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Sustaining Donor

Dear Members,

Indian Summer - one of my all time favorite songs from the band Poco and quite honestly one of my favorite times of year. I know it is a precursor to scraping windshields and shovelling snow but 'holy cow' it is a great time to be outside. The blast of summer's heat has transformed into that sharp nip in the air at first light. We are just days away from my wife's favorite holiday of Halloween. She still wonders why it isn't a national holiday! Kids are back in school and parents are busy with what parents keep busy with. All together it adds up to - Fewer people on the lakes and river!!! Now how can any of that be wrong in any fashion.

There is good stuff going on at RMF and I am honored that all of you are a part of it. The success of our organization depends on an interested membership and following. Don't forget we are only 1 month away from our annual Guest Night in November. Info about that program is below so mark your calendars now and plan on coming. Don't come alone though as the purpose of the meeting is to have you bring a guest you can introduce to Rocky Mountain Flycasters and the world of Trout Unlimited.

[Dick Jefferies](#), President
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

"My biggest worry is that my wife (when I'm dead) will sell my fishing gear for what I said I paid for it."

~by Koos Brandt~

Leadership opportunities exist with Rocky Mountain Flycasters. If you think it is time to "give back", get in touch with me and let's talk about some ways you can do just that.



Please consider becoming a [Sustaining Donor](#) at a level that you can afford. Special Recognition occurs at the \$50 level.

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General Meeting - October 17th, 6:30 pm

[Program Director](#)

Guest Speaker - Grant Houx
St. Pete's Fly Shop

Seeking Out Monster Fall Trout - Locations, Techniques and More

Flyfishing is a way of life and whether in the shop or on the river, Grant is always consumed with some facet of flyfishing. After growing up in New Mexico fishing waters to the South, Grant moved to Colorado and continued his exploration of the waters in northern Colorado and southern Wyoming. Experience in flyfishing travel is something he certainly has after spending half a year in Patagonia and a fair share of his time chasing salt water species. Grant truly enjoys helping people advance the sport of flyfishing and is always willing to lend a hand in improving someone's experience, no matter what their skill level.

Join us October 17th as Grant details regional locations and techniques that could very well provide you with a truly remarkable catch!!

Guest Tier - Dennis Martin

How about some streamers to go after those monster trout

Rod Raffle

Is this the first night that a new Elkhorn Traveller II rod goes home with someone???

Check out promo deals at [St.Pete's Fly Shop](#) and [Elkhorn Rod & Reel](#)

Have an idea for a program or is there something you would like to see???
Send your ideas and suggestions to the [Program Director](#)

November Guest Night
[Program Director](#)

Be advised that next month's meeting, our annual guest night will occur on the second Wednesday and not the third Wednesday. Mark your calendars now for November 14th. You will not want to miss this program!!

Guest Speaker - Kirk Deeter

Kirk Deeter is the editor of TROUT magazine, the national publication of Trout Unlimited, and Angling Trade, which covers the fly fishing industry in North America. He is also an editor-at-large for Field & Stream. Deeter co-authored the Little Red Book of Fly Fishing with the late Charlie Meyers.

The topic will be 25 Things That Make Great Anglers, based on the behind-the-scenes notes taken while covering fly fishing stories from the tip of South America to the Arctic Circle in Alaska.

We are very excited to have Kirk spend the evening with us! A world's worth of experience coupled with his gift of writing, observation and insight will provide us with an entertaining and informative evening.



Kirk Deeter

Guest Tier - Rick Takahashi

Need we say more!!! Rick is one of Northern Colorado's fly fishing icons and we are excited to have him with us. You will not want to miss seeing his time at the vise.

Elkhorn Rod Demo - Brian Chavet

No sense in just admiring Elkhorn Rods when you can pick one up and cast. Brian will have loaded rods available for casting before the program and will be glad to talk with you about his new line of Traveller II rods and new line of performance reels.

High Park Restoration Coalition - News

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair

**Join the Battle Against Post-Fire Erosion in the Poudre Watershed
Hundreds of Volunteers Needed Before Winter Sets In
Sign Up Today**

The High Park Fire ravaged over 85,000 acres of Northern Colorado lands, with over 41,000 of those acres burned at a moderate to high severity. The severely burned landscape is in a mosaic pattern of multi-acre expanses. The blackened earth in the severe burns holds nothing but the charcoaled trunks of former pine trees standing silently above the surface. As a result, the Cache La Poudre River, after heavy rains, has been running black from eroded

ashes and silt. In the places where intermittent and small streams deliver runoff to the river, ugly piles of deposited debris have accumulated.

