



Monthly Newsletter

West Denver Chapter of Trout Unlimited

February 2015, Volume 21, No.1

## The President's Message

It may be the "off" season for fly fishing unless you are an extreme fly fishing angler who likes to fish in the cold and snow. I used to fish in those conditions, but no more. I will hit Pueblo below the dam or South Boulder below Gross', but it will have to be a day in the 50s without snow.

This isn't to say, however, that WDTU's volunteers aren't busy. We are in the middle of our fund raisers and events/shows. There are the two fishing shows (The Fly Fishing Show and the International Sportsman's Exposition), the Fly Tying Clinic, CTU's Gala, Fishing Days at Bass Pro, the ongoing Fantasy Raffle and, this year for the first time, a Fly Fishing Rendezvous. We couldn't participate in these events without the help of many WDTU volunteers. I want to thank everyone who has, or will, work one of these events.

We have a special speaker for February—Pat Dorsey from Blue Quill who will speak on fly fishing Colorado's tail waters (see article in this issue for more information). Who knows better than Pat? Along with his presentation, he has also agreed to be our guest fly tier. I'm trying to set up a beer-tasting night, with the Mountain Toad Brewery serving beer. It should be a great night and a fun evening. Mark it on your calendar—February 4<sup>th</sup>.

At the March meeting, we will hear from WDTU's recipient of our graduate student scholarship. Each year we give a scholarship/grant to a graduate student from Colorado State University who is doing work in cold-water fisheries. This year, the graduate student recipient is Wendy Lanier. She will talk about the Boreal toad and how its habitat is interrelated to that of the greenback trout. The last couple of these graduate student presentations have been interesting and very professional. I'm sure this one will also be entertaining.

Aaron Kindle of National TU, who is currently working with CTU, has been leading the charge on several environmental fronts. He worked on the recent agreement reached on the White River Basin area. He is also working on the effort to preserve the Brown Canyon as a National Monument. And, he is taking the lead on protecting the upper South Park region from being destroyed by oil and gas development. He leads a group that is developing a master leasing plan for the South Park area. He will put together a group for a

roundtable discussion on the Upper South Park for our April program. If you fish or hunt in the South Park, you need to attend.

Finally, there is a need for volunteers to help set up for the Fly Tying Clinic that occurs on February 14<sup>th</sup>. If you want to help, or want more information, contact Fred Portillo at 720-209-8732. See accompanying article in this issue for more details about the Clinic.

*Tim Toohey*

## Photos for Our Website

We are in the process of redesigning our website. One of the features that we are really excited about involves the use of photos from our membership as background to the pages. To that end, we would like to begin asking our members to send in theme-specific photos. This month we are asking for pictures that show a parent and child or grandparent and grandchild taking part in some fly fishing activity.

Please send your high-quality digital photos to:  
[Wdtu.email@gmail.com](mailto:Wdtu.email@gmail.com). Thanks.

*Dan Sullivan*

## A Note About Email Address Changes

A number of you have changed email addresses without telling us. Thus, you, or friends of yours, may no longer be receiving the Electronic Anglers' Edge. PLEASE notify at least one of us whenever you change either your email address, snail mail address and/or telephone number so that we can communicate with you quickly and efficiently. Thank you.

**Jon Weimer** <weimerj@earthlink.net>

**Al Revzin** <the-editor@mindspring.com>

**Jackie Edwards** <jorgedwards@aol.com>

**Linda Miyamoto** <sullimoto@gmail.com>

## A Cattle Drive to Steamboat

A stream survey occasioned my first visit to the Ladder Livestock Company on Battle Creek. Rancher George Salisbury offered lodging in the bunkhouse, meals with the ranch crew, and a saddle horse if I needed one. I liked this guy right away. Over several years, the survey notes became design plans, and the plans turned into stream projects. We rebuilt irrigation diversions, and we restored stream channel habitat for trout.



The above photo shows an old irrigation diversion site on Battle Creek. Every year a gravel “push-up” dam had been built here to divert flow into the ditch. However, the dam destabilized the stream bed and impeded fish passage in the creek.



