

The Flypaper

November 2014 Edition

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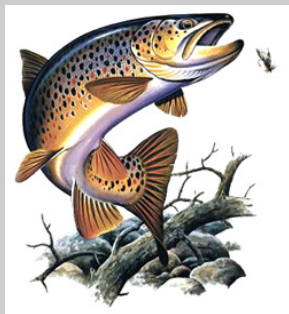
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From the President

Wow, November!

Where did the time go? Busy, busy month this month so let's get at it.

First, the Board of Trustees and I are pleased and energized by the passage of Larimer County Initiative 1A yesterday. The RMF Trustees earlier endorsed this Open Space ordinance and are happy that Larimer County voters did as well. We look forward to conducting additional conservation projects with the County in areas that are a match to our mission focus.

Second - Many of you might have read the recent article on damage to the fisheries caused by last fall's floods and subsequent emergency road repair. There is a link to the article in Wil Hutt's Community Outreach section of this newsletter.

I want to add a couple of comments of my own.

From a fishing perspective, The Poudre is fishing lights out and did not receive extensive "in-stream" damage on the main stem. The burn areas are a completely different story. We have another round of sediment and deposition slowly heading in. Stay tuned for more on that in the future. The upper half of the Big T, while receiving damage from the flood, is also fishing very well. If you haven't been up that way you should do so. While you are up there stop in and support the local businesses. They are still trying to make up for lost time following the flood and we should help them out all we can.

The fishery in the lower half of the Big T, from the town of Drake down to a little above Wilson Avenue in Loveland, without question has been greatly impaired by the flood and the emergency repairs needed immediately after the flood waters receded. The State had to establish a priority system for



Dick Jefferies

responding to the loss of a major transportation conduit and unfortunately one of the costs of that decision was the ecologic impact to the river and its fishery. That doesn't mean the decisions made were wrong and it doesn't mean that the way the infrastructure reconstruction was conducted was wrong. If there is a wrong to be found, it would be in not going back and working on rehabilitating the river and riparian areas in a way that ultimately provides for a healthy, resilient and responsible river and roadway.

The Colorado Department of Transportation and Colorado Water Conservation Board have been working with stakeholders towards the development of that type of comprehensive follow-up plan since initial exigent repairs and reconstruction began. Rocky Mountain Flycasters, Trout Unlimited and the Big Thompson River Restoration Coalition have been involved in this planning process from the beginning. It was known early on that the initial road and infrastructure work was going to have to be "down and dirty" but there was never a time when long-term rehabilitation and recovery wasn't under consideration. Rocky Mountain Flycasters, TU and the BTRRC fully intend to continue our participation in the discussion, design and subsequent rehabilitation projects. We have received no indication from CDOT and CWCB that our continued participation is anything but welcomed.

In support of that commitment, both CDOT and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) have agreed to join us this month at Guest Night to speak about the development and design process that has been ongoing since the flood.

Great segue if I say so myself! Lastly, mark your calendars for our special Guest Night meeting on the 19th. We encourage all of you to bring a guest that is not familiar with Trout Unlimited. We are very proud of the work that we do in Northern Colorado in the name of cold water conservation. In addition to CDOT and CWCB talking about flood recovery, our featured guest speakers this month are Rick Takahashi and Jerry Hubka. Two dynamic fly tiers presenting an outstanding program. So, invite some friends and family to attend and let's introduce them to the world of Trout Unlimited.

See you on the 19th!

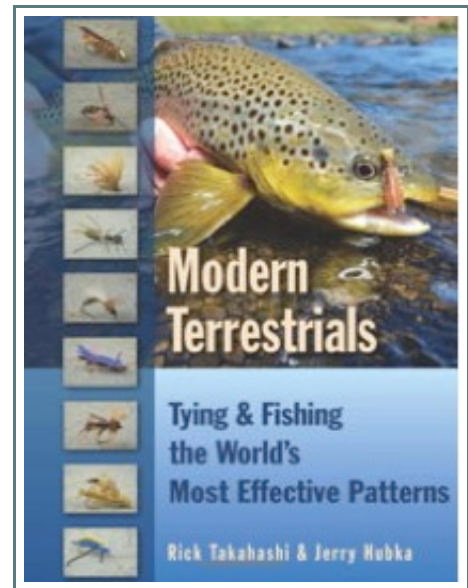
Dick Jefferies, President
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

[CHAPTER EVENT CALENDAR](#)

NOVEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Our Annual Guest Night will be on November 19 this year. Guest Night is always a special opportunity and this year is no exception. We are proud to be hosting **Rick Takahashi** and **Jerry Hubka** as our guest speakers.

