



The Renegade

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Membership Meeting
Tuesday, November 9
 5:30 p.m. at Almont Resort
WNTI Grants and Farewell My Lovely

Meeting Feature: The Film

FAREWELL MY LOVELY, A TRIBUTE TO THE GUNNISON RIVER
 By Pat Oglesby

In Ernest Schwiebert's book, *Death of a Riverkeeper*, he wrote a chapter he called, Farewell My Lovely, a tribute to 41 miles of the Gunnison River, buried forever beneath waters backed up by the three dams that comprise the Wayne N. Aspinall Storage Unit, namely, Blue Mesa, Morrow Point and Crystal Dams. National Geographic magazine described the 23 miles of river, lost as a result of Blue Mesa Dam, as the best trout fishery in the world. In Farewell My Lovely, Ernie describes his experience during the last float trip on the Gunnison River between Morrow Point Dam at Cimarron and the East Portal. Construction on the dam began in mid 1972 and the river would be closed forever to the few brave boaters that accepted the challenge to run this rarely fished remote section. In late September of that year a small group received special permission from the Bureau of Reclamation to spend 3 days floating, fishing and filming before it would be closed forever. Ernie was a member of this group.

In August of 2005 I met Ernie at the Federation of Fly Fishers Conclave in Livingston, MT where he was the featured speaker. In his speech he spoke of his love of the Gunnison River and how as a youngster he spent summers with

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MARK'S MUSINGS

By MARK DAY, PRESIDENT OF GUNNISON ANGLING SOCIETY



Superfly 2010 was a great success! We had enough volunteers to monitor the competitors one on one. We also had enough private beats donated that all ten teams fished all private water. The Simms fleeces were also a big hit! Some of the proceeds will

enable our chapter to help sponsor the Trout Unlimited Youth Camp again this year. Thanks to all the volunteers, sponsors & those that donated the prizes & auction items! See the results on page 2. *Best Fishes! Mark*

NOVEMBER 2010

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his family at Cooper's Ranch catching rainbows that were descendents of McCloud stock from fertile eggs that were transported by railroad and introduced into Elk Creek, near Sapinero, in the summer of 1888. The brown trout he caught were prodigy of an 1893 shipment of Loch Leven yearlings, less than 1000, that arrived from Scotland and were introduced into the headwaters of the Gunnison. From these small numbers, the river became the famous trout fishery. When I told Ernie of my lifelong love for the Gunnison River, and I had known Marge Cooper, of Coopers Ranch, we instantly became friends and spent several hours on the bank of the Yellowstone River talking about his experiences in Colorado. Ernie was fond of Marge Cooper and spoke of how she looked after him and his family when they rented one of her small cabins, on the banks of the river, for several weeks each summer. He shared with me the sadness he experienced the previous fall when he looked out the window of his plane, on approach to the Gunnison airport, and saw the faint remnants of the old bridge abutment at Cooper's Ranch. Under that bridge was where he fished as a kid.

Ernie passed away 4 months later. Shortly after that, I by chance happened to meet one of the organizers of that float trip. He told me that somewhere in his belongings he might still have the original film footage of the trip that was professionally filmed. In the fall of 2009, four years after our conversation, a package arrived in the mail and there it was – a

large 16mm reel of film, probably the only one in existence. Please join us for a viewing of what I call, "Farewell My Lovely, a Tribute to the Gunnison River."

Pat Oglesby's interest in the Black Canyon and the Gunnison River started at an early age while growing up on a cattle ranch south of Crawford near the North Rim. As a youth he frequently accompanied his father and uncles down the numerous hiking trails into the Canyon from Sapinero into the Black Canyon National Park to fish. He smiles when he tells about the enjoyment he and his father would get taking "flat land" relatives for a drive on the old railroad bed between Sapinero and Cimarron. The bridges were very narrow and the passengers would always demand to get out of the car and walk across. Although they may return for another visit they never entered the Black Canyon again! After High School he learned about the fishing opportunities around Gunnison while attending Western State College. His interest in local history was sparked by having author Wilson Rockwell as a neighbor and having Dr. Vandebusch as a college professor. Pat and his wife, Carol, also an avid fly fisher, spend much of their leisure time fishing the Gunnison River and the streams around Gunnison. They reside in Grand Junction where they are active in Grand Valley Anglers, a Chapter of Trout Unlimited and an affiliate of the Federation of Fly Fishers. They share the same interests that include; fly fishing, fly tying, fly casting instruction, photography, writing and just being outdoors.

WNTI Grants

In October 2010, the Bureau of Land Management in partnership with Trout Unlimited applied for three 2010 Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) grants in the sum of \$104,426. These three grants intend to improve aquatic habitat and passage for Colorado River cutthroat trout in Road Beaver Creek and greenback cutthroat trout in West Antelope Creek. The aquatic passage projects will accomplish these objectives by improving water quality in both creeks by decreasing the amount of sediment that reaches the creeks from two adjacent BLM roads. The range improvement project will also improve water quality in Road Beaver Creek by significantly reducing the amount of animal waste and turbidity in the stream. The range improvement project is supported by Steve Cadwell, the permittee of the Park Creek Allotment; Steve will provide labor and equipment. This project will relocate two riparian fences out of the creek and riparian area and into the uplands. In order to provide water to the cattle, two troughs connected to solar powered pumps will be installed outside of the riparian area. Water will be pumped from the creek into the troughs for approximately 15 days in the summer. The fish passage project entails the hardening of three unimproved fords and installing dips and water bars on four miles of BLM road 3052 along Road Beaver Creek. The aquatic passage project on West Antelope Creek will harden one unimproved ford and add drainage to 0.4 miles of BLM road 3326. The BLM is competing with other 2010 WNTI grant proposals within the State of

Gunnison Angling Society

A Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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Ladies (Continued from page 2)

hind BH Pheasant Tails would attract the salmon. A group of us were witness to the lore that beautiful browns follow behind the salmon pods for an easy meal on eggs.”

Two of the CWFFC Chapter’s



members participated in the Superfly Contest. They were beside themselves, being able to fish private waters. About half of the group attended Superfly barbeque and Awards dinner at the Almont Resort. The CWFFC has about 200 members and has trips planned every month, so I hope we will be on their trip list for next September and that we can entice them to fish in the 2011 Superfly Contest.

Thanks again to all participating members of the Gunnison Angling Society for making our largest fundraiser a success!

Gunnison Angling Society

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WNTI Grants (Continued from page 3)

Colorado and past WNTI grant proposals. Awarding of grants should occur by the first of January 2011. If you have any questions about these grants, please contact Andrew Breibart with the BLM at 642-4458 or Andrew.breibart@blm.gov regarding these grant proposals. To learn more about the Western Native Trout Imitative, please contact Bruce Rosenlund with US Fish and Wildlife Service at Bruce.Rosenlund@fws.gov.