



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 2017, Vol. 23, No. 1

www.westdenvertu.org





Saturday

February 11, 2017

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Jefferson County Fairgrounds

(From 6th Ave., exit at Indiana St., go west on south service road)

Talk with expert tiers about where, when and how to fish their flies!

***Beginners:* Come and learn the basics with hands-on instruction!**

- ⇒ Fly-tying theater
- ⇒ Giant Bucket Raffle
- ⇒ Silent Auction
- ⇒ Fly-casting instruction (weather permitting)
- ⇒ Food & beverages
- ⇒ Craft beer by Upslope Brewery

Proceeds support Trout Unlimited's mission to conserve, protect & enhance our coldwater resources and their watersheds.

Admission at the door is \$15.00. Coupons for \$5.00 off are available at local fly shops. Kids 12 and younger will be admitted free.

West Denver Chapter Trout Unlimited Organization And Officers: 2017

President:	Jackie Edwards	303-278-2282
Vice President:	Ed Calmus	303-744-2940
Past President:	Tim Toohey	303-423-8636
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Anglers' Edge

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	Linda Miyamoto	303-423-5616

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

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*On the Cover: Clear Creek above tunnel 5
Photo: David Amalong*

The President's Message

The winter of the New Year 2017 is having a record snow pack in the Colorado mountain range. The results of this and what yet remains to fall may have our streams brimming with healthy water during the summer. Our hope is that the snowmelt will be slow, and will absorb into our Colorado mountain soil instead of melting quickly and causing damage down stream. The Colorado recreational systems are due for a win-win; skiers, in the winter and water sports in the spring, summer and fall. Wow! We all benefit, as do the farmers.

The chapter is getting geared up to begin work again this year with the Forest Service. Rick Dornfeld has just learned that our main contact has moved into another position in Idaho, but has been assured that her new replacement will work with us, and have the same vision. Tim Toohey and Rick continue to work in tandem to be watchful for short Forest Service projects for our chapter, as they become available. Keep watch on the website for further announcements as these projects get scheduled. Thanks Rick and Tim.

The annual Fantasy Raffle once again was popular at both the Fly Tying Exposition and the ISE Show. Randy Cordova and his helpers always do a great job. Thanks guys.

The annual Fly Tying Clinic at the Jeffco Fairgrounds brings out all the busy members who know just what to do and when however, new volunteers are always welcome. This takes a village, as the event organizer, Bruce Beck is finding out, even after being mentored by Fred Portillo who has organized it for the past several years. Thanks Fred and Bruce and your backroom core workers. For more information about times, etc, visit our WDTU website. Volunteers are asked to just show up early (7 AM) and be ready for set up instructions. Some help will be required throughout the day, and then of course cleanup.

Our website is a constant source of information and is up to date regarding our events. Visit it often to learn more about our chapter's activities. Ed Calmus is doing a super job of keeping our website up to date. Thanks Ed.

If the fish aren't biting, find a soft rock, settle back and listen to the sharp sounds of winter as the freezing cold stream gurgles, then the sudden slap as it splashes against the forever-growing shelf ice along its bank.



UPDATES FROM NATIONAL TU

Use 2017 to forge new Chapter Traditions!

Traditions are an important part of our TU culture, of our community of anglers who share a passion for fishing and conservation. They help bind us together and make us feel like we are part of something bigger than ourselves.

TU's Strategic Plan calls for, among other things, all of us to grow and engage our local chapter communities by increasing the number of events and activities being held – beyond chapter meetings and banquets. Rather than simply adding events which follow the traditions of the past, I'd encourage everyone to think of new traditions that will draw a younger, more diverse mix of members and volunteers to your chapter.

Consider some of the following ideas and never hesitate to reach out to your Volunteer Operations Staff for advice, guidance or help in planning a new event or activity.

Potential New “Traditions” for Your Chapter

Mother's Day/Father's Day Weekend Family Fishing Festival

Arbor Day Tree Planting Project

Summer Streamside BBQ and Fishing Weekend

TroutBlitz Day on a Local River

Chapter Camping Trips to Area Rivers

Bar Flies or Flies & Pies Fly Tying Events

Aquatic Insect Assessment Day

Local “One Fly” Competitions

UPDATES FROM COLORADO TU

Colorado TU Statewide Raffle!

