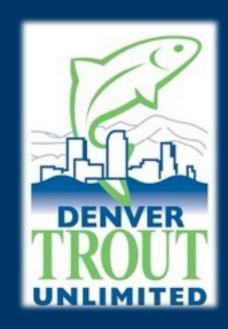
Raising funds to restore the aquatic environment of the Denver S. PLATTE RIVER



**Denver Trout Unlimited** 

**Press Kit** 

Carp Slam 8
Saturday September 6, 2014
Tournament - 9-12AM, 3-5PM
After Party - 7PM
at Battery 621 - Kalamath St

# **Coverage Suggestions**

### **Event Overview:**

### Carp Slam?

It's a fly fishing tournament where the finest professional and amateur anglers in the region (and beyond) match wits with the wily and elusive common carp. Carp are one of the most difficult freshwater fish to pursue on fly – meanwhile the urban South Platte River running through downtown Denver is one of the finest carp fisheries in North America. The purpose of the tournament is to raise money for the reconstruction / rehabilitation of the Urban South Platte River below Chatfield Reservoir and through Denver.

### You're raising money for what!? Who cooked up this wild scheme?

Actually, the Denver Chapter of Trout Unlimited has been working with the South Suburban Parks and Recreation District for several years studying how the Carson Nature Center's reach of the South Platte can be enhanced to support a better native fish population, recreational fishery and riparian habitat. In 2011 the city of Littleton and the board of South Suburban Parks and Recreation approved the design and funded the first phase of restoration which is slated to begin in 2012. Denver Trout Unlimited has committed \$10,000, raised primarily through the Carp Slam, to the project and has leveraged that money into a Fishing is Fun grant of \$80,000. Construction started April 2013!! We also committed \$15,000 toward reconstruction of Overland Park pond and river front to server as a gateway for young anglers. Construction will start in the 2013 also.

DTU has also worked with the City and County of Denver and the Greenway Foundation on a South Platte Restoration plan, committing \$25,000 to the project which is still in the design phase. Ultimately, at least \$4 million will be spent to improve several miles of the Urban South Platte. Also working with Greenway Foundation we were

founding members of PURE, Protect Our Urban River Environment, which has a 2 year grant to develop strategies to keep trash out of the S.Platte.

Denver Trout Unlimited Members, including Todd Fehr, Ronnie Crawford, and Erica Stock sit on various South Platte River committees and attend public hearings in order to have the voice of the bugs and river health heard. Among others these include:

- The Chatfield Reallocation project which we very much favor to help put more water in the Denver South Platte.
- The Urban Drainage and Flood Control District.
- PURE
- Overland Park Neighborhood Association Shattuck Chemical Company Cleanup Settlement.

# **Coverage Angles**

- Official Carp Slam Brochure
- Human Interest Bring back the bugs.
- Historical References Pollution of the South Platte in the 1880's
- Ironic Iconic- Iconoclastic
- Slamateurs and Pros Past Winners
- Low Flows- Challenge for organizers
- 10 Things you didn't know about the Colorado Dorado
- After Party Evening on the South Platte
- Coverage- Where to be, how to watch, how to cover, who to watch- Cell phone coverage and twitter alerts -
- Maps In every format imaginable-
- Fashion Sadly, last year's best dressed is not entered, but the worst dressed is.
- Official Rules and Contacts

A separate page has been provided for each coverage angle. For additional information please do not hesitate to call, email, or text the sources on each page.

Photos from prior years Carp Slam can be found on <u>Carp Slam Photo Galleries</u> <u>www.denvertu.org/carp-slam-2013/</u>

Please give credit for photos for: 2011 to Joe Kingry Photography 2012 to Randall Paetzold Photography

Videos celebrating the Denver Trout Unlimited Carp Slam

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JxYje\_g76M
   2013 Carpslam 7
- <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D8y30pDAHml">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D8y30pDAHml</a> 2012 Carpslam "Luna Landings"
- <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vyz\_Ohu8lcQ">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vyz\_Ohu8lcQ</a> 2011 Carpslam Trailer
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzfbiFFCzQU 2010 Carpslam "Restoration of the South Platte
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYOPuDXOFWI 2011 Will Rice The South Platte Needs Your Help

# **Official Carp Slam Brochure**

A high quality brochure can be downloaded from: <a href="http://goo.gl/8ZUOI">http://goo.gl/8ZUOI</a>



# Human Interest - Bringing back the bugs

## Bringing back the bugs

During the rapid growth of the American West in the 1870's, Denver like other places had managed to badly pollute their river with tannery, mining, and other industrial and residential wastes. Fish were killed directly by poisons and lack of oxygen and indirectly when the high quality food sources of the fish, aquatic insects like mayflies, caddis flies, and caddis flies, were killed off as the South Platte River died.

