where Jefferson County 6th graders learn how to tie their own flies and then how to fish them.

This month Len has tied two flies that the rest of us can now learn for ourselves. He picked relatively simple patterns - at least for Len - and common materials. And, if that weren't enough, he will be demonstrating the flies later this month preceding the regular monthly meeting at Beau Jo's. So come at 6 p.m. and see them tied.

The first fly is a top-water fly that Len calls a Quill Body, Mallard Wing Mayfly. The distinguishing characteristic is that it is tied using a mallard flank feather wing, or at least a piece of one.



Here is Len's recipe for tying your own:

**Hook:** a Dai-Riki down-eye such as a 305, # 14 - 20

**Thread:** Tan 8/0

**Tail:** Brown or red hen hackle, fairly stiff

**Body:** Hen hackle quill

**Wing:** Mallard flank feather, two small pieces taken from one side. Len used a dyed yellow feather.

**Hackle:** Red or grizzly

Prepare the quill by stripping the hen hackle and moistening it for an easier wrap.

Tie in your thread, wrapping back to the bend of the hook. Mount and secure a tail of several fibers of hen hackle, then tie in your stripped quill at the tail tie-in point. The tail length is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  the hook shank length. Wrap your thread forward to about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the hook length behind the eye. Keep it sparse.

Now wrap the quill forward to the same point, tie off and clip. Cover the quill body with head cement for snugness and a slight sheen.

Prepare the mallard feather for the wing by cutting two small strip bunches from one side of the flank feather. Place one bunch atop the other (tips matched) and tie this "doubled" bunch in at the  $\frac{1}{4}$  point back of the eye. You are using a "doubled" bunch to add bulk, not to create a flare to the wing. The bunch will be quite a bit longer than your finished wing length. You can trim it later.

Post this wing with several wraps around and behind the base of the feather to prepare it for the parachute hackle. Trim the butts.

Mount the hackle feather at the base of the post and then wrap around the post, parachute style, and tie off. Use half hitches or whip finish, being careful to slip under the hackle, to finish tying off the fly. Cement the head. Finally, trim the flank feather wing to a desired length and shape. One guideline is to make the height about the same as the length back to the bend of the hook.

Len's second fly is an area standard - a weighted, simple Stonefly Nymph. Here is the recipe:

**Hook:** Dai-Riki 270, or something similar, #8 - 12

**Lead:** optional for wrapping around hook for added weight

**Thread:** Black 6/0

**Tail and antennae:** Black Goose biots

**Body and Thorax:** Peacock ice dubbing

**Body rib:** Thin copper wire

**Wing case:** Thin skin, medallion sheeting or something similar

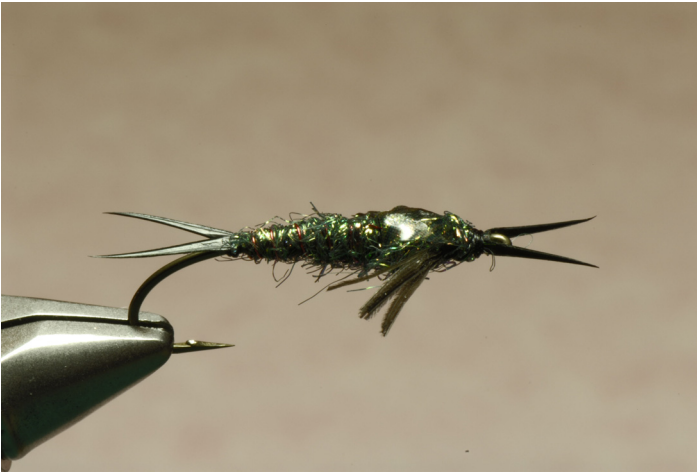
**Legs:** Black barbs from hackle feather

Start by laying down a thread base back to where the hook begins to curve, then weight your hook with a few wraps of thin lead, starting about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the length behind the eye and ending about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the length down the hook. Wrap over the lead with the thread and apply a couple of drops of head cement to stabilize it all.

