



Riffle Talk



May - June 2007

Volume: 22 Issue: 3

Free to Members of the Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

Allyn Kratz

Volunteers needed!!! Each of us owes our time and talents to our favorite sport, past-time and passion.



"The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value."

Author: Theodore Roosevelt

Parent Youth Day June 2nd

CMCTU is again sponsoring our annual Parent / Youth day camp on Saturday, 6-2-07. We need a few more volunteers to help with the days activities. We are looking for two people to teach fly tying. This will involve bringing your own tying kit and providing hands on tying experience to 3-4 kids and their parent, tying a Wooleybugger and a San Juan Worm with each pair. We also want a person to teach basic etymology and a couple of people to teach Conservation and Ethics and one more person to provide casting instruction and guided fishing.

Contact Sam Humpert [sam_humpert@yahoo.com] to volunteer.

Trees for Trout on Camp Alexander June 9th

Come out and help on the final work day for Trees for Trout in Eleven Mile Canyon. As most of you are aware, CMCTU had been leading the charge on this project for the last several years. Camp Alexander is the last section of the South Platte as it passes through Eleven Mile Canyon to be restored with trees. We will be tying down the trees with cables, repairing the stream bank where the heavy equipment has been and planting

willows and sedge grass.

Contact Sam Humpert [sam_humpert@yahoo.com] to volunteer.

Fountain Creek Clean up June 16th

Cont. on pg 8

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

For the May 22nd Membership Meeting, we are happy to present Chris Conway from Wild Basin Outfitters. Chris will be speaking about fishing opportunities in Rocky Mountain National Park region.

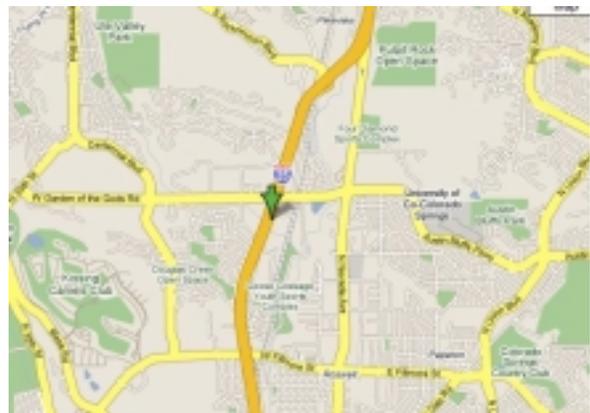
Also, the raffle drawing will take place for the Ross Evolution rod and reel. We hope you can make it!

WHEN:

Tuesday, May 22nd, 2007
6:30 Social
7:00 Meeting

NEW LOCATION:

DOW Building
4255 Sinton Road
Colorado Springs, CO



NORTHERN PILGRIMAGE: FLY FISHING THE SHOSHONE AND BIGHORN RIVERS

by Jack Hunter

It's become a spring tradition to head north for a fly fishing trip in some of my favorite country in the west. My son Chris and I have fished the Bighorn near Fort Smith in late April for several years now. This trip usually includes some good friends but on occasion finds us sharing time alone together on what is truly one of North America's best Trout streams. We've had our slow days, our adventures, our "Should Have Been There" days and everything in between. Over the years, friends have been made and lost, lessons learned, big fish have been caught and released and a good time has been had by all. As my good Friend Leo White likes to say, "No one died, no one went to jail and everyone caught a few fish". This is Leo's measure of a successful trip to which those of us in a small group have tended to subscribe to over the course of many trips together. In recent years I've added a few days on the North Fork of the Shoshone River to the front end of this pilgrimage to the Bighorn. I discovered this gem of a river when I attended my first Orvis Guide Rendezvous in Cody, Wyoming. I've fished this river over the last few years with a different group of friends from those that I spend time with on the Bighorn. I made these friendships when I joined the Fly Fishing Guide Staff at Anglers Covey in Colorado Springs. These are great people down to the last man and woman on the team.

The Shoshone

With the history safely behind us, I'll spend a few words telling you about my trip this year. I'll start with the Shoshone.

