



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 2021 Chapter Leaders

The Cover:

“The best time to go fishing is when you can get away.” **Robert Traver**

Photo courtesy of Dan Pass, 2021

Officers

President	Ed Calmus
Vice President	John Semich
Secretary	Ashley Giles
Treasurer	Matt Rivera
Past President	Jackie Edwards

Team Leaders

Webmaster	Available
Fly Tying Clinic	Ed Calmus Michael McCloskey
Communications, Social Media	Randy Hanner
Conservation	Keith Greenwell
Magazine Editor	Mark Shulman
Membership	John Semich
Fishing Buddies	Dan Pass
Jeffco Open Space	John Semich
Windy Peak	Mark Story
Chapter Meetings, Fundraising	Tim Toohey
River Watch	Dennis Wiles
Trout In The Classroom	

Link to Contact Form:

<https://westdenvertu.org/contact-ed-calmus>
<https://westdenvertu.org/contact-john-semich>
<https://westdenvertu.org/contact-ashley-giles>
<https://westdenvertu.org/contact-matt-rivera>

<https://westdenvertu.org/contact-ed-calmus>

<https://westdenvertu.org/contact-randy-hanner>
<https://westdenvertu.org/contact-keith-greenwell>
<https://westdenvertu.org/contact-mark-shulman>
<https://westdenvertu.org/contact-john-semich>
<https://westdenvertu.org/contact-dan-pass>
<https://westdenvertu.org/contact-john-semich>
<https://westdenvertu.org/contact-mark-story>
<https://westdenvertu.org/contact-tim-toohey>
<https://westdenvertu.org/contact-dennis-wiles>

Anglers' Edge is published four times per year by West Denver TU

Editor	Mark Shulman	https://westdenvertu.org/contact-mark-shulman
Assistant Editor	Ed Calmus	https://westdenvertu.org/contact-ed-calmus

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

The President's Message

Looking for volunteers! Are you thinking it is time to give back? Tired of TV and the web? West Denver TU has openings for many volunteers, either for 4-5 hours per month or for one-time opportunities. We are working the Fly Fishing Show in February and the International Sportsmen's Expo in March. At the Fly Fishing Show, we will be teaching fly fishing basics and fly tying in the Education Center, in addition to our normal booth presence. We also have special guest speakers at our Chapter meeting on February 9th. Enrique Garcia, from Patagonia, will discuss fly fishing at his lodge in Chile. Don't miss this one!



Fly Fishing Patagonia

WEST DENVER TROUT UNLIMITED
Presentation on **February 9, 2022 - 7 PM**
American Mountaineering Center in Golden Colorado
Speakers: **Enrique Garcia** - Lago Rosario Lodge Owner
Nicolas Fliess - Head guide and Natural Anglers Owner

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

Tight lines,

LOOKING AHEAD

FEBRUARY 9, 2022 6:30pm

West Denver Trout Unlimited chapter meeting

Featured speaker: Enrique Garcia, Fishing in the Patagonia

American Mountaineering Center, 710 10th Street, Golden, Co 80401

FEBRUARY, 11,12,13

The Fly Fishing Show

Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center

Visit flyfishingshow.com for details

FEBRUARY 17, March 3

WDTU classes at Windy Peak Outdoor Lab

20973 Wellington Lake Rd, Sedalia, CO 80135

MARCH 2, 2022 6:30pm

West Denver Trout Unlimited chapter meeting

Featured presentation (video) Jeff Hastings, Trout Unlimited DARE program,
The Driftless Area

American Mountaineering Center, 710 10th Street, Golden, Co 80401

MARCH 12,2022 ALL DAY

Rainbow Falls Mountain Trout

West Denver Trout Unlimited exclusive access

Woodland Park, Co

Private water fishing. Reservation required.

Contact Matt Rivera for details

MARCH 18 -20, 2022

Fishing the Good Fight Men's Retreat

Salida, Co

Private water

Visit fishingthegoodfight.com for details.

APRIL 6,2022 6:30pm

West Denver Trout Unlimited Chapter Meeting

American Mountaineering Center, 710 10th Street, Golden, Co 80401

A New Direction for Clear Creek - *Priority Waters*

by Ashley Giles, Ed Calmus



This is the second installment of a four-part series about Clear Creek- past, present, and future. In the Fall 2021 issue of Angler's Edge, longtime WDTU member Jon Weimer introduced readers to the history of the Clear Creek watershed and the chapter's influence in our home water. In this edition we will review Trout Unlimited National's plans to develop a shared agenda for focused conservation projects across the country and highlight where Clear Creek fits into the *Priority Waters* framework.

