

ANGLERS' EDGE



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

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

West Denver Chapter of Trout Unlimited

February 2016, Volume 22, No.1

The President's Message

At this time of the year, I get a bad case of cabin fever. I haven't fished since mid-November. I was going to fish below the dam at Pueblo recently, but a snow storm got in the way. However, I do plan on fishing down there as soon as we get some decent weather.

By the time this issue comes out, the fishing shows will be over. I want to thank everyone who helped staff the Fantasy Raffle booths for these shows. At this point, I don't know how successful our fund-raising activities were at these shows, but we usually do quite well at these events. In addition to making money (hopefully), the important thing to remember about these shows is that they allow us the opportunity to get out the conservation messages of both Colorado Trout Unlimited and our Chapter. I love to work the booth at these shows and talk about conservation as well as fly fishing.

February 13 is the Fly Tying Clinic. It's the 40th anniversary of this event (see accompanying article in this newsletter). We'll have tiers from all over the Rocky Mountain region, a beginning tier table if you want to learn how to tie, casting lessons from a certified Orvis instructor, a giant bucket raffle, and a silent auction. We're also planning a book sale. One of the most important features at this event is lunch made by John Belt and his crew. They make some of the best Sloppy Joes around.

Our February 3 speaker and tier for February will be Richard Pilatizke (see accompanying article in this issue). His presentation will be Stillwater Fly Fishing for Dummies. If you like to tie and/or fish lakes, you need to be there.

At our March Chapter meeting, we will have our Colorado State University graduate student grant winner—Adam Herdrick. He will do a presentation on the effect of woody debris on trout in the eastern slope Rocky Mountain streams. We've had some great presentations by our grant winners in the past, and this promises to be another. Our own Dan Pass will be our guest tier that evening.

In closing, we still have room for at least 3 more people to go to Yellowstone Park this summer. Rick Dornfeld's article about this event appears in this newsletter. If we get a few more people, it will mean that participants can fish the Park

for 3 days, and then have 2 days to do whatever they want. The days for this expedition are July 18 through July 22. If you want to make this trip, please contact me at either 303-423-8636 or tim2e@comcast.net.

Tim Toohey

Want a Fishing Buddy?

If you want 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.

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 Anglers' Edge. 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. Thank you.

Jon Weimer

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Al Revzin

the-editor@mindspring.com

Jackie Edwards

jaxedw@gmail.com

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

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Member(s) of the Month—Linda Miyamoto and Dan Sullivan

Every volunteer organization needs a couple like Linda and Dan—a pair of people who are actively involved in, and instrumental in the success of, an organization's myriad events and activities. Actually, our Chapter has two such couples—Jackie and Glen Edwards (who were profiled a few years ago) and Linda and Dan, detailed in this issue.

Dan, a native of Denver, is an Air Force veteran and a former programmer with AT&T who has lived in numerous



places—for example, Saigon, Viet Nam; Plattsburg, New York; Mountain Home, Idaho; Rantoul, Illinois; and, his favorite place, San Francisco, California. It was in San Francisco where he met Linda (who worked in the same building). Linda and Dan loved San

Francisco which seemed magical with a mixture of ethnic neighborhoods offering cuisines both varied and delicious. And, they enjoyed the unique character of that city, with residences that range from the charming old Victorian homes to the elegant structures on Nob Hill, and with a history rooted in the gold rush days and the Barbary Coast, progressing through Haight-Ashbury hippie counterculture and the human rights activism movement.

However, they moved to Denver in 1988, where they were married. Dan says that a more formal wedding was celebrated the following year at a beautiful estate in Oakland, California, administered by a Buddhist priest, and which included all the trappings one would expect. Linda is originally from the Central Valley in California where her family owned and operated almond orchards. Linda's is a very close family who get together quite often and keep their familial bond firm, as evidenced by the family's large attendance at the Oakland ceremony.

Linda and Dan joined West Denver in 2004. Linda had been fly fishing for several years prior, often going on trips with her family to destinations within California, and to such places as Idaho and Utah. Dan, on the other hand, was raised fishing primarily with salmon eggs, grasshoppers, and worms. According to Dan, in his Irish-Catholic home, trout was a staple for Friday dinners and a frequent item for dinner during Lent. Linda, then, basically introduced Dan to fly fishing and to the concept of catch and release. They both thought that joining West Denver was a good way to improve

their fly fishing skills, meet some like-minded anglers, and give back to the sport.