I headed to Cody for the Orvis Rendezvous on the 17th of April this year. The weather was looking dicey at best for fishing opportunities but I planned to fish with one of my fellow guides from Anglers Covey, Steve Gossage, and like I, a little weather is what he prefers.

We hit the road early in the morning on the 18th. The weather was warm, actually too warm bringing on the melt from Yellowstone Park. However, in typical western fashion that would change and we would have snow by our second day in the area which would turn out to be a blessing. The river was "blown

out but probably fishable" according to Chip at North Fork Anglers in Cody. The guys there are the best and I recommend that you stop in if you plan to make the journey to the area. At any rate, we picked up some tips, spent a few bucks on flies and started to leave. Chip's parting comment to us as we left the shop was "watch out for the Grizzlies". Let me tell you, that kind of comment will keep you alert and looking over your shoulder all day. We made a quick stop at Peter's Deli a few blocks from fly shop for our lunch and moved out.

Peter's has the best Breakfast in town and their box lunches are huge and delicious.

On our way to the river we saw Pronghorn, Mule Deer, Golden Eagles, Bison, Bighorn Sheep, Coyotes and practically every water fowl species known to man. No Grizzlies, although some very large paw prints were seen later in the day. We also found that the guys at North Fork Anglers had once again provided accurate information about the conditions; the water was off color to say the least. Not letting that deter us, we made our way to our favorite spot on the river. Fishing wasn't what it was last year when the conditions were better but it was pretty good. We were throwing, what in my book at least, are huge weighted flies. Size 4 & 6 Halfbacks and size 6 & 8 North Fork Specials. As the reader knows, this is nothing at all like fishing the South Platte. In addition to the huge weighted flies, we were adding 3 or 4 BB split-shot to get the flies down quickly. Steve and I liked to call this "Chuck & Duck". We certainly don't claim to have coined the phrase but it is fitting none the less. Don't forget to pinch those barbs, big flies like that are hard to get out of your ear if you haven't.

Over the course of our first day we caught some nice Rainbows and native Cutthroats, pretty much remaining in the same location near the Absaroka Lodge. These are lake run Trout out of Buffalo Bill Reservoir near Cody so they are strong fighters with big shoulders. 2X tippet and 6 Wt rods are the norm in this river this time of year.

On Day two we decided to venture out and move further up the river. We picked a spot about 5 miles from the Yellowstone Park Entrance which at this time of year is still closed. We stepped into a stretch of river opposite a Boy Scout retreat in the middle

of a pretty good gale and some light snow. Before long some nice fish were landed and released.

Right about lunch time a few other guys from the shop showed up and joined us. I took advantage of the opportunity to get a lesson in nymph fishing without an indicator from Neil Luehring and Mark Mahler and Paul Martinez. Neil, Mark and Paul teach advanced nymphing techniques at the Anglers Covey. Their classes are great for beginners and advanced fisherman alike. To those that want to lean the finer points of nymph fishing, I highly recommend spending some time with these guys. Steve took the opportunity to sit in the bank and relax, net a few fish for the guys and enjoy the scenery. Before long I'd hooked a few fish without an indicator in spite of the constant heckling from the peanut gallery, the forty knot winds and blinding snow. I've found that like Mother Nature, fisherman have no mercy on other fisherman and this is intensified when the fisherman are guides. The day ended as it began, a few friends enjoying the outdoors, sharing mostly true stories and generally having a good time. Leo would have called it a success since "no one died, no one went to jail and everyone caught a few fish".

The Bighorn

On the 20th of April, I got up early with the plan of making my way to the Bighorn taking a little known short-cut from Cody to Fort Smith, MT. I'll leave the exact route to you and your map skills to uncover. North out of Cody and through the Crow Reservation are the general directions. I met up with Neil, Mark and Paul for breakfast at Peter's. Paul would be heading home to Colorado Springs as would Steve. Neil and Mark on the other hand would be coming over to the Bighorn to spend a few days floating with me and the guys I'd be meeting there.

