



Riffle Talk



July - August 2008 Volume: 23 Issue: 4 Free to Members of the
Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Board members are needed

September 30th marks the end of our fiscal year and we will present our annual report at the September membership meeting. We will also be conducting the election of board officers for 2008-2009 year.

Your chapter has open board positions next year that must be filled if the chapter is to remain viable. The following board positions are going to be vacant:

President
Secretary
Communications
Membership
Projects
Publicity

CMCTU has been in operation since June 28, 1986 and has been one of the best chapters in the state since its inception. We have done so because our members have always stepped up and taken an active role when the call was made for volunteers.

Please volunteer to fill these positions. Contact any board member if you can help your chapter next year by serving on the board.

President's Piece Greg Walck



"CMCTU and GRTU unveil TFT sign"

I need to start with a **BIG THANK YOU** to those members that attended the May membership meeting for our fundraising auction. The auction exceeded our expectations as we raised almost \$6,000 dollars for the chapter which is highly needed for our projects this year. Your board worked very hard to provide the membership with really good values. Was the auction perfect, could we have done better? Sure, but it was a very good event for our first auction since we stopped the annual chapter banquet. The banquet had become an exercise in futility due to poor attendance and costs that resulted in a net zero for the chapter as a fundraiser. And the strain on the volunteer board to plan, arrange and host the banquet detracted from focusing on our mission. So we are not planning on changing the auction format for next year but will plan some changes to make it better.

Our June membership meeting at Camp Alexander was well attended by 49 people. What a blast it was to see the kids walking down to the stream to fish with the bright orange and blue casting rods with bubbles provided by CDOW. The kids got to keep the rods at the end of the day as well. Unfortunately, the fishing was tough due to higher flows but reported to turn on late in the afternoon

with a caddis hatch. Our entomology session revealed a great variety of aquatic bugs so our work in the Canyon is achieving its goals. All who attended said they had a great time and one member stated we should do this more often at different locations. We still have a VP Special Projects position on the board that has not been filled for three years. If you would like more social events for the chapter, let us know.

The high cost of gasoline this year may be putting your fishing trips on the back burner. So I am starting an initiative to focus on local fishing and chapter fishing trips to promote camaraderie and carpooling. The board has scheduled a trip for Saturday August 23rd as a chapter outing. The location will depend on water conditions as we will be subject to higher water temperatures. We tried one chapter trip last year to Tomahawk SWA and only two board members showed up that day. And they had a great day of fishing! Let's see if we can have better attendance this year otherwise the board will drop this from further consideration. Please email me if you plan on fishing with us.

And finally some foreign news we all should be aware of. New Zealand is going to ban felt wading shoes due to transport of invasive species. The future looks to be sticky rubber bottoms that all should consider when buying new wading shoes. Switzerland is going to ban catch and release as cruel and inhumane to the fish. I think C&R can be C&I if not done properly. Do we use barbless hooks with careful landing and handling of fish? PETA is here also folks, so lets be careful out there in how we treat our resources. And finally, blobs and boobies in England! These are artificial flies that do not look anything close to an aquatic insect and has "proper" fly fisherman upset. Let's not forget that one has to care about a resource before they will care for the resource. Let's not get our noses in the air as we need every fisherperson to stand up for water and habitat conservation. Nothing in our mission statement says we are here just for pure fly fishers, but we are here just for the fish.



Congratulations to Mark Werthman, of Pueblo, CO., our rod raffle winner! The drawing was held on May 27th at our monthly membership meeting. Mark bought his winning ticket at the Phil Long Sportsman's Expo in Colorado Springs.

Fly Swaps for 2008

Don't forget – the **July** meeting will see our third quarterly fly swap of the year. Bring a dozen terrestrial flies of your choice. Who knows, runoff may eventually end and we will be able to fish our rivers and streams again!

