



March 2017

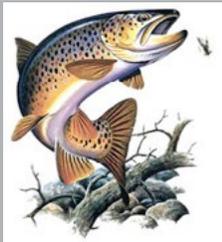
Table of Contents

- From the President
- Chapter Event Calendar
- Filling up the Calendar
- March Membership Meeting
- March Conservation Notes
- Video of the Month
- March Youth Outreach Notes
- Guest Essay: "Fish Were Jumping Into My Boat" Opportunities
- Let's Go Fishing
- Sustaining Donors

RMF Quick Link



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From the President

I recently completed Simon Sinek's book *Start With Why*. Sinek profiles the successes and failures of well-know companies and organizations based on their understanding of their why - why they do what they do. He notes that the most successful businesses know their demographic, their customer base, their tribe. They know the type of person who will be loyal to their brand.

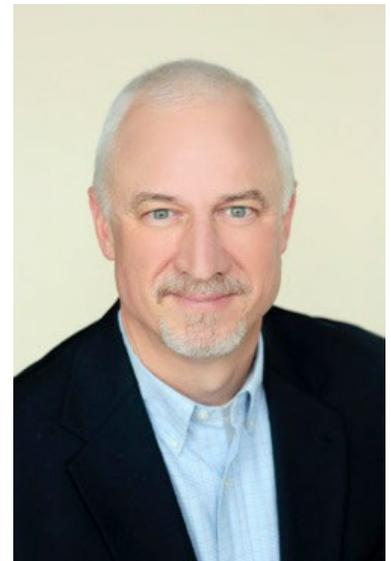
For example, people who buy Apple (iPhones, iPads, iPods and Mac computers) will buy Apple even if the competition has a better product at a lesser price. Apple consumers are loyal to Apple. Harley Davidson loyalists have to wait six-months to get a new motorcycle. That's a terrible business model. But the HD crowd is so bought into that brand that they will literally tattoo the company logo on their skin.

People do business with companies that they perceive share their beliefs and values. That's why so much marketing is not geared toward a product but a lifestyle.

That got me thinking about fly fishermen (and fisherwomen!) We definitely have a sense of tribalism surrounding our passion. We share common beliefs and values about the redemptive powers of nature, the vital necessity of conservation and the sheer joy of netting a nice trout on a hand-tied fly. We share a fascination of the biology of stream life and how to imitate those tiny insects with thread and feathers.

Heck, we even have an informal dress code. Ever notice how many of us are wearing fishing shirts or hats to chapter meetings and elsewhere when we are nowhere near fishable water? We haunt the same places. We know the employees and guides in the fly shops by their names. We know many of the same holes and runs on our local streams. We read the same magazines and websites. We travel to the same places and dream the same dreams of epic hatches and big fish on the rise.

I can even spot fellow trout bums in traffic. Those with rod vaults on their



Coy Wiley, 2016-2017 President
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

SUVs or trailered drift boats are obvious. However, do you notice vehicles with TU, Orvis, Sage and other stickers on the windows? We seem to have a primal need to signal our tribalism to others.

RMF needs to capitalize on this tribe of trout bums. We need to find more ways of pulling together this community of sportsmen and women who share our values and beliefs. We need to infect the younger generation with the zeal that if we are not guardians of our waters that their children and grandchildren will never know the joy our sport gives us.

In essence that's our why. Sure we enjoy each other's camaraderie. We enjoy swapping stories. We enjoy presentations on techniques and locations. We enjoy winning gear from the raffle table. But our why is that unless we care enough about our watersheds to protect them they will not be there in the same way for future generations.

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](#)



March Membership Meeting

Matt McCannel



Matt McCannel started his guiding career in Colorado, leading three day expeditions in the depths of Gunnison Gorge and on the tailwater of the Uncomphgre River inside Ridgway State Park "PACO". His passion for hunting double digit trout on his technical home waters of the Uncomphgre River and introducing clients to the perfect presentation in the Gunnison Gorge keeps him excited about guiding to this day.

Matt's fishing and guiding tactics are outside of the norm but have proven to be very effective for his clients. His perfect day would be watching a fifteen pounder for six hours and having the client make the perfect shot. Matt's ability to explain the smallest details of the sport to people is a

huge driver in the successes of his clients. Matt is the head guide for RIGS Fly Shop in Ridgway, Colorado. He has earned the distinction of Sage Ambassador, SIMMS Ambassador and is a royalty tier for Umpqua Feather Merchants.

Matt has been a presenter for RIGS at numerous fly fishing clubs, Trout Unlimited and the Denver Fly Fishing show. He lives in Ridgway, CO with his wife Liz.

Matt will take you through the 14 miles of the famed Gunnison Gorge. We will cover what hatches and water conditions to expect throughout the season. Other topics will be: Access Points, Flies, gear and how too's.

Note: The Senior Center is located on Raintree off Shields Avenue between Prospect and Drake. Please enter from the main entrance. The north entrance is now routinely locked for security reasons.



March Conservation Notes

Progress on Big Thompson In-stream Recovery Projects



Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

With the ongoing closure of Highway 34 from the mouth of the Big Thompson canyon towards Estes Park, it's not apparent to the public that there is a massive amount of flood recovery work that's ongoing in that section of the Big Thompson River.

Alongside the highway reconstruction by Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition's in-river fish habitat and riverbank improvements will produce a more resilient river and improved fishery.

At the Jasper Lake reach on the main river, which includes the Narrows Park public fishing access, in-stream construction of new fish habitat structures is commencing, and completion is anticipated about the time Highway 34 re-opens to public travel.

In the Big Thompson's North Fork basin, in the vicinity of Glen Haven, reconstruction of the stream channels and banks of Fox Creek and West Creek are nearing completion.

Downstream of the canyon mouth, construction of river improvements from Sylvan Dale Ranch to the Loveland water treatment plant is about to get underway.

Finally, numerous other in-stream improvements are in the design phase. For more information on these projects, browse the web site: www.bigthompson.co

Help to Rebuild the Fishing Pier on Big Thompson

The public fishing pier on US 34 was lost in the 2013 flood that ravaged the Big Thompson Canyon. The Big Thompson Watershed Coalition, and project partners including Rocky Mountain Flycasters Trout Unlimited, are working to rebuild an ADA-compliant pier at the previous location.

So far, we have raised over \$55,000 through a Colorado Parks and Wildlife "Fishing is Fun" grant and secured in-kind donations to cover other portions of the design and construction costs. However, we anticipate needing at least \$20,000 more to cover permitting, surveying, and a portion of the construction costs. In addition, we would like to post educational signage and enhance the natural vegetation once the work is done, which will require additional funds.

Please consider making a donation to BTWC. Donors can designate their funds directly to the efforts to

rebuild the pier by writing “rebuild the pier” on the memo line of your check.

Send donations to:

Big Thompson Watershed Coalition
Attn: Tracy Wendt
2525 W. 1st Street
Loveland, CO 80537

Oh yeah, for added fun associated with your donation, be sure to attend the special event at the Big Thompson Brewery on March 8, from 5 to 8 PM at 114 East 15th Street in Loveland.

Fort Collins Natural Areas

RMFC works closely with the Fort Collins Natural Areas Department to help maintain Natural Areas along the Poudre River. We conduct two work days a year; this year on May 6 and July 15th. We may trim bushes, grade or improve trails, or other related work set up by Natural Areas. These work days usually are for the morning. Lunch is provided by TU and we often go fishing in the afternoon. Please contact me if you are interested in helping this year and I will send you more details closer to the event. Thanks. Contact **Dave Morse, Gateway Coordinator,**

Project Healing Waters

Our TU chapter helps support the Platte Rivers Program for Project Healing Waters. This is for disabled and former military veterans and active duty members of the military. We held weekly fly tying and rod making classes all Fall, Winter, and Spring. We have numerous needy vets who lack reels, fly line, boots and waders. So, if you have some serviceable fishing gear that you would like to donate to them, please bring it to the upcoming TU meetings. Contributions are tax deductible and receipts will be given for your donations.

Speaking of donations, Domingo Rodriguez, Joe O'Connor, Micah Foster and I will be selling tickets at the next two TU meetings for our major, annual Project Healing Waters charity fundraiser, a Gala dinner/auction, to be held at the Little America Hotel in Cheyenne on Saturday evening, April 22nd. Come for a steak dinner, cash prizes, and to support the oral and silent auctions. It is great fun for a worthy cause! Tickets cost \$75. All proceeds will support this veterans program by providing fly rod kits, fly tying class materials and equipment, and dozens of fishing trips at NO EXPENSE for these vets who unselfishly served our country. If you or your company would like to show your gratitude and support this program with tax deductible cash donations, sponsorship of a table at the Gala or oral/silent auction items, such as weekend use of a cabin, fishing or hunting gear or any other items of value, please contact **Dave Morse, Project Healing Waters** to arrange pick-up or donation in March. Thank you.



Video of the Month

Editors Note: We all love fishing and outdoor videos. In fact, an accounting of total

Flypaper “clicks” (the number of times someone “clicks on” a link) each month reveals that the number for videos exceeds by far the number of clicks we get for volunteering or for other new events. So, we are going to begin including a fishing video each month. Please help develop this resource by sending me, **Bob Green** your favorites. It can be something you saw online and would like to share or a video you made yourself. Let’s do it!