After an uneventful trip over the Bighorns which has the effect of making one feel like you're at the top of the world, we arrived in Fort Smith about noon. My son Chris and another friend of ours, Bob Bean arrived shortly there after. We unloaded our gear and prepared our boats for a ½ day float. For those not familiar with the Bighorn at Fort Smith, this is premier tail water created by the Yellowtail dam which holds back the waters of the Bighorn River. The reservoir backs up out of Montana into Wyoming. The section below the dam is

broken into three sections. I'm sure the locals would have more detail on this or would argue my generalizations but this is my story and I'm sticking to it. The three sections from a floating perspective are After-bay to three-mile take out (3 river miles), Three-mile take out to Bighorn Access (9 river miles) and Bighorn Access to St. Xavier (I forget how many river miles). We normally float from the After-bay to Bighorn Access, a 12 mile, full day float.

Before I talk about our float trip, it is important to say that Montana has very progressive water/access laws. The Bighorn is an excellent river to spend a day wading and the access is generally easy and well marked. In Montana you can wade the rivers even through private property assuming that you gained access legally and that you stay within the high water point on the banks. As always it is important to respect private land owners' rights and privacy. Never litter and always tread lightly regardless of whether you're on private or public land. Additionally, if you prefer a guided float trip but don't have your own boat you can contact one of the many guide services or lodges in the area. I recommend the Big Horn Trout Shop or the Orvis Endorsed Lodge at Fort Smith if you choose to go this way. For bird hunters, the Pheasant are thick in this area and both the Bighorn Trout Shop and the Orvis Lodge offer "Cast & Blast" trips in the fall.

Our ½ day float on our first day in Fort Smith was from the After-bay to Three-mile take out. For me, the first day back on a familiar river is like getting reacquainted with an old friend that you haven't seen in a while. The crowds in the upper three miles were terrible and in hind-sight we would have done well to have listened to Bob when he suggested this might be the case and that we should hit the lower section. In my defense, we'd heard that the lower section was muddy from a point below a tributary called Soap Creek that comes in below the three rivers section of the river. I'd fished and off-color river for a few days before that so I was not anxious to experience that again. We finished this day with fish caught and released, some dry fly action and a few beers in our bellies. This was clearly a successful day by any fisherman's measure.

RIVERWATCH

The RiverWatch Program was established by the Colorado Division of Wildlife as a means of training volunteers - including students - to collect water quality samples on Colorado waterways. The volunteers help provide ongoing data to help in water quality regulation and management, stretching capabilities far beyond what can be done with agency staff alone.

In 2005, Colorado Trout Unlimited formally joined with the RiverWatch Program. Three chapters - Cutthroat (Littleton), Cheyenne Mountain (Colorado Springs), and Collegiate Peaks (Salida/Buena Vista) formally joined the program. The Cheyenne Mountain Chapter is responsible for 2 streams originating on Pikes Peak. Severy Creek and Bear Creek are significant and sensitive bodies of water, for they are thought to contain the purest strain of Greenback Cutthroat Trout, the Colorado State Fish. Currently, DNA testing is underway to confirm the purity of this population.

