



# ANGLERS' EDGE

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



Bi-Monthly Newsletter

West Denver Chapter of Trout Unlimited

December 2018, Vol. 24, No.6

[www.westdenvertu.org](http://www.westdenvertu.org)



## 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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Assistant Editor/ Advertising Mgr:	Jon Weimer	303-830-1609
Photography:	Dr. John Pern	
Circulation:	Jackie Edwards	303-278-2282
	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 via email at [rosyanunculus@gmail.com](mailto:rosyanunculus@gmail.com).



cover story:

Linda and Dan with guide Dan Pass on a float trip on the Big Horn River through Thermopolis.

photo by Daniel Sullivan

# Limnology Study

by Ed Calmus



*Murray Lake*



*Silver Dollar Lake*

West Denver TU recently partnered with Colorado University's Dr. David Oonk to conduct a limnology study of high mountain lakes. This study will create baseline data, which will later be used to measure the impacts of climate change.

Limnology is a study of water quality. Our volunteers hiked to high mountain lakes and recorded:

- GPS coordinates
- Elevation
- Weather
- Air temperature
- Water temperature
- Acidity or basicity (Ph)
- Water clarity (turbidity)

Clarity is measured with a transparent tube called a secchi tube. The tube is 122 cm (4 feet) long, made of clear plastic, and has a release valve at the bottom. The tube is filled with lake water. Looking down into the tube, water is released through the valve until the black and white symbol at the bottom of the tube is visible. The depth of the water when the symbol becomes visible is recorded in centimeters, which are marked on the side of the tube. A greater transparency reading in centimeters reflects higher water clarity.

Transparency of water is affected by a number of factors. Both dissolved and suspended materials can influence water transparency. For most water bodies, the amount of solids

suspended in the water is the most important factor: the more suspended materials, the lower the water transparency. In lakes, the majority of suspended solids are algae.

Keith Greenwell of WDTU took measurements of Silver Dollar Lake, elevation 12,000 feet, on August 8th. He found a Ph of 8.5 and a secchi tube reading of greater than >120 centimeters. That means the bottom of the tube was visible when the tube was full. These readings indicate good water quality.

Does a good water quality equal good fish habitat? Keith thinks so!



The CU limnology study will be continuing in 2019. If you would like join our conservation team, contact Rick Dornfeld at [rickdornfeld@msn.com](mailto:rickdornfeld@msn.com).

# Thermopolis

story and photos by Daniel Sullivan



**W**e used to call them “mental health days”—days when you called in sick but really weren’t. Just a day to veg out, sleep in, clear the mind and reduce the stress that seemed to be an intrinsic part of corporate life. Going to Thermopolis was very similar to that. Getting away from Denver with its traffic, noise and pace of life and traveling through Wyoming where each mile seemed to see fewer cars, more open space and more undeveloped land that lets your shoulders relax, lets your mind ease and lets you refresh a bit. OK, I know that Denver is not like LA or New York, but everything is relative and visiting Thermopolis

kinda highlighted how hectic life can be here, if you let it.

Linda and I were fortunate enough to win the raffle last year and get a free guided fishing trip. We were even more fortunate to have Dan Pass chosen as our guide. Dan is a certified guide in Wyoming and knows the Big Horn River like the kids know SpongeBob. In fact, he seems to know pretty much all of Wyoming like that.

We took a float trip on the Big Horn River through Thermopolis. Upstream from where we put in is an Indian

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# Thermopolis

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reservation where the Big Horn is called the Wind River. As we were driving into Thermopolis, we passed through the Wind River Canyon on the Reservation, a really rugged, sharply featured canyon. Fishing on the reservation requires special permission and a license that can be a bit costly. But we didn't need to do that because the stretch of river we fished on was spectacular and opened to the public. This was the first time Linda and I fished the river and we could not have been more pleased. We did not catch a lot of fish. According to Dan, the dams upstream released epic amounts of water a year or so ago when runoff was so large that they felt the dams were being threatened. This washed about three out of four fish downstream. (BTW: I just found out that the fish have returned en masse). I've always felt that fishing was more than just racking up the number of fish caught, or who caught the largest fish or first fish (unless, of course, determining who purchases beer is involved) and this kinda proved that point. The scenery was amazing, the wildlife we encountered was captivating, and the fish we did catch were strong, healthy, and beautiful.