Colorado TU is starting sell Statewide Raffle tickets for the Spring Raffle event. We are offering chapters the chance to sell tickets prior to our statewide attempts. If your chapter wished to sell tickets, 50% of proceeds from your sale will be returned to you. To get tickets, just ask for a set number of tickets that you think you can sell, we'll send them over, and you can sell them to any success. Tickets that go unsold should be returned to us ahead of the drawing at Rendezvous (April 21) with the stubs from sold tickets, and the proceeds. Then we'll cut your chapter a check for 50% of your proceeds. Contact Jeff Florence for raffle tickets.

The raffle prize is a two-day, one-night float trip through the Gold Medal waters of the Gunnison Gorge for two with Black Canyon Anglers. The trip also includes one night's lodging and dinner for two at Gunnison River Farms the night prior to the launch.

National TU Staff for Chapter Meetings

Many National TU staff work out of Colorado and work on Colorado issues. Most of these issues impact every chapter in one way or another- whether the specific project is in your backyard or comparable issues are being dealt with nearby. These staff members would be happy to provide information or do a presentation about their current projects for your chapter meetings. If you are interested in having a national staff member attend a chapter meeting, please contact Jeff Florence at JFlorence@tu.org to get in touch with an NTU staff that could speak at a meeting.

Important Upcoming Dates

CTU River Stewardship Gala, March 9, 2017

The Colorado TU River Stewardship Gala will take place on March 9th, 2017 at Mile High Station. This year we are honoring the Colorado Water Conservation Board for their work in developing our State's very first water plan and in promoting watershed collaborations. Chapters can reserve tables of 10 at a discounted price again this year. The price per chapter table will be \$900 this year- slightly increased from last year, but still at a discounted rate (standard table cost is \$1500). For more information, contact Shannon Kindler, SKindler@tu.org

CTU Rendezvous, April 21-23, 2017

Join Colorado TU at the annual Spring Rendezvous weekend. This year we will focus on our "home waters" and how they play a role in the water landscape, TU's mission, how to promote your chapter's home waters work, and the challenges being faced in home waters statewide. We are moving locations for Rendezvous, to the Lodge & Conference Center at Keystone in Summit County. For more information, contact Shannon Kindler, SKindler@tu.org

Colorado TU Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp, June 11-16

The 2017 Colorado TU Youth camp will be held on June 11-16 at the Bar N I Ranch near Weston Colorado (same location as last year). The application is online at ColoradoTU.org/YouthCamp. If you are interested in sponsoring a kid, please contact Jeff Florence, JFlorence@tu.org. The price for each kid will be \$450 again this year. As always, Chapters that wish to do so can sponsor more than one kid or half sponsor two kids.



LINKS FROM AROUND THE WEB



CONSERVATION

Volunteer Opportunities for 2017

By February 2017, the US Forest Service and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife field stations should have their 2017 budgets and work priorities sorted out. It is then that WDTU will be able to identify specific conservation projects with our public agency partners. For now, here is a list of possible volunteer projects for you to think about:

-CPW spawning work. Trout and grayling spawning are possible. We could even help out with walleye spawning, if we put on different hats!

-USFS dispersed campsite obliteration. Our work would be to hand apply seed and mulch.

-USFS road obliteration. Our work would be to hand apply seed and mulch.

-RiverWatch. This is our regular monthly water sampling in Clear Creek.

-USFS culvert surveys. Culverts that block fish will be removed and replaced. Our work would be to help with site surveys.

Keep an eye out for more information in both the newsletter and on the website as details for these projects become available.

Rick Dornfeld, WDTU Conservation Director

Volunteers Needed for River Watch

The River Watch program, under the auspices of Colorado Park and Wildlife, is designed to monitor the water quality



-CPW trout salvage. See the Dry Gulch article in this issue.

-CPW greenback trout restoration. Our work would be to backpack little trout in plastic bags into release sites. See the Herman Gulch article in the October 2016 issue.

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

COMMUNITY

Volunteers needed for Windy Peak

The Outdoor Education Laboratory Program (OELS) at Windy Peak (south of Bailey) is under the auspices of the Jefferson County Public School System. The mission of the OELS is to provide 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 Wooly Buggers and San Juan Worms), West Denver members help impart a conservation ethic in hopes of encouraging these students to be stewards of the environment later in life. Typically, after teaching students to tie a couple of flies, they're taken down to the nearby fishing pond in hopes that they can catch something with their own creations. The fly tying classes usually begin in

Want a Fishing Buddy?

