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Cutthroat Chapter Trout Unlimited Newsletter

Welcome to the September CCTU Newsletter.

September 1, 2010

Mike Myers,

First, thank you to all my well-wishers. I've recovered from my illness and the multitude of germs carried by the child nieces and nephews I visited on my Northwest tour (my wife caught pink-eye!). Now, I have a severely sprained left wrist, but more on that later.

Holy Cow! This newsletter is huge! (My intro isn't making it any shorter, either!) It would seem that summer is going out with a bang in the fishing world. There are several volunteer opportunities, a multitude of events and a couple of fishing trips for you to enjoy.

For instance, it's that time again for the Annual Clear Creek Cleanup Day in Idaho Springs. As the river is on a major thoroughfare, it is prone to abuse. So this cleanup day can make a big difference. Hopefully, you can be there to make it another successful cleanup day. There are also a couple of opportunities to join the State TU folks for two rewarding work days in the Buffalo Peaks SWA. Check out the Other TU Action Items article to see other ways you can lend a hand.

There are also a few opportunities to go fishing with the Chapter in the near future on the Frying Pan and Big Horn rivers. There is also a trip to the San Juan River coming up in October (check the website for details). And speaking of chapters, check out the Other Trout Unlimited Chapter Events article. It's chock full of all types of events from volunteering to just celebrating a river.

If you aren't already, you should be checking the website regularly for up to date information. And that'll be more important this month because we're about to release a new and improved version! Our very own Internet whiz kid, Nick Hoover, has put together an amazing site with a lot of new features. A huge thanks goes out to Joe Snoy, the webmaster, and Nick for porting all the info from the current site into the new one. So keep an eye out for the new version!

On a personal note, I promise that I'm not a sickly or easily broken guy. But the way the last couple of months have been going, you might think so. After recovering from the flu and then the germ covered kids on my Northwest tour, I

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knew I needed to get back into the mountains and be reminded of why I live in this amazing state.

I grabbed my bike and a couple of my friends and headed to the Three Sisters trailhead above Evergreen. The Evergreen Mountain side is one of my favorite trails in the region. It has enough challenging spots to keep you trying but not so much that you end up hiking instead of riding. Plus, you get to ride around that wonderful iris field. If you haven't been there yet, you should check it out.

It was a perfect Colorado day, especially at that altitude. Not too hot; super sunny; just right.

So we headed up the trail. My fitness level was better than expected, which boosted my confidence (and may have contributed to the outcome of the day). After reaching the summit, we pointed the bikes downhill to reap the rewards of the climb. I'm not the fastest guy but I have a knack for the technical terrain. As I mentioned above, there isn't too much of the technical on this trail. And with the boosted confidence, I started to make the trail a little more challenging by jumping off of various bumps and rocks.

I should mention here that I've never been a good bike jumper. My dad used to park a yard of manure/fertilizer on the driveway every summer and we'd inevitably build a big jump out of it. You could take to the bank the fact that I would pull up too hard on the handle bars of my BMX bike and land flat on my back at least once a summer. Some lessons are harder to remember I guess.

My last jump of the Evergreen Mountain trail began as a relatively harmless hop over a mostly buried rock. Unfortunately, I did not hop enough. It happened so fast I'm not certain of exactly what began my crash. But the next thing I knew, my bike was sliding out from under me.

As somewhat of an adrenaline junkie, I have a sick enjoyment of those moments during the wipeouts. Everything becomes crystal clear. There are no other thoughts rambling around your brain bothering you. You're absolutely focused on falling safely. In that moment of clarity, my brain quickly calculated some geometry and determined I was headed right at a sandstone slab jutting out into the trail bed. I distinctly remember thinking to myself, "I'm going headfirst into that rock". Amazingly, my adrenaline jacked brain determined the best thing to do was to relax and close my eyes, which is what I did.

Seconds later, I opened my eyes facing skyward and lying on my back in the middle of the trail. I ran a system check and first noticed the pain in my left wrist. Then there was a blurry spot in the middle-bottom of my right eye. I looked at my wrist and didn't notice any strange corners or open wounds but it still hurt. I then evaluated the blurry spot and determined it was not attached to my eye, thankfully. Removing my glasses with my good hand revealed an inch long gouge on the lens of my sunglasses. It doesn't get much closer than that.

After my light-headedness retreated, I was able to walk the mile or so to the road where my friends could pick me up with the car and jet me to the ER; Nothing broken.