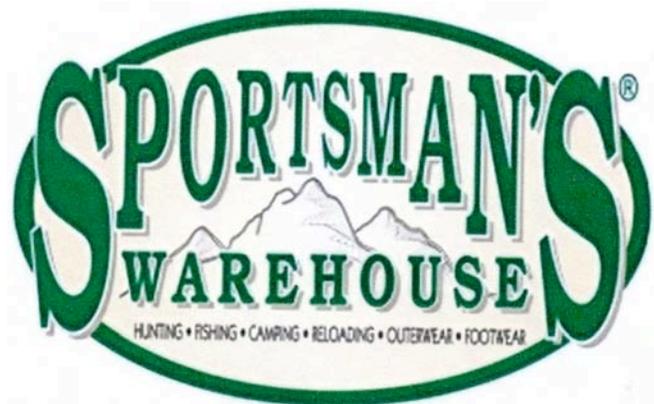
Everyone who brings a dozen flies will draw a number from a hat. Whoever draws number one gets to pick a dozen flies and so on down the list.

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!

October - Nymphs

It doesn't matter whether you tie 'em or buy 'em, bring a dozen flies and join in the fun!



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Fly Tier's Corner



Dirty Damsel

Photo: Hans Weilenmann

Tyer: John Gordon

<http://www.danica.com/flytier/jgordon/jgordon.htm>

- Hook:** Diaichi 1720 (size #10)
Eyes: Melted 90 lb. olive monofilament
Thread: 6/0 Uni-thread (Olive)
Body: Pearl Flashabou (Actually I use pearl Christmas tree tinsel)
Tail: Olive marabou (you can also add pieces of Krystal Flash).
Wing pad: Olive marabou
Legs or beard: Natural colored Mallard Flank

Tying Tips: The tail is usually at least one body length long. I use the very end of the marabou. Hold a piece of marabou in your hand and (stem down) stroke the feathers back to use the top few inches for your tailing. Here's a tip...Once you have the length worked out, tie in the whole feather to the hook shank and wrap up to the eyes, this will create a nice, even body. If you cut the marabou back at the tail, you have a drop off point between the tail and the hook...when you go to wrap the Flashabou, it creates problems and you can't get a nice, even body, so, wrap the marabou to just behind the mono-eyes.

1. Tie in the mono eyes.
2. Tie in marabou for tailing, wrap forward (lash it down well) to just behind the eyes, tie in and cut marabou.
3. Wrap back to the hook bend and tie in some Flashabou (Not KF, it's too skinny)...flat Flashabou (or Christmas tree tinsel...same as Flashabou).
4. Wrap thread back up the hook and then wrap the Flashabou, tie off just behind the eyes and trim.
5. Grasp a very small bunch of marabou and tie it in on top, just behind the eyes, this will act as a wing pad. Trim at 45 degree angle and about 2/3 length of the body.
6. Wrap thread forward and tie in some mallard flank for a beard...This will represent the nymphal legs.
7. Whip-finish and apply head cement.

Lake Fishing Tips: When mature damsel fly nymphs migrate, they swim up from the bottom of the lake and when they get within three feet of the surface, they swim horizontally to the nearest shore, vegetation, or rocks. Once there, the nymph crawls out of the water and hatches into an adult fly. Use a floating-type line and concentrate your efforts in the top three feet of the water column. Strip in line with a slow finger roll or figure eight retrieve, then add several quick strips, and pause. While paused, the fly will slowly drift downward; it is during this fall that most strikes will occur. The Dirty Damsel is designed to be fished in stained or off color (dirty) water, thus the Flashabou body and the name "Dirty Damsel".

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Casting for Recovery (www.castingforrecovery.org) is a national non-profit support and educational organization that serves women who have or have had breast cancer. CFR promotes and supports mental and physical healing while giving these women the opportunity to gather in a beautiful, natural setting and learn fly fishing.

