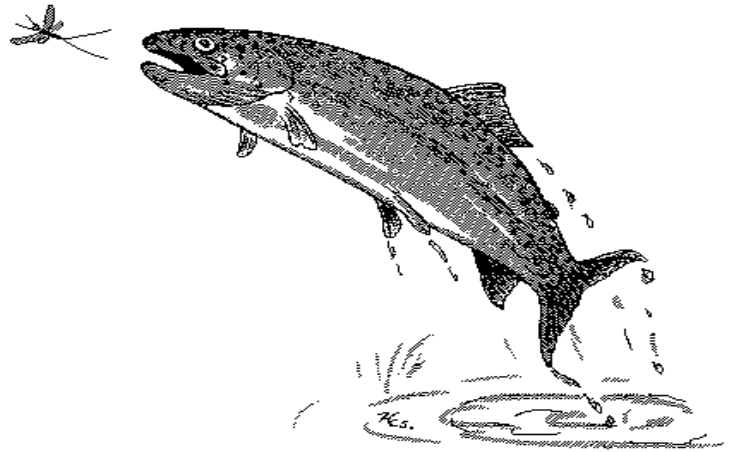


# The Evergreen Trout



August 2007

The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Vol. 25 No. 8

## The Evergreen Trout Fishing Report

*Where have YOU been fishing lately? Let Mike Goldblatt know at [mike@lamtree.com](mailto:mike@lamtree.com) or give him a call to share your latest outing.*

With mid-summer turning into late-summer, conditions are changing. Green drake fishing is giving way to trico hatches and some parts of the state are seeing fishing conditions change with some monsoonal rain patterns.

**Bear Creek** at Evergreen and below continued to fish well in July. I am amazed at the caddis population on Bear Creek. Some evenings in mid-July the caddis hatches were so heavy, it was like being in Salida in late April. The swarms of midges are also prolific. This bodes well for the fish population on our home creek. Water temperatures are heating up, so consider giving the fish a break in August if you find the temperature at 68 or above.

Poaching and regulation violations are still unfortunately the norm on Bear Creek. I caught and released an 8" brown near Lair-O-The Bear that had a huge bait fishing hook stuck in its throat. I have also talked to several people at Cactus Jack's Saloon in Evergreen who say it is common to see fisherman walking around with stringers of trout, rainbows as well as browns.

Hugh Gardner and I will be installing ten or more regulations signs at various locations soon. Hopefully that will help; but I believe most of the poachers are well aware that they are in violation. Hugh reports good fishing lately on the Idledale reaches of Bear Creek.

I fished **Clear Creek** downstream of Idaho Springs on July 25. The fish were very active. The flow was still quite strong - 164 cfs and I fished the edges, eddies and seams with a stimulator and beadhead nymph dropper. They were taking both of them with regularity. Mostly rainbows 10" - 13" and browns 8" - 10".

Two buddies and I fished **Four Mile Creek** in South Park in early July. Located just outside of Fairplay, this small creek is full of 6" - 10" browns with the occasional larger rainbow or brown. The fish were taking most any attractor dry we threw at them. Each rod landed 30 to 40 fish including several rainbows in the 12" to 14" range. Lots of fun.

Along with fellow ETU member Ken Cohen, I fished the **North Fork of the North Platte River** near the Wyoming border in early July. This is an incredibly beautiful and remote part of Colorado with the Continental Divide and the Mount Zirkel Wilderness towering above the valley to the west and the Rawah Wilderness looming to the east. It is so remote in fact, that I don't mind telling all of you that the fishing is excellent. Although we were on private property, there is some public access in the area.

The North Fork oxbows its way through ranchland in this area and has deep water in its bends. We fished PMD's with droppers in the morning with plenty of action, especially on the surface. In the afternoon it slowed down some. I was mostly flailing around with a double nymph rig, hooking sticks and an occasional brown. But Ken was nailing them with an olive streamer. Absolutely beautiful country, ask me for details.

ETU board member Rich Reynolds and his brother Mike joined Ken and me on the **Yampa River** below Steamboat on the same trip. This stretch is known for its big, bruising rainbows. We hooked some bows in the 17"-20" range, but no true hogs on this trip. The water temperature in the morning was a pretty warm 66 degrees, but we caught quite a few fish, using beadhead nymphs with small midge and mayfly droppers. When I took the water temperature in mid-afternoon, I was shocked to see that it was 76 degrees! We quit shortly thereafter to avoid stressing the fish. Just a few weeks before, this stretch was a cold, raging torrent from runoff. The post run-off window can be short on this river; so check with the Steamboat fly shops if you're heading up that way.

