



Cross Currents

November 2009

So, it's **November**, which means bird season has started, duck season opened a week or so ago and deer season is in the middle of one of its seventeen varietal formats (this week: youth archery-only, antlered-with-a-minimum-of-four-points-on-one-side, one-eyed jacks and the queen of spades are wild.) Don't think you can skip this next meeting, though, because it's **officer and board nomination month** and if you aren't there that means you're nominated. All nominations are binding and the last time we impeached anybody was when Dave Murphy took up golfing (reinstated shortly afterwards when he apologized, threw his clubs in the bass pond off #4 at L.A. Nickell and bought us beer and it wasn't that cheap stuff, either.)

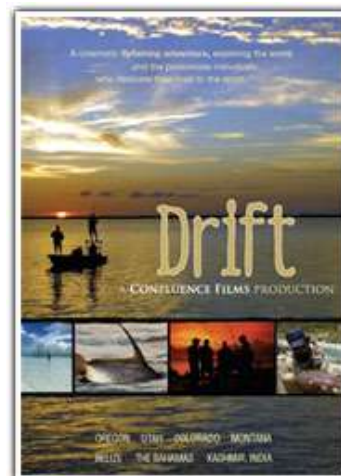
I believe the November program will be enjoyable. We'll be screening the movie, **Drift**, which is not about the aimless habits and careers of our members, but rather about fly fishing all over the world. The movie is brought to you by the same wonderful folks who publish The Drake magazine, available at your local fly shop (sigh) or some bookstore who doesn't really understand this religion. Anyway, if folks like doing this maybe we'll watch Tarpon, about flats fishing the Keys in the

early 70's with Jim Harrison and Tom McGuane and we'll watch it in January or February when we're good and cold and the only deer season left is antlerless-with-three-legs-and-one-ear.

See you at the voting booth, CLM, Asst Editor, Dry Fly fisherman and Poor Dog Trainer.

November 3 Meeting, 7 pm D Rowe's: Screening of the movie **DRIFT**

"Aimed at showing all viewers from hardcore, 300-day-a-year guides, to people who have never picked up a fly rod that flyfishing is a much deeper, more interesting, more varied, & a more fulfilling sport than they've been led to believe by mainstream media. Filmed in Oregon, Bahamas, India, Belize, Montana, Utah & Colorado."



TU unveils plan to protect "Colorado Treasure"

Proposal would conserve 126,000 acres of high-altitude BLM land in the San Juan Mountains

October 8, 2009

The Silverton Standard

By Mark Esper

Trout Unlimited unveiled plans last week for a proposed Alpine Triangle National Conservation Area for 126,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management land, including all the BLM land in San Juan County not currently set aside as wilderness study areas.

It's part of a proposed wilderness bill that would also convert the seven wilderness study areas totaling another 60,000 acres in the Alpine Triangle into full-fledged wilderness areas, including American Flats, Handies Peak and Red Cloud Peak. Ty Churchwell, backcountry coordinator for Trout Unlimited's Sportsmen's Conservation Project in Colorado, said the San Juans are "truly a Colorado treasure" and Trout Unlimited, with its mission of protecting cold-water fisheries and watersheds, sees it as a high priority for protection. But he noted National Conservation Area rules are very flexible and exactly what rules would apply to the Alpine Triangle, which includes BLM land along the Lake Fork of the Gunnison north of Lake City and most of the area covered by the Alpine Loop, would await input from various stakeholders.

"The Alpine Triangle is quite simply a recreational and sportsman's paradise," Churchwell told county commissioners from San Juan, Ouray, Hinsdale and San Miguel counties at a meeting in Ridgway on Friday, Oct. 2. An estimated 19,000 deer and elk inhabit the area and it is the headwaters for five world class trout rivers — the Animas, San Juan, Rio

Grande, Lake Fork of the Gunnison and the Uncompahgre.

Churchwell said future generations deserve to enjoy the resources of the San Juans.

"It's their heritage. It's what we owe them as citizens," Churchwell said. Churchwell said he expects at least a two-year process for a bill to be introduced in Congress for the National Conservation Area, which would include wilderness designation for the wilderness study areas.