As winter approaches, and then its snow pack increases, the stage is being set for a springtime of more soil erosion accompanied by landslides, flooding, road closures, and threats to fishery habitats in the Poudre when spring arrives.

Now is the time to take the steps necessary to suppress those potent threats to the Poudre watershed. The steps involve (1) emplacement of erosion barriers on the steeper slopes of severely burned areas, (2) planting seeds of natural grasses that need the cold months of winter to activate their germination when spring arrives, and (3) protecting those seeds from consumption by rodents and near-term erosion by overlaying the seeds with mulch.



Photo courtesy of WLRV

RMF TU, along with our partners in the newly-formed High Park Restoration Coalition, is now focused on recruiting volunteers to implement near-term plans for carrying out the preventive steps described above. Especially notable in formulating those plans is the small but amazingly energetic local staff of Wildlands Restoration Volunteers. During the three months since containment of the High Park Fire they have been coordinating with agency partners, community organizations and hundreds of affected individuals to create the groundwork for short- and long-term restoration actions. What Trout Unlimited members can do now is to volunteer to provide the manual labor needed to carry out ecological restoration projects within the remaining weeks before the snow accumulates.

Within the past two weeks, four ecological restoration projects have been conducted under the leadership of WRV. Three similar projects are scheduled for Saturday, October 13, and Friday October 19, and Thursday October 25. One hundred or more volunteers are needed for each of those days. Won't you be among those volunteers?

To register as a volunteer for either, or both, projects go to: [Wildlands Restoration Volunteer Sign Up](#)

Redrawing the Map on Native Cutthroats

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair

The results of a new study that researched the historical genetics of native cutthroat trout in Colorado were recently published in the peer-reviewed Journal of Molecular Ecology.

The principal investigator, Dr. Jessica Metcalf, was assisted in the historical research by Chris Kennedy, US fish and Wildlife Service Biologist assigned to Rocky Mountain National Park. Chris is familiar to many of you who have supported his work in the Park. Over many years of off-season research into the historical records of trout stocking in Colorado, Chris was able to discover, from the late 19th century and early 20th century historical records, the current locations of cutthroat trout specimens in museums all over the world. These specimens helped to unravel the mysteries about when and where native cutts lived before they were hybridized by introduced species of trout.

The findings of the study raise many questions about what have conventionally been referred to as greenback cutthroats. The following extract from a posting by David Nickum, Executive Director of Colorado Trout Unlimited is a brief summary of the study's conclusions and, to the extent now possible, answers some of the questions that arise.

Posted by David Nickum, Executive Director Colorado Trout Unlimited, on September 25, 2012

"A new study just released from the University of Colorado, published in the peer-reviewed journal Molecular Ecology and funded in part by Trout Unlimited, will redraw the map on Colorado's native cutthroat trout and has shone a spotlight on a small tributary of the Arkansas River near Colorado Springs.

The study, conducted using historic fish samples from the 19th Century, attempted to shed light on what native trout lineages were found in Colorado - and where they were found. Among the most notable findings: the fish generally believed to be greenback cutthroat trout and native to the Front Range are in reality from native trout lineages west of the Continental Divide, while one remaining greenback population remains in Bear Creek on the flanks of Pikes Peak. Trout Unlimited is actively working to protect habitat and address issues with trail impacts and sedimentation in Bear Creek".

Q&A about the new genetics study on Colorado's native cutthroat trout

What are the key findings from the new University of Colorado genetics study?

By looking at DNA from historic fish samples as well as stocking records, the study's authors - led by principal investigator Dr. Jessica Metcalf - have identified six different genetic lineages of native trout for Colorado (compared to the four previously identified) and have in some cases suggested that the lineages have a different historic range than was previously thought. Specifically, they identify lineages for the Arkansas drainage (Yellowfin - now believed extinct), the South Platte drainage (Greenback - now found in one small stream in the Arkansas basin, Bear Creek), the Rio Grande drainage (Rio Grande), the Green/Yampa basins (Colorado River), the Colorado/Gunnison basins (previously unnamed), and the San Juan basin (previously unnamed - now believed extinct).

So if there's only one population left in the Arkansas basin, then what are the "greenbacks" I've caught in places like Rocky Mountain National Park?

Based on the genetic markers identified by Dr. Metcalf and her colleagues, it appears that most such populations are likely a different Colorado native trout - from either the Green/Yampa lineage or the Colorado/Gunnison lineage. So you have caught a real Colorado native - just not a greenback.

Can I catch a true greenback in Bear Creek?