CMCTU donated 30 dozen flies for CFR's May retreat. We would like to donate more for their September retreat. To sign up please contact Jim Williams at (719) 528-8314 or jrawlsw@comcast.net. You can find the list of flies on our website. *Bring your flies to our August meeting.*

Ghillie's Fly Shop and CMCTU have teamed up on a special offer. TFO is a corporate supporter of Casting for Recovery. If you purchase a TFO Casting for Recovery flyrod at Ghillies and donate it to CMCTU, CMCTU will then donate the rod and an additional \$40 to Casting for Recovery.

COMMISSION VOTES TO CHANGE SMALL GAME AND FISHING LICENSE DATES TO COINCIDE WITH SEASONS

The Colorado Wildlife Commission voted to adopt a season-year Small Game and Fishing license in place of the current calendar-year license at its regular July meeting in Durango Thursday. The action was taken in order to provide better customer service to license buyers.

The change in regulations will mean that all 2008 Small Game and Fishing calendar year licenses will be valid until March 31, 2009, and that subsequent small game and fishing licenses will be valid from April 1 to March 31 of the following year.

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WRAP-TURED ON THE ARKANSAS

A Sort-of Adventure Story

by

Jim White, Fisherman

My friend Les Kitchen in Colorado Springs had a new, big, no frame, vinyl-bottom, 3-man, blue pontoon raft. He wanted to try it on the Arkansas River and invited another friend, Bruce Kuster, and me to come down from Denver and float-fish with him. We were keen on the idea: Les could row, while Bruce and I cast to the banks and strip back with a Muddler Minnows or float an Elk Hair Caddis along likely seams. Our luck was so-so: numerous refusals with only an occasional take. I doubt we netted a dozen fish in fishing from the raft. At one place, though, fishing was excellent: behind the island west of the Rock Shop. We beached the raft on the main channel, so as to wade-fish the lesser flow on the back of the island. Then we got into them, each of us landing three or four a piece.

On the whole, it was an enjoyable trip. We joked with other rafters and commiserated with the wade-fishermen (who'd had too many rafters disturb their water). At lunch there was a cold Silver Bullet and a baloney sandwich to enjoy beneath a shade tree. We floated by a herd of Big Horn Sheep, and, all the while, Les got acquainted with handling his new pontoon boat. He was not yet "adroit," and Bruce and I were total novices about negotiating any class of rapids or warning about approaching boulders. We did some running-into and bumping-off of several through the day.

Then, just before the Spike Buck take-out (where our shuttled vehicle was parked) it happened. Coming down some swift water, we got turned perpendicular to the current and our boat, gently but decidedly, drifted onto a smooth, sloped-into-the-water boulder. Up it we rode, sideways. The front and back sections of the pontoon were on either side of the rock as the craft came to a centered stopped.

And I, dryly, rod in hand, simply stood up and stepped onto the rock. It felt like I was "lifted up," like I was kind-of levitated.

Going onto the rock seemed like nothing, but it was a serious matter. In the rafting business it is called "getting wrapped." I thought then and for

the longest time afterward that it was "getting *rapted*." And, if I'd known the bumper sticker at the time, I would have said,

"In the event of the rapture, this craft will be abandoned."

Wordplay notwithstanding, we were straddled on this mid-river boulder. What happened in the wrapping, we realized, was that the boat bent in the middle with the "port side"—to be nautical--being dry on the rock and the "star board side" submerged in the water. The bending put the front and back of the pontoon ["bow" and "stern"--don't you love it?] under water pressure. The ends caved in and took water, like an umbrella might. And we were stuck.

Picture then: three heavy six-footers standing on a small river boulder, rods in Bruce and my hands, Les holding his oars. We did not know what to do. We just stood there for the longest time.

After a spell we tried to right or dislodge the raft, but it did not work. We were just stuck. So we stood there a while longer.

Some of the things in the bottom of the boat, a tackle box and one net, we managed to retrieve by reaching down and pulling them out. Other things, though, such as the ice chest, clothing, and sundry gear either went to bottom, got stuck in the folds of the raft, or floated down the river. Hopelessly I watched a box of caddis flies disappear around the bend.

That's the main story.

