



ANGLERS' EDGE



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.'

West Denver Chapter Trout Unlimited Organization And Officers: 2018

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Anglers' Edge

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We want your contributions such as guest editorials, letters-to-the-editor, photographs, big fish photos, trip reports, etc. Send them to the editor via email at rosyranunculus@gmail.com.

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The President's Message

We now begin a new year only to wonder in the back of our minds whether there will be enough water in the streams to fish this summer. If we all think positively, perhaps the real winter snow will arrive, but be late in turning our hills and mountains their “white gold.”

Meanwhile, our projects and events for the chapter will go on. Planning for the annual fly tying clinic has been extensive this year because of many of the changes you will see on February 10. This is our 42nd year for this community-involved event. Each clinic of the past forty-two years has grown better and better. Thanks to all of those who have stepped up to transform this event into a success.

Colorado Trout Unlimited also becomes alive for the beginning of a new year with activities that involve the twenty-four chapters in the state. Their annual Gala comes up in early March and I am hoping we will have a good turn out from our chapter. Details about attending will be made available in the next couple of weeks. Thanks to all those who enjoy attending!!

Our March chapter event is being planned and was announced last month. The Rainbow Falls Fishing Day is March 10. Check the West Denver website for the details because there will be a limited number of rods allowed. The slots fill up quickly. Our website is a great source for any information about local events in which our chapter has developed.

There are many chapter members to thank for getting each of our events off the ground. Each year, many of the activities get tweaked a bit to make them more successful.

Don't forget to take a minute or two to thank those members who work on chapter events; they are the ones who go above and beyond on their own time.

If the fish aren't bit'in, find a soft rock rest your weary body in the sunshine while you listen carefully to identify the far off animal sounds of crunching snow and twigs snapping – oh, my, yes it is a lone deer meandering toward you – what a grand sight while fishing on a quiet outing!!!!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jackie". The script is cursive and fluid, with a large initial "J" and a trailing flourish.

WE WANT YOU!



Tell us about your best day on the water. Tell us about your worst day. Tell us about your favorite fly or your favorite fishing spot. Your fellow anglers would love to read about any of these things and more!

Write up a short 300-500 word piece and email it, with a few pictures, to the editor, Alexa, at rosyranunculus@gmail.com. If you're more of a photographer, email cover shot submissions, as well.

We look forward to learning more about you!

ADVERTISER'S SPOTLIGHT

by Jon Weimer

Clear Creek Outdoors—Rob Brozovich

(This article is part of a series of articles providing background information on our paid advertisers and reflecting our appreciation of their support over the years).

Rob Brozovich, owner of the Clear Creek Outdoors store in Idaho Springs, whose ad has appeared in our newsletter for close to a decade, is a rare breed: he was born and raised in Colorado (Arvada). He went to the University of Wisconsin on a baseball scholarship (“Go Badgers!” says Rob). Rob says that after baseball, he felt he needed something to fill the void of not playing baseball anymore. That void was filled by fly tying and fly fishing. He met Marc Leonard, owner of the Your Fishing Partner fly shop in Idaho Springs, and Marc got Rob interested in tying flies. According to Rob, he bought fly tying material and tied like a man possessed. He said he outgrew the Your Fishing Partner fly shop (limited fly tying material) and proceeded to the Blue Quill fly shop where they had a more expansive selection of fly tying material. He felt he eventually outgrew that shop and inevitably wound up at Charlie’s Fly Box, spending a great deal of time with Greg Garcia, whom Rob feels really helped him start his fly fishing and fly tying career. Rob said he felt he was single-handedly putting Charlie’s kids through college, what with all the fly tying material and lessons he was buying at the Fly Box, so he decided to purchase a fly shop of his own and tie to his heart’s content.

