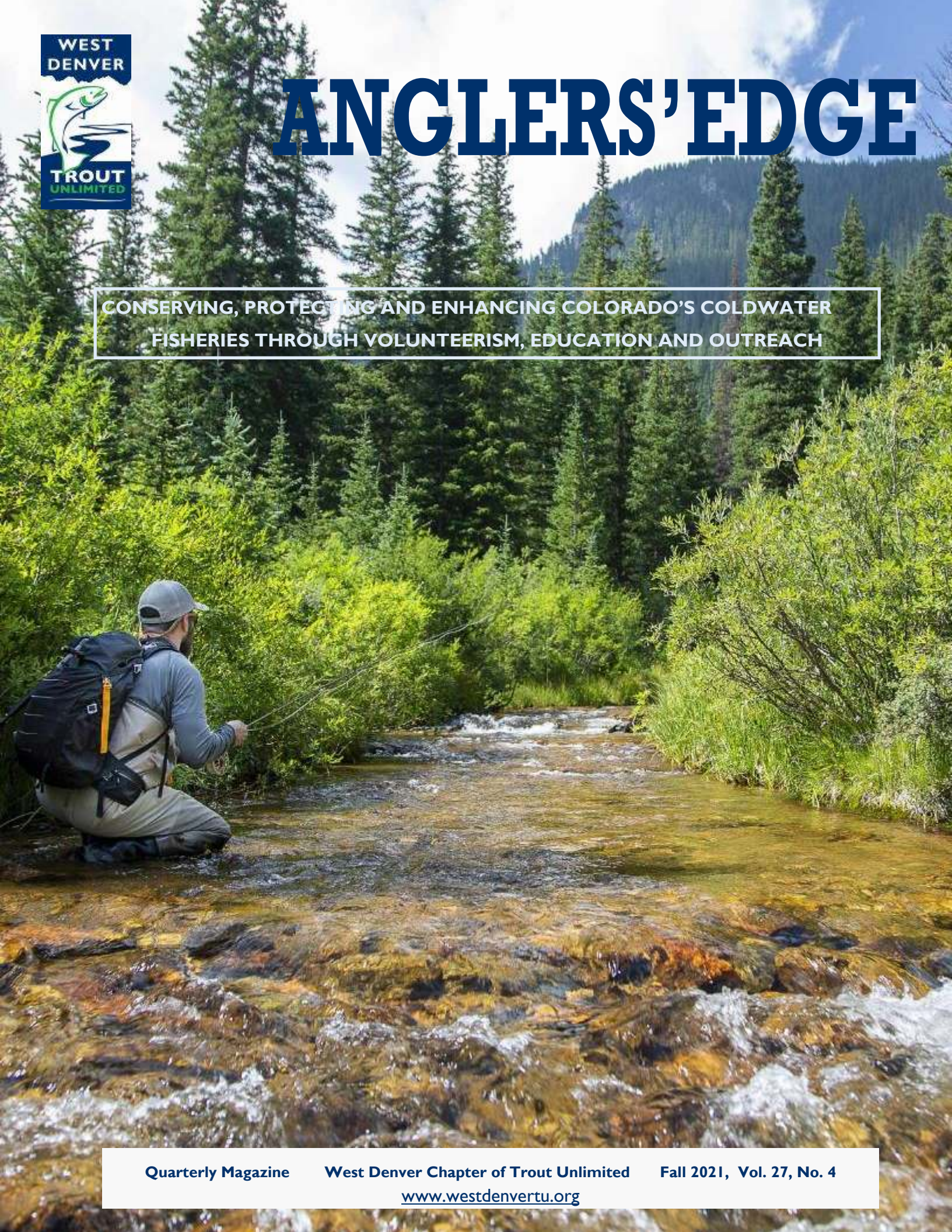




ANGLERS' EDGE

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 coldwater 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 Trout Unlimited

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Vice President	John Semich
Secretary	Available
Treasurer	Matt Rivera
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Webmaster	Available
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Communications, Social Media	Randy Hanner
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Jeffco Open Space	John Semich
Windy Peak	Mark Story
Chapter Meetings, Fundraising	Tim Toohey
River Watch	Dennis Wiles
Trout In The Classroom	

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We want your contributions! Send them to the editor via email at <http://westdenvertu.org/resources/newsletter/> Scroll down to submission area.

The Cover:

“There is certainly something in angling that tends to produce a serenity of mind.”

Washington Irving

Photo courtesy of Randy Hanner, 2021

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The President's Message

Since Covid 19 is keeping many of us living mostly in a virtual world, I thought I would update you about the recent and current activities of the Chapter.



We held our “Welcome Back” Chapter meeting in person at the American Mountaineering Center on September 1st. The program was a “Frankenstein” Fly competition, where tyers are given a package of materials and some mystery material and tasked with producing a fly. Contestants flies are judged on originality, neatness, and “bugginess,” and prizes awarded. It was a lot of fun, and everyone wants to do it again in the future.

We also held our first summer picnic in two years. A great setting at Lakewood Greenbelt Park, and good attendance.

On the conservation front, we continue our water quality and insect life sampling in Clear Creek. We also helped stock native greenbacks, collected water temperature data, tested high lakes turbidity, and collected monofilament from recycling stations.