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

Donations

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

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



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

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

Ric Tarr at 303-233-9391

Continued on Page 25

Continued from Page 24

WDTU Shirt Logo

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

WANTED: New Members!

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

Chapter Meeting at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden, Colorado



A Note About Email Address Changes

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

David Amalong
Jackie Edwards
Linda Miyamoto

davidamalong@comcast.net
jaxedw@gmail.com
sullimoto@gmail.com



ABOUT TU

West Denver Trout Unlimited

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

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

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

Trout Unlimited

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

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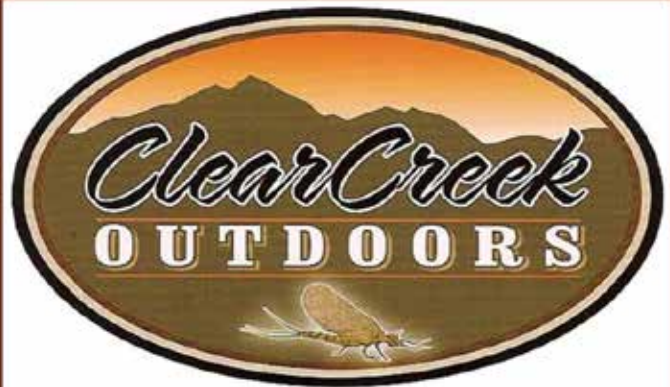
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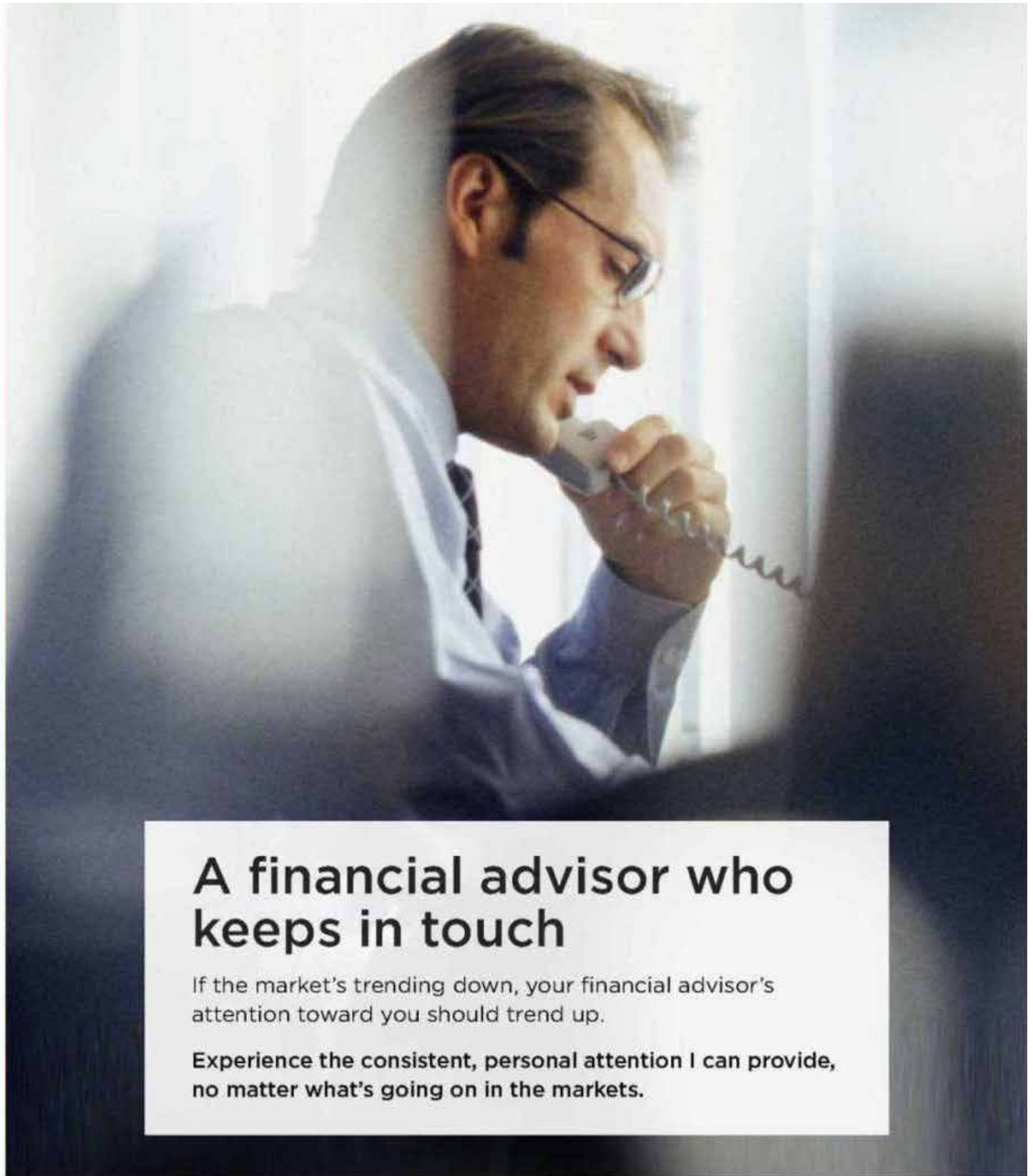
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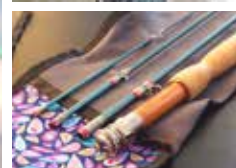
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FROM THE EDITOR

