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Dear Bryon,

Last Sunday, son Greg and I decided to try the Big T below the dam. We left at 6:30, had breakfast in Estes, then hit the water about 8:00. We were the second car in the parking lot which proves if you want to fish this area, you have to get there early. The water is real low and the fish are stacked in there and quite visible. I rigged up my Stone Creek 4wt that I won at the Holiday party with my new Elkhorn reel that I bought at last year's silent auction, and was ready to go. Tying on the #24 nymphs is still another matter but I finally put a couple in the net.

It gets you to thinking about iceout and fishing more. This month's speaker, Terry Wickstrom, will expand on stillwater fishing when you don't see fish working. Terry is a wonderful public speaker and we're happy to have him at our meeting on March 21.

We had a good Expo and I want to thank all of you who helped, attended, and spent some money. And a special thanks goes out to the 20 tiers. It was a successful fund raising event and generated some funds to be used in all our conservation efforts. Did you see the smiles on the faces of those who tied a fly for the first time? Thanks to Guy Turenne for helping the kids of all ages tie an olive wooly bugger. As always, we appreciate your feedback about the Expo. Please email me and give me your suggestions and criticisms.

Read this newsletter carefully for volunteer opportunities that are on the horizon. Dick Jefferies will need people to run our booth at the Larimer County Fishing Show on March 30th and April 1st. There are numerable days for kids being planned and we hope a lot of you sign up to help with our partnerships with CPW and other agencies to get our youth hooked on outdoor activities. I'm convinced you know a kid or two who would love to go to our summer camp. Please recruit for us.



Now is also the time to look inward and make a decision to become part of the Leadership Council of our chapter. In a nonprofit organization, everyone should take part in the day to day leadership at some time. We have positions available that do not demand a huge time commitment, and we really need you. Call or email our nominations committee and say you will step up. Please.

When we left Estes at noon, there were 15+ cars in the lot, and a fisherman about every 40 yards. Go early. Greg? OK, he netted 8!!

Lee Evans, President Rocky Mountain Flycasters

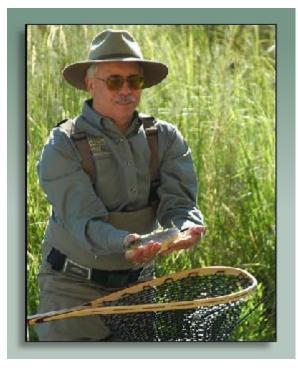
"When fishing, there is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing" -- Evans Family Saying

March Featured Guest Speaker - Terry Wickstrom

Dick Jefferies, Vice President

Outdoors writer Terry Wickstrom, well-known from television, magazines, seminars, and radio, will be our featured guest speaker on March 21st at 6:30 pm at the <u>Fort Collins Senior Center</u> (1200 Raintree Drive off Shields Avenue between Prospect and Drake). Terry will be talking about stillwater fly fishing (sight fishing isn't the only way). Get ready for ice off as Terry helps us understand how and where to fish still waters when fish are not visible and cruising.

Terry Wickstrom, host of the popular television show "Angling Adventures" and his previous show, "Mountain States Fishing " that aired for 12 continuous year, is a nationally published outdoor writer. His articles appear in many of the most respected outdoor periodicals (In-Fisherman Walleye Insider, Fishing Facts, and many others). Terry does numerous appearances as a seminar



presenter and key note speaker at sport shows, fishing clubs, outdoor organizations and charities. He is also the host of "Terry Wickstrom Outdoors", a popular outdoor radio talk show which airs every

Saturday from 8:00 to 10:00am on 102.3 FM Denver's Sports Station, in Denver, Colorado.

An accomplished multi-species angler, Terry has been fortunate to have fished virtually every corner of North America. Growing up in Northern Minnesota, fishing has always been a major part of his life. As a tournament angler, television host and outdoor writer, Terry has spent time on the water with many of the best fisherman in the world, learning, teaching and sharing information. Serving on the "Pro Staff" of many top companies in the fishing industry, he has access to the latest innovations and technologies available to the angling world.

Terry enjoys virtually all aspects of freshwater and saltwater fishing, jigging for walleyes, fly fishing for trout, chasing stripers at Lake Powell, bass fishing in Texas, chasing tarpon off the Florida Keys, but among his favorites is ice fishing. Terry is considered among the pioneers of modern day ice fishing tactics. Terry now makes his home in Colorado and spends the majority of his down time in the Mountain Region, but you may run into him on the water almost anywhere in North America. If you do, say "hi". Remember, he loves to talk fishing.