I'm thankful for so many things every day but that day was really special. I'm thankful for having friends to ride with me. They revived me with food, repaired the flat front tire, took me to the ER and relived the crash with me from their perspective and mine. I'm thankful I wear a helmet during just about every

sport I participate in, especially mountain biking. I'm a visual guy and therefore extra thankful that my eyes water at the slightest breeze therefore necessitating protective eyewear. Finally, I'm thankful just to be alive and (relatively) healthy.

I'm also thankful my injury is to my left hand and not my right hand (I'm right handed). For without my right hand it would be much more difficult for me to enjoy my upcoming anniversary trip to Telluride and fishing the San Miguel and Delores rivers.

Thanks again for all your emails of support and allowing me to share some of my silly stories with you. I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter.

Mike Myers - Newsletter Editor

Here fishy, fishy...

Monthly Membership Meeting - Jeff Spohn "State of the So. Platte River"
Tuesday, September 21st at 7pm

Jeff Spohn is CDOW's aquatic biologist for the Upper South Platte River Basin. The Upper South Platte River is the Cutthroat Chapter's "home waters". Jeff knows more about this section of the state than anyone you're likely to meet. Jeff will spend the first part of his presentation discussing the biology, management, and issues with the fishery in the Spinney, Cheesman and Deckers areas after which he will take questions and topics from the floor.



Jeff graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a BS in Limnology & Fisheries and a second degree in Aquatic Biology.

Don't miss this chance to hear him talk about what's going on in our own "backyard". Surely, he'll mistakenly reveal some hot spots you haven't heard of yet!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - Annual Stream Cleanup Day at Idaho Springs
Saturday, September 25th

The Cutthroat Chapter, in conjunction with the [Cherry Creek Chapter](#) will be conducting a stream cleanup along Clear Creek Saturday, September

25th. We have been doing this for several years and it has yielded very worthwhile results and community appreciation. It is almost unbelievable the things we pull from the banks and the stream itself. Our efforts really do make a difference as the stream is in a high traffic area vulnerable to lots of trash pollution.

We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at Courtney-Ryley-Cooper Park @ 2331 Colorado Ave. in Idaho Springs, have a doughnut (or two!) along with fresh Starbucks coffee, get our stream section assignments, work for two or three hours and have lunch. This year we will have hot Pizza from Beau Jo's followed by a great door prize raffle.

After lunch, plan to spend a few hours fishing or hiking in the area.

Courtney-Ryley-Cooper Park is easy to find, just take the first exit into Idaho Springs from I-70. Follow the street-Colorado Ave.- to the park.

Please plan to support this rewarding conservation/fishing event, sign up by sending an e-mail to Ray Carney at RayTheFly@aol.com or call him at 303-972-2976.

Additional Information will be provided at the September 21st membership meeting.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - CTU Work Days at Buffalo Peaks Ranch State Wildlife Area
Saturday, September 11 and Saturday, September 18

CTU volunteer work days have been scheduled for Saturday, September 11 and Saturday, September 18 at Buffalo Peaks Ranch State Wildlife Area. Coordinator is Terry Deaton of the Cheyenne Mountain chapter (tfdeaton@msn.com, 719-322-4494).

We plan to install several hundred feet of barbed wire fencing along the north side of the stream in order to keep the grazing lessee's cattle out of the stream and the riparian plantings from earlier workdays. The work will be strenuous, involving digging postholes for fence corners/Hbraces, installing those corners, pounding in T-posts, stretching wire, etc. All groups will be meeting at the [Buffalo Peaks Ranch Buildings](#) - North side of Platte bridge on Highway 9 between Fairplay and Hartsel - at approximately 9 am each day. We expect to wrap up by about 3 pm each day.

We need to complete the north side fencing this summer, so it is important that we have a good crew of volunteers participating. Please consider volunteering if you are able to do so.

If you are not familiar with this new SWA or the restoration work being done there by CTU, check out the [website](#)

Volunteers should wear work boots or sturdy shoes and bring gloves, hat, sunscreen, STRONG bug repellent, and a water bottle. CTU will provide lunch and water for refills.