Somehow we managed to make our way off the offending rock, wade-swim through the current, and find the shore. Water-logged, we sloshed our way to Les's truck and returned to Colorado Springs to spend the night in a cheap motel and come back the next day with a couple of winches—spelled with an *i*!—aka "come-alongs." Anchored to bank trees, the come-alongs with their two-ton capability finally pulled in the raft.

Surprisingly enough, some of our gear was still in it. I recovered my green Stanley Aladdin thermos bottle and immediately scratched through the green paint to write with numbers and letters

"8/26/87

Rapt!"

This rapt-ure is not what Saint John is speaking about in the Apocalypse (chapter 7, verse 4), for we had not come through "the *great* tribulation"...but it was a significant one. Albeit, one etched well in the memory of three tall guys.

**THE "ARKANSAS RIVER - CAÑON CITY HABITAT
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT" RAFFLE**

Purpose: *To purchase structure materials for the in-stream Arkansas River habitat improvement project. Project conducted in collaboration with the CO Division of Wildlife, Southern Colorado Greenback, Cheyenne Mtn. and Collegiate Peaks Chapters, Trout Unlimited.* For information, contact Pat at 719-566-6834.

FIRST PRIZE

- **Royal Gorge Anglers' Half and Half Float/Wade Trip for Two Anglers**

We start with a morning wade trip beginning at Arkansas River Tours in Cotopaxi at 7:30 AM. This portion of the trip lets you shake loose the cobwebs and concentrate on the great early morning dry fly fishing. At noon, you are free to spend a few hours on your own relaxing during the heat of the afternoon, or pursuing Browns rising to hoppers along shorelines. Meet us at 4:30 for an evening float donated by Bill Hamel/Arkansas River Tours, using large dries and streamers--the best of both worlds and you'll love it. You'll need to provide your own flies and lunch. Mid June through August. Normally \$395 per boat for 2 anglers. *Guide gratuity not included - Trip scheduled on an "as date available" basis.*
<http://www.RoyalGorgeAnglers.com> ~ 1210 Royal Gorge Blvd., Canon City, CO - 888-994-6743. *Prize item expires on Oct. 31, 2009.*



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Located on the banks of the BEST Arkansas River Fishing-Open April 1 - October 31. *Prize item is for one night and expires on Oct 31, 2009.* (A \$50 value.) <http://www.coloradocampingkoa.com/index.php>

A stay at the Cotopaxi/Arkansas River KOA puts you on one of the most popular stretches of the Arkansas River for fly-fishing, kayaking and whitewater rafting. The last weekend in March, this KOA hosts the annual Royal Gorge Anglers fly-fishing school. From mid-April through mid-May, an amazing caddis hatch produces incredible dry-fly action. After a day of action, relax at KOA's pavilion and patio overlooking the river. Swimming, hayrides, a game room with a pool table, mini golf, nightly movies and more keep kids smiling. Enjoy the new deluxe sites-overlooking and near the river-with concrete patios, fire rings and patio furniture. (A \$50 value.) *Prize item expires on Oct. 31, 2009.*

SECOND PRIZE

- **Royal Gorge Anglers' Full Day Walk/Wade Fly Fishing Trip for Two Anglers**

Normally worth \$350.00. *Guide gratuity not included. Subject to date availability. Prize item expires on Oct. 31, 2009.*
<http://www.RoyalGorgeAnglers.com>



Continued . . .

- **The Definitive Western Rivers Fly Box** with **Five Dozen** of the most catching flies, tied by Frank Nemick III. (A \$140 value!)

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THIRD PRIZE

- **Angler's Addiction Guided Full-Day Trip for Two Anglers at Yellow Pine Ranch**



near Cuchara, Colorado. Sponsored by Angler's Addiction and the Yellow Pine Ranch. Includes guiding for a full day, lunch and rod fees. This private stream in an historic ranch setting is home to BIG brookies, rainbow and browns. To finish the day, there is a small pond right by the lodge that holds large stocked trout. All catch and release waters on barbless hooks. Valued at \$300.00. *Guide gratuity not included. Subject to date availability. 719-568-2281. Prize item expires on Sept. 11, 2009.*
Angler's Addiction, 1401 N. Main St., Pueblo, CO.

