



Fly Paper



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Next General meeting will be April 14, 6:30 PM at the University Park Holiday Inn. Joe Butler will give his all-new presentation entitled "Big Trout on Flies"

Presidents Beat

Turnout at the March meeting was on the low side. You missed a great program by Todd Calitri about fishing in Alaska. Todd is the head fly fishing guide at the Orvis endorsed Alaska Sportsman's Lodge. This digital presentation showed impressive scenery and fish. The offering is detailed at the Alaska Sportsman's Lodge (www.alaskasportsmanslodge.com) for those interested in a fly fishing trip of a lifetime.

We have had some feedback about the equipment swap at the February meeting. It has been suggested that we have a fly swap at the May meeting. Does this strike a chord? Let someone from the Board know if it does. For those of you who are really proficient in tying, perhaps you would like to donate some flies that could be sold, proceeds going to the Chapter. For those of us who tie, but only moderately well, we could trade some of our average flies.

May 15 is river cleanup day for the Big T. We are organizing a group to restore the catch and release signs on the river, to clean up trash along and in the river, and to work on the Narrows Park. It has been suggested that the club rent equipment to chip up branches, and perhaps a mower to clean up the brush in the park area. Please provide suggestions or volunteer? Let us know at the next General meeting, or come to a Board meeting and help with the planning.

September 15 is the day that Trout Unlimited has designated as National River cleanup day. For our Chapter, this will be a cleanup day for the Poudre River. We will need volunteers and help in planning this event.

April General Meeting

On April 14, the second Wednesday, we will meet at the University Park Holiday Inn, 425 W. Prospect, Fort Collins. The social hour begins at 6:30. Rick Takahashi

from Angler's Roost is scheduled to tie flies during the social hour. Gordon Waldmeir of Angler's Roost is sponsoring the meeting fund raising table. Joe Butler is our featured speaker. Joe is a well-known guide and has been our featured speaker in the past. He has an all-new program entitled "Big Trout on Flies".

If this is your first meeting, please introduce yourself to one of the Board members. We would like to help you get involved with our Chapter.

Poudre Learning Center

The plan is to build a Learning Center on the Poudre River in Greeley. The Center will provide both indoor and outdoor classrooms for interdisciplinary education in areas related to the environment. Educational resources will come from area school districts. A 65-acre plot on the Poudre River and classroom building are scheduled for completion in the Fall of 2005. Fundraising for the needed \$630,000 is underway.

Should our TU Chapter become involved? Is the scope of the proposed educational program something that will be compatible with TU objectives for cold-water resource preservation? Should we donate money? How can we participate in the educational programs? Should CTU or NTU become involved? Would they be interested?

The list of participating organizations is impressive, led by Rotarians. Is there a group of members who would be interested in this kind of project? The Learning Center is planning a presentation at our May General meeting.

CTU Spring Rendezvous

Spring Rendezvous will take place again in April at Redstone. The dates are April 17 and 18. All the details are not yet available. This early "heads-up" will enable

your planning. Watch the Colorado Trout Unlimited website for details. If you would like to attend, let a Board member know.

Memberships

National Trout Unlimited is offering introductory memberships at the reduced annual membership fee of \$17.50. If you know someone who is not and has never been a member of TU, encourage him or her to log onto www.tu.org and sign up for membership. Our Chapter ID# is 010. The great part of this program is that our Chapter gets a \$15 finders fee for each new member. Bring this new member to our next General meeting.

Rebates to the Chapter are not limited to new memberships. Family, three year, corporate, life, and other higher membership levels also result in rebates of funds to our Chapter treasury. This offer extends through 2008. If you are renewing this year, consider a higher or longer term membership level.

Leadership Training Workshop

Spring Rendezvous for Colorado Trout Unlimited will take place at Redstone again this year. The day prior to the Rendezvous, April 16, CTU and NTU will conduct a leadership-training workshop. The trainers will be Laura Hewett, Upper Midwest Conservation Director, and Kim Ryais, Southeast coordinator for TU. The program will include: Recruiting members and leaders, Increasing participation in your Chapter, Leadership transitions, and Conservation campaigns. CTU and NTU are urging Chapters to support this workshop and to provide financial assistance to participants is needed. CTU has set aside funds to aid participants. Let someone on the Board know if you are interested.

