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From the President

Volunteers are needed!!

I saw a forecast of 50's in the paper and I have to admit...I am ready for Spring! In addition to the beginning of open water angling season, Spring is also the time we start planning for our annual Youth Day Camp. I appreciate the individuals that have so far volunteered to help with some of the day activities but we are still seeking a few more people to take advantage of this opportunity to pass on the conservation ethos we value so much.



Dick Jefferies

In particular we need a camp coordinator and a couple more day coordinators. Without question the camp coordinator position has the most responsibility but it is not something to be considered overwhelming. A person can step right in and follow the procedures from previous years. It requires some management skill but the steps are laid out and there will be ample support and guidance available.

Without someone stepping up to assume the role of the camp coordinator, it is entirely possible that we may need to cancel this year's camp. There are a lot of young people looking forward to this camp experience. I am sure there is someone out there that would be a good fit for this position. If you are that person, please contact either me or Dennis Cook.

To learn more details about volunteer staffing needs for the summer 2015 camp, [click here](#) where you will find detailed information about the roles and responsibilities of all volunteers.

Get ready to spring forward!

Dick Jefferies, President
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

Chapter Events Calendar

at the \$50 donation level.

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March Membership Meeting Special Topic: Czech Nymphing



RMF Member and Fish Whisperer Domingo Rodriguez

Do you want to learn what the Czech Nymphing excitement is about? Why catch rates among competitive fishers using this technique so high? What you need to get started? Where are the good places to use this increasingly popular technique? Come to the March Membership

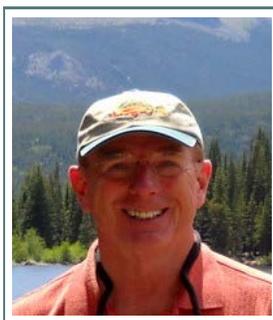
Meeting!

On Wednesday March 18, RMF member Domingo Rodriguez will share some of his knowledge of Czech Nymphing with us. We asked Domingo to speak on this topic following a chapter "Let's Go Fishing" trip to the Frying Pan River last fall. During that trip Domingo became known as RMF's resident "Fish Whisperer". Although all attendees caught fish, Domingo's productivity stood out and he made us both envious and curious! So, we decided that if you "can't beat 'em, join'em" and invited Domingo to share some of his secrets in public.

Domingo will cover selecting the appropriate equipment, rod, reel, lines and leaders, using the best flies, locating fishable waters, and when the best time to use this technique. He will show you how to catch fish that you never knew were in the water. Domingo has also agreed to be our guest fly tyer for the meeting (come early) where he will demonstrate how to tie some of his favorite Czech Nymphing nymphs.

As usual, the General Meeting is free and open to the public. Social hour (and fly tying demo) begins at 6:30 pm March 18 at the Fort Collins Senior Center, and the program follows at 7:00 pm. We will have local fly tyers at the meeting and an equipment raffle. The Fort Collins Senior Center is located at 1200 Raintree Drive off Shields Avenue between Prospect and Drake.

March Youth Outreach Notes



This month we are fortunate to have articles by two of our most active RMF youth volunteers. In the first article, Rocky Mountain High School teacher Scott Kemp describes our Trout in the Classroom program and in the second RMF volunteer award winner Jerry Pelis describes our Childrens' Water Festivals and tells how you can help.

Trout in the Classroom

Through a national and state funded effort by Trout Unlimited entitled, Trout in the Classroom, (<http://www.troutintheclassroom.org/>), the trout are back! We are now in our second year of raising trout at Rocky Mountain High School in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Trout in the Classroom is a hands-on experiential project that enables students and staff to be involved with all aspects of raising trout - from receiving the fertilized eggs last November to releasing the fish into the Poudre River above the Linden Street Bridge this coming May. The project has been challenging and interesting from day one. We encountered big problems with a filter issue early on, which caused us to obtain a second order of eggs, and we were glad to finally receive our 200 fertilized eggs sent by FedEx from Washington State placed in the hatching chamber within our 55 gallon tank.



Scott Kemp's RMHS Students Observe Young Trout

This year in my Biology and Earth System Science classes, our focus has been on clean water and riparian ecosystems. The students are involved in the daily maintenance of the tank and care of the trout. Classes take turns and note observations of feeding behaviors, while testing the water for ammonia, nitrates, nitrites and pH levels. Additionally, students observe and note water changes, monitor the biological filter and chiller which are key components of trout habitat as they control the biological chemistries of the water and keep the water temperature a cool 52 degrees Fahrenheit.

Students study the critical components that control a trout's life, such as conservation of biological resources and the connection between its physical surroundings and the challenges of clean water.

The trout are following a different trend from last year as we monitor their growth. There has been a bigger difference in the size of our trout this year, some much larger than others. This disparity has led to some predation mortality on the small trout. Students call it cannibalism; I say "in nature nothing is wasted". The difficult lessons of life and death are common as the cycle of life is observed. Of course many trout die due to simple genetics, fourteen failed to even hatch. In April several trout will be sacrificed and dissected for tissue testing purposes to ensure they are parasite and disease free before the remaining fish can be released into the river.

Again this year the classroom partnership with Trout Unlimited has been an exceptional experience, from the start with careful planning and expertise, to the anticipated release.

