



## February 2013 Edition

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Dear Members,

OK, I admit it. I chickened out! After telling all of you that I thought it was a good idea to find my liners and go throw some midges, something happened. It might have been the sound of the tea kettle boiling or maybe it was the realization that the furnace seemed to be cycling an inordinate number of times that day. Quite possibly, and to the best of my recollection it was the heavy, midday frost that remained on several vehicles in the neighborhood that led me to believe it may not be as pleasant of a time as I thought it might be.

Oh well, tying bench here I come. Speaking of tying bench...we are only a couple weeks away from the annual **Fly Tying Expo** here in Fort Collins. You don't want to miss this as it gets bigger and better every year.

### February 20th at the Senior Center.

Read more about it below!

With the onset of spring not far off, we are getting close to having "Projects" and "Programs" information available. It will be a very full calendar this season and we know there will be a lot of participant opportunities for everyone. I would like to let all of you know how appreciative we are for all of your time last year spent working on projects and programs. Your volunteer time and effort in those endeavors adds to the ecological health of our wonderful area and helps to assure future generations understand the need for continuing that work. It also reinforces the conservation message that is the core of Trout Unlimited and in turn promotes Rocky Mountain Flycasters as a leading conservation advocate in Northern Colorado. I wish it was more, but please accept my sincere and heartfelt thank you.

Rocky Mountain Flycasters continues to expand its presence in the community and we are becoming identified more each month as a reliable conservation resource.

However, all work and no play...well, we all know what happened to Johnny!! Don't forget to check out the fishing trips info below. That program is taking off like a 22" inch brown on a mouse! Don't miss out on a great upcoming trip!!

level.

Join Our Mailing List!

See you all at the Expo.

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

**"Truly it is said that the outside of a mountain is good for the inside of man.**

George Wherry

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## **PROGRAMS**

[Program Director](#)

### **February Program**

## ***2013 Fly Tying Expo February 20th***

Fort Collins Senior Center  
5:30 - 9:00 pm  
1200 Raintree Drive, 80526  
[Senior Center Map](#)

Nearly two dozen professional and experienced tiers from our region will converge in Fort Collins for this annual event to demonstrate their tying skills and share tips on tying and fishing with their special flies.

Every year, well over 100 people attend the RMF Fly Tying Expo. This year's Expo will be even larger and better.

- **Well-known tiers share their skills and tips**
- **Food from Texas Roadhouse**
- **Random drawings for each tier's flies**
- **Random drawing for a terrific fly rod**
- **Silent auctions for many quality equipment items, supplies, books, etc.**
- **Beginner's table where you can learn to tie your own flies**

Admission: \$20 per person (\$10 for students with ID, under 12-free). With the price of admission, you get

- A plate of food and a beverage.
- Raffle tickets for flies and fly rod (10 tickets for adults); (5 for students); (no tickets if under 12).;
- A wealth of tying and fishing information.

Some of this year's featured tiers include:

**Rick Takahashi, Marty Staab, Dave Coulson, Dennis Martin,**

Jason Haddix, Caleb Van Wagner, Mark Tracy, Marc McMillan,  
Dennis Collier, Dick Shinton, Jake Ruthven, Ted Meredith, Al Ritt,  
Grant Houx, Jin Choi, Tanner Irwin, Guy Turenne, Cody Muchow,  
and others.

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## Coming Attractions

### **Steve Schweitzer - March 20th**

If you liked 'A Fly Fishing Guide to Rocky Mountain National Park', wait till you see what he has done with Indian Peaks Wilderness Area. Don't miss it!

### **Todd Hosman - April 17th**

Fishing Guide and author. His 'Fly Fishing Colorado's Front Range Angler's Guide' should be in everyone's fishing vehicle.

### **Steve Henderson - May 15th**

Owner of Henderson Fly Fishing, Steve will share insights about fishing the Yampa Valley and it's truly spectacular waters.

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## RMF ANNUAL MEETING

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### Nominations - Board of Trustees

The guest presenter at our May 15<sup>th</sup> chapter meeting is Steve Henderson, owner of the Henderson Fly Fishing Shop in Steamboat Springs, and he will share insights about fishing the Yampa Valley and its truly spectacular waters.