(Tear off and Return coupon below to order raffle tickets - We cannot legally send raffle tickets through the U.S. Mail.)

I will support the Habitat Improvement Project! Please Reserve my Tickets!

I understand that the chapter will mail me a receipt indicating the numbers of the raffle tickets that the chapter is holding in my name, or I may also pick up the tickets at a membership meeting. I understand that, by this purchase, *I acknowledge that I will hold the chapter and the Raffle Master harmless in the event that my tickets are lost or stolen.* Drawings will be held on Sept. 11, 2008 at the S. CO Greenback Chapter TU regular membership meeting, 7:00 p.m., 119 W. 6th St., Pueblo, CO. Questions may be directed to Pat McGraw, 719-566-6834.

Find enclosed a check to S. CO Greenback Chapter TU Raffle, **mailed to** S. CO Greenback Chapter, Pat McGraw, TU President, 1630 Alma Ave., Pueblo, CO 81004 for

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*Please include self-address stamped envelope or 0.75 for expenses to receive notification of the Raffle Ticket numbers held by the chapter in your name.
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“Top Ten” Flies for all Seasons on the South Platte

By Jack Hunter

Writing this article for the CMCTU April newsletter reminds me that spring is just around the corner even as the snow flies outside my office window. Yesterday it was 74 degrees and sunny. Today I snow shod with my wife Jeanne in a blizzard and 6” of new snow at the Craggs on the west side of Pikes Peak. And, so it goes in Colorado, four seasons and many seasons within each one.

Fly Fishing for trout in Colorado has its seasons as well and each season brings different food sources to the river. Winter slows the trout’s metabolic rate. Shorter days and colder water slow the aquatic insect activity as well. Small midges abound in winter and are the fish’s major food source in our local streams during this season.

With spring comes longer days which warm the water and brings out the mayflies. Blue Winged Olives are prolific and the average trout consumes them in huge quantities.

Summer is the season when the trout try to grow fat. In the South Platte basin we’ll have a whole host of food sources converge on the river at one time. Blue Winged Olives continue and we see the Trico’s start to show up on the water. Pale Morning Dunn’s make an appearance as do Caddis flies of several different genres. Of course, summer also brings on the terrestrials, Grass Hoppers, Beetles, Ants and a host of others which are big time calories sources for the trout.

As fall comes to our neighborhood some caddis remain, the terrestrials hang on into October weather permitting and we see a resurgence of mayflies albeit smaller than those of the spring hatches.

Generally, that is the way the seasons play out in the South Platte basin. At least, that is the way I see it. I’ve fished the South Platte River for over 20 years now and each year has its subtleties. We could argue about specific timing of the bugs or the

sizes and colors they morph to over the course of a season but that is way more effort than I want to put into a conversation about bugs. Ultimately, it is irrelevant for this article anyway since I want to talk about those ten favorite flies of mine that work in every season.

As I’ve said in previous articles, I certainly don’t pretend to be the expert on all things fly fishing. I do, however, try to share what works for me with those that are interested in reading what I hope is at the very least a marginally entertaining and somewhat informative article.

With that disclaimer out of the way, let’s get on to my “Top 10” South Platte flies for all seasons. The list below represents four distinct categories; Scuds & Aquatic Worms, Nymphs & Emergers, Adult Insects and Streamers.