The Priority Waters plan, launched in mid-2021, is inspired by "One TU", a philosophy seeking to align the efforts of partners, chapters, landowners, councils, and the national staff around a common conservation agenda. By thinking and acting collaboratively, TU can dramatically increase the impact of chapter conservation efforts.

Continued, p. 7

Priority Waters, cont'd. from p. 6

by Ashley Giles, Ed Calmus

The first goal of the strategic plan is to “care for and recover a national network of resilient priority waters for native and wild trout and salmon.” This means TU will focus funds and conservation effort on projects that have been identified as achieving the greatest results. This conservation strategy is tried and true, having been The Nature Conservancy’s working framework for two decades. The idea is to set scientifically based goals for conserving critical species and ecological systems. TU identifies priority targets — populations, places, threats to biodiversity, and strategic opportunities that are most in need of conservation action or promise the greatest conservation return on investment.

Last Fall, Colorado chapters were asked to submit information about their home waters or watersheds to TU National for consideration as a “priority water.” West Denver TU leadership attended scoping meetings and drafting a submittal for Clear Creek be considered for national funding and support. Yes, Clear Creek is heavily impacted, channelized, and over-allocated, but it is also a historic treasure and unique headwater-to-urban river system used and valued by many Coloradans.

To bolster our case for consideration: the headwaters of Clear Creek at the Continental Divide still provide excellent habitat for the threatened native greenback trout. WDTU assists state and federal agencies with the successful reintroduction of greenbacks in tributaries of upper Clear Creek and with annual habitat assessments. We actively monitor water temperatures in the system over time to help determine the impact of climate change and we test water quality and sample bug life as part of the River Watch program. Past efforts restoring the channel, aquatic habitat, and reducing mine runoff



have led to increased numbers of mayflies, an indicator of improved water quality and more food for fish!

Clear Creek is heavily hiked, fished, rafted, gold mined, kayaked, and tubed- a recreational mecca for the Front Range. But invested local stakeholders throughout the basin- from municipal water systems to ski areas to breweries and gravel quarries- are concerned about resource sustainability and watershed health. These engaged stewards share with WDTU a common interest in protecting, preserving, and restoring the river.

TU will announce its Priority Waters selections before the next issue. We will announce their decision as well as review ongoing state and local management plans for Colorado watersheds. Stay tuned for the next article of the Clear Creek series and, as always, if you would like to get involved in conservation and planning efforts, reach out to us!

Ed Calmus is President of West Denver TU

Ashley Giles is a Director of West Denver Trout Unlimited and a professional Ecologist whose focus is riparian and wetland ecosystems.

Why I Fly Fish

By Randy Hanner



As 2021 ends and I look forward to 2022, I can't help but wonder why exactly it is that I fish. The earliest memory that I have of fishing is when I was a toddler holding up a rainbow trout in my parents' driveway that I most likely caught out of a stocked pond in Southern California. I was born in L.A. and moved to Southern Missouri when I was in 2nd grade. As a child I spent countless hours at the beach; fishing off of Redondo Beach Pier with my grandpa, catching sand fleas for bait and staring into tide pools to see what I could find.

As far back as I can remember, I wanted to be a marine biologist. When we moved to Missouri, I don't know what changed, but I became enamored with freshwater fish and decided that if I'm not anywhere near the ocean, I could then become a freshwater fisheries biologist. So that's what I did. I majored in

Wildlife Biology with an emphasis in Fisheries Biology and graduated with a degree in fly fishing--(Actually, I did get a B.S. Wildlife Biology). Everything was on track to become a Fisheries Biologist until I visited my friend Jon in Durango. I'll spare you the story, but I gave up on becoming a biologist and became a fly-fishing guide instead.

Fast forward a bit and there isn't much I haven't done in the fly-fishing industry. The only job I haven't had besides being a shop owner, is being a Sales Rep. I've been a guide for multiple fly shops, worked in retail, worked for a manufacturer, led adventure travel trips to destinations near and far, fished on 3 continents, and landed countless species on the fly. I was also a 4-year member of the U.S. Fly Fishing Team, but I'll save that for another article. *Continued p. 9*

Why I Fly Fish, cont'd. from p. 8

By Randy Hanner

I'm past the stage of wanting to catch tons of fish, or catch big fish, and if I go out and only fish for a couple hours, that's enough for me. Sometimes, I'll just pack my fishing stuff in the car, head to a river and just sit on a rock and watch the river.

