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Greetings,

I'm getting ready to spend Easter weekend in Farmington with my daughter and her family. Her birthday is Saturday, so we'll party nearly nonstop. Of course, the San Juan is only 35 minutes from her house, so we'll go a day early, just to check it out. Is that why I'm smiling as I get all the stuff done before we leave?

I have to tell you that I am also smiling because our nominations committee has come up with nearly a full slate of candidates for the elections in May. I remember when that was very difficult to do, and this last month we had 4 or 5 of you respond to the newsletter and the website and volunteer to take a leadership position. This is another indicator of a strong healthy organization. The slate will be listed in a following story and elections will take place in May.

I will move from president to immediate past president in May, and I'm looking forward to that. I expect to stay involved with the board activities, but am very comfortable handing the rod to Dick Jefferies. He has been an excellent vice president and, judging by his involvement, is ready to be president. I will miss the position, but maybe not enough to keep me from smiling!

Our meeting in April features Dave Sweet, talking about the danger to the Yellowstone Cutthroat from the lake trout that are growing in numbers in the lake. I've fished the lake many times over the years, and expect to canoe in again this July, and have noticed a decline in cutthroats and it is troubling. Dave will talk about the history of the lake trout and the actions being taken. Will the Yellowstone Cutthroat be there for our kids and grandkids? I really hope so.

The summer is shaping up to be a busy one, and I hope you watch the website and newsletter for places you could help. We have nearly half of the youth slots filled for this year's youth camp, and that's exciting. Look for an announcement about cleaning Narrows Park on the Big Thompson. The wind and last year's heavy snow dropped a lot of branches for us to chip up.



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Thank you one and all for your involvement in our chapter and its activities. We're really beginning to understand the words protect, sustain, reconnect and restore. The board has started to develop a strategic plan for our chapter to address each of these areas while we map out our future. Developing strategic plans really don't excite me, but the fact that we need to do it, keeps me smiling. Many lakes have lost their ice, the rivers are open, and fishing is hot. Get out there!

[Lee Evans](#), President

Rocky Mountain Flycasters

"Trout waters can be very personal places. The best trout streams are the ones you grow up with and then grow old with. Eventually they become like a familiar shotgun, or a faithful old setter, or a comfortable pair of shoes."

-- Gordon MacQuarrie, *Upon the Earth Below*

April Featured Guest Speaker - Dave Sweet

[Dick Jefferies](#), Vice President

Dave Sweet, Yellowstone Lake Special Project Manager (TU of WY) will be our featured guest speaker on April 18 at 6:30 pm at the [Fort Collins Senior Center](#) (1200 Raintree Drive off Shields Avenue between Prospect and Drake). Dave will discuss the devastating loss of cutthroat trout in Yellowstone Lake due to lake trout predation and the efforts being taken to restore this iconic fish. A TU member since the late 1970's, Dave was originally a St. Vrain Angler member in Longmont. He is a current member and Past President of the East Yellowstone Chapter in Cody, WY where he also serves as Chairman of their chapter's "Save the Yellowstone Cutthroat" Committee. Additionally, Dave is Past Chairman and current Treasurer of the Wyoming Council and the Yellowstone Lake Special Project Manager. He received the TU National "Distinguished Service Award" in 2011.



Photo by Dave Sweet

The Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (YCT) populations in Yellowstone Lake and the Yellowstone River in Yellowstone National Park have plummeted to less than 5% of their historic levels due to lake trout predation. The April Program will highlight the history of the decline and the efforts to remove predacious

lake trout and restore the YCT as well as detail the important role this iconic fish plays in the entire ecosystem.

Native fish predation is a concern throughout the country, including Colorado. We know this program will help you gain a better understanding of how complex, prolonged and costly these restoration efforts can be and how TU has become such an important and integral partner in these efforts.

Additionally, starting at 6:30 pm on the vice, our guest tier for the evening will be Eric Ishawata.

[Click here for more information about the YCT.](#)

[Click here for directions to the Fort Collins Senior Center.](#)

New Stream Restoration Projects Need Volunteers This Summer

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair



Are you one of the many Rocky Mountain Flycasters (RMF) members who, for some years since completion of the riparian restoration project on the North Fork of the Poudre at Eagles Nest, have been dreaming of getting involved in another "real" stream restoration project? If your definition of a "real" project is getting your hands and feet wet, rolling some rocks and/or emplacing logs along stream banks to provide cover for the trout, or restoring riparian areas damaged by irreverent social use, your dreams will become reality this summer.

RMF-Trout Unlimited (TU) is partnering with [Wildland Restoration Volunteers](#) (WRV) to conduct a substantial stream improvement project on several miles of the North Fork of the Poudre. The project has

been conceived, planned, and will be managed by the fisheries staff of the [Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest and Pawnee National Grasslands](#) (A-RNF & PNG). It is located in the Canyon Lakes District and along the course of the North Fork west of its confluence with Killpecker Creek and on the way to Deadman Hill. The project is scheduled for August 25th and 26th, 2012 when stream flows are conducive for in-stream work.

This project will involve the use of heavy equipment to cut, transport, and emplace beetle-killed conifer tree trunks along the stream banks. Arrangements for the operation and use of heavy equipment are being made by WRV. WRV will also provide volunteers from its members and skilled crew leaders. RMF-TU will provide additional volunteers to work alongside the WRV volunteers and under the supervision of WRV's crew leaders.

Wildlands Restoration Volunteers is a non-profit organization that provides an opportunity for people to come together, learn about their natural environment, and take direct action to restore and care for the land. WRV is based in Boulder, conducts projects throughout Colorado, and has a northern Colorado office in Fort Collins. This writer's personal experience, based on participation as a volunteer in several recent WRV projects in northern Colorado, is that WRV projects are very well organized, conducted with a high regard for the safety of volunteers, and with an underlying motivation for volunteers also having fun while working on WRV projects.

To register as a volunteer for the North Fork project:

- [Go to the WRV web site](#)
- On the home page, click on: Projects and Training
- In the drop-down list, click on: Current Projects
- Under 2012 Projects scroll down to "North Fork Poudre River Restoration" on August 25 and 26.
- In upper right corner of that page, see in red text, "**Register for this project**" Click on it.
- You will then be asked to sign in, establish a password and a profile. You do not need to join WRV to register for this project. So don't hesitate to do what is requested.
- Having gone through that sign-in process, you will see a page pop up to register for that project. As you fill in the blanks you will see a small box to the right of a text line that says "Group".
- In that box enter "RMF TU" That will get you recognized as a RMF TU volunteer for this project.

After registering, you will receive an email from WRV confirming that you are registered for this project. Subsequently, as the date for the project approaches, you will automatically receive emails giving you details about the nature of the work, what to bring, where you can camp, etc. everything you will need to

know about your participation as a volunteer.

You will also be able to sign in at any time to check on your registration status, and to make changes in your registration if that becomes necessary.

The process is not as complicated as it may seem. It's really quite slick, but if you need help, [contact Dave Piske](#).

Board of Trustees Slate for June 2013 - May 2014 Program Year

Nominating Committee

The Nominations Committee met on March 28th and unanimously recommends the following members to the incumbent Board of Trustees for action in fulfillment of its responsibilities under Rocky Mountain Flycasters [Bylaws](#) Article V, Section 1. copied below:

"Article V. Nominations, Elections, Terms, