



ANGLERS' EDGE

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



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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Other Directors:

Advertising Mgr:	Jon Weimer	303-830-1609
Anglers' Edge Editor:	Alexa Metrick	303-910-9176
Assistant Editor:	Jon Weimer	303-830-1609
Chapter Counsel:	Bruce Ducker	303-861-2828
Communications:	Jackie Edwards	303-278-2282
Database Manager:	Dan Sullivan	303-423-5616
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Directors at Large:	Glen Edwards	303-278-2282
	Cal Noguchi	303-452-1030
	Jon Weimer	303-830-1609

Anglers' Edge

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Editor:	Alexa Metrick	303-910-9176
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 rosyranunculus@gmail.com.

On The Cover:

A Glenn J. Asakawa photo of part of the Mahaffy Cache collection at the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History.

The hand in the photo is that of Dr. Dan Bamforth. The tool in his hand is the one that got Rick's attention when it was seen in the display case. This photo appeared in a 10.07. 2015 CU Boulder Today article titled, "13,000 Year Old Stone Tool Cache Set for Exhibit at CU Boulder."

Dr. Doug Bamforth, the principal CU researcher on the Mahaffy Cache, is prominent in the article "Stone Tools and Trout," page 5.

43rd ANNUAL

FLY TYING CLINIC

February 9, 2019 | 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Jefferson County Fairgrounds

WEST DENVER TROUT UNLIMITED

Design by DOMOTO

The President's Message

As we look forward to another fishing season, I am thankful for all the time, talent and treasure (yes, the cash) given by our volunteers and supporters. Those who contribute can tell you that the experiences are fun, satisfying, and rewarding.

We have dedicated volunteers on our board who have shouldered significant responsibilities and held multiple positions over many years. Our current model for success relies on someone to assume a role, assemble volunteers, and manage a program. This places a heavy burden on a single individual, and frankly, some of us are getting tired!!

To invite more members to get involved, we are reorganizing ourselves into teams. The most important are:

- Conservation
- Education
- Marketing/Communications
- Fundraising
- Membership/Leadership Development

I encourage you to become a member of one of these teams. For more information, please email me at ed.calmus@gmail.com. If you are not sure how you want to contribute, I invite you to attend a West Denver TU board meeting. They take place at 6:30 pm the second Monday of every month at the Golden Library conference room, 1019 10th St, Golden, CO 80401.

Happy New Year!



Stone Tools and Trout

story and photos by Rick Dornfeld, Conservation Team Leader, West Denver Trout Unlimited

In 2007 I was working on a stream restoration project on the Randy Montgomery Ranch near Dixon, Wyoming. The construction equipment on the project turned up a stone tool. My *Anglers Edge* article on the tool find appeared in the January 2014 issue. A year later, and by coincidence, a whole cache of stone tools was found in Patrick Mahaffy's Boulder, Colorado front yard. That story has been published far and wide. Just do a search on "Mahaffy Cache" and see the whole wonderful story. Of particular interest is the result of protein analysis which documented that some of the Mahaffy stone tools had been used to butcher prehistoric mammals. In 2018, the two stories intersected. My hypothesis is that the stone tool I found is the same age as the tools found in the Mahaffy Cache. I might even suggest the tools were made by the same people. Here's the story... along with a little review of the Montgomery stream restoration project.

The reach of Savery Creek that flows through Randy Montgomery's ranch has a flat gradient and flows in a very sinuous pattern through a silty substrate (Photo #1). Rocks are conspicuously absent. My restoration design plan for this reach included narrowing the active channel, changing the channel alignment in places, changing the slope on channel banks, and adding wood and boulders in the restored channel. Stocks Services Inc. commenced restoration work in August 2007.

The work started with some grading on the stream banks

(Photo #1). The grading work changed the bank slope from vertical down to about a 3:1 slope. To accomplish this, a bulldozer with a 12-foot-wide blade, working from on top of the creek terrace, pushed down the vertical bank. I'm guessing that the dozer unearthed a long-buried stone tool and moved it down to the water's edge along with the overburden.

One day, a curious rock got my attention (Photo #2). The rock was not hard to see. It was the only rock in the vicinity and it was colorfully red. I picked up the rock and soon saw evidence that it had been "worked" by human hands. This was an exciting moment! I was holding a tool made by someone long ago. Who made it? How old was it? What was it used for? These questions will likely remain unanswered. But it is an interesting intersection with some real science: the Mahaffy Cache.