Next, tie in two goose biots for the tail, turned so they flare out. A trick Len uses is to put a bump of thread wrap where the flare is going to start so that the biots are forced to either side. He ties them both in at the same time. Then tie in the thin copper wire just ahead of the biot tail tie-in. For now, leave it hanging there.

Use the peacock ice dubbing on your thread to form the abdomen, creating something of a cigar shape as you move forward to about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the length behind the eye of the hook, and tie off. Now pick up the copper wire and counter-wrap it forward with about eight to 10 wraps to create a ribbing and tie off at the same point where your dubbing ends.

Now tie in the medallion sheeting for the wing case just in front of your other tie-ins. Taper the end slightly to



help in tying it in. Pull it back toward the bend of the hook and leave it there for now. Starting where you tied in the medallion sheeting, create a thorax using a few more wraps of the peacock ice dubbing. The thorax should be "beefier" than the abdomen. At this point, tie in on either side several black barbs off a hackle feather to create a few legs. Tie them in so they are pointing back and just slightly down.

Pull the medallion sheeting forward over the dubbing and over the point where the legs are tied in and tie off. Then tie in two goose biots to create the antennae, once again holding them so that they flare out to either side, with the eye of the hook in the middle. Cover the tie-ins with a couple of wraps of the peacock ice dubbing and whip finish.

Complete the fly by putting a little head cement or "Hard as Nails" on the medallion sheeting to create a hard wing case. If you prefer, you can also use an epoxy. "Hard as Nails" can be found in the women's hand care/nail product section of the grocery or drug store - not at Home Depot.

John Haile

## February Program

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 lighthearted 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.

## February Fly Tying For Fun: Come Join Us

This month's fly tying get-together will be Saturday Feb. 24th beginning at 2 p.m. at the Blue Quill Angler. As always, it is informal and a bring-your-own-everything format. Everyone from beginner to the real expert is welcome. We'll tie until about 4.

Last month the Blue Quill folks moved us out of the back room to the area in front of the fireplace. The light was great and the fire was warm. We had a good group that worked on a number of patterns, including some soft hackle versions using starling feathers. A week later, Fly Fisherman magazine came out with a whole section on tying with starling. We had no idea we were so trendy. We even compiled a list of our top dozen must-have flies for area streams.

So, if interested in picking up some tips or new tricks, stop by. Snacks and drinks are welcomed, too. Bring your tying gear, or - should you not have any - tie with one of the ETU veterans. And if you need any materials, the Quill has those readily available. It did sell out of starling last month, but should have more in by now if you want to try one of those patterns. Folks do share, too.

John Haile

## A Note of Thanks from Tim Haller

*Tim Haller received the ETU "Person of the Year Award" for 2006 at our annual holiday party. Hal presented the well-deserved award to Tim for his many years of service to TU, including CTU Metro Vice President 1997-2002, ETU President 1994-1996, ETU Newsletter Editor 1998-2006, and ETU Board of Directors 1993-present. Accompanying the certificate was a hand-made fly box filled with flies tied by fellow ETU members. - Ed*

Dear Evergreen TU,

I would just like to take a minute to thank the Evergreen Chapter for the beautiful fly box and flies. It is truly an honor to be recognized by such a great group of people -- people who care about trout and their habitat, as much as I do. Together we can make a difference.

I would especially like to thank Hal for making an absolutely gorgeous fly box, as well as everyone who tied flies to fill it. The theme of 'big flies' was perfect for me. As many of you know, I generally tie (and fish) some pretty small flies. It will be great to have some that I don't need 'cheaters' to tie on.

Thanks again!

Tim Haller

## Colorado Adopts Temperature Standards to Protect Trout!

*reprinted from the CTU website*

The Colorado Water Quality Control Commission gave initial approval of new standards for water temperature at its hearing on January 8 and 9, 2007 - adopting temperature standards that will protect fish in Colorado's streams and lakes. The standards adopted define the temperature levels allowed in streams and lakes so as to protect fish and wildlife - just like standards are set for ammonia, nitrates, metals, and other measures of water quality. The default statewide standards that were approved set temperature for brook and cutthroat trout streams (generally higher elevation) at 17 degrees C maximum weekly average, and 21.2 degrees C as the maximum hourly (based on a rolling two-hour average). For rainbow trout streams (generally lower elevation), the standards were 18.2 degrees C (weekly) and 23.5 degrees C (hourly). These standards are biologically-based and will provide an important protection for Colorado's fisheries.

