

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

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

Who We Are

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

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

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

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

From the Penobscot in Maine to the South Fork of the Snake in Idaho and west to the Klamath in Oregon and California, TU and its staff and volunteers work on the ground in hundreds of places, protecting, reconnecting and restoring trout and salmon habitat for the benefit of today's anglers and generations to come.

If you're interested in becoming a part of TU and giving back to the fish and the places you value, become a member and help us 'save the world, one trout at a time.'

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Anglers' Edge

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Editor:	David Amalong	303-669-0334
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We want your contributions such as guest editorials, letters-tothe-editor, photographs, big fish photos, trip reports, etc. Send them to the Editor by e-mail to <u>davidamalong@comcast.net</u>

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On the Cover: Rainbow Falls WDTU Fundraiser *Photo: John Pern*

The President's Message

What an outstanding chapter West Denver has. This is because we have unselfish members who are willing to step up when there is a void or a need.

Each month we seem to have a service project or an ongoing strong contribution to the community. These are what have established this chapter as a growing and solid organization.

We just finished our 41st Annual Fly Tying Clinic. It was a success again because of the volunteers who stepped up because they are always in the background and know exactly what to do and when. It is more than exciting when we see new faces and those who want to contribute. **Thanks Bruce!!** This is what makes a successful chapter.

Another big all day community contribution is a service to the families of the terminally ill children in the metro area. The Joseph's Journey program was established with the help of the Stewart family after they lost a child to cancer. Joseph's last wish was to find a way the other children like him get to the outdoors for at least one fun day. This is now the chapter's 17th year to make this community outing for these kids and families a success. The limitations to this activity have caused the organizers to restrict the volunteers. **Thanks Bob!!** This is what makes a successful chapter.

Month in and month out, the chapter can experience a fun and exciting speaker during out chapter meetings. This has caused the attendance at the chapter meetings to grow and grow. Several added side events have also been introduced to chapter members. Let's go tie flies at a brewery???? This activity has been over whelming by tiers who live in the area of the Grand Lake Brewery. It has become such a social evening by tiers, as well as non-tiers that a wish to continue was granted. The goal at first was a way to tie flies for the fantasy box that is reaching its 25th year. Another successful project the chapter can be proud of. **Thanks Tim!!** This is what makes a successful chapter.

Our chapter president 15 years ago introduced the "take a buddy fishing" program out of default. Gil kept having new members to the chapter and who were new to the sport of fishing, ask is he would suggest places in the area where they could fish. This activity was able to continue and then flourish when two new members themselves stepped up and said they could learn too. **Thanks Gil!!** for the start and **Thanks Ann and Jim!!** for the continuation. This is what makes a successful chapter.

These are only a few of the many activities the chapter has found to be enhanced by the multiple volunteers who come from a variety of interests, talents, and experiences. They continue to keep the chapter calendar busy throughout the year. New ideas keep coming up and are embraced by members stepping up to help out.

If the fish aren't biting, find a soft rock, settle back, relax and listen to the chatty birds in the nearby treetops exchange their spring songs.

Women's fly fishing at Wheat Ridge Recreation Center

Geri Reffel

Discover the joy of fly fishing! You'll learn the ins and outs of fly fishing including what gear you will need, tying knots, setting up your rod, and casting. West Denver Trout Unlimited will guide you in a two-hour classroom session, followed by a two-hour fishing opportunity at a nearby lake.

The first class will take place on Sunday May 21st and the second will be held on Sunday July 16th. The class-room session starts at 10:00 am and end at noon and are located at the Wheat Ridge Recreation Center. We will learn about fishing gear, tying knots, the flies that

fish eat and how to cast a fly rod. The afternoon session will start at 1:00 pm and end at 3:00 pm. We will be meeting at a lake where you will be fishing, practicing casting, catching fish and learning how to catch, land and release a fish!

The cost of the class is \$30.00. A portion of the fee will go to West Denver to help with all our conservation programs. No equipment or experience necessary.

Please contact the Wheat Ridge Recreation Center at 303.234.5900 or on the Recreation Center's Website.

2017 Fantasy Raffle

The annual "Fantasy Raffle" is in full swing. It is one of the major fund raisers for our chapter. This is a winner-takes-all contest in which the person holding the winning ticket wins a fabulous prize consisting of 35+ items ranging from

gadgets that every fly fisher needs. Retail value is around \$4,000.