Marc Leonard decided to retire, so Rob bought Your Fishing Partner and converted it into Clear Creek Outdoors. Rob says he quickly realized that the store could not just be a fly shop, so he expanded it to sell all kinds of outdoor gear, and that has been a key factor in the store’s success. Rob loves fly fishing for trout but, of late, he has taken his fly fishing to new levels, from fly fishing for muskies in Utah to fly fishing for smallmouth bass in Minnesota. He bought himself a bass boat to be able to go on any still water to target any freshwater fish. He says he loves his fishing and he loves his outdoor store, which carries some of the highest quality products manufactured by local companies like Voormi, Yampa Rods, Peak Visers, Out There Packs, Fishpond, and Umpqua. It’s a great shop, and you should make an effort to visit Rob and/or his assistant, Josh.

Rob is not prone to toot his own horn, so I’ll do it for him. Over the years, he has always given the Chapter items from his store for the silent auction and/or bucket raffle at our Fly Tying Clinic and for our Fantasy Raffle. He has been a guest speaker for us a number of times (he’s an expert photographer, whose photos have enhanced his presentations). He has tied for us at the Fly Tying Clinic. He and his wife own a liquor store in Idaho Springs, so he has donated beer for our monthly chapter meetings. His magnanimity to our Chapter is impressive. Yeah, he’s a paid advertiser, but he’s also a true friend to our organization.



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WDTU Graduate Fellowship Award



Brian Wolff is the 2017-18 recipient of the WDTU Graduate Fellowship. He is a third year Ph.D. Candidate in Ecology in the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology at Colorado State University. Brian's research focuses on how heavy metals affect the food chain, from microbes to insects and, ultimately, brown

trout. Another aim of his research is focused on the effects of habitat restoration in macro invertebrate populations and brown trout at a Superfund site in the Arkansas River near Leadville, CO. Brian will present his work at the chapter meeting on April 4.

Why we should celebrate

An angler documents his pursuit of the uglier species.

by Ben Goldfarb, High Country News

This story was originally published at High Country News (hcn.org) on July 24, 2017. Reprinted with permission.

Listen up, water-loving Westerners: We've got a problem. A trout problem. For decades, anglers have fetishized these silvery stream-dwellers, maniacally pursuing rainbows, browns and brookies to the neglect of other underwater life. Every year, obliging fish managers pump America's waterways full of millions of hatchery-born trout, diluting gene pools and overwhelming native species. We fishermen consider ourselves enlightened stewards, but our trout myopia reveals our true self-centeredness. And let's not even get started on bass.



American eel (Anguilla rostrata)

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Fortunately, there are plenty more fish in the sea — to say nothing of rivers, creeks and lakes. For anyone seeking a deeper understanding of what lies beneath the surface of Western waterways, *Beautifully Grotesque Fish of the American West* offers a lively primer to the region's aquatic biodiversity. Over the course of 11 chapters, Mark Spitzer, a writing professor at the University of Central Arkansas and a certified angling addict, travels the country seeking the kinds of experiences that you're unlikely to find valorized in the pages of *Field & Stream*: ice-fishing for burbot in Utah's Flaming Gorge Reservoir, bounty-hunting for pikeminnow in the Columbia River in Washington, snagging paddlefish in Missouri. (Spitzer has a decidedly liberal geographic definition of the West.) "Give me your wretched, your

maligned, your demonized — this has always been my motto," he writes.

Spitzer's shtick is to love the unlovely, to venerate the homely stalwarts that make up in resilience what they lack in conventional beauty. This is a writer whose master's thesis was a novel about a "misunderstood, man-eating catfish," and whose first two nonfiction books profiled the alligator gar, a gargantuan primitive fish with a crocodilian smile. You might think that a lifetime of scribbling about gruesome freshwater monsters would have scratched that particular itch, yet Spitzer's ardor for the ugly remains powerful. He rhapsodizes about the razorback sucker, a "quasi-Quasimodo with an elongated horsey head"; the paddlefish and its "crazy flat spatulated nose"; and the way American eels swim together in "spermy formation." Granted, not all the fish he targets truly deserve the grotesque label: You get the distinct feeling that he includes a chapter on muskellunge — a sleek, tiger-striped predator that's gorgeous by anyone's definition — simply because he yearns to catch one.



