



ANGLERS' EDGE

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



Our Mission

To conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

Our Vision

By the next generation, Trout Unlimited will ensure that robust populations of native and wild coldwater fish once again thrive within their North American range, so that our children can enjoy healthy fisheries in their home waters.

Who We Are

Founded in Michigan in 1959, Trout Unlimited today is a national non-profit organization with 150,000 members dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. Our staff and volunteers work from coast to coast to protect, reconnect, restore and sustain trout and salmon habitat on behalf of today's anglers and coming generations of sportsmen and women who value the connection between healthy, intact habitat and angling opportunity.

From forested rivers like the Farmington in Connecticut to the pristine waters of Alaska's Bristol Bay and all points in between, TU's work spans nearly a million miles of cold water all across North America. TU is the most effective coldwater fisheries conservation organization in the country. Donors invest in TU because we get things done on the ground, in statehouses and on Capitol Hill.

TU has a basic approach to its conservation strategy. First, we use the best available science to protect headwater spawning habitat for trout and salmon. We reconnect tributaries with their rivers to ensure resilience, and we restore waters where development has impacted trout and salmon and the opportunity to fish for them. Second, we sustain our work on the ground by:

- Using the best science to drive conservation priorities
- Promoting and maintaining a strong legal and regulatory framework to protect fish and fishing opportunity
- Connecting with passionate anglers who want to give back to the resource they value so much
- Increasing our ability to engage TU members in conservation by training, educating and building a strong community of angler advocates
- Connecting with generous donors and helping them give to the fish they cherish and the places they love
- Helping members connect and communicate with one another via our website, TROUT Magazine and the TU Blog

From the Penobscot in Maine to the South Fork of the Snake in Idaho and west to the Klamath in Oregon and California, TU and its staff and volunteers work on the ground in hundreds of places, protecting, reconnecting and restoring trout and salmon habitat for the benefit of today's anglers and generations to come. If you're interested in becoming a part of TU and giving back to the fish and the places you value, become a member and help us 'save the world, one trout at a time.'

West Denver Trout Unlimited

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Anglers Edge

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Assistant Editor: Alexa Metrick

We want your contributions! Send them to the
editor via email at [http://westdenvertu.org/resources/
newsletter/](http://westdenvertu.org/resources/newsletter/) Scroll down to submission area.

The Cover:

Art DiMeo is a confirmed dry fly addict. He takes us through his favorite may fly patterns, all tied with natural wing materials.

Feature story on page 5

The President's Message

Have you been fishing? Wondering whether or where you should go? You are not alone. The recommendations continue to evolve. In general, practice social distancing when fishing, wear masks around others, and check your destination county's covid-19 restrictions before you head out.



I would like to thank Alexa for her work on Anglers' Edge over the past several years. She worked hard to make the newsletter the quality publication that is so appreciated by the membership. Alexa will stay involved with West Denver TU, hoping to have more time for conservation and education activities. She will also produce our annual promotional brochure.

Mark Shulman will succeed Alexa. Mark has great experience as a consultant to *High Country Angler*. He will continue the excellence of the publication, which will now adopt more of a magazine format.

Mark is an avid reader and writer. He has published many fishing-related articles. He needs your help. Send Mark your fly fishing stories. A favorite trip, location, fly, or experience. You're not a writer? Mark will interview you and put your thoughts into words.

Since we are spending more time at home, this is a great time to help him build an inventory of stories for future editions. Contact Mark through our website at <https://westdenvertu.org/contact-mark-shulman/> or at Mark@hcamagazine.com

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Cameron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Wings

by Art DiMeo

While Mark Shulman and I were discussing ideas for a featured fly in this edition of Angler's Edge, a recent article published by Yellow Dog Fly Fishing Adventures entitled *The West's Best Hatches and Where to Fish Them*, (See here yellowdogflyfishing.com) came to mind. "Hatches and the rising trout that feed on them are at the root of why we fly fish... Casting a dry fly to a rising trout is a core element of our sport" said the article. Right on, I exclaimed out loud. I trust that most of you would wholeheartedly agree with that sentiment. Anyway, that was a long-winded way of telling you what inspired the subject of this article. Well, fellow dry fly addicts, dry fly season is upon us. Dreaming about prolific hatches of PMD's, PED's and Green Drakes that occur in June and July, I just couldn't settle on a single featured fly to promote. So, I decided to share some of the favorite wing styles that I tie on some of my go-to mayfly imitations. I focus mainly on natural wing materials. We'll leave synthetic materials for another time.

