



February 2015

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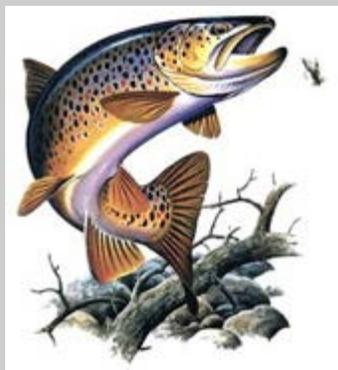
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## From The President

Don't forget Valentine's Day is Saturday the **14th**!! It may not be fishing related, but it is the best advice I can give this month!

And now... on to conservation and angling!

**February 18th, Fly Tying Expo and Silent Auction** at the Senior Center. Don't miss this outstanding gathering of Colorado Fly Tying experts who will amaze you with their artistic skill. It will be a great evening combining great talent, loads of information and delicious food from Mainline Ale House. More information is available within the newsletter. Please scroll down to the description of this event.



Dick Jefferies

Two nights earlier (**February 12**) Larimer County is hosting an open house to discuss a Recreation and Conservation Assessment of the Big Thompson River. You can also link to more information about this event further down in the newsletter in Dave Piske's "Conservation Notes".

Coming Soon!! We are about to begin release of the upcoming seasonal project volunteer schedule. It will be unlike any other to date. As a conservation organization, projects are the core of our mission. So while you are getting the fishing gear ready, you might want to check your work boots, hats and gloves too. They are going to get used, big time, this year.

Fishing Trips. Details are being finalized for the first edition of this year's Chapter fishing trips. We should have it posted soon so for all of you that are having trouble dealing with the end of the football season ... ready, set, FISH! You will be able to sign-up for events planned so far at the Fly Tying Expo on February 18.

Traditions are a part of our culture. Whether they are global, national or more intimate and personal, they bind us as a society and community. A tradition at Rocky Mountain Flycasters we are very proud of is the excellent **Youth Day Camp** we hold every summer. This camp has been attended by many youth and we believe, has led many of them to a stronger understanding of the importance of conservation. It is vital we continue to provide that primer of understanding to the next

generation of conservationists. To that end however, success brings change and that is true with the Camp. We have to change the administrative structure of the Camp in order to continue providing a first-rate experience. Our needs regarding volunteers have changed and if we can't meet that need, we may have to forego the Camp this summer. We will need to make that decision next month and all of you can help determine that decision. Please read my article immediately below on the Youth Camp.

Don't forget that sweetheart!!

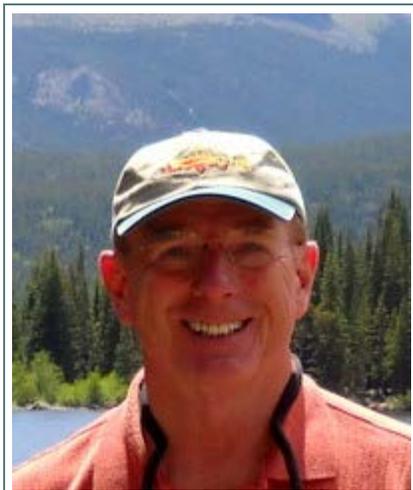
Dick Jefferies, President  
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

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## February Youth Outreach Notes

### New Team 2015 Day Camp

Dick Jefferies



Dennis Cook, Youth Outreach Chair

Thanks to the several members who have offered to join our new camp Leadership Team. Unfortunately, quite a few more are needed if RMF is to hold its **6th Day Camp** this July 27th through August 1st. We are still in need of more volunteers willing to devote a day - or more if you would like. Please read further and consider supporting this popular youth education activity.

RMF's 2015 Day Camp is scheduled for Monday through Saturday. **Click here for the Preliminary Camp Schedule.** This schedule is a reliable picture, as adjustments will only be minor to accommodate staff and venues...so volunteers are requested to

commit your calendar availability now.

Many new camp leadership opportunities have been defined as part of a new distributed leadership team structure. We encourage previous and welcome new volunteers to engage with camp preparations and/or serve as Day Coordinators and specific Activity Specialists. These position breakouts will create many interesting and enjoyable team roles.

RMF members interested in any of the position(s) listed below are urged to let us know now so we can discuss your position preferences and confirm a final team in time to launch preparations. A review of volunteer responses will be held at the end of February to determine how (read **IF**) we will be able to proceed with camp this summer.

Team positions are divided into those that **\*\*engage** with preparations before camp starts, and those that **\*\*engage** during the camp week. Pre-camp positions lend themselves easily to subdivision and/or role sharing, so you may want to collaborate with a member friend and volunteer. Camp week positions also can be collaborative i.e., a Day Coordinator combining with member friends as Activity Specialists. These kinds of collaborations can also enrich the team experience.