This article is not going to go into all the detail of the specific recipes and tying instructions for each of these patterns. Instead, I’ll share a few words about why these patterns work year round on the South Platte and some of the subtle modifications I make when I sit at the bench to tie up a few dozen of these patterns. For those interested in the specific recipes and techniques, there are many web based and printed media resources where this information is available. The pattern archive on the Fly Fisherman website is a good resource www.flyfishermen.com as is the Umpqua pattern encyclopedia which can be purchased through your local Umpqua Dealer or on line at www.umpqua.com. In my opinion, the best tying manual in existence is The Fly Tier’s Bench Side Reference by Ted Leeson and Jim Schollmeyer. This book covers techniques and dressing styles from basic to advanced. It’s about \$100.00 from your local fly shop or Amazon.com

Micro Scuds & Aquatic Worms

Scuds & Aquatic Worms thrive throughout the South Platte basin. They are present year round and represent a significant food source for trout.

Scuds can be found in colors ranging from cream to olive and bright orange and sizes starting around size 16 down to size 24 and smaller. I tend to lean toward the **“Micro Scud”** which I consider anything size 20 and smaller. I’ll tie a half dozen or so scuds in each of the three basic colors I normally find in my seine in sizes 20 and 22. I weight the micro scud by running one piece of .015 lead wire

down the top of the hook shank from just behind the hook eye to the top of the hook bend and back to the eye. I always use a heavy gauge hook such as the Tiemco 2457 or 2488H. My favorite dubbing for scuds is Hares Ear Plus from Hareline. I always tie the scud with a Mylar strip down the back covered by a thin strip of plastic from a clear zip-lock freezer bag and wrapped with fine wire for segmentation. Sometimes I'll tie in a tuft of CDC at the front and/or rear of the fly. The scud pattern has versatility too with the orange and pink scud working well as a substitute for an Egg Pattern during the spawn.

Aquatic Worms are also abundant on the South Platte. My favorite pattern to imitate this food source is of course the **San Juan Worm**. I tie this using micro-chenille in red, brown, "worm" color, fire orange and a two tone version combining the colors above such as orange & red. Another modification I make to this pattern when I tie it for my box is to wrap the hook with matching colored fine wire adding some segmentation and weight. I also thread a matching colored glass bead onto the micro-chenille and position it on the top and in the center of the hook shank. To finish it off I lightly burn the tips of the micro-chenille to give it a more realistic taper, look and feel. I've recently started using a scud hook to tie this pattern. Why? I don't know, I guess I really like the look of the finished product better. I'm pretty sure the fish don't care. For the South Platte I never use more than a size 16 Tiemco 2457. The actual pattern is normally just over an inch long and probably proportional to the hook size.

Nymphs & Emergers

Nymphs and Emergers are the go-to patterns on the South Platte when it comes to year round fish production. It makes sense since this is the trout's major food source for most of the year in these waters, right? The four patterns I like for year round use can imitate baetis and midges in their nymph and emerger life stages with slight modification such as adding a flashback or a soft hackle for example.

The **Black Beauty** is a very simple midge pattern. I tie it with a black thread body wrapped with fine silver or copper wire to add segmentation. For the thorax I use Peacock Ice Dubbing in place of the standard black superfine. I don't know what it is about peacock, but trout seem to love it from what I can tell and I think the "Ice" dubbing adds that sparkle and buggyness that attracts trout. Other twists on this pattern include adding a Mylar flash back over the thorax, a soft hackle or changing the body and thorax color to cream, red or gray for example. I guess if you change the color it's not really a "Black Beauty" anymore but you get the point. I tie this on a Tiemco 100 or similar hook. A couple of these in different colors and configurations can save a tough day on the water.

Rim Chung's **RSII** is my all time favorite emerger pattern but its versatility shouldn't be ignored. This pattern can be fished in the film or near surface in the traditional ascending manner but produces well as a nymph too. You can use this to imitate baetis and midges. I tie this with a gray thread body sparsely dubbed with gray beaver fur I use moose or microfibt for the split tail depending on what I have handy. Where I really deviate from Rim's original pattern is in the wing material for which I favor Dunn Z-Lon or Dunn Sparkle Organza. Sometimes I'll tie in a couple of strands of crystal flash just to add the extra bite-ability. Other colors that work for me are black and olive and some days a white wing may produce where a Dunn wing won't. This fly is tied on a Tiemco 101 or 100 in sizes 18 to 24 on the South Platte. I prefer the 101's straight eye that Rim uses in his original pattern. As I said, I think this is one of the best patterns in my box and it is my "confidence" or got-to fly on any trout stream, big or small.

