



Riffle Talk



Sept. - Oct. 2007

Volume: 22 Issue: 5

Free to Members of the Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

Allyn Kratz

The year that was!!!
What a Year!!!!

This will be my last article as President of CMCTU so I thought I would give you a different photo to look at. I also want to give you a review of a fantastic year for this chapter and it is not over yet!!!



I began to make a list of all the activities of the year and was impressed myself. Listing the activities was extensive but to list all the volunteers caused total amazement. Thank you so much for all the support you have given to this chapter!!!

Spring fund raiser and shows

CMCTU was at numerous shows to share our love of the resource and our mission of Conserving, Protecting and Restoring Cold water resources with attendees and to seek their support for the resource by purchasing a ticket in our raffle of the rod, reel, bag and gift Certificate package. This Chapter also promoted membership in both the Chapter and State while at these shows with Great success. A special thank you should go out to Sheryl and Greg Walck and their team of volunteers for their work on this activity

River watch

This year CMCTU wrapped up its second year of sampling and testing the water quality of Severy and Bear Creek. As a result of this sampling and analysis CMCTU submitted a petition to and testified at the Colorado Water Board hearings on the Arkansas Drainage. As a result of this petition and testimony the Board voted unanimously to designate

both Bear Creek and Severy Creek Outstanding water. This designation grants greater legal protection to the populations of Colorado Greenback Cutthroat Trout that reside within them.

Don Logelin and his team of volunteers should receive special thanks for their work, time and dedication.

Trees for Trout 11 - Mile canyon

Trees for Trout project hit a mile stone this year with the completion of the final section of 11 mile canyon with the placement of trees, Rocks, grass and shrubs in and around the section of the South Platte River that passes through the Boy Scout property. This project has been CMCTU's baby since its beginning. This year your chapter was able to contribute \$22,000.00 toward the completion of this project through grants and fundraising. Your chapter also contributed lots of hours of volunteer time to this project as well. Special thanks should be given to Pete Gallagher, Bill Burd and Sam Humpert who shepherded this project over the years, as well as to all the many volunteers who have given of their time and energy. (5-6000 willow trees were planted in one day this summer) A celebration was had to mark the completion of this project and it not only included food but time to fish as well. I was not able to attend but was informed that out work on the stream was working, lots of trout were already appreciative and using the structure.

Parent Child fly-fishing day

This year was the second year in which your chapter organized and sponsored this day to expose parents and their children to the sport of fly-fishing. This year we had so many potential participants that we had a waiting list. As it was, we had about 40 participants this year having great fun and wanting more. The Chapter is looking at two

Cont. on pg 8

PRESIDENT'S PIECE CONT.

days next year to accommodate the demand.

Huck Finn Day

Over the past several years, CMCTU has assisted the Manitou Spring Kiwanis club in sponsoring this activity. This year Barry Wilson and Lorin Glaser deserve recognition for heading this activity up for our chapter.

Youth Summer Camp

This is the second year your chapter has sponsored a student to attend this conservation camp. This year we actually sponsored two students and sent Jim Williams along to be teacher and Camp Councilor. Thanks Jim.

River Clean up

The annual National River Clean up day was September 15th and CMCTU again participated in this clean up by taking volunteers to Eleven mile canyon and picking up trash. Thanks Sam Humpert for your work on this project and thanks to all the volunteers who gave up their Saturday to help keep the resource clean.

Car show and Chili cook off

This is the second year your chapter won the best of show Chili cook-off at the Sportsman's Warehouse. We also ran the car show for the day and received a contribution of \$800.00 from the Sportsman's Warehouse for doing so. Thanks to all the volunteers for giving of your time.

Mill Sap Mine

This project includes a number of partners including the Bureau of Land Management, the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety and the Department of Corrections. The project is scheduled to be completed yet this fall with the re-vegetation taking place next spring. We will be seeking volunteers for this part of the project.