I refer to Linda as the “energizer bunny”, the one you see in those battery commercials, constantly on the run. She heads up the In-Chapter Award Committee, and is the Director of Membership for the Chapter. She seems to be a part of every event that is run by the Chapter, be it a fund-raising activity, a humanitarian endeavor, or a conservation project. Her works for the Chapter earned her Colorado Trout Unlimited's “Volunteer of the Year” award last year. As if her Chapter activities are not enough, she has volunteered for Channel 6 (PBS) for several years, racking up over 2,500 volunteer hours, for which she has received high praises. She currently volunteers with Visiting Nurses, and is a favorite of that group.

Dan may not be as visible as Linda, but that perception is deceptive in terms of assessing his contribution to the Chapter. During my reign as President, I was determined to change the Chapter's bylaws, and Dan was instrumental in helping me do so. He now serves as the Chapter's unofficial guru on its bylaws. Also, as President, I wanted to get a new website under way and, again, Dan was a principal entity in helping to get a new website off the ground. He also helped me conduct a couple of electronic surveys, attempting to gauge members' attitudes and opinions about Chapter operations. He currently serves as the Chapter's Secretary, and is the person responsible for distributing this newsletter and time-sensitive notices through a venue called Constant Contact.

I've heard Linda and Dan say that they get much more back from the Chapter than they contribute, but that's hard to conceive. Their contribution is immeasurable. A few years ago, Linda and Dan were making some noises about leaving Colorado and moving to Montana. The panic throughout the Chapter was palatable---i.e., what would we do without them? Thank goodness, they changed their mind. This Chapter is certainly in good stead with their presence.

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Fly Fishing to Save Cutthroats in Yellowstone Park

During the summer of 2015, West Denver members Ed Calmus, Randy Cordova, Rick Dornfeld, Keith Greenwell, and Tim Toohey volunteered in a Yellowstone National Park



research project. We caught cutthroats, rainbows, and hybrids (specimens) with fly fishing equipment and handed them over to the research

folks waiting patiently on the streambank. The fish were studied, data were recorded, and the fish were released back to the water. If this kind of “work” appeals to you, read on because our Chapter will be sending a crew back to Yellowstone during the week of July 18th through the 22nd next summer.

First, a couple of names to recognize: Bill Voigt runs the Volunteer Fly Fishing Program in the Park; Kurt Heim is the PhD student at Montana State University who designed and is conducting the research project. Kurt supplied all the information to me for this article.

The Yellowstone cutthroat trout (YCT) is a fish native to the Park and is known as a “keystone species” because it provides an important source of food for many species of birds and mammals. They are also fun to catch. Unfortunately, these fish are threatened by introduced non-native fish. You have probably heard about the introduction of lake trout into Yellowstone Lake, which has contributed to a severe decline in the YCT population. Less publicized is the invasion of rainbow trout (RBT) into the Lamar River Watershed, including Slough Creek. The concern in the Lamar is that RBT may out-compete or displace native YCT and hybridize with them which dilutes the locally adapted genetics and can lead to the loss of unique genetic diversity in the species. Saving the natives is a big deal in the Park. It is serious business to manage the Park for the native trout, bison, wolves, orchids, frogs, etc., and to control the further spread of the non-native invaders, including RBT, brook trout, New Zealand mud snails, and the Dalmatian toadflax.

Kurt Heim says: “The Lamar River watershed, long considered one of the Yellowstone’s most important riverine strongholds for native YCT, is now threatened by invading RBT. In recent years, angler reports and genetic analyses have indicated that RBT are now entering the system and hybridizing with the native YCT.”

Kurt’s first objective is to determine locations and timing of spawning by YCT, RBT, and hybrids in the Lamar River drainage. He is using radio-telemetry and passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag technology. (If your dog has a “chip ID”, this is the same sort of technology). Radio tags are surgically implanted in larger fish to actively transmit a radio signal which can be tracked over long distances for a couple of years. PIT tags are smaller, about the size and shape of the plastic end of a shoelace. They can be easily slipped under the skin next to the dorsal fin on smaller fish. PIT tags don’t transmit a signal via battery power. Instead, a magnetic coil is energized to transmit a signal when the device comes in close proximity to a resonating antenna. A fish carrying a PIT tag can be found by a guy walking the streambank holding an antenna; or a stationary antenna mounted in the stream can record tagged fish as they swim by. Recording the movements of individual fish will help determine patterns of spawning and identify areas where hybridization is occurring. Then, management actions can be developed and implemented to minimize the RBT threat.

The accompanying photo shows a trout being stitched up by Kurt Heim. A transmitter with an expected battery life of 881 days has been implanted. To the right of the photo, a Chapter volunteer uses a low-tech



turkey baster to keep the gills hydrated with an anesthetic to keep the fish calm throughout the 4 ½ minute surgery.

