The Flypaper

April 2021



Conserving, Restoring and Protecting Coldwater Fisheries in Northern Colorado

Renew Membership

Volunteer

Join RMFTU

From the President



I hope this Newsletter finds everyone doing well. And I hope everyone was able to dig out after that huge snowstorm without too much trouble. I had just cleared a narrow strip on my driveway – just enough to get one car out of the garage, when the city plow went by. Then I went to work on the four foot high berm that was deposited at the end of my driveway. I imagine that also happened to many of you. No complaints from me though. The city had a huge task to get just the main roads cleared, and I think they did a pretty great job!

We have had quite a few changes over the last few months in our Board of Directors and in our Leadership Council. And here is another big change: Our webmaster, Paul Wehr, has decided it is time for him to step down. Needless to say, I was sorry to hear this, but I understand. Paul has done so much for our chapter in so many ways, and he has been our 'Rock' when it comes to our website, since about 2004. So, Paul, our hat is off to you. Saying 'Thanks' does not even

come close to what many of us feel for what you have done for our chapter. We have a sincere and deep appreciation for all your efforts over so many years. Now I hope you will have more time for fishing . . . maybe? I certainly hope so. You deserve it! You have made an incredibly positive impact on the chapter. Thank you so much!

Next I'd like to take a moment of your time to talk about Fund Raising. First and foremost, "Thank You" for being a member of Rocky Mountain Flycasters (RMF). I know you are already familiar with Trout Unlimited's mission to conserve, protect and restore trout fisheries and their watersheds for generations to come, and our vision to see robust populations of native and wild trout thriving in Colorado. But we do need your help, as described in the next two paragraphs.

This year, and the next few years, will present some difficult challenges for Rocky Mountain Flycasters. First is the response to the record-setting wildfires of 2020. At this time we are not yet sure how our chapter can assist the USFS in recovery efforts. But we do think there will be some very short-notice requests for volunteer help this spring prior to run-off. Once we get the needed information and dates, we will get it out to you immediately.

The other huge project – yes, you guessed it – is the Poudre Headwaters Project (PHP), which will restore the Greenback Cutthroat Trout to its native habitat high up in the Poudre headwaters area. This project is severely underfunded. We hope that there will be some successful applications for various grants to move this project along. And we will also be asking our members to help if they can. But I want to say this first – please don't feel pressured to give. We all have differing financial situations, and we all receive numerous requests throughout the year for our hard-earned money. Only you can decide what is right for you. If you do consider donating to your chapter, you can rest assured that your dollars will be well-spent on conservation and education projects that really matter.

Also in this Newsletter is a short article about our chapter's new Logo. We sincerely hope you like it. I am looking forward to getting a new hat and shirt with the new Logo. Having said that, I'll always have warm feelings for the old Logo, and will still wear my older hats and shirts with RMF pride! The old Logo served us well, and I'm sure the new one will as well, for many years to come.

What else is happening with our chapter you ask? Good question! I already mentioned the record setting wildfires we experienced in 2020. The Cameron Peak Fire burned approximately 65% of the Black Hollow drainage at a moderate or severe burn level. This amount of burn severity is expected to generate an enormous amount of excessive runoff, mud, silt and ash over the next five-years. Since Black Hollow is a tributary of the Poudre River, all that material will run downhill into the Poudre.

RMF hopes to help mitigate this impact to the Poudre in any way we can. Dick Jeffries, our Conservation Committee lead, recently spent numerous hours writing a grant application for the Colorado Rivers Fund. We hope to be awarded this grant which will help cover some costs for the work planned for Black Hollow Creek. I'll keep you informed, in future newsletters, as things progress.

That's all I have for now. Have a good month, and please stay safe. And get that fishing gear ready – spring fishing is just around the corner! And for those of you who like to take fishing photos, I'd love to see your photos posted on our Facebook or Instagram page. If you are not sure how to do that, feel free to send them to me, and I'll get them posted. Let's have some fun with this!