The above photo shows the same site after our work was finished. Our solution was to narrow the channel and build a permanent diversion structure. This structure really works well to divert water into the irrigation ditch...just as the gravel push-up dam did. But, more importantly, the new structure allows fish passage up or down stream at any flow, and it stabilizes the channel width.

The friendship with George and his family grew with each of my visits to the ranch. The scene around the cook-house dinner table was especially congenial. At one visit, there happened to be a Mongolian cook along with the regular Peruvian ranch hands. I asked George how he communicated with all these guys. He said he just

talked loudly and waved his arms a lot. He always shared interesting stories of ranching life. Here is one of my favorites from George’s teenage years in the 1930s.

In the late fall, usually the week after Thanksgiving, the boys at Ladder Livestock would select the weak animals from the herd and corral them until all the “culls” were collected. On a day when all was in order, the cattle drive would start for Steamboat, sixty miles to the south. The intent was to sell the “culls” in Steamboat and return home with money in the pocket. The drive to Steamboat took several days, and along the way the herd was pastured at other ranches. The ranch families also provided lodging and meals and banter for the Ladder boys. The herd size increased along the way as ranchers added their weakling cows. At last, the combined herd from several outfits reached the sorting pens near the railroad tracks in Steamboat. Very likely, the herd crossed over the Yampa River on the appropriately-named Stock Bridge (The bridge is now renamed after James Brown. Would someone please tell me...no, never mind). The herd was sold and eventually loaded into rail cars for the ride to Denver. The boys relaxed in Steamboat for a time and spent a little money. The ride back home was an enjoyable route through familiar territory and smiling ranch neighbors. At each stop along the way, each rancher was paid for his share of the profit from sale of the herd. Once back at Ladder Livestock, the boys settled into the winter routine of daily feeding and watering as the annual cycle of ranch life continued through the cold months, leading to early calving before spring and the start of a new cycle.

A final note: George died a few years ago. Ladder Livestock Ranch is still a ranch, not a condo village, and is still in the family. George’s daughter, Sharon, and her husband, Pat O’Toole, are now the owner-operators. There are still a few stories from George to tell, which will be shared in future ANGLER’s EDGE newsletters.

*Rick Dornfeld, WDTU Conservation Director*





## February's Guest Speaker (and Guest Fly Tier)---Pat Dorsey

For our February 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting, we're fortunate to have Pat Dorsey visit us. Fly fishing and fly tying have been a life-long passion of Pat's. He is a native of Colorado, and has been guiding on the South Platte for more than 11 years,



spending at least 200 days a year on this stream.

Pat is the Guide Director and a partner in the Blue Quill Anglers fly shop, overseeing 30 plus guides. He's the recipient of numerous awards and the author of several best-selling books on fly fishing and fly tying. On the 4<sup>th</sup>, he will be talk about fly fishing

tailwaters, sharing his tips and tactics for fishing tailwaters, covering nymphing, dry fly, and streamer fishing.

Pat is doing double-duty on the 4<sup>th</sup> for, in addition to giving the main presentation, he will serve as our guest fly tier as well. Pat has been commercially tying flies for over 15 years, so we suspect he knows what he is doing. At time of publication of this newsletter, it was not known what Pat will be tying up for us, but you can be assured that it will be a fly that you will want to have in your arsenal.

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## WDTU General Calendar

### 2015 - February

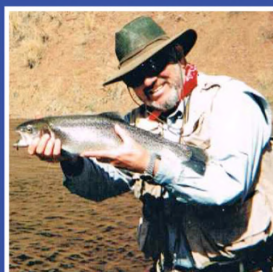
- 4 Tying Corner/Welcome 6:30 PM  
Chapter Meeting-AMC  
**Speaker: Pat Dorsey, Blue Quill**
- 9 Board Meeting 7:00 PM, 300 HH, CSM\*
- 14 Annual Fly Tying Clinic  
Jeffco Fairgrounds 9:30 AM-2:30 PM

### 2015 - March

- 4 Tying Corner/Welcome 6:30 PM  
Chapter Meeting-AMC  
**Speaker: Wendy Lanier-CSU  
Scholarship Recipient**
- 9 Board Meeting 7:00 PM, 300 HH, CSM\*
- 13 CTU Gala-Arvada

#### Note!

\*Our board meetings are held in Room 300 (Williams Room) in Hill Hall on the Colorado School of Mines Campus.