Thermopolis is a very interesting small town. It's about the size of Fariplay, but it seems more convenient since it has several motels/hotels, restaurants, liquor stores, and

a supermarket. So, if you left home without it, you can probably find it in Thermopolis. Dan owns the Two Rivers Inn in Thermopolis which is where we stayed. If you go there and stay at his place, Dan might tell you how to get the place on the Greybull River where we fished on the second day. Where we fished is quite high in the mountains in a gorgeous valley that was also the launching point for a number of guided hunting trips that use horses for transport. This is actually very interesting to see. The river is loaded with Yellowstone Cutthroats that will take flies that you can actually see from a distance. Again, just being there was enough for me.

On the way to the Greybull, we passed through a farmland that raised alfalfa, which attracted hordes of deer and antelope. Apparently, this is where they come to play. I've never seen so many. It's worth the trip just to see them, like looking at bears was the main reason for visiting Yellowstone when I was a kid. But these animals are wild, not accustomed to humans, and stunning.

Hopefully the person who wins the raffle this year will be as lucky as we were. By the way, we've already purchased our

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## December Chapter Meeting

**December 5th, 6:30pm to 8:30pm**

**Am Mountaineering Center, 710 10th Street, Golden**

Speaker: Kerry Caraghar

Topic: Fishing Close to Home

Kerry is a native Coloradan who grew up fishing the beaver ponds of Buffalo Creek near his grandfather's hotel. He became an Orvis Endorsed guide and instructor in 1988 and has guided and conducted schools for the Flyfisher, the Blue Quill Angler, Angler's All, and Aspen Outfitting. Kerry joined the Orvis Company in 2005 and in 2008 received the Fishing Manager of the year award before retiring from Orvis Cherry Creek in 2015. He is currently the Director of Fly Fishing Schools and a guide at The Blue Quill Angler and a passionate proponent of fishing close to home on Front Range waters.

Bring a non-perishable food item to our Chapter meeting and get a raffle ticket for a chance to win a fabulous prize. All food items donated will be given to the Arvada food bank. Please be generous.

## December Board Meeting

**December 10th, 6:30pm to 8:00pm**

**Golden Public Library, 1122 Washington Ave, Golden**

Second Monday of every month December 10, 6:30 - 8:00 pm Golden Public Library 1019 10th St, Golden

## Fly Tiers' Night Out

**December 18th, 7:00pm to 8:30pm**

**Grand Lake Brewing, 5610 Yukon Street, Arvada**

West Denver TU and Grand Lake Brewing host a fly tying night on the third Tuesday of the month, from August through June. Besides craft beer they have a full menu. All levels of tiers are welcome.

## January Chapter Meeting

**January 2nd, 6:30pm to 8:30pm**

**Am Mountaineering Center, 710 10th Street, Golden**

Bring a non-perishable food item to our Chapter meeting and get a raffle ticket for a chance to win a fabulous prize. All food items donated will be given to the Arvada food bank. Please be generous.

## Fly Fishing Show 2019

**January 4, 2019 - January 6, 2019**

Mark your calendars! The 2019 Fly Fishing Show is scheduled in Denver for January 4, 5, 6 2019. There will be opportunities for our members to volunteer at our booth at the show.

## January Board Meeting

**January 14th, 6:30pm to 8:00pm**

**Golden Public Library, 1122 Washington Ave, Golden**

Second Monday of every month December 10, 6:30 - 8:00 pm Golden Public Library 1019 10th St, Golden

## Fly Tiers' Night Out

**January 15th, 7:00pm to 8:30pm**

**Grand Lake Brewing, 5610 Yukon Street, Arvada**

West Denver TU and Grand Lake Brewing host a fly tying night on the third Tuesday of the month, from August through June. Besides craft beer they have a full menu. All levels of tiers are welcome.

## February Chapter Meeting

**January 30th, 6:30pm to 8:30pm**

**Am Mountaineering Center, 710 10th Street, Golden**

Bring a non-perishable food item to our Chapter meeting and get a raffle ticket for a chance to win a fabulous prize. All food items donated will be given to the Arvada food bank. Please be generous.