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

Jim Williams was appointed as our representative on the planning team for the Colorado Rockies project at the Zoo and he has also agreed to be our representative on the **Colorado Springs Watershed Access Advisory Group.**

Fountain Creek clean up

CMCTU and the Fountain Creek Restoration Committee jointly sponsored a project day to clean up the Fountain Creek as it ran

through Manitou Springs. Thanks to all the volunteers with a special thanks to Sam Humpert.

Fountain Creek project

Jack Hunter is serving on the Fountain Creek Restoration Committee as a representative for CMCTU. This project is the restoration of the riparian zone for the Fountain Creek as it passes through Manitou Springs. It is the goal of this project to show the Public what can be done to improve stream environment in a urban area without it looking like a concrete ditch. It is our desire to use this project as a pilot for the Highway 24 project between Manitou Springs and Colorado Springs.

Fountain Creek Task Force

Another project that is of interest to CMCTU is that of Fountain Creek from its source to its mouth where it enters the Arkansas River near Pueblo. Sam Humpert has been representing CMCTU at these meetings.

Several of our members had contributed their time by assisting or totally writing grants for our various projects. CMCTU has been awarded two grants for the Mill Sap Mine Tailing project, three grants for Trees for Trout and one grant for the Fountain Creek project. I want to thank each of you for all your work, it is greatly appreciated. You know who you are!!!! Thanks

Chuck wagon

CMCTU owns a chuck wagon that is used on project days to carry equipment and food. It is in need of some repairs to that will be an up coming work day project that will occur yet this fall.

Electro Shocking

Again this fall many of our members will be helping the Colorado Division of Wildlife to collect the fish at the various sampling point for a census. This is done each fall to build a data base over time. Please contact Sam Humpert to volunteer.

WOW!!! Congratulations on a very big year!!!!!!

BACKPACKING THE SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAINS

by Jack Hunter

The Sangre De Cristo Mountain Range in Southern Colorado and New Mexico is some of the most beautiful and rugged country you'll find in the lower 48 states. The English translation of Sangre De Cristo is "Blood of Christ". Legend has it that the Spanish named these mountains when they arrived in southern Colorado in the 1700's but actually, this name can only be accurately dated back to the early 1900's. As any of you that have spent time in this range know, the name is fitting given the reddish hue of the rock that is intensified in a blazing Colorado sunset. You can learn more about the Sangre De Cristo Mountain Range at; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sangre_de_Cristo_Mountains

My wife Jeanne and I love this range and we try to take a few days every year to spend some time hiking and fishing the many trails and lakes that are part of the Sangre de Cristo landscape. We use this time to recharge our spirits and renew our bonds with each other and with nature. This year we decided on a 4 day backpacking trip near Music Pass on the back side of the Great Sand Dunes National Monument. Our destination was Sand Creek Lakes where the Rio Grand Cutthroats are big and beautiful. We started out early on the 4th of July and headed down to Westcliffe Colorado which is our traditional launching point for most of our trips to the area. We verified all our gear and made sure we had our two Golden Retrievers, Dakota and Montana in tow and then headed for the Music Pass trail head

The Sand Creek Lakes are accessed from the Music Pass trail head. The trailhead is accessed from Highway 69, 4.5 miles south of Westcliffe. Turn off Highway 69 to the west at the sign for Music Pass and South Colony Lakes Trailhead. At the "T" junction, turn left onto South Colony Road. At the end of the ranch fence on the right, you'll see another sign for Music Pass. 2WD vehicles should park where the Rainbow Trail crosses Music Pass Road. From here, walk 2.5 miles to the upper parking area, then another mile to the pass. Those with FWD vehicles may drive another 2.5 rough miles to the end of the road, just one mile below the pass and 3 miles from Sand Creek Lakes.

The hike in to Sand Creek Lakes certainly

isn't easy carrying a heavy pack but I'd call it moderate generally and especially so for the Sangre's which are notoriously steep. The trail starts out in the trees and quickly rises above tree line. As you summit Music Pass about a mile from the trail head you cross into the Great Sand Dunes National Monument. Make sure you have a leash for your dogs as they are required in all national parks. The scenery from the top of the pass is nothing short of spectacular.



