



Greenback Currents

Newsletter of the Southern Colorado Greenback Chapter

May/June 2007

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 10, 7:00 p.m., Jones-Healy Realty, 119 W. 6th, Pueblo
June Meeting, June 14, same time and place**
Everyone welcome - FREE to the public.
Donate a raffle item to defray chapter expenses!

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**CTU President Steve Craig
will present the chapter's
May program**

Floating for West Slope Cutts and Bull Trout in the Bob Marshall Wilderness

Steve Craig and family successfully executed a "do-it-yourself" float trip down the South Fork of the Flathead River in Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness in July 2005. Craig states that three reasons for this true wilderness experience were to fish for the threatened Bull Trout, catch West slope Cutthroats, and to see if it could be a "do it yourself" experience.

The South Fork is the only river in Montana where Bull Trout can be fished for legally, although no fish can be kept. The Bob Marshall is one of the oldest designated wilderness areas in the United States and home to a fairly sizeable population of grizzlies, so some extraordinary precautions had to be taken. Although some outsourcing had to be done with horse-packing outfitters in order to get rafts and supplies to the launch point, the overall costs proved to be a fraction of what a fully guided trip would have been.

Craig has been an active Trout Unlimited volunteer for most of the past 20 years. As a member of the Cheyenne Mountain Chapter in the early 90's he participated in several interesting resource projects such as Vibert Box plantings in Eleven Mile Canyon and small stream restoration on tributaries of the upper South Platte River. After a stint as Executive Director for Colorado Trout Unlimited he relocated to Chaffee County near Salida where he fishes the Arkansas River frequently. Steve is a past president of the Cheyenne Mountain and Collegiate Peaks Anglers Chapters, served on TU's National Resource Board and National Leadership Council and is currently president of TU's Colorado Council (CTU).

Chapter Secretary **Still Needed !**

Our chapter needs a member who is willing to take care of routine paperwork on a monthly basis for the good of our mission – to send reports to CTU and NTU, write thank you notes, etc. If you can donate a few hours a month to help, it would be very much appreciated! Contact Pat at 566-6834.

Our Mission: To Conserve, Protect and Restore Colorado's Trout Fisheries and their Watersheds.

President's Piece - Pat McGraw

Hello to all you Spring fishers!

Hope you have all thawed out from a tough winter. At least from a fishing standpoint, it was a bit difficult from what I am usually used to. I have had much better Winter fishing most other years.

Our Winter meetings have been very informative. I hope that if you see a guest of interest, that you attend one of our meetings. It is always nice to see new faces, and of course, I really enjoy our regular fifteen to twenty members and guests. We always have a good discussion and great questions for our speakers. How many of us have fished above Canon City and not stopped by Royal Gorge Anglers for some expert advice from Bill and his crew? I still go up thinking I know what to use, and every time end up needing confidence from the experts. Well we had Larry Kingrey at a meeting, and he tied the entire Caddis life cycle and then some more great patterns. You missed a good one. We had Mike Dowd, Head of State Parks at the reservoir. He was just full of information about the access to the river at different places.



**Pat McGraw, So. CO
Greenback Chapter
President**

Last month Dr. Scott Herrmann, from CSU-Pueblo biology department, brought us up to date on the bug studies that he and his colleagues are conducting on various rivers around Pueblo. Unbelievable information about our river through Pueblo. You missed another good one.

Our May meeting brings Steve Craig, President of Colorado Trout Unlimited to talk about progress with TU and any other subject you might have. Steve is a real student of the entire TU organization. See the article on page 1.

We would like to thank all those that participated in our annual river clean-up below the dam. For a couple of miles downstream, it can always use some picking up. We usually hold it in April, before the flow gets to high, so some of our members can wade the river and pick up trash that has floated down. Lunch is also served after the hard work.

We really had a fun group trip last month, hoping to catch the first of the caddis emerging on the Arkansas River above Canon City. They were not active yet, but with the help of Ron, Ben and Lou from Anglers Addiction, we did very well nymphing. Ben has been the organizer of these monthly trips, and what more could we ask for, than a couple of guides volunteering their services. Lord knows I need help. You missed another good one, and the sign-up board is at the fly shop, so drop by and visit with Ron and Ben. (They might let you have a cup of coffee).

One last item for this round. That is our main yearly fund raiser that we hope will generate some funds so we can continue to pay for mailing our newsletter and the little bit that we may donate to a good cause like Rendezvous and Youth Camp. We don't make a ton of money, but I think last year we made around \$500.00.