First, let's talk about calf hair, its delicate and fairly easy to tie once you learn how to get the bunch sized proportionately. The white calf hair is highly visible and allows the fly to land softly on the water.



Sometimes, on snowy winter afternoons, I get the itch to try something traditional, like quill wings. They are aesthetically pleasing to me and provide a welcome link to the long tradition of fly tying. I also find the upright "V" shape easier to see on the water under certain light conditions. I cannot prove it, but I think trout key in on the upright wings as they gently float by.



Inspired by one A.K. Best's techniques, and securing a very reasonably priced cape from the Blue Quill Angler, I have grown to love hen back wings.



Wings

Continued from page 5

A.K. Best has a chapter on PMD's and PED (Pale Evening Duns) in his excellent book, *A.K.'s Fly Box*. He often uses turkey flats for the wing, but I found the hen back work well too.

One of the easiest wings to tie is the Marc Pettijean inspired CDC wing.



Fig. 4 CDC Wing

The CDC is fast to tie, its lands delicately and floats high. Fish seem to appreciate it. But one disadvantage is that fish tend to drown them. But who care? Right. That *IS* the point isn't it?

Of course, our high gradient, swift flowing Western rivers often require lots of float-ability. That's when hair wings really shine. Figure 5 shows one my favorite Green Drake patterns that work especially well on the faster sections of Frying Pan and the Taylor Rivers.



Fig. 5 Deer Hair

Hair can also make an excellent wing post, as well as a body, as is illustrated on this extended body Green Drake.



Fig. 6 Deer Hair Post

I discussed hen wing posts in Figure 3 above, but soft feathers can also be used to make highly realistic wings. In the fly shown in Figure 7, I have used Blue Grouse feathers to burn the wings on this high floating Drake that also features deer hair legs and a deer hair body,



Fig. 7 Burnt Wings

One of the fun things about fly tying is the almost limitless variety of materials that can be used, so let your creativity run wild. Try some of these styles and let me know which ones you prefer. Enjoy your summer send I hope to see you out on the water.

Hello West Denver TU

By Mark Shulman



With this June issue, I am pleased to join Anglers Edge as the new editor and look forward to being part of West Denver Trout Unlimited. Like so many Anglers' Edge readers, I share a love of fly fishing and spending time outdoors. Much of this time in the company of my wife of 39 years Dee-Dee, our two children and four grandchildren. And of course, with Biscuit, the star Golden Retriever. I learned fishing as a young boy in Maryland from my father; while hiking, camping, and canoeing the rivers, streams and lakes of the Appalachian Moun-

tains. Boulder lured me 46 years ago and Colorado has been my home ever since. I wish to encourage WDTU members to contact me with their stories or ideas for stories! Anglers Edge reporters Joshua Musa and Art DiMeo are also anxious to hear your thoughts and ideas. Please contact me Anytime at 303.668.2591 or Mark@hcamagazine.com

Not a Drop to Waste

By Erin Moran Crider



putting them in leadership roles within Colorado Trout Unlimited.

Encouraging women anglers to find their voice gives me special reward! I saw a Facebook account that was started, but not active called, Colorado Women on the Fly. After a few months of fresh air and fish pictures, the group is now active and quickly growing. Women make up 30% of anglers today and are the fastest growing sector. However, only 6% of Colorado Trout Unlimited is women. I achieve to change that statistic! If you know someone that would be interested in joining the group, please pass this message along. There is also an Instagram account and hashtag, coloradowomenonthefly.

