



Greenback Currents

October-December 2007

Our mission: to Conserve, Protect and Restore Colorado's Trout Fisheries and their Watersheds.

Membership Meetings - Non-members invited! *Bring a Raffle Item to Share!*

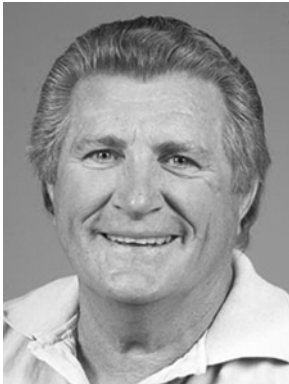
Thursday, October 11, 7:00 pm, 119 W. 6th St., Pueblo
CO DOW Fisheries Biologist Doug Krieger on
"DOW's Fisheries Management - Present & Future Plans"
AND Annual Chapter Elections.

Thursday, November 8 - Ben Olsen on "What's New - Fishing Gear for 2008"
Every attendee will take something home!

No Meeting in December

President's Piece

Pat McGraw



Greetings to All,

Hope this newsletter finds you and your family in good health. This is the time of year that we prepare for the winter months and flu. *Get a shot!*

This is actually the month that feels like our year ends. It was October two years ago that we held a Grand Rally, trying to build our membership of chapter 509. It worked, but of course we would like to see more at our meetings and events. Remember, we have 200 members and we hope to see 20 at our meetings. Twelve to fifteen is norm. We have a great, hard working board, but we always need support and suggestions.

While I am talking about meetings, October 11 would be a good one to attend.

We have a presentation by Doug Krieger, Regional Director of DOW. We always are interested in knowing what is in store for our conservation efforts, as well as the condition of our wildlife. Doug will also be open to questions.

Not a whole lot happened out of the ordinary during the summer. We didn't have very good attendance at a couple meetings, so we canceled the July meeting and announced a TU picnic instead. It was fun, but the same twenty people showed up.

We held our annual CTU sponsored river cleanup in September. Participants walked and covered about two miles of Arkansas River below the dam. That seems to our main focus, but for the end of summer, there really wasn't much trash. We know that with so much water being released for agriculture from May through middle of August, there is very little fishing that is possible for the seven miles through

Pueblo. Therefore, is there any new stream, river or lake that members of your chapter can help clean for next September? This does not have to be in Pueblo. I mention every newsletter that we know it is tough for the surrounding towns to attend meetings in Pueblo, but I have still not had one request to hold a meeting in one of your towns.

Maybe I had better talk about fishing for of bit. I basically stay off most of my regular fishing areas during the summer months, and do more float tubing on lakes. Of course I also fished the Frying Pan and Conejos a lot this summer. It was fun. Our chapter organizes a monthly fishing trip, with the help of Anglers Addiction, for members and their quests. Nothing fancy, but sometimes we go to where some of us have never fished. We won't be going to some of the places we fished last year, as we like to venture into unknown waters. (joke) We just got back from 11 Mile Canyon C&R. Eight of us went, and of course it is such a beautiful canyon, who cares about fish. It was tough fishing, but we all caught a half dozen or so. Couple nice sized also.

October 11 meeting also is election night and we need to have a member vote on our by-laws. If any TU member is interested in being on the board for any capacity, please let me know (566-6834). You do not have to attend this meeting to be voted in. I am again requesting a member to take over president. I am not quitting TU, but I am getting busier than ever with grandkids and their activities. When you have nine grandkids and five are very active, that takes time. I hate to miss meetings, but there are priorities. We also have a vacancy for secretary. Taking notes at our meetings is about it, but remember, we can't attend every meeting, every year.

Please keep in touch if you have any concerns or questions. We are only as strong as our membership.

Pat

Please patronize our Sponsors during the Holiday Season!

Let them know that we appreciate their support!

Royal Gorge Anglers ~~ Jones Healy Realty ~~ Angler's Addiction

Welcome, New Members!

We're glad to have you join our chapter, transfer here or renew after an absence. Please let us know how we can meet your expectations of your TU experience, and how you would like to be involved in our mission. To do that, call Pres. Pat at 566-6834. Thanks for your membership!

Andy Ferry

Chris Hertz

Earnest Manchego

Thomas Selhine

And Thanks to

John Zupancic, TU volunteers Pat McGraw, Ted Sillox, Kelvin Melton and the Pueblo Paddlers volunteers for organizing the joint **Duck Race Fundraiser** held during the Pueblo Chili and Frijoles Festival in September. Thanks especially to John for coordinating this event.

John Shanley - for continued support!



Projects: 2007 Great Colorado Rivers Cleanup Ted Sillox

Eleven volunteers met on Sept. 15 to pick up trash along the Arkansas River from the Nature Center to Pueblo Dam. Highest concentrations of trash were found around the Valco Ponds. Since our time was limited we were not able to clean the area as well as we have in the past but we did make an impact. The barbecue following was excellent and it was fun to enjoy the conversation with all the members and volunteers. Following a couple of hours

of trash-picking, volunteers enjoyed a super BBQ organized by Prez Pat, Mike Kersten and Trisha Esgar. Volunteers: Mike Kersten, Bev and John Zupancic, Irene (Ted's mom) and Ted Sillox, Marty Bechina, Jerry Hoisington, Jim Good, Pat McGraw, Trisha Esgar, and Marge Vorndam.

