



Riffle Talk



Jan. 2006

Volume: 21 Issue: 1

Free to Members of the Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

Allyn Kratz

I want to tell you a story about a small stream not too far from here. In fact, it is a stream that runs down the north side of Pikes Peak. Its name: Severy Creek.



Severy Creek is rather small. There are many places where Severy Creek is less than 12 inches deep. There are also places where it is less than 12 inches wide. It has a water flow of from 1 to 1.5 cubic feet per second day after day, year after year. In fact, even during the last several years of drought, Severy Creek has continued this stable flow rate day after day of clear cold, clean water tumbling down the side of the mountain.

This phenomenon required investigation. At the source of the creek, high up the mountainside, one will find a high altitude marshland, a wetland meadow. This wetland collects and stores water when a storm or a snow melt comes along and then, over a long period of time, releases this water to the creek which then carries it down the side of the mountain at the 1 to 1.5 cubic feet per second rate.

If one were to look around the wetland meadow a bit, they would discover that above the wetland, higher up the mountain is a valley. The entrance to this valley is guarded by two very large boulders. Upon further investigation one would discover, however, that the valley behind these boulders has been filled up with gravel. I am sure you know the type. That pea and marble sized decayed granite found all over this

area. There are millions of tons of this granite in this valley, all being held back by those two very large boulders.

There is something else I should tell you about Severy Creek. Recently a population of genetically pure Greenback Cutthroat trout has been discovered within the upper reaches of the stream. This population numbers only around 500 adults. It seems that there is a 30 foot waterfall on Severy Creek and thus the invasive species of Brook Trout or Rainbow trout could not get to this area to compete or inbreed with this population of Greenback Cutthroat trout. As a result, this population has been in this stream for possibly 50,000 years. It is thought that Greenback Cutthroats evolved after being cut off from their parent population of Rainbow Trout, a Pacific coast population of trout, by the uplifting of the Rocky Mountains. Thus the Cutthroats were able to evolve independently of the Rainbow population.

You may be aware that it had long been thought that the Greenback Cutthroat Trout had become extinct until a population was found. Since that time, some additional

Cont. on pg 5

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tues., Jan. 24th

6:30 PM Social

7:00 PM Meeting

Program: Bill Dvorak of Dvorak Expeditions will giving a presentation on float fishing the Gunnison Gorge. His presentation will include videos of the stone fly hatch in 2002-2003, an instructional video, and slides on the logistics of getting onto the river. Keep you schedules open for this exciting presentation.

**FLY OF THE
MONTH -
LAZY MAN'S
THORAX DUN**

Vince Marinaro is best known for developing the jassid, a beetle imitation, and opening the possibilities of dry fly fishing with terrestrial imitations. However, another innovation of his was to resurrect and further develop a mayfly imitation called the Thorax Dun. This pattern is similar to a parachute dun but instead of wrapping the hackle around the wing post, two different sized hackles are X-wrapped around the thorax. This design has many positive aspects, but I didn't know what the hell X-wrapping was, so I tried palmering the hackle around the thorax and then trimming it. Not to imply that I designed this style of fly, because I have since found out that this is how most tiers tie the Thorax Dun. It has worked well in Cheesman Canyon, possibly because its not that commonly used.

Lazy Man's Thorax Dun

Tail: Split hackle or Micro-Fibetts

Body: dubbing to match natural

Hackle: to match color of natural

Wing: Polypro or Turkey Flats tied post style

1. Tie in wing post style about one-third of shank length behind the eye
2. Tie in split tails
3. Dub abdomen
4. Tie in hackle where the thorax begins
5. Dub thorax
6. Wrap hackle 4-6 wraps, with half the wraps behind the wing (in other words, palmer the hackle the length of the thorax)
7. Clip hackle on the underside of the fly nearly flush with the body

By palmer hackling the thorax, wrapping the hackle around the wing post (something most

beginners dread) is avoided. It is also thought that since the body is somewhat supported above the surface film the thorax dun will float better than the parachute dun, which has its body in or even below the surface film. One thing to remember is that if you find the right size saddle hackle you can tie several of these flies with one feather. Anyway, its something the fish haven't seen much and that may be all it takes.



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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
Cheyenne Mountain Chapter, Trout Unlimited
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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. Members receive postcards in alternate months.

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**A BOOK REVIEW OF
"FLY FISHING COLORADO'S FRONT RANGE"
BY TODD HOSMEN**

I received a copy of this book as a gift and after looking through it decided to share it with you.