If you can participate in this work day, please respond to Terry Deaton via [email](#)

so we will have an accurate head count in advance. If you have any questions about this opportunity, contact Terry via email or phone. **If you can bring appropriate fencing tools (posthole diggers, trenching shovel, digging bar, T-post driver, fencing pliers, etc.) please contact Terry about that as well.**

We also have a need for at least one ATV to ferry fence posts down to the work area. Contact Terry if you can bring one for either day. Please do not bring an ATV without checking first.

Environmental Impact Study Available for Comment ***Christo's Over The River project in review***

There's still time to enter your response! Follow any of the links below (exerpted from last month's eNewsletter) to learn more.

Offically, TU (National and Local) does not have a stance on Christo's Over The River Project. As a concerned Chapter, we urge you to review the [Environmental Impact Study](#) by the BLM as well as the pro's ([Over The River Project](#)) and con's ([Rags Over the Arkansas River](#)). If you'd like even more info, Google "[christo over the river project](#)" for a lot more links. After you develop your opinion, please let CTU know how you feel by emailing any of their officers (their addresses are available [here](#)).

Recap: August Saturday Trip ***Blue River Report by Nick Hoover***

I went on our Chapter's fishing trip to the Blue on Saturday the 21st. There was a really great turn out. 10 people showed up to pound some trout. Kent Higgins our "guide" gave us quick rundown of the fishing conditions. Below the resevoir the water was still too cold to have much bug activity and he recommended we fish the Steps outside of Breckenridge. So the cutthroat TU caravan loaded up and we headed to Breck.

The weather was ok for fishing I would classify it as partly cloudy, a comfortable 60-70 degrees, with limited wind.

I saw one rising fish right when we got there. It looked like he was coming up to a really small white midge. By the time I got to him he was done rising. That was the only bug activity I saw all day.



I managed one scrappy 12 inch rainbow on a size 20 black beauty. I heard of a few risers coming up to a Sparkle emerger.



I would say the cutthroat chapter was the only group on the entire stretch of river. We got to spread

out and move through the holes. It was pretty fantastic to be able to stop and talk to a fellow fly caster and have them tell you what was working and what was not working. It helped me narrow down the choices in my box while searching for feeding trout.

Kent gave me a streamside entomology lesson which was great. We saw a lot of small size 22 and 24 black mayfly midges on the rocks we turned over. We did not see any caddis where we were turning rocks.

Overall it was a day on the water which is better than a day on the couch. I learned some new things when it came to bugs and I helped a few rookie fly fishers out. I'd say it was a great day and I look forward to the next trip...

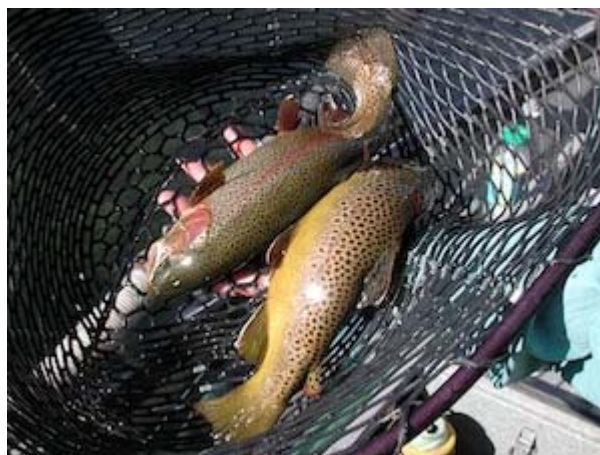
Nick

Frying Pan River Fishing Trip

September 16th-19th - Still one spot open!

Still one slot available for the Cutthroat Chapter's trip to the Frying Pan River September 16-19. Contact Joe Snoy at 303-688-8541.

This is a 4 day/3-night trip to the Frying Pan River/Roaring Fork area near Basalt, CO. Our base of operations will be the Taylor Creek Cabins located on the Frying Pan River about 5 miles upstream from Basalt. The cabins are rustic log on the outside but ultra modern on the inside including satellite TV and telephone. The cabins are fully self-contained and have 2 bedrooms - each cabin has a queen size bed and the other bedroom has 2 single beds. In addition there is a pull-out couch in the lounge area which can sleep an additional person. There is a full kitchen complete with full size refrigerator, stove, microwave, coffee machine, toaster and all of the other utensils and devices to make it a home away from home. The living area has satellite television and telephone. The cabins are managed by Frying Pan Anglers Flyshop in Basalt.



Click on the following link for more information - [Taylor Creek Cabin website](#).

