



CTU CENTURY CLUB *CURRENTS*



2006 ANNUAL REPORT

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Century Club Members and other CTU supporters,

2006 was an eventful year for Colorado Trout Unlimited. We launched two major new initiatives that will help us in taking our message of coldwater conservation to the angling public and to the next generation – the National Fly Fishing Championships and our Youth Conservation and Flyfishing Camp.

In June, CTU hosted our first ever Youth Conservation and Flyfishing Camp, with 17 young people ranging in age from 14 to 17 taking part. The camp offered an opportunity for them to learn about water quality, stream flows and morphology, entomology, aquatic ecology, and habitat improvement. Many of these young people have an interest in careers related to science, fish and wildlife management, or water resources. Through this camp, we are helping to prepare the next generation of conservation leaders.

In May, under the able leadership of our Boulder Flycasters Chapter, we hosted the first-ever National Fly Fishing Championships – an event that enjoyed great success and offers tremendous potential for growth. In the coming years, the Championships will become an increasingly valuable tool for raising public awareness about Trout Unlimited and our mission, for raising dollars to support conservation, and for engaging more anglers in the conservation work of CTU.

We maintained a strong presence at the Colorado General Assembly, securing passage of legislation that preserves the in-river recreational water rights that local governments can obtain to maintain boating parks (and at the same time, protect water for fisheries). We also supported legislation to fund the work of basin roundtables around the state that are working to seek “win-win” water solutions.

CTU continues to benefit from our partnerships with National Trout Unlimited programs in Colorado – the Colorado Water Project and the Public Lands Initiative. Together, we are making a real difference in protecting instream flows on rivers like the Gunnison and Colorado, and in preserving key public land habitats including roadless backcountry areas.

The real foundation of our success is the chapters and volunteers who contribute their time and resources to the cause of trout conservation. The Collegiate Peaks Chapter completed an exemplary habitat project on Cottonwood Creek. Four chapters conducted water quality monitoring of key streams through the RiverWatch program. And in these, and the many other conservation projects and youth education programs operated through our chapters, TU volunteers contributed more than 25,000 hours of manpower – the equivalent of a full time staff of 12 people working for conservation.

We are always mindful that none of our efforts would be possible without the generous support of our donors. We thank you for helping CTU to help Colorado’s trout!

- David Nickum, CTU Executive Director

A VOICE FOR COLORADO’S TROUT

Colorado Trout Unlimited is the only organization dedicated to conserving, protecting, and restoring Colorado’s trout waters and their watersheds. As the voice for Colorado’s trout, CTU is the state’s leading advocate for instream flows, water quality, watershed protection, and wild and native trout conservation. CTU staff and volunteers work with key state and federal agencies including the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Colorado Water Quality Control Division, U.S. Forest Service, and many others. We have partnered with Audubon Colorado to maintain one of only two full-time lobbyists that represent conservation interests at the General Assembly. From the halls of the government to the public lands spread throughout Colorado, CTU is there to protect the interests of Colorado’s lakes and rivers – and of those who value them. And through partnerships with National TU’s Colorado Water Project and Public Lands Initiative, we have extended our reach on water and land conservation issues.

Protecting water quality in Colorado’s streams.

Each year, the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission sets standards for water quality in different Colorado watersheds – and CTU has been the sole conservation group to participate year in and year out, defending the water quality protections that are vital to trout fisheries throughout the state. In these hearings, we have been represented by Dr. John Woodling, a retired Division of Wildlife biologist with years of experience on water quality. In 2006, standards were adopted for the San Juan/Gunnison/Dolores basins, and CTU helped win some key victories. We secured a more protective zinc standard for coldwater streams with sculpin – a species that is highly sensitive to zinc – and in the process helped protect the trout that coexist with sculpin. We successfully defeated an effort to reclassify the San Miguel River from being a coldwater river to a warmwater river – a move that would have allowed a local power plant to discharge heated water without regard to its impact on trout. Finally, we assisted our partners at the San Juan Citizens Alliance in securing an “outstanding water” designation for Hermosa Creek, a key Colorado River cutthroat watershed. The designation ensures that existing water quality in the watershed is preserved, with no degradation allowed from the current, high-quality conditions.