As we move into the new year it is great to see new projects lining up for 2017. We have an amazing new Community project beginning to form, we are on target to continue our greenback efforts in the headwaters and we are identifying restoration projects within the canyon of the Clear Creek. We will also be stepping outside of our adopted watershed providing outreach and communication of West Denver TU's mission. And while the protection of our watersheds is the critical focus of our chapter, spreading the word about our work of Trout Unlimited is also part of our mission.

Over the past four months, we have witnessed that our combined communications are reaching across the globe. Our FaceBook and website visits have increased significantly. Our newsletter has regular readers in Europe, North America and New Zealand and our Twitter feed and Instagram accounts have been increasing in activity. It is clear that there is a desire to learn and read about what is going on in Colorado, and it is our opportunity to fulfill this desire.

For example, a couple of issues ago we ran a story in the newsletter on fly fishing in Iceland. This story was picked up by readers around the globe looking for information on Iceland, and in the process, we had compliments from readers in North America, England and the Philippines, praising us for our work with native fish.

So, as we continue to spread the word of our work, please send me articles, ideas for articles, photos, and comments so that we can continue to deliver our message in a unique and interesting way.

David



West Denver TU needs flies for the Fantasy Raffle and for a fly raffle at our Chapter meetings. When you are at the bench, think about tying up a dozen or two for WDTU. If you deal with a local fly shop, think about buying some extras for us. You can bring them to a meeting.

We also need new or good used items for the Silent Auction and Bucket Raffle at the annual Fly Tying Clinic. We can use fly fishing equipment, gift cards from your favorite restaurant or store, or art work.

These events provide fun ways for us to raise funds, and your contributions support the education and conservation efforts of WDTU. Call or email Tim at 303-423-8636 or tim2e@comcast.net for more details.

WDTU CALENDAR

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING- FEBRUARY 1, 2017

American Mountaineering Center

6:30 - 7:00 PM: Welcoming-Fly Tying Demo
7:00 - 7:30 PM: Chapter Business
7:30 - 8:45 PM: Speaker

Guest Speaker- Lauren Duncan Abandon mine reclamation

Lauren Duncan is the Abandoned Mine Restoration Project Manager for Trout Unlimited. She has received a B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Denver and an M.S. in Environmental Science and Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines. Prior to coming to TU, Lauren worked for various public and private entities in sustainability, water quality and water resources. For TU, she focuses on restoration of mining-impacted areas, in-stream enhancement, soil and water chemistry, project management and oversight. She is based in Denver.

Guest Fly Tier- Keith Greenwell West Denver's Keith Greenwell will show us patterns, tips and techniques at the fly tying vise.

February

- 1 Chapter Meeting**
Speaker: Lauren Duncan
- 10 Chopped Fly Tying Championship: 6:30- 9:30 pm**
[Mudrock's Tap & Tavern](#), 585 E South Boulder Rd
Louisville CO
- 11 Fly Tying Clinic: 9:00am-3:00 pm**
[Jefferson County Fairgrounds](#),
15200 W 6th Ave Golden, CO
- 13 February Board Meeting**
25,26 Bass Pro's Annual Fishing Classic
[Bass Pro Northfield](#)

March

- 9 CTU River Stewardship Gala**
5pm [Mile High Station, Denver](#)

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

Our **Board Meetings** are held at the [Old Capitol Grill](#), 1122 Washington Ave., Golden Colorado 80401