Home is in Gilpin County, Colorado. Far enough away from Blackhawk and Central City to still feel “backcountry”. Grandma taught me fishing, which meant worm and bobber for bass and crappie, catfish and carp. Spinners as I grew older. I grew interested in fly fishing when I saw a man swinging around line at a small pond in Golden Gate State Park. You Tube got me started.

At the University of Missouri I degreed in Animal Science with a beef and dairy, agriculture sustainability emphasis. We moved to Colorado to be closer to my family, for my husband to leap into the fast growing technology scene, and to enjoy everything Colorado had to offer.

I needed a community to show me the ropes here. West Denver Trout Unlimited and Colorado Trout Unlimited have become an important part of my life and my pursuit for water conservation and backcountry preservation. Fly fishing is an important activity to foster protection of our fragile environment. And what fun! As a Director-At-Large I have 3 projects: to get more millennials into water conservation, board succession planning, and annual estate donations. by

This is in addition to helping run the Facebook and Instagram accounts for West Denver TU. As these social media accounts get fired up, people come out of the woodwork and want to get involved. This is where the board succession planning comes into places as well. Our chapter as well as all of Colorado Trout Unlimited... is looking a little younger and taking on a new brand. However, its environmental preservation goals are the same.

Another fun way we were raising money and giving TU a new image was happy hours at local fly shops and breweries. Tara Curry and Brenden Stucky have been instrumental in getting these events off the ground. We raised several thousand dollars last year for West Denver TU. This is great; however CTU needs financial strength to prevail. Working with trusted partners to engage families who want to continue to make their money meaningful in their gifting strategies holds a special place in my heart. We need more families like this to continue the conservation mission. Seeking out high net worth partners and giving them a reason to support the activity many already enjoy!

Who's in?

The Red Fork Redux

By Jon Weimer

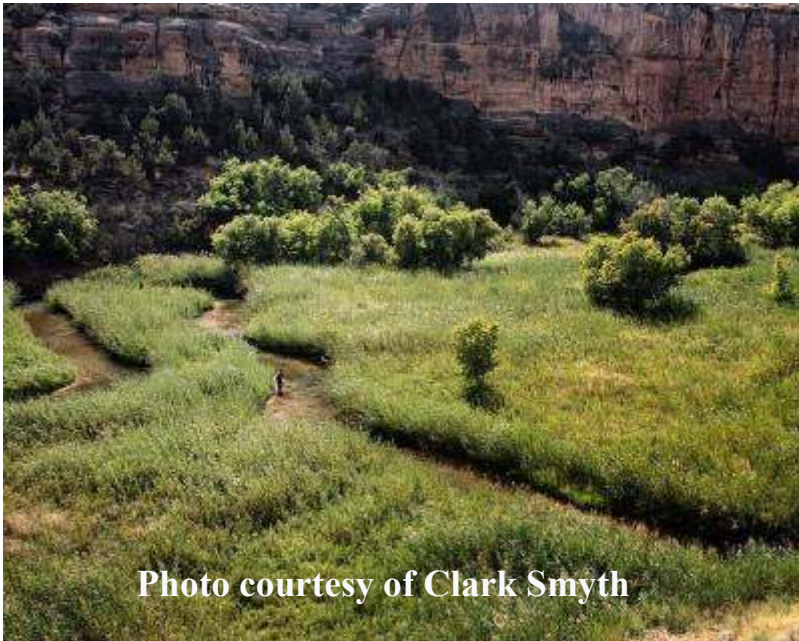


Photo courtesy of Clark Smyth

Several years ago, my wife and I took a trip to Wyoming and Montana. I'm a western frontier history buff, primarily interested in sites associated with the Plains Indians and U.S. Army conflicts. So, for example, we visited Fort Laramie, Fort Kearny, the Fetterman battlefield, the site of the Wagon Box fight (all Wyoming) and the Little Bighorn Battlefield site in Montana where George Custer met his fate.