I think all of us go through some sort of angling evolution in our life and everyone has a different path through it. I'm sure you've probably heard about the seasons of an angler: First you want to catch a fish. Then you want to catch a lot of fish. Next you want to catch a big fish. And lastly, you just enjoy being outside in nature on a river. My angling evolution was something like that, but I have gone between seasons 2 and 3 multiple times through my angling life and I'm a better angler for it. Currently, I am in season 4. Most of my time isn't spent fishing, but just being outside on a river.

I don't need to be a die-hard trout bum anymore. I was
a

trout bum before being a trout bum was cool. There were times in college (a lot of them actually) that I would fish all weekend, come to class on Monday, grab a quick bite to eat and immediately head back to the river to fish all night, just to come back and do it all again Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. I'd take a break on Friday, then hit it hard again on Saturday & Sunday. I just couldn't get enough of trout fishing.

I'd sleep on picnic tables in my waders, make coffee with a filter made from a paper towel, and eat jerky for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Over the last couple of years, I've found solace in places that are hard to reach. I'd rather hit the trail at 3 a.m. just to hike for 5 hours to get to a lake that most likely hasn't seen a fisherman in a few years, fish for a couple hours and hike back out in one day.

Continued p. 10



Why I Fly Fish, cont'd. from p. 9

By Randy Hanner

There is a calming peace that I find being on the trail and hiking in the pitch black of night. Everything is calm and quiet. The only light being the headlamp on my head to light my path. Spending time outside and watching the world wake up is something that everyone should experience.

I like the challenge that hiking 18, 19, or 20 miles in a day, just to fish for a couple hours and head back, knowing I won't see another angler. It's challenging both mentally & physically and has taught me new ways to catch fish. It's not for everyone, but it's where I'm currently at on my angling journey.

My personal journey over the last 18 months has seen my world completely rocked as I'm sure many of you can relate. Job changes and other life changes really impacted me. But I needed it. I needed to be pushed out of my comfort zone to see who I really am. Honestly, I'm a better person for it.

2022 marks my 30th year fishing with a fly rod. Last year left me wondering why I fish. The truth is, I don't really need to fish anymore. Photography is taking up more and more of my time these days. It has been for a while. But when it comes down to it, fly fishing saved me. Whether it's in the act of fishing, or photographing it, fly fishing has always been there. It always will be.

I challenge you in 2022 to ponder why it is that you fish. I've met my closest and best friends through fishing, and with all of them, we became instant best friends. Sharing time with people I love and care about on rivers and lakes is what makes me who I am. Fly fishing is the main contributor to that, and I'm positive that there's river water in my veins.

Randy Hanner is a former professional flyfishing guide and Umpqua fly tier. His current passions include photography and hiking the high country. A regular Anglers Edge contributing writer, Randy also leads the West Denver TU Communications Committee.



Tenkara Queen

by Ed Calmus



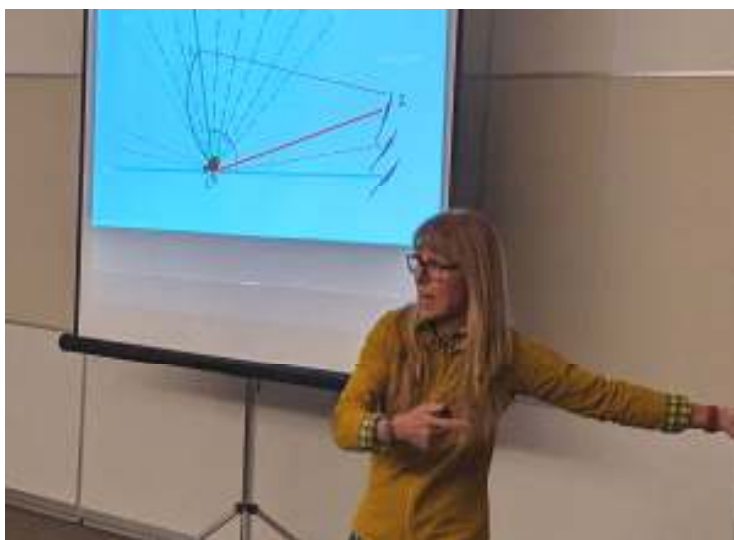
Twenty hardy souls braved a snowstorm to attend the January 5 WDTU chapter meeting in Golden. Karin Miller, owner of Zen Tenkara, was our featured speaker. Karin drove down from Fort Collins in the storm, earning her the great respect from all at

the meeting. Her presentation focused on playing and landing fish and applied to both Tenkara and traditional fly fishing. She asked us to consider the triangle formed by the angler, the rod tip and the fish. To effectively play and land the fish, the angle formed by the rod and line must be at least 65 degrees. Less than that and you risk losing the fish. She included diagrams and videos to make her points.