Trout Unlimited News

Trout Unlimited (TU) today announced that veteran public servant Ted Fitzgerald will join its staff as the Restoration Project Director of the American Fork Canyon Home Rivers Initiative, a program that combines analysis and on-the-ground cleanup to deliver healthier lands and waters to nearby communities.

Fitzgerald will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the American Fork Canyon Project, a multi-year effort to improve water quality and the health of the fishery in the American Fork. High levels of contaminants currently leach into the river from piles of unreclaimed mine tailings, causing a significant environmental and public health threat. Fish living near the sites, for example, have been found to contain almost 10 times as much lead and twice as much cadmium and zinc in their bodies as those living upstream of the hazards.

Fitzgerald is particularly well-equipped to deal with the challenges of the project. A professional engineer, he joins TU after 25 years with the U.S. Forest Service, all of which were spent in Utah. During the past four years, Fitzgerald was based in the Uinta National Forest - through which the American Fork runs - where he planned, coordinated and completed the cleanup of abandoned mine lands on National Forest System Lands in the American Fork Canyon.

"I am excited for the opportunity to continue the watershed restoration work in American Fork - on private lands and public lands. Trout Unlimited's objectives for this canyon will bring many partners together to complete the work the Forest Service started. The result will restore a more robust, functional ecosystem," said Fitzgerald.

"Ted brings to our work an unmatched combination of technical skills, experience, knowledge of the local landscape and an understanding of how to work effectively with partner groups," said Laura Hewitt, TU Director of Watershed Programs. "His expertise will be essential to TU's efforts to create a positive model of cooperative restoration of abandoned mine sites, which negatively affect 40 percent of Western headwaters streams, according to the EPA."

Home Rivers Initiative projects are collaborative multi-year efforts that combine scientific and economic research; community outreach; on-the-ground restoration; and the development of long-term conservation and management strategies on a watershed scale. The initiative has scored major successes on New York's Beaverkill River, Wisconsin's Kickapoo River, Pennsylvania's Kettle Creek, Montana's Jefferson River and Idaho's South Fork Snake River.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for Rocky Mountain National Park

Lily Lake Greenback Patrol

This job helps the Park Law Enforcement Ranger inform the Public of the "Catch and Release" and barbless hook regulations at Lily Lake and help enforce the spawning area closure during spawning season. Volunteers wear the National Park Volunteer uniform and work on a chosen day of the week, either morning, afternoon or evening patrol from May through August. You set your schedule and there is flexibility if you need to skip a week. Contact Austin Condon at AWCFflash@AOL.com if you are interested in helping at Lily Lake.

Park Fishery Biologist Assistance

This job is helping the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Biologist with his greenback cutthroat trout research. There are

varieties of jobs and you can pick the one that suits your time and stamina, as some of the work requires long hikes into remote areas of the Park. Contact Dan Dilts at dldlmd@charter.net if you are interested in helping the Fish Biologist.

Both of these jobs, helping with the fisheries, at Rocky Mountain National Park are interesting and rewarding. If you have any questions about either program please call John Barber at 970-593-1880

Phantom Canyon Public Fishing and Guide Day

We are back again with a rare opportunity to fish in The Nature Conservencies Phantom Canyon waters.

Guide day will be Saturday May 15. The public fishing days will be 6 days this year. This is an indication that TNC likes the way we handled the program over the last two years. So the public fishing days are the Saturday and Sundays of June 19 and 20, June 26 and 27, and July 17 and 18. If you are interested in guiding or fishing please send an e-mail to Ken Eis at eis@cira.colostate.edu YOU MUST PUT PHANTOM CANYON FISHING OR PHANTOM CANYON GUIDING IN THE message TITLE OR I THROUGH OUT THE MAIL.....unread.

Lottery for public fishing - we will hold a public lottery at the TU board meeting in May. If your name is drawn you and a buddy will have an entire 1 mile reach of the canyon to fish. Please note that we want the buddy to be a fishermen also, not a hiking or non-fishing buddy. There are many opportunities to go into the canyon on other public days for non-fishing. Of course the fishing is fly (barbless) only.