The drawing for the raffle is held at the May chapter meeting each year. This year's May Chapter Meeting is on May 3rd. We have been conThe funds raised are used for chapter projects and operations. Examples are the annual Joseph's Journey fishing day for terminally ill children, and several stream habitat improvement projects on Clear Creek. So, when you purchase a ticket you



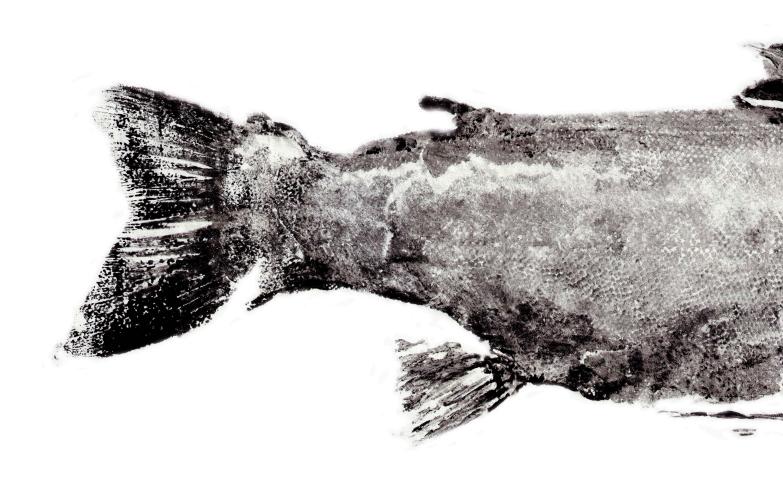
big to small. The highlight item is a handmade bamboo fly rod setup, which includes a reel, extra spool, fly line, and backing. Other items are a handmade wooden fly box, 20 dozen flies, a guided river fly fishing trip, a camera, and a plethora of ducting the raffle since 1993, and many people look forward to buying tickets at the Fly Fishing Show, International Sportsmens Exposition, chapter meetings and events, and several other venues.

benefit whether you have the winning ticket or not. That's a true winning combination.

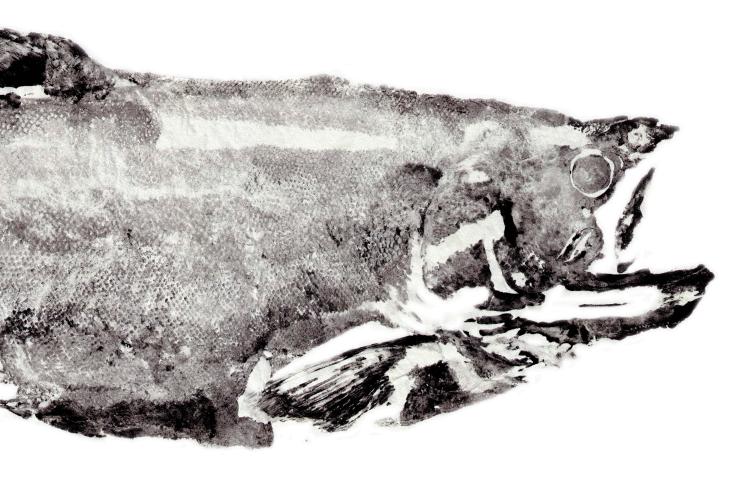
Direct questions to Randy Cordova at (303) 940-5997, or contact one of the chapter officers.

Reel Dreams-The Art of Gyotaku

Story by Jon Weimer



DRIGINAL RAINBOW





hen I enter a fly shop, I can't help but wander around, looking at the knick-knacks, photos, art, and other "stuff" that adorn the walls. Typically, you'll see the gripand-grin photos of shop patrons these paintings, I was told these images represent a Japanese art form called Gyotaku (pronounced Gee-oh-tak-koo). Apparently, Gyo means fish, and Taku means impression, and that the technique ed on paper, keeping a record of the actual size of the fish. Within the Chapter, we have a member (Bruce Beck) who engages in this unique art form, and I interrogated him about the process/procedure he uses





Bruce Beck

FLAMING SNAPPER

proudly displaying their catches. There will be the traditional paintings—e.g., perhaps an acrobatic rainbow leaping out of the water to snatch a dragon fly, or a voracious brown chasing a swarm of minnows. Recently, however, I've been viewing some rather odd paintings in these fly shops that look like Jurassic skeletal or fossilized remains of fish.

