

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 2015, Volume 21, No.4

The President's Message

I was fishing Crystal Lake by Leadville in late June. I don't normally fish lakes but, because of the strange spring and early summer we've had, streams are pretty much off limits. I caught 3 or 4 fish when a group of 6 people showed up and started fishing. It looked like a family, plus a guide or someone who was giving fly fishing lessons to the adults. One of them managed to hook and land a nice 16-inch rainbow. The person who was teaching had each adult hold the fish while he took a photograph. It seemed like it took at least 5 minutes to get this done. The fish was handled by each adult (3 in total), while a "glory" photograph was taken. I know this is an extreme example of handling a fish. I'm probably as guilty as anyone. I used to love to take a photograph to show: (1) I actually caught a fish; and (2) to show everyone how big the fish was that I caught.

In the last couple of years, I have gotten away from holding fish or putting them on the ground next to my rod. If I take a photograph now, I do it with the fish still in the net after I have removed the hook. I rarely take any photographs now, and I usually remove the hook with the fish still in the water in my net. If it needs reviving, I use the net to move the fish around.

If you have read the editorials in the recent issue of **Trout** magazine, there is growing concern about "glory" photographs. It can add to the mortality rate. I, for one, will do all I can to get the fish back into the water as soon as possible, or not even take them out of the water.

On a different note, there are several events coming up. The first is the Chapter's annual picnic. The date is August 5th, starting at 5:30 PM at Lion's Park in Golden (see accompanying article). This is a fun event and there is always plenty of food. If you want to help set up, contact me at either 303-423-8636 or tim2e@comcast.net.

August 15th will see our Chapter at Wheat Ridge Bowling Lanes for a fun fund raiser (see ad in this newsletter). We do a cookout at the Bowling Alley. There is a car show going on, as well as a parade. If you want to volunteer for this event, give Linda Miyamoto a call at 303-423-5616.

As described in a later article in this issue, our Chapter has been involved with the U.S. Forest Service in an effort to relocate the "new" greenbacks to a couple of streams on Clear Creek—Herman's Gulch and Dry Gulch. The Forest Service has given our Chapter a day on each of these creeks to relocate the trout that are there. So, we will be catching trout in these creeks and placing them back into Clear Creek in the Bakerville area. This is going to be a bucket brigade, so we will need all the help we can get. The dates haven't been set yet, but it should be sometime in September. If this is something you would like to assist on, contact Rick Dornfeld (rickdornfeld@msn.com) or me (tim2e@comcast.net).

Looking ahead to September, our speaker and tier that month will be Eric Isiwata. He has tied for us at the Fly Tying Clinic. He teaches at Colorado State University when he is not fishing. The topic of his presentation will be spay/switch rod fishing for trout in the Rocky Mountains. Mark the September 2 Chapter meeting date on your calendar.

Tim Toohey

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>](mailto:gh9172@comcast.net) or (303-980-5616).

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>

Member of the Month---Matt Rivera



Come October, our new Treasurer will be Matt Rivera. Matt is a rare breed in that he was actually born and raised in Denver, specifically in the Barnum area of the city. He attended Regis Jesuit High School, playing varsity golf for the school, including the year Regis won the State Championship. And, it was during his senior year at Regis High School when he took up fly fishing, having spent his early years of fishing with lures.

His college years found him at Regis College where he and a couple of friends honed their fly fishing skills even more. He graduated with bachelor degrees in Accounting and Business Administration. He has worked his entire professional career in accounting, starting with a publisher in Golden, and then moving exclusively into the non-profit sector. He is currently serving as Director of Finance for Griffith Centers for Children, Inc.

In addition to his job, Matt enjoys volunteering for children's causes and conservation endeavors. He has served as Treasurer of his local chapter of Ducks Unlimited for 19 years, and has served as a member of the Ducks Unlimited National Shooting Committee for 12 years. He is past Treasurer of the Gabby Krause Foundation, and still serves on that board as an Advisory Member. He enjoys shooting handguns and shotguns, and is an avid hunter. He enjoys cooking and pairing various game meats with wines, and has been known to enjoy a decent Scotch from time to time. He's been a member of WDTU for about 5 years.