But, first, there must be fish caught so that tags can be implanted in the fish, and this is where the help of the Volunteer Fly Fishing Program comes into play. Bill Voigt has been in charge of the volunteer program for over ten years. Typically, he signs up a different group of volunteers for each week of the summer season. The 2016 year will be the second year of data collection for Kurt’s project. Individuals can sign up directly with Bill to volunteer for any week for which there are openings. Bill can be contacted at wvoigt100@gmail.com. West Denver President Tim Toohey has taken the step of asking Bill to block out the week of July 18-22 for Chapter members. Bill has agreed to do so. Ten good volunteer anglers from our Chapter are needed for that week. As of the date of this newsletter, seven have already signed up. Contact either Tim Toohey or me for details.

Rick Dornfeld, Conservation Director

West Denver's 40th Annual Fly Tying Clinic

Our Chapter will be presenting its 40th Annual Fly Tying Clinic on February 13, 2016, at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. This event features about 55 of the best tiers in the Rocky Mountain region, including local luminaries such



as Charlie Craven, Pat Dorsey, Greg Garcia, Landon Mayer, and contract tiers from Umpqua

Feather Merchants. Price of admission is \$15 at the door, \$10 with a \$5 discount coupon which should be available at local fly shops. Children 12 years of age and under are free.

There will be door prizes, raffles, and free fly casting lessons. Come with an appetite, for the Chapter's veteran kitchen crew, headed by member John Belt, will be cooking sloppy joes and brats for you to purchase.

All funds raised by this event go to the Chapter's Clear Creek restoration efforts, its education activities, and to its myriad community outreach programs.

For additional information, please contact Fred Portillo at 303-467-3890.

Facebook

In addition to having a Facebook group (WDTU Fishing Trips), we now have a Chapter Facebook page. To find it, open Facebook and search for "West Denver Trout Unlimited". So far, we have added events like Joseph's Journey, bowling night, the monthly Chapter meeting, and the Chapter picnic. We think that this will make it even easier to find and sign up for upcoming events.

There isn't too much content yet, but we hope to use this page to keep members involved in Chapter activities. Suggestions for improvements are gratefully welcomed. Please take a moment to visit the page and let us know what you think.

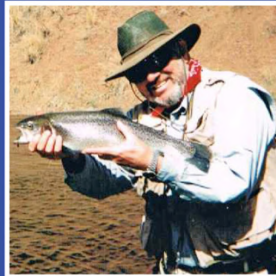
Dan Sullivan

Try 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 how you can be involved in them. Our Chapter has over 1,200 members, and we are proud of the difference we make through our outreach and conservation activities.

Our site currently averages about 60 visitors per week. It is full of photographs which we rely on members to supply. 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



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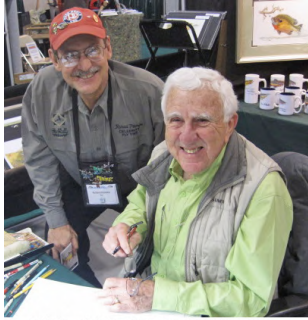


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Guest Speaker and Guest Fly Tier at February Chapter Meeting—Richard Pilatizke

Richard has been fly tying and fly fishing for over thirty-five years. Born in Montreal, Canada, he grew up in upstate New York. However, he's lived in Colorado for over thirty years, the last twenty of which he's specialized in tying flies for and fishing in, high mountain lakes in the State. Most of you have probably seen Richard demonstrating his fly tying prowess at events like the Fly Fishing Show,



Richard (L) with Dave Whitlock

the International Sportsman's Exposition, the Black Canyon Fly Fishing Show, the Western Colorado Fly Fishing Exposition, the New Mexico trout Symposium, the Federation of Fly Fishers National Conclave and at tying clinics at many Denver area fly shops and Trout Unlimited and Federal Fly Fishers chapter meetings.

His flies have been exhibited at the Boulder Art Museum and the Prichart Art Museum in Idaho Falls, Idaho. His fly patterns have been featured in books by Gary LaFontaine, Pat Dorsey, Rick Takahashi, Marty Bartholomew, and Jim Schollmeyer, and also in *Southwest Fly Fishing* and *Colorado Outdoors* magazines.

He's a member of the Cutthroat chapter, serving on the chapter's Board for over twenty years. In addition to being a life member of both Trout Unlimited and the Federation of Fly Fishers, he is currently a member of the Regal Engineering, Unibobber and Wasatch Angling Pro Staffs. What Richard likes best about fly tying is the creative aspect, especially searching out little-known materials to create new patterns.