We participated in the large National Public Lands Day Clear Creek Stream Cleanup. 230 volunteers cleaned 6.2 miles of trail, pulled noxious weeds, and replanted native grasses.

In the area of youth education, we are resuming our Windy Peak Outdoor Lab sessions, supporting a Trout In the Classroom school, and providing scholarships to Colorado Trout Unlimited's fly fishing camp.

We continue to hold our “Fishing for Conservation” events at Rainbow Falls and Bartle Lakes. These private locations provide an excellent experience while raising funds for our conservation efforts

Thank you for supporting the Chapter by buying raffle tickets, and watch our email blasts for more exciting events coming soon.

Be well,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Calman".

Four Tips for Fall Fishing

by Randy Hanner

Fall is an excellent time of year to be on the water. The shorter days lead to cooler nights which bring much needed relief to water temperatures and fish are trying to bulk up before a very long, cold, winter. The primary hatches are late caddis (including October Caddis), Baetis mayflies, and midges, though you could run into Tricos as well. Afternoons are still warm enough to garner a decent hopper bite also.

Water levels are at their lowest which can make approaching fish tricky. This time of year, small flies and delicate presentations will land you more fish. The water temperatures are usually cooler, making it enjoyable for the fish and the angler pursuing them. The fish become more active trying to bulk up for winter and the bug hatches can be prolific.

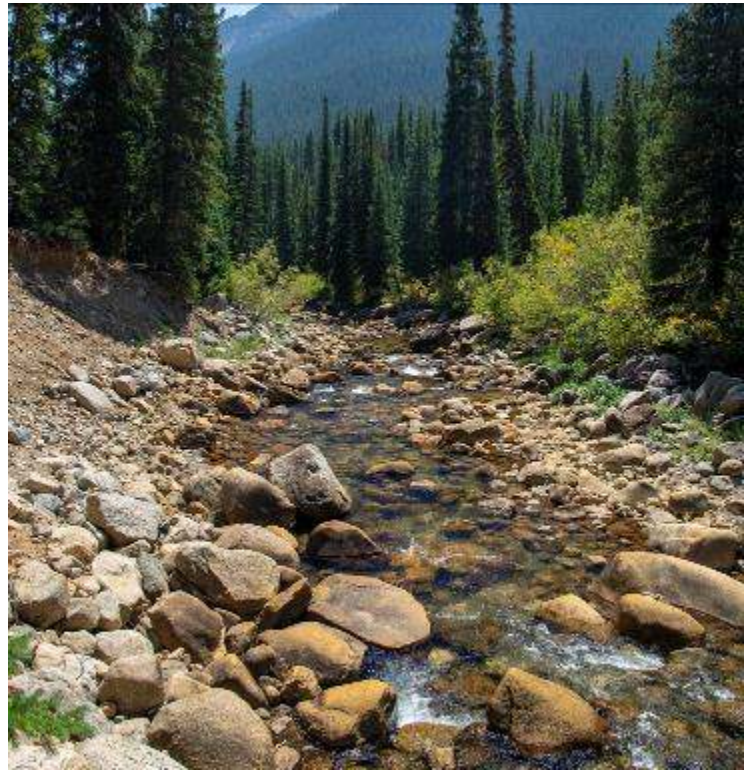
Look for deeper pockets

Water levels are at their lowest which can make approaching fish kind of tricky. Look for holes or dips in the riverbed that suddenly drop off. For example, 1ft to 3-4 feet. These will sometimes have a decent flow of water of them and will usually hold several fish, especially if it's the deepest water in a certain area of the river.

Since you're looking for deeper water, look for faster moving water also. Slow moving, shallow water leaves the fish vulnerable to overhead predators. Trout will seek shelter in faster water to break up their outline and camouflage them, plus the faster water is more oxygenated keeping the fish happy.

Downsize

The water can be extremely clear, requiring stealthy approaches and delicate presentations. Typically, I



will fish a long (15-20 ft) leader with 5x, 6x, or 7x tippet. Fly sizes range from 14-20 depending on the depth and speed of the water. It can also vary based on what technique I'm using. For nymphing I will typically fish size 16-18 mayfly nymphs. Bead color varies, but I will usually tie my flies with a silver bead when fishing low clear water. Go easy on the flash as too much can spook the fish.

Something not many people think of when downsizing in the autumn is that all mature mayfly nymphs and caddis larva have hatched. The standard sized nymphs simply aren't in the river yet because the new batch have only just hatched (depending on when their eggs were laid). Only the immature nymphs are available to the trout. If you're imitating the available food source, downsize your offerings to tempt more fish.

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Fall Fishing, cont'd. from p. 5

by Randy Hanner



are Fall spawners and they are extremely aggressive this time of year. Large streamers grab their attention. With streamers, I've always tried to match the color of the streamer to the color of the leaves. Orange, yellow, brown, and rust all work well; singularly or combinations of them (think Platte River Special).

When throwing streamers, don't mess around with light tippet; use 5 feet of straight 15-20lb test. Using larger tippet helps with landing fish faster and you won't lose many (if any) flies. When fish are on the streamer bite, they aren't leader shy, so don't be afraid to go big or go home. Stick with a 5, 6, or even 7 wt rod. Trust me, it will make your life easier if you're using a bigger stick. Trying to chuck large streamers on a 5wt will wear out even the best streamer fisherman and women.

Give these four tips a try on your next outing. You won't be disappointed.

