



# Riffle Talk



July 2005

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Free to Members of the Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited

## PRESIDENT'S PIECE

Allyn Kratz

A few months ago I wrote about all the various projects that are in the works within this chapter and I thought it was time to provide you with an update.



A great number of hours have already been put in by our chapter members on these projects and their contributions are greatly appreciated.

A coalition of various organizations, including CMCTU, has put together the funding for a this summer and falls work on **"Trees for Trout"**. This is the project where trees are placed in the stream for the purpose of improving habitat by narrowing and speeding the water, removing silt, and providing food for micro organisms. CUSP, Park County, CDOW, US. Forest Service, Boy Scouts, Great Outdoors Colorado, Angler's Covey and others have joined with us to fund this \$300,000 plus project on the South Platte and Tarryall. Work is going on right now with the harvesting of the trees with placement schedule for the month of Sept.

The news is not as good for the **Mill Sap Mine tailings project**. CMCTU has joined with the BLM, EPA, NTU, The Cripple Creek and Victor mine and Teller County with the goal of stabilizing the mile tailings that are currently eroding silt and washing chemicals into the water system that ultimately enters the Arkansas. The grant request for the \$800,000.00 was not successful. Other funding options are being explored.

The funds are ready for the protection of the **Severy and Bear Creek Greenback Cut-**

**throat Trout**. The environmental impact process has been completed and final decision making is taking place as to just how to best protect these endangered trout. It is hoped that this late summer and early fall will find us on these streams reworking the trails to prevent stray whirling disease spores and mud snails from entering, as well as providing improvements to the habitat. These streams are both afflicted with heavy loads of Pikes Peak Granite that scourer away food sources.

Those of you interested in water quality,

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## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tue. July 26th, 2005  
6:30 PM Social  
7:00 PM Meeting

### Program:

Angler's Covey owner, Dave Leinweber, will give his "Colorado Fly Fishing Report" discussing fishing in the state.

Colorado Springs Utilities will give a briefing on the Southern Delivery System (SDS), a proposed water supply pipeline system from Pueblo Res. to Colorado Springs.

### Auction:

One day pass to Arrowhead Ranch for 2 anglers.

Five dollar tickets for the E2 5 wt. Powell rod and Ross Rythm reel - \$700 value.

## A POETIC RIDDLE

Carl Roberts

Browsing as I sometimes do among quaint and curious volumes of forgotten lore, and brooding about trout and drought, I came across an anthology of Old English poetry written between roughly 650 and 950 A.D. Thank heaven it had been translated about 40 years ago into Modern English by Professor Kennedy of Princeton University 'cause they sure wrote funny English in them there centuries.

I opened this book at random and there staring at me was a section on versified riddles and gnomes (a gnome, I learned, was a versified maxim, not a relative of trolls and elves). I turned to the riddle pages and the first one I read was this one (don't look for rhymes; they were rare in Old English poetry):

My house is not quiet,  
I am not loud;  
But for us God fashioned  
our fate together.  
I am the swifter,  
at times the stronger,  
My house more enduring,  
longer to last.  
At times I rest,  
my dwelling still runs;  
Within it I lodge  
as long as I live.  
Should we two be severed,  
my death is sure.

The answer to the riddle, "Who are these two?," you've probably figured out, is Fish in River. (The regular gap or separation in each line is called a caesural pause; why so-called I don't know. One of us should look it up.) What a neat coincidence! At the very moment I was thinking about the loss of water in the Tarryall and the upper



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South Fork of the South Platte, and wondering how many trout have died, I stumbled on a 1200-year-old poem cleverly making clear how critically dependent creatures are on their ambient environment. We all might consider playing a more and more vigorous role in clean air and water issues..