Karin's Tenkara skills and ability to land large fish of all species are legendary!

Karin is a great speaker who exudes energy and passion for the sport she loves!

Always the teacher and guide, Karin even stayed late after the meeting to engage in one-on-one instruction. Great work Karin and much appreciated!



To learn more about the exciting world of Tenkara, please visit Zen Tenkara at zetenkara.com

Ed Calmus is President of West Denver Trout Unlimited.

Tenkara: Fishing from the Skies*

By Mark Shulman

Ed Calmus, West Denver TU President was describing to me the great presentation Karin Miller of Zen Tenkara provided at our recent chapter meeting. Ever in search of a story, I asked Ed, do you know anyone who fishes Tenkara? “Yes”, he replied. “Bob Clark fishes Tenkara on Clear Creek!”. I Facetimed Bob on an early Friday morning just as snow began to fall and for the next hour to old anglers shared stories about fishing.

Bob “discovered” Tenkara at a Sportsman Exposition a few years back and bought his first Tenkara rod there. “A cheap one”, he described. Not successful at first, Bob didn’t give up on the challenge to learn this style of fishing. On a small stream north of Tarryall Reservoir in Park County, Bob hooked up his first Tenkara trout, “where’s my reel!” he thought as his excitedly struggled to net a 12” inch rainbow. The “muscle memory” of traditional fishing technique kicking in. Fish in net, Bob continued to work on the Tenkara style. “A small fish feels big on Tenkara”, Bob explained, and “I like the simplicity of the cast motion.” Mostly a soft line pick up and roll cast motion. The longer length rod deployed by most Tenkara applications allow for a longer reach on the water without casting as much, Bob explained. Tenkara can fish almost any fly pattern but “traditional “flies are a wet fly patterns with a unique “reverse hackle” design.



Bob likes what he described as the “minimalist” approach that Tenkara takes. A few flies, light rod and line, perfect for a hike into a secluded mountain stream.



Bob has graduated from that first cheap rod to higher quality gear and now prefers a “Suzume Tri-Zoom” model. This style rod expands like a telescope through lengths of about 7 feet, 9 feet and 11 feet and you can fish each length depending on water and surrounding conditions. Another bonus to Tenkara fishing is affordability. Bob’s rod of choice sells for about \$250 bucks!

Bob doesn’t fish Tenkara all the time. In fact, he mostly fishes the more “typical” fly rod style. But on occasion at Bear Creek or the Clear Creek near Herman Gulch, you might see Bob streamside with a long stick, a big bend at the tip....

* Fishing from the Skies, literal Japanese translation of Tenkara

Bob Clark, central Nebraska native, has been a TU member for 17 years and is active in our West Denver TU chapter.

Jefferson Creek Beaver Ponds

By Josh Musa

Fly fishing for brook trout isn't my first choice when it comes to fishing in Colorado. However, it is always nice fishing new water and getting away from the crowds on the front range. I had heard about a cluster of beaver ponds, with a large population of little brook trout out near Jefferson, Colorado. Jefferson Creek is a high elevation stream about five miles north of Jefferson near Kenosha Pass. Jefferson Creek is a popular

midge, but I was able to get a couple of brook trout to rise and eat a dry fly.

When fishing at Jefferson Creek, you will want to watch your approach and your back cast.

The best time to fish Jefferson Creek is the summer and fall. The brook trout will be eager to hit dry flies in those beaver ponds. These types of streams are really nice for beginners due to the abundance of brook trout and the lack of pressure. The area around Jefferson Creek is extremely pretty and has a handful of camping spots right along the stream. I wouldn't be surprised to see Moose roaming through this area early in the morning. If you decide to visit Jefferson Creek, make sure to bring some cash for the daily fee.

Josh Musa is a regular contributing writer to Anglers Edge and member of West Denver Trout Unlimited.



area, but the majority of people are going to Jefferson Lake or The Colorado Trail. Some people predict the next state record lake trout will be from Jefferson Lake.

