

The Cutthroat

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter
of EYTU



East
Yellowstone Trout
Unlimited
Chapter #540

Volume 1, Issue 3

May/June 2010

An Upstream Mend...

*Kel Thomas, Editor
"The Cutthroat"*

Transitions

As this is being written, it is the 14th of April. Maybe, just maybe I can finally announce that spring *might* be here.

It has been a long, cold and relatively dry winter, but green grass is beginning to show itself, water flows are being increased, irrigation canals are filling and the yearly spawn closure on the North Fork has been in effect for two weeks (as of April 14).

Spring is a season in which we rarely resist transition or change. We look forward to it and pray for it to finally arrive. Other changes within our world is not so easily swallowed. Our human nature often causes us to be wary of change, especially rapid change.

As human beings and members of EYTU, our goal should be to have the wisdom and foresight to differentiate between good changes and bad changes. To fight for the good ones and fight against the destructive ones.

We are truly blessed with several unique fisheries within an hour's drive any direction. Our waters are not immune to transition and change. We expect it every year with the changing of the seasons. These changes we know are coming like clockwork. It's the ones we don't see coming that cause us concern. It's these we need to research and ask questions to determine if we need to fight for or fight against.

Transitions can be seamless. For example, this newsletter. By accepting the editorship of *The Cutthroat*, my goal is to publish a newsletter worthy of a fine chapter. Pure and simple.

I want to thank Bobbie on behalf of EYTU for the wonderful work in reviving the newsletter. It is my honor and pleasure to continue her fine work.

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The Cutthroat

Kel Thomas, Editor

The Cutthroat is a bi-monthly newsletter of the East Yellowstone Trout Unlimited Chapter.

Editorial content in this newsletter does not necessarily reflect the views of the officers or members of the East Yellowstone Trout Unlimited Chapter.

The deadline for submission of all photos and content is the tenth of the month prior to the next publication. Publication dates are January 1, March 1, May 1, July 1, September 1, and November 1.

Please send any and all contributions for the next issue to:

The Cutthroat editor via email at:

newslettereditor@eastyellowstonetru.org



Win this Shoshone River Commemorative Rod & Reel

EYTU will be selling tickets for a premium, custom fly rod and reel outfit for their 2010 fundraising project. Dave Crowther, owner of DC Rodbuilding (dcrodbuilding.com), will be providing the custom-crafted rod and reel package. The rod will feature a Dan Craft Five Rivers FTXL 9' 4pc 5wt fast action fly rod blank.

Dan Craft is a small company located in central Oregon that offers several distinct models of premium blanks that easily equal or exceed the performance of any of the top blanks offered by Orvis, Sage or Winston. The blank layout includes proper lo-

cation of the spine for each section and for the assembled blank to ensure a visually straight finished rod that tracks properly for maximum accuracy.

The rod will be carefully constructed with top quality components that are both attractive and provide increased performance. It will feature a beautiful American Tackle window-style up-locking aluminum reel seat, anodized in a titanium color finish, and containing a black woven graphite insert visible through the seat windows. The guides are American Tackle Titan sin-

(Continued on page 2)

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gle foot, which are constructed with pure titanium frames and ceramic inserts in every guide. This unique premium guide set is not available on any factory rod.

In addition to being lightweight (titanium is half the weight of steel) and 100% corrosion proof, the ceramic inserts produce increased line-shooting distance and extends fly line life, due to dramatically reduced friction. The guides will be carefully wrapped with black nylon thread with Royal blue trim and exquisitely finished in three coats of epoxy to a glass-like finish

The grip will be a custom-made, half-wells style constructed from brown burled cork with rubberized cork ends. Burled cork is a superior grip material offering greater durability than natural cork, giving a beautiful and uniquely custom look to a rod with a similar feel to natural cork. It also requires almost no patching, in direct contrast to even the best natural cork avail-

able. No patching means no patches to fall out over time, which can create a rough, uncomfortable, grip as it ages.

The rod will also have a very small, matching fighting butt that will provide an extra measure of comfort should the angler hook a large fish and need to position the butt end of the rod against his or her midsection.

The outfit will include a Lamson, Velocity 2, large arbor, fly reel featuring the same smooth conical drag as their more expensive reels, and the best Type III hard anodization available on the market. The reel will be loaded with approximately 100 yards of braided Dacron backing and a Lee Wulff Triangle Taper 5wt fly line.