When I inquired what exactly are

employed involves just that—using freshly caught fish to make inky impressions on paper.

Gyotaku is an art form that began in the early 1800s. One of the popular theories is that a Japanese Emperor was hearing stories about the large fish being caught—even then, the fish became bigger with each report. So, the Emperor decided to have the fish rubbed with ink and then printto do one of these paintings.

Bruce says that it takes 5 or more hours for him to complete one of these images. He begins by cleaning the fish with a solution of vinegar and water, which helps take the slime off the fish—you need the fish to be squeaky clean for the ink to adhere to the fish. He'll frequently use a hair dryer to speed up the drying process. Once the fish is dried, he uses

small blocks of wood to prop up the fins, and then he starts the rubbing process. He'll place an amount of black block ink on a sheet of acrylic glass and, using a soft rubber roller, he'll spread the ink evenly over the upper and lower portion of the fish. Once he feels he has a good ink coverage, he'll lift the rice paper off and look at the image to see if the coverage was adequate. He then tapes the fish to the wall and goes through

Bruce indicated that he learned Gyotaku from his nephew (a retired art teacher from Oregon), and is pleased to see how this art form is becoming more prevalent. Bruce displays his work at galleries and art



glass, keeping a light coat on the roller. He'll then place the roller on the fish, and begin going back and forth on the fish, giving the top half of fish a good coat of ink. He'll use a brush to ink the tail fin as well as the other fins. He then takes a sheet of rice paper and places it on the fish, starting from the tail and progressing down to the head, using his hand laying the rice paper down the center, rubbing the rice paper on the

the process again. Bruce says that what usually happens with the first few rubbings is that he ends up with too much or too little ink. He states that his rubbings are never perfect, so he chooses the best one. He finds that people like the imperfections, giving the art character and depth. The red stamp that appears with the image signifies his name and, to his way of thinking, authenticates the art of Gyotaku.

shows throughout the State, and has contributed some of his pieces for sale at the Chapter's fund-raising events.

If you want more details on Gyotaku and/or want to peruse more of Bruce's work, you may contact him at either 303-667-3887 or at elk7706@hotmail.com, or visit www.cedarplankstudio.com.



BY MATT RIVERA

Photos by John Pern and attendees of the event



t was a damp and dreary day in Denver....but in a box canyon between Deckers and Woodland Park named Rainbow Falls......

On March 11, 2017, 48 chapter members, friends and family attended a "fun-raising" day filled with catching fish, swapping stories and fine dining at Rainbow Falls. Rainbow Falls was the state's second ever fish hatchery dating back to 1882. Prior to that, the Ute Indians made the canyon home because of the continuous source of water and abundance of wildlife. Today, this is a fishing club that is open to only to

members and guests. The property is fed by a creek and a freshwater spring that flows at a constant temperature that is optimal for raising fish. The owners raise around 5,000 fish per year and supplement the ample numbers of trout already present with them. Jon Weimer, approached the club a couple of years back to see if we could enjoy a day of fishing there and we were offered a choice of two dates prior to the clubs "stocking day" in March.

Those who attended, were treating to some sporting fishing this year, at least in the morning. The water temps were a little cooler and we fished under a full moon, leading to picky fish and some very subtle strikes in the morning. This led to less smiles than last year prior to lunch. However, after a delicious lunch of grilled sirloin and margarita chicken, and a pep talk from Richard Johnson, including direction to ask the advice of one of their lead guides, the afternoon proved much better. All folks I spoke to in the afternoon were catching fish, and they were catching lots of them!

As host, I opted out of fishing in the morning so that I could vis-



it with folks and ensure lunch was up to the standards we had expected. After cleaning up from lunch, I could finally take some time to fish a bit. This year, I opted to focus on the lakes, since I figured those areas would hold the largest fish. It also helped that I was able to fish with Dan Pass, angler extraordinaire" and his family. Richard placed us in one of the "catching areas". Which proved to be great advice! By the end of the day, we landed more fish than we could count. Not only that, we caught numerous species of fish. If catching four different species of trout is called a "grand slam", what

would you call catching brookies, rainbows, cutthroat, Donelson trout, brown trout and tiger trout? Perhaps a "slam and double"?

