ROCKY MOUNTAIN

100

The Flypaper



Well, the days are already getting longer, and that really makes me happy! Hope it has that effect on you also? And for those of us that don't fish much or at all during the winter months, springtime and fly fishing are not too far off. At least that is what I keep telling myself. Before long I'll be chomping at the bit for sure.

As you know, February is our main fundraising event of the year. Our annual Fly Tying Expo has always been a big hit with our members and non-members alike. This year's Expo is titled "Out with the Virus, and in with the Vises". And yes, this Expo will be quite different from prior years to say the



least, since we must meet virtually. But rest assured, we have a great line-up of well-known tiers, and some pretty nice items for the on-line auction. I am excited that the following pros have raised their hands to support this event which is so important to our chapter, and I thank them sincerely:

Rick Takahashi • Grant Houx. • Dick Shinton. • Chris Krueger. • Eric Pettine. • Marty Staab

You'll have the chance to watch each tier in action. We'll let you all know how this works on Zoom right at the beginning of the Expo on Feb 17^{th} .

New Board Members: Another warm welcome to Dave Beede, our new VP, and to Ronald Hanser, who raised his hand to take our Financial Development chair. See their introductory articles later in this newsletter.

I also wanted to recognize our November award winners, who have gone the extra mile to help keep our chapter running. Thanks so much for the gift of your time. You have made a huge difference for our chapter!

- Exemplary Conservation Volunteers; Roger Slocomb and Ted Sammond.
- Exemplary Youth Education Volunteers; Bob Castner, Scott Gould, and Dennis Galyardt and Amy Galyardt.
- Exemplary Chapter Function Leadership; Paul Wehr, Zach Jory, Jeannie Weaver, and Ryan Hogan.

And one more article that is a 'must read', Dick Jeffries wrote a great recap of where we are in regards to last summer's fires and Poudre Headwaters Projects.

Last, I have one more thought on this month's Expo: We all love good deals, right? The only thing better than a good deal is a great deal. However, RMF's Fly Fishing Expo is our biggest and best opportunity of the year to do some serious fundraising. I'm hoping everyone, if able, will consider digging a little deeper, giving **a** little more than you may have planned. Every little bit makes a difference. Every additional project we can complete makes a difference. Every youth education effort we complete makes a difference. In the end, we can realize that all of the small steps forward really do add up to something much bigger. And we can all take pride in being part of that. Thank you!

Have a good month, and please stay safe. Until next time,

<u>Mark Miller</u> President

Rocky Mountain Flycasters 2021 (Virtual) Fly Tying Expo



Out With The Virus And In With The Vises

On February 17, this two-hour virtual event will provide a great way to virtually connect with the local fly flshing and conservation community, bid on some great items in the silent auction and watch 6 of the region's most talented fly tiers take you through how to tie favorite flies. The silent auction opens a week before the Expo, allowing plenty of time for attendees to pre-bid on auction items. Winners will be announced during the virtual Expo.

Buy tickets and pre-bid onitemsat

www.rmfexpo2021.givesmart.com

We have 6 tiers that will each cover a pattern. The fantastic lineup of tiers for the 2021 Expo are:

- Grant Houx
- Dick Shinton
- Chris Krueger
 Eric Pettine
- Marty Staab
- Rick Takahashi

FEBRUARY 17, 2021 7 PM – 9 PM \$20 PER TICKET Funds Raised Support Local Coldwater Conservation And Education Projects



Conservation News

Is this it? Is this the year we see the end of masking, social distancing, forest fires, drought...? Let's all keep our fingers crossed and say whatever silent prayer to whomever you

do such a thing, that we begin to see a return to what we now consider, "Those good old days"!

As we know 2020 was a challenging year and I will not assume to know how each of you was personally challenged this past year. I will, however, share with you some challenges faced in our conservation efforts this past year, some successes we realized, and most importantly what lies ahead. Included in this synopsis are some impacts of the Cameron Peak Fire. As humans, we tend to take great pride in accomplishments and deeds both large and small. I am struggling to find the pride in knowing the now largest wildfire in the history of Colorado is located right in our own back yard but, I am open to suggestion. Yikes!! Enough of that though. Let's get to news and notes.