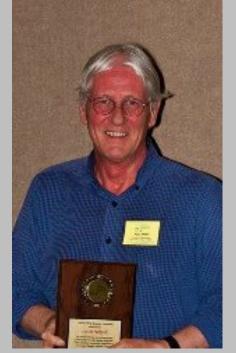
Mark Miller President



Paul Wehr...A Man for All Seasons

Paul Wehr occasionally reminisces about fishing with his father and older brother, and has enshrined several of their rods relinquishing them to only selective, infrequent use for nostalgia renewal. This quiet, unassuming but enduringly energetic gentleman has been a stalwart of our Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter for many years – truly exemplifying the angling axiom "still waters run deep".

Paul and wife Beverly returned from Japan, where both had worked for years as teachers of U.S. government employee expatriate families. Paul joined TU and Rocky Mountain Flycasters in 2004; our chapter was meeting at the Fort Collins Holiday Inn Convention Center at that time. Many



members know Paul as our stalwart webmaster, but most may not realize just how staunch of an overall activities volunteer contributor he has been across many years. Paul enjoys writing computer programming codes.

In 2004 he began, and over the next many years single handedly designed and implemented our chapters' previous website that became RMF's longest consistent communications medium until recently. An exceptional story lies below the surface of this contribution. Paul initiated the design here...and then continued enhancements and maintenance from Germany! That's right, from Germany August 2006 through March 2010 when he and Beverly completed another duty tour with the government's expatriate educational faculty and returned to Fort Collins. Just recently Paul again loyally played a major and final role while supporting RMF's recent transition to a new website before he retired as webmaster...a further tribute to this man's extraordinary commitment serving our Chapter.

Paul "shows up" for substantially all of Rocky Mountain Flycasters many activities including trail maintenance, river

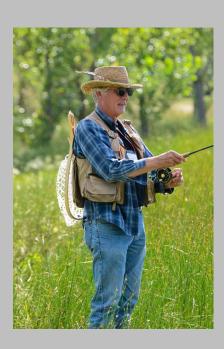
cleanups, conservation work projects, community festivals' booths and many social fishing outings, and also as a long time leadership team member. Paul also has been a stalwart volunteer in virtually every youth activity annually since we began in 2010 - including full weeks of all annual Day Camps. This is truly a man for all seasons!

In 2013 Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter began presenting Member Recognition Awards to acknowledge those who volunteer and support chapter activities and projects generously, and who contribute their capabilities, quality participation and enthusiasm. Recognition Awards have been presented for seven of those nine years, and Paul was a recipient in four of those seven years: 2013 & 2018 - Outstanding Chapter Volunteer, 2019 - Exemplary Youth Education, and 2021 - Exemplary Chapter Function (for implementation of RMF's new website - shared with Zach Jory)...more awards than any other chapter member!

Paul Wehr truly is a model volunteer and chapter friend, and members who know him admire him!

Dennis Cook











RMF Introduces New Logo





This month, Rocky Mountain Flycasters is unveiling a new logo that we will begin to use across all of our digital channels, in print and on RMFTU merchandise.

With input from the board, and several rounds of revisions based on collective feedback, we landed on the new logo you see above. There are three reasons the leadership council decided it was time for a new logo:

- Aesthetic. Organizations tend to update logos about once per decade so they look current and relevant. The previous logo had been in existence for well over a decade, so it was time for a fresh look.
- The previous logo was not ideal for use in new digital applications. The new design is more compatible with the myriad of technological devices where we most commonly showcase our logo.
- The new design is better suited for embroidering on RMFTU merchandise.

We hope you like the design. In the near future, RMFTU merchandise with the new logo will be available in the online store. Today, we have new logo stickers that you can use to proudly display your commitment to coldwater conservation and education. If you'd like a couple stickers, check out our Facebook or Instagram pages where we will be running a contest and giving away free stickers to the winners.



RMF Annual Fundraising Program

2020 was an important year, financially, for RMF -- as our chapter set the course to assure funding for our essential programs.

RMF established a Fundraising Policy, formed the Financial Development Committee, launched an annual fundraising program to strengthen current relationships and expand our mission to new audiences, and contracted with a professional grants writer. I am honored to have the responsibility to lead RMF's fundraising, along with a committee of 10 highly talented volunteer members.