Randy Hanner is a former guide and Umpqua fly tier, and a photographer. He heads up the West Denver TU Communications Team.

Don't fish first thing in the morning

Cooler night temperatures drop the water temp at night and can cause the fish to be a little sluggish. Plan on arriving around mid-morning (8-10 am). It's usually too dark before then anyway. Grab a good breakfast and some coffee, or even head to a new watershed that you hadn't thought about fishing before, instead of arriving at the crack of dawn.

Bring out the streamers

On the other end of the spectrum however, streamers are extremely effective this time of year. Brown trout



Clear Creek

Throughout the United States, many local chapters of Trout Unlimited, create a bond with a watershed that is affectionately referred to as , home waters. For West Denver Trout Unlimited, our home water is the Clear Creek. Though it qualifies as a stream, Clear Creek has a rich and at times, challenged history. With this issue, Anglers' Edge begins a series of articles about Clear Creek, its past, its problems and its promise for the future.

Background and History of the Clear Creek Watershed

by Jon Weimer

There's much lore hidden in the bends of Clear Creek, where the river was home to thousands of sluice boxes for the early gold and silver miners. Stories of wealth, luxury, privation and poverty flowed down Clear Creek during the mining era. In January 1859, gold was discovered in Clear Creek, and the gold rush was on. The initial discovery of gold at the junction of Chicago Creek and Clear Creek quickly led to the founding of Idaho Springs at that site. In the spring of 1859, a major gold strike was found on the North Fork of Clear creek at what is now called Gregory Gulch. Silver discoveries at Georgetown and extensive mining at Black Hawk, Central City, Silver Plume, and Empire led to a population explosion in the Clear Creek canyon and supported an extensive network of mountain railroads throughout the watershed. Rapid population growth and mining development contributed to the creation of the Colorado Territory in 1861. Although large-scale mining ended in the early 1940s, the Creek's well-trodden canyon pathway through the Rocky Mountains ultimately provided the right of way for railroads, motor vehicles, a power transmission corridor, and exten-



sive land development, particularly associated with the growth of Colorado's recreation industry.

Clear Creek originates near the Continental Divide close to Loveland Basin. It parallels Interstate 70 (I-70) and flows east through the old mining towns mentioned above-i.e., Silver Plume, Georgetown, and Idaho Springs. East of Idaho Springs, the river splits from I-70 and runs along U.S. Highway 6 through Golden and eventually empties into the South Platte River, north of Denver. A tributary, the South Fork, flows down from Guanella Pass and enters the main stem at Georgetown. Another tributary, the West Fork, enters the main stem where U.S. Highway 40 merges with I-70. And the North Fork tributary parallels Route 119 as it meanders by Black Hawk before joining the main stem about 2 miles east of the Highway 6 and I-70 junction.

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Clear Creek History, cont'd, from p. 7

Clear Creek originates near the Continental Divide close to Loveland Basin. It parallels Interstate 70 (I-70) and flows east through the old mining towns mentioned above—i.e., Silver Plume, Georgetown, and Idaho Springs. East of Idaho Springs, the river splits from I



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The Clear Creek watershed consists of 575 square miles of diverse environmental and social settings. The watershed is unique in that it contains all of the ecological zones found in Colorado. Each zone possesses climate, topography, aquatic species, wildlife, and vegetation characteristics that uniquely define their environments. One consequence of this ecological diversity is that the riparian zones provide fisheries for all four species of trout that inhabit Colorado, i.e., Brown, Cutthroat, Rainbow, and Brook trout—the so-called “trout grand slam”.

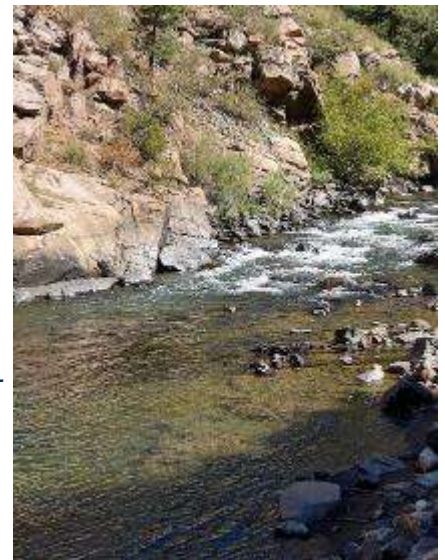
Yes, mining contributed to Colorado glorious history, but left an inglorious legacy—and that was particularly evident on Clear Creek, where its waters were turned into mud by the countless placer operations set up in its bed and by large-scale mining enterprises. In the early 1980s, the metal toxicity of Clear Creek in the Idaho Springs area was so potent that the surrounding area was designated as one of the Superfund Hazardous Waste Sites in Colorado. Basically, Clear Creek had become the poster child for environmental abuse, and it

became obvious to concerned citizens, institutions, and affected local municipalities that environmental restoration and responsible stewardship of their watershed was imperative.

Since the early 1980s, then, there have been major thrusts dedicated to environmental remediation of the Clear Creek watershed. Our Chapter has been an integral part of this environmental remediation effort—i.e., conducting conservation projects, involved in water monitoring activities and engaging in educational programs, all of which will be described in detail in a subsequent article.