Native Trout Restoration

On July 28th over 700 native Greenback Cutthroats were released into the East Fork of Roaring Creek, representing the first population restored in any Poudre Canyon tributary since the Greenback species was rediscovered in 2012. The effort looked a little different this time due to mandatory social distancing requirements. 43 volunteers and 15 agency staff (CPW & USFS) managed a series of staggered start times, maintained social distancing, and backpacked trout into different reaches in groups of less than 10 people each. The area the fish were stocked in was a more strenuous trek than normal but, first stocking of Greenbacks into new habitat on an important Poudre River tributary was a success. Our thanks go out to all the volunteers and agency partners, the effort was a huge success! If you have not seen it, please take a few minutes to watch the video that highlights some great moments from that day. You can view the video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Zd7UN2MV0k

Poudre Headwaters Project

In support of the Poudre Headwaters Project, Dr. Yoichiro Kanno and his graduate student Audrey Harris are conducting a study to characterize gene flow of non-native Brook Trout. This important research will provide crucial



scientific support for the Poudre Headwaters Project by evaluating brook trout spatial population structure in the reclamation area. Last summer's field work included several days where RMF volunteers assisted Audrey in data collection. This fascinating field work acutely reflects Trout Unlimited's commitment to supporting science-based efforts. I invite you to read a wonderful article about this exciting research. You will find it begins on page 6 at:

<u>https://watercenter.colostate.edu/colorado-water-archive/</u> This article is reprinted with permission of the Colorado Water Center at Colorado State University. Harris, A., Kanno, Y. (2020, December). Characterizing Gene Flow of Non-native Brook Trout to Aid Colorado's Largest Native Cutthroat Trout Restoration Project. Colorado Water. 37(3), Pages 6-8.

Covid-19 hammered any opportunity for RMF volunteers to work with the US Forest Service last year on the Poudre Headwaters Project. With luck, 2021 will provide new opportunities as the project continues to move forward. If you have not heard or read about the Poudre Headwaters Project, you can find more information on our RMF YouTube Channel –

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3pR2WCILTE

I encourage you to sign up at our volunteer portal to register interest in available PHP volunteer opportunities in 2021. <u>https://rmftu.ivolunteer.com/</u>

Cameron Peak Fire

Obviously, the big news of the year. The burn area is now listed at just under a remarkable 209,000 acres spread across parts of both the Cache La Poudre and Big Thompson drainages. I describe the amount of burn area as remarkable when one considers just 20 years ago there had been no fires in Colorado that burned more than 100,000 acres. Since 2002, six fires alone have burned just under 900,000 acres.

On the Rocky Mountain Flycasters website we made available some great information about post-fire impacts of the Cameron Peak Fire. More information than we could possibly share in this newsletter so, please use this link to find the Cameron Peak Fire

info: https://rmftu.org/cameron-peak-fire-recovery

Containment of the fire occurred shortly before the first significant snowfall at elevation. That snow remains and prevents the ability to physically access sites to ground truth what has been evidenced by satellite information and other electronic measurement methods. This means it will be some time this coming Spring before more 'actionable' information can be gathered. It is known that you do not escape a 209,000-acre fire unscathed. Especially, when that fire has occurred in an area as widely used and one so important a source of municipal water supplies.

Rocky Mountain Flycasters is actively and appropriately engaging post-fire recovery efforts as we can. We have members currently participating on the Water Recovery Workgroup. This workgroup is but one of several workgroups that make up the Larimer County Recovery Collaborative. The Water Recovery Workgroup is focusing on water related post-fire impacts specific to: Health and Safety; Property and, Environment. It is under the subsection of environment where we plan to be the most helpful in addressing issues regarding coldwater fisheries, macroinvertebrates, rivers and streams, and riparian areas.

It is possible that we will have need for volunteers as early as this coming Spring to assist on projects prior to runoff and especially those considered to be extremely important in scope. We will keep everyone informed regarding news and progress.