Remember, postage goes up soon. June 16, we will hold a yard sale on the front lawn of Anglers Addiction, 1401 N. Main. We are asking any for any usable items that you can donate. Outdoor recreation items really sell, but we will try to sell other items also. If you can drop off items the day before, please call me and I will pick up your goods. Thanks for all your help.

Fish hard and stay dry! Pat

Project News – Ted Sillox



Chapter Projects Chairman Ted Sillox built this gorgeous fly tying desk as a donation to Colorado Trout Unlimited from our Chapter. Thanks for sharing your talent on our behalf, Ted.

Sometimes a person needs to try and try again to be successful. After several attempts to garner his support, our chapter has received a reply to our letter to Senator Ken Salazar.

In his reply he thanked us for bringing the macro-invertebrate study by Dr. Herrmann to his attention and informed us that he would be contacting Gary Rutherford from the Corps in Albuquerque to encourage funding for this study. The funding is scheduled to happen next year so I will probably be contacting members with another letter campaign as we need to not let this study be “the one that got away”. I will bring copies of the letter to the May meeting for any member interested in reading it.

We are hoping to have Mr. Rutherford speak at an upcoming meeting about the work that the ACE has done on the Arkansas River, and is now doing on the Fountain River. Stay tuned!



Part of the Cleanup Crew that could be rounded up for a photo ...

Arkansas River Cleanup 2007

On Earth Day, April 21, 20 intrepid souls met at Snakeskin Picnic Area to scavenge for trash that had accumulated along the river over the winter. Members and their families, a few community-minded folks and two young men from Pueblo County High School’s Environmental Science class came by to help. Carol Engler and Mike Kersten did a super job putting together the post-cleanup cookout, and we all enjoyed getting to know new friends.

We will be participating in CTU’s statewide river cleanup this fall, so stay tuned for the details.



Carol Keeps an Eye on the attacking Hungry Hordes!



Grill Meister and fly tier extraordinaire Mike Kersten takes a break from cooking for a shot. And he’s a new dad!

2nd Annual Sporting Goods Yard Sale, June 16, 7:00 a.m. – Sold Out

Last year, we held the first Sporting Goods Yard Sale, and though it took two tries to dispose of all of the donated goodies, the chapter did well at building some reserve in the chapter treasury. This year, we hope to repeat this event. It is not only a super fund-raiser, but a way to acquaint the community with Trout Unlimited's activities, and even garner a few new members. But we need your help!

If you have "retired" sporting goods related items, or anything else that is still in usable shape, consider donating them to the cause. You can get a tax write-off for these donations. The sale will be held on Angler's Addiction's front lawn, at 1401 N. Main in Pueblo, just south of Mineral Palace Park off of the 13th street exit. We would appreciate it if you could drop off your donations at Angler's Addiction a day or so before the sale by 5:00 p.m., so we have time to organize it before the sale starts on Saturday.

We also could use help from members before and during the sale to help folks with their purchases, keep an eye on things, and clean up afterwards. It's a six hour commitment of time or whatever you can give, but it really helps out our chapter. If you are willing to volunteer, need items picked up or need further information, please call Pat at 719-566-6834. *Angler's Addiction has pledged 10% of their proceeds from store sales to the chapter for that day also!*

Monthly Chapter Fishing Trips!

Nine eager fly fishers enjoyed the chapter fishing trip in April to the Arkansas River. Though the caddis were shy, several trout were brought to hand on a variety of nymphs and emergers. The day couldn't have been more perfect! Anglers Suzi and Richard, Pat, Jerry, Marge, and Rick were accompanied by guides Ben, Ron and Lou, who helped us pick out just the right flies and showed us how to fish them for a successful day.

The May trip on Sunday, May 20, will be to Beaver Creek which flows from Skagway and Brush Hollow reservoirs on the south side of Pikes Peak. The trip is limited to 12 chapter members and their families, total. Beaver Creek is a small creek with a very large stone fly population which indicates high water quality (little to no pollution). This is a gorgeous area in a wilderness setting. Participants should be able to hike and handle altitude changes. There may be significant amounts of poison ivy to contend with and rattlesnakes have been seen in past trips, but despite the dangers, this area is a drop dead beautiful place to fish in crystal clear water for smallish fighters. If runoff begins around the time of the trip, we will have a back up plan.