He and his wife, Denise, live in Arvada, and have been married for 20 years—no children, but they enjoy spoiling their nephew and 3 nieces. Denise is also an ardent hunter and angler.

I've had the privilege of knowing and fishing with Matt, and I can testify that you couldn't meet a nicer guy. With

his background in accounting and with his effervescent personality, he's going to be a real asset to our Chapter in the position of Treasurer.

Try Out Our New Website

West Denver's website is new and improved. We hired a professional web developer to give us a state-of-the-art website. The site includes our mission, current news, an events calendar, and a description of Chapter activities. It is a great place to learn more about current projects and information how you can be involved in them. Our Chapter has over 1,100 members, and we are proud of the difference we make through our outreach and conservation activities.

Our site currently averages around 60 visitors per week. The site is full of photographs, and we rely on members who attend Chapter activities to help supply these photographs. We welcome your feedback and suggestions for improvements. You can leave comments for us on the "About Us" drop-down menu, or email the webmaster directly at ed.calmus@gmail.com. We want the website to be a valuable resource for all West Denver fly fishers. Your feedback will help.

Ed Calmus, WDTU webmaster

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. Dennis Wiles (720-404-7821) leads the WDTU effort, which generally occurs on the 4th Saturday of every month. Give Dennis a call if you're interested. Participation in this program affords you not only an interesting, but also an educational experience.

An advertisement for Cedar Plank Studio. At the top, the text "CEDAR PLANK STUDIO" is written in white capital letters on a dark, wood-grain background. Below this is a black and white photograph of a fish, likely a trout, shown from a side profile. Underneath the fish, the text "GYOTAKU (FISH RUBBING) PRINTS" is written in black capital letters. Below that, "SCENIC NOTE CARDS" is written in black capital letters. At the bottom, the website "WWW.CEDARPLANKSTUDIO.COM" and the phone number "ART BY BRUCE BECK PH:303-667-3887" are listed in black capital letters. The entire advertisement is enclosed in a dark brown rectangular border.

Bring a Fly Rod to Herman Gulch

This article provides some background on native trout in Clear Creek....and alerts you to a cool volunteer opportunity.

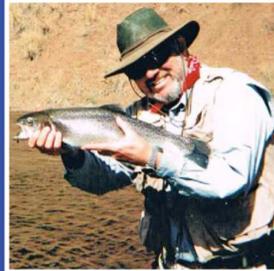
The greenback cutthroat trout was the native trout for the South Platte Basin. By 1937, after years of mining pollution, habitat loss, and competition from non-native trout, the greenback was thought to be extinct. In the 1950's a small population of trout thought to be greenbacks was discovered in the Rocky Mountain National Park. After passage of the Endangered Species Act, the greenbacks' scarcity prompted protection as an endangered species. More populations were found and, by the 70's, the species was declared no longer endangered, but still threatened. There was a major push by both the State and Federal agencies to restore the greenbacks by stocking. In 1994, the greenback even became Colorado's State Fish. In 1999, research on the stocked fish showed a poor genetic link with "pure" greenbacks in museum samples and threw the recovery effort into turmoil. In 2007, a small population of fish was discovered in Bear Creek, south of Pikes Peak. It was determined that these were indeed "pure" greenback cutthroat trout. These genetically pure trout were most likely planted there by a settler who lived there. The fish population has existed since then, undiscovered for 130 years in this small stream. The problem was that there were only about 700 of these fish in the drainage. About 10 percent of the population was sent to the Leadville National Hatchery and the Poudre State Hatchery. The next question was how to expand the very small population of pure fish. Some were introduced to Zimmerman Lake. Now, the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) have chosen 2 streams in the Clear Creek Basin to introduce these pure greenbacks---Herman Gulch and Dry Gulch. This project is part of the larger USFS plan for reintroduction of native trout in the Clear Creek watershed.

In late September of 2015, the two creeks will be chemically treated with rotenone to kill resident fish. Estimates of resident fish numbers are about 2,000 mixed lineage trout in Herman Gulch and a few hundred in Dry Gulch. In 2016, pure greenbacks will be stocked.