One last, and possibly unfortunate item to note is, we are yet unsure of the impacts the fire had on the recently stocked Greenbacks in the East Fork of Roaring Creek. That area is listed as a severe burn area and until we can get in and survey, we will not know if the fish made it through the fire. It is our sincere hope they were able to find areas of refuge during the fire that enabled them to survive.

If you have interest in volunteering with Rocky Mountain Flycasters, please visit our volunteer portal to register. <u>https://rmftu.ivolunteer.com/</u> It is the best way we can keep in touch with you about upcoming volunteer opportunities.

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to email me at: <u>conserve@rockymtnflycasters.org</u>

Enough news for now. Stay Safe. Stay well!!

<u>Dick Jefferies</u> Conservation Committee Chair "Who hears the rippling of rivers will not utterly despair of anything" – Henry David Thoreau



Member Profile



Meet Dave Beede, Vice-President

It's great to be back in Colorado after being away for 48 years! I grew up on a farm near Rocky Ford in the Arkansas Valley, and graduated from CSU in 1973 with a degree in animal science.

We moved back to Fort Collins 3 years ago after I retired from Michigan State University.

I've been a Life Member of Trout Unlimited (TU) for over 20 years. While in Michigan I participated several times in Michigan TU's intensive 3-day Fly Fishing School on the Boardman River held annually since 1971 to

introduce people to TU programs and improve fly fishing skills for people at all levels. Yes, that's a Michigan steelhead on the Muskegon River in late October spey casting with a tube fly.

Shortly after arriving back in Fort Collins I began connecting with Rocky Mountain Flycasters (RMF), first by attending the 2019 Volunteer Orientation Meeting at Odell Brewery, then monthly chapter and Board and Leadership Council meetings to learn more about chapter activities and to find some fishing buddies!

A main emphasis for me in 2021 as vice-president is to help facilitate grant seeking opportunities to find more financial resources for the Chapter's current and future projects to achieve our conservation mission for Northern Colorado's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds for current and future generations. I also serve at the pleasure of President Mark Miller and am a member

of the Conservation Committee and the Financial Development Committee.

A call out to all RMF members --- if you have ideas for potential sources of funding for projects such as the Poudre Headwaters Project - Greenback Reintroduction, fire impact remediation, Youth Camp, Veterans Support Programs or suggestions for other possible chapter community and public engagement and conservation activities please contact me: <u>cowtrout@gmail.com</u>.

In my 38-year career first at the University of Florida and then at Michigan State University I was involved in research, extension-outreach, and teaching in the animal sciences, specializing in dairy cattle management and mineral nutrition. I continue to write and edit for professional journals and popular publications in the animal sciences.

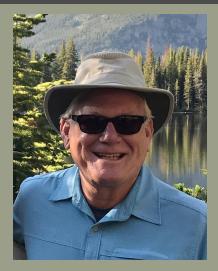
I do have some previous non-fly fishing connections with coldwater fisheries. I was very involved in research and education of dairy nutritionists, consultants, and farmers to reduce the amount of dietary phosphorus (P) fed to cows in upper Midwest dairy farms. This in turn decreased P runoff from farm cropland and contamination into the surrounding natural ecosystems including coldwater streams. The excess P otherwise binds with dissolved oxygen in the water causing eutrophication and killing aquatic organisms including fish. Results of this work were adopted by the National Research Council (National Academy of Sciences) to reduce the national dietary P recommendations for dairy cattle.

Currently I am learning spey casting and Euro-nymphing techniques. My wife Karen and I live in northeast Fort Collins with our yellow Lab and 2 house cats. I'm looking forward to a great 2021. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Member Profile

Meet Ronald Hanser, Director at Large

My four-decade-long career has been in public relations strategy, marketing and government relations. I managed those functions at Midwest-based large corporations. Then, in 1996, I founded Des Moines-based Hanser & Associates, a national PR firm that serves clients in agriculture/natural resources, energy/environmental, financial, healthcare/medical, technology and other industries. Clients have included nonprofits and 16 publicly traded companies (including Fortune 500 companies), primarily in the USA. I've served as an international leader in the profession, including as chairmen of our global network and board member of PR Council, the international trade association.



I retired in 2015; and my wife, Bonnie, and I moved to Loveland. We've been married 49 years, and have three children and five grandchildren.