The beginning section of the book covers the basics about the front range area, its unique weather and climate and how a fisherman should deal with it both for their own protection and comfort as well as which fly to select, when and why. This would be a very valuable resource for those new to fishing the Front Range and those coming from elsewhere to dabble in the waters found here. This section can be an excellent planning tool for your trip into the mountains.

The section of the book I found most valuable was that titled "Food and flies for Front Range Trout". This section alone is well worth your obtaining a copy of this book. The author covers the various food sources for the Front Range trout in great detail and includes great information on Caddis, Mayflies, Midges, Stoneflies, Terrestrials and others.

There are charts and graphs that deal with periods of hatches, how to fish them, which flies to use as well as how to tie them.

A short example of this is:

"The larva of the green sedge often lose their grip on the streambed. Your presentation is best done in a dead drift, either up or down, and across the current. Trout will also take the fly during its retrieve, which should be executed slowly, at a rate of just an inch or so every few seconds."

This section includes fly tying recipes that are less commonly found and guides you to recipes of other common patterns with guidance as to color and size best used for Front Range trout.

The third section of the book addresses locations to fish along the Front Range and not only provides detailed directions as to how to find a specific fishing location both via road and trail but also shares which fly to use and how to fish it.

I am very much looking forward to putting this information to use.

**CTU RIVER CONSERVATION & FLY FISHING
YOUTH CAMP**

CTU will conduct its first **River Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Camp** June 18-23 at the Ouray ranch in Granby, Colorado. Sixteen students will be instructed in ecology, aquatic biology, geology, hydrogeology, riparian corridor protection, watershed management, entomology and much more. They will also participate in a hands-on stream habitat improvement project.

Fly fishing and fly tying are also included. Instructors will teach the students fly casting, fly tying, stream etiquette, and how to "read" the water and then take them fishing.

Each CTU chapter may nominate one student. Final selection of students for the camp will be made by a CTU selection committee. CMCTU will nominate one student and pay the camp cost of \$350.

Applicants must have been born between June 23, 1987 and June 18, 1992. They must write an essay on why they want to attend camp and provide a reference from a science teacher or guidance counselor. After attending the camp, the student is expected to work with the sponsoring CTU chapter to select a local project he/she will head up and organize for the chapter. Examples are planning and conducting Trout in the Classroom programs with a science teacher in their school or organizing and leading a stream cleanup day on local waters.

Applications must be postmarked by March 30, 2005. For more information and an application form, contact Larry Quilling at 303-543-0939 or Larry_Quilling@maxtor.com or visit the camp website at www.cotrout.org

I am only one; but still I am one.
I cannot do everything, but still
I can do something; I will not
refuse
to do something I can do.
- Helen Keller

PRESIDENT'S PIECE CONT.

populations have been discovered and the Greenback has been upgraded to "Threatened" status by both the State of Colorado and by the US Government.

We are all very lucky that those two boulders were there at the entrance of that valley above the wetlands that feeds Severy Creek. Had it not been for their presence, the wetland would have filled with all that granite gravel, the water would not have had a place to be stored and, in times of drought, no water would have been there to continue the flow. If Severy Creek were to stop flowing for only one day, that population of pure Greenback Cutthroat trout would no longer exist.

When one looks at that valley filled with gravel, the conclusion could be formed that the valley was being filled with this gravel for thousands of years and thus is was part of nature. But if one were to climb up on top of that accumulated gravel, very large trees would be found that have been inundated by that gravel. This provides evidence that in the not too distant past, this valley was lush and green with this vegetation and only recently has the gravel flowed down the mountainside to fill the valley and engulf the trees. This causes one to ask. "What changed up above to cause such devastation to this valley?"

The only significant event that has occurred in recent history that could have caused an environmental change of such magnitude is the construction and maintenance of the Pikes Peak Highway.

In my mind, this is a perfect example of why all of us should be supportive of the protection of the "Roadless Areas" of the National Forest. If we do not protect these Roadless Areas, how many more Severy Creeks are out there? How many more populations of endangered and threaten species will be destroyed by the creation of roads and the resulting erosion in these areas?

Right now hearings are taking place around the state on this issue. I am asking you to attend and share your thoughts on the issue. Another option is for you to go to the committee's web site and provide your thoughts this way: <http://www.zoomerang.com/recipient/survey.zgi?p=WEB224PQGV3B8A>

Our environment and our legacy depend upon it.



SUSTAINING MEMBERS AND CHERISHED FRIENDS OF CMCTU

Trout Unlimited is a conservation organization. As you know from reading our newsletter and attending our meetings, CMCTU's mission is to conserve, protect and restore cold-water fisheries, resources and their watersheds. Our chapter is particularly active in a variety of local conservation activities.

