



February 2011

The Flypaper

News and Events from the Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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The new expanded Fly Tying Expo is happening February 16 and I believe it is the best ever. We have enlisted a number of tiers who willingly give their time and expertise to help increase your knowledge of fly tying. They also will give the flies they tie at the Expo to some lucky winner of the bucket raffle on their table. We really appreciate their generosity. Note the earlier starting time, 5:30 pm. This will increase our time to catch more tiers in action.

New this year is a silent auction for goods and services donated by the fly shops and some of our members. Since the Expo is our major fund raising activity for the year, I really hope you'll bring your checkbook and freely bid on some of the quality merchandise we will have available. Maybe you'll find something for a gift or for yourself, or maybe just to deck out your man-cave or woman-cave. I hope some of the White Elephant ruthlessness shows up and that we can get into some friendly bidding wars. Remember,

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even if you bid more than suggested retail, it is truly for a good cause. You'll go home with some fantastic merchandise, and our chapter will get needed operational revenue for the year. Just don't bid too high on the Elkhorn light-weight reel as I need it for my new 3 weight rod...

Also for the first time will be an area for new or beginner tiers, so bring your kids or grandkids. I definitely will be in that area since I want to learn to tie. I hope every beginner will get to tie at least one fly, and be introduced to the items needed to get started. There will be a bucket raffle that will appeal to beginner tiers.

Food from Texas Roadhouse will also be part of the admission fee, and the entire evening looks to be way cool! I told the board I wanted 200 paid admissions. Can you help me with that? Bring a friend or two, advertise the Expo at your work place or coffee shop. The chapter appreciates any help you can give us.

In other news, the Youth Camp application is now on the website. Please encourage any youth in your life, ages 14 -18, to apply. It will be a great 6 days for them, and we will have more advocates of clean rivers and watersheds in our area. (Volunteers are always needed, so contact Dennis Cook if you can help. You will enjoy your time with these kids; I guarantee it!)

Thank you in advance for your generosity at the Expo. Here's hoping one of your raffle tickets gets drawn. It will truly be a fun evening.

See you there,
[Lee Evans](#)

Nothing makes a fish bigger than almost being caught.
~Author unknown

RMF Annual Fly Tying Expo

Wednesday, February 16th, 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM,
Fort Collins Senior Center



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We have nearly **doubled** the size of our annual fly tying expo and have a large number of regional fly tiers ready to show their talents to RMF members and the fly fishing public. You will see demos from high floating dry flies to deep sinking nymphs and tiers that will show you techniques that are guaranteed to make your fly tying and fishing more rewarding.

We will have random drawings for each tier's flies and for a terrific fly rod. There will also be a silent auction for lots of equipment items, books, and supplies as well as a beginner's table where you can learn how to tie your own flies. Our tiers this year include:

Rick Takahashi, **Jason Haddix**, and **Dennis Martin** from Angler's Roost; **Terry Gibson** and **Ted Meredith** from Bob's Fly Shop; **Dave Coulson** from Fish Explorer; **Connor Murphy** from Fossil Ridge High School Fly Fishing Club; **Jake Ruthven** from Elkhorn Rod & Reel; **Caleb Van Wagner** from Kirk's Flyshop; **Dick Shinton** and **Mike Kruise** from Laughing Grizzly Fly Shop; **Guy Turenne** from Rocky Mountain Flycasters; **Grant Houx** and **Jin Choi** from St Peter's Fly Shop; **Jason Goodale** from Montanya Fly Company; and **Steve Schweitzer**, **Mark McMillan**, **Al Ritt**, and **Eric Ishiwata**.

Admission is \$20 per person (\$10 for students with ID) and that includes a plate of food from Texas



Roadhouse along with a beverage, five tickets for the fly and rod drawings, and a wealth of tying information. We hope to see you and your friends at our annual fly tying expo on February 16th from 5:30 - 9:00 PM at the [Fort Collins Senior Center](#).

This is an event that you do not want to miss!
[Click here for more information](#)

Friends of the Big Thompson River

Walt Graul, [Loveland Fishing Club](#)



Mouth of Big Thompson Canyon looking upstream into Narrows. Highway 34 at left, truncated by river.
Photo by W.R. Hansen, USGS, August 1, 1976.