My interest in fly fishing (for trout) began in Iowa's coldwater limestone streams in the Driftless region in the 1980s, and I introduced my children to the sport as part of teaching them to enjoy and conserve nature. Today, my children and grandchildren all enjoy fly fishing.

In addition to fishing and family time, my hobbies include reading (history and adventure), travel (every state in USA and 17 countries, thus far), and photography (nature primarily). All will be resumed post-COVID.

While living in Iowa, I was involved in the Driftless chapter of TU, so looked forward to becoming a member of RMF as soon as I moved to Colorado in 2017. I'm attracted to TU by opportunities to make new friends who are interested in fly fishing, and to contribute to conservation of our coldwater resources.

In 2019, Mickey McGuire (RMF's past-president) asked me to help shape RMF's financial development policy, and later to chair our new Financial Development Committee. It is a

pleasure to help guide RMF's annual fundraising plan, which is central to fulfilling our mission: conserve, protect and restore coldwater fisheries. Next, I was asked to serve on the board of directors.

Some of my favorite local fishing places are:

- Big T in RMNP, and the North Fork near Glen Haven;
- Poudre's South Fork and Big South, Joe Wright Creek and Neota Creek;
- Yampa River and Elk River near Steamboat Springs.

My "best fishing stories" involve dropper rigs; my favorite fly setup is a large dry with a small BH nymph below. "The rest of the story" is likely more about luck than skill, as I frequently catch two fish simultaneously. These events bring the streamside nickname "Double Ron" – even when the combined length of the fish is often less than 12 inches.

Leadership Opportunities



NEW PATHS

To say that the past ten months have been difficult would be a huge understatement. But finally, markers are appearing suggesting families are beginning to take charge of their own personal circumstances and are identifying ways to cope and gradually start moving forward. They're finding new ways to relate, to become active again, and are building new paths along the way.

Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter is no different. Membership meetings were only temporarily interrupted we thought, but that has continued far longer than we'd imagined. Virtual meetings have helped somewhat, but as spring begins to approach it's time that we, just like our families, begin to build new paths toward safely beginning return to normal – to begin resuming some sense of normalcy, reaffirming friendships and re-bonding with our revered riparian outdoors.

Your Chapter Board and Leadership Council have persevered and maintained sociallydistanced, communications, emails and Zoom meetings, and are discussing practical ways to proceed. And one major theme has loudly resonated in our meetings: *We need more new blood across all of our leadership ranks!* We need improved communications with, and among our membership.Most of us have been part of the leadership team for multiple years, and we need more ideas from beyond our well-intended but traditional thinking. *That points us to YOU!* Two members recently volunteered to fill vacant positions – Dave Handshue as Newsletter Editor, and Paul Bunker as Fishing Fun Trips Coordinator, and both have already created new energies!

Now, it's time for more members to step forward – to share their ideas and energies to make something different happen! Invite another member friend to virtually join heads with you and contact our leadership team members to discuss your ideas and how they could become part of a new path.

Six vacant positions currently are posted on our chapter's RMFTU.org website and listed below. Please visit them and investigate where, how you can fit. You can! Investigation and discussion can't hurt! It can only help build new paths in some new direction toward understanding, if not immediately then at some future time. And keep visiting the site, because more new opportunities will be posted.

- Treasurer https://rmftu.ivolunteer.com/leadership_volunteers_treasurer
- Membership Chairperson
 <u>https://rmftu.ivolunteer.com/leadership_volunteers_memberservices</u>
- Social Media

- <u>Coordinator https://rmftu.ivolunteer.com/leadership_volunteers_socialmedia</u> Coordinator, Adult
- <u>Education https://rmftu.ivolunteer.com/leadership_volunteers_adulteducation</u>
 <u>Coordinator, Trout in the</u>
- <u>Classroom https://rmftu.ivolunteer.com/leadership_volunteers_ticcoordinator</u>
 <u>Coordinator, Youth Day</u>
- Camp https://rmftu.ivolunteer.com/leadership_volunteers_youthdaycamp

Dennis Cook Leadership Development



Chapter Fishing Trips

One of my favorite lines from the movie "A River Runs Through It", and there are many, is when Paul suggests to Norman after a disastrous day on the water - "Hey Norm … we'll come back here tomorrow, wipe this day off the books!" Here is a <u>link</u> for the curious …

If you're like me, this can be aptly applied to 2020 and all the plans for fishing trips that turned out to be simply that, plans and disappointments. But 2021 is a whole new year and the promise of tight lines and jumping trout are something to look forward to, so let the planning, dreaming and scheming process begin ...