FOR POTENTIAL GUIDES If you are interested in guiding and have not done it before please note that we need accomplished fisher men and individuals who can hike in and out of the canyon and push on a potential 6 mile hike. You will be representing TNC as well as TU. No one can guide that has not attended the orientation day.

Some general information for both guides and public fishing winners.

Directions-North of Ft Collins on 287. About 3 miles north of the Livermore junction. We will consolidate into 3-4 guides per car and don't block the gate or road in.

After the safety and emergency orientation by the TNC staff we will do some fishing. Bring paper and pencil to take notes during the orientation.

I typically carry my waders and wading boots in a back pack to the bottom and wear shorts and hiking boots to

the bottom and on the way out also. It will probably be hot on the way out and you don't want to be wearing waders on the 600 foot climb out. You descend to the bottom of the canyon in the middle of the 6 1-mile reaches. Going to any of the reaches up or down stream requires frequent fording of the river. We will all pack out and be at the TNC building at 3PM. If you are late you could possibly be banned from future fish

in Phantom Canyon. The same lecture will be given by you all to the public fishing participants. TNC staff take the departure times very seriously.

Bring fishing equipment (waders or wet wading is mandatory and please bring cleaned waders ie in bleach to kill whirling disease tames), sun glasses, lunch, sun tan lotion and lots of water. If its 90 degrees you will need about 4 quarts minimum. I bring a filter pump and refill out of the river. The Nature Conservancy's rules and regs are in the attachment.

Board Agenda

The Board Agenda for March included the following items:

Treasurer's report

Membership report and membership initiatives

April meeting speaker and activities

May meeting speaker and activities

River cleanup for the Big T scheduled for May 15

NTU's river cleanup day on September 15 RMFC to do the Poudre

Proposed Poudre River Education Center in Greeley

Phantom Canyon fishing

Newsletter mailing permit

Web site changes

Registration with the State for a raffle permit

Proposed Awards dinner in 2005 What date is appropriate?

Jax fishing day

CTU's and RMFC's response to proposed Larimer Weld Water Conservancy District

The search for projects that will involve our Chapter membership

Would you like to participate in next month's Board meeting? Are there subjects here that interest you? If so, we will welcome you at Wilson's Pub on 29th street in Loveland at 7:00 PM on Tuesday April 20.

Wanted to buy: Cheap life jackets. I just need some to store in the boat to be compliant (not really for wearing) Please contact Chris Morton at 970-532-5460 or chris.morton@sun.com

Calendar of Events

General Meetings: Apr 14, May 12

Board Meetings: Apr 20, May 18

General meetings are always at the University Park Holiday Inn at 6:30 PM the second Wednesday of the month.

Board Meetings are held at Wilsons Pub on 29th in Loveland at 7:00 PM on Tuesday following the general meeting. The board meeting is open to all members.

If you have any suggestions for the next newsletter, please contact Chris Morton

Rocky Mountain Flycasters Board of Directors

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Paul Fromme, President (p-pfromme@att.net).....282-9387
Ken Eis, VP (eis@cira.colostate.edu).....229-9790
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Committee Directors:

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Glen Colton, Conservation Liaison (glenc1@attbi.com).....225-2760
Bill Barton.....484-2134
Ralph Kronkow (kronk1@oneimage.com).....203-1931
Marsh Ragland (marsh@pcisys.net).....(303) 776-9786
Glen Colton, Conservation Liaison (glenc1@attbi.com).....225-2760
Greg Evans, Program Directors (gsevans@frii.com).....204-4004
Lee Evans, Program Directors (sevans@frii.com).....225-9053
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Change of Address and Membership – Please send change of address to TU directly. All mailing labels come from from TU's contractor and are not locally generated. The address is Trout Unlimited, Membership Department, 1500 Wilson Blvd, Suite 310, Arlington, VA 22209-2310 or phone 1-800-834-2419. If you are joining TU, renewing etc please include our local chapter number 010 in your correspondence and check so we get credit at National for your membership. Thanks.

The Rocky Mountain Flycasters
717 E 34th St
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Loveland, CO 80538
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*Dedicated to the Preservation,
Protection
&
Enhancement
of our Nation's Coldwater Resources*
