



## August 2016

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## RMF Quick Link



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## From the President

“You want to go fishing tomorrow?”

There had been so little time and so many opportunities passed and invitations rejected because of the bustling summer real estate season that I knew I needed a break and I wanted to spend some time with my friend Mickey.

“Yes,” I said, “And not only do I want to go, I need to go. I just need to move a couple of meetings off my calendar.”

So bright and early the next morning RMF VP Mickey McGuire and I headed up Poudre Canyon hoping to catch the end of the grayling run at Joe Wright Reservoir. Mickey had already hit it twice with great success while I had been busy working. So I was ready for some willing fish. Unfortunately, I was too late and the run was over and there were no grayling to be had.

Mickey had never been to Long Draw, which had just opened so we opted to try our luck there. After a tailgate lunch we hit the creek below the dam. If you’ve fished here you know it is an incredibly beautiful area. It felt good just to be out away from the city in the cool mountain air under the bright blue sky. Mickey picked up a nice cutbow and I hooked up on one but lost him. We fished for another hour or so with no luck. I hate being skunked. My mind drifted to a small stream I had fished two or three years before that was not far away. I asked Mickey if he was up for a hike and eager brookies and he said he was all in.

Now there is no trail to this secret spot. You have to navigate your way through dark timber. The beetle kill had really affected this area since I had last been there. So there were lots of deadfalls to navigate. Finally we arrived in a high mountain meadow. I had a size 10 purple hopper pattern I had been trying still tied on and when I plopped it in the water a little brookie attacked it immediately. The second cast I realized the fly was going to be too big for the eager little fish so I went to my favorite small stream summer dry fly, the deer hair ant.

I’m not typically a fish counter but I knew this was going to be good. We only had a couple hours to fish because we needed to get back through that timber to the truck while there was still plenty of daylight. So I counted. In two hours I caught 46 brookies. They were all small, in the five to ten inch range. But it’s so



Coy Wiley, 2016-2017 President  
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

fun to catch eager fish. Mickey and I had spread out and he easily caught as many as I did.

The shadows were getting longer and we reluctantly left our little paradise with thoughts of returning and maybe camping there sometime. This was when the adventure began. Because there was no trail we followed the setting sun through the dark timber as best as we could. However the deadfalls seemed worse on the return trip. We were forever going around, under or over them. It was like hiking through a giant set of fallen matchsticks. The whole ridge looked exactly the same. We were never really worried that we wouldn't get out. The issue was how long was this going to take. Our energy reserves were pretty well spent. At one point, I slipped over a wet log and broke the tip on my favorite four-weight.

Gratefully, we finally saw the reservoir twinkling in the setting sun. We had come out of the woods over a mile from my truck so we still had a long walk around the lake. It was almost full dark when we arrived and that truck never looked so good.

I apologized to Mickey for the difficulty of the return hike and he just smiled and said it was worth it to fish that little stream. You know he was right. Like most fishing trips, I think less of the hardships and more of the joy of a tight line and bent rod.

Coy Wylie, President  
Rocky Mountain Flycasters



[Chapter Event Calendar on our web site](#)

## Filling up the Calendar

Our calendar pages are some of the most frequently visited on our web site. Wouldn't it be great to see your own pictures displayed there? There are many opportunities for months into the future. Pictures that are well-lit, in focus, on TU topic, and a minimum of 530 pixels wide and 400 pixel in height. Send a copy of fishing or conservation-related pictures to:

[Paul Wehr, Webmaster](#)



## Coming In October On The Poudre

### Fly Fishing Team USA

#### Friday October 7th:

Competitor and Controller Meeting 7 p.m., location TBA (in Fort Collins)

#### Saturday October 8th:

Competition Sessions 1 and 2: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

#### Sunday October 9th:

Competition Sessions 3 and 4: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Awards and Raffle - 7 p.m., location TBA (in Fort Collins)

Volunteers are needed to serve as controllers. Basically they will be combination referees and scorekeepers. They will ensure that all fish are not foul-hooked, competitors are following all established equipment rules (more info to come), keep track of session time, as well as measure and record every fish caught. Each controller will be in charge of a given 'beat' (section of bank) for each session.

Competitors will be divided into 4 groups of 6 anglers each. Each group will travel together and fish each venue. Example: Group A may fish Poudre 1, Poudre 2, Horsetooth, Barnes Meadow, and Group B may fish Horsetooth, Poudre 2, Barnes Meadow, Poudre 1.