The day would not have been possible without the generosity of Rainbow Falls, David Dudden and his assistant Ernie Jimenez for doing the grilling; Linda Miyamoto for helping bring and organize lunch; Jon Weimer and Tim Toohey for their help with the vision; Robert Clark for bringing up the Fantasy Raffle to offer the chance to buy tickets; John Pern for his photography skills and the board of West Denver TU

for helping back this event. Most importantly, this event would not be possible without the anglers who came out to support the efforts of West Denver TU. My wish is that we can all have fun, create memories and help support a great cause!

Watch for more information about next year's event to come out at the beginning of 2018! Weather permitting, we are welcome back in March.













About Rainbow Falls

Nearly anyone you talk to has their own memories of fishing at Rainbow Falls. As Colorado's Oldest Trout Hatchery, we have been raising trout and stocking the lakes for over 136 years. With it's 9 lakes, and nearly 1-mile of stream the possibilities are endless. What separates Rainbow Falls from other areas is the Big Spring, which produces a constant 51 degree flow of water, channeled through our Trout Raceways, raising over 10,000 new trout year-round. This runs into our "Spring Lake" which never freezes, then 2 more lakes, joining our Trout Creek lakes downstream. Our unique combination of Trout Creek and the Natural Spring provide all of Rainbow Falls lakes and stream with constant water flow the year round. We practice catch and release on all lakes and streams. All of our lakes are stocked and provide a wide variety of fishing experiences. Come enjoy fishing at Rainbowand make your own memories!

Please visit their website at: www.rainbowfallsmt.com







was Rio Manso Lodge, an ORVIS enterprise located in Argentina at the boundary of a national park in the Andes Lake District.

Our week in Patagonia was in mid-January, which would compare to fishing some of Colorado's high country lakes in mid-July. (We all know that Colorado lake fishing is best either at ice-out or in the fall season when waters begin to cool). Our Patagonian fishing was best in the mornings and evenings, with gorgeous scenery and solitude, abundant bird life, and some of the strongest trout we've ever see. We were fishing six weights, and a 18-inch brook trout would spool you if you relaxed just a bit! We caught mostly rainbows, of a size comparable to those in our Arkansas River, with numerous brook trout thrown in for variety. A smaller population of large browns were present, but chose not to come out and play in the mid-day sun.

Like so many fishing destinations, Rio Manso was an area that just whet our appetite for Patagonia. Further south, larger rivers flow through grasslands that soon turn to a desert terrain. Patagonian rivers in the southern-most areas apparently can be very windy, but can also harbor huge sea-run rainbows. How to choose? So many rivers, so little time!



About Rio Manso Lodge

Located in Northern Patagonia near the border with Chile, Orvis-Endorsed Rio Manso Lodge offers a host of activities led by exceptional fly fishing, elegant yet comfortable lodging, and extraordinary cuisine. Nestled in Nahuel Huapi National Park in the midst of virgin waters and lush forests, our caring staff will make your Patagonian experience a very special one.

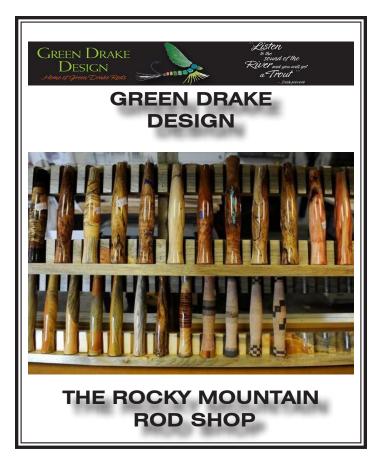
If you are looking for the best fly fishing in Patagonia Argentina you've come to the right place. At Rio Manso Lodge, you will fish a wide variety of waters from small streams and large rivers to intimate spring creeks and deep productive lakes where monster browns, hefty rainbows and trophy brook trout swim.