Jefferson Creek is fairly small, but due to the large amount of beaver ponds, it holds a good brook trout population with a few brown trout mixed in. We headed out to Jefferson creek during the end of 2021 to check out the area and see if we could catch some brook trout. A snowstorm pushed through as we got to Jefferson Creek, but we quickly found fish and were able to hook into 40-50 fish in a couple of hours. We were catching fish with small



Clean a Stream, Be a Hero

By Mark Shulman

Introducing, the **TROUT HERO BAG!**



How many times have you discovered trash left behind at your riverside or on the hike? And often, no bag to put it in! I'd prefer not to stick a dirty beer can or greasy food wrapper in my gear pack, vest or the fleece lined pocket of my waders. Problem solved. Pescador on the Fly has partnered with Trout Unlimited and come up with the TROUT HERO bag! Light weight, easy to carry and most importantly, when full on your walk out from your favorite water, a sturdy cord loop to attach the TROUT HERO bag to wade belt, gear pack or vest. When you get home and are

hosing out your waders and boots – simply wash out the empty TROUT HERO bag too!

Pescador on the Fly has TROUT HERO BAGS for 5 bucks and gives a free one with their COMBO purchase. Any angler can also get a free Trout Hero Bag, just pay the shipping costs. You can find them under TROUT HERO bag at the Pescador on the Fly website. *One angler or hiker, one TROUT HERO bag at a time – a small effort making a huge differ*

Pescador on the Fly is a strong supporter of TROUT UNLIMITED and Colorado Trout Unlimited. Please visit them at pescadoronthefly.com



Guide Lines by Randy Hanner

Experienced angler, guide & professional fly tyer

Fly lines are one of the most important parts of our fishing that often gets overlooked. By investing in, and taking care of a quality fly line, you'll have years of enjoyment on the river.



How long should a good quality fly line last?

Well, it depends. Think of them like tires on a car, the more you drive, the faster you'll have to replace them. The same with fly lines, the more you fish, the quicker you'll need to replace it. Now, with that being said, a good quality fly line should last 3-5 years (depending on how much you fish), or longer if you take care of it. I still fish with lines I used over 10 years ago, because I don't use them every time I go out. This extends their life by quite a bit of time.

What about fly line on a reel that isn't fished much?

You might have a fly line on a reel that you have fished in a year or two, maybe 10, and you want to know if it's any good. It comes down to how it was treated the last time you fished it and where you kept it. If you kept it in the trunk of your hot car during those last couple years, chances are it's probably not going to be

in great condition. Chances are that it will have a lot of memory. But if you kept it in your basement where it has been climate controlled and not been damaged by sunlight, it could be in fine condition. Think of it like a vintage classic car. Kept in a garage under a cover and it's going to last much longer than leaving it outside in the elements.

When to replace your fly line

We've all had fly lines that have had the tip start to sink on us. That can get frustrating while fishing, especially when you're fishing small dry flies or even nymphing under an indicator. It can be difficult trying to mend because your leader is being pulled under the water by a floating line that sinks. If this is happening to you, the best thing you can do when you get home is to pull the line off the reel, (at least the first 10-15 feet or so) and look it over. Is it dirty? Are there visible cracks? Is the loop on the end holding up? Are there cuts or dings in the line? Can you see the core? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, it's probably time to replace it. If the answer is no to all of these, then you probably need to clean and dress it.

When customers would come into a fly shop and asked me if their line needed to be replaced, the first thing I would do is look it over for visible cracks. If I didn't see any, I'd test the core by stretching the first 4-5 feet between my hands as hard as I could. If the line broke it was time to replace it. If it didn't I would clean it and dress it for them and send them to the river.

Fly lines are a vital part of your fly fishing experience. Think of it as an investment--Trust me, it's worth it. Don't let the price dissuade you from getting a quality line. If you take care of it, the line will last a long time.

Have a question about your gear, fly selection, destinations or why you don't catch fish? Send your question to mark @hcamagazine.com

Subject GUIDE LINES.

Art * Science*Impact*Culture

By Anglers Edge Staff



Early in the fall of 2021 Eric Carter -Spurio contacted our West Denver TU chapter through our website. Eric is owner of Anchor Fly in Asheville, North Carolina. Anchor Fly is a unique blend of fly-fishing guides and educational platform. In their own words,” Our aim and direction with Anchor Fly is to inspire beginning fly anglers, share tips and experiences with more experienced fly fishers, talk about all the glorious gear this sport has to offer, share knowledge and experience of fly tying and create community.”