Jack & the Dogs- Music Pass Summit

From the summit you drop into a high mountain meadow. At the end of this Meadow the trail splits. The trail to the left goes to lower Sand Creek Lake and the trail to the right goes to Upper Sand Creek Lake. Given that we wanted to fish both lakes while we were there we made our camp where the trail splits.



Jeanne & Dakota - Camp

With camp set up, Jeanne was making one of her special backpacking meals for which she is famous. I on the other hand was tending to the important task of making some cocktails of Crystal Light and Vodka. For those that have read my previous columns, you may have noticed my slight pre-occupation with beer. Suffice to say that beer is a bit too heavy to haul up the mountain side so you have to make due. If you ever backpack with me watch your pack closely as I've been known to stash a few cans of beer in other people's packs for the ride up and then recover them later when they've reached the final destination.

The four of us woke early the next day for a great breakfast and some hot coffee & tea.

Cont. on pg. 4

BACKPACKING Cont.

Even in mid-summer the mornings are cool at 10,000 feet elevation. We gathered our gear and hit the trail to lower Sand Creek Lake about 9:00AM or so... We arrived at the lake after a short, steep hike. It was easy with our packs at about 20% of the weight we were carrying the previous day. Our first look around the lake revealed we were all but alone with the exception of a couple that had camped at the lake the previous night who were sitting on a rock having coffee. Soon our attention was turned to the lake itself by the loud splashing of 10"-15" Rio Grande Cutthroat trout. We dropped our packs and got busy rigging our rods for the days fishing. I started with a Schroeder's Parahopper, Jeanne had on an Elk Hair Caddis. We each caught several fish right off including a couple over 14" Cuts. These fish were spectacular in their full spawning colors. Most were so picture perfect it was

hard to believe they were real. All of the traditional high mountain lake patterns were effective, Renegades, Irresistibles, Par-Adams, you know the ones.



Jeanne & Montana with a Rio Grande Cut

We broke for lunch and then decided to move around the lake for some exploring. We hiked around to the inlet where we saw fish spawning by the Hundreds. A true regalia of royal colors packed into a stream you could easily step across. These fish we're so exposed and so vulnerable yet so strong and so competent in their primeval mission to reproduce that it truly was awe inspiring. Needless to say, we left these fish to their business being careful not to disturb their beds and mindful of Dakota's and Montana's curiosity.



Underwater Photo of Spawning Rio Grande Cutthroat

Speaking of Dakota and Montana, they are some of the best fishing dogs on the planet.

They sit by your side opposite your casting hand and patiently wait for the strike. Dakota being a bit older and wiser has actually been known to spot the fish for you. And will give you that look of disdain if you happen to miss a strike. Montana

being somewhat more of a puppy gets bored if the catching isn't as good as the fishing. Jeanne and I love to fish with our dogs and do so whenever we can without disturbing others.



The Kids Fishing with Dad

The day ended as most days in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains do. Fun was had by humans and dogs alike; many fish were caught and released, and fresh air enjoyed by all. We returned to camp at dusk, lit the fire, and had some great camp food and a couple of cocktails around the camp fire. The evening was beautiful and clear and the Milky Way gleamed in the night sky as it has for eons bringing home the realization that the planet Earth is truly a small speck in a remote corner of the immense universe we live in. It makes a person wonder, how many more trout streams are out there?

We rose early again the next day for a hike to the upper lake. The trail is longer and steeper than the one to the lower lake. However, some of that is made up for by the spectacular view of Sand Creek that can be glimpsed from some of the promenades along the trail. Waterfalls abound, downed trees make a labyrinth of moss, ferns and wild flowers for the many critters that live in these woods



Upper Sand Creek & 13,552 foot Milwaukee Peak

We reached Upper Sand Creek Lake around 10:00AM. The weather was blustery, with high, fast moving clouds and cool winds. The upper lake is larger and more exposed. Much of the shore line is covered with thick willows and high banks making casting from shore a real challenge so be sure to bring

your roll casting skills. The fishing was tough the first half of the day and we bounced from one spot to the next pursuing trout.