To protect the beauty and performance of the rod and reel, the outfit will come in a Dan Bailey Signature Series case made for a 9' 4pc fly rod with reel attached. This is the best rod-and-reel case on the market due to the use of a lightweight fiberglass

tube in place of the typical heavy PVC tube, providing maximum protection for it's valuable contents.

In addition to the rod specification information, the finished rod will be labeled as a Shoshone River 2010 Commemorative Edition for the East Yellowstone Chapter of Trout Unlimited. This will be a truly fine premium rod and reel outfit to treasure and enjoy for years to come.

Tickets are \$10 apiece with a total of 250 tickets being sold. Proceeds will go toward the Shoshone River Home Waters Initiative Project (please visit www.eastyellowstonetu.org for more information about this project). The drawing will be held on June 10, 2010, at the Chapter's annual picnic, winner need not be present. For more information, please contact Birney Holberg at 307-587-9647. Be sure to purchase at least one ticket for your chance to take this one-of-a-kind rod and reel outfit home!

Lead Lines...

From the President

Wow, can you believe it! It's April going on May already. It seems that time is passing by faster than Bobbie and I can fish. If you haven't been out yet, the water is looking good everywhere.

We completed the Shoshone River clean up and the spent a day on the Paul Stock Trail construction. But, we still have a busy time ahead of us. The last week of April and the first three weeks of May will be the Cody Middle School fishing class. If you have time to assist, please call Ellie Wisner. We need lots of volunteers. There is a great program planned after our meeting in May. Dr. Robert Gresswell will talk about the research that has been completed to date in order to save Yellowstone Cutthroats from the Lake Trout in Yellowstone Lake. The day after the meeting in May, Merle and I will head to Jackson for the TU State Council meeting.

In June we have the kids' fishing day at Be Lake and the casting clinic at the Cody Recreation Center. If you can volunteer for either one of those please contact Ray Zubic for the kids' fishing day and Chris Nielsen for the casting clinic. Later this summer we have a few more projects coming up, but I will save those for the next edition of the newsletter.

I would like to thank Kel Thomas for taking over as editor the chapter newsletter. Having worked for a newspaper and being editor of a couple of other newsletters, he brings experience to this job. Again, this is your newsletter and needs your participation. Contact Kel if you have ideas for articles and send him your photos!

Remember, time is going by fast. Don't let summer slip away without wetting a fly. -Rich

May the holes in your net be no larger than the fish in it. ~ Irish Blessing

E.Y.T.U.

Chapter #540



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Membership

Introductory Offer.....	\$17.50
Stream Explorer (under 15)....	\$12
Senior One Year (62 & up).....	\$20
Regular One Year.....	\$35
Family One Year.....	\$50
Life Membership.....	\$1,000

To join, visit our website and click the 'Contact/Join/Renew' button, or go to www.tu.org/intro, and be sure to enter our chapter #540 as the referring chapter.

East Yellowstone TU Chapter

P O Box 3008
Cody, WY 82414

www.eastyellowstonetu.org



How To.....

5 Keys to Fly Fishing Success in Late Spring Runoff

Courtesy of Fly Fishing Reporter and Jake Ricks of Utah Fly Guides

April and May often bring on the high dirty waters of runoff in most snow-melt and rain-fed streams. Obviously, catching fish on artificial flies in cloudy water is tougher because the fly fisher relies on the fish's sense of sight to trigger a strike. Fly fishing the wrong way in high dirty water is simply an exercise in futility. However, there are things to remember and tactics to try at this time of year that can increase your success.

1. Fish on Cooler Days

Even though you are probably wishing for warm days about now, hot weather means that more snow melts and the rivers go up. At this time of year try to fish on cooler days and you'll find that the water won't be as high as it might get on very warm days. Also, consider fishing early in the morning before the snow really starts to melt and bring the rivers up.

2. Fish Downstream

Snow-melt will take a while to get downstream so fishing the lower reaches of rivers that are far away from the melting snow, especially if you fish early in the day as mentioned above, will buy you more time. Even though warm air temperatures in the high country could be melting lots of snow by noon, if you are far downstream, you may have until 2 or 3 in the afternoon before the super high water gets to you.

