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March 2011

# The Flypaper

*News and Events from the Rocky Mountain Flycasters  
Chapter of Trout Unlimited*

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## Greetings!

Look what your RMF Board has done now! Big names are coming to speak over the next three months. [Bill Dvorak](#) on the 16th will talk about the Gunnison Gorge and the Arkansas. [Pat Dorsey](#) in April will share us his expertise on tail water flies and [Steve Schwietzer](#) in May will talk about the highlights of his new book on fishing RMNP. These guys represent the best of the best in Colorado and will have things to say that we all can use and appreciate. Big thanks to Greg, Dennis and Bryon for this excellent line up.

Our fly tying expo was a resounding success and we appreciate all who attended. We are always looking to improve, so if you have suggestions or comments as to how to make it better, [please email me](#). We especially appreciate our sponsors and hope you'll thank them by doing business with them. I am always amazed at the willingness of the tiers to share their time with us, and we are all grateful.

This is the time of year when you're putting your finishing touches on your taxes and wish you had more deductions. We can help you with that and ask that you consider becoming a [sustaining donor](#). We struggle each year getting the funds we need to continue doing what we've started. Our Youth Camp, the Behnke Scholarship, the Holiday party, River Clean-ups, CTU Rendezvous, room rental, rods to raffle, support for Narrows Park, Phantom Canyon, and Eagle's Nest all require a continuing cash flow. Please go the website and click on the donate button, and give what you can. We all benefit and so does the mission of Trout Unlimited.

We also can use some help on the Board. If you would like to attend board meetings to get acquainted with the operation of RMF, we would encourage you to do so. We meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Contact me, and I'll send you directions.

[Orvis Fly Fishing 101](#)

[America's Ultimate Fishing Town](#)

[RMF Quick Links](#)



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I am encouraged by the progress this chapter is making and hope it continues. For all of you that have contributed either time or money or both, a big thank you. For all of us, could we do more? Is it time to step up and become an active member? Remember, elections are in May and no office is too hard or too time consuming if we all pitch in.

Thanks,

[Lee Evans](#), President

*"Bragging may not bring happiness, but no man having caught a large fish goes home through an alley."*

~Author Unknown~

## Featured Guest Speaker for March

Greg Evans, Secretary



Bill Dvorak will be the featured guest speaker at the Rocky Mountain Flycasters general meeting on March 16th. Bill returns to share his expertise with the Chapter after a three year hiatus. Bill is famous around Colorado for his successful Dvorak Expeditions, which make the arduous decent into the Black Canyon of the Gunnison for one to three

day rafting adventures. Bill Dvorak owns the very first River Recreation Outfitter License, #001. He has built his reputation for enabling people of all walks of life to enjoy the Gunnison River and Arkansas River. To Flyfishers, Bill has made famous the Salmon Fly hatch on the Gunnison in June. Bill also has another hat. He is currently the Public Lands Organizer for the National Wildlife Federation. Like his passion for fishing and the river, he is passionate about protecting our public lands for future generations and the enjoyment of them right now!

Bill will speak at the Fort Collins Senior Center on Shields and Raintree at 7 pm on March 16th about his conservation efforts and fishing the rivers he loves. Please join us for an entertaining and informative evening. As a former teacher from Salida High School, Bill always delivers a thought provoking talk with stunning pictures of his big back yard!

Social hour begins at 6:30, and the Program follows at 7:00. Admission is free and the public is always welcome. The [Fort Collins Senior Center](#) is located at 1200 Raintree Drive off Shields Avenue between Prospect and Drake.

Trout in the Classroom (TIC):  
Fish Kill From Poor Water Chemistry

[Bob's Fly Shop](#)

[Color Pro Print](#)

Dennis Cook

Eiscapes - Ken Eis

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Dennis Cook, Youth Outreach Chair

Our TIC trout have fallen upon tough times since the last issue of The Flypaper when we had about 400 trout. As planned, the student team reluctantly began removing the smallest fish to reduce the excessive population. They removed the first 50 of a planned 150 total to get the population to about 250 to carry us through the upcoming relocation in case the fish became stressed during the relocation. But then they were disrupted during relocation of the entire Agriculture Sciences Department from four pre-fab buildings into its newly constructed building.

The TIC tank and fish remained behind, waiting for new building adjustments before they were to be relocated. Suddenly they began to have fish die in large groups each day...and for unknown reasons. It turns out that the facilities relocation disrupted more than just the fish reduction plans. It also unintentionally interfered with the water chemistry tests that are taken daily by the student team.