Chapter members attending the May meeting, which is our annual General Membership Meeting and last gathering before the summer break, will also have the opportunity to elect a new Board of Trustees to serve during the upcoming program year.

Our chapter bylaws provide that each elected Board member serves a one-year term, and must be re-elected annually. The president can serve unlimited terms, but no more than three consecutive one-year terms. The vice-president, secretary, treasurer and two trustees can serve unlimited consecutive terms.

RMF's Volunteer Leadership Council is made up of non-elective, appointed volunteer chairpersons of various committees and coordinators of our many programs & projects. The Council supports the Board of Trustees in the day-to-day administration of chapter operations, and the Council's meetings are normally held jointly with meetings

of the Board of Trustees.

Your chapter Board of Trustees is always seeking new volunteers to actively participate in the formulation and implementation of programs, projects and activities of our Chapter, and welcomes interested volunteers to step forward and place their name into consideration for either the Board or the Leadership Council.

Most positions (treasurer excepted) do not require a specific background. Most important is that the volunteer wants to help make our chapter more successful. The Board and Council enthusiastically welcome both new members to bring their new ideas from previous experiences, and also long term members who have observed activities and want to help continued and improved success...which also includes opportunities to start new activities beyond what are currently happening.

<b>Board of Trustees (Elective)</b>	<b>**Leadership Council (Appointive)</b>
<b>President</b>	<b>Communications i.e., Newsletter &amp; Website, etc.</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Membership</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>General Meetings Programs</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Financial Development</b>
<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Resource Management Projects</b>
<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Adult &amp; Youth Education</b>
--	<b>Social &amp; Fishing Activities</b>
--	<b>**Activity areas, with multiple programs, projects &amp; activities under each</b>

Interested members please contact one of the following to discuss personal preferences, or to recommend another member who you believe can make a service contribution.

Dennis Cook [rkymtnangler@Q.com](mailto:rkymtnangler@Q.com) 970-372-9229  
Dick Jefferies [djefferies@Q.com](mailto:djefferies@Q.com)  
Bob Streeter [bstreeter@Q.com](mailto:bstreeter@Q.com)

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## **ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

### **Let's Go Fishing**

[Mark Miller](#) , Coordinator  
970-744-8229

"Hey, He looks familiar", you say. Yep! You're right. Mark's irregular occupational demands began to conflict with his Trout in the Classroom Coordinator availability last season, and he has opted for a change. An avid, long time, fly angler and drift boat enthusiast, Mark suggested that "Let's Go Fishing!!!" is tailor made for his time-management challenges. The change is a good example of flexibility to fit RMF needs with the volunteer's needs...a win-win outcome!  
Below Mark highlights the remaining Let's Go Fishing

schedule, and he becomes the Coordinator and contact for handling enrollments and questions about all the future trips beginning with the "RMNP Meadow Streams" outing on April 13th. Let's welcome Mark with a large turnout. Contact: Mark Miller at [flytyer.miller@gmail.com](mailto:flytyer.miller@gmail.com) or 970-744-8229 (cell)

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### Flaming Gorge on the Green River, Utah March 21-24



Care for another day in Paradise?

per mile than anyone could believe offer high promise for the "fish of a lifetime"; it's a bit like fishing in an aquarium! Both great wade fishing and float fishing greet anglers on this grand tailwater running through a spectacular red rock canyon. Keep an eye out for desert bighorns as you fish, or maybe you'll even see some of the river otters that call this wonderful scene home.

C'mon! There's still time to add your name and join the gang that Thursday morning just one short month away.

Contact: [Dennis Cook](mailto:Dennis.Cook@rmf.org) 970-372-9229



Mark Miller - Coordinating trips or just fishing on trips, either is fine!!

Thursday morning, March 21st, five eager RMF anglers will be departing for this fly fishing paradise, each dreaming of the feisty rainbow or muscular brown he'll get to play and reel in someplace along the Green's 7-8 mile long "A" Section. A wading excursion is planned, but don't be surprised if a couple of us just have to also drift a bit.