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## Important!

We need some good used or new items for our upcoming Fly Tying Clinic---specifically, for our large bucket raffle and a silent auction. Items could include, for example, flies, day trips, rods, reels, and even fishing-related gift cards and books. Contact Tim Toohey at either 303-423-8636 or at [tim2e@comcast.net](mailto:tim2e@comcast.net). Thanks.

## 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 February Chapter meeting, and give it to Jackie. She will take care of the rest.

## FOR SALE

Two fishing and hunting cabins and membership to Mount Massive Lakes private fishing club. Located on Westin Pass 15 minutes from Leadville.

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Jan Turner 303-470-8811 or 303-818-5755

[janbturner@hotmail.com](mailto:janbturner@hotmail.com) or

[facebook.com/mountmassivecabin](https://facebook.com/mountmassivecabin)

## Volunteers Needed for River Watch

The River Watch program, under the auspices of the Division of Parks and Wildlife, is designed to monitor the water quality of various watersheds in the State. WDTU participates in this program on a stretch of Clear Creek in the Golden area. Gil Hassinger (303-980-5616) leads the WDTU effort, which generally occurs on the 4th Saturday of every month. Give Gil a call if you're interested. Participation in this program affords you not only an interesting, but also an educational experience.

## Facebook

In addition to having a Facebook group (WDTU Fishing Trips), we now have a Chapter Facebook page. To find it, open up a Facebook page and search for "West Denver Trout Unlimited". So far, we have added events for Joseph's Journey, the Bowling Night, the monthly Chapter meeting and the Chapter Picnic. We think that this will be an easy way for all to see what is coming up and to sign up to attend or take part in the event.

Since this is still in its infancy, there isn't too much content yet, but we hope to make this page a way of keeping in touch and, hopefully, keeping members involved in Chapter activities. Suggestions for improvement of the page are gratefully welcomed. Please take a moment to look over the page and let us know what you think.

*Dan Sullivan*

## Want a Fishing Buddy?

If you want to find a Fishing Buddy, or volunteer to be one if asked, contact Gil Hassinger by reaching him at <gh9172@comcast.net> or (303-980-5616).

## Century Club

Our parent organization, Colorado Trout Unlimited (CTU), being a non-profit organization, is always looking for funding sources (as we are). As a consequence, CTU has formed what they call the Century Club. This Club is reserved for people giving a minimum of \$100 per year. For a contribution of \$100, you'll receive updates on CTU's activities through their quarterly "Currents" newsletter. There are special gifts available to recognize donors who give at different levels—for example, with a gift of \$150 or more, you will receive your choice of a Simms fishing shirt and a cap, with the CTU logo. A gift of \$400 or more will get you the shirt and cap mentioned above in addition to a copy of a book entitled "The Colorado River---Flowing Through Conflict" signed by author Jonathan Waterman and featuring images by renowned photographer Peter McBride. A donation of \$1200 or more enrolls you in CTU's flagship donor group called the River Stewardship Council (RSC). These RSC members are invited to participate in member-only events including tours where you can fish on outstanding waters while seeing first-hand locations where your support helps CTU make a difference.

To encourage first-time membership in the Century Club, West Denver has made an arrangement whereby if you make out a check to our Treasurer, Judy Jones, for \$100, \$50 of that amount is rebated to the Chapter. Jackie Edwards has worked out some other "deals" for first-time members which may interest you, and you are encouraged to contact her at 303-278-2282 for more information. Just keep in mind, that donations to CTU help to conserve, protect and restore Colorado's rivers. CTU has accomplished some marvelous things (e.g., preserving water quality, supporting laws that protect Colorado's streams, stopping harmful water projects, and defending public land), but to sustain their work they need additional funding.