Many of you are familiar with Rick and Jerry's earlier book ***Modern Midges, Tying and Fishing the World's Most Effective Patterns***. This year they are introducing their new book ***Modern Terrestrials***. Both authors are well known throughout the Rocky Mountain regions and have published extensively.



Rick Takahashi

Rick Takahashi started tying flies at age seven and has continued throughout his life. He started his journalistic career working for The Virtual Fly Shop as an illustrator and later as a writer. He also worked for *Fly Fisherman Magazine* as an illustrator, fly tier and writer and is currently a fly designer for Umpqua Feather Merchants, a Pro staff member of Whiting Farms, Daiichi Hooks, Clear Cure Goo, and Togen Enterprises. Rick's fly patterns have appeared in Randall Kaufmann's book ***Fly Patterns***, Steve Schweitzer's ***Fly Fishing Rocky Mountain National Park***, Todd Hosman's ***Colorado Flies***, and Chris Santella's ***Hatch is On***. His patterns will also appear in Pat Dorsey's new book.

Jerry Hubka began fly fishing on Colorado's Frying Pan River in 1965. He earned a BA in Art Education from Colorado State University and a Masters Degree in Ceramic Chemistry from the University of Northern Colorado. He was a career educator and retired in 2002 after 32 years of teaching. Rick continues to live in Fort Collins where he works in the visual arts as a Commercial Graphics designer through his company, Tailwater Media Productions. Rick also does fly tying demonstrations in the Rocky Mountain region. He concentrates on midges, terrestrials, and streamers for Rocky Mountain trout.



Jerry Hubka

Rick and Jerry will be tying a few flies before the general meeting begins. Social time and tying will begin at 6:30 pm and the general meeting will begin at 7:00 pm. As usual, the meeting will be at the Fort Collins Senior Center at 1200 Raintree Drive off Shields Avenue between Prospect and Drake.

NOVEMBER CONSERVATION NOTES

Post-Flood Stream Assessments For Forest Service



Dave Piske, RMF Conservation Chair

With the approach of winter weather that will either limit or preclude on-stream assessments, the Forest Service has identified a package of assessments that will enable it to begin specific designs for restoration of streams in the Big Thompson watershed. In the meantime, the remainder of the planned assessments are deferred until Spring 2015. In the near term, RMF Team Leaders, supported by additional RMF volunteers, hope to complete a smaller, but highest priority, package of stream assessments this week.

Sheep Creek Reconnect Project Snowed In

As firm evidence that Old Man Winter is on the way to our abodes, the culvert replacement project that will reconnect cutthroat trout habitats on two forks of Sheep Creek was snowed-in just short of the contractor's completion of work. Consequently, the re-vegetation work that will be

accomplished by RMF volunteers has been deferred until Spring 2015.

Big Thompson Canyon Update

Rocky Mountain Flycasters is very pleased to announce that Johnny Olson, Region 4 Director for the Colorado Department of Transportation and Chris Sturm, Stream Restoration Coordinator, with the Colorado Water Conservation Board will be providing an update to the ongoing road and river rehabilitation and recovery process in the Big Thompson Canyon. To date we have visually seen the progress of two of the three mandates ordered by the Governor following the flood of 2013. First of those was to get the roads reopened and second was to make sure they stay open during the 2014 spring runoff. The next of those three directives is to get back in and address issues caused by the flood and the road reconstruction work. Johnny and Chris will share with the group where we are in that process and how we can continue to be an integral participant in planning, design and implementation of efforts intended to create a resilient and healthy river, riparian and road system.