Thus far, we have several trips planned for 2021, COVID protocols dependent of course. Day trips to Rocky Mountain National Park, Red Feather Lakes, and Long Draw Reservoir are currently on the books, and there are multi-day trips to South Park and Yellowstone National Park in the works. Plus, there will be short notice trips to support our efforts in the Poudre Headwaters Project (PHP).

INTERESTED IN HOSTING A TRIP

Hosting doesn't require much and can be an awesome way to meet chapter members and show them places and spaces that you are passionate about. As a host, all you have to do is set the time and place for a small group to gather, then head off to your magical waters. You set the number of guests, suggest the gear they may need, and point them in the right direction when you get to your spot.

As trip coordinator, I'll help you with the communication details and assist with logistics where needed. All you need is an idea. I'll be your advocate and try to round up folks to <u>share in your</u> <u>secret shame ...</u>

And for those of you who aren't quite ready to commit to being a host, let me know if there is a stretch of water you'd be interested in learning how and where to fish. I'll try my best to "hook" you up with someone who knows the knots.

Stay tuned!

Thanks. Stay safe, stay well.

Paul Bunker

Trip Coordinator

- July 10 RMNP, Colorado Headwaters; Dennis Cook, Host
- July TBD Long Draw Reservoir; Dave Morse, Host
- July 23-26 South Park; Dennis Cook, Host
- Aug 22-28 Yellowstone National Park; Paul Bunker, Host
- Sept 16 Rocky Mountain National Park; Art Campfield/Bill Gillett, Hosts
- TBD Red Feather Lakes; Bob Green, Host
- TBD TBD, Eric Pettine, Host
- TBD Poudre Headwaters Project opportunities

2020 Trip Photos

-



Long Draw Reservoir



Long Draw Reservoir



Long Draw Reservoir



Long Draw Reservoir



Long Draw Reservoir



Yellowstone NP



Yellowstone NP



Yellowstone NP



Yellowstone NP



Yellowstone NP



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



January is now officially behind us. I don't know if I have been fishing too much or tying too much but the first month of the year just flew by. Hopefully everyone is finding little ways to improve their angling skills and or getting prepped for the spring season. If you are anything like me, you can't wait to get back out there on some open water on a warm spring day. We are slowly inching our way towards some more fishing opportunities. Everything has been frozen for the last couple of months, so we have turned on over to our tailwaters within the region. There have been many days where tailwater fishing has caught me some of my largest fish but also there have been times where I'm left broken hearted and going home skunked. I have found over the years that techniques used for tailwater fishing can be utilized on a freestone stream, but

it is somewhat difficult to carry freestone techniques over to tailwaters. It is all because of the two very different ecosystems. On February 6th, this coming Saturday, I will be teaching Technical Tailwaters. In this class I will cover not only technique, but bugs, rigs and much more. It is a 35 Dollar class packed with tons of juicy info that will allow you to really dial in your skills as a tailwater angler. Feel free to give us a call to sign up. I will host this class on zoom and in person so limited availability will apply. For those of us looking for a couple of closer tailwaters start to watch flows below Seaman Reservoir at Gateway Natural Area. Here water has been scarce, but this will push big fish into deep pools. This is generally where you tend to find the fish at this time of year. The deep pools are where the water is the warmest and slowest creating ideal holding and feeding lines. You can fish below Lake Estes where we have seen flow between 20 and 30 cfs which isn't too bad for winter and if you feel like making a drive you should check out the Arkansas Tailwater in Pueblo or The Grey Reef in Alcova, Wyoming. These fisheries are about 3 hours away but the fish you will encounter make every mile worth it.