## Fly Tying Clinic

**February 9th, 9:00am to 3:00pm**

**Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 W 6th Ave, Golden**

The West Denver Chapter of Trout Unlimited is proud to present its 43rd Annual Fly Tying Clinic on February 9, 2019 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

## February Board Meeting

**February 11th, 6:30pm to 8:00pm**

**Golden Public Library, 1122 Washington Ave, Golden**

Second Monday of every month December 10, 6:30 - 8:00 pm Golden Public Library 1019 10th St, Golden

## Fly Tiers' Night Out

**February 19th, 7:00pm to 8:30pm**

**Grand Lake Brewing, 5610 Yukon Street, Arvada**

West Denver TU and Grand Lake Brewing host a fly tying night on the third Tuesday of the month, from August through June. Besides craft beer they have a full menu. All levels of tiers are welcome.

## March Chapter Meeting

**March 6th, 6:30pm to 8:30pm**

**Am Mountaineering Center, 710 10th Street, Golden**

## March Board Meeting

**March 11th, 6:30pm to 8:00pm**

**Golden Public Library, 1122 Washington Ave, Golden**

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# Colorado says fishing next to private land is trespassing

*But that could change on the Arkansas River if a legal decision declares it navigable.*

*by Mark Squillace/High Country News*

*This story was originally published at High Country News (hcn.org) on May 17, 2018.*

If you care about fishing or boating Colorado's rivers, this ongoing legal case should have relevance for you. Roger Hill is a 76-year-old Coloradan who likes to fish while standing on the bed of a stream. One of his favorite spots is a stretch of the Arkansas River below Salida.

A local landowner claims that Hill is trespassing when he stands on the streambed adjacent to the landowner's property. He has responded by repeatedly throwing rocks at Hill while he is fishing and leaving threatening notes on his car. The landowner even shot at one of Hill's fishing buddies, though he was thrown in jail for that little stunt.

Hill claims a right to fish from the streambed on the grounds

that the stretch of the Arkansas River where he fishes is navigable and that the state of Colorado thereby owns the bed of the stream. So he sued the landowner.

Now, Colorado has moved to dismiss the case, arguing that it cannot go forward without the state's participation. In a complicated argument, the state also claims that because it has not consented to being sued, the case must be dismissed. Mind you, the state could simply waive its immunity claim and support the right of people like Hill to fish. Instead, the state is actively seeking to block Hill's claim that he has the right to access navigable streams.

The notion that states own the beds of navigable streams derives from a constitutional principle known as the "equal footing doctrine." It provides that when states enter the union, they do so on an "equal footing" with other states. Though Colorado is home to many substantial rivers and streams, none have ever been officially declared "navigable" for purposes of determining title to the bed.

This is a much bigger problem in Colorado than in most states. In Colorado, you are deemed a trespasser if you merely float over a riverbed adjacent to private property. As a result, Colorado recreational boaters and fishers use Colorado's waterways at the sufferance of private landowners. One good way around this problem is to have them declared "navigable" for title purposes, and



*A rafter floats the Arkansas River near Salida, Colorado.*

*Bob Wick / BLM*

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# ADVERTISER'S SPOTLIGHT

by Jon Weimer

## Golden River Sports—Bart Pinkham

*(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).*

**B**art Pinkham, owner of the Golden River Sports shop, is originally from Connecticut but spent every available moment in the outdoors. His first love was kayaking, and that's what drew him out West. He went to Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington and, after school, ended up in Colorado working and living in the Vail Valley for a few years. Wanting a change, he moved to Denver to work at Confluence Kayaks. He said he had always known that he wanted to own his own business in the outdoor industry, and so he worked his way through the retail world and served as a representative in the kayak industry. In 2004, he was invited to manage the kayaking part of Golden River Sports shop which had just opened early in the year. He saw this as another great opportunity to get some more experience and it opened him up to a new sport—fly fishing. Over the next few years, he expanded his knowledge of fly fishing and retail business. In 2007, he was given the opportunity to purchase Golden River Sports when the owners wanted to retire.