MORE FUNDING FOR MORE PROGRAMS -- Your Financial Development Committee is focused upon funding RMF's mission, including our high priority upon native trout recovery, the Poudre Headwaters Project to restock the threatened Greenback Cutthroat Trout in their native habitat, and restoration activity to speed habitat recovery following the Cameron Peak Fire. RMF has created multiple opportunities for members, volunteers and the community to support RMF financially. And your Board of Directors works hard to ensure your hard-earned dollars will be well-spent.

The focus this year is upon these fundraising tactics:

- Describe the history of our chapter's programs in Northern Colorado and opportunities to Support Rocky Mountain Flycasters, including funding needed for our chapter's signature conservation project, the Poudre Headwaters Project
- Solicit contributions from individuals and businesses/organizations (RMF members will receive an email from President Mark Miller in April).
- Seek grants from foundations (via the tremendous work being led by our Vice President, Dave Beede)
- Conduct Online Raffles (via the tremendous work that has been lead by our Secretary, Jeannie Weaver)
- Sell RMF-branded merchandize on the RMF website
- Thank all donors at Holiday & Donor Recognition Party in December
- Celebrate fly tying and raise funds at RMF's annual Fly Tying Expo in February

If you have suggestions for fundraising or would like to help in any way, please reach out to me at financialdev@rockymtnflycasters.org

Ron Hanser RMF Financial Development



Conservation News

Lone Pine Project Volunteer links are now active.

The Conservation Committee is pleased to announce an early opportunity for Volunteers to get out and work on a project directed toward protecting riparian habitat in the Poudre River watershed. The project is a collaboration between RMF and Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and we hope to receive partial funding through a grant from Colorado Trout Unlimited.

This project will build approximately one-half mile of wildlife-friendly fencing to protect riparian habitat along Lone Pine Creek, a naturally reproducing brown trout fishery on the Lone Pine Unit of Cherokee State Wildlife Area, located approximately 30 miles NW of Fort Collins. The goal is to reverse the negative impacts of cattle grazing by isolating cattle from specific reaches of the creek, including beaver ponds.

Click the button below for registration, full description, maps and directions. It is estimated that the two-day project will require 8-10 volunteers working each day.



Member Profile



Meet Ruthie Ketola Director at Large

Hello y'all!

I have so much gratitude for my childhood, as I was raised by passionate family members to love, appreciate, and respect the outdoors, and all it has to offer. My father is a Finlander from the upper peninsula of Michigan and a career construction manager with US Fish and Wildlife. My maternal grandfather was a Michigan wildlife officer and published wildflower photographer. Their influence on my life was powerful. My father's primary job, building fish hatcheries and National Park visitor centers, allowed our family to live in some pretty cool places, from Minnesota, to Georgia, and finally Colorado. I spent my early

childhood playing lots of sports, backpacking, hunting and fishing, and exploring the woods alongside my dad and two sisters. He taught us how to live with sisu, which is a Finnish life philosophy, and to apply this passion to all areas of life.

After finishing high school in Littleton, CO, I attended CSU for college and majored in biochemistry, and then UNC for nursing school, earning my BSN. When I graduated, I began my nursing career in the neonatal ICU and pediatrics. Ultimately, I took a nurse manager position with a local family practice, Mountain View Family Medicine and Warrior Medical Clinic, where I have now been for 25 years. We provide very personalized care to our family practice patients, as well as teaching them self-knowledge through mindset assessment, so that they can achieve their highest level of health and longevity. One of the tools we utilize is an enneagram based personality assessment called The InnerCompass 9, and I am an enneagram type one, for those of you who are familiar:) Nutrition and fitness is my passion. We are also devoted to mentoring pre-professional students in our clinic. I am fortunate to say that I love coming to work each day.

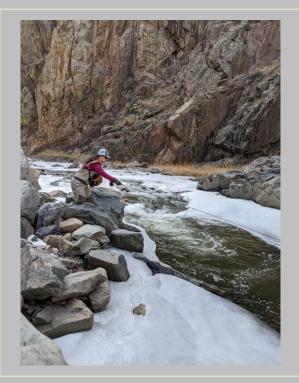
My favorite role though, has been as a mother, and I passionately shared my love of the outdoors with my four children, fishing, camping and hiking throughout Colorado and neighboring states. My adult kids and their families now live in four different states. I am blessed with eight incredible grandchildren who call me Sugar Pie, and I make every effort to be together with my family often, enjoying the outdoors. I subscribe to, and try to model, outdoor ethics such as leave no trace, pack it out, and strive to figure out my role in collectively working toward a healthier planet. So that means I read, listen, talk, donate, volunteer, try to evolve my thinking and alter my habits, and have become obsessive about picking up other people's trash, every single day.