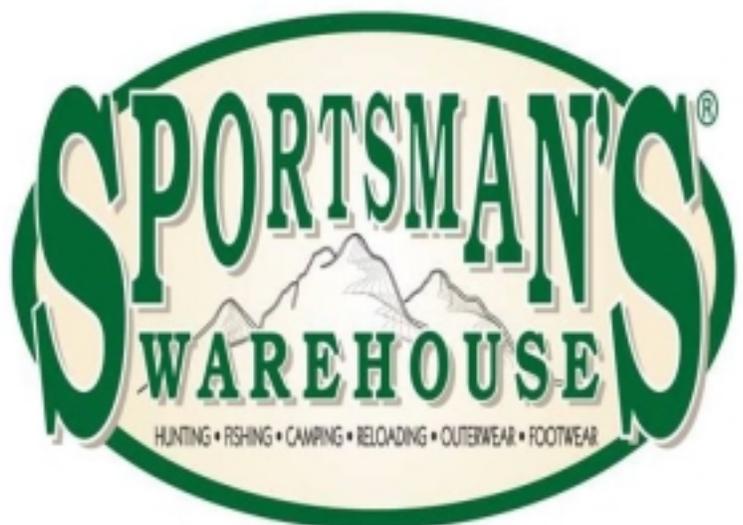
Water quality team leaders go through a rigorous training program with the Division of Wildlife. Our CMCTU Riverwatch Team Leader is Don Logelin. He, in turn, trains new volunteers on proper collection and handling of samples, and conducting on-site tests such as those for pH and dissolved oxygen. Our volunteers collect samples and conduct tests once a month. Other tests - for example, on nutrients and metals - are conducted by the DOW using samples submitted by volunteers. Once a year, macroinvertebrate samples are also collected.

Riverwatch Sampling Schedule Spring 2007:

Saturday, June 16

The data collected in our Riverwatch Program will assure continued protected status of these waters. This project and the protection and preservation of the Greenback Cutthroats that are native to these waters are at the very heart of the mission of Trout Unlimited.

To volunteer and assist in this effort, or for more information on participation contact Don Logelin (719) 686-8940.



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Riffle Talk

Published by:

**Cheyenne Mountain Chapter
of Trout Unlimited**

SHOSHONE - BIGHORN cont.

As always, we used the standard Bighorn fly selection for this time of year. Ray Charles, Scuds, Midge and Baetis nymphs, emergers and dries Sow Bugs, San Juan Worms and other assorted local favorites. Of course we all have our own secret flies and techniques and those will remain just that. Stop in the local shops for help on this. The Bighorn Trout Shop in Fort Smith is our favorite fly shop and lodging provider.

Day two began at 9:00 AM at the After-bay. Mark and Neil joined Chris, Bob and I for the days float before heading back to Cody. They would float the North Platte near Thermopolis, WY before heading home on Sunday.

This day had its challenges but as is almost always the case on the Bighorn some nice fish were caught and released. We were lucky enough to have a little dry action mostly because we horned on a nice little spot that Neil and Mark had anchored in, what are friends for after all. We were most successful with a Parachute Baetis Emerger pattern we'd discovered worked well the day before. Neil and I tied up a dozen to share amongst the guys on Friday night. Chris caught the fish of the trip on Saturday, a 23" Rainbow. Larger fish may or may not have been caught if they were, they were not photographed or witnessed so who's to actually say and what does it really matter when it is all said and done. We finished the day saying good bye to Neil and Mark and heading home for a dinner of huge steaks on the grill and an evening of Bob and Chris talking Baseball late into the evening while I tied flies for the next day's adventure.

Sunday found us settling into our normal routine built up over so many years of fishing together. Getting up early to a hardy scrambled egg and pastrami breakfast, readying our gear, running the shuttles and launching our boats for another day on what has become a second home for me in many respects. This comes from feeling at home on this river, having survived some harrowing experiences there, being recognized by some of the locals (which can be good and bad) and genuinely being made to feel like one of the boys when you're there. Sunday was bright most of the day but that didn't hamper the fishing. Some late clouds even

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 tterebus@yahoo.com. You can also send your contributions to:

Riffle Talk
Cheyenne Mountain Chapter, Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 458
Colorado Springs, CO 80901-0458

Advertising Rates:

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

Commercial Rates:

Half Pg.	\$80/issue	\$385	- 6 issues
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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.

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

Cont. on pg. 6

SHOSHONE - BIGHORN cont.

allowed for some dry fly fishing and you can't argue with that, ever. We ran into a few other guys we know from the Covey as we had on the previous days. Jack Duerson and Mark Puterbaugh are two of the nicest guys you'll ever run into on a Trout stream anywhere in the world and they'll show you a thing or two about fly fishing as well. They were busy hooking some nice Browns on a dry dropper rig when we saw them on Saturday. As fisherman will do, they were gently, ever so slightly, slowly but surely encroaching on our hole. A few words were exchanged in jest and we moved on. It is funny how things come back around that way.