The Carp Slam raises funds through entry fees, generous sponsors like Wells Fargo and Trout's Fly Fishing, a social media Fund Raising Contest, a silent auction, tickets to an after party, and the Rainbow Release. These funds, in the neighborhood of \$15,000, are used to help bring back the bug life and health of the Denver South Platte.

Denver Trout Unlimited brings focuses on what is going on below the waterline to ensure that the river will be healthy and provide a habitat for trout, as well as bass and carp during both low flows, higher temperatures, and runoff conditions. With strong participation of Denver Trout Unlimited and matching money provided from previous Carp Slams, the current River South Implementation Plan includes in-stream work to provide below the surface habitat and food sources to sustain a healthy fish population.

The Carp Slam is probably the only fund raiser in the Denver Area intent on helping bugs.

For Additional Information contact:

Todd Fehr, DTU representative to the RISO planning committees. 720-207-4518 <a href="mailto:tfehr@developmentinsight.com">tfehr@developmentinsight.com</a>

# **Historical Reference:**

## How the Carp wound up in the Denver South Platte.

In 1879 the German common carp was brought from the reflecting pool of the Washington Monument in a railroad "fish" car by the U.S. Commission on Fish and Fisheries and dumped from the railroad bridge just below the confluence of Cherry Creek and the South Platte. The purpose was to provide fresh fish to Denver since the South Platte had been overfished and polluted. Like many grand plans, the food fish idea didn't catch on in Denver or anywhere else in America. We have all been raised to despise the Carp as ugly and a nuisance.

But in 2006, Barry Reynolds, Denver resident and author of "Carp on a Fly", convinced his other Denver Trout Unlimited Board Members, that the carp in the South Platte were actually an extremely exciting and difficult to catch game fish which could be used as a basis for a fund raising fly fishing contest. The first Carp Slam was held that year and began the rehabilitation of the reputation of the carp, as the Denver Chapter of Trout Unlimited dedicated itself to the rehabilitation of the Urban South Platte.

The Denver South Platte is now recognized world wide as an excellent carp fishing destination. It has a chapter in Chris Santella's book "50 More Places to Fly Fish Before You Die". And The New York Times, February 13, 2012 further enhance our fishery with an article entitled, "Carp gain as fly-fishing favorite."

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/13/sports/carp-now-a-worthy-fly-rod-target-in-united-states.html

"Freedom for the River Queen" by John Davenport - editor Trout Unlimited eNews - Reviewed by the <u>Denver Post NextGen</u>
<a href="http://nextgen.yourhub.com/article/ipad-fun-all-ages">http://nextgen.yourhub.com/article/ipad-fun-all-ages</a>
<a href="http://www.loghouse.com/books/Freedom">http://www.loghouse.com/books/Freedom</a> for the River Queen.html

## Ironic - Iconic- Iconoclastic

### **Ironic**

The more successful the Carp Slam, the less inviting the Denver South Platte will be to carp, which will mean there could be few carp to slam. Although we appear to be a long way from crystal clear and cold South Platte River, each year of the contest has yielded a surprising steady increase in the catch of both trout and bass. The river is improving and nothing would please the organizers more than to change the rules of the contest. The carp however will probably always be present in the South Platte as its close relative, the native but now absent pike minnow was.

#### **Iconic**

The Carp Slam gives the non-fishing public a chance to witness first hand the iconic ballet of fly-fishers as they battle a wily and incredibly strong fish on light weight tackle. The brute force of the carp is more than enough to break the 6 pound test strength of the angler's tippet, shatter the delicate carbon fiber rod, or runout the 100 yards of backing on the reel. The chase of the angler and partner up and down hundreds of yards or so of the South Platte can last up to 45 minutes. They must carefully guide the carp to shallow and unobstructed water where the carp will be netted, unhooked from the barbless hook, measured by a Carp Slam official, revived if necessary and gently released. Photographic opportunities abound from the bridges and banks for the both the public and the press to catch this amazing athletic performance of fish and fisher.

#### **Iconoclastic**

The perception of the carp as a nuisance fish is shattered on closer observation. Their golden color, strength, social organization and behavior prove that the status of the "Colorado Dorado" is as it should be "prized catch & release game fish."