To further their mission, Anchor Fly has promoted the work of Linda Vance, PH.D. through yjeir social media platform. Ms. Vance is Associate Director of the Center for the Rocky Mountain West at the University of Montana. An avid fly angler, she is author of *The Anglers Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species*, a look at the threats to U.S. fisheries and aquatic ecosystems throughout the country. Her report can be found at [anchorfly.com](https://www.anchorfly.com) under the heading, Conservation.



Linda Vance, PH.D.
University of Montana



Riverside Reader

LAND OF LITTLE RIVERS

Austin McK. Francis

Book Review by Mark Shulman

Non-Fiction

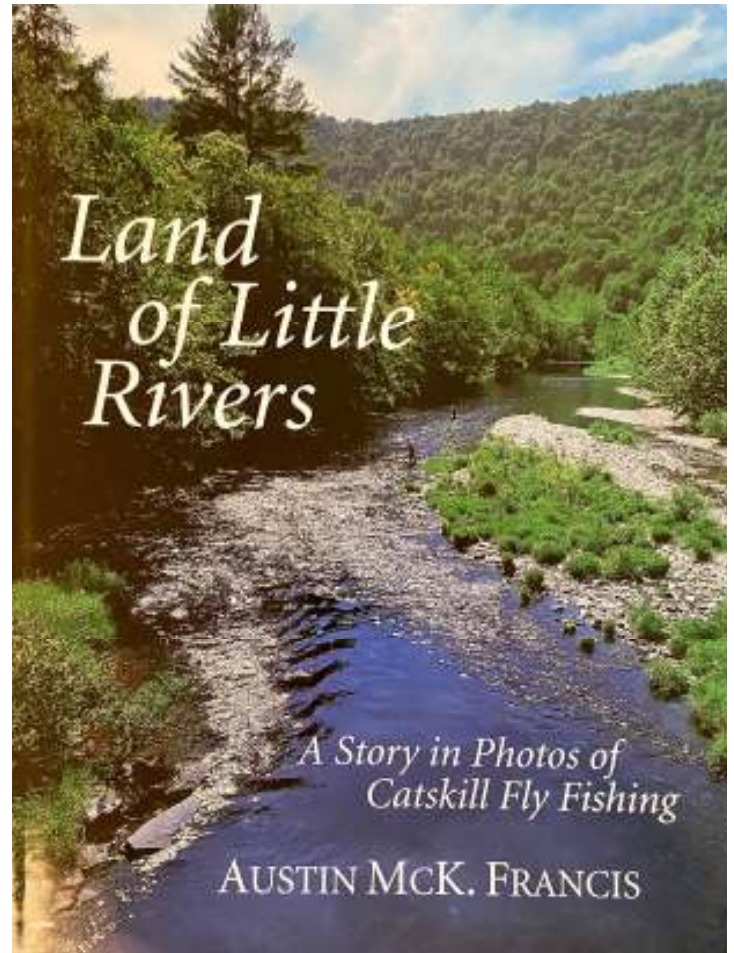
“In the beginning, water covered everything that is now the Catskills.” Austin McK. Francis

Thus begins the Land of Little Rivers.

Through the elegant prose of Austin Francis and the stunning photography of Enrico Ferorelli, the reader is taken on an exploration of the birthplace of American fly fishing. Legendary rod makers and fly tyers come alive as do the rivers and streams that hold such a special place in what Izaak Walton called, “the gentle art.”

This is a book produced by anglers who love fly fishing for anglers who love fly fishing.

Land of Little Rivers is a book to be savored as much as read.



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

A river of two names.

The headwaters begin in the high reaches of the Absaroka Mountains near the summit of Togwotee Pass. Here it is called Wind River. It flows southeastward, through the land of the Eastern Shoshone and the Northern Arapaho. Where it joins the Little Wind River near Riverton Wyoming, its course turns northward through a gap in the Owl Creek Mountains. At the head of Wind River Canyon, its flow interrupts at Boysen Dam. Below the dam near Thermopolis, Wind River widens into the Wedding of the Waters, and from there northward to Montana it is called the Big Horn.

Our road trip begins at O Dark Thirty, 4 November. Ed Calmus and me drive hell bent for leather from Lakewood to Thermopolis to meet up with Dan Pass our West Denver TU friend and colleague. Dan is owner of Two Rivers Inn and Fly Shop. He will be our guide and host for the next three days.

