



# ANGLERS' EDGE

*CONSERVING, PROTECTING AND ENHANCING COLORADO'S COLDWATER FISHERIES  
THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH*



Bi-Monthly Newsletter

West Denver Chapter of Trout Unlimited

August 2016, Volume 22, No.4

[www.westdenvertu.org](http://www.westdenvertu.org)



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There are three Flyathlon events scheduled for the summer of 2016. The Clearwater Flyathlon will be held in the Nez Perce-Clearwater Forests of northern Idaho the weekend of July 29th-31st. Our flagship event, the Middle Creek Flyathlon, will take place in the woods near Saguache, CO the weekend of August 12th-14th. Finally, the Lake Fork Flyathlon will round out the season the weekend of September 23rd-25th near Gunnison, CO.

Importantly, Flyathlon races are fundraising events for coldwater conservation projects. Our 2016 501(c)(3) partners for these events are Colorado Trout Unlimited and the Western Native Trout Initiative. We utilize a crowdfunding model to raise money for projects that seek to make the West a better place for native trout. In the last two years, our events have raised more than \$30,000 for native trout-related projects.

Our 2016 list of sponsors is outstanding, including Suunto, Osprey Packs, Scott Fly Rods, Patagonia Fly Fishing, Tenkara USA, Brooks Running, Runner's Roost, YETI Coolers, Leatherman, Smith, Gene Taylor's Sporting Goods, Bishop Brogden Water Consultants, DiNatale Water Consultants, Mad Greens, Noosa Yoghurt, Tenayo Salsa, Skcratch Labs, Acli-Mate Natural Sports Drinks, Elevation Beer Company, Upslope Brewing Company, Three Barrel Brewing Company, Telluride Brewing Company, High Alpine Brewing Company, San Luis Valley Brewing Company, & Grand Teton Brewing Company.



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Advertising Mgr:	Jon Weimer	303-830-1609
Anglers' Edge Editor:	David Amalong	303-669-0334
Assistant Editor:	Jon Weimer	303-830-1609
Chapter Counsel:	Bruce Ducker	303-861-2828
Communications:	Jackie Edwards	303-278-2282
Database Manager:	Dan Sullivan	303-423-5616
Fly Tying Clinic:	Bruce Beck	303-667-3887
Women's Fly Fishing	Geri Reffel	303-902-6998
River Watch:	Dennis Wiles	720-404-7821
Programs:	Tim Toohey	303-423-8636
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Webmaster:	Ed Calmus	303-744-2940
Assistant Webmaster:	Dan Sullivan	303-423-5616
Directors at Large:	Glen Edwards	303-278-2282
	Cal Noguchi	303-452-1030

## Anglers' Edge

Published 6 Times per Year by the West Denver Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
385 Flora Way, Golden, CO 80401.

Editor:	David Amalong	303-669-0334
Assistant Editor:	Jon Weimer	303-830-1609
Photography:	Dr. John Pern	
Circulation:	Jackie Edwards	303-278-2282
	Linda Miyamoto	303-423-5616

We want your contributions such as guest editorials, letters-to-the-editor, photographs, big fish photos, trip reports, etc. Send them to the Editor by e-mail to [davidamalong@comcast.net](mailto:davidamalong@comcast.net)

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*On the Cover: Bob Clark having  
success in 11-Mile Canyon.  
Photo: Mike Hutchison*

# The President's Message

This is shaping up to be a big summer for West Denver. We just signed a management agreement with the Forest Service to help with various projects on Clear Creek. This year it includes helping with the Greenback reintroduction in the Clear Creek drainage. Greenbacks are to be put into Herman's Gulch if the kill off worked. On Dry Gulch the state plans netting and electroshocking of existing fish. Those fish will be planted in a lake on the Western Slope. Both of these projects will take place in late August or September. Volunteers will be needed. As soon as a date is set we will let members know.