NOVEMBER COMMUNITY OUTREACH NOTES



Will Huett, RMF Community Outreach Coordinator

River Restoration In The News

River and road restoration efforts following last year's floods made news in the *Fort Collins Coloradoan* newspaper late last month. Environmental Reporter Ryan Handy took a look at how emergency road repairs affected fish habitat in the Big Thompson and St Vrain rivers. Our own VP, Sean Cronin, was quoted in his capacity with the Left Hand Water District. If you missed it, you can find the article on the [Coloradoan web site](#).

Don Hunt followed up with a further explanation of CDOT's role and plans as flood recovery continues. You can read his letter also on the [Coloradoan](#). Although RMF and our deep involvement in the rehab efforts on the Big Thompson (and Poudre) were not mentioned by report, there are certainly many points which resonate with our mission and collaborative efforts in both fire and flood recovery. What's your role as an RMF member in all this? Next time one of our rehab work projects comes up, be sure you volunteer...good fishing sometimes requires a shovel instead of a flyrod in your hands!

NOVEMBER "LET'S GO FISHING" NOTES



Mark Miller, "Let's Go Fishing" Coordinator

Thanks to everyone who helped to make RMF's 2014 "Let's Go Fishing" trips a great success. The two reports below, describing recent trips to the Green River in Utah and to Cheesman Canyon, conclude our 2014 season. Thanks also to those of you who suggested venues for the 2015 trips by responding to the 2014 Membership Survey last May. We will be using those suggestions in developing the 2015 schedule of trips. If you have any suggestions or questions about our trips next year please contact me at flytyer.miller@gmail.com or 970-744-8229 (cell).

RMF Green River Trip: September 12-15

Four RMF members left for Dutch John, Utah, early on Friday Sept 12th. The guilty parties were Bob Green, David Cunningham, Mark Miller, and our Trip Host, Jim Booth.

Jim had reserved two guides for a Friday evening float on the "A" section of the Green River. We fished foam hoppers from about 4pm until dark. We had an absolutely beautiful afternoon for float fishing, but the fish were definitely not easy. Both boats combined caught about 10-12 fish — the last three taken on large articulated streamers just before dark.

Every fish we caught, and many that refused our hoppers, would come to within inches of our fly, then drift back with the fly up to 2-3 feet while closely inspecting it. Talk about a case of nerves while waiting for the fish to open its mouth! Several times we would strike before the fly was in the fishes mouth.

We floated the "B" section of the Green on Saturday - more of a desert landscape in comparison with the red rock canyon section of the upper river, but still beautiful in its own right. We then wrapped up the trip by floating the "A" section again on Sunday. Both days the fish simply weren't looking up, so we struck out with hoppers. We managed to net a couple fish with streamers.

Even though the fishing was tough, it was a fun, fun trip. A beautiful river (that you all simply have to fish someday), outstanding scenery, thousands of fish per mile, and some great company! If you haven't seen the river, or if you have, check out the video of our trip (made by Mark Miller) by clicking on the image below:



RMF Green River Trip 2014

RMF Cheesman Canyon Trip - Nov 3rd

The fish were rough on us, as we expected, but the river and weather were beautiful! Three RMF members (Frank Bub, John Reardon, and Mark Miller) made the two hour drive to the trailhead for Cheesman Canyon on Saturday, Nov 3rd. All the hits we had were in the first 2-3 hours of the morning, using size 20-22 midge and BWO or RS2 type patterns. By lunch we had each netted one nice fish, with John losing a couple more. But by lunch time it seemed the fishing had completely shut off.

For those of you who have never seen this beautiful stretch of river, it is an absolute "must see" destination. They say if you can catch fish here, you can catch them anywhere. But for me, enjoying the canyon and the beauty of the river is all I need - any fish I might catch are just a bonus!



Frank Bub gets ready to change flies at Cheesman



John Reardon amid the canyon boulders



Mark Miller tests his waders for leaks in a "fishy looking"run

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2014-11-01

This newsletter was sent by bobgreen250@gmail.com

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