In 2018, my wife Nancy and I visited the Mahaffy Cache display at the University of Colorado Natural History Museum on the Boulder campus. At that time, when we walked into the museum, there was no thought in my mind that the tools we were to see had any connection with the "Montgomery tool." Our intention was to see and learn about some really cool 13,000-year-old Clovis tools. Some are shown in Photo #3. As we looked at the tools and read

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#1 The Montgomery Ranch restoration site on Savery Creek



#2 The Montgomery Ranch biface stone tool, as found

The Environment and a Call for Volunteers

by Jon Weimer

“Oh no—Weimer is on his soapbox again!” I can just envision this being some members’ reaction to the following tirade. Almost every year, I feel compelled to rant and proselytize about environmental issues and the need for more volunteers—so, please bear with me.

In past issues of *Trout Magazine* and in deliberations held within Colorado Trout Unlimited, there have been discussions about whether local chapters should be pure “fishing clubs,” devoted to environmental and conservation issues, or both.

I know these discussions have occurred within our Chapter over the years. Soon after I joined West Denver, a Board officer expressed his frustration with members who appeared to be indifferent toward guest speakers and issues related to environmental and conservation matters. To my surprise and chagrin, he said that such members should not be associated with Trout Unlimited and would be better suited for another organization. My reply was that his statement was wrong-headed and elitist. Certainly, I stated, our Chapter should be able to accommodate members with varying interests and various motives for joining us. I indicated that I suspected that many members initially joined our Chapter to learn how to fish and where to fish, and there was nothing wrong with that.

Frankly, I joined West Denver in 2006 primarily because I wanted to fish with people who knew what they were doing and knew where to go. But, somewhere along the way, I noticed some subtle changes in my outlook. Let’s face it, everyone wants to catch fish, but some fly anglers really groove on the entomology; others like to tie flies and want to learn more about this craft; and still others (like me) enjoy the artistry of casting. However, I began to realize that in order to enjoy the privilege of fly fishing for beautiful fish in beautiful parts of the state, I should begin to take a more active part in trying to protect, if not enhance, our fisheries specifically and our environment generally. As one letter writer to a previous issue of *Trout* wrote, he understood “that if there are no rivers that are fishable, fishing clubs, as well as fishermen, become anachronisms.” Amen.

When you start fly fishing seriously, you realize that you are part of a community of like-minded individuals who

strive to reduce wanton environmental damage in favor of policies and situations that preserve the environment. And what better venue to do this than through a Trout Unlimited chapter such as ours?

As I’ve said before in other articles, I don’t want to advocate or encourage a bunker mentality, i.e., us against them, but as this country grapples with an uneven economy, organizations like ours are obligated to question and monitor the activities of extractive industries. I am fully aware and appreciate that there are some very conscientious oil/gas and mining companies out there, and I am not so naïve to think that this country is going to wean itself immediately from fossil fuels or certain metals. But we need to be on the alert for those efforts that seem intent on ravaging wilderness to satisfy the quest for profit. In addition to continually alerting the public and decision-makers about projects that threaten habitat, fly anglers can do much on their own to help conserve and protect our fisheries—for example, engage in catch-and-release practices, participate in clean-up and conservation projects, imbue others with the conservation ethic, report fishing regulation violations, leave no traces behind on your fishing trips, etc.

I realize that a number of our members are working full-time (if not overtime) to keep afloat. A number of our members are also raising families and simply do not have the time (or perhaps, the energy) to participate directly in conservation and environmentally-oriented activities that our Chapter conducts. And, in the small amount of time they have to themselves, they may simply just want to fish for the therapeutic value. That’s understandable. However, we would appreciate even a nominal amount of their time—three or four hours a year. But, if that’s not possible, they can still make a contribution without exerting a great deal of time and effort by simply keeping abreast of the legislation and campaigns revolving around Colorado water and energy issues by tapping into our website or that of Colorado Trout Unlimited. By doing this, West Denver members can contribute by signing petitions and/or donating funds for measures that will protect and restore trout habitat. In an issue of *Trout* a couple of years ago, the editor emphasized

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UPCOMING EVENTS

February Chapter Meeting

January 30th, 6:30pm to 9:00pm

Am. Mountaineering Center, 710 10th Street, Golden

Speaker: Duane Redford

Topic: *The Perfect Drift, Easy as X,Y,Z*

Guest Tier: Graham Moran



Duane Redford, a professional fly fishing guide, spends the majority of his days guiding on the South Platte River near Deckers, Colorado and on the Eagle River near Minturn, Colorado. He began his fly fishing career fishing the Rocky Mountain West and has been toting a fly rod for better than four decades.

As a retired teacher and coach, Duane has a unique, systematic approach to the river that he has used as the basis of his guiding for the last twelve years. This systematic approach, derived from guiding countless days on highly pressured, technical waters, has been refined over time and is easily understood.

When he's not guiding, Duane spends his time teaching fly fishing classes, blogging, tying, speaking, and writing. When he's not teaching, writing, or guiding, you'll find him on the river.

