



Riffle Talk



Nov. - Dec. 2007

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Free to Members of the Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

Greg Walck

Yes, there is a new face at the helm of CMCTU. My name is Greg Walck and I am **your** new President. I have been on the Board of Directors for the past three years serving first as VP Membership and most recently as VP Development. I look forward to serving our membership and the mission of CMCTU in this new capacity and ask all members to join in making CMCTU the best chapter in the state.



I would be remissive if I did not start out my first article by thanking Allyn Kratz for his service as President of the chapter for the past three years. I am thankful he will continue as Past President for the continuity and sound advice he will bring to the Board.

I would also be remissive if I did not thank our continuing Board members for all their dedication and personal commitment in helping CMCTU achieve its mission last year. What a great group to work with. And to be part of what was achieved by these volunteers is something to be proud of. Overachievement is probably a better term.

I want to specially thank the members that joined the Board at the November board meeting. Almost half the board positions were vacant after elections in September. These included the critical positions of Treasurer, Communications and Development. Even Webmaster needed replacement. Members responded to our email and have continued the tradition of volunteering when the chips are down.

Speaking of the last email requesting volunteers for the Board, our email program provides statistics and some of it is troubling. Of the 614 emails sent, only about 20% of our members opened it. In addition, 36 emails bounced indicating that members are not using the various options available to update their email address to stay in contact with **their** chapter. Both statistics indicate fewer potential volunteers.

Fewer volunteers impact our projects. The Sportsman's Chili Cook-off had one member volunteer to help that day on a fundraiser in town. Our National River Cleanup Day volunteers amounted to 1% of membership. Given the quality of our membership, I know I feel personally disappointed and question why we are failing our membership.

On a positive note, we averaged 40 members per membership meeting in 2007. That is a 33% increase in attendance since we moved the meetings to the CDOW regional office. While it was inconvenient for members living near TREA, the Board decided to change locations to provide a more central location for our geographic area without members having to cross town to get there. Some-

Cont. on pg 2

MEMBERSHIP MEETING REMINDER:

Our next Membership Meeting will be Tuesday, January 23rd, 2008!!!

At the January meeting we will have our quarterly fly swap. We are swapping midge patterns at the meeting so start tying!!!

PRESIDENT'S PIECE CONT.

times we get it right.

The reason for mentioning emails, projects and meetings is to focus our attention on the issue of member participation. Imagine the possibilities if more members took an active part, **even just one day a year**, to help the chapter accomplish its mission. Your Board is actively planning next year's activities which will be posted on our website calendar soon. Please review our 2008 calendar of events, pick a project and plan on volunteering just once. And please let your Board know as soon as possible for planning purposes. It would be great if we did not have to send out emails next year requesting volunteers. The fisheries will benefit and your Board will appreciate it. Please contact me or the Board at any time to volunteer, discuss ways to improve chapter participation or even what turns you off from participating. Our ears are always open.

Greg Walck
President, CMCTU

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FLY SWAPS FOR 2008

Don't forget - the January meeting will see our first quarterly fly swap of the year. Bring a dozen midges of your choice. Everyone who brings a dozen flies will draw a number out of a hat. Whoever draws number one gets to pick a dozen flies and so on down the list.

It's your choice as to the flies you pick. You can take twelve that are totally different, six pairs of two - one to fish and one to save as a pattern - or whatever suits your fancy.

Plan ahead! We will have a fly swap

each quarter. Start tying now!

April - Dry Flies
July - Terrestrials
October - Nymphs

It doesn't matter whether you tie 'em or buy 'em, bring a dozen flies



PROJECT HEALING WATERS

Project Healing Waters Comes to Colorado

Project Healing Waters was initiated by members of Trout Unlimited and the Federation of Fly Fishers to serve military personnel who have come home wounded or injured to aid their physical and emotional recovery by introducing or rebuilding the skills of fly fishing and fly tying and by using and enjoying these skills on fishing outings and as lifelong recreation.

