

March 2005

FLY PAPER



President's Beat

We have had many successful events in the last few months. Attendance at the General Membership meetings has been exceptional. The Christmas party was a great social event. A group of dedicated volunteers made the CYO fly tying classes a fun event. Many new fly tyers were introduced to this relaxing and rewarding hobby.

However, there are many disturbing developments that may threaten the cold-water fisheries of our State. Proposed changes to the requirement for bypass flows adequate to support fisheries and recreation may be implemented. The proposal for modification of Rocky Mountain National Park streams and lakes to return to a pre 1840 status is still being developed. What does Larimer County's proposed sale of land that the County owns along the Big Thompson mean to our fishing access?

The Glade reservoir development may impact in-stream flows in parts of the Poudre River. Final decisions on these proposals have not been made. The environmental impact of these proposals has not been researched. It is certainly not clear what proposals or portions thereof that TU should support or oppose. We welcome the participation of our membership in determining our actions. Board meetings are open to all and take place the Tuesday following the General Membership meeting.

www.rockymtnflycasters.com

City Market Cares

City Market and King Soopers have value cards that shoppers use to get discounts at these stores. Chances are you already have one in your wallet. All you need to do to participate in their electronic fundraising program is sign up once. Then each time that you use your card to shop, the amount of your purchase is registered under the charity of your choice. Four times each year, the total amount registered to each charity is computed and a total of \$125,000 is distributed to the charities, proportional to the registered amounts. Colorado Trout Unlimited is one of the registered Charities. If you sign up as a CTU member, your purchases will add to the total. This costs you nothing, and only requires your effort to sign up. Sign up sheets will be available at our General meetings. The CTU funds will support stream improvement statewide through their mini-grant program.



Eagle's Nest Open Space: Willow Cutting

Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter—Colorado Trout Unlimited members journeyed to the Larimer County Eagle's Nest Open Space near Livermore on Saturday, February 26, 2005 to collect willow cuttings for restoration work on the North Fork Poudre River. Charlie Gindler, Larimer County Open Lands Department and new manager of the Eagle's Nest area, met RMF volunteers Ray and Judy Andress, Jim DeMartini, Lee and Greg Evans, Phil Keller, Randy, Allie and Jackson Mergler, Chris Sheafar, Bob Streeter, Martin Vitullo, Paul Wehr, and Phil and Logan Wright, and briefed the group on the background of the Eagle's Nest area, plans for management and opening the site, and status of the project. Charlie pointed out that the first steps were to improve the access road, lay out and construct a trail system, relocate cattle corrals, protect a spring and pipe water to the corrals, rebuild a bridge across the North Fork, and fence off the riparian zone along the North Fork to manage cattle grazing. The Open Lands Department wants to observe the natural reaction to removing the grazing pressure from the North Fork riparian zone prior to doing anything more than plant some native shrubs in some of the most degraded areas.

RMF volunteers followed Charlie across the river to some existing willow areas. The volunteers selected viable willow shoots and harvested approximately 150+ cuttings. Jim DeMartini, Lee Evans, Phil Keller and Randy Mergler volunteered to take the cuttings to their homes to place them in water for rooting. Josh Wykoff of Larimer County Open Lands Department has ordered other native shrubs from the Colorado State Forest Service and has set Saturday, April 16 2005 as the planting day. RMF volunteers will join in aid in the planting of all the shrubs to accelerate the restoration of riparian vegetation along the most degraded sections of the North Fork.

The RMF volunteers were impressed with the Eagle's Nest Open Space and expressed a strong desire to assist County staff in all elements of their work, including trail work, restoration of erosion areas (roads, cattle feeding areas, riparian areas draining into the North Fork, etc.), and future stream bank and bed enhancement work. RMF volunteers donated a total of 45 hours of effort to harvest the willows and to learn more about the area.



Stream Water Quality Measurement

Is the stream that you fish in polluted? Unfortunately, it is likely that no one knows. The Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) has asked Colorado Trout Unlimited to participate in a program to determine water quality in streams that are not currently monitored. These measurements will establish a baseline for future efforts to reduce or eliminate pollution. We do not yet know which streams are to be monitored. But we will be looking for volunteers to monitor stream water quality in area streams identified as critical by the DOW. You will see more information in the near future.

Raffles

At each General Membership Meeting, we hold a raffle. The proceeds of the raffle go towards the renting of the meeting room and various RMFC Projects. This year we will be supporting the printing of the plastic cards identifying fish species in Colorado. These cards allow all fishermen to identify the native Colorado trout species.