Signing up is critical for planning the trip logistics, and be prepared for car pooling needs. Be on time and let us know whether you would like to car pool or drive before you show up. Meet at Angler's Addiction at 8:00 am sharp, and be prepared for weather just in case. Drop by Angler's Addiction or call Ben at 296-5886 to sign up.



Suzi Purcell "knocks 'em dead" on the Arkansas



... while the guys on the bank, Ron, Jerry and Pat, try to figure out what to use next!

New Members

We welcome you! TU is a grassroots organization and depends on folks like you to make a difference in its mission. If you would like to become more involved, please contact our President, Pat McGraw, for information about our current activities and how you can help.

Robin Smith from Raton, Mark at the River Cleanup

RGA's Spring Fling Review – Marge Vorndam



Bill Edrington started the Friday orientation for Royal Gorge Angler's Annual Spring Fling, held at the end of March each year, with "Make sure that you ask every question you can think of about fishing. We promise to find an answer if we don't know it". On Friday, forty participants and their families met at the Cotopaxi KOA, located on the Arkansas River with spectacular scenery, including the snow-covered Sangre de Cristo peaks and complete with river, canyon wren and robin sound effects. The KOA controls river

access with prime fishing lies and managed as a C&R fishery for around 1/3 mile, bordered on the east by public lands with hiking and more fishing. Friday evening's orientation included introductions to the guides and group assignments. Guide Steve Cooke brought new T.L Johnson fly rods for everyone to try.

On Saturday, we met three other "students" in our group and our guide. About ½ of the students were new to the sport, while the rest of us joined intermediate or advanced four-somes for the day. Yours truly was assigned to intermediate group guide Jerry Knapic of Buena Vista, and we headed to the river to work on polishing up our casting skills including the double haul, rigging tips, how to read and cover the water, short-line nymphing, emerger and streamer fishing and tons of practical advice that this 20 year veteran could add to her arsenal of fishing strategies. In the afternoon, we practiced short-line nymphing and even caught a few fish, though Bill Edrington had told us expressly that we were there to learn, and NOT to catch fish!! Guess we got an "F" on that! And we never saw any of the other 8 to 10 groups on the water during our session!

After a full day of Jerry's excellent teaching, we were treated to a very tasty dinner with Bill Edrington's Ancho Chili BBQ sauce taking center stage, followed by a fishing gear raffle that benefited the Wounded Warrior Program, and tons of great fishing stories. We rolled off to bed under a full moon bright as daylight!

On Sunday morning, Bill filled us in on AK River fishing, rafting and kayaking management history and agreements, and reviewed flow regimes and entomology activity through the year. We headed out to cheer on Taylor's and Sean's kick screen efforts in the fast water. From the collected sample, Bill identified the major bug groups and showed "Larry Kingrey" ties to match. The aggressive 2 inch stoneflies were ferocious looking under a microscope. RGA tiers demonstrated the finishing touches on artificial flies, and gave tips on tying.

Was it worth it? Wow! Talk about packing five years of fishing school into a weekend. With three levels of classes and experienced guide tutors like Jerry, we couldn't help but learn. And the mix of folks sharing their own fishing expertise was an added benefit. This experience is a "must do" for any serious angler who wants to really get a handle on fishing the Arkansas and adding to skills that make fly fishing such an enjoyable way to spend quality time.


Spring Fling happens every year at the end of March. Contact the Royal Gorge Angler for information. And a word about my favorite guide: Jerry Knapic lives and guides on the AK River between Buena Vista and Canon City. Contact RGA to book him for a learning and catching afternoon of the best native brown trout fishing in the world.

Calendar of Events

All Member Meetings are held at Jones-Healy Realty Bldg., 119 W. 6th St., Pueblo, 7:00 p.m. Nonmembers are always welcome. All Board Meetings are held at Pat's Place, 1630 Alma Ave., Pueblo, 7:00 pm. All are welcome. For information on either meeting or other chapter activities, call Pat at 719-566-6834.