The Green is one of those places that belongs on the bucket list of every fly fisher. You have to fish this river, and hopefully many times in your life. It's picturesque, pine enshrouded shores, emerald green water and more trout

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## 2013 Fishing Trips

Sign up for trips at our monthly meetings, or by email or phone. 45 members have already signed up for trips this year!! How better to ensure you get in all those fishing days you want, than to start planning them now. And who better to fish with than RMF friends, both old and new. So take a look below and "get started"!

March 21-24

Green River, Utah (Flaming Gorge) "Catch of a Lifetime" Host: Guy Turenne

April	13	RMNP (Meadow Streams) "Small but Mighty"	Host: Dennis Cook
May	24-26	South Platte (Dream Stream & 11-Mile Canyon) "Fish, Fish, Fish"	Host: Dennis Cook
June	8-9	Delaney Buttes Lake "Monster Trout"	Host: Frank Cada
June	30	Gore Canyon "Salmonfly Hatch"	Host: Adam Omernick
July	13	RMNP (Colorado River Headwaters) "Bravo Brookies"	Host: Dennis Cook
August	17	Poudre (Upper Canyon) "Wild Trout & Whities"	Host: Dennis Cook
Sept	7	RMNP (Dream Lake) "Cutthroat Crazyies"	Host: Mark Miller
Sept	28	Poudre (Big South) "Grand Slam"	Host: Stan Woodring
Oct	19	Colorado River (Main Stem) "Trout Pot Pourri"	Host: Dennis Cook
Nov	9	Big Thompson (Canyon) "Bows-Brownies Bash"	Host: Dennis Cook

**Here is a short description of the next few trips to help you know what to expect:**

**RMNP Meadow Streams:** another uniquely Colorado experience - gorgeous, wild fish in a world class setting. Don't forget the camera. And don't get between a bull elk and his harem! Weather suggests this spring could bring some accelerated early hatches.

**South Platte Dream Stream & Eleven Mile Reservoir:** true Colorado gems. Can be tough and technical fishing. Most of us have been skunked there at one time or another, but many have also caught the fish of a lifetime in the South Platte. Option also to hit the Eleven Mile Canyon, a world class tailwater.

**Delaney Buttes** (3 sage brush, high plains lakes ): a unique (and sometimes windy) high plains experience in North Park, near Walden, CO. Fish chironomids, damsel nymphs, and streamers for large trout. Can wade fish, but it is much better from a boat or float tube/pontoon.

**Gore Canyon:** on the Colorado River not far downstream from Kremmling. Wading can be challenging sometimes with high waters. Haven't seen your backing in awhile? Then fish this stretch of the Colorado River with strong, fast bows and browns.

Members are invited to "host" a trip to some interesting spot, either still for this year or to begin forming next year's schedule. Hosting is not guiding, but rather is sharing your knowledge, and site research, as an angling companion. New 2013 trips, as they are confirmed, will be announced in each Flypaper issue and on the RMF website.

Non-member guests are also welcome.

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## **CONSERVATION NEWS**

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair

## **High Park Fire Ecological Restoration Activities**

Much work remains to be done restoring the ecological damage caused by the High Park Fire during the summer of 2012. Specific project schedules are being developed as you read this. They are expected to begin in late March or early April. A general description of the nature of these projects, including photos of restoration crews at work last fall, can be seen on the Rocky Mountain Flycasters web site at [High Park News](#)

The emphasis this spring will be on preventing erosion of soils and debris that threaten to deliver loads of sediment from the burn area into the Cache La Poudre River, polluting the municipal water supplies for Fort Collins and nearby communities, and threatening the survival of the trout population in the river downstream of the Pingree Park Road bridge at Highway 14, the upper end of the burn area.

Volunteers from Rocky Mountain Flycasters can play a significant role in protecting these resources by participating in the forthcoming projects either as crew members or in leadership positions managing teams of volunteers ranging in size from 6 to 10 crew members.

Those who would like to volunteer as Crew Leaders can do so by first attending crew leader training days during which they will learn, hands on, the techniques for constructing erosion control structures as well as techniques for re-seeding and mulching the ground that was voided of vegetation during the fire. During the training sessions, Crew Leader trainees will also be able to polish their crew leadership skills.