Defending the Roan Plateau. In 2006, the Bureau of Land Management issued a revised management plan for the Roan Plateau that would allow oil and gas development across the currently undisturbed watersheds atop the Plateau. These high-quality waters support multiple conservation populations of the at-risk Colorado River Cutthroat Trout. While

the BLM plan included measures that at first glance seemed to provide protection, upon closer review those protections were woefully inadequate. Protective measures like “no surface occupancy”, which would seem to protect sensitive watersheds from disturbance, in reality did nothing of the kind. Under the BLM’s definitions, “no surface occupancy” could allow occupancy and disturbance for two years or more. Their own analysis indicated that the plan would lead to extirpation of unique cutthroat trout populations on the Plateau. CTU filed a formal protest against the Plan (still pending at this time) and is a leading voice for protecting aquatic resources in this unique environment. While oil and gas development will be an important part of Colorado’s future, it must take place in a way that preserves our priceless fish and wildlife resources.

A voice for Colorado’s backcountry areas. Trout Unlimited’s “Public Lands Initiative”, led by Brian O’Donnell in TU’s Durango office, has been a leading advocate for protecting Colorado’s backcountry “roadless” areas – habitats that are still largely undisturbed and that provide key benefits for fish, wildlife, and water quality. TU’s David Petersen participated on a state Roadless Task Force, working to ensure continued protection for this high-value habitats. CTU worked to educate members of the public, generate comment letters, and turn out concerned citizens at public hearings to support roadless area protection. Thanks to strong public support for roadless areas, Governor Owens filed a petition that included some valuable protections – but it had serious flaws as well, in the form of some industry giveaways. Fortunately, late in 2006, a federal court reinstated the 2001 Roadless Rule, which provides strong protection for these lands.

CTU – ADVOCATES FOR COLORADO’S LAKES AND RIVERS

Fighting for National Forest streams. For more than a decade, CTU has been battling to protect minimum flows below dams and diversions on National Forest lands. CTU and TU won a landmark legal victory on this issue in 2004. The case involved Long Draw Reservoir, which dewatered La Poudre Pass Creek each winter when its gates are shut until spring. TU challenged a Forest Service decision granting a permit for the dam without any “bypass flow” requirements – permit conditions that would ensure some water would keep flowing year-round below the dam. The federal District Court agreed that the Forest Service had failed to minimize damage to fish and wildlife resources and the environment, as required by Federal law, and remanded the permits to the Forest Service for new action. However, the District Court decision was promptly appealed. In March 2006, the United States Court of Appeals Tenth Circuit issued a ruling dismissing the appeal, upholding TU’s victory at the District Court. This victory was made possible thanks to pro bono legal services from the firm of Gibson, Dunn, and Crutcher.

Colorado General Assembly. CTU maintains one of only two full-time lobbyists representing conservation interests at the state capitol. In 2006, we helped pass a compromise bill that preserved the ability to secure “recreational in-channel diversion” water rights to maintain flows in rivers for recreation. We also helped pass a bill sponsored by then-Rep. Josh Penry to fund the work of basin roundtables around the state in developing projects and programs for “win-win” water policy solutions. As always, CTU remained a vigilant defender against so-called “takings” legislation, which would undercut local government and environmental regulation by expanding the constitutional protection against “taking” of private property to require compensation not just for actual “takings” but for important regulations like stream setbacks.