The student team continued taking daily water chemistry tests, and when asked by the teacher they reported that all was well with the water chemistries. Unfortunately, for whatever reason still unknown, the team had overlooked to continue testing for Nitrite Nitrogen and Nitrate Nitrogen levels, but these had spiked and gone undetected for about a week...but not before about 150 fish had died. The student team immediately cleaned the filter and siphon to remove the buildup of solid wastes caused by the over-populated tank, and changed half the water in the tank to stabilize the nitrogen levels. The fish population stabilized to a nominal deaths level.

Though the delay in the planned population reduction was a large mistake and disappointment, because it might have averted the deaths, in consideration of the overlooked nitrogen levels tests it inadvertently turned out to be fortuitous. If they had removed the intended 150 fish, then the nitrogen imbalance could probably have reduced the population to under a hundred.

Our fish loss is unfortunate, but all things considered this has been an informative learning experience for the students. They now have a better understanding about trout being a healthy water indicator fish, and they hopefully have more sensitivity about healthy aquatic environment conservation. Now their challenge is have a successful fish relocation on March 8th, and to ensure our remaining fish do not become overly stressed.

## Trout in the Classroom (TIC): Fish & Tank Relocation

Dennis Cook, Youth Outreach Director

On Tuesday, March 8th,  
the TIC tank and fish were

relocated from the pre-fab buildings to the new Agriculture Department building. Between about 9:30am to 12:30pm a student crew led by teacher Nathan Clark worked feverishly to complete the move with as brief of a disturbance as possible. RMF board members Lee Evans, Paul Wehr and Dennis Cook all looked on, took pictures and occasionally helped.



First the fish were removed and placed into four large buckets filled with a mixture of tank water and fresh dechlorinated water and equipped with battery powered oxygen bubblers. Then equipment was dismantled from the tank and it was emptied of water and gravel removed. The tank, filter and all equipment was cleaned, loaded onto a truck along with the fish buckets, and transported about 200 yards to the new building.

Everything was unloaded into the new classroom, reassembled and the fish returned to the tank. The new location is very pleasant and the tank will again be under constant visual observation and attention. In the relocation process, some fish were found dead stuck in the filters and from the general stress of handling and reduced oxygen. A visual estimate suggests that about 125, or perhaps a few more than that, remain, and we'll know in several days how these continue to survive. Those that do, with this reduced population, should have a very healthy tank environment so long as accurate water chemistry is maintained.

### RMF Youth Outreach: River Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Day Camp Needs Volunteers

Dennis Cook, Youth Outreach Chair

RMF's 2nd annual River Conservation & Fly Fishing Day Camp will be held on July 22, 23, 24 and 28, 29, 30, and arrangements are all falling in place nicely. [Promote the Day Camp](#) in your neighborhood, across your family and at any church or other groups where you meet parents of ages 14-18 boys & girls. The [Volunteer Opportunities Schedule](#) is posted on the RMF website. We need to receive volunteers' indications of their interests so we can assign roles for each day and event. Please contact [Dennis Cook](#) by email or by phone (970-372-9229) if you are interested in volunteering for the youth day camp. We also need a supply of 175-200 flies. Please see the RMF website for more details.

### RMF Youth Outreach:

## Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge

Dennis Cook, Youth Outreach Chair



Volunteer opportunities are available on Saturday, April 2nd, Instructional Class day - 9:00am to 3:00pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church. We still need about three volunteers.

Additionally, volunteer opportunities are available on Saturday, May 21st,

Weaver Lake fishing day at Camp Ben Delatour. We still need about ten volunteers. [Please visit the RMF website for more information.](#)

## RMF Youth Outreach:

### Larimer County Boys & Girls Club

Dennis Cook, Youth Outreach Chair

Requirements will be posted on the [RMF website](#) soon for hour-long after-school sessions, and also a fishing trip to a nearby pond, that RMF member volunteers will teach at the [Boys & Girls Clubs](#) facilities in April and May between 5:30-6:30 p.m. Six to eight sessions will address basic introductions to conservation and ethics, equipment, techniques, casting, fly tying, insects, etc.

## 2011 River Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp



Each year RMF sponsors one (1) student to attend the annual Colorado Trout Unlimited River Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp. This year's camp is scheduled for June 12-17, 2011 at the High Lonesome Ranch near DeBeque, Colorado. The camp is

designed to educate students on the importance of cold-water conservation and provide hands-on fly-fishing instruction. Students will also participate in a watershed project to repair habitat in a nearby stream. Camp classes include: principles of ecology, hydro-geology, aquatic vertebrate and invertebrate sampling, hydrology, trout behavior, trout stream entomology, the biology of pollution, acid deposition, and politics of conservation and human effects on the Rocky Mountains. Applications must be received by April 15, 2011. The camp is for students 14-18 years old.