Stated simply and, perhaps, bluntly, *conservation costs money*. Throughout the year, we have a variety of fund raising activities ranging from drawings at the monthly meetings to fully funded grants to matching funds grants.

Here is a unique opportunity for you to help, especially if work or family commitments prevent you from otherwise participating - become a Sustaining Member and Cherished Friend of CMCTU. For an annual pledge of \$50 or more you receive:

- the quiet satisfaction of knowing you have gone above and beyond to help CMCTU
- the sincere appreciation of CMCTU for your efforts

Please consider becoming a Sustaining Member and Cherished Friend CMCTU today.



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Mission Statement

Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited

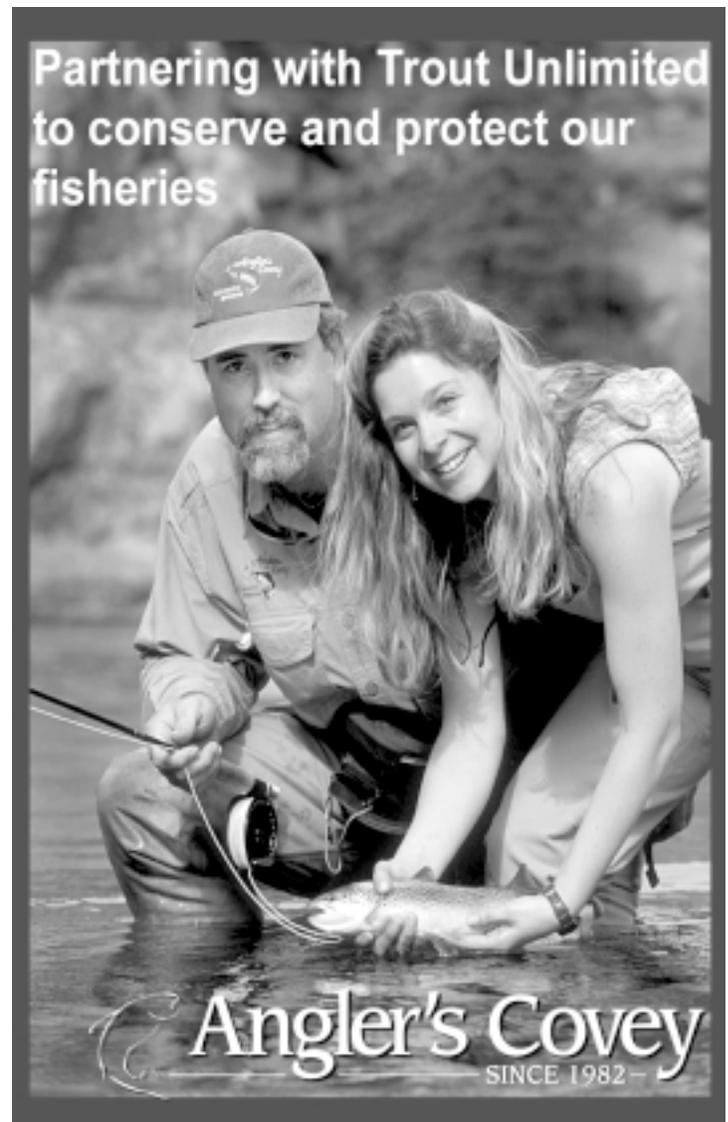
The Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited strives to **conserve, protect and restore** cold-water fisheries, resources and their watersheds. THIS IS ITS SOLE MISSION. THESE GOALS ARE TROUT UNLIMITED'S REASON FOR BEING!

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.

U.S. FLY FISHING TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS COMING TO COLORADO CTU, CHAPTERS TO HELP HOST "OLYMPICS" OF U.S. FLY FISHING

CTU and its member chapters are working with the Fly Fishing Team USA - the group that represents our country in the World Championships - to host the 2006 National Championships and team trials, from which the members for the 2006 national team will be selected. The championships will take place in June 2006, and will feature not only fishing by the participating competitors but also programs for outreach and education with youth and the general public about fishing and conservation. The lead coach for Team USA, Jack Dennis, is working with TU volunteers to develop the final program. We will have more information about this special event in future issues of Currents. If you are interested in getting involved with TU's planning for the event, or simply in receiving information about the championships and associated events as it becomes available, please contact CTU Executive Director David Nickum at dnickum@tu.org or by phone at 303-440-2937 x12.





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SUCH.

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 arrive
in March!!!