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!

## Fishing Report (continued)

The **St. Vrain** was flowing at 126cfs in late July and fishing well. The typical mid-summer hatches of PMD's and caddis were strong. Similar reports in the next drainage, the **Big Thompson**.

The **Arkansas in Bighorn Sheep Canyon below Salida** saw heavy rains and some flooding in late July. With dryer weather expected, the fish should get back to their strong feeding as the water recedes.

The **South Platte** is flowing pretty high with a flow of 397cfs at Deckers. When the flows are cranked up to those levels, I like to put on a S.J. Worm and a scud trailer. Give it a try. The stretch between Elevenmile and Spinney is also at a relatively high summer flow of 159. The tricos are starting to appear regularly. Soon you will be able to set your watch to their morning hatch - right about 9:47 A.M.

E.T.U. member Marc Masters fished the **Eagle River** near Edwards for a few hours on July 16 and caught a half dozen browns and one rainbow in the 12"-15" range. He was using Royal Wulffs and Elk Hair Caddis. Marc reports that the river was at a perfect flow and temperature.

The **Roaring Fork** has seen the legendary Drake fishing slow down lately although the fishing remains excellent when the Crystal doesn't blow it out. There have also been some heavy rains upstream in the valley, dirtying up the river some. The **Fryingpan** tributary fishes wonderfully this time of year if you can deal with crowds. If you can stake out your territory, just put on a big Green Drake with #16 or #18 PMD trailer and watch the heads come up to take one of them. From 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., it is very reliable dry fly fishing.

I'm heading north again in August. I'll have more information in the next newsletter.

- Mike Goldblatt

*Thinking about fishing the Buchanan Ponds this month? Be sure to check the water temperatures there, too. If at 68 or above, it might be better to come back when the water is cooler and the fish you catch won't be so stressed. - ed.*

## Fly of the Month: The Famous Orange Asher

For those of you who regularly attend our monthly meetings, you have heard some of the jokes concerning me and the Orange Asher. These puns owe their origin to my relentless promotion of this curious fly for at least the past 20 years.

I was introduced to the Orange Asher at Chicago Lakes in the late 1970s by an angler who was pounding up fish after fish on her fly and bubble. She graciously shared the pattern with me. And upon returning to civilization, I



made a beeline for what was then Gart Brothers to secure my own stash. I too fished the fly on a spinning rod with a bubble before advancing to the stage of fly fisherman.

As years went by, the Orange Asher became increasingly more difficult to find in sporting goods stores and fly shops. Shop clerks were ignorant of the pattern, This was not surprising given their emphasis on short-line nymphing the tailwaters. These experiences forced me to learn how to tie flies so that I could have a never-ending supply of the orange fly.

Some of you are probably thinking, "If this is such a miraculous pattern, why haven't I heard of it?" The answer: probably because you don't fish stillwaters. Although not limited in effectiveness to stillwaters, the Orange Asher really comes into its own on high lakes and ponds. The reason for this is simply because the pattern works best when the angler is trying to imitate a single adult midge; and this is done more frequently on stillwaters where midges form the bulk of hatches. Few stream fishermen consistently fish adult midges. When they do, they are more apt to imitate a cluster of midges and fish a larger Griffith's Gnat.

On stillwaters, the Orange Asher in sizes 16 to 20 effectively imitates the newly hatched adult midge when riding high on the water. When fished in the film, it imitates the adult struggling to free itself from the pupa. Strip it in the film when trout are sipping midge pupae and it will produce vigorous strikes, even though only dimples may be visible on the surface. If you are having problems keeping it sunk, tie a few with bead heads or affix a tiny split shot to your leader right at the fly. The Orange Asher is also an effective searching pattern when fished on most stillwaters. Its brilliant color undoubtedly attracts attention.

In tailwaters and larger freestone rivers, I have caught rainbows, cutthroats, brookies, and browns on the Orange Asher. I have found it to be most effective in smaller sizes and when fished in pools, in back eddies, and along seams - generally anywhere the current slows and adult midges are apt to be present. Stripping it near the surface and across current at dusk can produce some unex-

## Fly of the Month (continued)

pected fish. Use the Orange Asher as a substitute for its paler cousin, the Griffith's Gnat.

Although locally popular, the Orange Asher fails to appear in most fly tying manuals. Invented by Jack Howarth of Colorado Springs, the original pattern was tied tailless, with black thread and orange floss. Here is my variation of the original recipe. Tight lines and GO ORANGE!