American paddlefish (Polyodon spathula)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Duane Raver

Just as Spitzer revels in homely fish, he delights in less-than-scenic landscapes, especially ones dominated by human activity. He does his best fishing in reservoirs, below dams, and along what he dubs the Industrial Edge, "ecotones of smokestacks and cinderblocks and rusty pipes and climbing ivies" where the built and natural environments collide. On

continued on page 9

unlovely fish

Oregon's Willamette River, across the channel from railroad tracks and homeless camps, he lands dinosaur-like sturgeon, ancient fish that were swimming Western rivers back when hominids were just a glint in evolution's eye.

Spitzer has a soft spot for invasive species, too. After netting non-native carp, he opines, perhaps optimistically, "that we can strike a balance with non-indigenous species and incorporate them into our cultures." Slathered in teriyaki sauce and curry paste, he discovers, carp and hideous snakehead fish aren't half bad. If you can't beat 'em, eat 'em.



Brown bullhead catfish (Ictalurus nebulosus)
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory

Occasionally, the author turns the lens inward, to the grotesqueries of his own life. Spitzer makes passing reference to an acrimonious divorce, the death of his mother, and, finally, a winsome new partner. In one passage, landing 6-foot-long gar in Texas soothes his bitterness about the dissolution of his marriage, providing a redemptive connection to "that youthful capacity for wondering and marveling at what this world has to offer." During such moments, you can glimpse the contours of a more personal — and emotionally richer — book lurking just beneath the surface: a fisherman's version

of *Wild*, with, say, the Missouri River standing in for the Pacific Crest Trail. Spitzer angles half the rivers in the West, but he never satisfyingly plumbs his own depths.



What *Beautifully Grotesque Fish* lacks in soul-searching, though, it makes up in soul: It's a paean to the ignored, an homage to the uncelebrated. It's about embracing the nature we have, whatever it looks like, wherever it swims. (There's also plenty of technical advice for fishermen hoping to duplicate Spitzer's quirky exploits: The best lure on which

we learn, is "either a rubber tube or a grub" deployed using a "plunking action.") In the end, Spitzer's book offers a fishing manifesto for a human-dominated planet — call it "Angling in the Anthropocene." May trout have company in our hearts, and on our lines.

Beautifully Grotesque Fish of the American West

Mark Spitzer

222 pages: \$24.95.

University of Nebraska Press, 2017.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7th Chapter Meeting



Guest Speaker: **David Oonk**

David Oonk is a PhD student at the University of Colorado's Center for Science and Technology Policy Research studying how science influences the policy process around issues of energy production, environmental conservation and public health. More specifically,

the research focuses on how citizens and communities can engage in 'citizen science' and how those efforts contribute to decision-making. He will speak for a short time about the Backcountry Limnology Project, a citizen science project.

Guest Speaker: **Ryan Anderson of Wyoming Fly Fishing**



Ryan Anderson has been guiding for 17 years: 2 seasons in Alaska as a fly out fly fishing guide and 15 seasons here on the North Platte. Ryan has fished all over the world but truly loves his home water in Wyoming.

Ryan will be giving away a float trip at the meeting, so don't miss this one!

Guest Fly Tier: from Arbor Anglers

Fly Tying Clinic

February 10th

9am to 3pm

Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 W 6th Ave Frontage Rd, Golden, CO 80401

The West Denver Chapter of Trout Unlimited is proud to present its 42nd Annual Fly Tying Clinic on February 10, 2018 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. This event features over 50 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 from a local fly shop. Children 12 years of age and under are free.

February Board Meeting

February 12th

6:30pm to 8pm

Golden Public Library, 1122 Washington Ave, Golden

Fly Tier's Night Out

February 20th

7pm to 8:30pm

Grand Lake Brewing, 5610 Yukon Street, Arvada

Bass Pro Spring Fishing Classic

February 24th & 25th

Bass Pro, Northfield, 7970 Northfield Blvd, Denver

WDTU needs volunteers to represent us at the Bass Pro Spring Fishing Classic. To volunteer, please call or email: Bob Clark 303-594-0665 ridenfish@msn.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 7th Chapter Meeting



Guest Speaker: Pat Dorsey of Blue Quill Angler

A Colorado native, Pat Dorsey has been guiding and fly tying for over 25 years. He spends approximately two hundred days a year on the water. Pat has authored several books, including the definitive

work, *A Fly Fishing Guide to the South Platte River*. He is an accomplished fly tyer, and has invented many famous patterns, including the Mercury midge and the Black Beauty. Pat co-owns the Blue Quill Angler.