This summer we are also negotiating with JeffCo Open Space on how and what to do with the Canyon Reach area which has been destroyed by gold miners, flooding, and the path being built through the canyon. JeffCo Open Space wants our help and blessing on 2 other projects on Clear Creek – one just down from the Canyon Reach area and one up from the Golden Mile. I can't say much at this time because we are still negotiating with them. If a decision is reached again WDTU will announce the outcome to our members.

On August 13th WDTU will do a fund raiser at Wheat Ridge Bowl during the Carnation Day parade. It has been a

joint venture between WDTU and Wheat Ridge for many years. Come out enjoy the parade and buy a hot dog.



*Photo by John Pern*

September 17th West Denver will help out at the Clear Creek Water Shed Festival. This year we will be sharing booths with the Cutthroat and Cherry Chapters. As in past years we will have a fly tying table and we will be helping kids fly fish the Creek which is stocked for the event by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. This year there will also be a Clear Creek clean up in the morning. It again is being sponsored by the 3 chapters. Lunch will be served to people helping out and people helping during this event will have a chance to when some gifts donated by local businesses. Email me at [tim2e@comcast.net](mailto:tim2e@comcast.net) if you want to participate.

The last item I want to write about is this will be my last article as president. Jackie Edwards takes over as president in October. It has been my pleasure to serve 3 years as vice president under Jon Weimer and 3 years as president. I want to thank all of the members of West Denver TU for putting up with me. I also want to thank the Board of Directors for making the president's job easier. It is my belief we have the best members and Board of Directors in the State.

*Tim Toohey*

# FAMILY FISHING DAY



**B**ring your kids and grand kids to Pine Valley Ranch Park near Bailey for a fun day in the mountains. Picnic by rippling waters, hear the call of an osprey, take in the view of the towering cliffs, and go fishing. The South Platte River runs through the property, which is also the home of Pine Lake. Pine Lake can be fished from the pier. The Ranch also offers 1.3 miles of quiet, easy-to-moderate trails that are hiker-only. We have reserved the **Humming Bird Pavilion on Sunday, August 28th from 11 am to 4 pm.**

This event is free. Bring a picnic lunch.

Address:  
30400 Crystal Lake Rd., Pine, Colorado

Directions:  
From U.S. Highway 285, turn south on Pine Valley Road (County Road 126) to Crystal Lake Road. Turn right one mile into the park.

Follow this [LINK](#) for Google Map directions

## JON WEIMER APPOINTED AS A CTU DIRECTOR AT LARGE

**A**t its annual meeting in April, our parent organization—Colorado Trout Unlimited (CTU)—appointed Chapter member, Jon Weimer, as a Director at Large, one of nine in the organization. Jon, a past president of our Chapter, also serves on CTU’s Construction Review Committee.

Jon joins another Chapter member, Glen Edwards, as a principal in CTU’s management structure. For the past 8 years, Glen has served as a Regional Vice-President for CTU, attempting to devise ways and venues for local chapters to become more informed about, and involved with, CTU activities, events and policy decisions. Glen is also a past president of our Chapter and also serves as a board member of the Clear Creek Watershed Foundation.

These appointments reflect, in part, the regard and respect with which CTU holds our Chapter. At the last CTU annual meeting, CTU’s Executive Director, David Nickum, remarked that our Chapter appears to be running on all six cylinders every day of the year—involved in a myriad of activities related to education, outreach, humanitarian, conservation, and fund-raising pursuits.