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## PICNIC SURVEY

The CMCTU Board is seeking your input. Would you be willing to join your fellow members of CMCTU on weekend day during the month of August or September for a cookout, casting demonstration, water quality testing demonstration and what ever else we can think of at the Arrowhead Ranch? If you would like to fish, as rod fee of \$40.00 for the day is also available. Please let us know by e-mailing Greg Walck at [gregorywalck@msn.com](mailto:gregorywalck@msn.com)



## **WILDLIFE COMMISSION TO LOOK AT PROPOSED FISHING REGULATIONS**

Colorado anglers could see some changes in fishing regulations for 2006, including a proposal to modify the current definition of "artificial flies and lures". The changes include the addition of a specific definition of "bait". This was requested by the Division of Wildlife (DOW) law enforcement section and members of the public. There is a concern that new commercial products more like bait than traditional plastic manufactured imitation products may be detrimental to trout populations in special regulation waters.

A first draft of the proposed statewide fishing regulations for 2006-2010 will be presented to the Colorado Wildlife Commission for discussion and recommendation on Thursday, July 14 in Grand Junction.

Another proposal would change the bag limit and possession table in the annual fishing brochure. The table would be modified to remove the reference to Greenback cutthroat trout and restructure the species groups in a more logical manner.

A regulation will also be added to uniformly protect cutthroat core conservation waters. This is being done to simplify the regulations, but changes the regulations only in wording not necessarily in the actual effect of the regulation.

Some special regulation waters could also see changes. Big Creek Lake could see an increase in the number of lake trout and splake that could be kept from one to three with only one over 26 inches. A slot limit for bass could be added to encourage the take of smaller fish at McPhee reservoir to address an over abundance of smallmouth bass of less than ten inches. At North Sterling Reservoir there are a number of proposals. A regulation could be added to protect trophy wipers while still allowing for take and a size limit for largemouth bass could be added to make management more consistent with similar nearby managed bass waters. The bag limit for lake trout at Granby Reservoir could be changed to four lake trout of any size. There could also be some additional reaches of the Gunnison, South Fork of the South Platte, and North Fork of the Poudre rivers that could become artificial flies

and lures only waters. Brown trout and rainbow trout size limit regulations could be fine tuned at the Delaney Butte Lakes to be uniform at all three lakes, and a dam spawning closure is also recommended for North Delaney Butte Lake to protect spawning brown trout.

The Wildlife Commission will also take into consideration walleye, saugeye and sauger statewide size and bag limits. A discussion on three different proposals will take place.

The new regulations will take effect Jan. 1, 2006, after final approval in September by the Commission.

The Colorado Wildlife Commission will be meeting on Thursday, July 14 and Friday, July 15 at the Holiday Inn located at 755 Horizon Drive in Grand Junction. The fishing regulation discussion is scheduled for 1:00 PM on July 14th.

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### **TARRYALL REOPEN TO ALL PUBLIC USE**

Following three years of closure, Tarryall State Wildlife Area has been reopened for all public uses, effective immediately.

In 2002, water in Tarryall Reservoir in Park County was drained in order repair a structural crack in the dam. After repairs were completed, officials had to wait for water levels to rise in the reservoir to reopen the area.

The Division of Wildlife (DOW) has begun stocking fish - mostly fingerlings - in the reservoir, but anglers are cautioned that fishing is expected to be somewhat slow this summer.

"We appreciate the public's understanding while Tarryall was closed, and for their continued patience while the young fish are growing," said John Hood, Area Wildlife Manager. "Tarryall reservoir has been known historically as a great place for rainbow trout and brown trout, and we hope to be able to offer excellent fishing again in the future."

For information, contact the DOW, Northeast Regional Office at (303) 291-7227.

## The TransparANT

by Tim Trunnel



Hook: Straight eye dry fly hook, size 14-20  
Thread: Black, red, cinnamon, 6/0 or 8/0  
Abdomen: Thread coated with epoxy  
Head: Thread coated with epoxy  
Legs: Rooster hackle. Black, red, or cinnamon  
Wing: White or clear Z-lon, Darlon, Antron, etc... (Optional)

This is an excellent dropper or nymph pattern for the summer terrestrial season. I usually use the transparANT as a dropper off of a dry fly. I like to use it with an attractor fly like a Stimulator, Wullf, Humpy, or Madame X, but it works great with smaller more realistic dry flies as well. The epoxy coating makes the fly sink below the surface like a drowned ant would. It also works well as part of a nymph setup, fishing it closer to the bottom.