The video for this month is Rocky Mountain Flycasters Fly Fishing the Rockies. The film maker is Mark Miller our Fishing Trips Coordinator. Mark incorporates some of the fishing trips taken by Rocky Mountain Flycasters over the last few years. The compilation premiered at our February Meeting where it was greeted heartedly. If you were not able to attend, or if you’d like to see it again, just click on the link below. And remember, send me any video you think might be of interest to our readership.



March Youth Outreach Notes

Upcoming Youth Volunteer Opportunities



Dennis Cook, Youth Outreach Coordinator

CSU Environmental Center

March 25th (Saturday)

Activities: Intro To Aquatic Insects

Fly Tying - Bugger/Streamer on a safety pin

Fly Casting - Game with prizes

Time: 8:00am - Noon (Incl. set up & tear down)

Class: Ten ages 12-14

Location (approximate): Junction of Drake & Ziegler

Volunteers: Need 6 total

Contact: **Dennis Cook** for details and to volunteer

CSU Environmental Center

July 19th (Wednesday)

July 26th (Wednesday)

Activity: Ramble On The River

- Insect collection on the Poudre

- Fly Tying - Buzzer/Streamer on a safety pin

Time: 8:00am - 4:00pm (Incl. set up & tear down)

Class: Four 75 minute sessions with ten ages 12-14 youths

Location (approximate): Junction of Drake & Ziegler

Volunteers: Need 6-8 total each day

Contact: **Dennis Cook** for details and to volunteer



Wil Huett and Domingo Rodriguez supervise fly tying among children

Day Camp Fly Fishing and River Conservation (8th annual event)

July 31st - August 5th (Monday through Saturday)

Activities: View Preliminary Schedule (Schedule attached - Insert weblink)

Time: Variable, dependent upon what you volunteer to do

May be as brief as 2 hours, or longer if multiple activities or days

Class: Fifteen ages 14-17 young men & women

Location: Poudre & Big 'T', RMNP, Fort Collins/Loveland meeting rooms

Volunteers: Need 25-35 depending upon what each wants to do

Sign up online: <http://www.rockymtnflycasters.org/proj/youth/campvolunteers.php>

Contact: Dennis Cook at rkytmnangler@Q.com for details and to volunteer

Children's Water Festivals

While Spring's softening weather directs our thoughts toward fishing opportunities, school children's thoughts begin to drift toward warm summer days and NO SCHOOL! However, before the long awaited exodus occurs and the busy carefree days of summer arrive, many students will have the opportunity to attend a Children's Water Festival sponsored by their respective city and other water conservation groups.

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Rocky Mountain Fly Casters will again seize this opportunity to present our Children's Water Festival program, "Who Eats Who at the Stream". This program is presented in a classroom environment as an interactive skit which involves all students in each class for a brief but chaotic 20 minute session repeated up to seven times on each day. The skit gives students a hands-on, brains-on experience to help them learn about the interrelationships and interdependency of creatures in a cold water environment. Each student is designated as either



Dennis Cook talks about Colorado sport fish.

an aquatic insect, or a trout, or a predator (including a fly fisher). They quickly figure out “Who Eats Who” but through various scenarios, have a fun time learning how these species interact, are dependent on each other, and especially dependent on cold, clean water. Each session concludes with a brief “quiz” to recap what the students have learned and what they can do to conserve the water in our streams and rivers and help to keep it cold and clean.

RMF volunteers who have participated in previous years will attest that the Children’s Water Festival experience is a fun, rewarding time as well as a unique opportunity to plant a few conservation seeds in the minds of young people who will soon take over our stewardship.

Please consider joining us this year. Our goal is to have five volunteers at each event. The schedule is as follows:

- Greeley April 26 4th graders
- Loveland May 4 5th graders
- Ft. Collins May 17 3rd graders

The hours are 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM at all locations.

To sign up or for further information please contact [Jerry Pelis](#).



Guest Essay: “Fish Were Jumping Into My Boat”

Editor’s Note: The Flypaper solicits, and from time to time anglers submit articles about their fishing experiences. The article below was written by Mark Miller, Rocky Mountain Flycasters’ Fishing Trip Coordinator.

Dateline: Somewhere on Lake Tohopekaliga (Lake Toho for short), Florida, June, 1978:

“The following story is completely true”.

I’m guessing that the above statement has you on guard already - that you may have a healthy dose of skepticism. I don’t blame you. If this had happened to someone else, I probably would not believe it either!