No. Because the population is small and susceptible to hooking mortality, it has been - for several years - closed to fishing. We hope that as new sites are restored with these fish that anglers will again have the opportunity to fish for native greenback cutthroat trout.

Does this mean that the fish previously thought to be greenbacks are no longer protected under the Endangered Species Act?

No. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be initiating a review of cutthroat trout in Colorado to examine the genetic results as well as results from an ongoing study looking at physical characteristics of the different fish and any other relevant science. To assist in that process, they will convene a group of leading experts in the field to help advise them on proper classification among the different cutthroats - and on the question of which lineages are imperiled and warrant continued Endangered Species Act protection. From those results, they will then begin a formal rulemaking process to make any changes. Until that rulemaking takes place, all populations previously protected as "greenbacks" will remain protected under the Endangered Species Act.

What is TU doing to protect the one remaining greenback population in Bear Creek?

The one population of greenbacks still known to exist are found in Bear Creek near Colorado Springs - ironically, the result of an early stocking effort by a local hotelier that believed that cutthroat fishing would help draw tourists. The Bear Creek watershed is suffering from sedimentation and the impacts of both motorized and non-motorized trails. Trout Unlimited, with leadership from our local Cheyenne Mountain Chapter and in partnership with federal, state, and municipal agencies and local stakeholders, is working on volunteer projects to help address sediment impacts and to rehabilitate unauthorized user-created trails that are impacting the stream. At the same time, Trout Unlimited has reached out to mountain bikers and motorbike users to collaborate on assessing and relocating sections of trail that are creating impacts on the stream. With support from this diverse group of stakeholders, the Forest Service is currently completing a trails assessment that will clearly identify problem sections of trail and options for relocating those sections away from Bear Creek to eliminate those impacts. We anticipate work will begin on trail relocation in 2013.

So what will be the future for greenback restoration? Will populations of the Colorado/Gunnison fish be removed and replaced?

That decision will rest with the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, along with their agency partners on the Greenback Recovery Team. Fish from the Bear Creek lineage are now being raised in multiple hatcheries for restocking into appropriate waters, and we expect that efforts to establish new populations using those fish will take place fairly soon. There are locations that have been identified as potential restoration sites that could be used in this effort without removing cutthroats from previously "restored" waters, and those may be the logical first places to move with restoration. That will provide the agencies with more time to come up with answers for the long-term question of what to do with cutthroats that have been re-established in waters outside their native range."

Recreation and Conservation Choices For Northern Colorado

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair

Please note this article is being reprinted with the permission and as a service to a strategic agency partner and friend - Larimer County Natural Areas Department

For the first time in Colorado, all of the municipalities in one county are joining together to evaluate the achievements, opportunities and possible gaps in our region's land conservation, open space, and nature-based recreation programs. Larimer County has launched a county-wide study of the community's needs and preferences related to recreation, stewardship and conservation of public lands. The municipal partners include: Berthod, Estes Park, Fort Collins, Loveland, Johnstown, Timnath, Wellington, and Windsor.

Individuals and families living in Larimer County are invited to participate in "Our Lands - Our Future", a grassroots process to determine the populace's vision for the critical landscapes and outdoor recreational opportunities throughout Larimer County.

"Our Lands - Our Future" is organized into four phases with a series of public events and activities leading to the final study report.

The opening phase, now in progress, includes a survey to assess the public's views on what conservation and recreation priorities, preferences, and needs are deemed important and why.

This survey is an important part of planning in Northern Colorado and will help determine how your tax dollars will be spent in the future. Our *Flypaper* readers are welcomed as respondents in the on-line survey. It should only take 15-20 minutes to fill out. To participate, go to

<http://survey.rcresearch.com/s3/Larimer2>

During following phases of "Our Lands - Our Future" there will be many opportunities for the public and stakeholders to get involved throughout the study's process. The survey ends on October 20th so please complete as early as possible.

Let's Go Fishing!!

[Dennis Cook](#), Outdoor Coordinator

Join the fun and camaraderie of our chapter's newest activity program. Maybe you'll end up discovering some new, favorite fishin' holes,

learn some new techniques and also make some new friends. A few non-member guests are also welcome so invite your neighbor or best friend.

There has been good response already for each of the three trips announced in the September Flypaper issue. The "Grayling Galore" gang will head to Joe Wright Reservoir at about the time you are reading this article, but there's still time to register for the remaining two 2012 trips listed below by contacting [Dennis Cook](#) or call him at 970-372-9229.



This could be you in November

* Saturday, October 27 - Colorado River Headwaters "Bravo Brookies"
Host: [Dennis Cook](#)

* Saturday, November 19 - Blue River "Bows-Browns Bash" Host: [Dennis Cook](#)

2013 monthly trips will be scheduled late March through early November, and the following four trips and hosts are already confirmed.