# YELLOWSTONE RESEARCH PROJECT

*By Jon Weimer, Photos by John Pern*

**F**rom July 16 to July 23, ten Chapter members participated in a research project in Yellowstone Park, a project conducted by a Montana State University PhD candidate, in conjunction with Yellowstone Park’s Volunteer Fly Fishing Program. The Yellowstone cutthroat trout is considered a “keystone species” in the Park, but they are threatened by non-native fish that have been introduced into the Park watersheds over the years. There is now an emphasis to maintain and enhance the genetic purity of the cutthroat while, correspondingly, attempt to prevent hybridizing of these cutthroat by non-native invaders such as rainbow trout. One of the objectives of this research project was to determine

locations and timing of spawning of both the Yellowstone cutthroat and non-native species. To achieve this objective, fish must be caught, identified, and “tagged”. Tagging involves a sophisticated technology that permits researchers to track the movements of fish (for more information about this technology, see an article in the February 2016 issue of the AE, written by the Chapter’s Conservation Director, Rick Dornfeld). As part of this project, our Chapter members had the tough gig of catching fish for purposes of identification and tagging.

All members of our group stayed at Cooke City, Montana,



located near the Northeast Entrance to the Park. Our fishing was confined to the northeast sector of the park which included Soda Butte Creek, the Lamar River, Slough Creek, and Trout Lake. Some members of our group fished other waters not included within the scope of the research project, such as the Clark's Fork, Crandall Creek, Yellowstone River, and Warm Creek.

Chapter members were grouped into cabins at the Antlers Lodge in Cooke City. My group/cabin consisted of George Hussey and Clyde Manning. Fred Portillo was supposed to be rooming with us, but he suffered a serious injury prior to

the trip, and he had to bail out. I think our cabin could legitimately be designated as the "old coot" cabin—3 guys who are definitely in their "Golden Years". George and Clyde are nice guys, but I sympathize with their wives (as they probably sympathize with mine). If a camera and recording device had been secretly placed in our cabin, it would have documented frequent late night-early morning treks to the bathroom on the part of its inhabitants as well as a chorus of questions such as: "where are my glasses?", "have you seen my cell phone?", "whose pills are these?", and "what day of the week is it?".

*Continued on Page 5*

*Continued from Page 4*

From our cabin's perspective, the fishing was inconsistent—i.e., some very good days, some so-so days, and some stinkers. Personally, I had some spectacular days, and I had some days in which I was bored to death. The cabin consisting of Mike McManus, Tim Toohey, and Dennis Wiles was the most productive, fishing-wise. I know Tim, have fished with him, and know him to be an indefatigable, focused angler. However, according to Tim, Mike and Dennis surpass him in terms of perseverance. Other members of our Chapter on this trip were Paul Bunker, Grace Chen, Bob Clark, and John Pern.

All in all, it was a great week. I've never visited the northeast sector of the Park before, and I was impressed. This part of the Park doesn't have the thermal activity as does other sections, but it is beautiful nevertheless. I don't think I've ever seen so many buffalo ("buffalo jams" on roads were a daily occurrence). In addition to the buffalo, we saw antelope, a grizzly bear, a black bear, and elk. As good as the fishing was, the fun part was Chapter members gathering together at the end of the day to swap stories, exchange information about effective flies and tactics, and make plans for the following day. The camaraderie among the Chapter members was palpable, and reinforces the notion that this is a great Chapter with some great people.

Tim says the chances of the Chapter participating in a Yellowstone research project next year is problematic but, if such an opportunity presents itself, take advantage of it. It's a unique experience.



*Each fish caught was tagged and recorded*



*Injecting a tag into a trout*



*John Pern in action. Photo: Grace Chen*



*Dennis Wile fishing the waters of Slough Creek*



*The WDTU team: (front row, left to right): John Pern, Clyde Manning, Bob Clark, Bill Voigt; (rear row): Mike McMannus, Jim Baker, George Hussey, Tim Hoohey, Dennis Wiles, Paul Bunker, Jon Weimer.*

# CONSERVATION

## *Volunteer Opportunities for 2016*

Here are three projects for us to take part this summer and fall. Project details are still being worked out. In other words, there are no firm dates yet. The write-up below is presented to pique your interest. In addition to these projects, River Watch is a good opportunity to do some productive work for trout.