"We'd like to see federal legislation, but it's up to the communities," Churchwell said. "We're hopeful you'll embrace this campaign," he told the county commissioners. "This is the very beginning," he said. "We're reaching out to communities and asking that they participate in these conversations."

Churchwell emphasized Trout Unlimited's goal of protecting cold-water fisheries and watersheds. He said that for Trout Unlimited, it is not about partisan politics, "it's about the science for us." He said that some of activities that occur in public lands do have potential to have negative impact on big game and trout habitat.

"Mining is a valid use of our public lands and does provide for a short-term influx of jobs and incomes," Churchwell said, but he added that it comes "with some potential backside costs, not only financial and environmental. It is quite simply temporary. "Our argument is that resources up there in the Alpine Triangle are of much more value long term as a recreational sporting and tourism resource in perpetuity than it is as a short-term mining resources."

But Churchwell also emphasized that any National Conservation Area designation would not apply to private lands.

"Patented mining claims are private property, exempt from national conservation area," Churchwell said. "As a general rule with these legislative tools,

historic uses are grandfathered in. Trout Unlimited is very supportive of private-property rights and historic uses.” Churchwell said the National Conservation Area designation wouldn’t change much, and that ultimately is the point.

“If we could take a snapshot of the Alpine Triangle today, that’s what we’re trying to do, is keep it the way it is.”

CASTING CORNER by Gary Eaton, MCCI

Raising the elbow -

Examining certified Instructor candidates last month one thing that distinguished the people making great loops on both front casts and back casts seemed to follow raising the elbow before bending the elbow on the back cast and lowering the elbow before straightening the elbow on forward casts. Of course, everything else presented properly, too.

Straight line path of the rod tip;
smooth acceleration;
firm stop with the rod tip properly high in front and not dipping in back; stroke length and pause matching the amount of line being delivered; etc.

These hopefuls clearly arrived ready from dedicated practice and coaching. Nothing replaces proper practice. One cannot reliably feel the line straighten, so *watch it* until a candy cane forms before moving to reverse direction. Conversely, better casters clearly comprehend the sensation of the rod properly loading during the smooth stroke.

Onward- Gary Eaton

Upcoming Meetings:

December 1, 2009

Christmas Dinner

Annual December Chapter Dinner

Location:

D’Rowes Restaurant

Please bring a guest, a friend or even a spouse.

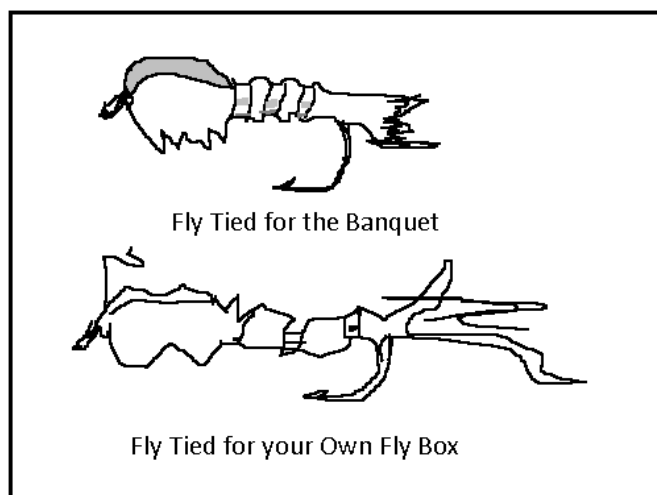
Gifts to the Assistant Editor are acceptable and encouraged. Appropriate items would include those new, rubber-bottom wading boots from Patagonia or any of the fine waders made by Simms.

Banquet:

Don’t forget the upcoming **banquet** on **February 12, 2010 at Stoney Creek.**

We need some flies tied, donations for auction items and volunteering for some work slots. Oh, and sell tickets .

. . .



Eleven Point River Canoe Rental

donated **\$270** from **Fall Fly Flinger**

Gathering this October 17th -18th. Way to go **Brian and Ryan!**

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Cross Currents, the Mid-Missouri Chapter of Trout Unlimited newsletter, has a circulation of approximately 300. Regular chapter meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, except for July. The meeting place is **D Row** located off Forum, just north of the intersection with Nifong in Columbia, Missouri. Meeting time 7:00 p.m.

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