**Hook:** dry fly, No. 14 through 20  
**Thread:** 8/0 orange  
**Tail:** grizzly hackle fibers  
**Body:** orange scud (26) Ligas dubbing  
**Hackle:** grizzly tied in tip first at the hook bend and palmered.

**Options:** A brass bead converts this pattern to an effective wet fly, to be stripped in the surface film during midge hatches. One can also use two hackles to give the fly extra buoyancy.

- Ron Belak

## August Program: Debbie Lininger from CDOW

Over 80% of Colorado's population lives in the six front range counties which are becoming more urban and less rural every day. One result is that wildlife and their habitat are increasingly taking a back seat to development and overuse, highlighting the need to engage and educate the public in the process of conservation. Join us for a very special evening as *Debbie Lininger*, Director of Marketing for Colorado Division of Wildlife, discusses how CDOW is actively encouraging habitat conservation and improving access for fly fishing throughout the state. Find out how you can further participate and benefit from this process.

- Randy Huiting

## July Camp Comfort

I want to thank the willing volunteers who gave up their weekend to help make the fishing activity at Camp Comfort a resounding success. Thanks to their efforts and thanks to CDOW for a well stocked pond, all the kids had a great time. Some kids caught a lot of fish, but more importantly, I think nearly every kid caught at least one. An excited camper reported to me on Sunday afternoon that he had caught 4 fish and 2 imaginary fish! I estimate that about half the fish were caught on flies. It was a new experience for most of the kids; and it benefited the fish as well, with fewer swallowed hooks.

- Tim Stechert

## No Newsletter in September

I will be away fishing in Montana and Wyoming next month. Consequently, a September edition of the newsletter will not be published. The publication will resume in October.

- Tim Stechert, editor.

## Flat Tops Wilderness Trails

Once again Al Marlowe, our favorite Colorado outdoor writer, has produced another gem. His CD edition of *Flat Tops Wilderness Trails* has been published in Adobe Acrobat 8.0 and is compatible with Adobe Acrobat Version 7.0 and later. It is available to Windows and Macintosh operating system users to view or print any or all of its pages. Hot links are used extensively. For the backcountry enthusiast whose soul yearns for 'last and best' wild places, this most facile document is a must.

Links in the table of contents take the user to the desired information and map section. Each trail listing gives information that includes GPS coordinates, UTM and latitude/Longitude ticks, trail directions, length, elevations at trailhead and destination, and the relevant maps. Al has also included a fine geo- and socio-history of the area. His extensive and sound advice about what to wear, what to take, and what to expect in terms of terrain and trail pitch is worth pure gold. He even includes comments about wild and potentially dangerous animals. An extensive appendix lists state, federal and local sources, contact information and, of course, printable maps. As in his previous publications, Al's photography is excellent.

Al and local angler/writer Karen Christopherson have teamed to publish a number of first-rate guides to fishing Colorado waters. All are available in CD format at <http://www.troutgear.com>. Whether you take to the backcountry with gun, fishing gear, camera, or just a pack and a desire get away from the city, this volume deserves a prominent place in your library.

- Harry Ledyard

## Mt. Evans Classes Kick Off

Jim Wilborn is looking for volunteers to staff our first youth education session of the academic year at **Mt. Evans Outdoor Education Lab**. It is scheduled for August 28th and 29th, 8:45 a.m. to noon. Contact Jim at 303-670-3306 or [jpwilborn@hotmail.com](mailto:jpwilborn@hotmail.com) to sign up!

- Editor

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

### August 2007

- 15th (W) **ETU Chapter Meeting**  
 6:30p Dinner and chapter business  
 7:00p Prog. - Debbie Lininger
- 17th (F) **Eligible free day @ Buchanan Ponds**
- 18th (Sat) **Eligible free day @ Buchanan Ponds**
- 28th (Tues) **Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab classes**  
**We Need Volunteers!!!**
- 29th (W) **Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab classes**  
**We Need Volunteers!!!**

### September 2007

- 7th (F) **Eligible free day @ Buchanan Ponds**
- 12th (W) **ETU Board Meeting**  
 6:30p Beau Jo's
- 15th (Sat) **Bear Creek Fall Cleanup**  
**We Need Volunteers!!!**
- 19th (W) **ETU Chapter Meeting**  
 6:30p Dinner and chapter business  
 7:00p Prog. - RMAC
- 21st (F) **Eligible free day @ Buchanan Ponds**
- 22nd (Sat) **Eligible free day @ Buchanan Ponds**

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On the web: [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org) [www.cotrout.org](http://www.cotrout.org) [www.evergreentrout.org](http://www.evergreentrout.org)

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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