Boyd Wright from CPW has asked our Chapter to help salvage resident trout before the rotenone is applied. Are you ready to help out with a fly rod? There will be an "angling day" in Herman Gulch to remove resident trout before chemical treatment. Participation will be limited to Trout Unlimited volunteers. There will be CPW folks on site with equipment to ensure trout survival for eventual relocation to the main stem of Clear Creek. It should be a fun and productive day. There will be a refreshment station set up in the Herman Gulch trailhead parking lot.

Watch the Chapter website and your email for details about how and when you can volunteer on the Herman Gulch trout salvage project.

Rick Dornfeld, WDTU Conservation Director
Tim Toohey, WDTU President



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Half Page Size:	\$18.50	\$82.00	\$142.00
Full Page Size:	\$22.00	\$125.00	\$225.00

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

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

Election of Officers

At the June Chapter meeting, the following were elected to serve as Board officers for the next fiscal year, starting in October:

President: Tim Toohey
Vice President: Jackie Edwards
Secretary: Dan Sullivan
Treasurer: Matt Rivera

Congratulations to all!

WEST DENVER CHAPTER'S ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC AUGUST 5th

We plan to have the Chapter Picnic on Wednesday, August 5th at the East Pavilion of Lion's Park in Golden. The format will once again be Pot Luck. So, bring your favorite side dish, salad, dessert, or munchies to share with others.

The Chapter will provide fried chicken, condiments, soft drinks and water. You can bring your own alcohol (wine, beer) but NO glass containers are allowed. The Pavilion has benches on which you can sit; however, to assure yourself of a seat, you may want to bring a lawn chair. At the picnic, we'll also be collecting canned food for a food bank, so if you have any extra canned goods you don't think you'll be using, please bring them on the 5th. Obviously, the canned food you donate will go for a good cause. Thanks.

If you wish to attend and/or want more information, please contact Tim Toohey at either Tim2e@comcast.net or at 303-423-8636. Please let us know if you will be attending and how many will be in your party. We just want to be sure we have enough vittles and drink. Hope to see you there. It should be fun

Photos for Our Website

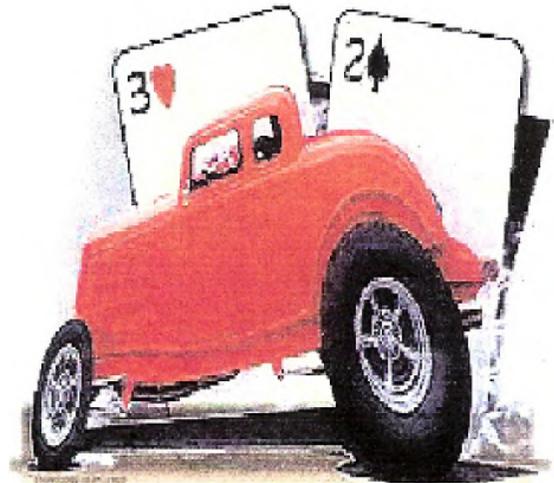
We are in the process of redesigning our website. One of the features that we are really excited about involves the use of photos from our membership as background to the pages. To that end, we would like to begin asking our members to send in theme-specific photos. This month we are asking for pictures 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: ed.calmus@gmail.com Thanks.

Dan Sullivan

15th Annual Wheat Ridge Lanes Car Show

Saturday, August 15th
Set up as early as 8 a.m.
**The Wheat Ridge
Carnation Festival Parade
Starts at 10 a.m.**



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Fishing Trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota

Some good friends of my wife's and mine, Barbara and Eric (Grub) Barr, called us to say they were going to Deadwood, South Dakota to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. Barbara is my wife's best friend, and Grub is my Florida fishing buddy. My wife (Sandy) asked them if we could join them for a couple of days, and they said to come on up.



After convincing Sandy that it is an easy 6-hour drive (she wanted to fly), we decided to take a mini-vacation to the Black Hills. This trip was scheduled for mid-May. The Black Hills were getting as much rain as Denver. I didn't know if I should bring my fishing equipment. When I mentioned my dilemma to Matt Rivera, he said that since we were driving, the equipment shouldn't take up that much room.