RMF chapter members, please feel free to stop by to see the trout. Check in at the front office at RMHS, pick up a visitor pass and walk to Science room 522. As always, you will be treated to see a trout rise and be greeted by a great group of students.

Children's Water Festivals

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.

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.

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 me, Jerry Pelis, at jwdp43@comcast.net

March Conservation Notes

Volunteer Opportunities for Stream Restoration Projects

The coming season for stream restorations and related projects is rapidly shaping up. There will be numerous opportunities for TU members who are willing to give their time and energy to improving the trout fisheries in



Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

our home waters. Some projects are still jelling as to schedules, but locations and work plans are pretty firm. Recruitments of volunteers will be taking place over the next few weeks. Here are some projects you might put on your calendars now to reserve their dates.

In the Poudre watershed we have some continuing projects and some new ones. One of the long-standing favorites is at The Nature Conservancy's Phantom Canyon Preserve on the North Fork of the Poudre. The working part of each day consists of stewardship on several miles of the river trail that has numerous crossings of the meandering river. That is followed each day by several hours of catch and release fly-fishing in the river. Scheduled days are April 12, July 19, August 16, and September 27. Enrollment of volunteers for all days will be conducted by The Nature Conservancy in mid-March. So stay alert for that opportunity. RMF-TU contacts for information about these projects are Scott Baily skbaily@gmail.com and Guy Turenne spilunker@aol.com.



Cache La Poudre River

Another Poudre River favorite, entering its fifth consecutive year, is the Adopt-A-Trail program usually held at Gateway Natural Area. Dependent on needs, the location may be at another of the City of Fort Collins' Natural Areas along the Poudre. This program at Gateway involves trail rehabilitation near the confluence of the Poudre's North Fork with the Poudre's main stem. Work four hours in the morning, then enjoy a rewarding lunch, and fish in the afternoon. Two dates are scheduled; May 9 and July 18. The location will be selected a month prior to these dates. The RMF-TU contact for more information and to sign-up is David Morse. dgmorse45@gmail.com.

The Poudre watershed still suffers, in some places, from the effects of the High Park fire in 2012, and the 2013 flood. One of those places is Skin Gulch, a tributary that continues to carry massive amounts of silt into the Poudre River near the junction of Highway 14 and Stove Prairie Road. Our friends at the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed (CPRW) are managing an ecological restoration project on Forest Service land. The project will stop the erosion by reconstructing the banks and riparian areas at the lower end of Skin Gulch. The extensive earth-moving will be done by a contractor. Once that is completed in each of two phases, re-vegetation and some finishing touches on bank stabilization will be accomplished by volunteers. The primary source of volunteers will be Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, a group we have collaborated with in past years. For the Skin Gulch hand-work, RMF-TU has committed to provide 20 of the volunteers during each of the two phases. The scheduled dates are Saturday, May 2 and Saturday, October 24. Registration of volunteers from RMF-TU is being coordinated by Dave Piske dpsk@aol.com.



In the Big Thompson watershed, a massive project to restore 2.5 miles of the North Fork of the Big-T will be underway. Throughout the summer, work will progress on restoring the geomorphic features of the streambed and



Big Thompson River

riparian areas that were totally de-nuded by the flood. In September the work will shift to installing erosion matting and re-vegetating streambanks by planting native species. Volunteers will be needed for these plantings on September 12, September 26, and October 10. For more information, contact Lukas McNally lukas@wlrv.org or call him at 970-493-2075. Lukas is the Watershed Restoration Coordinator for Wildlands Restoration Volunteers and is a fellow member of RMF-TU.

Crew Leader Training Classes Available

For the effective conduct of semi-skilled tasks that volunteers perform in these projects, trained crew leaders must be there to supervise the crews. Typically, at least some volunteers are inexperienced in the methods and techniques of safely and efficiently performing the tasks they are asked to do. So, trained volunteer crew leaders are as essential to projects as are the crew members themselves. The Outdoor Stewardship Institute (OSI) and Wildlands Restoration Volunteers are jointly offering a two-day crew leader training course on April 12 and 13. For enrollment information, go to: **Wildlands Restoration Volunteers**.

Let's Go Fishing

Let's Go Fishing: 2015 RMF Trips



Mark Miller, Let's Go Fishing Coordinator

Based largely on the membership response to the RMF survey conducted in 2014, we have planned 11 exciting trips for 2015. Because so many of you requested more local trips, we have included several of these to the streams and lakes in Rocky Mountain National Park, the Poudre and the Big Thompson Rivers. However, we have also planned trips to some blue ribbon trout waters in other parts of the state including the San Juan, Yampa and Frying Pan Rivers as well as to Montana (Big Horn) and Wyoming (Gray Reef). To review all of these trips and

their dates **click here**. When you get to this website all you need to do is click each of the trips in which you have an interest and I will get back to you via email. You also may sign up for any of these trips at the March 18 meeting.

We hope you will join us for all or some of the fun. Please feel free to contact me directly in there are any questions or suggestions. My cell phone number is 970-744-8229 and my email address is flytyer.miller@gmail.com.

If you would like to see what we do on some of these trips, I've included two brief videos below. The first video shows our 2014 Gray Reef, Wyoming trip and the second our 2014 trip to the Green River in Utah. Just click on the arrow within each video to watch.



2014 Grey Reef Trip



2014 Green River Trip

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