In 1977, following the big flood, Larimer County purchased multiple parcels of land along the Big Thompson River and North Fork. They did this with federal Land and Water Conservation Funds that required the County to agree to maintain the lands for public recreation in perpetuity. However, in 2004, the County removed the 'perpetuity' clause by transferring it to another property with no coldwater fishing and put the Big T properties on a potential disposal list. Makes one think differently about 'perpetuity'.

In 2005, The Loveland Fishing Club recommended that the County retain 12 properties that represent reasonable fishing access. Because of this issue, a group called Friends of the Big Thompson River was formed and represents several thousand individuals. It includes: Rocky Mountain Flycasters, The Loveland Fishing Club, The Colorado Wildlife Federation, St. Peters Flyshop, Bob's Flyshop, Elkhorn Rod and Reel, Bennett's Tackle Shop, and numerous individual members along the Front Range and even some nonresidents.

Thus far, the County has agreed to keep about half of the recommended fishing access sites along the Big T. The above representatives of the public have continued to push for retention of fishing access on the remaining recommended areas.



Winter sunset over the Big Thompson River

Last July, we submitted a petition with 200 signatures to illustrate the continuing interest. Last fall, we requested that the County develop a plan with a timetable for resolution of the issue that has been in progress going on 7 years. At the County Parks Advisory Board Meeting on Jan 11, 2011, County staff recommended that they will not sell the parcels remaining on the Loveland Fishing Club retention list without a guarantee that they will remain open to fishing. They hope to take action on all these parcels in 2011. This recommendation will need to be approved by the Parks Advisory Board and the County Commissioners.

So, at this point we are hopeful. However, we know that actions do not always follow well meaning intentions, so we intend to remain active in this process until it is finalized. If you desire more information or would like to add your support to Friends of the Big Thompson River, please contact [Walt Graul](#). Also, for more information, please visit the following websites:

[Big Thompson Properties](#) (Larimer County)
[Big Thompson Access Update](#) (Colorado Wildlife Federation)
[Making the Big Thompson Even Better](#) (Trout Unlimited)

Become a Sustaining Donor

Bryon Fessler, Membership/Newsletter Chair

Last year we introduced our [Sustaining Donor Program](#) which is designed to provide a reliable flow of General



Operations funding for our Chapter and to supplement our other successful fundraising efforts for specific programs and restricted uses. Stable financial resources all starts with an annual donation from you. With the tight economy, there is more competition for grants and corporate donations to organizations like ours. The Sustaining Donor program is meant to help us mitigate those issues and provide a strong financial base that we need to continue to be successful in the future.

Did you know that none of the money that you send to the National TU organization for membership renewal comes directly back to the Chapter? No complaints about that from us though, as the National and State TU organizations use those funds for important work and we need them to be strong as well. The Sustaining Donor program gives members, non-members, and businesses a chance to contribute cash donations and in-kind services directly to the Chapter, and all are tax deductible because TU is a non-profit organization. Contributions are greatly appreciated and we acknowledge them to the Chapter and community via our website, newsletter, publications, and public announcements at our projects. Sustaining Donors making major contributions also receive special recognition at our monthly meetings.

Please consider becoming a [Sustaining Donor](#) at a level that you can afford. Special recognition in the form of trout designations occur at the \$50 level. Thank you!

Protecting the Best Places to Hunt & Fish
Colorado Trout Unlimited



The next draft of Colorado's roadless rule will be released sometime in early 2011. Because roadless areas are home to some of the best hunting and fishing, it is especially important that hunters and anglers provide comments on the roadless rule. To help organize and

educate the sportsmen's community around this issue, Aaron Kindle, TU's New Colorado Field Coordinator, recently launched "Sportsmen for Colorado's Roadless Backcountry" on [Facebook](#). Additional questions can be addressed to [Aaron](#).

2011 Youth River Conservation and Fly Fishing Day Camp

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

Volunteers are needed for this July's [Youth River Conservation and Fly Fishing Day Camp](#). We will have 15 youths ages 14-18, and need more volunteer Mentors for general supervision and instruction.



Lee Evans, a 2010 Mentor, instructing a camper

The [Day Camp schedule](#) is available on the RMF website. Please contact Dennis Cook via [email](#) or phone (970-372-9229) asap to discuss any questions you may have and to volunteer.