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## 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 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.

## 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 Judy Jones (837 Meadow Run Golden, CO 80403), or presented to her 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>.

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 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, you may contact me (Jon Weimer) at either 303-830-1609 or weimerj@earthlink.net.

## Greenback Trout Restoration Projects

The status or lineage of the "greenback" has been turned upside down in light of results from the new genetic and meristic research that has been conducted. However, there are some upcoming prospective projects for greenback restoration that will be of interest to West Denver members: Dry Gulch and Herman Gulch in the Clear Creek headwaters are two potential small population sites (about 2-2.5 miles each). It's possible that at least one of these streams will be subject to greenback restoration this year. Regardless, restoration at each project site will require coordination among the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Colorado Department of Transportation and, possibly, the Loveland Ski Area. Keep tuned



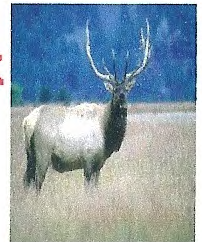
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Call Jon Weimer at 303-830-1609 for more information

## Fly Tying Clinic—February 14<sup>th</sup>

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, West Denver is holding its 39<sup>th</sup> annual Fly Tying Clinic at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. Our Clinic is the gold standard for this type of event---other TU chapters have tried to emulate us, but they haven't been successful.

At this Clinic, we feature about 60 of the best tiers from the Rocky Mountain region. We have the local showcase names like Rim Chung, Charlie Craven, Pat Dorsey, and Greg Garcia, but also present are outstanding tiers from other parts of the State and region. In addition to the tiers, we'll have a silent auction, a bucket raffle, door prizes, and our Fantasy Raffle (a package worth approximately \$4,400 that you can win with a \$5 ticket). Member John Belt and crew will be serving up outstanding brats and sloppy joes at our concession stand.

The event kicks off at 9:30 PM. Tickets are \$15 for adults, with kids 12 and under allowed in for free (if you pick up a discount coupon from one of the local fly shops, you get \$2 off the regular price). So, learn how to tie from the best (and, buy some great flies for your fly box arsenal).

Fred Portillo is heading up this event, and I understand he's in need of some volunteers to help set up early on the 14<sup>th</sup>. If you're interested and/or want more information, contact Fred at 720-209-8732. A side benefit of volunteering is that you get free admission to the event, so give Fred a call.

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## Wanted (still): Newsletter Editor

In previous months' issue of this newsletter, I indicated that I thought it was time that I step down as editor of the **Anglers' Edge** and turn it over to someone else who might be able to inject some new ideas and energy into the publication. I've been at it for about 8 years, and I thought I was getting stale. And, I knew that I was getting tired of doing the newsletter. I want to do other things in my life. My wife and I want to do some more traveling, and I want to return to doing freelance writing for the **Colorado Outdoors** magazine (the editor of that publication has been chewing on my pant leg to write more articles, but I haven't had time). I've already weaned myself away from editor responsibilities for another newsletter and, obviously, I'm trying to do the same for **Anglers' Edge**. If you believe you may be interested in this position and/or know of someone whom you feel would be a good candidate, let me know. You may reach me at either 303-830-1609 or at [weimerj@earthlink.net](mailto:weimerj@earthlink.net).