Early afternoon we pull into the parking lot of Two Rivers Inn and are greeted by Dan's lab retrievers and the ClackaCraft outfitted and ready to roll. Within an hour Dan's backing the drift boat down the ramp on the Big Horn and Ed and I shrug into waders. Unfortunately, the labs had to stay home.

Within a couple hundred feet of the boat ramp a short cast from the bow end produces a tight line and bent tip – fish on! Seriously? Not five minutes on the water rainbow in net. Dan oars us out into the flow with a big grin, “how we doin’guys?”



We're lined out with 1x or 2x leader and 3x tippet for the big, strong fish in the Big Horn. We're going to need it. Fly choices are pretty simple; a slip hook egg pattern on top – nymphs a few inches below.

First fish on rs2, biggest fish (Ed's) on sow bug. San Juan worms, zebra midge, nothing exotic.

Continued, p. 19

The Drift, cont'.d from p. 18

By Mark Shulman

The Big Horn River in Wyoming supports trout species that include rainbow, brown and Snake River Cutthroat. We caught them all. But mostly rainbow. Strong, heavy, healthy fish.

Our stretch of the Big Horn in early November flows with a mostly gentle current, having dropped to win-

Dan Pass is the owner of Two Rivers Inn and the Thermopolis FlyShop in Thermopolis, Wyoming. A devoted member of West Denver Trout Unlimited, Dan also provides professional real estate services as owner and managing broker of Catch and Release Realty in Arvada, Co.

danpassrealestate@gmail.com



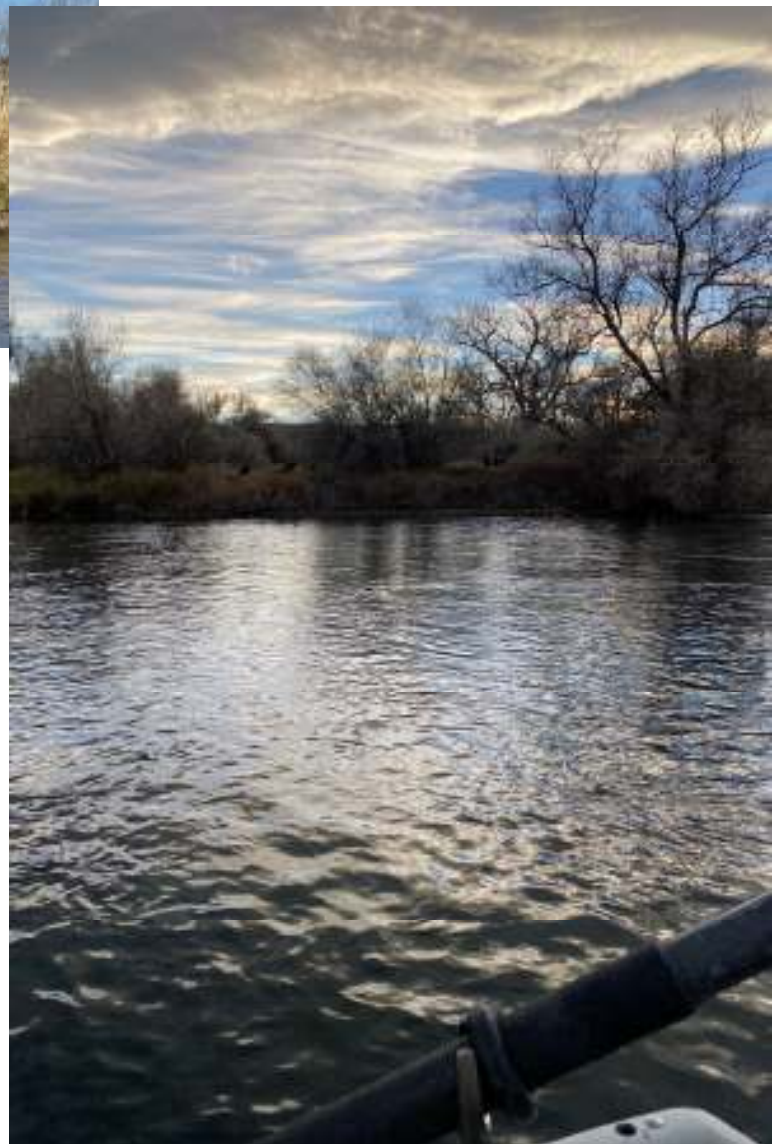
Mark Shulman is the editor of Anglers' Edge