Three Crew Leader training sessions are scheduled for the Fort Collins area as follows:

Sunday, March 17 at Rist Canyon: Crew Leader Training in Post-fire Restoration

Saturday & Sunday, March 30 & 31 at Campbell Valley: Crew Leader Training in Ecological Restoration.

Saturday, April 20: Upgrade to full WRV Crew Leader. This is Day 2 for those people who attended the one-day sessions on Post-fire Restoration at Rist Canyon in September 2012 or March 2013. This includes subjects not covered in the earlier sessions that were focused on post-fire restoration and will upgrade your qualification rating towards Full WRV Crew Leader.

These trainings are organized and conducted by volunteers from Wildlands Restoration Volunteers and the Outdoor Stewardship Institute, and there may be nominal fees for the cost of instructional materials. Details on each of these training sessions and associated enrollment provisions are at:

<https://wlrw.net/index.php?section=events&action=list&type=trainings>

Also on the Trainings page, you will see schedules for similar training sessions in the Boulder area. If the Fort Collins sessions are on dates incompatible with your personal schedules, consider enrolling in one of the Boulder sessions.

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## A New Alternative for the Future of the Poudre River

Western Resources Advocates, a Boulder-based group concerned with the manner in which natural resources in the U.S. West are utilized, recently released a report titled. " A Better Future for the Poudre River".

The report compares the proposed Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP), with a new alternative. NISP would divert substantial amounts of the Poudre's spring run-off water into a new off-stream Glade Reservoir to be built north of Ted's Place, thereby inundating miles of the current alignment of Highway 287.

The new alternative, described as a "Better Future Alternative" for the Poudre, includes four key features. Briefly, they are:

- A diverse water supply portfolio, rather than depending solely on large new reservoirs and diversions.
- A phased approach to increase water supplies incrementally, thereby avoiding large, up-front investments by

participants in NISP, and providing water supply flexibility and financial risk management for the communities to be served.

- Cooperative agreements with the agricultural community that provide towns with long-term secure water supplies and farmers with another revenue source from their existing water rights, without giving up agricultural ownership of water.
- Protection of the Poudre River, wetlands, and other important environmental and recreational resources. And with that, correlated protection of the economic benefits that a healthy Poudre River provides to the communities and businesses dependent on the river.

To read the Executive Summary of "A Better Future For the Poudre River", go to:  
<http://www.westernresourceadvocates.org/water/nisp/summarybf.pdf>

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## YOUTH NEWS

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

### **Trout In Classroom (TIC)**

[Dennis Cook](#), Coordinator



FRCC Instructor Heather Dannahower prepares to mount egg-hatching basket in the tank.

Since the last newsletter when we announced our new TIC project at FRCC, things have been happening as expected. The eyed eggs delivery was received on January 16th from the Washington State commercial hatchery. We ordered 200 and the shipping invoice stated 1000 were included...but we could easily see that more than 4000 were actually shipped. Heather and her student intern counted out 200 eggs and placed them in the basket shown in the photo above, and the basket was attached on the edge of the tank so the eggs were all submerged in a location that received enough water circulation to keep them oxygenated without physically disturbing them. The tank was completely darkened with Styrofoam panels and the waiting began, with water chemistry sampling

conducted daily by the intern and temperature maintained at about 52 degrees. In the wild only about 1-2% of eggs survive to spawning age.

Between January 22-25 all of the sac fry (officially named "alevins") hatched successfully, and after two days observing to remove any that might die (none did!), on January 27th they were released and immediately swam down to hide under the gravel substrate, feeding off their yolk sac "lunch bag" of nutritional food. On February 7th the first "swim-up fry" emerged from the gravel but died immediately...possibly of loneliness? Late the next day, a Friday, we estimate close to 100 swim-up fry (each about 1" long) had emerged. Several were swimming at the water surface seeking food, and several more in the bottom of the water column, and the rest were hanging out near the gravel surface consuming their remaining sac nutrients, many with their heads buried in the gravel. We agreed to wait over the weekend to allow the remainder of the fry to emerge, and then begin feeding them.