**Trout Salvage in Dry Gulch:** This will be a one-day effort to catch trout on flies and move them alive to Clear Creek. See the **Anglers' Edge** newsletter article titled "Herman Gulch Trout Salvage Project for details on what this is all about. This article is also posted on [www.westdenvertu.org](http://www.westdenvertu.org).

**Culvert Surveys:** This will be a multi-day job for a small group of volunteers. We will be assisting the U.S. Forest Service take field measurements at a few stream crossing sites where culverts are to be replaced to enable fish passage upstream. See the **Anglers' Edge** newsletter article

can work on their own time in their own vehicle. A jeep, ATV, or trail bike may be needed. An article on a specific road closure job appeared in an earlier **Anglers' Edge** issue, but more information will be forthcoming in both the newsletter and on the website as details for this long term-project become available.

*Rick Dornfeld, WDTU Conservation Director*

## *Volunteers Needed for River Watch*

The River Watch program, under the auspices of Colorado Park and Wildlife, is designed to monitor the water quality of various watersheds. West Denver participates in this program on a stretch of Clear Creek in the Golden area. Dennis Wiles (720-404-7821) leads the Chapter's effort,



entitled "Culverts" for more information on the subject of culverts and fish passage. The article is also posted on [www.westdenvertu.org](http://www.westdenvertu.org).

**Road Closure Field Checks:** This is a continuation of work started in 2015 to visit all 60 road closures in the Clear Creek Ranger District of the Arapaho National Forest. Volunteers

which generally occurs on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Give Dennis a call if you're interested. Participation in this program affords you not only an interesting, but an educational experience.

# COMMUNITY

## Volunteers needed for Windy Peak

The Outdoor Education Laboratory Program (OELS) at Windy Peak (south of Bailey) is under the auspices of the Jefferson County Public School System. The mission of the OELS is to provide 6<sup>th</sup> grade students the opportunity for hands-on, experiential learning in an outdoor setting. West Denver has been an integral part of this program for close to 20 years—helping to construct a fishing pond and ancillary structures (e.g., fishing platforms and docks) and teaching interested students the rudiments of fly tying.

In addition to teaching students how to tie flies (simple patterns like Woolly Buggers and San Juan Worms), West Denver members help impart a conservation ethic in hopes of encouraging these students to be stewards of the environment later in life. Typically, after teaching students to tie a couple of flies, they're taken down to the nearby fishing pond in hopes that they can catch something with their own creations. The fly tying classes usually begin in

## Want a Fishing Buddy?

If you want find a fishing buddy or volunteer to be one if asked, contact either Jim Chase [JEchase1000@gmail.com](mailto:JEchase1000@gmail.com) or Ann Chase [A.Chase1000@gmail.com](mailto:A.Chase1000@gmail.com).

## Donations

Some WDTU members have inquired whether or not they can submit unsolicited donations to the Chapter. The answer is “Yes”. If you wish to donate money, checks should be made payable to West Denver Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and then either mailed to our Treasurer Matt Rivera (8189 Webster St., Arvada, CO 80003), or presented to him at a Chapter meeting. If you wish to donate fishing-related merchandise (for example, rods, reels, flies, etc.), contact Tim Toohey at (303) 423-8636 or [Tim2e@comcast.net](mailto:Tim2e@comcast.net).

Our Chapter is tax exempt under code 501(c)3. Therefore, all contributions are deductible on your Federal tax returns. If you so desire, you can designate your monetary



April and may continue through October. There is no rhyme or reason to the number of classes that may be taught, but usually only one or two classes a month is requested. If you think you may be interested in helping out and/or want more information, please contact our Education Director

*Ric Tarr at 303-233-9391*

donation be applied to a specific project or purpose, as well as setting up a matching donation program. If you want additional information about WDTU's projects and/or want to discuss your intent for a donation, please contact Jon Weimer at either 303-830-1609 or [weimerj@earthlink.net](mailto:weimerj@earthlink.net).