3. Fish Big Dark Fly Patterns

Big dark fly patterns are far more visible than other earthy colors that might blend in with the earth-tinged water. Black Stonefly patterns and Woolly Buggers are among the favorites.

4. Fish Slow

Remember that melting snow is really cold and that fish are cold-blooded creatures that will not move as quickly in cold snow-melt waters. I like to bounce big nymphs slowly along the bottom and dead drifting Buggers slowly is a good tactic. Because of low visibility and the cold water temperature you need to get your flies close to the fish so fish methodically and cover all of the water you can.

5. Watch River Flows

Find streams that are lower than others in your area compared to their normal rates of flow.

Fish eat a lot during runoff because so much food drifts with the high water. Therefore Spring fishing can yield great results. Be smart about when, where and how you fish at this time of year and you could be surprised with the great results.

*"Give a man a fish and he has food for a day;
teach him how to fish and you can get rid of him for the entire weekend."
~ Zenna Schaffer*



Notes from the Wyoming Council

Dave Sweet, Council Chair

Comments to YNP Scoping Process on Native Fish Conservation Plan

On Wednesday, April 13th, Yellowstone National Park fisheries crews held a scoping process meeting in Cody for an EA that they are preparing on management issues concerning native fish species in the Park. Several EY-CTU members were present and offered comments and shared their concerns.

Of particular interest to our Chapter were the presentations on the status and plans for control of lake trout in Yellowstone Lake. Our Chapter has been conducting a fundraiser for over two years which is titled "Save the Yellowstone Cutthroat" which supports research by Dr. Robert Gresswell of the USGS in Bozeman. His research focuses on developing methods to control lake trout numbers by destroying lake trout eggs. Dave Sweet, Chairman of the "Save the Yellowstone Cutthroat" Committee and also Chairman of the WY Council of TU presented written comments addressing the plans by the NPS. A complete set of the comments can be read on our website www.eastyellowstonetu.org

In summary, Dave was critical of the NPS on several fronts. He based his criticism on the failure of the fisheries management team to implement the four recommendations made to the NPS by a team of scientists and fisheries management professionals at a symposium held at Chico Hot Springs in August of 2008. In their report titled "Scientific Review Panel Evaluation of the NPS Lake Trout Suppression Program in Yellowstone Lake", these experts recommended specific actions including formal telemetry studies, distribution netting, hydro acoustic studies, mark-recapture studies, the setting of bench marks for lake trout control, continuation of the YCT monitoring program on Clear Creek, the establishment of a Science Advisory Committee, and finally a significant shift in management philosophy towards the lake trout control efforts.

According to Dave, these recommendations have not been implemented. In addition, he was critical of the Park's use of a commercial gill netter for this coming 2010 season when the Park Service will be utilizing that professional boat for only 10 weeks rather than the entire season. He also questioned the "dumping" of lake trout carcasses back into the Lake where they will likely feed other lake trout.

If you would like to read the comments, visit our website. If you would like to learn more about Dr. Gresswell's research, be sure to attend the May 13th formal presentation by Dr. Gresswell at the BBHC at 7 pm immediately following our next meeting.



YNP Scoping Process meeting held at the Holiday Inn on April 13. Approximately 20 people attended the meeting

Photos courtesy of Bianca J. Klein, NPS



"Carpe Diem" does not mean "fish of the day." ~ Author Unknown

EYTU Happenings...

*May 4,5,6,
May 11,12,13
May 18,19,20*

No Child Left Indoors—Middle School Fishing Classes, 8:00am-3:30pm
Contact Ellie Wiser to volunteer for an hour or adopt a class period for any of the three day class periods.

Sat. May 8

Arbor Day - Cody Auditorium, 9:00am-noon
EYTU will have an informational and membership table and will be selling raffle tickets for the Shoshone River Commemorative Edition Fly Rod.

Thurs. May 13

Early and abbreviated Chapter Meeting - Sunset House Restaurant, 6:00pm sharp
Dr. Robert Gresswell, principle researcher for *Save the Yellowstone Cutthroat* will speak at the BBHC Coe Auditorium at 7:00pm

Sat. June 5

Kid's Fishing Day - Beck Lake. TU volunteers needed to help. Time TBA.
Contact Ray Zubic @ 527.6241 FMI or to volunteer

Thurs. June 10

Chapter picnic at West Newton picnic area, 6:00pm. Members only, please.
Chicken and beverages provided by EYTU. Bring plates, cutlery, side dishes or desserts.