### Important

- Members interested in the Camp Director position, please contact **Dick Jefferies** or 970-372-

9229

- Members interested in any of the pre-camp positions, or camp week positions, please contact **Dennis Cook** or (970) 372-9229

### **New team leadership roles are....**

Pre-camp Preparations

Camp Director

Fundraising

Advertisement; Application Process; Post-Camp Survey; Camper Manuals; Journals & Name Tags

### **Camp Week Core Staff:**

Camp Director

Van Drivers

Utility (2 positions)

Photographer

Day Coordinators (Six) - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday)

Activity Specialists (Casting, FF Techniques (Dry, Nymph, Stillwater), Fly Tying, Entomology

1:1 Activity Mentors: After team leadership positions have been filled many single activity volunteer mentors will continue to be needed to achieve our goal of a 1:1 ratio of campers:adults during activities.

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## **The Children's Water Festival Season is Approaching!**



Jerry Pelis, Children's Water Festival Coordinator

### **What are the Children's Water Festivals?**

The Children's Water Festivals have been an annual event in many Colorado towns and cities for well over 20 years. They supplement a Colorado school curriculum requirement that a unit about Colorado water be taught to all elementary school students. The festivals are usually sponsored by municipalities and water providers and include exhibits, hands on activities, and demonstrations from upwards of 100 agencies and groups covering such topics as water treatment, water conservation, water facts, water usage, and water related recreation.



A Stream Runs Through It..

### **What do we do at the Children's Water Festivals?**

Rocky Mountain Flycasters volunteers present an interactive game, called "Who Eats Who at the Stream", in a classroom setting that includes participation by all of the students in a given class. The students are identified as trout, aquatic insects, or predators as they enter the room by means of a picture neck tag. They are initially assembled in their 3 respective groups where a RMF volunteer briefly discusses the identity and role of each neck tag wearer. All students are then assembled at the "stream", a stream simulated on the floor complete with riffles, eddies, pools, boulders, vegetation, and, of course, a beaver. As the water in the stream begins to flow, the "insects" drift down the riffles where they are quickly gobbled up by the awaiting hungry "trout". The trout are then devoured by the "predators". A little chaotic at times but the students learn about very basic stream life cycles in a fun interactive way. The emphasis throughout the entire exercise is the importance of cold, clean water to the stream environment and each of the species dependent on that environment. The session ends with a brief discussion of what new words and ideas were learned and what all of us can do to maintain cold, clean water in our streams.



Dennis Cook Talks Trout

### When are the Children's Water Festivals?

**Greeley - April 29** - 4th graders (confirmed)

**Loveland - May 6** - 5th graders (tentative)

**Fort Collins - May 20** - 3rd graders (confirmed)

### What can you do to help?

Volunteers are always needed to help set up, direct the students to the correct place, talk to students briefly about trout, aquatic insects, and predators (including fly fishers). The experience of working with these youngsters and planting the cold water conservation seeds is always gratifying.

If you are interested in volunteering or would just like a little more information, please contact **Jerry Pelis**.

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## February Membership Meeting

For the February General Membership Meeting, Rocky Mountain Flycasters presents the 2015 Annual Fly Tying Expo!



**When:** Wednesday, February 18, 2015 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m.

**Admission:** \$20 per person (\$10 for students with ID, under 12-free). The price of admission includes a plate of food, a beverage, ten raffle tickets (five for students, none for under 12) for the fly and rod drawings, and a wealth of tying and fishing information.

- Well-known tiers\* will share their skills and tying tips
- Beginner's table to learn tying your own flies
- Random drawings for each tier's flies and a fly rod drawing
- Food from the Mainline Ale House
- Silent auction with many quality equipment items, supplies, books, art, guided trips, services, etc.

\*Learn from Marty Staab, Mark Miller, Jason Haddix, Guy Turenne, Rick Takahashi, Mark McMillan, Dennis Martin, Chris Krueger, Steve Schweitzer, Thadd Strom, Eric Pettine, Kirk Bein, Grant Houx, Jin Choi, Connor Murphy, and many others.

**Where:** Fort Collins Senior Center  
1200 Raintree Drive Fort Collins, CO

The Fort Collins Senior Center is located off Shields Avenue between Prospect and Drake. Parking to the east of the Senior Center is at a premium. There is, however, a new, spacious parking lot, just off Raintree, to the west of the Senior Center to accommodate our large crowd.

Get more information and photos [here](#).

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## February Conservation Notes



Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

### **Big Thompson River restoration from effects of the September 2013 flood.**

After what seemed like a long drought of funding, flood restoration activities are again picking up on the Big Thompson River. In December 2014, almost \$200 million in federal funds were made available in the Front Range counties affected by those floods, and earlier wildfires, including streams and forests in Larimer County.