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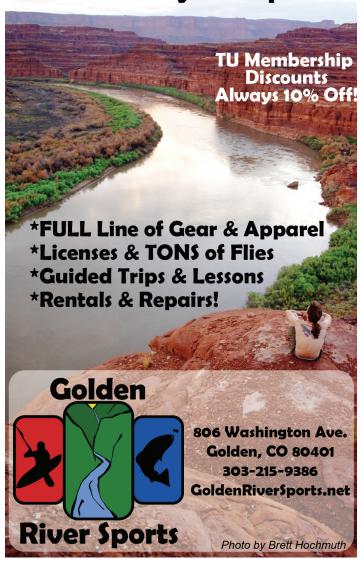
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CONSERVATION

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.

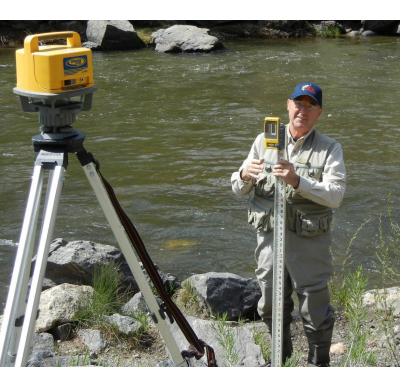
-USFS culvert surveys. Culverts that block fish will be removed and replaced. Our work would be to help with site surveys.

Keep an eye out for more information win 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, please check out our website for upcoming trips.

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

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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 <u>link</u> 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.



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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1/4 Page	\$7.50	\$42.00	\$70.00
1/2 Page	\$18.50	\$82.00	\$142.00
Full Page	\$22.00	\$125.00	\$225.00

Over 1200 readers per issue!

Email David Amalong <u>davidamalong@comcast.net</u> for more information.

JOSEPH'S JOURNEY

By Bob Untener

Hello West Denver Trout Unlimited. Its time to start organizing for the annual 'Joseph's Journey Fishing

This years date is June 3 2017 at Waterton Canyon Park. Lehow Lake and will be sponsored by the Colorado Department of Wildlife.

I need for anyone who wishes to participate this year to directly contact me as there is NO ENTRANCE without Pre-Registration

This will be the 18th year that this event has been held and as always West Denver Trout Unlimited is asked to maintain the food preparation in the Pavilion and also be a Major part in the Fishing with the Children and Families.

Our History and Knowledge of Catch and Release has always drawn the attention of these organizations for our help to help preserve the fish in this event for future gatherings that the D.O.W. hosts at this pond.

We'll need help at our 2 big grills for cooking (taking shifts) 8-10 people and help at the pavilion with prep and serving and maintaining a good flow of people for lunch. 8-10 people (this group may already be set when I hear from you)

We'll also need help at the lake in handling the worms and fish and anything we will be asked to do to help the families have an enjoyable day as well as the release of any fish caught. Some years there are MANY. Fish handling experience - Nippers - Landing net - Forceps "Required"

You MUST contact Bob Untener for passage into the Derby and we also have a Limited number that we can allow to help due to the crowds that show up from the hospitals.

I will need your E-mail, Address and phone number as required by the D.O.W. and Joseph's Journey so we can keep an accurate record of all attendees. A wrist band will be issued only if your name is on the list.

CONTACT:

Bob Untener WDTU Joseph's Journey Chairman grey 1271@hotmail.com

WDTU CALENDAR

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING- April 5, 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- Nick Herman Fishing Streamers

Nick and his spouse Sharyce are Colorado natives who live in Wheat Ridge. They opened Arbor Anglers on April 1, 2016. The Hermans want to provide a friendly fly shop for the Golden community. "It goes back to wanting to have a place for novice and professional fly-fishers," Nick Herman said.

It should be an entertaining presentation, and more knowledge about streamer fishing is always appreciated

Guest Fly Tier- Staff from Arbor Anglers Fly Shop

April	
5	Chapter Meeting
10	Board Meeting 7PM
12	Windy Peak
12,13,14	Fishing Buddies
18	Fly Tiers' Night Out

20	Fishing Buddies
21,22,23	CTU Rendezvous, Keystone,
26	Windy Peak
26	April Clear Creek Water Sampling
29,30,1,2,3	Chapter Fishing Trip to the Green River
May	
3	Chapter Meeting
3	2017 Fantasy Raffle
4,10	Windy Peak
16	Fly Tiers' Night Out
19,20,21	Golden Games
21	Women's Fly Fishing Clinic
31	May Clear Creek Water Sampling
Note! Our Chapter Meetings are held at the	

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