Monday will forever be known as the day of "The Hatch". The day started out wet and stayed that way with few breaks in the constant drizzle. We all know that this means a potential Blue Winged Olive hatch here at home in Colorado. On the Bighorn, if everything is just right, it can mean one of those BWO hatches you only read about. Monday it all came together but you'd not have guessed it for the first 4 hours on the river. About 12:30 or 1:00 we pulled into this little flat across from a corral. This would be the same spot we ran Neil and Mark out of a few days earlier. It was raining, cold and miserable, with little or no wind, perfect for a BWO hatch. There were no bugs on the water when we pulled in but it wasn't long before they showed themselves and when they finally did, they did so in force. It was one of those days when there are almost too many bugs on the water. We caught a few here and there struggling to pick out our flies from all of the naturals on the water, floundering for that one pattern that would be the fly of the day. We tried everything in our boxes and then it finally came in the form of a Lawson's Thorax Dunn from Bob's box. 18-20" browns we're the norm after that and several were hooked, most landed and all released. When we finally looked at our watches it was late and we knew it would be a long day. We floated out the rest of the river catching fish as the opportunity presented itself. We didn't get off the river until 8:30 PM that day.

At the risk of being too philosophical, this spring pilgrimage to the north has for me become an important time to revitalize my connection with the natural world, to gain some perspective on what is truly important in life; family, friends, the things you love and the people that love you.

And so it goes, another year in the books, another trip to tell mostly true stories about in the years to come, new friendships cemented and old friendship renewed. And all of that with; "no one dying, no one going to jail and everyone catching a few fish".

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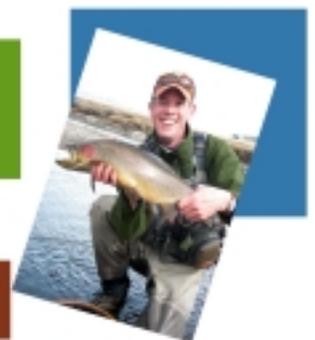
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The Pikes Peaks Flyfishers is a Colorado Springs based non-profit fly fishing club. The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm (6:30 social hour) at the The Retired Enlisted Association, 834 Emory Circle, Colorado Springs. The website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

DOLLAR BILL FISHING DERBY

CMCTU had the Spring drawing of the Dollar Bill Fishing Derby at the April meeting. Allyn Kratz, president of the Board, won \$30 for his early fishing efforts.

Our next drawing will be for the months of May, June and July. With the warmer weather we should have a larger derby prize available depending on chapter participation.

Participants are encouraged to share their fishing stories before or after the meeting. Please see the VP of Development Greg Walck **before the meeting** if you plan on entering that month to get a ticket and pay the entry fee.

Fishing derby entries require catching a fish and your attendance at the membership meeting. Members that fulfill **both requirements in the same month by the meeting date** can pay a one dollar monthly entry fee and enter a ticket with their name on it in the derby fishing creel. Participants will be required to state when they fished, where they fished, what pattern was used and what they caught when entering the derby.

We will then "fish" for the winning ticket at the end of the next derby drawing membership meeting in July. The winner must be present at the meeting in order to win and will get to "catch and keep" **all the cash** from the entries in the derby fishing creel. Tickets will continue to be drawn until someone present at the meeting wins.

GHILLIES HACKLE & TACKLE FLY SHOP OPEN HOUSE, 3RD ANNIVERSARY GALA

9:30 - 5:30 Saturday May 19th

Frank Smethurst: Scott Fly Rod Rep, 2004 Fly Fishing Masters Champion, Running Down the Man DVD author.

Mike Anderson: Fly Fishing for Pike and Tying Pike Flies

Juan Gonzales: Tying Flies of Northern New Mexico

Roger Hill: Fly Fishing The South Platte author

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PARENT - YOUTH FISHING DAY

The Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited is sponsoring a Parent - Youth Fly Fishing day on June 2nd on private fishing waters.