In addition we will have priority access to the private fly fishing water within immediate walking distance to the Frying Pan River from the cabins (50 yds). Obviously we are not limited to only the private water, but all the public water on the Frying Pan and Roaring Fork River will be available.

Lodging costs: The cabin rate is \$200/night with a 3 night stay minimum. That will average \$50/night/person for 4 people.

If you are interested, please contact me, Joe Snoy 303-688-8541 or [email](#).



Big Horn trip Oct 3-8

There's still room in the condo!

Our annual trip to Big Horn River, which is generally around Memorial Day weekend, got blown out by extremely high flows. This trip has been rescheduled for October 3 -8, which according to Kent Higgins is prime Baetis time! Fishing should be excellent!

We plan to arrive on Sunday, October 3, Fish Monday through Thursday, October 7, checking out Friday, October 8. We have reserved up to 4 drift boats to float either the upper 3 mile stretch or the lower stretch which is about 9 miles.

The fishing is great, the scenery spectacular and the cost very reasonable. If we are close to capacity in the Condo, the cost per person is less than \$20/night and the drift boats are about \$45/day for 3 people/boat!

Please contact [Jim Ericson](#) if you are interested in joining us! 303-941-8166 (c) 303-683-8609 (h).

Space is still available in the Condo. Click on the [Big Horn Trip Link](#) for more detailed information.

Other TU Action Items

Your Vote Could Help TIC Receive \$20,000

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) and TU's New York City chapter have been selected as finalists for the Tom's of Maine "50 States for Good" contest. In celebration of its 40th anniversary, Tom's of Maine will sponsor five organizations and their projects focusing on environmental and community wellness. Please vote for TIC today and every day through September 10.

Help Integrate TU's Conservation Model Into America's Great Outdoors Initiative

President Obama has asked Interior Secretary Salazar to help lead the development of a plan to carry out America's Great Outdoors Initiative. Intended to create a "21st century conservation and recreation agenda" to help "reconnect all Americans with the outdoors," the President's goals include protecting and restoring special places (lands and waters); featuring local partnerships to do the job; helping working lands (farms and ranches); and encouraging kids and families spend more time outdoors.

These goals are very similar to TU's conservation strategy. This initiative provides us with a great opportunity for the President, Secretary Salazar and others in the administration to adopt TU's conservation strategy and implement several of TU's high-value conservation projects.

Annual Cutthroat Chapter Photo Contest

Entries due by December 1st, 2010!



Do you have a great picture of your fishing buddy and his monster fish (that he would not have landed if it wasn't for your considerable net skills)? Maybe a picture of an excited child, grandchild or spouse standing in a river with a fish on? Or a great shot of the wonderful scenery in which our lovely streams and rivers flow? Then dig through that shoe box or computer folder of pictures and enter that trout-related photo in the 2010 Photo Contest. You could win a prize!

Submit your winning photos via email to [Don Cushing](#) (click Don's name to send an email). Just a couple basic rules: Photos must be trout related and have been taken in the current year by a current Cutthroat Chapter member. Also, no professional photographers allowed.

Display, voting and awarding will take place at the December Membership meeting so be sure to attend.

The photo above is from last year's winner, Steve Bailey. Think you can do better? Let's see it!

Other Trout Unlimited Chapter Events

Alpine Anglers

- Statewide river cleanup in conjunction with National TU. They'll be cleaning up the Big Thompson River. See website for details.
- Showing of the video "Riverwebs" on September 22 from 7pm to 9pm at the Peak-to-Peak American Grill. See website for details.

Boulder Flycasters

- Fall trip on the Taylor River on September 11-12 for a fee. See website for more info.

Cherry Creek Anglers

- Monthly Chapter meeting at Gander Mountain featuring Mark Weaver, head guide at High Lonesome Ranch and fly fisherman for over 23 years. He'll be discussing fishing techniques that have proven successful on the western slope around De Beque, the Gunnison River, Cimarron Creek, and the Grand Mesa lakes. See website for more details.
- The Hot Dog Sales at Bass Pro Shop in Northfield Mall on September 11th and 12th. See website for more details.
- Clear Creek fishing trip and clean up on September 25th. See website for details.
- Bagging for Bucks Event at Bass Pro Shop at Northfield Mall on September 25th and 26th. See website for details.