# **Slamateurs and Professionals**

## The Amateurs compete on two levels-

The Carp Slam Amateurs, called Slamateurs, are a very important part of the fund raising effort. They must pony up a \$400 entrance fee and then, true South Platte lovers all, they compete against each other in raising money for the cause from their facebook friends, Twitter followers, family, and fishing buddies.

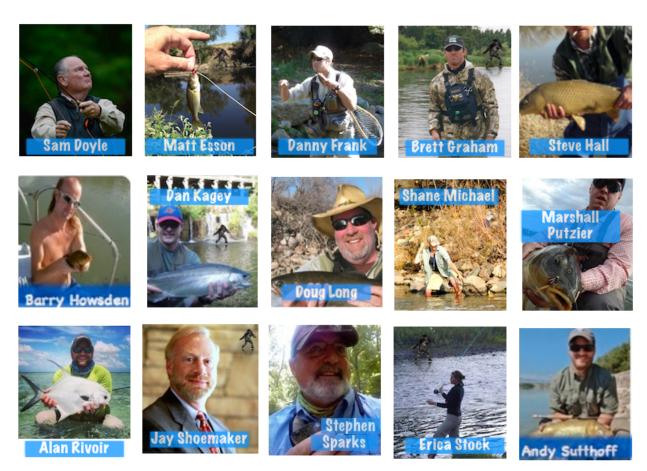
The second level is competing with their team mate against the 14 other fierce flyfishers. The pressure on the professional guides to out-fish other guides from competing fly-shops is intense. Rob Kolanda, Team US Fly-Fishing member, has won the contest twice and no one wants him to three-peat. Barry Reynolds, the father of flyfishing for Carp on the South Platte and inventor of the Carp Slam, has been second so many times that just having him on the river intimidates both the carp and the carpers. Until 2011, the unaccustomed pressure on the amateurs has generally kept their catch small. But Tanner Trevor, Hero of the South Platte for discovering the Suncor Sand Creek Oil Spill in November 2011, changed all that by his incredible performance at Confluence Park to win the 2011 Carp Slam. Clint Packo his professional partner said, "This guy is an amateur? Maybe we need a new definition." In 2011 the teams caught 16 carp and 15 trout, bass, and walleye. In 2012 with flows down to only 55 CFS 15 carp were caught but no trout or walleye. Clink Packo repeated his 2011 victory, with Will Rice as his amateur partner, in an astounding battle against a 28.5 inch carp in and around a series of bridge piers. Will's exciting recount of this battle is published here: http://troutsflyfishing.com/news/carp-slam-6-recap-aka-diary-of-a-net-caddy/

In 2013 flows returned to a good 177 cfs. Thirteen carp were landed by 9 teams. Scott Demoss was again a standout slamateur landing 3 fish and carrying along his professional Dave Luna. Frank Smethurst landed the largest carp at 33 1/2 inches. More teams than ever before caught these elusive denizens of the Denver South Platte verifying the increasing sophistication of our competitors as they figure out how to get trick these fish with a fly.

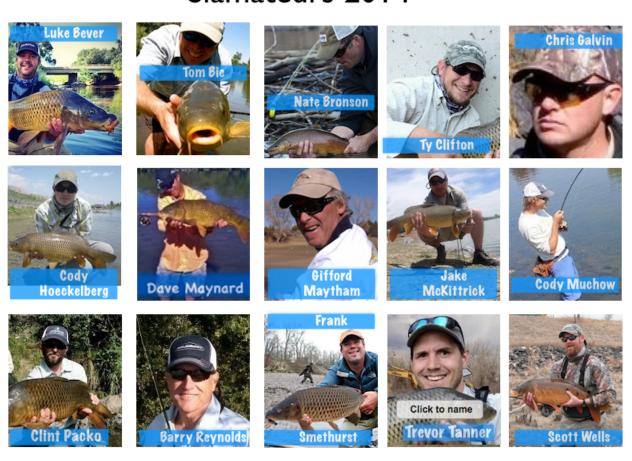
Beats and fishing partners are drawn from a fishing hat the night before the event. Every year, like every day on the stream, presents a different challenge. The contest has weathered extreme changes in flow from treatment plant releases, Chatfield Reservoir releases, full moons, and droughts.