RMFC buys some of the raffle items. Local fly shops donate some of the items. And members donate some of the items. If you have a used or new fly-fishing item, for which you have no use, consider bringing it to the meeting and donating it to the raffle table.

Monies earned go toward other Projects such as Eagles Nest, and educational awards. When you come to the meeting, please support the raffle, and maybe win a new rod.

Fishing Winter Tailwaters

by Vince Wilcox



Tail water fisheries by nature have more consistent water temperatures throughout the year and are great to fish anytime of year, especially in the winter months. The days can be short and bitter cold but the crowds have long since subsided, and fishing can be spectacular. We are truly blessed to have the opportunity to fish these waters year round. While many fisherman have already packed up their gear for the winter, I'm getting ready for the next few months of solitude and fun in some of our fabulous tailwaters we have access to within a few hours drive. I will be writing a monthly piece about some of those trips over the course of this winter to inform fisherman of many different fishing possibilities and give them the information to be able to venture out and find success on their own.

I will start this series of articles off on a day of fishing the Big Thompson since it is close enough for most members to get to within an hour. If you don't want to drive 2-4 hours to give winter fishing a try, the Olympus Dam below Estes is an excellent place to wet a line. In a recent outing Steve Solano and I caught well over two dozen fish, mostly comprised of beautiful Rainbows. We were fishing a double nymph rig comprised of a size #18 Lint Bug for the point fly trailing a #20 Chartreuse Little Green Machine. By varying our weight and indicator height while working the water column we were able to find the different feeding zones which will greatly improve your success. Winter fishing can be very technical and will often times require the use of long leaders, light tippet, accurate presentations, and just the right amount of weight if you are nymphing. The takes are often times very subtle and waiting for your indicator to move will not always be effective, watch for any movement and lift slowly. Try rigging the way I explained in the last piece on the TNT. The average size you will catch will be around 10-12", which is not to say there are not plenty of fish in the 14-16" range because there are plenty of those to go around up there as well, with an occasionally larger one. Two days after Steve and I were there I went back up and we only caught six in a few hours so this is where I put in the disclaimer like those weight loss pill commercials, results may vary!

In an effort to help fly fishers catch more fish this winter we will give all card bearing TU members one FREE Lint Bug & one FREE Little Green Machine with any purchase from Angler's Roost up until March 31st. These flies will fish well all year round but can be particularly effective from September through May. I will fish these everywhere with fantastic results so let us know how you do with them. Come get your FREE flies at Angler's Roost. Thanks for reading!

March General Meeting

The Rocky Mountain Fly Casters will meet at the University Park Holiday Inn, 425 W. Prospect, on March 9. Social hour begins at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:30. David Nickum, Executive Director of Colorado trout Unlimited will speak about his fishing experiences in Rocky Mountain National Park. We can also expect an update on the most recent CTU initiatives to restore and protect our cold-water fisheries heritage. Our last few meetings have been well attended. We appreciate your interest. Bring a friend. Admission is free and the public is welcome.



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Calendar of Events

Rocky Mountain Flycasters General Meeting, Wednesday 6:30 PM, March 9 at The University Park Hyatt/Holiday Inn in Ft. Collins.

March Board Meeting on the 14th at The Depot.

The April General Meeting will be on April 13 at 6:30 at the Holiday Inn.

Here are a few fly tying classes and clinics coming up:

St. Peter's in Ft. Collins will have fly tying sessions on Saturdays from 10:00 to Noon throughout March. On the 12th Brad Bischoff will be showing some of his favorite Bighorn flies, on the 19th Chris Schrantz will be tying, and on the 26th Charlie Craven will be twisting up his favorite patterns.

Great Western in Loveland will have the following seminars on Saturday mornings from 10:00 to noon - March 12th Nymphing with Don Davis, March 19th Tying Flies with John Betts, March 26th Trout and Carp of Wyoming's North Platte with Mark Boname, April 2 Fly Fishing the South Platte with Stan Benton and April 9 Fly Fishing the Gunnison with Brad Befus.

Julie Ray of Bob's Fly Tying Specialties will be offering fly tying classes throughout the winter.

Angler's Roost fly tying clinics at their store in Ft. Collins will include Foam flies with Rainy's on March 12th and Dennis Martin spinning deer hair flies on March 26.