With the experience of seeing the spawning Rio Grande's in the lower lake still fresh in our minds we made our way towards the inlet of the upper lake. Fish were stacked in the shallows near the small intermittent snow field fed stream. These fish, larger and even more plentiful than those we saw the day before were a sight to behold. Literally hundreds lined up for a turn to run up the stream driven by instinct millions of years in the making. However, even these sage masters of their environment could not make their way past the steep rock face that was the end of the stream entering the lake. I have to assume that given the apparent health of the population that reproduction in the lake is working just fine but the drive to move up stream persists in these Cutthroats none the less

As we moved around the lake, Dakota spotted some nice fish in a cove near an ice field on the face of the mountain. We fished to these guys with a mixture of frustration and wonder. Frustration in that we couldn't get them to look at anything we tossed their way and wonder at their size and beauty. Some of these fish passed the 20" mark I finally managed to hook one using a midge pattern below a hopper.. The fight was on!



Jack & a Rio Grande Cut - Upper Sand Creek Lake

As we made our way back around the lake for the hike back to camp we found a nice point where fish were rising. Jeanne and I put on some hoppers and took some really nice fish from this spot. To my disappointment, I caught what appeared to be a rainbow trout in this Cutthroat fishery. It was better than 21 inches and in the neighborhood of 4 pounds. I released it after a good fight but not without some trepidation wondering out loud to Jeanne if it was supposed to be there at all.

We made our way back to camp for another great meal, a small fire and some good

Cont. on pg. 6

Riffle Talk
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Cheyenne Mountain Chapter
of 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.

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

ORVIS LAMP DELIVERED!

The Board of Directors of CMCTU unanimously voted to recognize Orvis with a special gift to thank them for their Trees for Trout conservation campaign during their 150th anniversary year. Their campaign contributed \$90,000 for stream restoration work in the South Platte drainage. An aspen wood lamp made from a tree from the Hayman burn area was obtained from Born of the Flames, a carved ironwood trout finial was donated by Rocky Mountain Log Furniture and the chapter obtained an engraved plate from Vogan Gold & Silver. The lamp was presented to Dave Perkins of Orvis at the Fly Fishing Retailer Show on September 17th. Also present was Dave Leinweber, owner of Anglers Covey. Anglers Covey is an Orvis endorsed outfitter and retailer. Dave has been a strong supporter of CMCTU and very involved in stream improvements on Camp Alexander in Elevenmile Canyon.



BACKPACKING Cont.

conversation reliving the past days adventures. We retired under the spectacular sky and slept well as most people do in this place.

Our trip ended the next day with the hike out. Packs and hearts lighter, spirits recharged, bonds with loved ones and nature renewed. Dakota and Montana were happy and tired as we're Jeanne and I which is a sure sign of a great backpacking trip. We reluctantly left this place with another adventure in the Sangre's securely under our belts and forever in our memories.

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.

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.



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**IN MEMORY OF LEO GOMOLCHAK
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE
CMCTU: THE EARLY YEARS**

Carl L. Roberts

Trout Unlimited, as a national organization, was born on the banks of the Au Sable River near Grayling Michigan on July 18, 1959—47 years ago. Sixteen anglers, united by their love of trout fishing and disgust with Michigan's fish stocking practices, met at the home of George Griffiths and set the organization in motion. From the beginning Trout Unlimited (TU) followed the concept that if we take care of the fish and their habitat the quality of the fishing will not be an issue. Of fundamental importance has been TU's development of programs and recommendations "based on the very best information and thinking available," this according to TU's first president who said, "In all matters of trout management, we want to know that we are substantially correct, both morally and biologically."