That is what led me to RMF. I joined our chapter in 2011, because I felt a strong desire to give back to the watershed that has given my family so much enjoyment. I was recruited by Dick and Linda Jefferies the following year to fill a vacated Secretary position on the Board of Directors, and it has been such a privilege to be a small part of TU's mission. Currently, I lead our Stream Girls team, participate in chapter diversity efforts, collect monofilament in Fort Collins' natural areas, and work with Phil's stream temperature logging project. I am grateful for the friendships I have formed with all of you like minded folks, and I admire each of you so much. The really cool thing about being a part of TU is that it connects me to the legacy my father and grandfather passed on to me as a protector of our natural resources and as an outdoorswoman.

When I am not working, volunteering, hanging out with family, or on patios with friends, you can find me trail running, backcountry snowshoeing, and four season camping. Fly fishing is a bonus

activity for me, that wonderfully compliments the other sports I love, and I began stashing a light weight fly rod in my backpack in 2011. I am very fond of trips to the Rawahs and glorious RMNP, but some of my favorite places to hunt and fish are our Colorado State wildlife areas, and the North Platte. I look forward, as we all get our COVID vaccines, to the opportunity to meet work, and fish alongside each of you!

Cheers! Ruthie







Let's Go Fishing

I was driving down the road yesterday and thinking about the upcoming fishing trips I've got planned this year with my brother John and other folks, and the 60's song, **JUST A LITTLE BIT OF SOUL** came on and I haven't gotten it out of my mind yet! So, I thought I'd return the favor to chapter members as I list our 2021 chapter fishing trips and the contact information I currently have! So, click on the link, change the word "girl" in the second verse to "fly", and read on ... I will have full details (contact info, group size, logistics) for each trip completed and listed on the chapter website by the April chapter meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 21. Here goes –

Date - Trip - Host - Type Water - Details

June 2 – Red Feather Lakes – Bob Green – Stillwater. Take in this special opportunity to fish private lakes in the mountain setting of Red Feather Lakes. Bring a float tube and look for big browns, rainbows, palaminos, and brookies. Also, an opportunity to fish for Donaldson rainbows in one of 8 lakes. Sort of like riding a mechanical bull and holding on to a fly rod, except you'll be riding in your float tube! Life preservers highly recommended! More details to follow!

July 10 – Rocky Mountain NP/Colorado River Headwaters – Dennis Cook – Small creeks. See "Brookies Galore" article below for details.

July 18 – Long Draw Reservoir – Dave Morse – Stillwater and small creeks/streams. Bears, moose and, and of course cutthroats - oh my! More details to follow.

July 22-25/26 South Park/Dream stream/11 Mile Canyon - Dennis Cook – tailwaters, medium rivers. Easy to moderately difficult wading. More details to follow.

August 22-28 – Yellowstone National Park – Paul Bunker – Large to small rivers, creeks and stillwaters. We will car pool from Ft Collins on Sunday Aug 22 to Canyon Camping area

(about 9 hours, buffalo/idiot jams dependent). Three tent sites are available, each with a 10x10 tent and with up to 2 people per site. Waters to fish will be determined by host depending on flows and water conditions. Hopefully, there will be 2 trips to the NE corner (Lamar River, Slough and Soda Butte Creeks, Trout Lake). We will also hopefully fish the Firehole, Madison, Gibbon and Yellowstone Rivers, and hike into Goose and Grebe Lakes, and discover Carl's Pond. One free day to fish and explore on your own. More details to follow.

September 16 – Rocky Mountain National Park – Art Campfield, Bill Gillett – Small streams. More details to follow.

That's it for now and I invite anyone to host a trip and bring "just a little bit of soul" this season to chapter members. Let me know and I'll help you out any way I can.