Click here to visit Terry's website.

Click here for directions to the Fort Collins Senior Center.

Youth Summer Volunteer Opportunities

Dennis Cook, Youth Outreach Chair

The summer's youth activities schedule is taking shape, and volunteer opportunities are described below. Specific details will follow in the April newsletter.

April 25 - Greeley Children's Water Festival

Location: Island Grove Park. Hours: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm plus setup and tear down time

May 15 - Fort Collins Children's Water Festival

Location: CSU Campus. Hours: Half day, plus setup and tear down

Both festivals have been held annually for more than 20 years, and our target audience is



elementary age children. Last year RMF exhibited at the Greeley Festival, and this will be our first time at the Fort Collins Festival. We plan to construct a booth exhibit with two water displays depicting both a healthy and an unhealthy stream, demonstrating the insect life differences as indicators of stream health. The children will be able to reach into the waters to "discover" the differences in insect life, and

there will be large story boards displaying captioned pictures. There will also be printed handouts. Volunteers will explain the exhibit, oversee children's "discoveries" and answer questions. We also will need volunteers in advance to help construct the water displays and story boards.

Interested volunteers please email Dennis Cook.

June 9 - Colorado Parks & Wildlife's Youth Outdoor Skills Day Location: Swift Ponds



This will be RMF's second year managing the event's fly fishing area. All youths will be accompanied by an adult. Volunteers will assist youths to cast, land and handle caught fish, and also will staff a RMF information booth.

Interested volunteers please email Paul Wehr.

July 14 or 21 - U.S. Forest Service's Kids Fishing Day

Location: West Lake at Red Feather. Hours: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm plus setup and tear down



This will be RMF's first year at this event. All youths will be accompanied by an adult. Anglers will be using spin cast equipment. Volunteers will assist youths to cast, land and handle caught fish, and also will staff a RMF information booth.

The volunteer coordinator will be announced in the April newsletter.

July 30 thru Aug 4 - RMF's Youth Day Camp

Location: Fort Collins and Loveland facilities and rivers locations



This is RMF's third year presenting its Youth Day Camp, and this year the camp will run Monday through Saturday. The final schedule will be posted on the website soon, but is almost identical to the 2011 schedule which is posted. Applications are already beginning to be received and accepted.

Please encourage any ages 14-18 youths in your family, friends or neighborhood to visit the RMF website to download the Application/Parents Packet and to apply.

Previous years' volunteers will be contacted. Interested new volunteers please email Dennis Cook.

August (Date TBD) - Larimer Boys & Girls Clubs Day For Kids Festival Location: Centerra Retail Center in Loveland



This will be our third year having an RMF informational booth at the Day For Kids Festival. We instruct casting, exhibit fly tying, basic knots and aquatic insects, promote our Youth Day Camp and other programs, and answer questions about Rocky Mountain Flycasters and Trout Unlimited.

The volunteer coordinator will be announced in a later newsletter.

Colorado TU Residential Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Camp

Dennis Cook, Youth Outreach Chair

Colorado TU is now accepting applications for their annual residential conservation and fly fishing youth camp. The dates of the camp are June 10th through June 15th and it will be held at High Lonesome Range in DeBeque, Colorado.

RMF contributes each year to support Colorado TU's outstanding annual youth camp at which campers live together in a tent village learning about fly fishing and the conservation interests necessary to preserve the water quality of Colorado's rivers.



Applications must be received by April 15th.

Click here to learn more and apply.

For more information, please email Mike Nicholson, Camp Director.



Chapter Leadership Opportunities

Dennis Cook, Nominations Committee Chair

Several members have inquired about some of the position opportunities, and we hope more also will. Nominations Committee contact information appears below.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees election takes place at our May 16th membership Annual Meeting, and the nominees' slate is published on the website not less than 15-days before that, so time's getting short to inquire. All elective Board Trustee positions are open for re-election every year. These include: Officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer & Secretary) and 2-Trustees-At-Large. The President may be re-elected for three successive one-year terms, and all other positions are re-electable for unlimited successive terms.

It is desirable for 'new blood' to be regularly introduced onto the Board along with existing members. This enables more members to become familiar with chapter matters and brings new perspectives and ideas into Board discussions and decisions, helping the Board to remain faithful to membership preferences.

Click here to view RMF's Bylaws.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OPPORTUNITIES

2013 Youth Day Camp Coordinator: Understudy the 2012 Day Camp and take over leading the 2013 Day Camp. Planning details, schedules, contacts, and complete files will be provided. Current leadership will still be available to provide continuity in 2013.