The **Mercury Midge** is another very simple pattern to tie and is very similar to the black beauty so I won't spend a lot of words on it. Suffice to say I tie this on a Tiemco 2487 and rib it with fine copper wire. The "Mercury" in Mercury Midge comes from the glass "mercury" colored bead used on this fly. You can change up the color on this fly but the classic color is cream. UTC cream thread makes a great looking fly that produces well. This fly in red is a great winter fly on the South Platte. The sizes I prefer are 20 and 22 for this fly. One really cool variation on the red midge is the "**Grateful Red**" which can be attributed to Jack Duerson. This fly literally glows in the

dark. Use a ruby red glass Bead on a 2457 hook. Wrap the hook with red thread, cover the hook with a red flashabou underbody and over-wrap it with red Micro-Tubing. Add variation by adding a soft hackle or some red Ice Dubbing behind or in place of the bead. I keep sizes 18 & 20 of the Grateful Red in my box

The venerable **Pheasant Tail** has to be on everyone's top ten list. This fly is primarily used to imitate a baetis but also works well for midges. What else can I say about this classic fly that hasn't already been said a thousand times? Probably not much but... I tie the classic using natural Pheasant Tail fibers for the body and Peacock for the thorax. Of course the flashback Pheasant Tail is also a classic variation on this fly as is adding a metal bead head. Some small variations I throw at this fly include using red dyed Pheasant tail fibers and/or adding a glass bead and a Mylar flash back to create the "Mercury Flash Back Pheasant Tail". I'll go out on a limb here and credit Pat Dorsey with this variation since that is the first place I saw it, but don't quote me on that. Adding a soft hackle to a Pheasant Tail also works great, imitating more of an emerging insect. I tie this fly on the Tiemco 200R, Tiemco 3761 or Tiemco 100.

Adult Insects

Dry flies can be fished very successfully throughout the year in the South Platte basin. There are lots of great flies for the different hatches throughout the year. The Blue Winged Olives come off in the spring and fall. The Trico's, Pale Morning Dunn's and Caddis hatch from late spring into summer and beyond and the Midges hatch virtually all year long in one flavor or another. The three adult imitations I've decided to write about here work well in all seasons and across a variety of different conditions and types of fishing. For example, you can tie a size 10 or 12 **Parachute Adams** and use it on Spinney Reservoir as an adult Calibaetis or as Grasshopper at Tomahawk State Wildlife Area. Adding a small variation to a **Griffith's Gnat** by tying a gold tag on the hook bend comes pretty close to a Renegade which is one of the best high mountain lake flies in any fly box. The **Sparkle Dunn** or the very similar

Compara Dunn is a great cripple imitation that can be varied by body color, and wing and tail material to cover a very wide variety of different Mayflies, Caddis and Midges. That being said, I like to look at all of these flies as base patterns. Changing sizes, colors and materials can help you "match the hatch" more closely depending on where you're fishing. Some of you might be saying hold on now Jack, if you do that it just becomes a different pattern and you'd probably be right about that. That's why I say these are good base patterns. A Parachute Adams can become a Parachute PMD, a Parachute BWO, an adult Calibaetis or a Grasshopper. For those of you that don't like to tie a parachute, you can leave the post as the wing and wrap the hackle around the hook normally. To get the fly to ride low like a parachute just clip the hackle close to the bottom of the hook shank. Likewise, a Griffith's Gnat can be a midge cluster, Renegade or and Ant. I often tie a couple of strands of crystal flash on the top of this fly for visibility for me, not the fish. The Sparkle Dunn is a great cripple imitation for Mayflies and Midges. I've also fished a tailless variation of this fly successfully in the middle of the Mothers Day caddis hatch on the Arkansas River when nothing else would bring a strike. The bottom line is these flies have great silhouettes and the key characteristics that cover a broad spectrum of insects including terrestrials. When I tie any fly I always think about leaving on those characteristics that I can easily remove on the water to more closely match the hatch. Clipping hackle or tails on the water when needed adds more versatility to these base patterns. I tie all of these flies on the Tiemco 100.