Paul Bunker RMF Trip Coordinator





Brookies Galore! Let's Go Fishing



Colorado River Headwaters, RMNP West Slope Saturday, July 10th

The mighty Colorado River presents an entirely different character at about 8,800 feet Rocky Mountain National Park when its wide flat meadow flat reaches leave the Kawuneeche Valley and transition into its headwaters' gentle assent through cool shadows cast by towering spruce and pine. Here it's headwaters take on an entirely new and exciting mystique. Each of its endless meanders holds a new challenge as the river

gently gains elevation and at its upper reaches pass through the historic Lulu City mining town's ghostly remains several miles enroute, though still well below its 10,184' LaPoudre Pass origin high above.

For a short distance, at first...you might encounter a Plein Aire artist in a nearby meadow off to your right trying to capture in his brush strokes the grandeur of the Grand Canal hanging from the majestic peaks immediately to the West, just after a young couple has flitted by you with hands clasped eagerly seeking a hidden niche to share moments, or you spy through the brush an elderly couple on lawn chairs in the shade of a sprawling fir reading and enjoying warmth radiating from the meadow's sun line - all of them escaping life's fast pace.

One can't walk these banks without reflecting upon the history that unfolded along these same banks a hundred years ago. And then suddenly behind you, just out of sight there sounds thundering hoof beats that send chills up your back...and you freeze in your tracks and slowly turn your head to see a large moose bull hurrying off across yet another small meadow into the trees edge. He probably had been guardedly watching several turns back when you were noisily crossing the stream where it had already narrowed a bit. What a wonderland where every bend holds a new scene, a new allure, a new mystery that peaks your imagination.

These historic headwaters are such an easy walk that it's never tiring. Along your stroll you will be traversing beneath the peaks of the Never Summer Range whose spine boasts the Continental Divide; it's almost surreal. And then when the afternoon shadows begin to lengthen and you know you should probably turn around, there's always another, and another beautiful pool just ahead at the next bend...and the next...and so on. The beauty is magnetic; I always can hardly allow myself to turn around...but of course, I must, and I begin the quiet walk back downstream, drinking in again the feelings I'd experienced as I again revisit so many of the familiar scenes that had first engulfed me a quarter century earlier.

I've personally experienced every one of these actual occurrences and more, on this my absolutely favorite stretch of pristine, Colorado mountain stream. For me, it offers the essence of fly fishing. And you too can experience this almost out-of-body peacefulness...and "Oh, yes", I almost forgot to mention...you can also easily have a 45-50 fish day, not to mention all the spine-tingling misses that wriggled off your hook. Big fish? No, but many high personality, colorful brookies plus an occasional cutt as you gradually wade higher.

This is a perfect outing for experienced anglers to unwind and laugh at themselves a lot, and for new anglers to learn a lot of valuable insights about how to read water and 'fish a river'.

Details: 7:00am carpools depart from the Jax Outdoors (Loveland) store. Riders share gas expenses to the drivers; lunch is together sharing stories on the river, so bring water and pack snacks in your creel. An option for each car is the choice to grab a bite in Estes Park homeward, and to be home before 8:00pm. More details provided in plenty of time for you to prepare. To sign up, or if you've any questions, contact Trip Coordinator, Dennis Cook at 372-9229 or email rkymtnangler@Q.com.

Dennis Cook



Vince Herrera's St. Peter's Fly Fishing Report for April



It's Spring time in The Rockies! It seems like the calendar just turned over yesterday, but we are already a third of the way through 2021. Just like the first 3 months, the next 3 will fly by as well. I hope everyone has some trips on the books for early spring because it seems this year, we will have to go off the grid if we want to get away from people. With an influx in new anglers in the summer of 2020, we will see some of our secret spots become not so secret anymore and this is great because we will be able to venture out and see some new water. Winter was nice but it's about time it gets out of here. Bring on the sunshine and the fishing, water is open, and the fish are ready to eat. I just want to remind everyone that the rivers we fish are a finite resource. I want my kids to catch fish, you want your grandkids and kids to catch fish. We can only do so by taking care of

our fisheries. Pick up trash when you see it, keep the fish wet, pinch your barbs and always catch and release.