In addition to demonstrating fly tying (beginning about 6:30 PM), Richard will give a presentation entitled "Stillwater Fly Fishing for Dummies", a presentation that will benefit me immensely.

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WDTU General Calendar


2016 - February

- 3 Tying Corner/Welcome 6:30 PM
Chapter Meeting-AMC
Speaker: Richard Pilatizke
- 8 Board Meeting 7:00 PM*
- 13 Annual Fly Tying Clinic-Jeffco Fairgrounds
- 20-21 Bass Pro Fundraiser

2016 - March

- 2 Tying Corner/Welcome 6:30 PM
Chapter Meeting-AMC
Speaker: CSU Scholarship Recipient
- 10 CTU Gala at Mile High Station
- 14 Board Meeting 7:00 PM*

Note! *Our board meetings are held at the Old Capitol Grill, 1122 Washington Ave., Golden



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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. Thanks.

Combining Fishing with Fund Raising— March 12!

On March 12, West Denver is combining a fund-raising event with a great day of fishing!

Rainbow Falls is a ranch located off Highway 67, about half-way between Deckers and Woodland Park. It was once the site of Colorado's first hatchery (circa 1875) and has undergone many transformations since then. A family now owns the ranch and has converted the property into an exclusive fishing club (limited membership).



The ranch consists of 100 acres of land situated in a beautiful valley. There are 9 lakes on the property, and about 1 ½ mile of stream that courses through the valley. The lakes and stream are fed by a spring that has a constant temperature of 51 degrees. The lakes and stream are stocked periodically with browns, rainbows, and Donaldson steelheads. The property owners have agreed to give us exclusive use of the ranch on March 12. The Chapter will provide the food and beverages. There are a number of pavilions (with tables) in the valley that will allow you to rest and eat. Porta potties will be provided. And, there is a large barn on the property if we need to congregate together.

Attendees will be asked to contribute \$200 for the event---for all the food and beverages you can consume and for the privilege to fish some prime water located in a gorgeous setting. Two hundred dollars, for some of you, may seem like a lot to spend.



However, you would spend at least that much (probably considerably more) for a guided trip to a private stretch of water. There are no guarantees in the world of fishing, but we can assure you that the odds are in your favor of catching fish at Rainbow Falls (and some large ones at that). It should be a fun day for all. If you're interested in joining us and/or want more information, contact either Matt Rivera (303-425-9351) or Jon Weimer (303-830-1609). Non-Chapter members may also attend this event.

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, which generally occurs on the fourth Saturday 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.

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>.

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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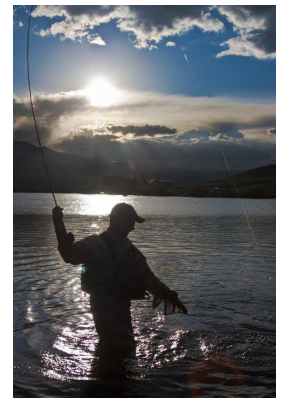
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Wanted: Newsletter Editor

For almost eight years, I've been the editor of the newsletter. It's been a fun ride, with a few road bumps along the way (along with a few awards). But, I think it's time to call it quits and turn it over to someone else. In terms of criteria or requirements needed to take over this position, I can list a few: (1) knowledge of at least one publishing software program; (2) the ability and motivation to solicit articles from members of the Chapter; (3) the ability to edit other people's work; (4) the ability to write articles; and (5) the ability to aggressively solicit advertising.

I am fortunate to have a spouse (Carolyn) who has experience with desktop publishing software—I simply hand articles over to her, and she, magically, puts everything together into a nice little package. If you can find such a partner, so much the better for you. It's a fun job---that's why I stayed with it so long. However, I feel I am getting stale and am afraid that staleness will start appearing in the newsletter. Someone new can perhaps inject some new energy and a new perspective into the newsletter. So, 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 can reach me at either 303-830-1609 or at weimerj@earthlink.net.

Jon



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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 are asking our members to send in theme-specific photos--for example, pictures that show a parent and child or a grandparent and grandchild taking part in some fly fishing activity.

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Dan Sullivan

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Photo by Brett Hochmuth



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Program

February 3, 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: Richard Pilatizke
"Stillwater Fly Fishing for Dummies"

West Denver Chapter Trout Unlimited Organization And Officers: 2016

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:	Matt Rivera	303-425-9351
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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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

West Denver TU on the World Wide Web:
<http://www.westdenvertu.org>
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ed.calmus@gmail.com

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