



## ISSUE NO. 75 / April 2017

This is the e-Newsletter of Collegiate Peaks Chapter of the nation's leading coldwater conservation organization – Trout Unlimited.

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## Events and Meetings Calendar

The up-to-date calendar and details about all events can also be found on [our website calendar page](#).

Here are the next few meetings or events:

**April 12:** Board of Directors meeting, Mt. Shavano Manor, Salida, 6pm.

**April 28 (and three following Fridays):** Stream Explorers. This educational program for 5th graders runs on four consecutive Friday mornings. We offer it in conjunction with GARNA. We could use volunteers especially for the fly tying and fly fishing segments. Learn more about this [program on our web site](#), and [contact Tom Palka](#) if you'd like more information or to volunteer.

**May 6:** Caddis Festival Banquet, Chaffee County Fairgrounds, 5pm.

**May 13:** We're doing our semi-annual Highway 285 cleanup on May 13. It starts at 10am at the 1806 Rest Stop (sometimes called the Christmas Rest Stop), mile marker 132, about 1-1.5 miles south of where State Road 291 cuts off toward Salida. If we have enough people (10-12) it only takes about 1-1.5 hours. Bring gloves and sunscreen. The chapter supplies pick up tools and big orange bags. (Some people bring a stick or something to hold the orange bag open.)

In addition to the highway cleanup, the 13th is also AHRA Clean Up/ Green Up day. We will have badges for all participants so they can enjoy the AHRA lunch at Salida's River Park starting at noon.

If you will participate contact Jim Impara by email at [twopi@hughes.net](mailto:twopi@hughes.net) or by phone at 719-221-9581.

All BoD and member meetings are from 6 pm to 8:30 pm and are open to all. All member meetings are held at the Boathouse Cantina, Salida, with food and beverages available for purchase. Social hour from 6:00 to 7:00 pm, meeting presentation from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. PowerPoint presentations at each meeting. BoD meetings alternate between Mt. Shavano Manor in Salida and Sangre de Cristo Electric Association meeting room in Buena Vista. Social time from 6:00 to 6:30, meeting will start at 6:30 pm and run until business is completed. BYO snacks and soft beverages. For more information, contact Keith Krebs at 719-539-6359.



A sign from the Gunnison River below Blue Mesa – very applicable to the Arkansas as well!

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## **BANKSIDE WITH KEITH**

### **MY FIRST TROUT**

How many of you reading this can remember the first trout you ever caught? I spent a few summer vacations in my formative years with my Grandma fishing at the “gravel pits” near Lexington, Nebraska. I really enjoyed hauling in Crappies, Perch and Bluegills. We just used cane poles with a few feet of line attached to the end along with a bobber. It was bait fishing at its’ finest. My Granny had a real interesting technique. Any movement of the bobber and she dramatically jerked the line high into the air, swung it in a big loop over her head and behind her while shouting “Hoop-a-day.” She actually landed many fish that way. And she always took them home to eat.

But my first trout was a Rainbow. A few years later, I had saved some hard-earned money from helping a friend with his paper route, weeding gardens for elderly ladies and mowing a few neighbors lawns with a push mower. I bought the latest in fiberglass rods and a candy apple red, closed face, spin-casting reel that I was very proud of. One summer day my family drove from our home in Denver up to the foothills and an impoundment named Evergreen Lake above the small mountain town of the same name.

My father was never a serious fisherman, but that day he was appropriately decked out in his red hunting cap, hip waders, a bamboo fly rod, a canvas creel and an assortment of flies. I don’t remember what fly patterns he had, and I likely didn’t know the patterns back then anyway. He waded out a few yards and pounded away for several hours. The best he could do was to land three suckers. Armed with my new rod and reel, and a jar full of salmon eggs, the natural color orange ones, not the “Fireballs” of today, I made very deliberate and methodical casts, covering as much of the lake as I could reach from a somewhat muddy shore. And it paid off. It took dozens of casts and more than an hour but I did land

a 10-inch Rainbow. I was very pleased and so proud that I took it home and had my dad take a picture of it as I held it in front of our single car garage door.