To see the multitude of things now happening on the Big Thompson, go to the web site of the Big Thompson River Restoration Coalition: [www.bigthompsonriver.org](http://www.bigthompsonriver.org).

Among the many news items at that web site, you will see a grant application that was submitted to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) last Friday, January 30. It requests close to \$300,000 for preliminary design work (30 % of the complete design work in identified reaches) that will be required to make the restoration plans ready for implementation work. And this is only for 15 of more than 50 river reaches that need to be restored on the Big T. That dollar amount is the upper limit of funds available in the current round of funding. If you think about expanding that to all the 51 river reaches between Estes Park and the South Platte confluence that are identified in the Master Plan, and add the costs of implementing the finished designs, the total cost of flood recovery, while not yet available, is going to be immense, and will take years to accomplish.

Also on the same web site is an invitation to the public to attend a meeting on February 12 on the subject of a recreation plan for the areas along the Big Thompson where the flood restoration will be taking place. Take a look at that notice to learn the objectives of that planning and how it is integrated with the river restoration planning mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

On February 12 from 5:30 - 7:30 at the Thompson School District Administrative Offices in Loveland, Larimer County in partnership with the Big Thompson River Restoration Coalition, US Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Colorado Department of Transportation will hold a public forum. This is an opportunity for individuals and groups share their vision for how flood recovery efforts can benefit tourism, the river ecosystem and people who live along the North Fork and Mainstem of the Big Thompson River.

Rocky Mountain Flycasters will participate in this public process in order to present the position of the Chapter and TU. As this is a public meeting designed to receive input regarding issues germane to the subject matter, you are welcome to, and should, attend if you have personal thoughts and ideas you would like to share. Click this link [bigthompsonriver.org/...PublicMeetingFlier-3.pdf](http://bigthompsonriver.org/...PublicMeetingFlier-3.pdf) to get more information about this upcoming and important meeting.

**New Poudre River Restoration Project** Although it may seem that our conservation projects are devoted exclusively to the Big T, we are not neglecting the Cache La Poudre. The Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed has a stream recovery project coming up that needs volunteer labor to accomplish some of the tasks involved. The location is the lower reaches of Skin Gulch, a small stream originating in the Poudre Wilderness Area, and flowing into the Poudre near the junction of Highway 14 and Stove Prairie Road.

The headwaters of Skin Gulch are in severely burned High Park fire areas that now convey eroded soils into the Poudre River. RMF TU volunteers will be joining with volunteers from Wildlands Restoration Volunteers to accomplish hand-work planting in riparian areas and seeding/mulching native grasses along the Skin Gulch stream banks. The tentative schedule is for these activities to occur in April-May on one reach and in October-November on another reach, after heavy earth-moving equipment has completed its tasks of reshaping the Skin Gulch stream banks. To help CPRW with funding the project, RMF has applied for an Embrace-A-Stream grant from Trout Unlimited. If we receive such cash, our volunteer hours will be counted as matches for the cash grant from TU. Specific days of volunteer work will be dependent on the preceding earth-moving work, but for now, try to keep some weekends in those months open for the Skin Gulch project.

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## Let's Go Fishing



Mark Miller, Let's Go Fishing Coordinator

Listed below are some trips we hope to take in 2015. We will start sign-ups at our February 18 meeting. This preliminary list only covers March through July. We'll have the rest of the list ready by our March newsletter.

We do need some volunteers to act as a Trip Host. If you have been to one of these areas once or twice, you qualify! As a Trip Host, your duties would simply be to arrange a meeting place and time, and possibly carpooling for the longer trips. Oh ya, and duty #1 is to keep the rest of us from

getting lost - it is that simple!

We also plan to schedule some hike-in trips to lakes in RMNP. In our member survey, RMNP got the most member interest. This will be some exciting sight fishing to rising cutthroats with dry flies. We hope you will join us for all the fun!

Additionally, if anyone would like to host a trip elsewhere, please feel free to let me know and I will add your trip to the list. Email **Mark Miller** or call 970-744-8229 (cell).

March 21	Poudre River - or Big T, based on interest; Host: Ben Zomer
Early April TBD	San Juan River, NM trip; Host: Coy Wylie (Thurs-Sun)
April 24-26	Gray Reef wade trip - Fri-Sun; Host: Ben Zomer
May 30	Big Thompson River below Lake Estes; Host: Mark Miller
June 27	Poudre/Joe Wright Reservoir; Host: Mark Miller (Poudre 9am-4pm, then Joe Wright for Grayling til dusk)
July 11	Lake Agnes hike-in day trip; Host: Dave Morse
July 25	RMNP Dream Lake - hike in day trip; Host: Mark Miller

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2015-02-03