In summary, the Clear Creek watershed is a marvelous fishery, a fishery for all seasons and one that possesses and reflects different personalities along its course—from a small sinuous stream flowing over beaver dams to a torrent of water rushing through precipitous canyon walls. As mentioned before, it's a river that affords an angler the opportunity to catch the trout grand slam, all in one day. And, of course, it's a river steeped in history in terms of providing mineral wealth, but which now yields a treasure of a different kind—excellent angling. However, like other fisheries, the Clear Creek watershed is a fragile entity, in need of constant care and vigilance, requiring a joint effort among numerous stakeholders.

This article was based on two sources: (1) “Clear Creek Home River White Paper”, John Snyder, undated; and (2) “Clear Creek: A Treasure of a Different Kind”, 2007 Fishing Guide, Colorado Outdoors magazine, pp. 25-29, Jon P. Weimer.



Jon is member of West Denver Trout Unlimited, former President, and former editor of Anglers' Edge.

Gold in the Canyon

by Paul Zamora

**“Hugging canyon walls
Flashes of gold in the river be-
low**

Catching sight

Catching light

A slow approach

Creeping low

Drifting above

A quick slash down low

React quick and set

Fighting and bending

Seconds stretching

Until a sigh of relief

Weight in the basket

A moment of peace

**It all ends with a nice, easy,
release.’**



Paul Zamora is an avid fly angler
and Trout Unlimited member.

Restoring the Waldorf Mine Historic Site

On July 14th, seven hearty West Denver TU volunteers made their way to the Waldorf Mine to work on a continuing mine reclamation project. Our part of the project was to revegetate two sites near the mine. The project leader was Lauren Duncan, the Colorado TU Mine Reclamation Project Manager. We also met with members of the Forest Service and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. They were interested in the project and its progress.

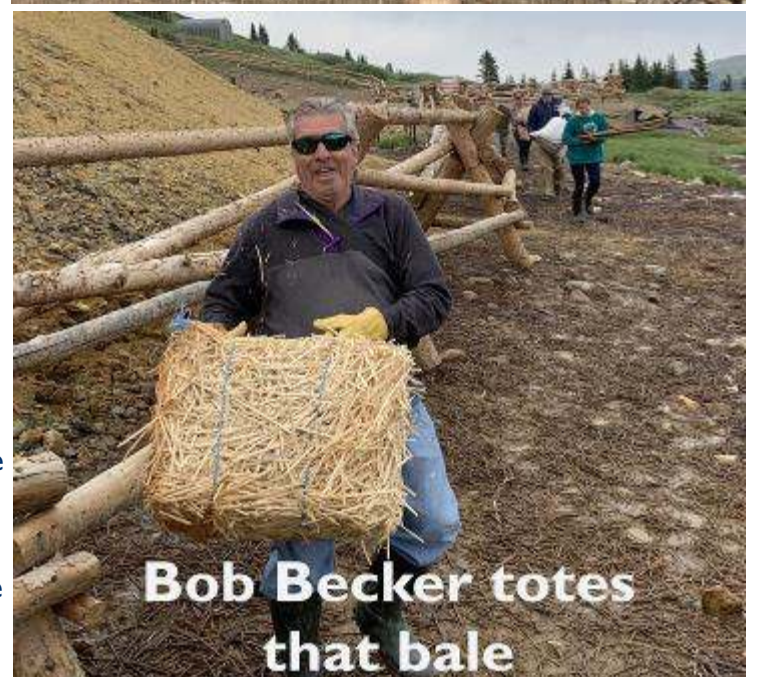
This project is unique, as the mine is located in a historic district. So, the mine and its tailings must be preserved, while its negative impacts on the environment are minimized.

The day began in Idaho Springs, where volunteers met Lauren and loaded their gear into 4 wheel drive vehicles. These vehicles were definitely needed, as the road up to the mine site is steep and very rocky. After an hour and 15 minutes of 4 wheeling, which included a delay while an ATV with a broken axle was moved from the road, we arrived at the Waldorf Mine, which sits at 11,500 feet elevation.

Our first chore was unloading and carrying the bales of wood straw to the revegetation sites. Wood straw is bundles of shredded wood pieces that are used instead of normal straw, as the wood straw is less susceptible to being washed or blown away.

Note the wooden fencing around the mine's tailing pile. This is an important part of reducing metals runoff from the mine. It prevents ATV's from driving up the pile and disturbing the mineral-laden soil. The pile has been treated with a glue-like substance that seals the soil top layer and reduces erosion.

Once all the bales were delivered and distributed, Lauren explained how the areas would be reseeded. First, the seed is spread around the area by hand. With a little practice, and by keeping the wind at your back, the seed can be spread fairly evenly on the ground. Then, it is then raked into the soil, and finally, it is covered with the wood straw. Working at 11,500 feet does make this harder than it sounds. Continued, p. 11



Restoring the Waldorf Mine Historic Site

Cont'd. from p. 10



Restoring the Waldorf Mine Historic Site

Cont'd. from p. 11

We met with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Forest Service staff, and Lauren explained the various parts of reclamation process. It was a learning experience for all.



After the work was completed, Lauren took the volunteers on a hike to see the results of previous reclamation work. Many areas have been restored to their natural state. She then hosted a lunch for all, and everyone made the arduous trip back to Idaho Springs.