*Continued on Page 15*



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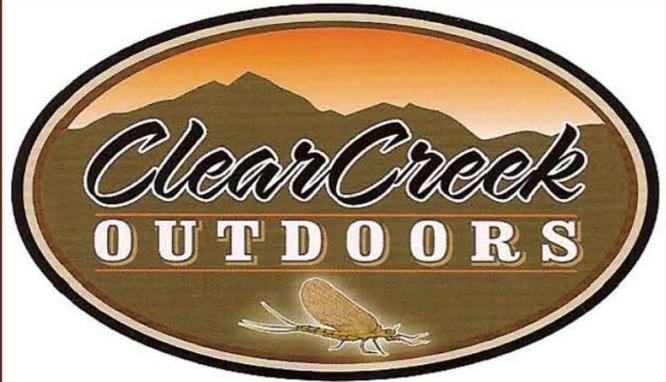
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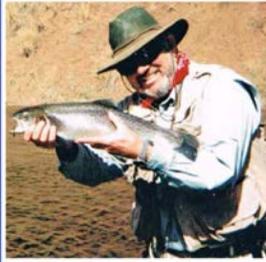
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# FROM THE EDITOR

I can't believe that it is already hopper season! Seems like only yesterday that I was sitting at my vise creating a stockpile nymph patterns for spring fishing.

It has been a great summer for fishing, has'nt it? In between work and family responsibilities, I have been able to squeeze in a few quick trips within the state. In June I took family from North Carolina to 11-Mile Canyon and helped my nephew catch his very first rainbow. In early August, my daughter and I spent 3 days camping in Rocky Mountain National Park, landing brookie after brookie in between s'mores and more s'mores.....good times!



*Somewhere on the upper Colorado River*

I have also been busy "training" for the Lake Fork Flyathlon event held in September. Flyathlon is a TU fundraising event involving three disciplines; trail running, fly fishing and beer drinking. I am well positioned to excel in the fishing and beer drinking disciplines....trail running; however, is another story. I'll try to do an article with the promoter of this event in the next newsletter....it could be a pretty funny story!

Last but not least, I hope that you are enjoying the new format of the newsletter. Please send me your comments, questions, photographs and ideas for interesting stories.

**Go Fish.**



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*Continued from Page 8*

## **WDTU Shirt Logo**

Jackie Edwards has made arrangements with a vendor to have an official WDTU logo imprinted on your shirt for just \$5. This program was initiated several years ago and has gained popularity. You simply need to bring your shirt to the next Chapter meeting, and give it to Jackie. She will take care of the rest.

## **WANTED: New Members!**

We are always looking for new members to join West Denver Trout Unlimited. To join our Chapter, simply follow this [link](#) for more information on Chapter and National TU membership. Make sure you specify Chapter # 130 when registering. With your membership in West Denver TU, you will receive the bi-monthly newsletter, invitations to all of our Chapter meetings, and opportunities to participate in all of our conservation and volunteer activities.

*Chapter Meeting at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden, Colorado*



## ***A Note About Email Address Changes***

*Please* notify at least one of us whenever you change your email address, snail mail address and/or telephone number so we can communicate with you quickly and efficiently.

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# **ABOUT TU**

## ***West Denver Trout Unlimited***

The West Denver Chapter, Trout Unlimited (WDTU, TU chapter #130) is a member-driven 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is conserving, protecting, and enhancing Colorado's coldwater fisheries through volunteerism, education, and outreach.

WDTU was founded in Colorado in 1974, and now has over 900 members across western metro Denver, including Lakewood, Golden, Morrison, Englewood, Littleton, Wheatridge, and Arvada. Our conservation and community outreach projects include the restoration and water quality monitoring of Clear Creek, Jefferson County school programs, and Joseph's Journey. The chapter's membership meets regularly at the monthly chapter meeting (except July). These meetings are free and open to the public.