Battling for the Colorado headwaters. CTU maintains a full-time organizer working in the headwaters of the Colorado River watershed. Working with local governments, businesses, landowners, and of course anglers, CTU is helping to mobilize public support for protection of the Colorado and key tributaries including the Fraser, which are threatened by new proposals for “transbasin diversions” of water out of the Colorado and to the Front Range. CTU’s staff and volunteer

leaders are working with the legislatively-established Colorado Basin Roundtable to generate information on the water needs for recreation and fishery resources, and to build effective alliances for protecting water to meet those needs. CTU supports improved Front Range conservation programs, and “smart” development of new projects so as to maintain adequate instream flows, as an alternative to the traditional, environmentally-destructive approach for transbasin water diversions.

Colorado Water Project. Through the Colorado Water Project, Colorado’s trout benefit from the work of a hydrologist, outreach specialist, and two full-time water attorneys – a vital resource because state Water Courts are the means by which water allocation decisions are made in Colorado. The CWP mission is to conserve, protect, and restore streamflows and open up water planning decisions to more meaningful public participation.

In 2006, the CWP won a major victory for trout conservation, getting a federal court to reject the proposed giveaway of federal reserved water rights for the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. The Park had made an agreement to abandon claims for seasonal high flows in the canyon – flows that are vital in maintaining the health of the river and its fishery. The court rejected the Park’s action as an “abuse of discretion.” Thanks to the legal victory, the mighty Gunnison and its gold-medal fishery have a brighter future.



Under an Interior Department agreement, the spectacular Black Canyon of the Gunnison would have been, in the words of the New York Times, left as nothing but “dramatic cliffs with a dying river between.” In September 2006, TU’s legal team with the CWP won a court ruling overturning the Interior Department’s water giveaway.

ON-THE-GROUND CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION

Colorado Trout Unlimited has a unique asset among conservation groups: an active corps of grassroots volunteers in 21 local chapters from Durango to Fort Collins, helping to make a difference on their home waters and in their local communities. In addition to being advocates for Colorado’s rivers and streams, CTU and its chapters are volunteers who roll up their sleeves and work on projects from stream clean-ups, to habitat improvement, to native fish restoration. Volunteers also work with youth education, doing the vital work of teaching the next generation about fishing and conservation.

Great Colorado Rivers Cleanup. Colorado Trout Unlimited and its chapters sponsored our annual Great Colorado Rivers Cleanup – a statewide river cleanup, with work days scheduled over five weekends in September and October. Nearly 800 volunteers from throughout the state, including many recruited from beyond TU’s own membership, patrolled designated stretches of numerous Colorado rivers, removing trash from the streams and their banks. From aluminum cans to old tires, volunteers found and removed thousands of pounds of trash from some of Colorado’s finest rivers.



Volunteers from the Arkansas River cleanup removed trash – and even a rusty bicycle – from several miles of the Arkansas.

By holding well-organized, coordinated events CTU worked to strengthen existing clean-ups and create new ones. In 2006, we added a new event on the Arkansas River near Pueblo (Southern Colorado Greenbacks Chapter), while continuing previous efforts on rivers including the Animas, Arkansas, Blue, Cache la Poudre, Roaring Fork, and South Platte. Where possible, we teamed with other local watershed groups to maximize the effectiveness of cleanup efforts.

RiverWatch water quality monitoring. CTU and its chapters have partnered with the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) to conduct volunteer water quality monitoring under the “RiverWatch” program. In 2006, four CTU chapters – Cheyenne Mountain, Collegiate Peaks, Cutthroat, and West Denver – conducting RiverWatch monitoring for water quality on streams including two tributaries to the Arkansas River, two native greenback cutthroat trout streams, Clear Creek, and Bear Creek. Volunteers collected samples to track key water quality measures including pH, dissolved oxygen, metals, and nutrients, as well as sampling macroinvertebrate populations (which are strong indicators for water quality). Large portions of Colorado’s waterways have no current or historic data on water quality. By combining TU’s on-the-ground volunteer capacity with DOW’s expertise, we can begin to get the data needed to protect and restore water quality. In 2007, we are expanding these efforts onto the West Slope to collect data on the Fraser River and on several important Colorado River cutthroat trout streams.