Venues:

Cache la Poudre River near Mountain Park Campground (wade)

Cache la Poudre River near Indian Meadows (wade)

Barnes Meadow Reservoir (wade)

Horsetooth Reservoir (boat)

For information, or to register, email us at:

Ed Mulhern: [emulhern14@gmail.com](mailto:emulhern14@gmail.com)

Kirk Lewis: [KLEWISI05@hotmail.com](mailto:KLEWISI05@hotmail.com)



## August Youth Outreach



Dennis Cook, Youth Outreach Coordinator



Bob Costner lectures while campers take notes



## August Conservation Notes



Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

### Major Progress in Replacing Fishing Pier on Big Thompson

In early March of this year the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition, in partnership with Rocky Mountain Flyfishers, submitted an application for a grant to provide funds for replacing the fishing pier for disabled persons that was destroyed by the 2013 flood.

On July 26, the Director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife announced conditional approval for \$55,400 in funding for the Big Thompson Fishing Pier project. The funding is intended to support design and construction of a pier conformant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, access from Highway 34 to the pier, in-stream habitat improvements and bankside stabilization.

Several more hurdles must be cleared before actual funding is available. But initial approval of the project is one of the most important hurdles. From this point, it will take several months to accomplish coordination with Highway 34 reconstruction, the final pier design work, budget finalization, required permits, and for US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) review and ultimate

approval of the project.

### Volunteers Needed in August for Fisheries Work in Rocky Mountain National Park

Chris Kennedy is the US Fish and Wildlife Service biologist assigned to Rocky Mountain National Park. Most of Chris' recent fisheries projects this summer have involved multi-day overnight camping in remote areas of the Park. Coming up this month is a series of one-day projects that may be more compatible with volunteers' available time.

The series takes place August 15-18 at West Creek, near Glen Haven. Volunteers working under Chris' supervision will be taking habitat measurements for part of the time, and electrofishing the rest of the time. It is only a two-mile hike to the lowest-elevation work site. The hike is over a 1,000 foot elevation change across a ridge, both in and out. This project will be one-day trips, no camping. Chris has the mules scheduled to carry the sampling/measuring gear in on Monday and back out on Thursday.

If you can volunteer for any of the days, please send an email to [AWCflash@aol.com](mailto:AWCflash@aol.com). That will get you on the attendance roster, and Austin Condon will inform you of the details for the day you select.

### Three River Monitoring Days Phantom Canyon Preserve

Week of October 17: For those readers who were unable to get in on the river trail maintenance and fishing days this month, here is another opportunity to experience the wonderful trout habitat in the Phantom Canyon Preserve of the Nature Conservancy.

Specific times and dates are to be determined based on river flows.

1. River Health We will be assessing the river condition by sampling various species that are good indicators of river health, such as aquatic insects and fish.
2. River Aquatic Insects Monitoring - North Fork of Cache la Poudre River Join Colorado State University faculty as they sample the aquatic insects at three sites along the North Fork of the Cache La Poudre River. Sites are located immediately below Halligan Dam, in Phantom Canyon Preserve, and downstream of the preserve on private property. This will require strenuous hiking down into and out of the canyon at least 3 times; carrying equipment and wet-wading numerous times in and out of the river. This will be a challenging and exciting project. Come prepared wearing river wading gear; and please clean your gear ahead of time to minimize likelihood of introducing non-native species.

3. Fishery Monitoring - North Fork of Cache la Poudre River - Join agency personnel as they use electro-shock, and then weigh and measure fish. Three sites along the North Fork of the Cache La Poudre River will be sampled: below Halligan Dam; Phantom Canyon Preserve, and; downstream of the Preserve on private property. This will require strenuous hiking down into and out of the canyon at least 3 times; carrying heavy tools and equipment, and wet-wading numerous times in and out of the river. This will be a challenging and exciting project. Come prepared wearing your own river wading gear; and please clean your gear ahead of time to minimize likelihood of introducing non-native species.

For more information contact the Preserve at [www.nature.org/phantomcanyonevents](http://www.nature.org/phantomcanyonevents)



## One Volunteer Project

Sustain.....that's the fourth pillar of Trout Unlimited's conservation strategy. Once we have Protected and Reconnected and Restored, we Sustain the progress we have made. But some day we current conservationists will pass from the scene, so an important part of our Sustain strategy is to expose and excite youngsters, the next generations, about the mysteries and magic of our rivers and waters. We had a couple of opportunities to do that last month.

Here members Dave Mosnik and Amy Galyardt orient some of the 120 young ladies attending the annual Girl Scout summer camp at Lon Hagler Reservoir near Loveland. They all got a look at some river 'bugs', the flies we use to imitate them and the chance to handle a fly rod.

RMF members also had a chance to assist the CSU Environmental Learning Center's summer youth programs during two sessions of their "Ramble on the River" experience. We seined the river and helped the youngsters identify the 'catch'.



...then helped each of them tie their own personalized wooly bugger on a safety pin.