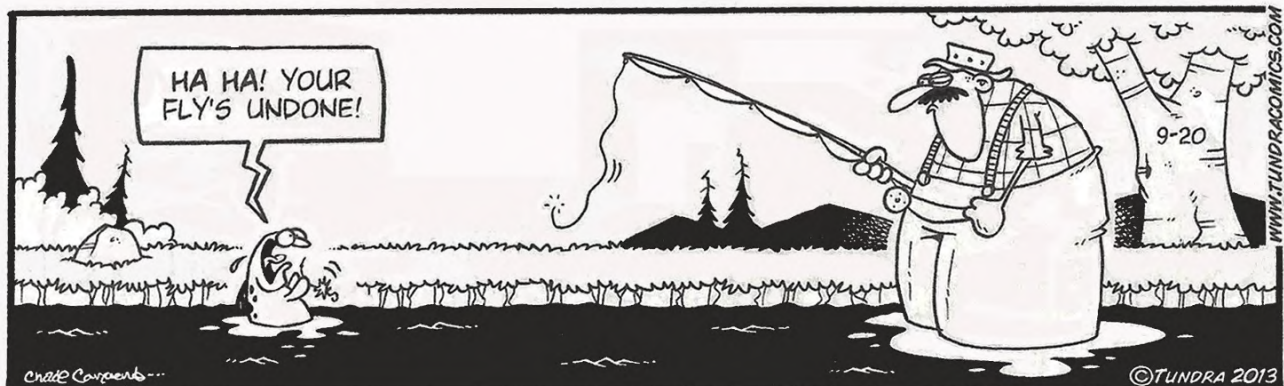
Jon

## New Publication Cycle for the ANGLERS' EDGE

As indicated earlier, I'm trying to find someone to replace me as editor of this newsletter. However, given that I'm still the editor this calendar year, I'm going to cut back on the publishing cycle. Thus, in lieu of a monthly issue of the **Angler's Edge** being published, the newsletter will be coming out on a bi-monthly basis (i.e., every two months). The first issue in 2015 is this February issue. After the February issue, subscribers can expect the next issue to be in April, 2015—then June—then, August, etc. This new publishing cycle will take the burden off me a little bit. Please note that, to my knowledge, there is no other chapter along the Front Range that comes out with a monthly issue of its respective newsletter. Some chapters come out with a bi-monthly issue, others with a quarterly issue.

Jon

### TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



Thanks to Chad Carpenter for permission to print this strip



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Do you want to be active in our conservation activities and join our Rapid Response List?

**Circle:** Yes or No

## Program

February 4, 2015: 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: Pat Dorsey,  
"Fly Fishing Tail Waters"

## West Denver Chapter Trout Unlimited Organization And Officers: 2014

### Chapter Officers and Directors:

President:	Tim Toohey	303-423-8636
Vice President:	Jackie Edwards	303-278-2282
Past President:	Jon Weimer	303-830-1609
Secretary:	Dan Sullivan	303-423-5616
Treasurer:	Judy Jones	303-881-3644
Assistant Treasurer:	Chuck Lehman	303-238-1929
Education:	Ric Tarr	303-233-9391
Membership:	Linda Miyamoto	303-423-5616
Conservation:	Rick Dornfeld	303-882-0423

### 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."

## Anglers' Edge@

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Editor:	Jon Weimer	303-830-1609
Assistant Editor:	Al Revzin	303-984-2547
Layout and Design	Carolyn Weimer	303-830-1609
Circulation:	Jackie Edwards	303-278-2282
	Linda Miyamoto	303-423-5616

We want your contributions such as guest editorials, letters-to-the-editor, photographs, trip reports, etc. Send them to the Editor by e-mail <weimerj@earthlink.net> or to Jon Weimer, 700 Washington St. Suite 809, Denver, CO 80203.

All materials are subject to editing. Text (word document) and graphics/photos preferred JPG. Please check with the editor before submitting files.

Please send postal change-of-address information to: Linda Miyamoto at [sullimoto@gmail.com](mailto:sullimoto@gmail.com)

West Denver TU on the World Wide Web:  
<http://www.westdenvertu.org>  
Mark Campanelli, Webmaster  
[Campy@instreamdesigns.com](mailto:Campy@instreamdesigns.com)

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Assistant Editor:	Al Revzin	303-984-2547
Layout and Design:	Carolyn 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:	Fred Portillo	303-467-3890
River Watch	Gil Hassinger	303-980-5616
Programs:	Tim Toohey	303-423-8636
Joseph's Journey	Bob Untener	303-517-0892
Public Relations:	Brian La Rue	303-835-8003
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