It is this philosophy that has guided the Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of TU since its inception. Though most of its members would probably not be in TU were it not for their interest in fishing for trout and salmon, their commitment is to the resource, to the fish and their habitat broadly conceived. TU is, therefore, essentially a conservation organization, not merely a social fishing club. If we want our world to be there tomorrow, we'd best take care of it today. In its commitment to this philosophy the Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited (CMCTU), with its over 800 members, has been and continues to be one of the most successful among Colorado's 25 chapters (as of 2007). This success is especially pleasing and impressive because most of CMCTU's early members belonged to two previous chapters, one of which (the Colorado Springs Flyfishers) failed, and one of which (the Pikes Peak Flyfishers) subsequently disaffiliated with TU and remains a Fly Fishing Federation club. According to Charles Lemon, the first president of CMCTU, the Colorado Springs Fly Fishers suffered its demise because of lack of members interested in positions of leadership and responsibility and, thus, a sharp decline in member-

Cont. on pg. 8



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2008-2009 ELECTIONS

The 2007 Board Elections and State of the Union address will be held at the September General Membership Meeting which takes place on Tuesday, September 24th. The following are the candidates for each position. There are several open positions so please let us know if you would be interested in a position.

President - Vacant
Secretary - Barry Wilson
Treasurer - Sherryl Walck
VP Communications - Vacant
VP Development - Greg Walck
VP Membership - Dennis Immer
VP Programs - Don Logelin
VP Projects - Sam Humpert
VP Public Relations - Vacant
VP Resources - Dan Snow
VP Special Events - Vacant
Webmaster - Gary Almeida
Director at Large - Jack Hunter
Director at Large - James Williams
Director at Large - Lorin Glaser

LEO GOMOLCHAK CONT.

ship. At its end one man was doing practically everything, serving as president, editing the newsletter, raising money for projects, etc. (The chapter had done some stream clean-up work and some fencing and willow-shoot planting at Tomahawk, the details of which are now lost in the mists of 20 plus years).

That the Cheyenne Mountain Chapter came into being to fill this vacancy is due hugely to the efforts of Leo Gomolchak who had just become Colorado Trout Unlimited's Resource Director and would later be known to Colorado Trout Unlimited (CTU), the Division of Wildlife and various state legislators as Pit Bull. Leo the Relentless wrote letters, called people on the phone, buttonholed them in local tackle shops, all with an eye to forming a new chapter. Then, early in 1986, he mailed a questionnaire to all the local TUers he could find and, probably, to others he thought ought to be in TU-152 mailings in all. The questionnaire asked the recipients' views on the formation of a new TU chapter. On February 18 Leo reported that 46 folk had replied: 30 favored a new chapter; 13 were opposed; 3 indicated no interest either way. Subtraction makes clear that 106 people did not respond at all (nothing changes), but what became CMCTU was at least off the starting blocks. As a consequence, on March 10, 1986 22 right-thinking people met at McKenna's Pub to form the new chapter.* They confirmed its relationship with Colorado Trout Unlimited (CTU), the overarching state organization, discussed the chapter's role in "partnering" with the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Service, adopted by-laws and elected 10 of their number as a board of directors, with Charles H. Lemon, Jr. as President of the new chapter** which they named "Front Range Anglers". (It turned out, however, that this name was already registered with the state of Colorado as the name of a Boulder fly shop, so at a subsequent meeting "Cheyenne Mountain Chapter" was adopted—very appropriate, given its location.) The meeting closed with a raffle, the first of well over 200 through the

years, which were and are intended to provide funds to operate the chapter. (TU chapters are not allowed to charge local dues.) Raffle items for the first three years were donated largely by chapter members and included everything from used fly rods and reels to belt buckles, garden-fresh cucumbers and homemade wine.

By the end of 1986 CTU had designated CMCTU the best new chapter in the state. Why? Because, in spite of, or, perhaps, because of its spirited and boisterous beginnings, the chapter, within a 6-month period, first did a clean-up of the South Platte River below Spinney Mountain Reservoir, the land through which it flowed CTU had induced the CDOW to buy from its owner, Bucky Hayes. (People now call this the Dream Stream.) Then CMCTU put up CDOW signs on nearby fences and helped the CDOW take spawn from the river. In a totally different venue

Cont. on pg. 10

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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.

The Philosophy of Trout Unlimited..

believes that trout fishing isn't just fishing for trout.