Fast forwarding to the present, he said he's amazed that he has owned his own business for about 10 years. Bart says that Golden River Sports has grown substantially over the years, starting out in one space, and then, in 2011, expanding to their current size. He says it was tough over the years, going into a recession and then coming out of it right into the 2012 low-water year. He says he's realized over the years that the key to success is giving your customers the best service, and always being honest. He says Golden River Sports has survived big box stores moving in and even some competition right there in Golden, but he feels his shop is unique because they are also a paddle sports store. While the two sports have been at odds at times in the past, Bart thinks they have been able to serve all of their customers to the fullest, and he feels that their success in combining these sports allows them to survive the wild weather and water swings they are experiencing every year now. There is also more crossover products which have helped to develop better ways to get to the fish, according to Bar. Fishing Kayaks and

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*Photo by Brett Hochmuth*

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# Trespassing

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*The Arkansas River flowing through Browns Canyon National Monument near Salida, Colorado.*

*Bob Wick / BLM*

that is what Roger Hill is seeking to do on the Arkansas River.

The U.S. Supreme Court considers waterways to be navigable for title purposes if they were used or could have been used at the time of statehood as highways for commerce. It is well known that fur traders used the Arkansas River to move their furs, and loggers once sent hundreds of thousands of logs downstream for use as railroad ties. That seems to be evidence that the state owns the bed of the river — not in the conventional sense of a party owning land, but as a protector of public rights.

The Supreme Court’s most eloquent expression of the state

as protector of access came in the context of a decision upholding Illinois’ rights to the bed of Lake Michigan in Chicago Harbor. According to the Supreme Court, title to the bed of navigable water bodies “is a title different in character from that which the state holds in lands intended for sale. ... It is a title held in trust for the people of the state, that they may enjoy the navigation of the waters, carry on commerce over them, and have liberty of fishing therein, freed from the obstruction or interference of private parties.”

If the state were properly exercising its trust responsibility

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# Golden River Sports

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Stand Up Paddle Boards are a great way to get to some of those hard-to-reach spots.

Bart feels he has been lucky to have been involved in two great outdoor industries. While working for himself has always been one of his goals, he finds he has had less time for his own participation in these sports that he loves. However, he says he lives vicariously through the experiences his customers have. According to Bart, there is nothing like the smile on someone's face who has just caught their first fish on a fly, or gotten their first combat roll in a kayak (i.e., righting themselves in the middle of a rapid). He feels it is also important to have lots of good community partners and to work with programs that promote the growth of our youth

involvement and the environment. Bart says we all have to work hard to protect the resources that are available to us, allowing us the chance to be involved in our community and promote the outdoor sports that we love.

I've always felt that Golden River Sports has flown under the radar of a lot of anglers, perhaps because there is a great deal of emphasis placed on kayaking. But, don't be fooled. Golden River Sports is a complete fly fishing shop—lots of flies and lots of top-notch fishing equipment and wearing apparel. They have a new fishing manager, Kyle, who knows his stuff and who oversees a staff of guides who are well-versed with the local fishing scene. This should be a destination shop for the avid fly fisher.

## Trespass

*continued from page 10*

to the people of Colorado, then it would have filed this case itself on behalf of Roger Hill. Short of that, it might at least have intervened on his side after the lawsuit was filed, or even just stayed out of the dispute.

Instead, it seeks to dismiss the case and thereby undermine all the boaters and fishers who merely want to exercise the rights guaranteed to them by the U.S. Constitution. Think about what this means: State leaders charged with protecting public rights in navigable waters are actively seeking to block those rights.

Colorado is renowned for its outdoor recreation, and it seems foolhardy for it to interfere with citizens seeking to exercise their constitutionally protected rights to state waterways. Come November, the people of Colorado will elect a new governor and a new attorney general. We need to elect leaders who will stand up for the people and protect our public rights, including the public's constitutional right to access Colorado's remarkable navigable waterways.


