

SVATU Stream Committee

The Conversation Committee is the arm of SVATU chapter charged with promoting the protection, restoration, and conservation of our local watersheds. The Conservation Committee focuses on promoting the health of our local waters by working with water stakeholders to find creative ways to improve seasonal water flows, water quality, and fish habitat, while meeting the other stakeholders needs and legal rights.

Over the last several years the SVATU chapter played a important role in first identifying the need to improve the seasonal flows in the St. Vrain and then in funding the installation of Rubicon gates at three key water diversions. The combination of the Rubicon gates (see picture below), water purchased by the City of Longmont, and city owned pumping facilities near Union reservoir now assures that water flows down the St. Vrain river channel all season long, providing the water necessary to improve fish survival over the winter. Rubicon gates provide a means of allowing a specific amount of water to flow down the river channel, even when the diversion is pulling the maximum amount of water.

The Conservation Committee is now looking at other ways to enhance the St. Vrain river drainage, continuing the successful approach of working with all water stakeholders to develop creative, multi-party solutions that benefit everyone.

If you have any suggestions on potential ways to protect our unique watershed or are looking for ways to volunteer or participate please contact Erik Wilkinson or Ben Lawhon, co-chairs of the Conservation Committee. See <http://www.svatu.org/html/chapterInfo/leadership.html> for contact info.



Rubicon gate on the Oligarchy Ditch