I was a young 1st lieutenant in the USAir Force assigned to England Air Force Base, Louisiana, as an aircraft maintenance officer. When I left the base for my next assignment in Germany, my fellow office mates gave me an engraved mug that said “Fisher-Liar Supreme.” The following story tells how I earned that engraved mug.

My wife and I joined some family members on a vacation trip to Orlando, Florida, to see Disney World, Sea World, and Universal Studios. In the middle of the week, we had somewhat of a “down day” or rest day. As a die-hard bass fisherman who grew up in Arizona, I realized this was my opportunity to fish the fabled waters of Lake Toho for the Florida strain of largemouth bass. Pictures from all the Outdoor Life and Field and Stream articles I had read as a youngster danced in my head. This was my chance to catch a bass that weighed in the double digits, or so I dreamed.



There were no other fishermen (or women) in our group, so I made plans to leave the hotel early in the morning and rent a small aluminum fishing boat by myself.

As an experienced plastic worm fisherman, I had no doubt that I would catch a lot of nice bass. I paid my deposit and signed out the rental boat, and proceeded to work some wonderful weed lines and brush clumps in shallow water. It was hot summer weather, the dog days of summer, and the bass would have none of it - they refused to come out and play.

After fishing hard for most of the day, still empty-handed, I decided to re-rig my rod and try for some bluegills (anyone can catch bluegills, right)?

With your typical large red and white bobber, and a small weighted jig, I started working some brushy areas where I had been skunked earlier in the day. With no trolling motor, I would cut the engine and drift near the brush line, then anchor within easy casting distance. I immediately started catching some nice hand-sized bluegills - they saved the day!

After boating 3 or 4 nice "gills", the next cast went a little long and the little jig hung in the submerged brush. Being the only small jig I had in my tackle box, I could not risk breaking it off and losing it. So I pulled up anchor, put the 10 horse outboard into reverse, and backed up to the brush pile to see if I could free my little jig. After cutting the engine so as to not scare every fish in the area, the wind immediately blew me away from the brush and I could not get close enough to free the jig. On the third attempt, I goosed the engine a little harder and over-shot my aimpoint, running the prop of my motor right into the brush pile. Before I could kill the engine, I could hear the prop chewing into the brush, making coleslaw out of it. Well, I did scare every fish in the area, hearing the splashes of at least 8-10 fish after they leapt high out of the water, running for their lives. After the splashes, I heard a "thump-thump-thump" in the bottom of my boat. Just then my jig came free, and I was finally able to turn to see what had just happened. Not believing my eyes, two large bluegill were flopping around in the bottom of the boat. It actually took several seconds for my brain to process the scene in front of me.

"Wow - this is unbelievable", I thought. Not only did two fish jump into my boat, but it happens when I am alone. Who will ever believe this? Well, up to now, I have told this story to very few people, knowing that this tall tale could completely ruin my honest reputation.

Well, it is now 38 years later, and I still have that mug in a place of honor near my tying desk. And if asked about my honest reputation, I would guess that most of my friends might say "he's a pretty good guy, and he only lies when his lips move"



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.



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 Culbertson** or 970-541-7029 or 970-685 1401 (cell).



Let's Go Fishing

Hope everyone had some great fishing in 2016! Hard to believe 2017 is already here!

We had quite a mix of fishing destinations for 2016, and hope to do more of the same in 2017. Special thanks to those that hosted trips: Dennis Cook, Dave Morse, Frank Cada, and Ben Zomer. Thanks a lot guys, I sincerely appreciate your time and effort to make these trips happen!

I'm always open to suggestions if anyone has a special fishing hole they would like to share next summer. If you do, please give me a call and I can help make it happen.

Please note that we still need a host for two trips: the Bighorn in May, and the Poudre in July. In regards to the Bighorn trip, anyone who has been there once before could act as host, mainly to ensure we don't get lost on the way there. Please call Mark Miller if you can offer to host this trip. Thanks much!

Here is our RMF 2017 line - up:

Mar 18	Poudre River (Gateway area)- Host: Mark Miller
Mar 31- Apr 2	Gray Reef - Host: Ben Zomer (wade trip)
May	Bighorn River. Dates to be determined - Host needed. Float trip if desired (rent boats)
Jun 24	Lake Agnes and Joe Wright Reservoir - Host: Dave Morse
Jul 15	Upper Poudre River - Cameren Shinabery
Aug 15-17	Yampa River - Dates to be determined - Host: Dennis Cook
Late Sep	Frying Pan - Dates to be determined - Host: Ben Zomer
Oct 7	Poudre River - Host: Mark Miller

Questions? Contact: **Mark Miller** or 970-744-8229 (cell).

Sustaining Donors

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