When a swim-up fry begins to search for food and will begin to develop dark vertical parr marks along its sides, and becomes referred to as a "fry parr". During this period, non-feeding fish called "pinheads" (large heads/small bodies) will be noticed; these may experience a mortality spike and should be removed from the tank before they die. After learning to feed, surviving fish become referred to simply as "fry" until they exceed 1" length after which they are called "fingerlings".

Now begins a delicate period while the fish are so small. Temperatures and water quality parameters must be closely monitored and maintained. Fish must not be overfed (a common cause of deaths) and the tank nitrogen cycle must be carefully maintained. During the "Nitrogen Cycle" 4-6 week phase, the biological process converts toxic ammonia and nitrites (caused by trout waste and uneaten food) into relatively harmless nitrate compounds. Potentially fatal "spikes" of ammonia and nitrites become common and must be immediately remedied. These processes are monitored and balanced by the students as they learn about good riparian ecology and that it is important for good water quality...and also recognize that trout are one of many indicator species of good or poor water quality.

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## Children's Water Festivals - Volunteers Needed

[Jerry Pelis](#), Coordinator

This summer will be RMF's third year presenting at Water Festivals designed to create awareness and knowledge of water conservation for elementary school age youths. In 2011 we did the Greeley Festival; in 2012 we repeated at Greeley and added the Fort Collins Festival; and this summer we again will repeat at both and additionally have been invited to present at the Loveland Festival. School classes register for the festival and select which activities they want to attend, with overall festival participation totaling between 1,000 to 1600 children. A festival runs roughly between 9:00am-2:00pm and our volunteer team handles six to eight different classes of children, each for a 20-minute session. Each session has 20-30 children, totaling between 130-160 total for the festival. Class teachers accompany each class, and many parents also attend to watch the children have fun!

<b>April 24th</b>	<b>Greeley</b>	<b>at Island Grove Park</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> graders, ages 9 &amp; 10</b>
<b>May 15th</b>	<b>Fort Collins</b>	<b>at Front Range C.C.</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> graders, ages 8 &amp; 9</b>
<b>MAy 9th</b>	<b>Loveland</b>	<b>at Good Shepard Church</b>	<b>3rd or 4th graders, TBD</b>

### We will need about 6 volunteers for each festival

It's actually really a lot of fun, and the children are very easy to coordinate. Jerry heads up a team to present the hands-on, experiential learning activity on the floor, that he designed with the Poudre Learning Center to ensure age-appropriateness. It includes a river and props of fish, insects, rocks, vegetation, etc. and is carefully scripted. The children take roles as fish, insects and predators, and the fish eat the bugs, on cue, in several different choreographed scenarios around which Jerry verbally narrates. The team members help by working with small groups explaining their roles as fish, insects and predators in advance of Jerry's overall activity orchestration. It's easy, and both the kids and adults have a ball!



Teri coaches her small group how to play as fish!



Jerry orchestrates the floor activity!

Volunteers rotate assignments and several have moved away from this area, so more are needed to cover all the festivals and give everybody a chance to participate. The only "qualification" is to enjoy these delightful youngsters. Beyond that, Jerry briefs us all on what to tell the children, and after that it's simply a matter of coaching them how to behave like fish, insects or predators! So how about it? You'll be glad you did!

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## Youth Day Camp

[Adam Omernick](#) , Coordinator  
970-689-1753

### NoCO Fly Fishing & Conservation Youth Day Camp - July 29th through August 3rd

The application process has begun for the 2013 NoCO Youth Day Camp and already we are getting lots of interest. If you know a youth between the ages of 13 - 18, boy or girl please encourage them to download the Application & Parents Information packet from the [2013 Day Camp page](#). We currently have 15 spots available.

Camp runs from 8:00am to 6:00pm daily Monday through Saturday, and activities take place between Fort Collins and Loveland facilities and rivers locations. We will be passing around a signup sheet at the monthly meeting looking for volunteers to help with all aspects of the camp. We have opportunities to help with casting, fly tying, conservation projects, eletroshocking , one on one river time and more. I look forward to hearing from you with any questions regarding the camp.

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## Give Us Your Best Shot

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.

Send your pictures to [Webmaster](#)

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