Much to my wife's chagrin, I managed to make arrangements to do a day of fishing. I wasn't familiar with that area, so I contacted a local fly fishing guide service—Rock Creek Anglers located in Saddlestring, Wyoming (don't you just love that name!). My assigned guide asked me what I was doing up in Wyoming/Montana, and I told him of my interest in the American West. He said that he knew just the place to take me.

We went to the Red Fork of the Powder River. The stretch I fished was a private segment of water located on a working ranch. It was one of the most beautiful places I've ever fished. It was the stomping grounds for Butch Cassidy, the Sundance Kid, and their "Hole-in-the-Wall" gang. It's also the site of a battle between the Cheyenne Indians and U.S. troops in 1876. The Red Fork is not stocked—it consists of naturally-reproducing fish. That day, I calculated that I was on the water for about 6

hours; the guide and I estimated that during that interval, I caught between 40 and 45 fish. I caught a couple of 18-inch fish, but most fell between 12 and 16 inches (mostly browns). It was a wonderful day, and I was determined to get back up there when I could.

In late 2018, I contacted the owner of the ranch that owned the property I fished and asked if they would have any accommodations the following summer for me, and possibly a partner—a place we could hang our hat while we fished. She said that they had an old out building that they may be fixing up, and she would let me know in the spring. Well, that fell through. She said that they had been so busy running the ranch (16,000 acres in size); they hadn't an opportunity to do anything on the structure. So, I decided to go with the Rock Creek Anglers outfit again.

A friend of mine from Montana would join me on this trip but that fell through as well. So, it was just me and the guide last year.

Fishing-wise, this trip was just as successful as the first excursion. I was on the water about 5 hours and probably caught 35-40 fish, about half of which were browns, and the other half rainbows (with a few cutts thrown into the mix). The fly du jour was a size 14 Madam X. Again, the fish were mostly in the 12 to 16 inch range, with a couple of 17-18 inchers being caught. As good as the fishing was it was almost secondary to the gorgeous scenery which looks like the stage set for a John Wayne western. I'm going to try for the ranch house again this year (corona virus willing); I feel I know my way around the Red Fork so well that a guide isn't necessary, particularly if the ranch owners allow me to fish on the property. If I can make it up to that area again, I would like to try some of the other creeks/ivers in fairly close proximity, including the Little and Big Piney Creeks, Rock Creek, Clear Creek (Wyoming version), Ten Sleep Creek, and the Tongue River.

Jon is a long-time member of the West Denver Chapter and former Anglers' Edge editor.

Overhand Knot

By Joshua Musa



I was born and raised outside of Topeka, Kansas. I grew up in a family that loved to fish. From the age of four, my parents had my brother and me fishing at the pond, across the street from our house. When I was five I remember tying a worm on a hook using an overhand knot, because I grew tired of waiting on my dad, who was busy helping my brother with a fish. The incredible bass fishing at this pond is what drove my passion for fishing. We would fish this pond almost every day growing up. Around the age of 11, my mother enrolled my brother and I in a beginner fly casting course at Bennett Springs State Park, in southwest Missouri. Bennett Springs is a hidden gem in the heart of the Ozarks. We had fished there a few times prior, but quickly learned that we could catch more fish using fly rods. My brother and I were very competitive when we fished, and I think that is what caused both of us to

fully dive into the sport. For many years, the majority of the fly fishing we did was at Bennett Springs. During that time, I spent hours in the yard perfecting my casting.