Sandy had to work the day we were leaving, so we didn't get started until about 3 PM. It did indeed take about 6 hours, all in the rain. The last part of the trip from the Wyoming border to Deadwood was in the dark. There were deer everywhere. Somehow, we managed to arrive in Deadwood without hitting any. We arrived on a Wednesday. Thursday, it poured all day. On Friday, the sun came out, and I called Grub, and told him we going fishing and to meet me at my car.

We got off the mark about 9:30 AM. We headed to Spearfish Canyon, which was only about 20 minutes away. We stopped at a convenience store to fill up on gas and get licenses. I started to fill, but the pump wouldn't accept my debit card. It said to see the attendant---this can't be good. The attendant told me that the card had been compromised, another story for another time. We took Highway 14A into Spearfish Canyon. Because of all the rain, I expected a stream completely blown out and muddy. What I found was a creek that was high, but definitely wadeable and clear. The stream runs through the Canyon for about 20 miles with multiple places to park and fish. Felt sole waders are prohibited. The first place we stopped was about a mile into the Canyon. I had a caddis as my top fly and a hares ear

as a dropper. As it turned out, I didn't need the dropper. I hooked into a nice 12 inch brown on about my 3rd cast. In all, I caught 3 nice browns at the first stop. Grub lost a couple that he had hooked.

We started down the Canyon. It was hard driving, trying to look at the beautiful scenery, and looking for places to park and fish. The next place we stopped at was about 5 miles further downstream. This spot was similar in appearance to the first place we fished, and we both caught fish there. We finished up the day at a lake the creek formed about 15 miles down the Canyon. Again, there was good dry fly action. In the 4 hours that we fished, I landed 10 fish and Grub, who doesn't fly fish that much, landed 6 fish. We packed up and headed back to Deadwood for dinner with the wives.

I will definitely go back to the Black Hills. I loved Spearfish Creek and the Canyon. There are many more streams to fish in the area, and lots of lakes as well. The area has hotels, motels, and camping sites. However, it's too bad that the slot machines weren't as kind to me as were the fish in Spearfish Canyon.

Tim Toohey

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Fly Fishing Class for Women

In late April of this year, our Chapter conducted a fly fishing class for women. It went over so well that we've decided to conduct a similar class on October 4th at Lake Lehow.

The first class placed emphasis on how to cast. In October, casting will be an important component, but we're also going to discuss the merits of different rods/reels, the importance of leaders/tippets, how to differentiate between different kinds of flies (e.g., dries, nymphs, streamers), how to tie some basic knots, and what to do **after** you cast the fly (e.g., stripping in the line, setting the hook properly, landing the fish).

As was the case with the first class, we're going to limit the October class to 10 students.. There is no charge for the class and, because the class is held on private water, no fishing license is needed. If you think you may be interested in signing up for the class and/or want more information, contact either Gil Hassinger (303-921-9522), Bob Tauer (303-906-4837) or Jon Weimer (303-830-1609).

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.



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Charlie Craven, President

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WDTU General Calendar

2015 - August

- 5 Chapter Picnic-Lions Park-Golden
- 10 Board Meeting 7:00 PM, 300 HH, CSM*
- 15 Auto Show Cook Out-Wheat Ridge Lanes

2015 - September

- 2 Tying Corner/Welcome 6:30 PM
Chapter Meeting-AMC
Speaker: Eric Ishiwata
- 14 Board Meeting 7:00 PM, 300 HH, CSM*
- 19 Clear Creek Water Festival-Idaho Springs
- 26 Stream Clean Up-TBA

2015 - October

- 3 WDTU Planning Session-TBA
- 7 Tying Corner/Welcome 6:30 PM
Chapter Meeting-AMC
Speaker: Kirk Deeter
- 12 Board Meeting 7:00 PM, 300 HH, CSM*
- 16-17 CTU Fall Meeting-Steamboat Springs

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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Fantasy Raffle Winner

The raffle winner this year was Dan Carrillo of Broomfield. He was very excited, of course, to win the package. Congrats, Dan!



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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.