- * February 1-9 - Acklins Island, Bahamas Host: [Frank Cada](#) (see Bonefish Trip below)
- * March 22-24 - Green River Host: [Guy Turenne](#)
- * June 8-10 - Delaney Buttes Lake Host: [Frank Cada](#)
- * June 30 - Gore Canyon "Salmonfly Hatch" Host: [Adam Omernick](#)

Bonefish Trip to Acklins Island, Bahamas: This is an exceptional invitation from Frank Cada for up to five people to join him and his friend Glen socially as fishing companions on their third trip to this pristine jewel of piscatorial pleasure. Frank coordinates the group arrangements to keep expenses at a reasonable minimum, but this is not a business and he has no liability responsibility. He says that "If you are eaten by a shark he will send a card to your nearest of kin". All business transactions are made directly with the lodge.

DIA is the origin/return airport and total trip cost is \$2751.00 (+15% gratuity) and seems to cover about everything including airfare & transfers, lodging, guides, meals, Wi-Fi, kayaks & bicycles, an overnight in Nassau and miscellaneous tips. Frank suggests visiting the lodge website at [Chesters Highway Inn](#) and also offers to share his experience gained from their previous two trips. Sounds like it could be an opportunity to do something special that you thought you'd never be able to do.

Important: Contact [Frank Cada](#) quickly for details as he needs to confirm reservation slots in the very near future.

Members are invited to "host" a trip to some interesting spot. Hosting is not guiding, but rather just sharing your knowledge and the pleasure of your company as a fishing companion. Contact [Dennis Cook](#) or call 970-372-9229. We still need destination sites and hosts for April, May, July, August, September, October and November of 2013. New trips as they are confirmed will be announced in each Flypaper issue. Also, a webpage on RMF's website is being developed to provide "real time" trip information and other details such as photos, trip stories, etc.

Day For Kids Festival

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

On Saturday, September 22nd, Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter, for its third consecutive year, hosted a booth at this popular Larimer Boys & Girls Club event. Our booth provided TU & RMF brochures & information, High Park Restoration Coalition flyers, fly tying demonstrations, a youth camp display & information, a knots exhibit and hands-on tying opportunity, a bottled macro-invertebrates exhibit, and also assisted fly rod casting opportunities for youths and adults. The festival was held at the Centerra Retail Center in Loveland. Volunteers were Dick Jefferies, Jerry Pelis, Adam Omernick, Paul Wehr and Dennis Cook.



Paul Wehr assists a girl with casting while family and Adam Omernick watch.

KICKOFF OF TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

On Thursday, October 11th, RMF's TIC Coordinator Mark Miller and Youth Outreach Chair Dennis Cook visited Windsor High School to assist setup of the tank and associated equipment with classroom teachers, Leah Thomas & Melinda Spaur and two TIC student team members. This is the third year that RMF has collaborated with Windsor High School's Agriculture Department providing the TIC experience for students to become knowledgeable about watershed conservation concerns and techniques to ensure healthy, clean

coldwater resources.

On October 30th the classroom will receive about 200 rainbow trout eggs, and the students will monitor and experience the eggs hatching and progressive growth of the fish while learning about water chemistry and other life support interests. Next spring the students will perform dissections to provide pathology testing tissue to ensure fish health, followed by eventual release.

Trout in the Classroom is a Trout Unlimited program nationwide, and locally is overseen by a formal Memorandum of Understanding between the Colorado Department of Parks & Wildlife and Colorado Trout Unlimited and its chapters. In addition to RMF's TIC, there are three more in Colorado at Woodland Park, Breckenridge and Lafayette, and three more possibilities that may yet also occur.



Mark Miller watches as teachers and students assemble the filter that removes solid wastes from the tank water.

Give Us Your Best Shot

Visitors to the Rocky Mountain Flycasters' calendar on the web will notice that the calendar pictures stop at September, 2012. We need some more pictures to enhance our calendar. If you have some photos or snapshots that you think would look good on our calendar for a month, send them to the webmaster.

We're looking for pictures germane to fly fishing, rivers, lakes, and watershed conservation, volunteers doing that work, fly tying, sharing fishing with youngsters and others, so the options are varied. It would be nice if many of them were local to RMF members, but some destinations will be considered. Having permission to publish on our website will be implicit for submitted photos so make certain you have permission from anyone in your pictures.

Photographers will be acknowledged in a caption with the picture so rush those pictures in. We need pictures for November, 2012 through September, 2013...and beyond.

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