It's fishing for sport rather than for food where the true enjoyment of the sport lies in the challenge, the love and the battle of wits, not necessarily the full creel.

It's the feeling of satisfaction that comes from limiting your kill instead of killing your limit.

It's communing with nature where the chief reward is a refreshed body and a contented soul, where a license is a permit to use - not abuse, to enjoy - not destroy our trout waters.

It's subscribing to the proposition that what's good for trout is good for trout fishermen and that managing trout for the trout rather than for the trout fishermen is fundamental to the solution of our trout problems.

It's appreciating our trout, respecting fellow anglers and giving serious thought to tomorrow.

Written by Art Neumann the "founding father" of Trout Unlimited.

11-Mile Canyon Cleanup Day Pictures



LEO GOMOLCHAK CONT.

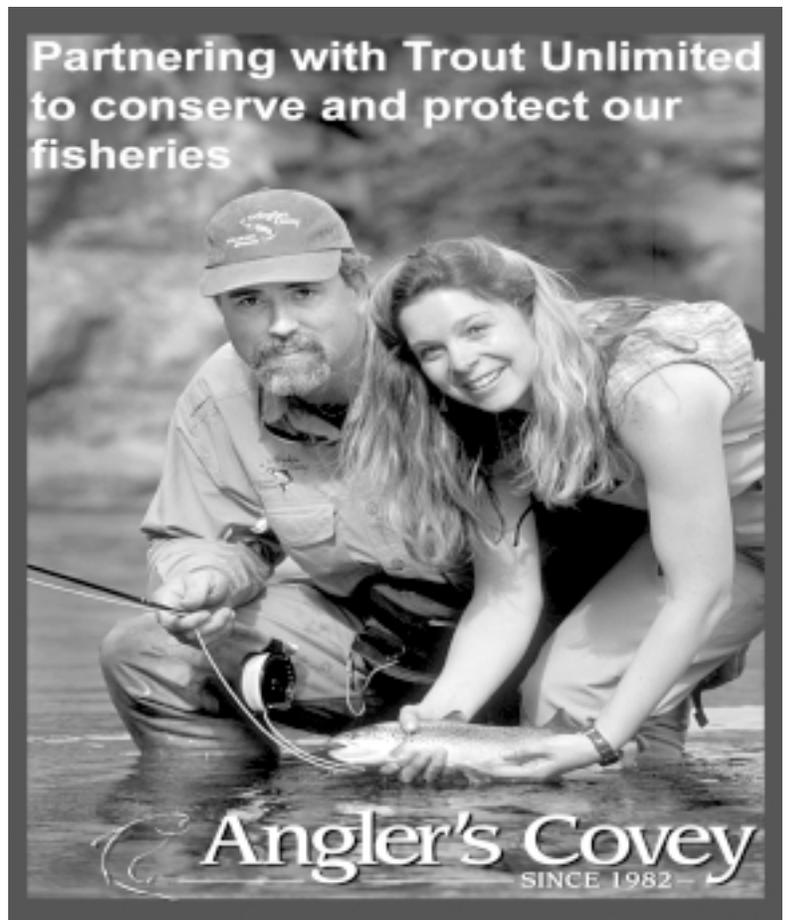
CMCTU developed a plan (with oversight by the USFS), for the rehabilitation of Trout Creek which runs through the Experimental Forest north of Woodland Park, CO, and got an initial grant of \$2500 from the Trout and Salmon Foundation to begin work on what became the Trout Creek Project.