[Click here to download an application and read more about the camp.](#)

[Click here to view the camp flyer.](#)

## Friends of the Big Thompson River

Walt Graul, [Loveland Fishing Club](#)

Last month I reported that we were hopeful that Larimer County was going to retain the remaining key fishing access areas they own along the Big Thompson River - as reported by them.



However, there now has been some discussion by the County about selling some of these properties and just keeping a 'public use easement' on the resultant private land. This would create a conflict scenario between anglers and landowners in the future, and anglers would be the ultimate losers. Therefore, Friends of the Big Thompson River sent the County a letter strongly encouraging them not to do this, but rather keep their angling access interests in fee title as they are currently.

At the March 8 Parks Advisory board Meeting, it sounded like the County may not pursue the easement concept as their top priority; however, they specifically stated that they want to keep this option in their 'tool box'. Additionally, a landowner adjacent to the Narrows property urged the County to sell their river access that is on the north side of the river and west of the west boundary that is on the south side at Narrows. Most anglers do not even know that piece of river belongs to the County, because as I pointed out to them at the meeting, that area is currently posted as private land - I showed them photos of the postings. Additionally, it was even mentioned that perhaps the County should just sell the entire Narrows property and try for a bigger/better property somewhere else. The County is taking public input until the next meeting (April 12), so if you have an interest in this, send your comments to the [Parks Advisory Board](#).

## A River Runs Through More Than Downtown Fort Collins

Dave Piske, Conservation Resource Chair

At first glance, readers of *The Flypaper* might think a new public forum called "[The Poudre Runs Through It: Northern Colorado's Water Future](#)" is a microscopic look at a river they usually think of as originating high in Rocky Mountain National Park, then plummeting through more than sixty miles of steep, narrow canyons as it descends towards Fort Collins, and finally meanders across the high plains east of Fort Collins to ultimately join the South Platte. The forum's sponsor, [UniverCity Connections](#), is a Fort Collins-based civic partnership whose usual geographic focus is a relatively

small area consisting of the CSU campus, downtown Fort Collins, and just a few miles of an urban reach of the Poudre between Martinez Park and Mulberry Street bridge over the Poudre.

But the forum addresses broad and critical issues concerning the future of the Poudre's water, the perceived needs and sometimes conflicting views of the various users of its water, and the resultant social, environmental and economic impacts. The scope of the forum is as broad as the interests in the Poudre of many Flypaper readers, and is definitely worthy of your attendance and participation. The forum is intended to create a better understanding of these complex matters within the Fort Collins community.

The complete forum includes three education sessions and two public deliberation sessions to which the public is invited. Admission to all sessions is free. More information on the session topics, dates, and location is contained in the [Coloradoan newspaper article](#). Several RMF-TU members attended the first session in February and found it to be very informative. Although several sessions have already been completed, it's not too late to attend the remaining sessions.

[View event photos](#)

[Access powerpoints and supplementary materials from the February 24th session](#)

[Read public comments, values, and concerns surrounding water issues and the Poudre River](#)

[Watch the live recording of the event from Cable Channel 14](#)

## Colorado Fishing Licenses Expire Mar 31st

The Colorado Division of Wildlife is reminding anglers across Colorado that [new fishing regulations](#) took effect Jan. 1. The new regulations were developed through an extensive public process last summer and fall as part of the Division's five-year review of fishing regulations in the state. The new regulations were passed by the Colorado Wildlife Commission last November. In all, the Wildlife Commission adjusted fishing regulations at more than 30 bodies of water statewide.

Regulation booklets for the upcoming fishing season are being printed and should be available next month. **Fishing licenses for the 2011 season take effect April 1 and run through March 31, 2012.** Licenses for the 2011 season will go on sale at license agents, Division offices, online and by phone on March 15.

[Complete fishing regulations are available on-line.](#)

## \$260M Raid on Fish & Wildlife Halted

Courtesy [Colorado Trout Unlimited](#)

In response to overwhelming pressure from sportsmen across Colorado, Representative Jon Becker officially withdrew HB 1150, a bill that would have raided \$50 million from hunting and fishing license fees and resulted in a net loss of over \$260 million for fish and wildlife conservation in Colorado. We would like to thank Mike King, Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources, and Representative Becker for listening to the concerns of hunters and anglers, and shifting gears to pursue a collaborative solution that will encourage projects to promote water resources for fish and wildlife in cooperation with Colorado farmers and ranchers.