## Thermopolis

*continued from page 6*




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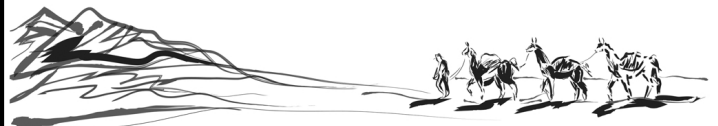
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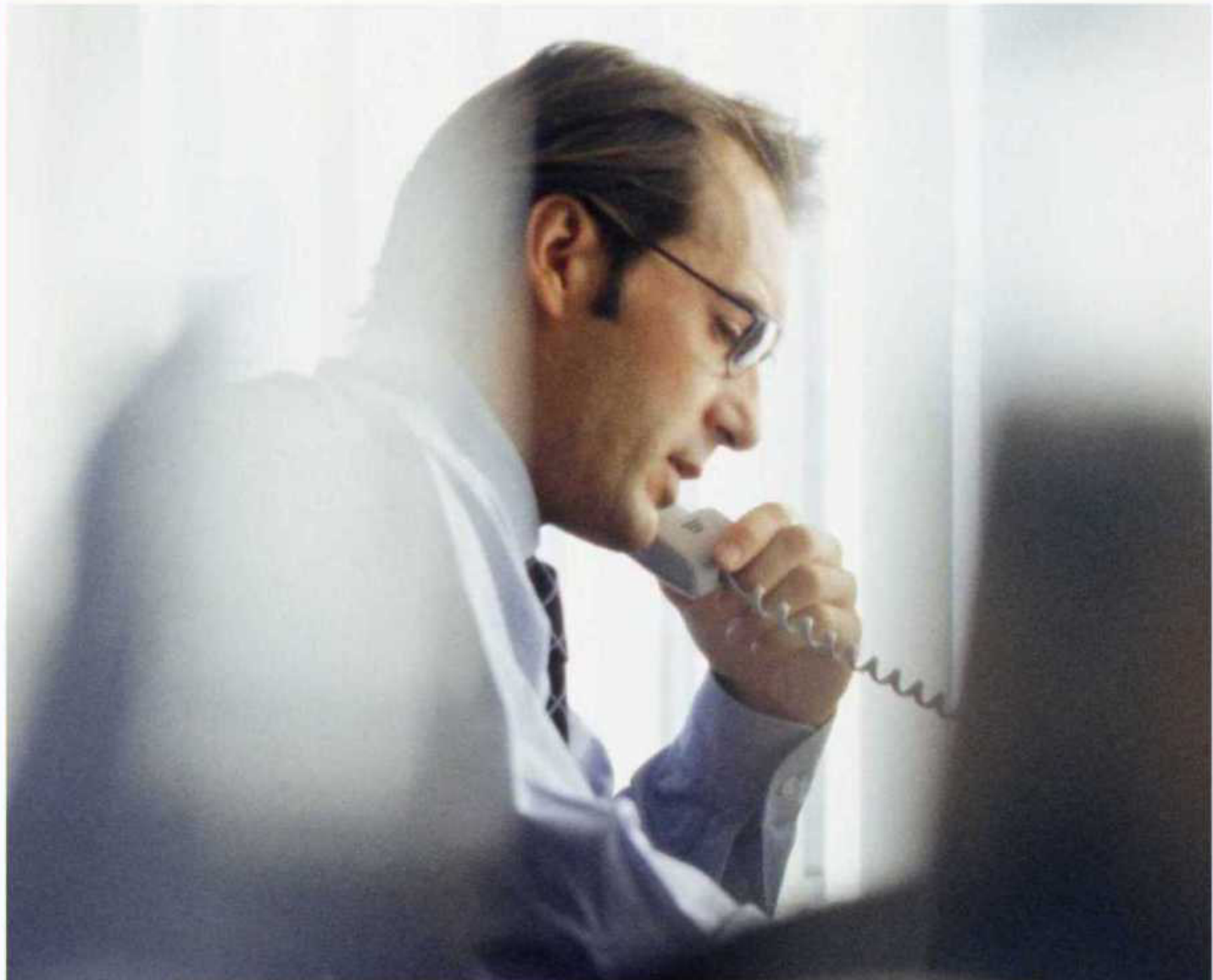


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Email Jon Weimer for more information.



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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 [jaxedw@gmail.com](mailto:jaxedw@gmail.com)  
Linda Miyamoto [sullimoto@gmail.com](mailto: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 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 Golden Library, 1019 10th St, Golden, CO 80401

Nominations for the Chapter Officers will begin at the April Chapter Meeting. Nominations for the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary will be accepted. If you or someone you know who would like to serve as a Chapter officer, you may make the nomination at the Chapter meeting or any time up to the Chapter Meeting in June when the election will be held.