Editor's Corner

When I lived in Virginia, a colleague and I founded an organization called the Potomac River Smallmouth Club. It was a club that had remarkably similar objectives to those of this Chapter, although, obviously, the emphasis revolved around smallmouth bass, and we did not have a National affiliation. The first night we met as an entity, 13 people showed up---that was the sum total of our membership at that time. By the end of my 2-year term (I was the first president of the club), we had a little over 300 members. When you form an organization like that from the ground up, you learn a few valuable lessons. One of the hardest lessons I had to learn was that not all components of a successful business model apply to a volunteer organization. Obviously, we can't hire people, give them monetary bonuses, nor can we fire them. Rather, leadership has to apply more subtle means to get things accomplished. Let's face it---no one joins a voluntary organization for money. People join West Denver for a number of reasons. Most of us like to fish and enjoy the great outdoors. Some of us are arch environmentalists; others love to teach and immerse themselves into the educational process. Our Chapter affords the opportunity for members to indulge in their interests, and the leadership has to direct these interests/passions to constructively fulfill the Chapter's mission.

Admittedly, I initially joined West Denver because, after a 3-decade hiatus from Colorado, I wanted to fish with people who knew where to go. I suspect that was the motivation for other members, and there's nothing wrong with that. In my case, however, I realized that in order to continue to enjoy the coldwater fisheries in this State, I needed to get more actively involved in conserving and protecting these resources, and could do so by participating in Chapter activities and events. There's a mystery writer named Keith McCafferty whose novels revolve around fly fishing, e.g., **The Royal Wulff Murders** and **The Gray Ghost Murders**. In the preface of one of his books, he laments that our fisheries are under attack on fronts ranging from agricultural dewatering and mining sludge to New Zealand mud snails and headwater logging. From McCafferty's perspective (and mine), it's not the angler who kills a trout for dinner who is the problem; rather, it's the angler who sits idly by while others pillage the resources with impunity. Alright, I'll get off my soapbox, but please feel free to get hold of either Tim Toohey, Jackie Edwards, or me if you think you might be interested in getting involved with any of our myriad activities and events. Trust me, there's an intrinsic sense of satisfaction and accomplishment when you're actively involved.

Jon Weimer

An Opportunity for You—Editor of the AE!

Again, I'm putting out a clarion call for someone to take over the editor responsibilities of this newsletter. I've been editor close to 9 years now, and I feel that the newsletter needs an injection of some new creative juices. It helps if you've had some writing and editing experience but, if not, I can certainly provide a helping hand until you develop your own style and rhythm.

I'm not being facetious when I say that being editor can be a fun job. You quickly become immersed in Chapter activities and develop a relationship with an array of interesting people (members), relationships that often evolve into friendships. If you think you may be interested in this position and/or want more information, don't hesitate to contact me at either weimerj@earthlink.net or at 303-830-1609.

Jon Weimer

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 6th 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.

10 Years of Service in the Community. Thank You.

Ten years ago, I opened my office in Lakewood. Through the years, I've met many of you and built long-term relationships. My primary focus has always been to better understand why you invest and to recommend specific solutions that can help you reach your financial goals.

Thank you for letting me serve you and your family for the past 10 years. I look forward to working with you in the future.

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GoldenRiverSports.net

Photo by Brett Hochmuth



For *New Members* to Trout Unlimited

I want to JOIN the West Denver Chapter of Trout Unlimited: *Chapter 130*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone - Day: _____ Eve: _____

Email: _____

Your copy of our newsletter will be sent by e-mail. Please print your e-mail address carefully and clearly.

Enclosed is my check for \$17.50 _____ OR bill to my credit card (circle type)

VISA MasterCard American Express

Card number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ 3-Digit CVI Code: _____

Please clip this form and mail it to: Linda Miyamoto, 6783 Swadley Court, Arvada, CO 80004

Program

August 5, 2015: WDTU Chapter Picnic
Lions Park, Golden
East Pavilion
Pot Luck
5:30 PM-9:00 PM

West Denver Chapter Trout Unlimited Organization And Officers: 2015

Chapter Officers and Directors:

President:	Tim Toohey	303-423-8636
Vice President:	Jackie Edwards	303-278-2282
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Anglers' Edge@

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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.

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