This project, designed to restore a once-healthy Brook-Trout stream, was to last five years and over this period was supported by \$25,000 in competitive grants and 6,000 man-and-woman hours. I make a point of the "woman" part of that phrase because over the years women, though a very small percentage of CMCTU's membership, have played a significant role in the chapter's success. Two especially remarkable ladies of the angle were Susanne Truax and Margaret Ver Hey. Not only were both reliable and manual laborers on the Trout Creek Project, but Susanne had been elected the chapter's Secretary for 1987, later serving two terms as chapter president, and Marge Ver Hey became VP for Communications and for several years wrote much of the copy for and edited the chapter newsletter. To return to Trout Creek, Larry Sharp had been elected the second president of CMCTU in November of 1986, succeeding Charles Lemon, and, with the fiercely able ramrodding support of Alan last-name-regretfully-not-recalled, became a driving force behind the Trout Creek Project as it went into full swing in 1987, in which year CTU voted it the Best Stream Restoration Project in the state. Most of the work, reclaiming 3.5 miles of stream, was done on Saturdays throughout the following summers with always one or two Forest Service personnel sweating alongside about 20 CMCTU volunteers per workday. Norman Benson, a retired biologist, wrote the grant proposals which garnered the \$25,000 mentioned above. This was supplemented by a bequest from the widow of John T. Woods who had been an ardent supporter of CMCTU. A plaque embedded in a boulder just below Manitou Lake commemorates this gift. All this money bought tools, e.g., log carriers, shovels, rakes, and the like, bought large numbers of steel posts, rolls of steel cable, huge logs and piles of rock, rented back hoes, and fed lunches to the work force. (At project's end the tools slipped slowly away to find homes at various Forest Service locations where

today they may be employed in fighting fires, digging latrines and building parking areas in Forest Service campgrounds.) A workday might end with trout rising in a two-foot deep pool that a few hours earlier had been six inches deep and 20 feet wide. Log structures backfilled with rock and earth had created habitat. Made one's day, it did.

The Project was essentially completed in three years, but many workdays for two more years were spent improving weak spots and in trying to prevent beavers from making the stream beaver heaven. They moved in fast. TU volunteers tore out dam after dam and the chapter even hired a trapper to relocate the critters, ultimately to no avail—the chapter could not fund this indefinitely. The beavers won and Trout Creek is now not the series of riffles and pools with the occasional dam that the chapter envisioned, but one beaver dam after another. Ah, well! * Even so it's a marked improvement over what it had become.

Attesting to the vibrancy and vigor of CMCTU during its first two to three years was the recognition it got. In addition to the aforementioned Best New Chapter and Best



Stream Improvement awards, CMCTU was voted Best Chapter in the State and was a candidate for Best Chapter in the Nation, but had to settle for a Silver Medal, Best Chapter in its Region (nine states)-- all in 1988. Susanne Truax, at her own expense, traveled to Ashville, N.C., the site of NTU's annual convention to accept the award for the chapter. Also in 1988, at the instance of Carl Roberts, a new Director-At-Large, the chapter established an endowment fund. The idea was to build the fund to a point where the income from it would cover the normal operating costs of the chapter, so that the bulk of funds raised through raffles, flea markets and the like could go for special projects. (Endowment building has continued through 2007, the time of this writing, but more of this later.) Now, about this same time and of enormous immediate consequence, the ever-alert Leo Gomolchak learned that a parcel of private land within the boundaries of land managed by the Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR) below Spinney Mountain Reservoir was available. Leo, as Resource Director for CTU, prevailed upon that body to buy it to keep it out of private-developer hands. CTU did so and subsequently sold it to the DPR at a profit of \$7,000. Then, recognizing the problem of privately-owned cattle trespassing on DPR-managed land both above and below the 59-mile road and "hoofing" away the river banks just as cattle had done to Trout Creek, Leo got a grant from National Trout Unlimited (NTU) to fence this land. The grant was enough to buy the necessary steel and wooden posts, but what of the wire? To the rescue came another member of CMCTU of whom to be proud, Roger Hill,* blessed be he, who garnered 12 miles of barbed wire from Colorado Fuel & Iron, blessed be they, too. The CDOW, with the aid of prison labor, then built the upper fence (below the reservoir), and the DPR did the work below the road. While this is a history of CMCTU, not of one man, it would be unconscionably remiss of me not to stress the contributions of its founder. Not only did Leo do all that stuff mentioned above and participate over the years in all manner of chapter projects, but, as CTU Resource Director, was instrumental in bringing chapters together in such projects as willow-planting and re-seeding the river banks below the dam at Spinney after major in-stream work by the CDOW under the direction of Rod Van Velsen. (CTU also contributed \$6,000 to this project.) Leo procured total catch-and-release regulations for the "Dream Stream." The CDOW had urged less