It wasn't until I went to college, that I had an opportunity to get better access to trout streams. One of the biggest factors, when choosing where I went to school, was how good the fly fishing was nearby. I attended Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan for two years, studying business. I spent the majority of my free time fishing various streams around the state. After two years, I transferred to Grove City College in western Pennsylvania. I spent three years at Grove City studying marketing. From Grove

City, I could fish the tributaries around Erie, or head east to the State College area. During the winter, I would visit Denver and Lancaster to attend the Fly Fishing Show. After seeing all the fishing Colorado had to offer, I decided to spend 6 weeks of the summer of 2018, traveling the state fly fishing. I fell in love with Colorado that summer, and moved here as soon as I graduated in 2019. My dream is to combine my passion for fly fishing with my marketing education.

Joshua Musa joined WDTU in January, 2020 and is one of our Anglers' Edge reporters. Please contact Joshua with any story ideas at jshms1@gmail.com.

Why Are We Here?

By Chris Wood, National Trout Unlimited President



TU staffer, Lilli Genovese, leads a discussion with schoolkids

After I graduated college, my older brother, John, introduced me to a friend who was a Jesuit priest. At the time, I was a somewhat aimless ice-cream factory worker and an assistant high school football coach. One night after dinner and drinks with my brothers and me, Father Donald asked me three questions. “Chris, what do you want? What do you need? And what do you hope to get from these things?” My glib answers were a good book, a good beer, and a good buzz.

Father Donald should not have expected more by asking a wise-ass 23-year-old about the meaning of life. These days, I have a friend, Jimmy, who I think of as a secular Father Donald. I’ve learned to take notes when he speaks. Trout Unlimited is beginning the work of developing our next five-year strategic plan, and last week, he and I were talking about it when he asked me two probing questions.

“You may think you know what TU does, but can you distill its value, and what would happen if TU went away? If you cannot answer those two questions, don’t bother developing a strategic plan.”

What is the value proposition of Trout Unlimited? And what would happen if we disappear?

In my opinion, Trout Unlimited does four things:

1. We make water cleaner.
2. We make habitat healthier.
3. We make fishing better.
4. We build community and connect communities.



Pre and post-treatment on a Pennsylvania stream



Why Are We Here?

Continued from page 10

Clean water: What does that mean on the ground? Consider Kettle Creek in Pennsylvania. For a century, its dead waters ran yellow and orange from acid mine drainage. After nearly 20 years of work, and for the first time in many decades, more than six miles of Kettle Creek’s tributaries run clean and support spawning and rearing habitat for native brook trout—not to mention the benefits of reduced drinking water filtration costs for downstream communities.

Healthy habitat: In Wyoming on Spread Creek, an important tributary to the Snake River—perhaps the finest native trout fishery in the lower 48—TU helped to remove a 13 foot-tall, 125-foot-long irrigation dam, and reconnect more than 50 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for native cutthroat.



50 miles of habitat was reconnected after the removal of Spread Creek dam

Better fishing: In the Driftless Area of the Midwest, TU and our many partners have helped to recover over 100 miles of wild trout water degraded by historic agricultural practices. What does that mean for anglers? These streams can see a ten-fold increase in wild trout production one-year after restoration.

Building community: The social aspect of TU’s work is perhaps most essential. Consider Terry Edwards’ story. Terry deployed five times overseas for the Air Force, and upon his return found himself “closed off.”



TU staffer, Taylor Ridderbusch, with a wild Driftless brown trout

Before his last deployment, Terry told me how he would “put myself in a place just to get away. But the pressure would build, and I would just close myself off. I’d work out all day. Or, go outside and stay on my tractor all day.”

Fishing was one of his coping mechanisms. He fished alone for 30 straight days, until a bunch of other anglers on the river started helping him with casting tips and giving him flies. They were TU members. So, Terry became a member, and then a volunteer. Today, he is a chapter leader. As Terry says, “Fly-fishing and being part of the TU family can bring peace.”



To Jimmy’s second question? If TU did not exist, our water would be dirtier, habitat less healthy, fishing worse, and communities less connected. But that is just my view. The strength of TU is in its grassroots. So, I would like to hear from you. What is the value of Trout Unlimited to you, and what would happen if we cease to exist?