# **Results over the Years**

2013 55 cfs	Place	Amateur	Pro	Inches of C	arp	
		Scott Demoss	Dave Luna	87.5		
		Barry Howsden		51.75		
		Will Rice	Frank Smethurst	33.5		
		Frank Smethhur	Biggest Pro Carp	33.5	in	
		Scott Demoss	Blggest Am Carp	30	in	
	Non-car	None caught				
		Doug Long Fund Raising Winner with \$1,720 The Slamateurs raised a total of \$9,219.21 with South Platte Stonefly raising \$302.				
					Stoney the hom	ieless
		South Flatte Stollelly faising \$502.				
2012 55 cfs	Place	Amateur	Pro	Inches of C	arp	
	1	Will Rice	Clint Packo	83		
	2	Scott Demoss	Luke Bever	71.25		
	3	Tyler Stuart	Cody Muchow	54		
		Clint Packo	BIggest Pro Car	30		
		Scott Demoss	Biggest Am Car	24.75		
	Non-car	many small mouth but no trout				
		Doug Long Fund Raising WINNER \$2,068			8 !!!	
2011 168cf	Place	Amateur	Pro			
	1	Trevor Tanner	Clint Packo	111.75		
	2	Michael Gracie	Barry Reynolds	81		
	3	Nathan Davis	Luke Bever	72.75		
	Non-carp		Ty Clifton	22	Rainbow	
2010 280c	1	Phil Beranto	David Luna	29		
	2	Justin Clark	Barry Reynolds	29		
	3	Tony Kay	Chris Galvin			
	Open-Fish Anywhere					
	1	Tyler Kendrick	David Luna			
	2	Matt Nery	Kevin Nichols			
	3	Jake McKittric	Barry Reynolds			
2009 220cf	1	Tyler Steward	Rob Kolanda	131		
	2	Michael Gracie	Barry Reynolds	55		
	3	Paul Gaeke	Matt Snider			
	Non-car Chris Crosby			17	Walleye	
	Largest carp		Luke Bever	30		
2008			Rob Kolanda			
2007		Jeff Byrd	Clem Rinehart			



Slamateurs 2014



The Pros - Carp Slam 8

# Low Flows- Challenge for organizers

Stream flows on the Denver South Platte are approximately ¼ of normal. While the carp in particular are adaptable to this low flow and higher temperature, they are acting cranky.

"Anyone who can catch one of the plentiful carp with a fly at the confluence with Cherry Creek, can catch a fish anywhere in the world," said Clem Rinehart, Carp Slam event organizer and from fishing guide. "Last year, Trevor Tanner, scored big on this beat. This year will be a completely different game."

The Carp Slam pro/am fly fishing tournament, matches 15 professional guides with 15 amateurs (called Slamateurs) by random draw the night before the event. Each team fishes for 3 hours in the morning on one of the 15 beats (sections of the South Platte from 200 to 800 yards long). After lunch, they fish for three more hours on another randomly selected beat. During their fishing period they must alternate fishing for 30 minute periods each and during the last 30 minutes they may both fish at the same time. Controllers with tape measures record catches and species and for the first time this year, will text in results and fish-on signals to a central point for tweeting and facebook updates. Follow twitter @denvertu

For complete maps check the Maps insert included in this press kit.Last years beat maps are posted here <a href="http://goo.gl/maps/UtDz">http://goo.gl/maps/UtDz</a> but check <a href="www.carpslam.org">www.carpslam.org</a>, or <a href="www.denvertu.org">www.denvertu.org</a> for this years beats and best places to watch the action. Venues may have to be changed to account for the low flows.



https://picasaweb.google.com/115495250551985075767/ YouSentThemIn#5701995476649319458