April brings some big changes to both the outdoors and business. Just so you guys can get started on the right foot we have several classes and events on the agenda for St. Peters. Before you forget, you have until Friday, April 2nd to drop off your reels for our free annual reel and line cleaning. We will dust off the cobwebs, apply some line dressing and evaluate the condition of your reel and fly line. We want you to have a good time out there fishing and it starts with some fresh fly line. We will request that you leave your reels with us for a day or two so if you have

plans to fish, try and go first. Aside from that there is also a few more days to get signed up for our April 10th Trout Behavior class. This is a 35 dollar class that I wish I was able to take when I started fly fishing. We study entomology and what a good dead drift looks like, but half of the battle is figuring out what the fish want. In this class we go over how a fish interacts with its environment to not only survive but also find food and remain feeding which allows us to catch them. Sign up at the Old Town shop and you'll shortly hit the water with a lot more confidence. With runoff and high alpine fishing right around the corner there are 2 presentations you won't want to miss. One will be Stillwater Fishing on April 14th to cover some of the tips and tactics we will want to apply once some lakes open in the high alpine. This is a short season that can yield some pretty big fish by using some not so hard techniques. The other class is our Spey Casting Demo. Spey fishing isn't something you would think about using on the Poudre River but how else am I going to pound the opposite bank with a streamer during runoff. All jokes aside, this technique does allow you to 1. Cover plenty of water, quickly and 2. Allows you to make a back cast when we are up against the bank during high water. I've used this technique for dry flies, nymphs, and streamers so there must be a pretty good excuse as to why you wouldn't want to learn. This class is on April 15th from 5-6pm at The Poudre River. It won't be hands on learning but getting a pulse on whether you think it would be worth learning. I also forgot to mention that they are both free! Call the Old Town Shop to sign up. These classes kick off the spring so there are always more chances throughout the Summer and Fall to do a class with us.

Our local waters have really started to open since that last heaping of snow. On warm days we see the flows at The Poudre Canyon Mouth touch 125 cfs where on the cooler days it hovers around 80-90 cfs. This is great water for early spring and hopefully runoff will last a little but longer this year. The Big Thompson has struggled with flows and Lake Estes will probably be holding water just for a couple more weeks and until then the flows will maintain a steady 10-30 cfs. This makes the fishing a little harder due to the little amount of public water and large amount of people. I would put my money on The Poudre Canyon if you want to catch several fish. Be on the look out for the morning midge hatches (see photo below) and those great afternoon Blue Wing Olive hatches. My go to dry fly rigs has been a size 20 Biot Midge followed by size 22 cream sprout midge or a size 22 shucking midge. If I see Blue Wings hatching, I'll put on a size 22 CDC Baetis Dun with a size 20 Film Critic Blue Wing Olive 16 inches behind the first fly. This captures the adult life cycle of a dun as well as the emerging sequence right before sprouting into an adult dun. This is all stuff that will be covered in detail in our On the Water Entomology class. If you've ever been on the water wondering why a fish swims up to but won't eat your adult dry fly then this is the class for you. With these things on your mind, it should be easy to go out there and wrangle up a couple trout. It's time to get back outside and get some Vitamin D or some Vitamin F for Fish! If we could be of any assistance, please let us know. We love answering questions and helping so don't hesitate. It's go time and we cannot wait to see your smiling faces!



Midge Hatch on the Poudre



Time to Renew Your Colorado Fishing License

By the time you read this, your 2020 Fishing License will have expired. If you have not already done so, you can renew on line, by phone or at your local fly shops. The link below will take you to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) website for complete information.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Website



Video of the Month



We Love the Rocky Mountains! A video by Mark Miller!

Videos posted here are available for free on the internet and for your enjoyment. RMFTU receives no compensation and implies no endorsement for products or services.



Upcoming Events

April 14 Board Meeting

The Rocky Mountain Flycasters Leadership Board Meeting. If you would like to attend please contact the board secretary Jeannie Weaver at www.weaver1917@icloud.com.

RMF Calendar

April 21
General Membership Meeting

Join the General Meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, April 21 at 7 PM.

https://zoom.us/j/98041306130? pwd=ZGFlekVmZ09uSENIL1U2a3M0MkJ VUT09

Meeting ID: 980 4130 6130

Passcode: 238296

One tap mobile

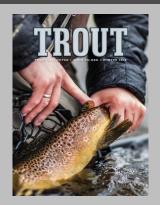
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