Riverside Reader

By Mark Shulman

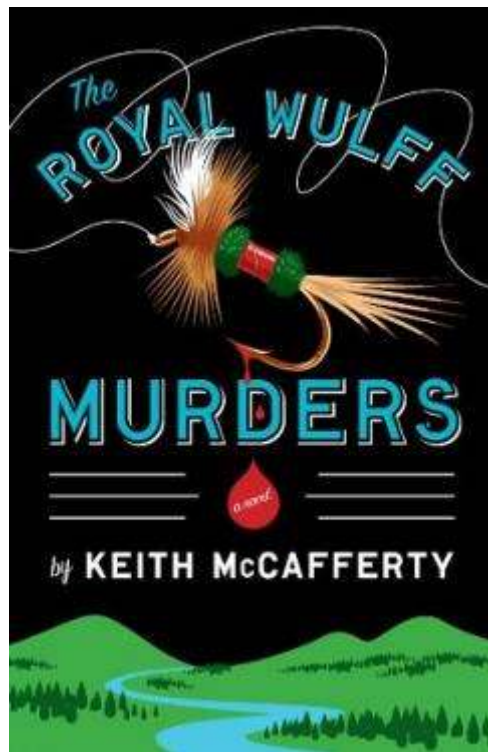
Fiction

THE ROYAL WULFF MURDERS

By Keith McCafferty, 2012, Penguin Books

Madison River, Montana, fly fishing, murder mystery – makes staying indoors a joy!

Keith McCafferty's inaugural novel in the Sean Stranahan series is a great trip on the iconic Madison River and adventure in Southwest Montana. I had the pleasure to interview Keith McCafferty while in Bozeman on a trip to fish the Madison River. McCafferty, who lives in Bozeman, knows of what he writes. A trained biologist, survival and outdoor skills editor for Field and Stream magazine and fly angler, Keith has chased trout around the world. Keith is also published in many outdoor and fly fishing books and magazines. Royal Wulff Murders is followed by six more in the series with the eighth, THE BANGTAIL GHOST, due out in August, 2020.



Non-Fiction

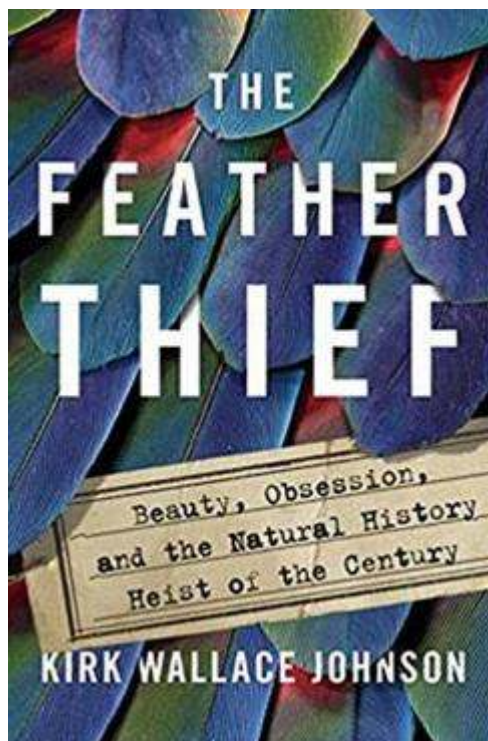
THE FEATHER THIEF:

Beauty, Obsession and the Natural History Heist of the Century

By Kirk Wallace Johnson, 2018 Penguin Books

This book falls into the, “you can’t make this up” category. Fly tier or not, in fact fly fisher or not, this is one heck of a good, (strange) story – and true! THE FEATHER THIEF is a (weird) thriller that stays with the reader long after done.

Read any good books lately? Fly fishing, nature, environment all good! Please share your recommendations to Mark Shulman at Anglers Edge.