You all know that if I'm not fishing or working, I'm at home tying. To me it is probably the best thing about this activity. Catching big fish is amazing but there's an addiction I have to twisting up several bugs in one sitting. It allows me to meditate and after I'm done, I have enough bugs and more to be prepped for the coming season. The limits are endless when it comes to fly tying and it's a great way to let your creative juices flow. It's also what we do when it's too cold to go fish. If this is an aspect of the sport that seems intimidating or just straight up hard, please come find me. I would love to help you find your balance and your place in the world of fly tying. It is such a



good outlet to let your mind roam free. Now that we are making moves back towards in-person classes we want to give everyone the invitation to come sit in person for our intro to tying

classes. If this is something where you feel more comfortable participating from home, then we are glad to supply you with all the material and document you will need. To sign up, give either shop a call and let them know if you prefer to come sit in or receive the zoom link.

St.Petes, We want to thank everyone who is still helping us keep our lights on. We need human interaction more than ever this year and it's great to know that all of you have our backs. We appreciate your continued support and hope you find some time to fish. Your support does not get taken for granted here at St.Petes. Wash your hands, wear a mask, and use your judgement. Thank you all for making this such a great community to be a part of. Stop by or drop us a line at any time.



From the Editor

Greetings from your new editor. First, I would like to acknowledge Bob Green for his many years of service as newsletter editor. In addition, his willingness to assist and answer my many questions while I get up to speed is very much appreciated.

I came to Colorado from Ohio in 2015. Shortly after arriving, I was walking my dogs in the neighborhood and met Wil Huett. In our conversations that followed, he asked how I would like to get involved with RMF. In passing, I mentioned the newsletter. Wil said Chapter has a fine editor and he didn't expect there would be a need anytime soon. Five years later, he remembered that conversation and I got the call.



The Flypaper is a publication by the membership for the membership. If you have a good fishing story and/or some amazing pictures, there is always room in the newsletter. In this time of COVID and social distancing, we welcome submissions as a way to stay connected and share fishing stories.

Dave Handshue

Editor

"Everyone should believe in something. I believe I'll go fishing," Henry David Thoreau

Leadership Meeting

The Rocky Mountain Flycasters Leadership Meeting will be via Zoom on Wednesday, February 10 at 6:00 PM. If you would like to attend please contact the board secretary Jeannie Weaver at <u>jweaver1917@icloud.com</u>.



Recognition Jackets



COMING SOON TO A STREET CORNER NEAR YOU! RMF MEMBER RECOGNITION AWARDEES' JACKETS

Keep your eyes peeled when we finally resume in-person chapter meetings and as you walk your town streets, and you may see one of your chapter member's sporting his or her new Chapter Recognition Award Rain Jacket.

Pictured above, Chapter Secretary, **Jeannie Weaver** and President, **Mark Mille**r, sport their jackets, flanking our chapter logo that's embroidered on the jacket's right shoulder.

Member awardees for 2019 and 2020 received this distinctive jacket that the Trustee's volunteers, and also five other chapter members did who received Colorado TU recognition for recent chapter volunteer contributions. Future chapter members who are recognized as recipients for chapter award categories defined in our chapter's Member Recognition Awards Procedure, and also future chapter volunteers recognized by CTU for chapter volunteerism, will continue to receive the same style jackets. The procedure for Chapter Awards can be viewed online at https://rmftu.org/rmf-awards.



Video of the Month: Small Stream Colorado



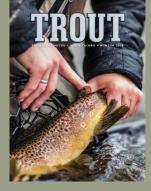
Small Stream Colorado

This month's video features some outstanding footage by Todd Moen.

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.

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St. Peter's Fly Shop





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Ted Sammond Sara Bella Fishing Scheels Sportsman's Warehouse **Robert Streeter** Zen Tenkara Flyfishing 5030 Local **Bernard Birnbaum** Jim Ferguson **Brett Forman** Jimmy Head Jay's Bistro **Phil Keller** Jeannie Weaver **Richard Krebs** Kevin Mabry **Terrance Sullivan**

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Rocky Mountain Flycasters rockymtnflycasters.org P.O. Box 1694, Fort Collins, CO 80524-1694



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