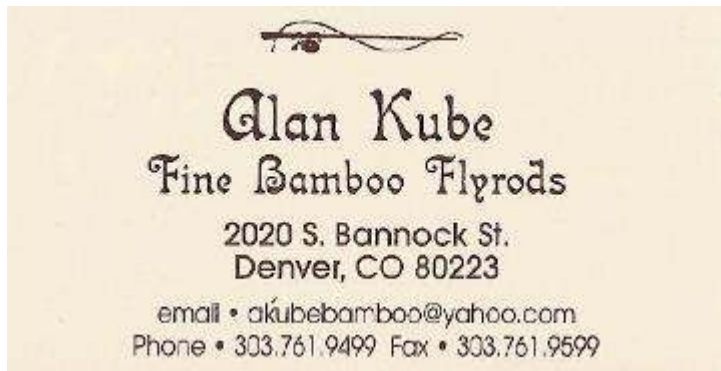
ter levels. Dan is an experienced guide, patient teacher and a true “reader of the river”. Bald eagle and redtail hawk soared in the brilliant sunshine. Wild turkey and deer watch us drift by. Dan carefully brought us into tributary water where we could anchor, disembark and wade. We caught fish in shallow riffles and deep pools. Gentle roll casts under low hanging willow. Both days on the river, the famous Wyoming winds were mostly gentle. Of course, Dan did all the oar work anyway. Dan is a patient guide. Lord knows I tested him.

As the late afternoon sun dropped low in the sky the air took on a chill that brought out the flannel shirts. Stretching out every last bit of sunlight, we cast until dark shadows spread across the water. Just one more cast, just on more tug. We make the final drift to the take out ramp. Tired arms from boating too many trout to count. Sounds like a fish tale. It is.

And true.



Our Supporters



GYOTAKU (FISH RUBBING) PRINTS
SCENIC NOTE CARDS
WWW.CEDARPLANKSTUDIO.COM
ART BY BRUCE BECK PH:303-667-3887



Our Supporters



**ClearCreek
OUTDOORS**

Rods - Reels - Apparel - Accessories
Guide Service - Classes
Custom Fly-Tying

1524 Miner Street P.O. Box 291
Idaho Springs, CO 80452

303-567-1500 Fax 303-567-0377
broz23@gmail.com
www.clearcreekflyfishing.com

**Your Colorado Fly Fishing,
SUP and Kayak Experts!**




**TU Membership
Discounts
Always 10% Off!**

- *FULL Line of Gear & Apparel
- *Licenses & TONS of Flies
- *Guided Trips & Lessons
- *Rentals & Repairs!

Golden
806 Washington Ave.
Golden, CO 80401
303-215-9386
GoldenRiverSports.net

River Sports
Photo by Brett Hochmuth



**A financial advisor who
keeps in touch**

If the market's trending down, your financial advisor's attention toward you should trend up.

Experience the consistent, personal attention I can provide, no matter what's going on in the markets.

Cooper Swenson, AAMS®
Financial Advisor
14142 Denver West Parkway
Bldg. 51 Ste 110
Lakewood, CO 80001
303-278-0733

www.edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

Edward Jones®
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



**ARVADA
EYE CARE**

DR. JEFF L. CHAPMAN & ASSOCIATES | OPTOMETRISTS

16205 W. 64TH AVE. | SUITE 100 | ARVADA, CO 80007
PHONE: 303.424.2991 | WWW.ARVADAEYECARE.COM



Dan Pass
Managing Broker & Owner
Catch & Release Real Estate LLC

4891 Independence Street #210
Wheat Ridge CO 80033

Direct: 720-974-5900
Mobile: 303-877-5715
Office: 720-974-5900
Fax: 720-974-5901



ELKHORN™
FLY ROD & REEL

Brian Chavet
Owner

Phone (970) 227-4707
brian@elkhornflyrodandreel.com

3121 W. Eisenhower Blvd. 📍 Loveland, CO 80537
www.elkhornflyrodandreel.com

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 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.

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.

Contact Ed Calmus [by clicking here](#).

Anglers’ Edge Advertising Rates

Size	1 Month	2Months	1 Year
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



www.tu.org



www.westdenvertu.org



www.coloradotu.org



Fly Fishing Patagonia



WEST DENVER TROUT UNLIMITED

Presentation on **February 9, 2022 - 7 PM**

American Mountaineering Center in Golden Colorado

Speakers: **Enrique Garcia** - Lago Rosario Lodge Owner
Nicolas Fliess - Head guide and Natural Anglers Owner