# 10 Things you didn't know about the Colorado Dorado (carp).

- 1. Most people find the carp among the ugliest of fish and the goldfish and the koi the
  prettiest. These are exactly the same species, cyprinus carpio. Various color varieties were
  developed using selective breeding in Japan and China long ago while Europe was busy with
  feudalism. The most beautiful and expensive show fish in the world are now called koi.
- 2. In 1879 the German common carp was brought from the reflecting pool of the Washington Monument in a railroad "fish" car by the U.S. Commission on Fish and Fisheries and dumped from the railroad bridge just below the confluence of Cherry Creek and the South Platte. The purpose was to provide fresh fish to Denver since the South Platte had been overfished and polluted. Like many grand plans, the food fish idea didn't catch on in Denver or anywhere else in America. We have all been raised to despise the Carp as ugly and a nuisance.
- 3. One of the accidental side-affects of the Carp Slam has been the rehabilitation of the reputation of the Carp. The Carp Slam Fly Fishing contest has given the carp a new status in the South Platte as a difficult to catch, ferocious fighting, gigantic fresh water game fish. There are over 20 recent videos on YouTube with over 17,000 views of fly fishing for carp on the South Platte in Denver. It was no problem finding 15 Professional Guides in the Denver area specializing in catching Metro South Platte carp.
- 4. There were native carp (the Colorado Pikeminnow or Squawfish) already in the South Platte when the German (common) carp were introduced.
- 5. The carp is **more highly evolved** than the trout. The carp has better hearing, a better sense of smell, a wider range of foods, and can actually breath oxygen by gulping air on the surface.
- 6. The largest carp ever caught was 94 pounds. Those caught in previous Carp Slams are
  more trim and agile usually in the 20 to 36 inch range. Carp can live to be 40 or 50 years old,
  making them older and wiser than most of the Carp Slam competitors.
- 7. A carp can spawn 4 or more times per year and can lay over **a million eggs.** The eggs and fry are an important food source for herons, otters, and largemouth bass.
- 8. Whether Carp are **good to eat or not is irrelevant** to the Carp Slam since we release them all. Millions of pounds of Mississippi Rive carp become gefilte fish each year. The Carp Slam, in recognition of the cooperation given by our partners, the South Platte carp, catch and then release in good health, all carp caught during the contest.
- 9. In 1653, Isaac Walton the first fly fishing author, call the Common Carp the "Queen of the Rivers."
- 10. When a fish, a fruit, or a fashion falls out of favor, the only solution to social acceptance is a name change. War bonnets have come back, to every fly tier's disgust, as feather hair extensions. The Chinese gooseberry as everyone knows was renamed the kiwi. The slimefish was renamed Orange Roughy and the Patagonia Toothfish was renamed the Chilean Sea Bass. Grass carp were recently renamed the White Amur. But the much maligned common carp in the South Platte is still the carp after 130 years. Maybe "Colorado Dorado" would work. They are in Colorado and they are a golden color.



# The After Party:

## **Battery 621** - at Kalamath St & 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, Denver

Battery 621 is a happening event space not far from the South Platte. This culmination of the Carp Slam will include live music (Ethly and the Regulars were a hit in 2013), food from 262 Creations, wine and beer from providers that are as dedicated to the Denver South Platte restoration as you are, a silent auction of incredible items, a photo booth and of course crowning of the winners of this years Annual Carp Slam.

# Coverage

Where to be, how to watch and cover, who to watch- Cell phone coverage and twitter alerts -

Where to be and who to watch - Since all actions takes place along the South Platte River Trail, parking, camera viewpoints, and easy access make this the perfect event to cover. Here is the link to the possible parking places and beats from 2012. <a href="http://goo.gl/maps/rT3gM">http://goo.gl/maps/rT3gM</a> Check the Carp Slam, carpslam.org, and Denver TU, denvertu.org, websites the day of the event for possible low flow changes. Bicycles can be rented on the trail at REI next to Starbucks.

If you want to photograph catches as they happen, follow @denvertu on twitter. If you want to use photographs posted to our facebook page, feel free at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/denver.troutunlimited">https://www.facebook.com/denver.troutunlimited</a>

If you want to see the most action, the beats between Speer Avenue and Mile High Stadium as well as 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue yielded 22 fish in 2011.

If you want to follow a favorite, send a message to @denvertu and we'll tell you where your favorite is fishing.

How to watch and cover - You have to be extremely careful to remain motionless and noiseless if the competitor is stalking a carp. They have highly evolved senses of sight and hearing. Their swim bladder is used as a reverberation chamber to amplify voices and footstep far up the banks and they can detect flashes reflecting from your lenses while you are on the bridges. Once a fish is on, all bets are off and you'll see the angler thrashing the bushes and stumbling over rocks to try and land the fish. This is when you'll be able to maneuver to get you best shot. The fight could take 15 to 30 minutes.

Cell phone and twitter alerts - You can text John Davenport -717-648-3352 or tweet @denvertu with questions or to get updates.

## Beat Maps for 2012,2013 and tentative 2014 - Check carpslam.org

### Details -http://goo.gl/maps/1kATY

I -70 - The Fuel Cafe

ille Landing Park for this beat. G- Sand Creek - Metro Wastewater Plant

This beat includes the river as well as about 1/4 mile of sand creek. This beat is unlimited downstream of the parking area. There are is of fish around the pedestrian bridge 1/4 mile below the parkin...