Project Healing Waters began in the Washington, DC area and expanded to 36 cities nationwide. It is now ready to kick off in Denver, Colorado Springs, and Grand Junction.

All services and activities of **Project Healing Waters** are provided to the participants at no cost. Fly fishing and tying equipment and materials are provided to the participants, including equipment that accommodates their special needs.

We need your help in two ways. First, on Saturday evening, January 5th, 2008, Trout Unlimited and the Federation of Fly Fishers will jointly sponsor a dinner and fundraiser at the Denver Merchandise Mart, beginning at 6pm immediately after the Fly Fishing Show closes for the evening. Many fly fishing celebrities, manufacturers, and representatives of **Project Healing Waters** will be in attendance. Come enjoy the evening and bid on the many auction items that will be available.

Second, we need your help working throughout the year with wounded soldiers at Ft. Carson. We will teach them fly tying and fly fishing and then take them on fishing outings. No matter how you rate your ability tying flies or fly fishing, we can use your help.

Our soldiers at Ft. Carson have made tremendous sacrifices over recent years. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to do something on a person-to-person basis to help them. To participate, please contact Jim Williams at (719)528-8314 or jrawlsw@aol.com.

JANUARY WILL BE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR!

The Fly Fishing Show West (FFSW) at the Merchandise Mart is still scheduled for the first weekend in January, the 4th, 5th and 6th. This is the show you've known for the past seven years sponsored by Chuck Furimsky.

A new competing show called the Fly Fishing Expo is scheduled for the same exact weekend at the Denver Convention Center. This show is sponsored by the American Fly Fishing Trade Association (AFFTA).

There is a power struggle now going on for the fly fishing consumer market and Denver is the test site. While the area consumers will be the loser this year, the shows will go on. Your chapter and state council are staying neutral and will support both shows to the extent possible. But it will most likely impact your chapter's fundraising efforts next year.

Last year your chapter volunteers manned the CTU booth at the Fly Fishing Show West. We gathered petition signatures for water temperature standards that were presented to the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission, which the commission finally approved. New memberships obtained at the show made CTU the top state council for recruiting. But most important for our chapter, we raised \$2835 from raffle ticket sales.

This year attendance will be impacted, to what extent is unknown. The split in attendance is most likely to impact our total ticket sales.

As it stands now, CTU will have a booth at FFSW. There is also a proposal floated by Furimsky for a Conservation Corner where TU chapters can display conservation projects. There will also be a dinner with auction Saturday night to help raise funds for Project Healing Waters in Colorado. At the AFFTA show, CTU has been given six booths for chapters to use to set up conservation displays. CTU will not have a booth at AFFTA. A lot of details are still unknown.

Our chapter volunteered to man the CTU booth again at the Fly Fishing Show West before the AFFTA show was announced and we will

WILLIAM SMITH H.S. FISHING DAYS

A brand new year for CMCTU and one project is already under the wading belt. Your President was contacted by Theresa Springer of the Coalition for Upper South Platte (CUSP) to arrange youth fishing days for William Smith H.S. of Aurora. This is an alternative high school and eighty students were studying water quality issues with field work provided by CUSP. The students requested a fishing day at the completion of the class as most had never been fishing before.

While the school was not in our "territory", CUSP has been a great partner with Trees for Trout and our Parent-Youth day on the Tarryall River so CMCTU was on it. Luckily the request came before the CTU Fall Rendezvous and I was able to network with Denver area chapter presidents. That led to learning about Lake Lehow, a private lake owned by the Denver Water Board that was created just for fishing education. This lake is supervised by CDOW Angler Education Coordinator Scott Gilmore. CDOW stocks the lake, provides all the fishing gear and no fishing licenses were needed even though the students were all over the age of 16. Coordinating with CUSP, CDOW, and TU chapters Cherry Creek and Cutthroat; two days in November were reserved for 40 students each day and a dozen volunteers came forward. Ken Little and your President participated both days and your chapter provided lunch for the volunteers.