SESSION 1: On **Thursday July 21st** between approximately 4:30-6:00pm we need a half-dozen volunteers for dry land, back-casting to help the youths succeed following instructions from the central lead instructor. On **Friday July 22nd** between approximately 8:00-10:00am we need a dozen volunteers for knots tying to help the youths succeed following instructions from the central lead instructor. Also, on **Friday July 22nd** between approximately 3:00-6:00pm we need fifteen volunteers to help with one-on-one back and roll casting instruction on local ponds (possibly Swift Ponds).

On **Saturday July 23rd** (Phantom Canyon) starting at 11:00am, is a heavy requirement for one-on-one, wade fishing. We need fifteen volunteers for skills mentoring and in-river safety. Campers will have already received back and roll casting, reading the water and other basic instructions, and need one-on-one practice under close adult supervision.



Dave Piske, a 2010 Mentor, instructing a camper

SESSION 2: On **Thursday, July 28th** from 8:00am-3:00pm, we need a dozen volunteers to provide safety supervision during the in-river electro-shocking, snorkeling and entomology activities being taught by the CDOW. Also on **Thursday July 28th** between 3:00-6:00pm, we need eight fly tiers to help the youths succeed following instructions from the central lead instructor. On **Friday July 29th** all morning starting at 8:00am, we need twelve volunteers to help oversee the willows planting conservation project at Glade Park on the Big Thompson. On **Friday July 29th** starting at 2:00pm for the afternoon, we need volunteers to help the campers be successful shore casting for bass in ponds at Sylvan Dale Ranch.

On **Saturday July 30th** between 8:00am-12:00pm, we need eight fly tiers to help the youths succeed following instructions from the central lead instructor. Later on **Saturday July 30th** (Gateway Park) starting at 2:00pm...is another heavy requirement for one-on-one, wade fishing. We need fifteen volunteers for skills mentoring and in-river safety. Campers will have already received back & roll casting, reading the water and other basic instructions, and need one-on-one practice under close adult supervision.

Help promote the Youth Day Camp. Also on the website is the [Day Camp promotional flyer](#) and the [Application Packet](#) for youths to apply for the camp. Please distribute these to your friends, family and neighbors who have youngsters, and also to your church or other youth groups you know of, encouraging them to promote the Day Camp to their youths.

Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge: Training Sessions Scheduled

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

Saturday, April 2nd

Between 9:00am to 3:00pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church - 1709 West Elizabeth Street, Fort Collins (4 blocks

East of Taft Hill Road) we need six volunteers (Those who signed up at our January meeting need not volunteer again.) A sack lunch will be provided.

Three groups of Scouts will rotate between clinic instructors' stations to learn Casting (overhead & roll...at Avery Lake a half-block nearby, Knots (arbor, clinch, surgeon, nail & loop-to-loop) and Fly Tying (bugger, pupa nymph & deer hair caddis).

Saturday, May 21st

Exact times to be determined. At Weaver Lake - [BSA Camp Ben Delatour](#) (between Rustic & Red Feather) which is a heavily stocked 1½ acre lake, we will help the Scouts catch and correctly handle at least two fish.

Please contact Dennis Cook via [email](#) or phone (970-372-9229) if you want to volunteer or discuss volunteer opportunities.

Trout in the Classroom (TIC)

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair



The largest fingerlings are now about 2 1/2 inches long

Last week the TIC student team began removing the smallest fingerlings to reduce the tank population from 400 fish to about 200, which is the recommended population for our 50 gallon tank. The largest fingerlings are now at almost 2½ inches, and many of the smallest were barely a full inch long, which illustrates that the population was too large for them all to get enough food. Reducing the number of fish also reduces chances that bacterial gill disease will develop which could infect the entire population. BGD occurs from over crowding that causes build up of metabolites (ammonia) creating poor water quality.

Relocation of the tank and remaining fish is expected to be scheduled in late February or early March after the major facilities move into the new Agriculture Department building has been completed.

Got content? Thank you for taking the time to read our monthly newsletter. Your suggestions and comments are always welcome and can be sent to the [Editor](#). We also welcome your content and fishing stories!

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