Sand Creek - 64th & York Street

F. Steele Street

F (Steele) this is a huge best encompassing about 1.5 miles of the river and a short section of clear creek. The bests extends from observation platform (= 1 mile downstream of rail bridge) upstream

Steele Street Parking Lot

witends from -1/2 mile downstream of 88th bridge upstream t vation platform. Scout deep hole, flat below bridge and deep on river left from high bank on west side. Lots of hoppers ...

Thronton Gravel Ponds

D- 104th Street High

The beat extends from the 104th bridge upstream approx. 1 mile to mckay. It is tough going upstream of the dam. Most access to the river around the bridge is on the west side. Check out deep water.

104th St. Valente Park

C- 104th Ave LOW

This beat includes the ponds in the park as well as the river unlimb downstream of the 104th ave. Bridge, Look for fish in deep water below the creek confluence (500 yds downstream of bridge) on w.

B- 120th Pkwy High

120th Pkwy -

ean in front of jersey barriers.

A- 120th Pkwy Low

Oxford - 2501 W Oxford Ave

appears to be a public trail parking spot for the fillary Carter Greenway Trail.

N-Hampden

M- Overland Park

M-Overland Park - W. Florida Ave.

This bealt begins below the Alameda bridge all bayaud and goe potheam approx. 1.5 miles to mississippi, Fish are in desper w elow drops-bridges and near banks. Suggest you fish around

L- Alameda - S. Huron St Vanderbilt Park

K- 6th Avenue

K- 6th Avenue - 8th Avenue End

J- Sports Authority Field at MileHigh Stadium

Mile High or 23st alternate parking - Park at Aquarium L

Beat extends from 31st st. Upstream to 19th street bridge – 1 mile iver. Exit fuel parking lot, turn right on flingsity Ct. go to 31st ave. um left over bridge and right on arkins ct. Arkins fol...

23rd Street - City of Cuemavaca Park

23rd Street - Arkins Ct

Lots of no parking signs along Arkins Ct. Park in the gravel lot above the midpoint of the beat.

1-70 - Globeville Landing Park

rville Landing Park for this beat.

River North Beats - Thornton



# **Fashion**

### **Best dressed:**

In days of old, the 1780s, 1880's, and 1980's, fly fishing enthusiasts were attacked as being elitists and of trying to separate themselves from the rift-raft of anglers using bait, spinners, or dynamite. Fortunately, this is no longer true and most anglers chose the method of fishing they enjoy the most. (Hopefully, not dynamite.) Trout Unlimited would like to see everyone on the river fishing.

Anglers of today also pick their outfits on a highly individual basis depending on conditions and the need for stealth. As a result, some look good on the river and some, well not so much. Sabrina Stratford was by far our best dressed competitor 2011. She also nearly won the non-carp species award with a 17.5 inch rainbow near mile-high stadium. But in the final 30 minutes of the contest, Ty Clifton, pulled a 22 inch rainbow trout from the same water. Speculation was that it was the same trout that grew 4 and ½ inches over lunch. This year we are delighted to have Erica Stock representing the fastest growing segment of the fly fishing community. As competitive as she is, she'll be shooting for largest amateur carp, overall team winner, and fund raising winner. She'll have to put in a special effort to also win best dressed because Jay Shoemaker apparently fly fishes in a suit.

### Worst dressed:

Some may recognize this angler but he will go nameless. He is proof positive that this is not an elitist sport and that your catch will have nothing to do with the size of your credit card debt. You will notice however, that he is about to score a nice South Platte carp. He picked a blue theme to blend in with the blue Colorado skies and he is wearing a "buff" over his head and bill cap to further mask his appearance. This angler placed third last year and consistently brings in big fish who apparently are not slaves to fashion.



https://picasaweb.google.com/115495250551985075767/ CarpSlam2011#5651873959623009490

# **Official Rules and Contacts**

### Rules:

http://www.denvertu.org/carp-slam-rules-and-maps/

### **Contacts:**

Clem Rinehart-President Denver Trout Unlimited and Event Organizer 303-570-2006 <a href="mailto:clem@lodoloftguy.com">clem@lodoloftguy.com</a>

Cory Stansbury - Past President Denver Trout Unlimited <a href="mailto:cory.stansbury@denvertu.org">cory.stansbury@denvertu.org</a>

Todd Fehr- Treasures Denver Trout Unlimited 720-207-4518 <u>tfehr@developmentinsight.com</u>

John Davenport -Secretary and eNews Editor 717-648-3352 john.davenport.mac@mac.com

#### PHOTOS:

https://picasaweb.google.com/115495250551985075767/CarpSlam2014? authuser=0&feat=directlink