Lake Lehow shares the same parking lot as Waterton Canyon. We all arrived an hour before the students arrived by school bus and helped Scott set up forty spin rods with barbless hooks, sinkers and Powerbait eggs. The goal was for the students to catch fish and this method really is catching more than fishing. Scott gave an hour presentation on

fisheries and then the catching started. In an hour and a half every student caught fish which the volunteers released, most of the time by cutting the leader as the hook was too deep to remove. Scott said the fish would spit the hook after about three days since they were barbless. By the end of the day there was only one floater on the lake. The students got to keep their fishing gear and were very thankful and excited about their fishing day as they boarded the school bus to return to school.

These were alternative school students, not your typical high school students. Talking to the students though, all were thinking about going to college after high school despite their past learning issues. My first day I met an autistic young man and it was quite a struggle for him just to push the button on the reel at first. None of us should ever complain about a bad day of fishing! But he managed to catch two fish and was thrilled. My second day I met a young girl already with an eight month old baby in day care at the school so she could finish her high school diploma. She managed to catch two fish also for the first time. In all, 52 students took part and all caught fish. And they all learned a little respect for the resource as well.



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JANUARY Cont.

stay with our commitment to CTU. CTU has asked your President to coordinate the FFSW for CTU.

The bottom line on all this is your chapter is looking for volunteers to help man the shows. If you can spare an hour while you are visiting the shows, or would like to help with Project Healing Waters Saturday night, please contact me.

Greg Walck, President
gregorywalck@msn.com
719-351-2076

WHERE THE BROWNS COME FROM

There is only one lake that supplies brown trout eggs for stocking the species in all of Colorado. Every fall fish biologists head to north Delaney Butte Lake in North Park for the brown trout spawn. The brown trout is not native to Colorado. Its true home is really Northern Europe.

Brown trout first arrived in the U.S. from Germany in 1883. German fish culturist Baron Lucius Von Behr shipped 80-thousand eggs to an American fish culturist he'd met at the international fisheries exposition in Berlin. The earliest documented brown trout in Colorado came from England in 1885, shipped as eggs to a Denver hatchery.

There are many self-sustaining populations of brown trout found in Colorado, but the Division of Wildlife does bolster their numbers. For more than 20 years the Division has been taking brown trout spawn from North Delaney. The fish are actually trapped in net-like cages overnight for a period of about a week. The fish are then sorted by gender. Biologists squeeze the eggs from ripe females and then add the milt from the males. The spawned fish are then released.

These fertilized eggs are held at the Division's research hatchery in Fort Collins for three weeks until they begin to form eyes. Then they are sent to various fish units around the state that have brown trout on their stocking schedules. The fish are raised to a three to five inch size over the winter and will be stocked out next summer. This year Division fish crews took 950-thousand eggs in only three days.

Riffle Talk

Published by:

Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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We solicit reader's contributions in the form of guest editorials, fly tier's corner, letters-to-the-editor, cartoons, jokes, etc. ALL materials are subject to editing. We prefer text submissions in any PC format on a 3.5 diskette, which will be returned. Photographs and other graphics should be of sufficient resolution and contrast that they can be printed as-is. The fastest way to contact the editor is by e-mail to tterebus@yahoo.com. You can also send your contributions to:

Riffle Talk

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TU Members: Advertise your used fishing equipment or other items in these pages; up to five lines, \$5.00/issue (\$1/additional line).

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Supporter Pg.	\$10/issue	\$50	- 6 issues

DEADLINE for contributions and change of ads is the first of the month of the current newsletter printing. Riffletalk is distributed in January, March, May, July, September, and November.

RIFFLE TALK is a non-profit publication of the Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

MORE FISHING ETIQUETTE

By Bob Day

Please don't ask how many fish I caught.