Buffalo Peaks Ranch. Through the diligent efforts of CTU Secretary Sinjin Eberle, CTU won approval of the largest conservation-project grant in its history, a \$230,000 award from the Fishing is Fun program to support stream restoration along a four mile reach of the Middle Fork South Platte on the Buffalo Peaks Ranch, upstream of the Tomahawk State Wildlife Area. The stream has been damaged by historic grazing, and the project will help restore a more natural channel condition, provide more pools and structure for fish habitat, and protect riparian habitat. The grant will help fund the first phase of restoration, scheduled for summer 2007. After the full four-mile project is completed, the combined reaches at Buffalo Peaks and Tomahawk will offer one of the best continuous reaches of public angling in the region.

CTU – VOLUNTEERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE “ON THE GROUND”

Cottonwood Creek Restoration. CTU’s Collegiate Peaks Chapter spearheaded a community effort to restore habitat on Cottonwood Creek by Buena Vista, a tributary to the Arkansas River. This reach of stream on a State Wildlife Area was previously shallow and wide, and lacked the kind of diverse features needed to offer a healthy habitat for trout. Working in partnership with local businesses, with a work crew from the Buena Vista Correctional facility, and with the Division of Wildlife, the chapter completed an exemplary project that will offer a significantly improved fishery. In the words of the Division of Wildlife’s Regional Biologist, Doug Krieger: “I was able to walk through the entire reach, and the improvements were impressive. This project was a unique in its conception and the type of stream channel to be worked on. But the results were nothing short of perfect. The project was done right – from start to finish. This is one you can be proud of for the next 20 years!” CTU is proud of the great work done by the Collegiate Peaks Chapter and volunteers!

Chapter Minigrants. In 2006, CTU continued its program of supporting local chapter projects through minigrants to provide seed money for a range of efforts:

- St. Vrain Anglers Chapter: conducting water quality and aquatic life studies on St. Vrain Creek in support of a greenway restoration project.
- Denver Chapter: supporting the “K-Kids” program to introduce children at a Denver middle school to fly fishing and TU’s conservation mission.
- Cherry Creek Anglers Chapter: conducting a stream cleanup and helping with habitat improvement along Tollgate Creek.
- Evergreen Chapter: producing an educational video about river restoration projects for use with TU chapters and other local groups.

National Fly Fishing Championships. With leadership from the Boulder Flycasters Chapter, CTU hosted the first-ever National Fly Fishing Championships on waters along the Front Range of Colorado including the Big Thompson and South Platte Rivers. Sixty-five competitors (including teams from Canada and Great Britain) took part in the event, in May 2006. No prize money was at stake – competitors took part for pride, country, and love of the sport. CTU had four core goals for the

event, to advance our conservation mission: to hold the event to the highest standards for resource protection (all fishing was catch-and-release, and rigid disinfection protocols were used to prevent spread of invasive species like New Zealand mudsnails); to raise public awareness (a successful “conservation day” was held in Boulder with a diversity of speakers and displays on fly fishing and conservation); to engage new volunteers (more than 110 were recruited); and to raise funds for conservation work (more than \$7,000 were raised in the event’s first year). We hope to build on this success with an even better event in October 2007.

Youth Conservation Camp. CTU held its first Youth Conservation Camp at Williams Peak Ranch in June. Seventeen youngsters, ages 14 to 17, learned about fishing, hydrology, water quality, entomology, and habitat improvement. The camp was operated by a dedicated group of volunteer leaders, led by Boulder Flycasters Chapter member Larry Quilling, and an excellent crew of instructors with expertise in ecology, hydrogeology, entomology, and more. The 17 kids who took part all came with tremendous energy, talent, and interest. As *Rocky Mountain News* columnist Ed Dentry said after his visit with the campers, “These young adults are our future. They might even be the last hope for defending this nation’s dwindling natural spaces against the inexhaustible ravages of paving, development, and growth.”