The Drift

By Mark Shulman



Gunpowder Falls Tailwater, Maryland

Weeks of quarantine and a lack of river time lead me to search memory for happy thoughts of the past. One late night journey before sleep would overtake, I drifted a few years back to a July trip and a little town across the Colorado southern boundary called Amalia, New Mexico and the Cottonwood Meadow Ranch near the Rio Costilla.

There I found 70 acres of grazing pasture, home to about two dozen goats, a few hogs and a collection of roosters and hens. A peeled log cabin and a quarter mile frontage on the Rio Costilla seemed a great start to a few days in a location found on an internet search and sight unseen. As it turned out, it was a gem.

The ranch owner had arranged for a local guide to meet me at the ranch. At 7:30 am on the first day after arrival, a vintage “well-seasoned” Honda Passport came bouncing along the ranch entry road to my cabin. Ed Adams leaned out the window and hollered up to the cabin porch, “throw your gear in the back and we’ll get going!”. I did.

A man about my age, then mid - 60’s, Ed had, in his words, “escaped” Manhattan more than 40 years ago. But his New York accent had stayed with him. Ed made a new life in Northern New Mexico, and has been guiding on the Rio Costilla, Rio Grande, Red River and more ever since. A man of good fly fishing skills and good stories. Ed is steeped in local history and a respect for his natural surroundings. We fished Rio Costilla engulfed in the breathtaking views of Valle Vida, “Valley of Life”. Our stretch of the Costilla, a gently flowing ribbon stream, required quiet approach and gentle drops of small dries. Wild Rio Grande cutthroat kept our light tippet tight and tips bent. What they lacked in size they made up in numbers and enthusiasm. Wet wade, rod in hand, warm July sun on my face. Sharing talk of past fishing trips, family and which fly you think best...


I’ve had many good fishing trips over my 69 years. Earliest memories take me back to the Potomac River watershed and Eastern Shore of Maryland where I fished for bass with my father. I can still smell the pipe smoke drifting from his clenched teeth and see his right arm in constant motion as he threw mepps spinners for hours on end.

A move west to Boulder after college brought me to some of the most beautiful country on earth and the introduction to fly fishing. The Colorado River and Williams Fork, the Madison in Montana and Rapid Creek of South Dakota. And still, back east to the Savage River near West Virginia and the Gunpowder tailwater just north of Baltimore. Many rivers fished, many more planned. Many hikes to a favorite spot or a new discovery. Lessons learned from a guide or more experienced angler who willingly shared. Many trout brought to net, and many days coming home with only sunburn and cold feet. But almost always, I’m happy to say, glad I was on the river. Glad I was in the company of a good friend or my family.

As I write these thoughts, troubled times have kept many of us off the river. Maybe when this is read, we will have returned to fish again. It will be a joy to pull on the waders and line out my rod. Struggle to tie on a no. 22 in the wind and maybe, feel the jolt through my lower arm and see the rod tip bend.

And of course, when it’s time to head home, feel a little sad to watch the last drift.

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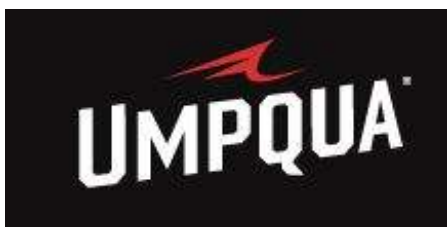
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ABOUT TU

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.”

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.



www.tu.org



www.westdenvertu.org



www.coloradotu.org

A Note About Email Address Changes

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

Linda Miyamoto sullimoto@gmail.com

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.

WDTU Chapter/ Board Meetings

Note:

Chapter Meetings are temporarily suspended due to Covid-19. We normally do not hold chapter meetings in July or August.

See you in September!

Board Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month via Zoom

Anglers’ Edge Advertising Rates

Size	1 Month	2Months	1 Year
1/8 Page	\$3.50	\$21/00	\$38.00
1/4 Page	\$7.50	\$42.00	\$70.00
1/2 Page	\$18.50	\$82.00	\$142.00
Full Page	\$22.00	\$125.00	\$225.00