Man has fished since the beginning of time; and for all that period, probably the first question asked when he returned was, "How many did you catch?" For the first several thousand years, that question was really necessary because the answer to it meant whether or not they were going to eat that day. Today, that would not be the situation and so, along with all the other refinements to fishing, I believe that Fishing Etiquette needs updating to reflect modern day techniques.

Fishing and Catching are two entirely different endeavors, but the average person on the street wouldn't understand that. The fly fisher is a breed with differing motives for pursuing fish that other people usually don't understand. Why do they spend time with hairy, fuzzy imitations of the fish's natural food when they could hand a worm on a hook and probably catch more fish quicker? Well, that is the reason Fishing and Catching are different. That is also why there needs to be a system to show the success rate of the Fishing effort.

A lot of time has been given to come up with a system that adequately converts Fishing into a numeric answer to the age-old question for a fisher: "What kind of day did you have today?" How can you convey to those people the joy of just being on the water, the poetry of placing your fly just where you believe a wily trout will see it, the thrill of having it strike your offering and the feel of its initial surge to freedom from the tug of line? Well, here is the equation to give them their numeric answer, with the proper etiquette.

- If the fish is hooked securely enough so that you are able to play it for a time but not net it ... add 2 points.

- If the fish is hooked so that you are able to bring it to net ... add 3 points.

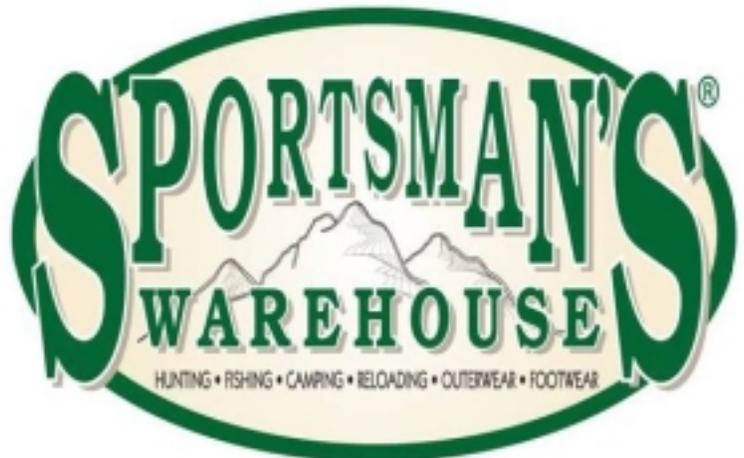
- If you are able, after netting the fish, to remove the fly, and return it

to the water without killing it ... add 2 points (practice Catch & Release).

- If you keep the fish or kill it by over-playing it then you lose all your points accumulated so far, you start off again with a minus 5 points and must go to the bank and sit there for 30 minutes pondering why you would deny a brother fisher the joy of catching that fish some other day.

As you can see from above you can answer any question, whether proper or not, with an answer that satisfies the questioner, i.e. Question: How many fish did you catch today? Answer: 5 (a lousy day fishing, but to the un-initiated a decent catch day.) Answer: 13 (caught, landed and released one fish, but to the etiquette-impooverished, it says a good day.) Now you should not your head goodbye and hustle on past to avoid in-depth questioning.

To the etiquette-knowledgeable person the answer to question one above says - "I had a great day fishing but the catching was bad." Question two above could have several answers, ranging from catching on fish; fooling several fish, but they were not hitting hard, or I had a couple on but didn't land them; and so on and so forth. In any event you can give an answer that allows you to smile, answer and walk on by. The alternative is - well, I think we all have experienced that, and so here is a good way to end a day fishing on the same high note it began.