Volunteers and Parent / Youth participants are needed

For Volunteers

We have a great event scheduled for June 2 that will be cancelled if we do not have sufficient volunteers. This is our 2nd annual Parent/Youth Intro to Fly-Fishing event, it will be held on private water at Puma Ranch on Tarryall Creek in Lake George.

We currently need 3 people to teach fly tying. You will be teaching tying the Woolly Bugger and the San Juan Worm. We also need 4 people to teach fly casting and teach the on-stream fishing part of the program. Noone is expected to throw 80 foot double hauls, this is Tarryall Creek, they only need to learn enough casting to be able to fish. We also need a couple of people to help out with presenting topics like conservation, ethics and entomology.

We will provide lunch and have plenty of time to fish the evening rise...

Contact Sam Humpert (Sam_humpert@yahoo.com) immediately if you are interested in volunteering to help.

If you know of a Parent - Youth combination that might be interested participating in this day please have them enroll by contacting: Barry Wilson (gwhunter24@aol.com)

For the Participants:

PROJECT OUTLINE

OBJECTIVE: Comprehensive introduction to fly-fishing as a family activity.

Location: Puma Ranch, Tarryall Creek, Lake George, CO.

Program Time: 8:30am-4pm. Saturday June 12
Lunch 12-1 provided on site.

Participant Capacity: 32 (16 adults, 16 children-minimum age 8)

SCHEDULE

8:30-8:45 Registration & TU waiver Flight Assignment (Four Flights, each to consist of 4 adults/4 kids) If less than full capacity then divide into 4 equal sized flights. (Coffee & Donuts)

8:45-8:55 Welcome, Introduction to Schedule and Locations

Introduction to fly fishing participant activities

GROUP 9-10:15 10:30-11:45 1:15-2:30 2:45-4:00

A Tying entomology conservation fishing
B entomology conservation fishing tying
C conservation fishing tying entomology
D fishing tying entomology conservation

4:00-4:30 Wrap up and review. Perhaps schedule follow-up chapter fishing trip to Tomahawk or somewhere no waders required.

John Gierach: "If we carry purism to it's logical conclusion, to do it right {fishing} you'd have to live naked in a cave, hit your trout on the head with rocks, and eat them raw. But, so as not to violate another essential element of the fly-fishing tradition, the rocks would have to be quarried in England and cost \$300 each."

Izaak Walton: "Rivers and the inhabitants of the watery elements are made for wise men to contemplate and for fools to pass by without consideration."

John Steinbeck: "It has always been my private conviction that any man who pits his intelligence against a fish and loses has it coming."

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.

PRESIDENT'S PIECE CONT.

Your Chapter is providing another opportunity to volunteer with the Fountain Creek Clean up day on June 16th. We will be working with the Fountain Creek Restoration Committee and the City of Manitou Springs on this project. This will be the initial volunteer opportunity on the larger project known as Fountain Creek Habitat Enhancement Project. We still need 1 more person for refreshments, 2 more for registration, 2 more for orientation and 7 safety monitors. The safety monitors are the most critical positions to fill as the registration and orientation desks can pick up slack if we can't fully staff them.

Contact **Sam Humpert** [sam_humpert@yahoo.com] to volunteer.

You are a member of this chapter because you support the concepts of Conserving, Protecting and Restoring the Cold Water Resources. Here are opportunities to support this concept through action.

"If I am not for myself, then who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, then what am I? And if not now, when?" Rabbi Hillel





Cheyenne Mountain Chapter
Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 458
Colorado Springs, Co
80901



Volume: 22, Issue: 3 Published Bi-Monthly Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov/Dec



If your membership has expired,
you can renew your membership at
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FYI: CMCTU RIFFLETALK NEWSLETTERS AND NEWSCARDS WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WWW.CMCTU.ORG WEBSITE. PAPER COPIES WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLY TO THOSE CMCTU MEMBERS WHO SPECIFICALLY REQUEST 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 JULY!!!