Tie the transparANT in colors to match your local terrestrials. I like all black, all red, and 1/2 black and 1/2 red the best. Also tie a few with wings, especially if you like to fish high mountain lakes. The wing will float the fly more but it is still difficult to see, so use it dropped off something more visible.

This fly is tied best using a rotary style vise. It allows you to turn the fly while you are applying the epoxy for a nice even coat, and also to dry the fly a bit. If you don't already have a rotary vise, put this newsletter down and go buy one now! I can't think of anything else you can do to improve your flies immediately as dramatically as a rotary vise will. Trust me on this one. They are very easy to switch over to, and are getting very reasonably priced now.

Start by pinching the barb down on your hook and wrapping an abdomen of tying thread about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the desired final size, the epoxy will make up the difference. Now whip finish and cut off the first thread color. Tie on a new thread at the eye of the hook to wrap the head. It is imperative that you leave a bare gap of hook between the abdomen and head otherwise the epoxy will run between the two and ruin the fly. This is also the reason why you use a straight eye hook, it keeps the epoxy out of the eye.



Build up a head with the tying thread again about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the desired final size. Whip finish and cut off the thread. Mix up a small amount of five minute epoxy. I prefer a brand called Zpoxy which most flyshops carry. Then use a bodkin or knitting needle to apply epoxy to the thread, making sure to completely cover the thread but leaving a gap between head and abdomen. Be careful not to get epoxy in the hook eye when covering the head. After the thread is covered, rotate the fly in the vise for 3 or 4 minutes to set up the epoxy. Then remove the fly by the eye with your forceps and stick it in a piece of Styrofoam to finish drying. Make sure the fly is not touching the foam while it dries. I like to tie all the ants I need first and then apply the epoxy to the group later, this saves some time. After at least 30 minutes drying time you can tie in the legs and wing. If you want the wing, tie it in first in the gap between the head and abdomen. Then tie in the hackle for the legs in the gap, wrap it once or twice, whip finish, head cement, and you're done!

The transparANT fly pattern was invented by Harrison Steeves. Mr. Steeves is a big proponent of foam and a very imaginative tyer. I very highly recommend his book Tying flies with foam, fur, and feathers. It is filled entirely with excellent terrestrial patterns which are so important this time of year.

Use this fly on any river or lake that you fish, it works anywhere. Fish it close to the banks, under overhanging bushes and trees, anywhere an ant might fall to it's doom. There are times when the wind brings

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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.

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### TransparANT Cont.

in big "hatches" of flying ants on mountain lakes and this fly will be just what the doctor ordered. I like a size 16 the best but you can also match the size of the naturals where you are.

Please feel free to email me at: [timtrunnell@adelphia.net](mailto:timtrunnell@adelphia.net) with any questions or comments. I'd love to hear how you do with these patterns. Now go catch some fish!

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### President's Piece Cont.

the "RiverWatch" project is back on track. Earlier in the year we lost the funding for this project but CDOW and CTU as well as CMCTU have agreed to provide enough funding to at least get it started in a few streams. This project is to collect samples of water throughout the year for the purpose of chemically analyzing these samples for dissolved gases and minerals and heavy metals. This project also calls for the sampling of the insect life of the stream. The training for volunteers is scheduled to take place in Denver on August 2 - 5<sup>th</sup> and October 19-22 in Grand Junction.

If you are interested in becoming involved in any of these projects we would be most interested in having your assistance. Please contact myself or Bill Burd to volunteer. E-mail: Allyn Kratz - [allynk@adelphia.net](mailto:allynk@adelphia.net), or Bill Burd - [bjagle@worldnet.att.net](mailto:bjagle@worldnet.att.net)





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**FYI:** BEGINNING JAN. 2006, CMCTU RIFFLETALK NEWSLETTERS AND NEWSCARDS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OUR [WWW.CMCTU.ORG](http://WWW.CMCTU.ORG) WEBSITE. PAPER COPIES WILL BE AVAILABLE **ONLY** TO THOSE CMCTU MEMBERS WHO SPECIFICALLY REQUEST SUCH. PLEASE SUBMIT REQUESTS BY DEC. 2005.

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 September!!!**