My father, probably because he didn't have the "fishing gene" or just maybe because I out-fished him that day, didn't do much fishing after that. In fact, he gave me all his equipment including the bamboo rod. Today, I kick myself for not keeping better track of that rod. It probably was not of high quality, but I would like to have it hanging on my wall today. The hip waders were too big for me and by the time I got around to trying them on for real they had dried out to the point that when I check them for leaks by filling them with the garden hose the sides spouted in about 50 different locations like a Las Vegas fountain.

I did continue to fly fish and for several years used that old bamboo rod. The last memory I had of fishing with it was on a summer camping trip to the Roaring Fork river (before Rudi reservoir was built) with my family. An older gentleman was tent camping next to our site. We used the small trailer my father built that would sleep all six of us (I have three brothers) if you got into bed in a certain, precise order.

Mr. Day was a friendly sort and an avid spin-fisherman who invited me to fish with him several times over that week. I was still working on my technique so I hooked a lot of bushes and branches.

I was fishing not far from Mr. Day on the same side of the river when I saw a large trout jump out of the water right in front of him. I made an accurate cast and hooked the fish. Too excited, I took a few steps back and crashed into a nearby bush and went sprawling. That became quite a humorous and entertaining story for Mr. Day to tell every chance he got. But I did land the fish.

**REMINDER:** So far, Collegiate Peaks Chapter has only two representatives attending CTU's annual Rendezvous, myself and Fred Rasmussen. This fun and information-packed weekend is worthwhile for any member to attend. It will be held at the Keystone Lodge and Spa from April 21st through April 23rd. CTU is offering a dozen scholarships to cover the fee for first-time attendees and CPC-TU, as in the past, will also provide \$200 to help with the other costs (room) for any chapter member who hasn't attended before.

*Keith Krebs, President, Collegiate Peaks Chapter-TU*

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If you'd like to share a short note and some photos from a recent trip, please [submit them to our editor](#).

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Keith Krebs presents our chapter's gift to retiring aquatic biologist Greg Policky.

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## FISHING QUOTES

*"They say you forget your troubles on a trout stream, but that's not quite it. Whathappens is that you begin to see where your troubles fit into the grand scheme of things, and suddenly they're just not such a big deal anymore."*

*- John Gierach*

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## MEMBER BENEFITS

Remember that as a member of Trout Unlimited you get many member benefits. You can use them to get car rental discounts, hotel discounts, and more:

<http://www.tu.org/get-involved/volunteer/member-benefits>

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Stream Explorers table at the first Friday session.

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## THE FLYGALS

Sponsored by Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited, FlyGals is a group of women interested in learning about and participating in fly fishing. Our mission is to increase participation in fly fishing by women and to educate women about protecting, conserving, and restoring cold water habitats for fish.

Find the [schedule of their events on our website](#).

Registration is required for each of these events; to register or to get more information, contact Barbara Plake ([bplake@unl.edu](mailto:bplake@unl.edu), 719-395-0478) or Linda Schuckert ([lbschuckert@msn.com](mailto:lbschuckert@msn.com), 719-539-7279).

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## "THE FINE PRINT"

Tom Palka, editor ad hoc. Fred Rasmussen will take over the newsletter starting with the May 2017 edition.

The e-letter will continue monthly, announcing upcoming meetings, programs, and events, in the EVENTS CALENDAR.

Member submissions to the newsletter are needed and encouraged. Have a comment? Opinion? Humor? Viewpoint? Share it, IN THE SEAM. Anything relative to fishing will appear now and then.

Send questions or submissions by email to [editor@collegiatepeakstu.org](mailto:editor@collegiatepeakstu.org). Editor's deadline is the **23rd** of the month.

Connect with us



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