May 3	Board Meeting
5	<i>Collegiate Peaks Anglers will hold the Annual Caddis Festival Banquet/Auction on Saturday, May 5, 5:00 p.m. - ? Chaffee Co. Fairgrounds by Poncha Springs. For ticket info, contact Larry Bussey (719)539-4040 or rogersbussey@aol.com . See www.collegiatepeaksanglerstu.org .</i>
10	Member Meeting - Steve Craig, CTU President, speaker
June 7	Board Meeting
14	Member Meeting
16	2nd Annual Sporting Goods Yard Sale Fundraiser, 7 a.m. - ? - Volunteers Needed! - Location TBA - Begin to round up items now! Call Pat 566-6834 .
July 12	Member Meeting
August 9	Member Meeting
September 13	Member Meeting
13-15	National TU Annual Meeting, Grove Hotel, Boise, ID
15	Arkansas River Cleanup - 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lk. Pueblo SP Snakeskin PA
21 - 23	Duck Race Fundraiser, Chili & Frijoles Festival, Pueblo Riverwalk
October 11	Member Meeting/ Board Elections
November 8	Member Meeting
December	No meetings. Happy Holidays!

Greenback Currents is a bimonthly newsletter of the Southern Greenback Chapter 509, Trout Unlimited. Trout Unlimited, the nation's leading coldwater conservation organization is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving, protecting and enhancing the coldwater resource (<http://www.tu.org>). Disclaimer: Content herein does not necessarily reflect official TU policy. Advertising rates are available on request to the editor. Subscription rates for hard copy to non-members: \$20/year. E-copy: free with request to S_greenbacks@chapter509tu.org. Chapter web: <http://www.chapter509TU.org>.

<p>NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (for new members only)</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>Telephone: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p><small>TU does not make email addresses available to outside parties, for any reason, ever. Please help us conserve resources by providing your email address.</small></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is my employer's matching gift form, plus this new membership application and payment.</p> <p>SEND APPLICATION AND PAYMENT TO:</p> <p> TROUT UNLIMITED 1300 N. 17th St., Suite 500 Arlington VA 22209-3801</p>	<p>MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES*</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Special New Member Rate (\$17.50)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Senior (\$20) <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Contributor (\$50)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Youth (\$20) <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor (\$100)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Regular (\$35) <input type="checkbox"/> Conservator (\$250)</p> <p><small>For additional membership categories, please call 1-800-834-2419</small></p> <p>PAYMENT METHOD</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MC <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX <input type="checkbox"/> Discover</p> <p><small>Make checks payable to Trout Unlimited</small></p> <p>Card #: _____ Exp: _____</p> <p>Name on card: _____</p> <p><small>*Canadian membership – please add \$5 per year, all other countries add \$20 per year. Membership contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.</small></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>To ensure correct New Member Rebate, enter Chapter/Council #: 509</small></p>
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To New Members and those who did not receive an eMail version of the newsletter, but had requested it:

We are attempting to reduce mailing costs by eMailing the newsletter to people who are interested in receiving this publication by eMail.

- If you have an eMail address and are willing to forego a hard copy to save on chapter expenses, please send your eMail address to S_greenbacks@chapter509tu.org along with a note to that effect.
- If you wish to receive hard copies of the newsletter, please call or mail a note to President Pat McGraw, (719) 566-6834, 1630 Alma Ave. Pueblo, CO 81004.

Our policy is to contact you three times by newsletter or postcard. If we do not hear from you after the third contact, we will drop you from our local chapter's mailing list.

If you previously requested an eMail copy, but received a hard, snail-mail copy, it is likely that the emailed version addressed to your eMail box bounced and was not delivered to you. Since we do not wish to lose you, we sent you a hard copy instead, and will continue to do so until the newsletter is successfully delivered by eMail to your Inbox. Consider adding the eMail address, S_greenbacks@chapter509tu.org, to your Safe Senders list to avoid future bounced newsletters. Check your Email Help menu for Safe Sender add instructions.

Join [Trout Unlimited](#) ! Specify Chapter 509 to be a member of the Southern Colorado Greenback Chapter 509.

2007 Board of Directors

Officer	Telephone Contact	e-Mail contact
President: Pat McGraw	566-6834	patmc@idcomm.com
Vice President: Michael L. Kersten	561-5045	n/a
Secretary: Vacant		
Treasurer: Carole Engler	561-0562	englerca@aol.com
Membership: Tony Allesandro		
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Our Mission: To Conserve, Protect and Restore Colorado's Trout Fisheries and their Watersheds



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<http://www.chapter509TU.org>

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Thanks to Our Business Sponsors !

Please tell them that you appreciate their support of our chapter when you visit.



NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING - THURSDAY, MAY 10, 7:00 p.m.
RAFFLE ITEMS WELCOME!