A camper conducting water quality sampling.

All students attending the camp were also asked to work with their local TU chapters to conduct an education or conservation project over the following year, giving them a chance to apply some of what they learned to a real-world conservation effort, and allowing these leaders of the future to begin making a difference today.

FINANCIAL REPORT

For the fiscal year (October 2005-September 2006), CTU launched new initiatives including the youth conservation camp and fly fishing championships, while continuing our ongoing investments in advocacy and on-the-ground conservation. At year's end, we had a modest 1% operating deficit, plus a one-time capital loss from the sale of mutual fund shares – proceeds from which were reinvested under a newly adopted CTU investment policy that will provide improved returns while minimizing risk. Of CTU's overall budget, 82% was invested in programs with the balance supporting development (including the CTU auction) and administrative needs. Major program investments included conservation staff, native trout projects, and chapter support and development; 68% of program investments were in conservation programs and 32% in membership and chapter services. Key sources of income included individual donors, chapter contributions, the annual auction and other special events, memberships, and foundation grants. We deeply appreciate all those supporters who make our work possible.

CTU's efforts were complemented by those of our chapters statewide. Volunteers across the state helped leverage TU's conservation dollars by contributing more than 25,000 hours to CTU and its chapters – equivalent to the work of twelve full time employees! The sweat equity from these volunteer efforts allows CTU and its chapters to make the most out of every dollar.

Fiscal Year 2005-06 Summaries:

Income

Annual Auction:	\$60,056.21 (21%)
Chapter Contributions:	\$13,500.00 (5%)
Individual/Corporate Contr.:	\$62,548.34 (22%)
Membership:	\$21,167.50 (7%)
Grant Income:	\$56,317.54 (20%)
Special Events:	\$48,479.35 (17%)
Investments:	-\$145.80 (0%)
Other income:	\$22,228.25 (8%)
Total income:	\$284,151.39

Expense

Program Expense:	\$241,464.72(82%)
Administration:	\$22,698.24 (8%)
<u>Development:</u>	<u>\$28,147.79 (10%)</u>
Total expenses:	\$292,310.75

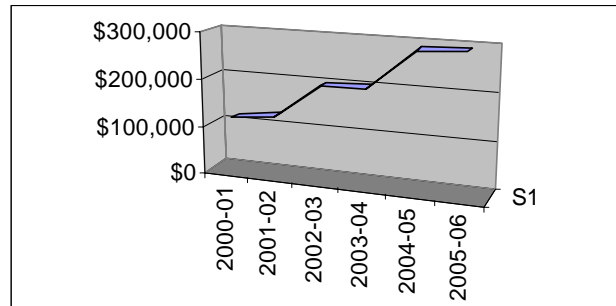
Program Expenses:

Conservation programs	\$164,755.94 (68%)
Chapter/member services	\$76,708.78(32%)

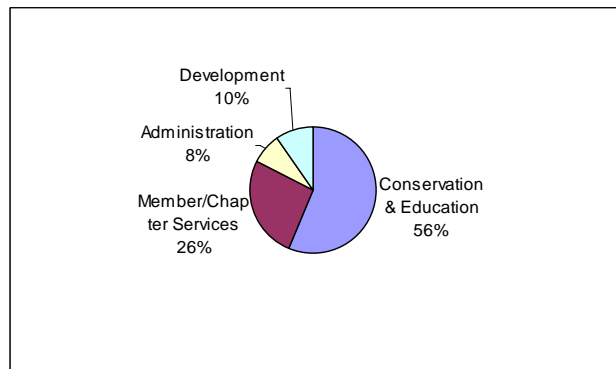
Balance Sheet

Assets:	\$161,112.62
Reserved for programs:	\$62,569.18
Total equity:	\$98,543.44

Six-Year Growth in CTU Programs & Budget



CTU Expenses by Category



CTU Officers

President: Steve Craig
 Vice President: Ken Neubecker
 NLC Representative: Tom Krol
 Treasurer: Michael McGoldrick
 Secretary: Sinjin Eberle

CTU Staff & Contractors

Executive Director: David Nickum
 West Slope Organizer: John Rosapepe
 Legislative Liaison: Jen Boulton
 Water Quality: John Woodling, PhD.
 Hydrology/Water Resources: Dan Luecke, PhD.