stringent regulations, but advocated stream closure during spring and fall spawning runs. CTU prevailed. Leo also successfully argued for the use of single-point, barbless hooks on that same water by showing grisly pictures of released trout with horribly mangled mouths and damaged gills to the Wildlife Commission.** Once committed to a project or cause Leo never let go--hence, the sobriquet, Pit Bull. In the years to come NTU would give Leo a Distinguished Service Award and in 2005 he received the Silver Trout Award from the Steve Lundy Silver Trout Foundation. In 2006 CTU established the Gomolchak Conservation Grants Program. It is worth noting that no non-governmental wildlife or conservation organization, no fishing club or league other than Trout Unlimited participated in any way in the conservation, protection and restoration of "below Spinney." It is, of course, TU's mission to do these things; nonetheless, local anglers, fishing guides, fly shops and outfitters owe a debt of gratitude to Colorado Trout Unlimited, to its Cheyenne Mountain chapter and, perhaps most of all, to the remarkable Leo Gomolchak.

FOOTNOTES:

* *For much of the history of the first two years of the chapter's existence I am indebted to notes supplied me by Leo Gomolchak and Charles Lemon and to personal conversations with them. Errors or serious omissions and oversights we attribute to lost records and increasingly fuzzy memories. Without a doubt we have forgotten many particulars and because of that neglected to give due credit to many members who have come and gone. We regret this. CLR*

* *By April membership had reached 56, by November, 77.*

** *The other Board members were Gregory Finch, Joe Alford, Troy Tafoya and Walter Kinsky (respectively, Vice Presidents for Membership, Communications, Special Events, and Projects); Paul Nassrallah (Secretary-Treasurer); Charles Tutt, Donald Yates and Leo Gomolchak (Directors-At-Large).*

* *While all this was well underway in 1987 some Denver-area chapters of TU built two parking lots below Spinney Mountain Reservoir, one near the gauging station on the 59-Mile Road, and another at "The Barns," the latter of which has since been relocated further from the river. (Interestingly, the CDOW had estimated \$14,000 to build both lots; the Denver chapters built them for \$2400.)*

* *Roger later authored an extremely readable and useful book, *Fly Fishing The South Platte*.*

** *This regulation was subsequently removed following the sharp decline in fish population as a result of whirling disease. WHY????*

Cherry Creek Angler 4th Annual

Fly tying clinic

November 8th Thursday - 6:30-9

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John Betts
Pat Dorsey
Kent Higgins
Chaz Matsumoto
Jim Neiberger
Richard Pilatzke
Allan Reyes
Steve Schweitzer

Tucker Bamford
Joe Brenton
Greg Garcia
Jonathan Keisling
David McElwain
Al Noraker
Chuck Prather
Barry Reynolds
Bob Shaw

Marty Bartholomew
Charlie Craven
Tim Haller
Al Makkai
Richard Mead
Elden "Mac" Packer
Frank Prekel
Bill Searles
Hyrum Taylor

Learn and techniques, materials and how to tie some of the best patterns of dry flies, wet flies, nymphs, terrestrials, streamers and saltwater from some of the best. Get the scoop on patterns for local waters and destination locations.

- Door Prizes ▪ Bucket Raffles ▪ Refreshments
- Hands-on LCD Instructional Tying with Charlie Craven
- Book Signings: Marty Bartholomew - John Betts - Pat Dorsey - Barry Reynolds
- Sneak Peek of new TV Series footage - Barry Reynolds
- Fish Sculpting - Larry Winslow
- Bamboo Rod Building - Doug Borer & Jim Sawyer
- Fishing & River Art Exhibit

Contact: Travis Barker (303) 981-2590 tbarker44@yahoo.com

\$5.00 Admission (includes Door Prizes Drawings Entry)

Enter Terrace Gardens through the West entrance



9/25/07



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



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

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