Guest Fly Tier: Jay Hayes of Golden River Sports

March Board Meeting

March 12th

6:30pm to 8pm

Golden Public Library, 1122 Washington Ave, Golden

Fly Tier's Night Out

March 20th

7pm to 8:30pm

Grand Lake Brewing, 5610 Yukon Street, Arvada

April 4th Chapter Meeting



***Guest Speaker:
Brian Wolff, the
2017-18 recipient of
the WDTU Graduate
Fellowship
(see page 7)***

April Board Meeting

April 9th

6:30pm to 8pm

Golden Public Library, 1122 Washington Ave, Golden

Fly Tier's Night Out

April 17th

7pm to 8:30pm

Grand Lake Brewing, 5610 Yukon Street, Arvada

2018 Western Regional Rendezvous

April 27th & 28th

8am to 5pm

Keystone Resort and Conference Center, 22010 US-6, Keystone

Fly Fishing Rendezvous

April 28th & 29th

Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 W 6th Ave, Golden

May 2nd Chapter Meeting and 2018 Fantasy Raffle

Guest Speaker:

Peter Jaacks of Fly Fishing Alaska



Guest Speaker:

Ben Helgeson, "MIND THE REDD"

Guest Fly Tier: Vinnie

Pachelli, WDTU member

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Hello West Denver Trout Unlimited members. We have some upcoming events where we will need volunteers to sell tickets for our Fantasy Raffle and support our chapter. Please let me know as soon as you can which event(s) you would like to help

with (specify event, date, time/shift). The first priority is the Bass Pro Spring Fishing Classic as I need to turn in names soon. These will be first come, first served. Thanks in advance.

Bob Clark, 303-594-0665

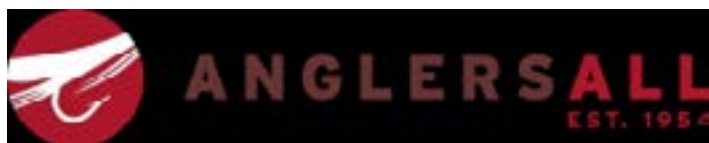
The events are:



Bass Pro Spring Fishing Classic 2/24/18, 2/25/18: two shifts each day (10:00 - 1:00 and 1:00 - 5:00). 2 needed for each shift (8 total). Lunch and (possible) discounts included (not set yet) Venue is Bass Pro Shops Northfield



CTU River Stewardship Gala 3/8/18: one shift (4:00 - 10:00) for the whole event. 2 needed, one filled (Gerri Reffle). Dinner included. Venue is Mile High Station (near Mile High Stadium).



Anglers All Clave 4/21/18: one shift (8:00 - 2:00). 2 needed. Lunch ticket provided (last year was BBQ), outdoors venue is Anglers All (South Santa Fe).



Ascent Flyfishing Spring Rendezvous 4/28/18, 4/29/18: two shifts each day (8:00 - 12:00 and 12:00 - 5:00). 2 needed for each shift (8 total). Venue is Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

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1/8 Page	\$3.50	\$21.00	\$38.00
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

Email Jon Weimer for more information.



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ABOUT TU

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.”

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.

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.

Jackie Edwards
Linda Miyamoto

jaxedw@gmail.com
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 next Chapter meeting and give it to Jackie. She will take care of the rest.

WDTU Chapter and Board Meetings

Note:

Chapter Meetings are held at the
American Mountaineering Center, 710
10th Street, Golden, Colorado 80401
6:30 - 7:00 PM: Welcoming-Fly Tying Demo
7:00 - 7:30 PM: Chapter Business
7:30 - 8:45 PM: Speaker

Board Meetings are held at the Old Capitol Grill,
1122 Washington Ave., Golden, Colorado 80401



www.tu.org



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