Youth Event Coordinators: We have a shortage of coordinators for each of the various youth events that occur annually. The youth events listed above are examples of such assignments. These are not difficult events to lead, and it's necessary to have multiple leaders who can be available to pitch in and help.

Click on one of the names below to contact a member of the Nominating Committee:

Dennis Cook Lee Evans Stephanie Mullins Bob Streeter

Plug Into Nature

Dennis Cook, Youth Outreach Chair



In June of 2011 Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter was invited, and accepted, to participate in a Larimer County-wide study to provide an inventory of outdoor nature programs that are available for youths. The study was designed by a county project team in conjunction with Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), and also included an interfacing parental survey. Collectively, these two data collections were kickoff actions of a "Plug Into Nature" new initiative, and Larimer County is Colorado's initial survey test bed. Plug Into Nature results are expected to help better understand and address the following goals:

- Determine current levels of connection between families and the natural world
- Reveal gaps and barriers that may prevent such connections, and
- Identify opportunities on which to build in order to connect more people to nature

On March 7th, a group of RMF chapter leaders participated in a presentation and discussion of the parental survey data. The gathering was well attended by many youth activity providers, social services organizations and Larimer County government agencies. Survey data revealed that citizens are generally satisfied with existing outdoor facilities and spend significant amounts of time using them...and also confirmed that personal time shortage, travel distance, and cost are barriers to greater use. One data point that surprised many attendees is that parents do not consider the time their children spend with "technology" to be a barrier to engaging in the outdoors.

The Plug Into Nature Project Team now has much to do to clarify and prioritize data cause & effect...and plan appropriate next steps. One step that the team agreed is a priority will be to establish more centralized, cost effective promotional channels so that organizations have effective ways to let the public know of already existing programs.

For members wishing to know more about Plug Into Nature, an Executive Summary and detailed Project Report of survey data and other information can be viewed by clicking here.

City of Loveland Proposes New Open Space

Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

The City of Loveland recently purchased the former HP/Agilent properties in the southwestern area of the City. A portion of that property near the Big Thompson River is proposed to become the new HP/Agilent Open Space. Long-time RMF TU member, and member of the Larimer County Parks Advisory Board, Frank Cada reports that the proposed Open Space includes a large pond full of Bass and Catfish that have not been fished much. Frank says, "Let's try to keep it a quality fishing area." Although it's not trout habitat, if it were to be restricted to kids' fishing, it could become a valuable resource for encouraging all kids in general to become engaged in fishing and potentially as another resource for RMF's youth outreach programs.

Here is a link to a comment form that can be quickly and easily done online and should be submitted to the city before March 15.

The HP/Agilent Open Space is proposed as a community-accessible open space site that may have trails, parking, benches, restrooms, and picnic tables. Open Space design and amenities will depend on the budget and site constraints such as topography and soils. However the final selection of amenities and features will also be based on community preferences. Access to the open space will be considered from 1st Street and Railroad Avenue. 1st Street is a major arterial, and Railroad Avenue is a major collector.

Click here to visit the City of Loveland's website.

Campaign to Defend the Upper Colorado River Rolls On

Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

Following the Trout Unlimited rally at the Regional office the EPA in downtown Denver (reported in the February edition of The Flypaper), the campaign rolled on to a second rally on February 24. Rally #2 was at the state capitol, and right under the windows of the Governor's office. Although Gov. Hickenlooper is not one of the decision makers in the US Bureau of Reclamation's proposal that will devastate the Colorado River ecosystem by inadequately mitigated additional diversions of its already diminished flows, he could be an effective influencer of the final decision. And that is why a petition with almost 2,000 signatures was delivered to the Governor's office on February 24.

Click here to read more about this rally.

After these two successful rallies TU has now launched a billboard on eastbound Interstate 70 in Golden:



Why a billboard? Because Coloradans need to know that our namesake river is fighting for its life. Water diversion proposals - expansion of both the Windy Gap (Colorado River) and Moffat (Fraser River) projects - could reduce the Upper Colorado River's flows to less than 20 percent of its historic levels. As currently proposed, the projects fail to include measures that will keep the Colorado and key tributaries like the Fraser cold, clean and healthy. Without stronger protections, these once-mighty rivers face a long, continued decline and a potential ecological collapse. Every day that this billboard runs, nearly 180,000 pairs of eyes will see it as they commute to work or return from ski trips in the mountains! If 300 friends of the Upper Colorado each contribute \$25, TU can cover the costs of keeping this billboard up for an entire month - putting this message in front of literally millions of Front Range residents. With your donation, you'll also receive a "Don't Suck" bumper sticker - and with a donation of \$100 or more, you'll receive a "Don't Suck" t-shirt.