THANK YOU, CTU DONORS!

The donors listed below contributed \$100 or more through CTU's Century Club for 2006:

Dennis Arbogast	William Duncanson	Henry & Ann Klaiman	Anthony Rockwood	Bill Swalling
Dan & Mary Armour	Glen & Jackie Edwards	Harold Kloosterman	John Rogers	Thomas Swanson
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James Clay	John Haile	Tom Mooney		
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Susan & Ian Duncanson	Jerry Kernis	John Roberts		
	Michael Kish DMD	Walter Rockwell		



THANK YOU, CTU DONORS!

CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION SUPPORT

CTU deeply appreciates the generous support of the foundations and businesses that contributed to our programs in 2006. These contributions helped make possible many of our conservation efforts throughout Colorado.

Angler Art and Gifts	Boxwood Gulch	Coors Brewing Company
Delta Petroleum	EnCana	Hogan & Hartson LLP
Hydrosphere Resource Consultants	Kroger Corporation	The Maris Group
Patagonia	RBC Dain Rauscher	Rocky Mountain Angling Club
Sam's Club	Sterling Seismic Services	Tomago Media
Education Foundation of America	General Service Foundation	Hewlett Foundation
Steve Lundy Silver Trout Foundation	Trout Unlimited Embrace-a-Stream	

THE STEVE LUNDY SILVER TROUT FOUNDATION

In 1991, Steve Lundy, through his estate, gave \$100,000 to Colorado Trout Unlimited to promote the goal of trout and habitat conservation in Colorado. Steve had been a long-time supporter of CTU and served as chairman of CTU, and subsequently national TU, before his untimely death. To manage this gift, the Silver Trout Foundation was incorporated in 1991, and received 501(c)(3) tax exempt status in 1992. Recently, the name of the Foundation was changed to Steve Lundy Silver Trout Foundation.

Grants from the Steve Lundy Silver Trout Foundation have allowed CTU to pursue a range of conservation programs, from greenback cutthroat trout restoration to water quality protection, while growing the fund through prudent investments. Since its inception, the Foundation has made over \$80,000 in grants for cold water fishery conservation. Through other gifts to the Foundation and investment appreciation, the Foundation has increased its net worth to approximately \$140,000 today. The Foundation is committed to preserving its corpus, growing its investments, increasing its net worth and supporting CTU with annual grants. The Foundation also presents the "Silver Trout Award", recognizing outstanding individuals for their contributions to the cause of coldwater conservation, and selected annually by the vote of previous recipients.

The Steve Lundy Silver Trout Foundation offers a unique opportunity for individuals or corporations interested in making a legacy contribution to the work of Colorado Trout Unlimited, where funds will be preserved in perpetuity and generate income to promote CTU's conservation work for present and future generations. To learn more about the Foundation, contact chairperson Jo Evans at jo.evans@comcast.net, or the CTU office at 303-440-2937 ext. 101.

UPCOMING 2007 CTU CALENDAR

March 1	CTU Executive Committee Meeting, Denver
March 16 -17.....	Black Canyon Fly Fishing Show, Montrose
March 21	CTU Annual Auction (visit www.cotrout.org for ticket information)
March 30-31	Western Colorado Fly Fishing Expo, Grand Junction
	For info, visit: www.grand-valley-anglers.org
April 13-15	CTU Spring Rendezvous, Redstone

You can reach CTU at: 1320 Pearl Street, Suite 320, Boulder, CO 80302; phone: 303-440-2937; fax: 303-440-7933; email: dnickum@tu.org; website: www.cotrout.org.