Streamers

Last but certainly not least we come to Streamers. The **Wooly Bugger** is probably one of the most widely recognized flies in the United States, if not the world. This is also one the first flies that beginning tiers learn. I guess that's because it's big, and relatively easy to handle the heavy thread and large pieces of material. The Wooly Bugger is truly ubiquitous. I've seen variations on this fly from Scotland to South America. Some of the most common variations include adding a bead or a cone head or tying some crystal flash into the tail. Sometimes the Wooly Bugger is tied on a hook that has been weighted by wrapping the shank with lead wire and tying it down securely. Use a weighted Wooly Bugger to get deep or in fast currents. One of my favorite variations is to tie in some marabou on the top of the hook shank to give the fly a bit of

a larger profile and more “action” in the water. Other times I’ll tie a few strips of crystal flash down the side of the body to create the “Electric Bugger”. I’m not sure who to credit for this variation but I have seen it in fly bins at shops across the country and certainly don’t take credit for it myself. I also like to use a nice collar of hen hackle or marabou at the front of the fly to add movement and the appearance of a head and or body. This fly is an absolute must for every fly box and will bring fish year round in streams and still water a like. It’s also a tasty treat that Northern Pike and other species can’t easily pass up.

So that’s it; my “Top Ten” flies for all seasons (plus a few). Realistically, none of us are limited to just 10 flies to use for a year but I honestly believe I’d do just fine if I had to limit myself to these ten. I’m sure you can think of many different patterns that cover that same spectrum but as I said, these are the ones that work well for me. If I were stranded on a desert island rather than living in Colorado this list of flies would certainly be different. However, I’d also bet a days pay that bouncing a Wooly Bugger in front of some tailing Bones in the flats off of Christmas Island would bring a fish or two for dinner in a pinch. At the end of the day, I suggest you try these and experiment with your own base selection. Enjoy the season; which ever it happens to be. Tight Lines...

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Riffle Talk is a non-profit publication of the Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Projects! Projects! Projects!

Embrace a Stream: “Tree’s for Trout” partnership with Boy Scout’s at Camp Alexander. **Schryver Pond** inlet structure improvements partnership with Fountain Creek Restoration Committee.

Rocky Mountain Wildlife Exhibit: Green back trout habitat restoration partnership with Cheyenne Mountain Zoo.

Arkansas River Walk: Purchase boulders for **in stream improvements** in partnership with CDOW, and Pueblo and Salida Chapters of Trout Unlimited.

Buffalo Peaks Ranch: An effort to **restore stream and riparian habitat** along the Middle Fork of the South Platte in partnership with CTU.

Healing Water’s: Mental and physical rehab for wounded soldier’s.

Casting for Recovery: For breast cancer victims recovery.

Happy Meadows Campground and Badger Basin instream improvements in South Park.

Millsap Mine Tailings in Victor.

National River Cleanup in 11 mile canyon.

Mission Statement

Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited

The Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited strives to **conserve, protect and restore** 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.

Riffle Talk

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of Trout Unlimited

Board of Directors 2007-2008

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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 larry.wilkinson@comcast.net.

You can also send your contributions to:

Riffle Talk

Cheyenne Mountain Chapter, Trout Unlimited

P.O. Box 458

Member Meeting Notice

Please be our guest at Trout Unlimited's seventh membership meeting for the Year 2008. Our social time with free pizza and soda begins at 6:30 pm. The meeting begins at 7:00 pm. This month, CH2M Hill will be our presenter and will discuss the Gold Hill Mesa project and the associated work they are doing on Fountain Creek.



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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 cold-water 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 September!!!!!!!!!!