Click here to help us today with your tax-deductible donation.

TU Concerns About Inadequate Windy Gap Mitigation Amplified by EPA Analysis

Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

Upper Colorado River in Worse Condition Than Final EIS Says

In a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation dated February 6, 2012, the EPA expressed its concerns with the analyses and conclusions in the Final EIS for the Windy Gap Firming Project. In its letter the EPA expressed concerns with faulty analyses and conclusions in the FEIS. EPA is concerned in two main areas: 1) water quality and, 2) aquatic life and steam morphology within the Colorado River basin.

EPA's detailed comments addressed to the BOR "describe instances where analyses or conclusions overstate the quality of existing resource conditions and underestimate water quality and resource impacts associated with the proposed [Windy Gap Firming] project."

EPA's Detailed Comments are in 15 pages of densely-packed critiques of the representations that are in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, and also include numerous EPA recommendations for correcting the errors that would otherwise be incorporated in the forthcoming Record of Decision that the BOR will send to the US Army Corps of Engineers. The USACOE will review the application for compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

While the EPA's Detailed Comments are not written for a layman's reading, just skimming the contents will give the readers of The Flypaper a good feel for the inadequacy of the data upon which the BOR's mitigation conclusions are based.

Click here to see the EPA's letter and its Detailed Comments.

Fog Over Bristol Bay is About to Lift

Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

You say you've never heard of Bristol Bay and have no idea where it's located? Here are some "not here" clues. It's not a part of Horsetooth Reservoir, nor any other reservoir in Colorado. Nor is it on the English Channel or the North Sea.

If you have purchased Pacific salmon at the supermarket, or fly-fished for salmon in Alaska, chances are good that you have experienced the produce of Bristol Bay. Bristol Bay is part of the Bering Sea and on the coast of southwest Alaska.

Bristol Bay and the watersheds of the many Alaskan rivers whose waters feed the Bay, is the habitat of one of the largest salmon populations in the world. Those watersheds are also among the most



pristine in the world. So, what would be the consequences if those conditions were altered by large-scale development? The currently uncertain answer is the fog that is about to be lifted.

In February 2011 the EPA launched an assessment study to find specific and science-based answers to that question. The assessment is nearing completion, will soon be peer-reviewed by other scientists who had no prior involvement in the study, and then will be released to the public for comments within the next few months.

To learn more about the EPA's assessment, click here to read the short article titled, Bristol Bay: What is EPA Studying and Why?

Although the EPA's assessment is not part of any regulatory proceeding, there is in fact a potential threat to the Bristol Bay and the rivers that feed the bay. As plans for a major mining development, known as the Pebble Mine, mature there may be a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit proceeding. Thus, the EPA assessment may be very timely.

Click here for more information on the permitting process as it relates to Bristol Bay.

Volunteers Needed for Conservation Projects

Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

In 2012, Rocky Mountain Flycasters is participating in a more extensive set of conservation projects than our members have been engaged in for many years. This year's set of projects exemplifies a strong commitment to each of Trout Unlimited's mission elements: to conserve, restore, protect and reconnect coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. RMF volunteers are needed to successfully carry out each of the projects, and some projects will be conducted in partnership with other conservation-oriented non-profit groups. Summarized below are the two projects scheduled in June and now open for sign-ups by volunteers.

Click here for additional background information on these projects, and later-scheduled ones.

Conservation Projects scheduled between March 1 and June 30, 2012

June 23 - TU National River Cleanup Day (15 Volunteers Needed)

More volunteers will get the cleanup accomplished sooner. Enjoy a Saturday morning with a group of friends collecting trash along the banks of the Poudre River in the canyon. Assemble at Picnic Rock (Milepost 119) at 8:30 AM to form small teams, receive reach assignments, orange collection bags, and safety vests. Bring gloves. Free picnic lunch served at noon. Afternoon is yours.

Click here to sign up with Lee Evans (to assure sufficient food).