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Mission Statement

Cheyenne Mountain Chapter
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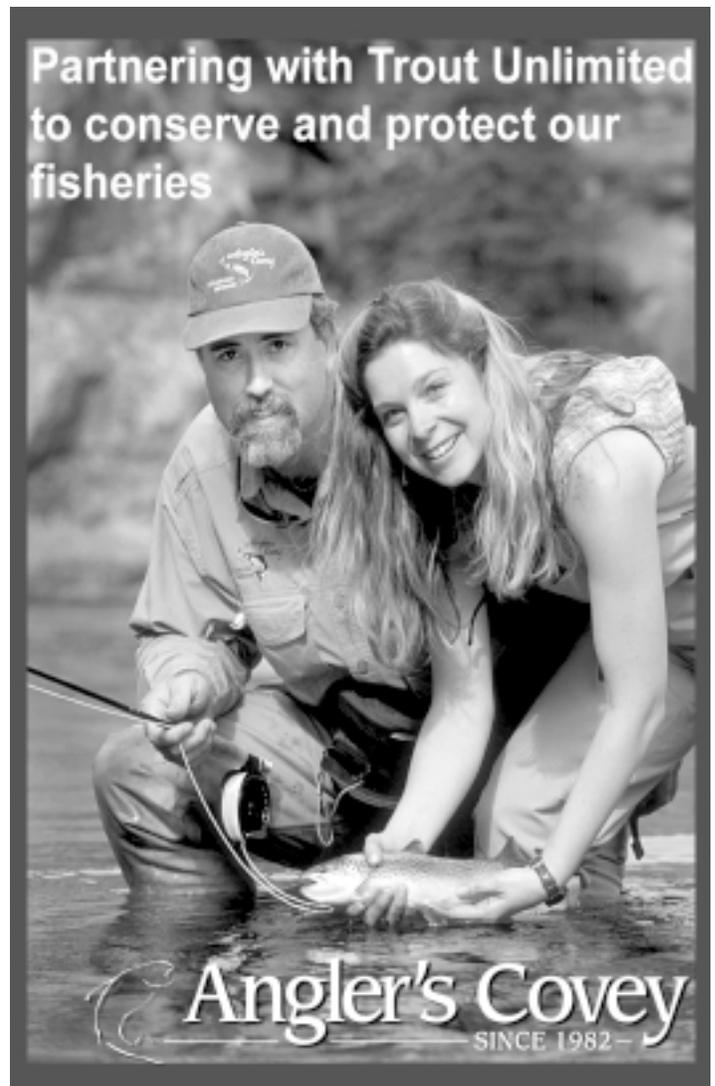
The Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited strives to **conserve, protect and re-store** cold-water fisheries, resources and their watersheds. THIS IS ITS SOLE MISSION. THESE GOALS ARE TROUT UNLIMITED'S REASON FOR BEING!

To achieve these goals, to participate in this mission, Members:

1. Support and promote fisheries and water-resource policies that further these goals.
2. Work actively on conservation projects, volunteering labor and expertise, often in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and Colorado Wildlife and conservation agencies.
3. Seek to influence the decisions of such agencies as well as those of wildlife commissioners, legislative committees and elected officials in general.
4. Foster ethical and sensible conservation practices among users of the cold-water resource.
5. Attend the regular membership meetings of the Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited.
6. Elect to the Chapter's Board of Directors members who will provide direction and strong leadership.
7. Contribute financially to build and maintain the Chapter's fiscal stability.

The Pikes Peaks Flyfishers is a Colorado Springs based non-profit fly fishing club. The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm (6:30 social hour) at the The Retired Enlisted Association, 834 Emory Circle, Colorado Springs. The website is www.pikespeakflyfishers.org.

Would you like to update the email address that you receive the CMCTU announcements and newsletters? It's simple!!! Just visit the *Members Center* at www.tu.org and edit your email address in your profile or call **the TU Customer Service Team** at 1-800-834-2419.





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For over 40 years, Trout Unlimited has been America's leading trout and salmon conservation organization, dedicated to conserving, protecting, and restoring coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. Whether we're planning and building stream improvement projects, working with government to protect our rivers and streams, or teaching young people the importance of protecting wild fish and their habitat, TU members are actively engaged in preserving our vital natural resources.

Your next Riffle Talk newsletter will come out in JANUARY!!