Cheyenne Mountain Chapter

- Adult Fly Fishing School on September 11th from 8am to 5pm. See website for more details.
- River Clean Up on September 25th from 8am to 5pm. Cleaning up the South Platte River as it flows through 11-Mile Canyon. See website for more details.

[Denver Trout Unlimited](#)

- River Cleanup at Happy Meadows on Sunday, September 12th from 12pm to 3pm. River cleanup followed by fishing! See website for details.
- South Platte River Sweep on Saturday, September 25th from 8am to 12pm at Fishback Landing Park. A bevy of tasks such as litter pick up, tree trimming/pruning, painting and noxious weed removal. See website for details.

[Evergreen Trout Unlimited](#)

- Free fishing at Buchanan Ponds for volunteers in past year on September 3rd and 4th. See website for details.
- Monthly Meeting and Program on September 15th at 6:30pm at Beau Jo's Pizza in Evergreen. See website for details.
- Free fishing at Buchanan Ponds for volunteers in past year on September 17th and 18th. See website for details.

[West Denver Chapter](#)

- Beginning Fly Fishing on Saturday, September 11th from 9am-4pm at Pine Valley Ranch. See website for details.
- River Watch on Saturday, September 18th at 9am in Golden. See website for details.
- CTU State Clean Up - Clear Creek at Mayhem Gulch on Saturday, September 18th from 9am to noon. See website for details.
- Clear Creek Watershed Festival on Saturday, September 18th from 10am to 3pm. See website for details.
- Arkansas River Chapter Trip on Friday, September 24th through Monday, September 27th. See website for details.

Other Fishing Stuff to Do in September

[Clear Creek Watershed Festival](#)

Second-annual fun & family-oriented event to learn about the Clear Creek Watershed. Free entry! Saturday, September 18 from 10am to 3pm.

[Anglers All](#)

- Gunnison River Weekend on Friday, September 10th through Sunday, September 12th. See the Events page on the Anglers All website for details.
- Fly Fishing School on Saturday, September 11th. See the Events page on the Anglers All website for details.
- Gunnison River Weekend on Friday, September 17th through Sunday, September 19th. See the Events page on the Anglers All website for details.
- On-Stream School on Saturday, September 18th. See the Events page on the Anglers All website for details.

[Blue Quill Angler](#)

- Learn to Fly Fish - FREE - with the Orvis Company at the Blue Quill Angler on every Saturday from 10am to noon. See the Blue Quill Angler website for details.

[Charlie's Fly Box](#)

- Fly Fishing Class at Charlie's Fly Box on September 7th, 8th and 11th. This class is designed to introduce beginner anglers into the sport of fly-fishing. See the Charlie's FlyBox website for details.

[Discount Fishing Tackle](#)

- Currently, nothing scheduled. See the Discount Fishing Tackle website for details.

[Front Range Anglers](#)

- Currently, nothing scheduled. See the Front Range Anglers website for details.

[Hook](#)

- Every Sunday, Hook hosts a free "Round Table Fly Tying Participation Group" at noon. You can bring your own gear or use a loaner to join in.

- Fly Tying 101-Fly Tying for Beginners begins on the 2nd Monday of every month from 6pm to 8:30pm for three Mondays. See the Hook website for details.

- Fly Tying 201-Intermediate Fly Tying begins on the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 6pm to 8:30pm for three Tuesdays. See the Hook website for details.

[Orvis Rod and Tackle Centennial](#)

- Free Fly Casting Clinics at Orvis Rod and Tackle Centennial every Saturday at 9am. See the Orvis Rod and Tackle Centennial website for details.

- Additional Orvis seminars and classes are available and can be found on The Denver Post's Outdoors Calendar.

Check out the [Denver Post's online Outdoors Calendar](#) for additional events.

Monthly Membership Meetings

Don't forget to attend our monthly Membership Meetings on the third Tuesday of each month (except July and November). They start at 7:00pm and are held at the South Metro Denver Realtors Association building at the corner of South Broadway and West Mineral Avenue. Here's the address: [7899 S. Lincoln Ct., Littleton, CO 80122](#).

Follow up Links

- [Interested in previous CCTU newsletters? Here they are ...](#)
- [You Can Renew Your TU Membership On-line Here ...](#)
- [See What's New at the State TU Level ...](#)

Comments/Questions?

email: mrmymers5280@comcast.net

phone: (303) 948-9204

web: <http://www.cutthroatctu.org/>

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