His latest presentation, *The Perfect Drift, Easy as X,Y,Z*, delves into the three dimensions involved within the perfect drift. Whether you're pitching dry flies, nymphing, tight-lining, or dry-dropping, this presentation has something for you. It also covers: lively bugs in a dead drift, the fly fishing formula, rod alignment, specialty casts and mends, and the X, Y and Z dimension approach, plus much more! Duane will have his books, *The Fly Fisher's Playbook 2nd Edition* and *Hidden in Plain View*, with him at the presentation. Show cost is \$20 for *Hidden in Plain View* and \$15 for *The Playbook*.

Graham Moran ties tenkara flies and is the head guide for Gear Colorado Fly Fishing

Donations Needed

WDTU needs donations for the Silent Auction, Bucket Raffle, book sale, fly tying material sale, and rummage sale at the Fly Tying Clinic. Any new items or good items that can be reused are welcome. You can either bring them to the next meeting—January 30—or to the Fly Tying Clinic before 9:30 on February 9th

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, 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

Second Monday of every month, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Golden Public Library, 1019 10th St, Golden

ADVERTISER'S SPOTLIGHT

by Jon Weimer

Arbor Anglers—Nick Herman

(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).

If you're an avid angler and live in the Denver metropolitan area, you're blessed to have an impressive array of fly shops in the area, as evidenced by some of our advertisers such as Charlie's Fly Box, Clear Creek Outfitters, and Golden River Sports. A new kid on the block is Arbor Anglers, which opened in Golden in late 2015.

The founder and now co-owner of Arbor Anglers is Nick Herman, a rare breed in that he was born and raised in Denver and graduated from the University of Colorado. He says that his family was in the roofing business for over 50 years, but that wasn't his bag. So when he finished college, he started a career in technology with Apple. He joined a few startups over the years, finally leaving the technology area in 2015. The last title was "Director of Enterprise Services."

Nick wanted to start a fly shop because he wanted to be the best dad he could be. He didn't want to be the grumpy dad coming home at the end of the day because he hated his job. His love, besides his wife, was fly fishing and he wanted to have a place where everyone felt comfortable. He wanted a place that avoided the "elite" fly fishing attitude that plagues this industry, including fly shops.

Arbor Anglers sells a marvelous array of fishing equipment and wearing apparel. And the shop offers a ton of special services. For example, during the summer months, the shop does a Fish-A-Long every week: attendees leave the shop at 6PM on a weekday night, drive for about 15 minutes to fishy waters, and fish until anglers can't see their flies. The shop does the same thing once a month during the winter

months on a weekend day. Arbor Anglers also offers fly tying classes and special events for women. And, as you might expect, Arbor Anglers offers guided trips.

The Golden shop has done so well that Nick and a co-owner have opened another shop in Lafayette; Nick's goal is to place shops in communities that need them and are currently underserved. Nick says that his number-one tenet of business is simple: respect and friendliness. He believes that if you lay out a good foundation, you then allow your team to build a sound house (shop). Arbor Anglers should be a destination stop for all serious anglers. Nick is a great guy—he'll treat you well (including giving you a discount if you're a WDTU member).

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Colorado's Rivers: A Report Card

Conservation Colorado

Colorado is famous for its raging rivers, cascading streams, and babbling creeks. The foundation of our landscapes is water, from the trickle of snowmelt in the mountains to the mighty Colorado River. But our rivers face many challenges, including climate change, water management, increasing demand, and water quality.



Colorado has eight major river basins, each of which is unique in its environment, people, economy, history, and cultural values. In the report, we analyze one river from each basin and assign it a letter grade based on factors including flow, amount of water diverted out of the basin, water quality, and major dams.

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Healing Waters

More Information On Take A Vet Fishing

by Rick Dornfeld, Conservation Team Leader, West Denver Trout Unlimited

Project Healing Waters has asked us for volunteers to Take a Vet Fishing. This is a great opportunity for us to give back to those who have served our country in the military. I have signed up as a volunteer and am looking forward to “fishing with a purpose.” Please give your attention to the following information from Eddy Wittry.

Project Healing Waters is a physical and emotional rehabilitation organization dedicated to serving disabled active military and veteran servicemen and women.

We are 100% free to those with a VA disability rating. There are two key things that occur when people fly fish: the first is that they can get them into present time. One fish, one cast, one fly, right now puts somebody in present time and the pain of the past begins to go away, allowing someone to heal. The second key dynamic in the organization is veterans in community with veterans. That dynamic is unique and is supportive allowing their common ground to become

relevant in their work to get better.