[Read more about HB 1150 here.](#)

[Why legislative advocacy is important for rivers & fish.](#)

## Filling the Gap Report

[Western Resource Advocates](#), [Trout Unlimited](#), and the [Colorado Environmental Coalition](#) recognize the importance of preparing for our water future. However, we are concerned that many traditional water supply strategies have resulted in adverse impacts to rivers and streams and their associated environmental, recreational, and economic values. Rather than continuing old patterns, 21st century water development must account for instream flow needs, minimize the adverse environmental impacts of water supply strategies, and even improve stream flows or other environmental conditions on streams that are already depleted. These new challenges require new ways of thinking and new tools.



In [Filling the Gap: Commonsense Solutions for Meeting Front Range Water Needs](#), we offer a realistic and balanced water supply portfolio that meets the projected needs in the South Platte Basin's Front Range communities while protecting Colorado's waterways, economy, and quality of life. Employing widely accepted data, this report explores four water supply strategies-acceptable planned projects, water conservation, reuse, and voluntary water sharing with the agriculture sector. Importantly, our portfolio more than meets future needs without the large, costly, and environmentally damaging transbasin diversions that have

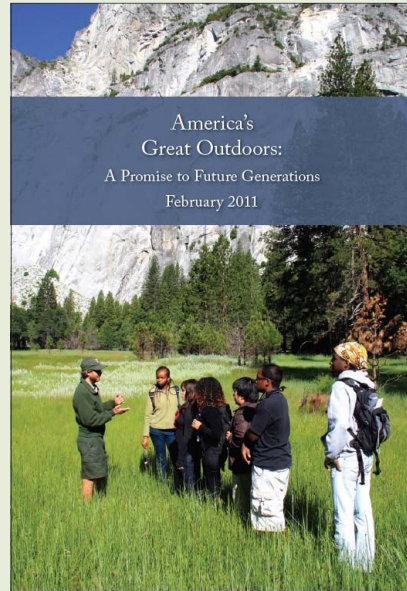


been a hallmark of traditional water supply planning.

## America's Great Outdoors

Courtesy Bryan Moore, VP for Volunteer Operations /  
Watershed Programs / Communications at [Trout Unlimited](#)

President Barack Obama recently announced the Administration's action plan, under the [America's Great Outdoors](#) initiative, to reinvigorate America's approach to conservation and reconnect citizens, especially young people, with the lands and waters that are used for farming and ranching, hunting and fishing, and outdoor recreation. Specifically, the report calls for fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund; establishing a 21st century Conservation Service Corps to engage young Americans in public lands and water restoration; and extending the deduction for conservation easement donations on private lands beyond 2011.



The report highlights the importance of investing in additional river protection and restoration measures nationwide. The initiative calls for managing federal lands and waters in a larger context to promote ecosystem health, while preparing for droughts and other impacts of climate change. And by establishing a Conservation Service Corps, the administration aims to engage youth in land and water restoration. For all of these reasons, TU applauds America's Great Outdoors initiative.

[Visit America's Great Outdoors website to read the full report.](#)

[Watch a video of President Obama announcing the action plan.](#)

[Read TU's Press Release](#)

## Orvis Fly Fishing 101

Courtesy [Trout Unlimited](#)



TU and Orvis have partnered to offer an event aimed at

introducing people to TU and the sport of fly fishing. The event, called [Fly Fishing 101](#), will run the weekends of May through July at participating Orvis stores and dealers. Each Orvis store and participating dealer will have casting instruction followed by tackle and rigging coaching. Additionally, during the months of June and July, Orvis will host classes aimed at getting those interested in taking the next step in fly fishing on the water at a local location where there's a great chance of catching a fish. Participants will receive a complimentary introductory membership to TU - a \$35 value.

TU volunteers are needed to assist with these classes to help with basic fly casting lessons, gear assembly, leader connection, knot tying and fly selection. So, please pass this on to your chapter membership and invite them to join an event near you. Those interested in volunteering should contact the fishing manager or store manager at your local Orvis shop. Participating volunteers will receive a \$25 coupon off any purchase of \$50 or more good toward Orvis gear on that day only.

For any questions or concerns, contact TU's Corporate and Direct Marketing Manager, [Chris Anderson](#).

## America's Ultimate Fishing Town

Courtesy [Trout Unlimited](#)



World Fishing Network is searching for America's Ultimate Fishing Town. Is your community more passionate about fishing than any other town, city or state? Here's your chance to prove it and win a \$25,000 donation to be used toward a fishing-related cause, like your TU chapter. For more information, please visit the [World Fishing Network](#).

**Got content?** Thank you for taking the time to read our monthly newsletter. Your suggestions and comments are always welcome and can be sent to the [Editor](#). We also welcome your content and fishing stories!