WDTU's governance also relies directly upon its members, who generously volunteer their time and effort to achieve the chapter's mission. The WDTU Bylaws provide details on the chapter's governance. The chapter's Board of Directors has a board meeting every month (separate from the chapter meeting). Members are welcome to attend board meetings and are encouraged to volunteer to be an Officer or Director.

## ***Trout Unlimited***

"Founded in 1959, TU is the leading conservation organization dedicated to conserving, protecting, and restoring, North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. Our 100,000 members are organized into 450 local chapters nationwide. These volunteer chapters are the "watchdogs" of their local rivers and streams. They conduct stream restoration projects, monitor legislation, and fight for "fish friendly" policies with state and local officials. Through its Washington DC-based national headquarters, TU conducts valuable scientific and economic research to foster more enlightened trout and salmon management practices, lobbies to strengthen environmental legislation like the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act, and provides a voice for its 100,000 members."

# WDTU CALENDAR

## NEXT CHAPTER MEETING- SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

### **American Mountaineering Center**

6:30 - 7:00 PM: Welcoming-Fly Tying Demo

7:00 - 7:30 PM: Chapter Business

7:30 - 8:45 PM: Speaker

### **Guest Speaker-Adam Omernick**

Adam is owner of NoCo Fly Fishing and is a Product Designer and Tenkara Guide Trainer with Zen Tenkara and Zen Fly Fishing Gear. He has been fishing all his life and is passionate about teaching and sharing his experience and knowledge with others. As an International Federation of Fly Fishers Certified Casting Instructor, Adam has worked with people of varying skill levels to introduce them to fly fishing and help them perfect the art of casting. Adam competes in distance fly casting but spends most of his days fishing tenkara. He believes tenkara is the perfect venue for becoming an excellent angler as it allows you to focus on reading water, fish habitat, presentation and landing fish.

### **Guest Fly Tier-Judson Knowles**

I have been tying and fly fishing since I was 8 years old. I am a husband, a father, lover of the outdoors, catcher of fish sometimes...

I was lucky enough to attend the Beginner & Intermediate Fly Tying classes taught by Ray Johnson in Southern California in the late 70's at Orange Coast Community College. I was the youngest person in the classes by 25 years or more. The first fish I caught on a fly was a sucker on a Renegade I had tied in class. This was part of the class "field trip" to some local waters in Southern California. That feeling has never left; the excitement and joy are still present, even today, hundreds of trout later. I am amazed every time I catch a fish on a fly that I have tied. It isn't so

## August 2016

- 3 Annual Chapter Family Picnic:  
Lions Park, Golden East Pavilion-  
Pot Luck 4-10PM
- 8 Board Meeting 7 PM
- 14 Women's Fly Fishing Clinic
- 20 Auto Show Cook Out  
WR Bowling Lanes 9AM-4PM  
Linda-303-437-3032
- 28 Family Fishing Day at Pine Valley  
Ranch Open Space

## September 2016

- 7 Chapter Meeting
- 12 Board Meeting, 7pm
- 17 Clear Creek Watershed Festival  
9AM-4PM Tim-720-475-0762
- 28 National Meeting-Bozeman, MT

## October 2016

- 5 Chapter Meeting
- 10 Board Meeting 7PM
- 18 CTU Fall Board Meeting-Golden

**Note!** Our **Chapter Meetings** are held at the American Mountaineering Center, 710 10th Street, Golden Colorado 80401

Our **Board Meetings** are held at the Old Capitol Grill, 1122 Washington Ave., Golden Colorado 80401

much that I have "fooled" nature, it is more about something I had offered up, made of twisted fur and feather that was deemed "good enough" by a wary trout lurking below. I love to share fly tying with others and gain just as much as I give. I have a heart for soft hackles and woven body flies. I find fly tying relaxing, sometimes frustrating but it always rewarding.



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