Significantly, the Commission adopted these standards as interim protections on all 1st, 2nd, and 3rd order streams above 7000 feet elevation, and for all of the Division of Wildlife's Gold Medal waters. This provides immediate protection for much of the most important habitat for trout in Colorado, though some streams (such as the Eagle) will not be covered by the new standards until their basin-specific hearing takes place. These hearings will be completed for all portions of the state over the next five years. The first hearing will take place next year for the Colorado River basin.

*(For now, this means the standard on Bear Creek will remain at 20 degrees C. It is possible that the section of the creek above the lake, up to the state wildlife area, could end up with the 17 degree standard if brook trout are found there. Additional fish surveys will first have to be done on that section, possibly later this year. - John Haile)*

### Why do we need standards?

Unlike humans, fish can't regulate their own temperature. Instead, the temperature of the streams and lakes where they live controls their metabolism and determines whether they'll live or die, and if they live, whether they'll reproduce or grow. Changes in stream temperature happen naturally - for example, a hot summer month can elevate stream temperatures. These are stressful times for fish, especially coldwater fish like trout. But cooler nights and pockets of shaded, cooler waters give them the break they need to continue to thrive in spite of these naturally stressful conditions.

Human activity can significantly disrupt this delicate

balance. Reservoir discharges of warm water, hydropower plant operations, and domestic wastewater treatment plant discharges are some of the activities that can contribute to the warming of streams. The situation can be aggravated even more by large diversions that reduce the amount of stream flows because the left over flow will heat up faster and reach higher temperatures, sometimes intolerable to fish. The combination of human activities and particularly hot summers can create situations where fish are literally left to poach in the water.

### Why is the Commission addressing temperature standards now?

Temperature was recognized as a limiting factor for fish and other aquatic life long ago. Accordingly, the Commission adopted temperature standards back in 1978. However, the standards were virtually never implemented. For example, temperature standards were included in permits authorizing discharge of treated effluent into state waters, but they were not enforced. Streams routinely evaluated for water quality standard compliance were not evaluated for temperature problems. The reason cited by the Water Quality Control Division, staff to the Commission, for not implementing the temperature standards is that the standards are unclear. For example, the standards didn't specify how a maximum temperature was to be measured - as a daily or weekly maximum.

In 2001, the Commission convened a workgroup to discuss interpretation of the standards. A temperature standard proposal didn't come to the Commission until 2005, but because the proposal was objected to by various industrial, water supply, and wastewater entities, the Commission postponed a final decision again. The Commission has now approved temperature standards at its January 2007 hearing.

### What do these standards mean on the ground?

Like standards for zinc and other pollutants, temperature standards will be used to control discharges from facilities such as hydropower plants, wastewater treatment plants and other point sources regulated by the State. Temperature standards will also be used to evaluate impairment of streams under § 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. A determination that aquatic life use is impaired triggers a TMDL analysis and practices designed to restore the use. Federal agencies considering approval of projects that may impact instream temperature, including new or expanded water projects that will divert additional flows, will have to consider the project's effects on instream temperature, and propose measures to prevent violation of the newly adopted standards. The State will have to consider these potential impacts and protective measures as a condition to its CWA § 401 certification of such projects.

## ??? What's Happening ???

### February 2007

- 14th (W) **ETU Board Meeting**  
6:30p Beau Jo's
- 21st (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

### March 2007

- 14th (W) **ETU Board Meeting**  
6:30p Beau Jo's
- 21st (W) **ETU Chapter Meeting**  
6:30p Dinner and chapter business  
7:00p Prog. - Gorsuch Outfitters
- 21st (W) **CTU Auction**

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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.

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2000 Outstanding Youth Education Program Award  
2004 Outstanding Chapter Project Award  
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