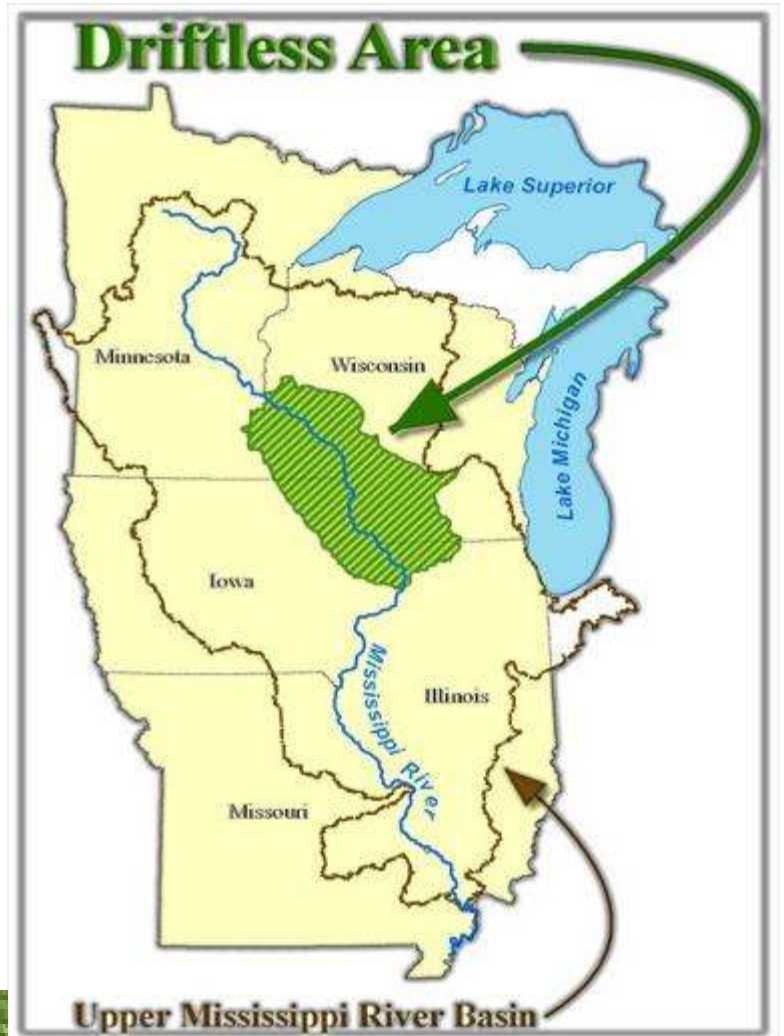
Black Earth Creek

A Journey to the Driftless

By Mark Shulman from conversation with Bob Becker

One of the joys of fly fishing doesn't involve fishing. Its talking about fly fishing. Made even better by good coffee and Duffey cinnamon rolls. On a warm late summer morning, I had the pleasure to sit down with Bob Becker and over the next couple of hours, Bob took me on a journey to his former home waters, an area called the Driftless.

Comprised of hundreds of natural springs that feed thousands of streams, the Driftless covers an area of roughly 24,000 square miles, or about the size of West Virginia. The Driftless Area includes portions of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. Why called the *Driftless*? Because this landscape “was never covered by ice during the last ice age, and therefore lacks glacial deposits, also termed drift”. (Wikipedia) Praised as the “Best Kept Secret in the Trout World” by Josh Dahlke of OutdoorLife magazine, who further describes the area as ,“Cold, clean water, wild trout and plenty of public access to explore hidden streams...” This enough to get me excited, but Bob's enthusiasm and obvious love for the Driftless has me mapping out travel plans to the upper Midwest!



Bob even remembers the experience which he credits for “why I started fly fishing”. He was spin fishing (some 30years ago) on the Black Earth Creek in the southern Wisconsin Driftless without much success. An angler with a fly rod nearby was pulling trout from “every pocket” in the stream. Soon after, Bob bought a fly rod and has been devoted to fly fishing ever since!

Bob lives in Colorado now and enjoys the Rocky Mountain lifestyle.

Continued, p. 14

A Journey to the Driftless

Continued from p. 13

By Mark Shulman from conversation with Bob Becker

But he's always happy to share memories and talk about the hidden streams of the Driftless. Just ask him.

Bob Becker and Mark Shulman are members of West Denver Trout Unlimited

To learn more about the Driftless Area and Trout Unlimited commitment to it's preservation as a wild trout habitat please visit, <https://www.tu.org/driftless-science-review>



Bartle Lakes Outing: Fishing for Conservation

By Ed Calmus

Saturday, August 7, 2021 was a record-setting pollution day in Denver, and a very smoky day in the high country. The weather at Bartle Lakes was cool, cloudy and smoky when 20 members of West Denver TU arrived at the parking area.

Bartle Lakes has been in the same family for five generations. The lakes are nestled at over 10,500 feet in a high valley near the Continental Divide in South Park. The setting is drop dead gorgeous, with mountain peaks surrounding the valley.

The pretty lakes are the home to many hungry brook trout, as well as a significant number of trophy rainbows. Landing a large rainbow is tough (they didn't get that big by being easy). The brookies can be just the opposite, or they can be difficult. On our fishing day, they were stupid in the morning and had PHD's by late afternoon.

Troy caught this beautiful rainbow on his third cast of the morning on lower Bartle Lake.