So what do we need in a volunteer? What makes a great mentor in our program? It’s not fishing skill, it’s not rehabilitation skills, it’s just a genuine desire to serve others who have served us. That’s it! Go out, have fun, and support the fisher right next to you.

A day of training is required. February 9th or February 23rd are the next scheduled training dates. Training starts at 10:00, either day. The training site is the upstairs room at The Original Brooklyns, a local pub just south of Colfax and a block east of Federal.

To start the application process, just text a cellphone message to number 42828 and type PHWFF in the memo line. That will link you to the very organized and thorough Healing Waters volunteer application process. Kindly send me a note at rickdornfeld@msn.com so I know who from WDTU is interested in this project.

The Environment

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the ability of Trout Unlimited members to crank up the volume on issues important to us through sheer numbers. Basically, in some way, we can all pitch in to help conserve, protect, and enhance our trout fisheries, no one way being better or worse than another.

I want to take time at this point to thank the efforts of our Conservation Director, Rick Dornfeld, who has strived to collaborate with both federal and state agencies to engage in trout restoration and habitat enhancement efforts. I know there are some factions out there who frown on working with government agencies, but the reality is that these agencies are often well-intentioned (if not always competent) and can possess invaluable resources to help us to fulfill our mission. I also suspect there are anti-government types chortling and smirking over the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) responsibility for the Animal River mine drainage fiasco a few years ago. Yes, EPA screwed up royally, but

this shouldn’t mask over the fact that the real culprit in this tragedy is Colorado’s legacy of abandoned metal mines with no culpable owners—that many mining companies over the years have maximized their profit by ignoring the environment and then abandoned their mess for the taxpayers to clean up.

Finally, we hopefully will have a number of fund-raising and small-scale hands-on restoration projects in the immediate future. If you believe you may be interested in these activities and/or want more information, contact President Ed Calmus or Conservation Director Rick Dornfeld and they’ll fill you in on upcoming projects.

There, that wasn’t so bad, was it? I hope everyone in the Chapter had a happy holiday season, and I hope to see more of you participating in our events/activities in 2019.

Colorado's Rivers

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GRADE KEY

- A EXCELLENT** - In excellent condition, and therefore must be cared for and preserved.
- B GOOD** - Fully functioning, but threatened. The river must be closely monitored and cared for to prevent any downgrades.
- C NEEDS WORK** - In mediocre condition and on the precipice of either recovery or failure. Needs attention to prevent further downgrades.
- D BAD** - Severely damaged from diversion, damming, or climate change and requiring immediate conservation action to prevent the total loss of its natural state.
- F FAILING** - Has been severely altered from its natural state. In dire need of action and/or changes to management practices.

In order to take action to protect our rivers, we must first know what it is that threatens them. By calling attention to some of the challenges that plague Colorado's rivers, we hope to increase awareness and public knowledge and spur action to protect, restore, and conserve Colorado's most valuable resource: water. [To read the full report, click here.](#)

Stone Tools and Trout

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#3 A University of Colorado photo of four biface tools from the Mahaffy Cache

the signage, I kept going back to and looking again and again at a particular biface tool (Photo #4 on cover) that looked similar in size and shape to the stone tool at my house. That museum visit led to a second visit with the Montgomery tool in my hand. I was able to hold the Montgomery tool against the display case glass and get a close up comparison with the Mahaffy tools behind the glass. That ocular inspection did not confirm anything. On the other hand, it did not blow holes in my hypothesis, either. Based on size, shape, and color, the Montgomery tool is similar to at least one of the Mahaffy tools. It is fascinating to think the tools are from the same era and perhaps made by the same people. But that hypothesis will probably never be confirmed. The Montgomery tool will remain an enigmatic artifact, used today as a paper weight on a table on my backyard deck in Lakewood, CO.

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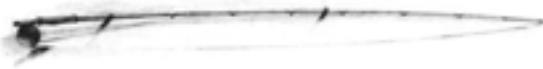
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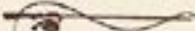
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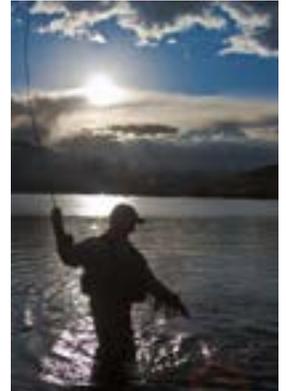
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ABOUT TU

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 us whenever you change your email address, snail mail address and/or telephone number so we can communicate with you quickly and efficiently.

Linda Miyamoto sullimoto@gmail.com

WDTU Shirt Logo

Jackie Edwards has made arrangements with a vendor to have an official WDTU logo imprinted on your shirt for just \$5. This program was initiated several years ago and has gained popularity. You simply need to bring your shirt to the 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

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