And we got some enthusiastic feedback.



(You'll find more photos from each of these events on our RMF Facebook page.)

As you read this our own annual Conservation and Fly Fishing Day Camp is either going on or just concluded. Fifteen teens will get 6 days of intensive instruction and fishing fun.

If you have not participated in any RMF education efforts in the past, I hope you will in the future. There is nothing like seeing little eyes light up when they glimpse their first water boatman, or stonefly nymph, or realize they can really tie a fly. Not only will your efforts contribute to the Sustain portion of our mission, but it will help sustain your faith in the generations to come.

Wil Huett  
Immediate Past President



### Tell us your favorite fishing stories.

Every time I fish or socialize with RMF members and friends, I hear wonderful captivating stories about fishing adventures. We all have them-you're not an angler if you don't. Why not have one or more published in The Flypaper? If you are interested or have questions contact Bob Green, The Flypaper Editor bobgreen250@gmail.com.



## Or, would you like to be the RMF Treasurer?

Tom Culbertson, our current treasurer, has agreed to serve until we can recruit someone to take his place. The treasurer job requires some fundamental accounting skills. If you are a practicing accountant or a CPA, this will be an excellent place for you to make a contribution. If you are interested in the position or merely want more information, please contact Tom at [srrealty45@gmail.com](mailto:srrealty45@gmail.com) or 970-541-7029 or 970-685 1401 (cell).



## Are you looking to buy a fishing vehicle?

1995 Jeep Grand Cherokee

“Oldie, and....Goodie! My outdoors/fishing car past 18 years-Well maintained-- Very good condition-No known mechanical problems-No body damage -Garage-kept (Never used off-roading)- 228440 miles-Almost new tires: Michelin LTX- 85% brake pads - Front & rear-New battery-Leather seats-Extra full size spare Call: (970) 372-9229



## How about a canoe?

I have a canoe for sale. It is getting to be a bit much for me to get on and off my car and has seen little use in the past couple of years. It is an L L Bean, Old Town Discovery Sport which I believe is 16' 9" in length. It is a square end canoe with a wooden motor mount which is rated for up to a 5 hp motor. It has oar locks and oars, two paddles, can comfortably seat four people and is rated for 850lbs (people, motor and gear). There is also a 3.5hp Tohatsu outboard motor (canoe is rated for up to 5 hp), and an electric trolling motor that has been used with the canoe also for sale. Located in Fort Collins. Contact **Guy Turenne**, phone 970-377-2814



## Let's Go Fishing 2016

### The Remaining 2016 “Let's Go Fishing” Trips

Listed below are our remaining trips for 2016. If interested, please sign up online on our chapter website (<http://www.rockymtnflycasters.org>) or email Mark Miller below.

We have quite a mix of fishing destinations for 2016. Hopefully there is something for you on this list. Dennis will again host a fun-filled day of small stream fishing with dry flies on the Colorado River headwaters on the west side of RMNP. Sep and Oct will take us to some water that most people have not fished - the Yampa River at Steamboat Springs, and the Frying Pan and Roaring Fork rivers near Glenwood Springs. We hope you will join us for all the fun!

Questions? Email **Mark Miller** or call 970-744-8229 (cell).



Mark Miller, Let's Go Fishing Coordinator

- **20 August** - RMNP Colorado Headwaters - Host: Dennis Cook
- **16-18 September** - Yampa Tailwater - Host: Dennis Cook

### **Colorado River Headwaters (RMNP)... August 20th**

Seven members are signed up for this annual, fun trip. We will carpool for a fairly early start, and drive over Trail Ridge Road. Enroute the return drive home, some anglers typically also choose to stop for dinner in Estes Park. If you are interested to join us, contact Dennis Cook by August 12th at [rkytmtnangler@Q.com](mailto:rkytmtnangler@Q.com) or call (970) 372-9229.

### **Yampa River ... September 16th - 18th**

The Yampa River runs through the town of Steamboat Springs, and together with associated tributaries and the tail water stretch below Stagecoach Reservoir it is many miles long and something of a fly angler's paradise noted for its large trout. There is also the Elk River conveniently just a half dozen miles North from town that offers additional mountain stream fishing.

Seven members have already registered to take this weekend trip...and there's still space for a few more. The basic plan is to depart Friday and return Sunday, though some may opt to stretch the trip on either or both ends. Specific details of carpools, departure & return times and lodging arrangements will be determined when we know who all is participating.

If you are interested to make this trip, contact Dennis Cook before September 10th at [rkytmtnangler@Q.com](mailto:rkytmtnangler@Q.com) or call (970) 372-9229.

Questions? Contact: Email [Mark Miller](mailto:Mark Miller) at or call 970-744-8229 (cell).

## Sustaining Donors

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