Continued on p. 16

Bartle Lakes, cont'd from p. 15

Kyle Perkins of Golden River Sports guided parties of two onto the lake.



Being with Kyle is a great way of improving your chances to get a big rainbow. Don't know how many of them were caught, but someone did manage to document the smallest catch of the day. Yes, that guy is holding a fish! After a fun morning of catching brookies, we all got back together for a lunch of brats, chicken, corn, salads, and dessert.



Matt Rivera addressed the group, thanking them for supporting the conservation mission of West Denver TU and filling them in on the Chapter's conservation activities.

Continued, p. 17



Bartle Lakes, cont'd from p. 16

After lunch the group assembled for a group photo, and then it was back to fishing. It was a fun day with beautiful scenery, willing fish, and like-minded anglers.



Clean the Dream

By Paul Zamora

It's 5am and I'm standing in my kitchen, in the dark of a cool and quiet morning. No one else is up yet. The steam from my coffee drifts up out of my lucky "jumpin brookie" coffee mug. I'm staring across the counter over the piles of clothes and gear we laid out last night before getting to bed. Got to bed early too, because today was going to be a long one.

It feels like we are going fishing, and we are going prepared, but fishing is not our goal this Saturday in late August of 2021. Today we are heading to South Park, CO as volunteers for the 6th annual Clean the Dream event. We arrive at the parking lot of the Charlie Meyers state wildlife area promptly at 8am. There was a promise of breakfast for the punctual. The parking lot is already full and a second lot that has been set up across the road for the event is filling up as well.

The atmosphere feels bright, like the morning sun that is rising above us. Dozens of cars and trucks with rod lockers and trout stickers, we are a community of anglers who have set down our rods and pick up trash bags and grabbers instead. I spoke with the founders of the event, Landon Meyer and Brandon Kramer, old friends from their days guiding on the Dream Stream. They talked with me about the event, the Dream Stream and the South Park area. "This is my favorite day of the year" Meyer said. "It's like a reunion for a bunch of us" said Kramer. For some reading this, "The Dream Stream", conjures up images of Rocky Mountain meadow fishing for giant trout and aggressive salmon. For those of you who are wondering what the

dream stream is, Landon Meyer, aka "The Dean of the Dream", lays it out for us. "We are in South Park, Colorado sitting below Spinney Mountain Reservoir, which opened in 1982. Forty -five feet at its deepest point near the dam," Landon tells me as he points and directs our gaze toward Spinney. He continues, "below Spinney, the Dream Stream flows five and a half winding miles of river, that flows down to Eleven Mile Reservoir."

Continued, p. 19



Clean the Dream, cont'd from p. 18

By Paul Zamora

We talk about fishing a bit and about the migratory habits of the fish from the lakes into the streams in the area. It is clear that Landon, a Colorado native son and probably the most famous fly fisher in the state, has earned his unofficial title of “Dean of the Dream” for good reason. He loves this place. Six years ago, Kramer reached out to his friend Landon with an idea. “There’s just so much trash out there,” he tells him. Landon agrees and together they put together their event. Kramer thinks back on the event and its growth over the years. “I think today went really well” he says. “It gets bigger every year.” I can see in his face the excitement he carries for the big cleanup and for the community involved. “In our first year, we started with just nine of us. “The Dream Team” he smiles. “Now we have over 200 volunteers.” Clean the Dream is really like a family reunion for me, for a lot of us, it’s the only time we get see each other anymore.” Meyer comments further, “It’s a great community.” Teaching the youth, that’s the key to this. Last year we had about 17 families participate, this year we are over 20. We see children, fathers, mothers, grandparents. We even had a bus load of 30 kids come up from Canon City this year! Every single person counts, and we all make a difference!” According to Kramer, they start planning in January every year for this August event. The list of sponsors is full of heavy hitters in the industry; including Yeti, Umpqua, Fish Pond and Scientific anglers Also New Belgium Brewing, local vendors and fly shops and more. Landon calls Colorado Parks and Wildlife the backbone of the event. They handle gate access and overflow parking lot as well as access to the parks and the actual disposing of the trash collected. The Trout Unlimited community is well represented. Meyer explains that TU plays a big part in spreading the word for the event every year and there are always a lot of TU volunteers lending a hand. Overall, the 6th annual “Clean the Dream” was awesome and not just because I won a River Quiver rod locker from

River Smith, in the raffle! It was a day of community service and fun. Landon comments on the success of the day, “It’s not just the Dream, we did Eleven Mile, Spinney, and Antero. Collectively 17 miles of river and 3 still waters, involving over 200 people, it’s really amazing!” It was a moment of pride for all of us who volunteered to see our pile of trash and to know we did a little something to give back to the resource that has given so much to each of us! When the cleanup was done and the parking lots nearly empty, I did get a chance to fish!

For more information on “Clean the Dream” and to get involved for next year, check out [@clean_the_dream](#) on Instagram or contact Brandon Kramer directly at brandon.t.kramer@wellsfargoadvisors.com

Paul Zamora is a Colorado native, TU member, avid fisherman, writer and entrepreneur based in Littleton.

Landon gives the group a big thumbs up!