June 30 - Trailgate Party at Gateway Natural Area (12 Volunteers Needed)

This is a continuation of the trail improvements begun in 2011 as an Adopt-A-Trail project with the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department. Gateway is at the confluence of the North Fork with the main stem of the Poudre River in a beautiful park-like setting. Volunteers will go directly to Gateway, arriving by 8 AM for an orientation by Natural Areas staff members. Your work session will consist of 4 hours of rigorous trail work followed by a free lunch. Safety is our main priority so please help us make this an enjoyable experience for all by being prepared for quickly changing weather conditions, snakes, cacti, and sun exposure. Sturdy hiking boots, gloves, and sunglasses are essential as is plenty of water to maintain body hydration. Volunteers are encouraged to fish after the trail project is completed. Trail renovation this year will be on the scenic Black Powder Trail, and involves restoration of eroded sections of trail and improvement of rock steps that, over eight decades of use by hikers, have evolved into "giant" steps.

Click here to sign up with Scott Gardner.

Colorado Trout Unlimited Annual River Stewardship Gala



Colorado Trout Unlimited invites you to attend our annual River Stewardship Gala - the evening of Friday, March 16, at the Arvada Center, conveniently located off Wadsworth Blvd. north of Interstate 70, at the corner of 68th and Wadsworth. At the Gala we will be honoring <u>Save the Colorado</u> with our River Steward Award. Proceeds from the gala benefit statewide programs for river protection that help us all: legislative advocacy, on-the-ground projects, chapter mini-grants, and more. The evening features a reception with complimentary wine and beer, a full sit-down dinner and presentation of the Colorado TU River Steward Award. We continue our efforts to make the evening more than just an auction, but also an enjoyable social occasion for couples, businesspeople and clients, and others who support our mission.

RMF has purchased a table at the CTU Gala. We have five members so far who have expressed a desire to attend this great banquet and music fest with a number of raffles and auctions of some great

stuff. We have agreed that our members would pay only \$30 per seat. It is a classy affair and always a lot of fun.

Editor's Note: A few tickets are still available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Click here to email Dennis Cook if you are interested in attending or carpooling.

TU Launches its "Green with Envy" Roadshow

Courtesy TU/Sportsmen's Conservation Project

2,700 miles, 12 stops and 8 reasons to support keeping the Green like it is...

Trout Unlimited's best sportsmen are gearing up for a 12-stop roadshow to premiere its film "Green with Envy." The film highlights the incredible Flaming Gorge Reservoir and Green River fisheries and the potential devastating effects of the proposed Million Pipeline. Under the proposal, 81 billion gallons of water would be diverted annually from the Reservoir and the Green River causing a potential domino effect of negative impacts to local fisheries and economies.

Imagine the world-renowned section below the dam whose emerald waters produce an epic experience hobbled by low and inconsistent flows. Or the trophy-class populations of kokanee salmon, lake and rainbow trout produced in the reservoir potentially trashed by dramatically lower water levels. And for what? Simply to pipe water 560 miles to the Front Range of Colorado, likely requiring hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars to build and operate.

Seem like a bad idea? That's exactly what we thought. Join us for a showing of "Green with Envy," and help stop this reckless proposal that could ruin of a world-class fishery and at best be a costly boondoggle.

Editor's Note: The event in Fort Collins will take place on <u>**Thursday**</u>, March 22, 2012 at 6:00 pm at Avogadros Number (605 South Mason St.).

What would happen if 81 billion gallons of water disappeared from the Green River every year?

Trout Unlimited presents the film... GREEN WITH ENVY

World-class fishing. Stunning scenery. A recreation-based economy worth \$118 million. All of it could vanish under a proposal from one Colorado developer. Join us for a film and presentation about the Million Pipeline, it's impacts and what you can do to keep the Green like it is.

WWW.OURDAMWATER.ORG

FREE admission, refreshments and a chance to win great prizes including a guided trip down the Green River! Thursday, March 22, 6 p.m. Fort Collins, Colorado Avogadros Number 605 S. Mason St.



Annual Spring Waterway Clean-Up

Courtesy City of Loveland Website

The City of Loveland's Stormwater Division offers several opportunities for the community to become involved in maintaining clean waterways. Waterway clean-up events take place annually. The next one is scheduled for Saturday, April 21, 2012 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Loveland Civic Center and other designated locations.

Click here for additional information.



International Fly Fishing Film Festival (IF4)

Courtesy Caleb VanWagner

The International Fly Fishing Film Festival (IF4) is coming to Fort Collins on March 31, 2012. The event will be held at Gravity 1020 inside the Fort Collins Brewery. Doors open at 6:30 pm and the show starts at 7:00 pm.

Click here to purchase your tickets in advance. Tickets are also available at Jax Sporting Goods and

Elkhorn Fly Shop (both in Loveland).



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