2007 Legislative Roundup

excerpted from *Colorado Environmental Coalition*

Passed: HB 1132: Allows water court judges to consider negative impacts on water quality when making water use rulings.

Passed: HB 1298: Colorado Wildlife and Habitat Stewardship Act - requires the CO Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) to include wildlife resource protection as part of its mission and emplace a consultation process with the DOW to protect fish and wildlife habitat when considering development activities.

Passed: HB 1341: Requires the COGCC to include commission members with expertise in public health, environment and wildlife resource issues.

Goals for 2008: to expand state instream flow program to protect fisheries and wildlife resources.

Chapter Fishing Trip - October 14 - See Calendar for Details

A Fish Story

Marge Vorndam

September 4. By 1:15 a.m., we were hiking the $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the end of Grand Haven pier. Lake Michigan was gearing up for the Fall run of King salmon, and my 19 year old nephew, Kevin, and I were eager to get into the early action with the surging edge of the necessary 50 degree water temperature afforded by nighttime fishing. On the dark west side of the lighthouse at pier end lay a freshly caught flopping 36" hen King, thick with eggs, promising an active evening.

I was new to the scene, having never fished for salmon, but Kevin was willing to tutor me through the experience. On this night, he rigged my rod with a fluorescing triple hook spoon and instructed me on the use of a LED penlight applied after every 4-5 casts. I was credibly passed on my first pitch with a "good arm" remark, and then, I picked up the rhythm of the retrieve and finessed my cast by imitating his aggressive style. The dark night and rolling fog bank portended success.

Around 2 a.m., I suddenly sensed that the retrieve rhythm had changed, followed by a solid tug. Total confusion ensued in the first rush as the action registered, then, set the hook, keep the line taut. Kevin

was quickly at my side, patiently and efficiently instructing me on playing the fish, and tightening my drag against the inevitable run.

Kevin had been hooked on fishing since 2nd grade after a family camping trip to Gun Lake and his first bass. He grew up refining his skills on Michigan bass, and then graduated to the lake salmon runs at 17. His dedication to the sport built an uncanny knowledge of fish habits, and he now possesses the mental reference library of someone much older, all bought through experience. During runs, he spends his hours at the piers, learning from others, and in turn sharing his own knowledge. He is intrigued by the response of fishes to his efforts to present a credible imitation of a food item and to fool them into taking it, he says, when queried about the depth of his interest. One wonders how that translates into a wider sense of his world and life philosophy somehow. A few lucky folks, like me, occasionally get to share in that intent world of his.

It wasn't a long fight, but I had never had such a powerful fish opposite me before. At 50 something and female, one is well aware of the balance between effort and pain, as most of us that age are, but I was able to meet the encounter with an equal amount of necessary capacity. We fought the fish around to the end of the pier where Kevin could get the long-poled net to the water, and I pulled the fish into the net.



My first salmon!
(Well, it WAS dark!)

No salmon, but a handsome 30" channel catfish with bronze belly and sable brown sides flopped on the concrete pier. Not the prey of choice, but I was pleased with the affirmation of a catch that had been fooled by my technique, a hopeful sign of "doing it right". A passing fisherman grunted disgust when I later told him that I hadn't been skunked. The catfish could only be appreciated by a neophyte, obviously. I returned my first Lake Michigan catch to the water to swim again.

But the ultimate experience wasn't to be that night. At 3:00 am, answering to the necessity of Kevin's responsibility to work in the morning, we headed home empty-handed. The run was not at a zenith enough to allow the fish gods to bless us that evening, but for me, the first-time angling experience and sharing it with a special guide made it a lifetime memory. Next time would come again.



Chapter Calendar October 2007 - January 2008

October

11 - Chapter Membership Meeting, 119 W. 6th, 7:00 p.m. Doug Krieger on DOW's Fisheries Management Plans. "New Board of Directors for 2008 Elections" - new officers will be elected. If you are willing to serve, please notify Pat at (719) 566-6834. Some board members wish to step down, so your help will be much appreciated!! Take your turn. *Bring a Raffle Item to Share!*

14 - Chapter Fishing Trip to Spinney Res & "Dream Stream" - Sign up details at Angler's Addiction, (719) 296-5886. Meet at Angler's Addiction.

Rods: 4 wt for trout - 6/7 wt for Kokanee, big Browns and Pike, waders!

November

8 - Chapter Membership Meeting, 119 W. 6th, 7:00 p.m. Ben Olsen on New Gear for 2008. Everyone in attendance will take something home! *Bring a Raffle Item to Share!*

16 - Chapter Fishing Trip to Pueblo Dam Tailwater - Sign up and details at Angler's Addiction, (719) 296-5886. Meet at Angler's Addiction.

December - No meeting - *HAPPY HOLIDAYS!*

January

4-6 - AFFTA Fly Fishing Expo, Denver Convention Center (<http://www.affta.com>)

10 - Chapter Membership Meeting, 119 W. 6th, 7:00 p.m. TBA

Greenback Currents is a bimonthly newsletter of the Southern Colorado Greenback Chapter 509, Trout Unlimited. Trout Unlimited, TU, 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. Subscription rates for non-members — \$20/year.

Advertising rates are available on request to the editor.

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For information, call
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Next Meeting:

Thursday, October 11, 7:00 p.m.
Jones-Healy Realty Bldg.
119 W. 6th St., Pueblo

- **Fisheries Biologist Doug Krieger on
CO DOW's Fisheries Management Plan:
Present and Future**
- **Chapter 2008 Elections**