Riverside Reader

THE OPTIMIST

A Case For The Fly Fishing Life

David Coggins

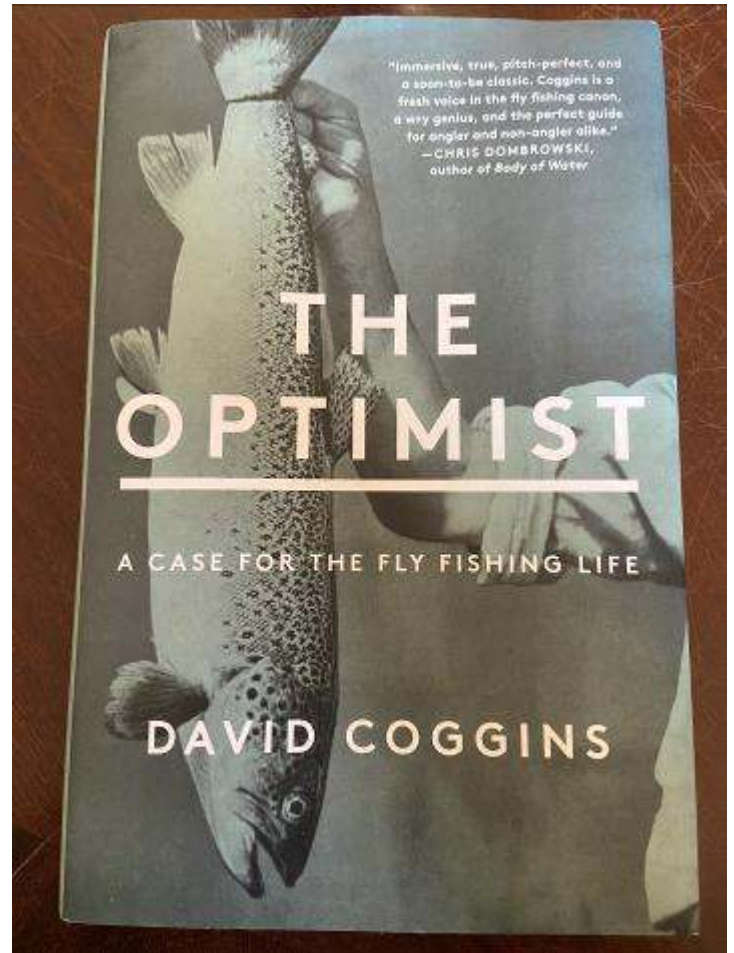
Book Review by Mark Shulman

Non-Fiction

“A fishing trip begins before the fishing begins. I love the fishing itself, of course, but I love the anticipation...” David Coggins

As do I. And like the book title, I remain always, an optimist. At least about fly fishing. The Optimist is a collection of stories of places fished by the author, tied together with humor and a self-described humility of his angling skills. David Coggins brings to mind John Gierach, though perhaps better dressed. Which may be because Coggins is also a New York Times best selling author of essays about men's fashion and manners.

The Optimist would be a great fantasy travel itinerary for most who love fly fishing as you will visit Montana, Maine, the Patagonia and more. Coggins describes each trip as if talking over a beer and burger at a local diner. The Optimist won't make you a better angler and won't move you like A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT. But it will make you smile. And will remind you why fly fishing is just plain fun.



Read any good books lately?
Fly fishing, nature, environment all good! Please share your recommendations to Mark Shulman at Anglers Edge.



The Drift

By Mark Shulman

Sometimes doing the right thing is not impactful. At least not at first. Sometimes a good idea takes a while to take hold. Sometimes, it never really does. On August 19, 2021, Trout Unlimited President Chris Wood announced that Trout Magazine would no longer publish photos which the angling world refers to as, Grip and Grin. You know, the smiling face shot with trout in hand. Also called hero shots. Considering that a trout's brain hasn't evolved much in a few million years, catching one on a fake bug maybe isn't so heroic.

I like the stance taken by TU on this. It's probably not a decision that will have a huge impact on the ecology of fishing, but it strikes me as the right thing to do. If my Instagram feed is any indication, a lot of folks disagree, or maybe haven't seen Chris Woods article on the subject. I know there are different sides to this issue. Most obvious is that fish don't like having a hook in their mouth and that catching fish to eat or release can be questioned. But not by me and not here. Fishing rod and other gear makers probably feel it's important to show fish successfully caught. Fishing shops and guides also. If your livelihood is dependent on someone paying you hundreds of dollars to spend a day fishing you certainly want to show a smiling angler with their catch. I have fished with guides in several states and can attest that they handle fish with great care and respect. And skill.