Sat. June 12

Free Public Fly Casting Clinic - Paul Stock Aquatic and Rec. Center, 9:00-noon
Volunteers needed to teach casting and knots to kids and adults.
Contact Chris at members@eastyellowstonetu.org FMI

Sat. July 17

Rock Creek Habitat Survey - A fun day counting bugs, fish, plants and weeds on the Southfork. Members are needed to volunteer to count. Others might be forced to fish. Sigh
FMI contact Bob Capron at conservation@eastyellowstonetu.org

First weekend of Aug.

Annual EYTU campout in the Bighorns - Stay tuned for more information later

September

Electro-shock Operators Equipment School - Time and place TBA
Contact Jason at jason.burckhardt@wgf.state.wy.us
This not a certification class, but anyone volunteering to rescue fish from irrigation canals will benefit from learning how electro-shock works.

Spotlight Fly

The Klinkhammer

The Klinkhammer is a popular Emerger used in fly fishing to catch grayling and trout. It is most popular within Europe, but has a growing interest in North America.

History:

The Klinkhammer, originally named LT Caddis (light tan), now officially named Klinkhåmer Special, was devised by a Dutch angler Hans van Klinken, in the early 80's to imitate an emerging caddis fly to catch grayling and trout which feed from them as they float in the surface film. This pattern has proven to be an extremely effective fly.



Features:

Klinkhammers are different from many other parachute dry flies in that the thorax of the fly is designed to hang down 'through' the surface of the water to imitate an emerging insect.

The abdomen serves as a trigger point which penetrates the surface film, which gets noticed by trout from great distances, even before any resulting surface footprint features.

In all variations of this fly, the abdomen of the fly float is underneath the surface of the water to attract the fish and improve hookups, while the parachute hackle and foam or wing is on or above the surface of the water for visibility and floatation.

Courtesy of Wikipedia <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>

Editor's Tying Note:

There are several websites giving step by step tying instructions. Apart from the hook style (light wire scud or Klinkhammer hook) and peacock thorax, it ties very much like a Para Adams. A single parachute hackle is used instead of the more common two hackle version of the Adams. Occasionally, I will add a few strands of the post material (Z-Lon) as a tail to represent a trailing shuck.

Don't Forget.....

Save your used leader material for the upcoming casting clinic in June



"Some go to church and think about fishing, others go fishing and think about God." -Tony Blake

Conservation Corner...

Upcoming Projects

Bob Capron, Chapter Conservation Chair

Just a quick reminder of upcoming conservation opportunities: Youth casting and fishing education at the Middle School, call Ellie Wiser; Rec. Center fly casting clinic in June, call Chris Nielson; Kids Fishing Day in June call Ray Zubic; Chapter Picnic in June; Rock Creek inventory in July; Soldier Creek fish salvage and chemical treatment

(chapter campout) in August; Dead Indian Creek 2nd chemical treatment in August; Shell Creek inventory in September; canal fish salvage in October and November. Check the web page for dates and time.

Please try to find time to help on some of these projects. Thank You, Bob C.

E.Y.T.U. Website Update ...

Lorna Anderson, Web Master

“Public Comment Period” is a tempting phrase when your favorite species or fishing water is involved. The *Yellowstone National Park Native Fish Conservation Plan* is a recent example. Online comments were accepted – *if you could find the online form*. A direct link was provided on the “[News & Issues](#)” page.

There will be another comment period for the *Yellowstone National Park Native Fish Conservation Plan*. Look for the direct link on our web site to comment online.

Links to online comment forms are difficult to find. When there is an issue of local importance, a direct link is provided on our web site for members’ convenience. Otherwise, you have to attend meetings and submit comments in writing.

And Finally.....

Please send article submissions and pictures of your local catches to:
newslettereditor@eastyellowstonetu.org



Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after.
 ~Henry David Thoreau

East
Yellowstone
Trout Unlimited Chapter #540
PO Box 3008, Cody, WY 82414

Website: www.eastyellowstonetu.org



East Yellowstone Trout Unlimited:

Our Mission:

"To conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds (...and have fun doing it!)."



Cooper Lane Trail to the Shoshone River, Cody, WY—
Built by EYTU Chapter volunteers, allowing better fishing access.