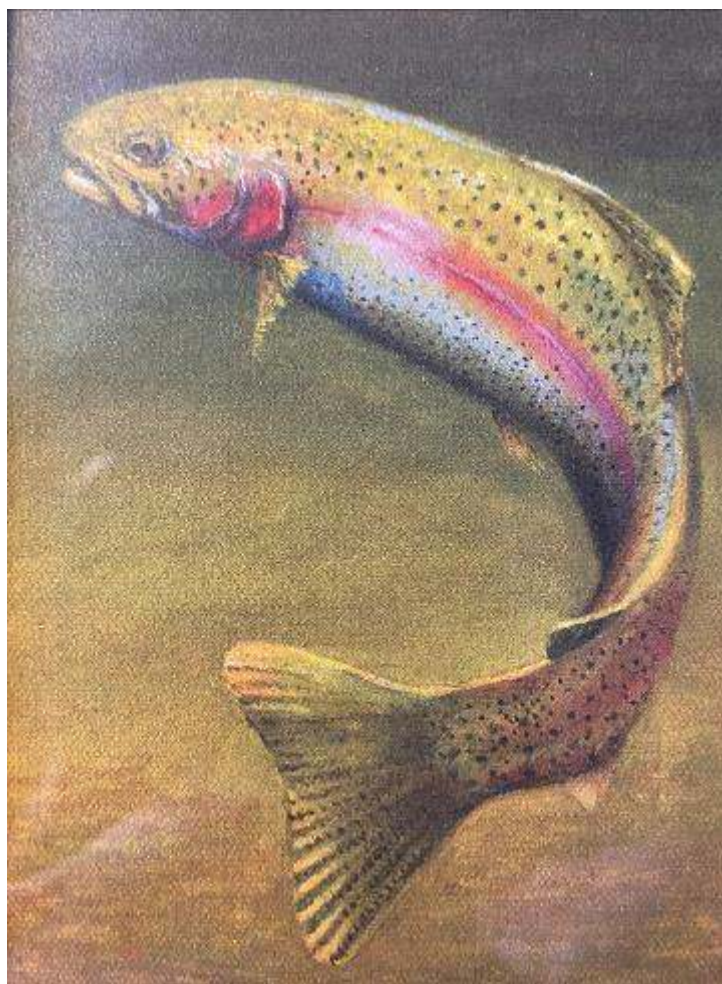
Humbly, I confess to evolution on this topic. On the desk in my study is a 40 year old photo of my father and I taken on an October fishing and camping trip in the Colorado mountains. We're standing side by side holding a stringer of big rainbows. Big grins. We cooked up those trout in a huge cast iron skillet with fried potatoes. I cherish the photo and the memory.

That I don't take fish photos is mostly because I fish alone or with someone who isn't standing next to me with a camera. Well, that and most of the fish I catch

aren't all that impressive.

I'm glad Trout Unlimited has taken this stance and as editor of Anglers' Edge I'll try to do the same. I encourage all anglers to take less photos of fish out of water, but I don't think this needs to be an all or nothing proposition. When my 3 year old granddaughter catches her first fish, I hope I get a good shot. I'll put it on my desk next to the one of me and her great – grand father.

Mark Shulman is the editor of Anglers' Edge magazine.



One Last Drift

By Mark Shulman

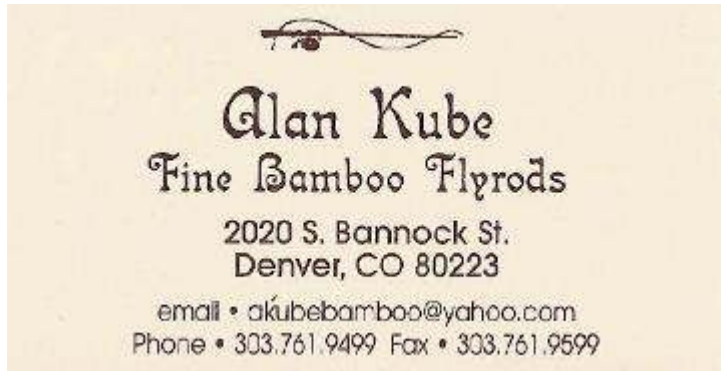
In a few days we come up upon the one-year mark of the East Troublesome fire. In Rocky Mountain National Park elk herds graze in the wide meadows. Moose are found in healthy numbers drinking from the headwaters of the Colorado River. Trees bent and stripped of branches stand in sharp contrast amidst new growth greening the ground. We pray for a peaceful fall.

Sometime in the coming winter, the park service will begin control burns of collected slash.

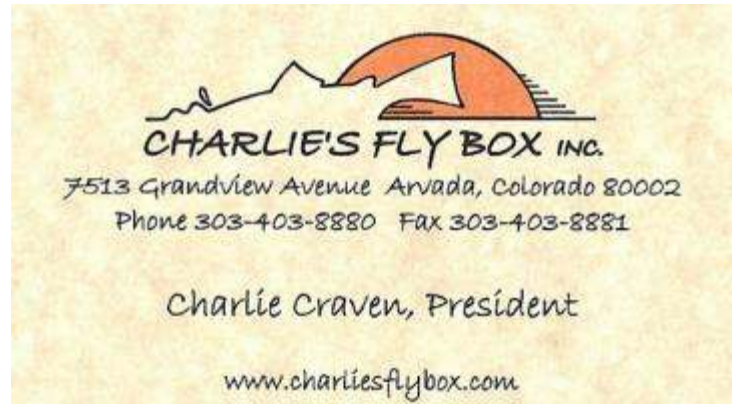
Mark Shulman is the editor of Anglers' Edge magazine.



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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 1,100 members across western metro Denver, including Lakewood, Golden, Morrison, Englewood, Littleton, Wheatridge, and Arvada. Our conservation and community outreach projects include the development of a Stream Management Plan for the Clear Creek watershed, water quality and temperature monitoring, Jefferson County Outdoor Lab programs, Trout in the Classroom, and other youth fishing programs. WDTU’s governance also relies directly upon its members, who

Community

generously volunteer their time and effort to achieve the chapter’s mission. 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.

WDTU Chapter/ Board Meetings

Chapter Meetings: In-person resumed September 1 at the American Mountaineering Center. Chapter meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month from September through June.

Board Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month via Zoom.

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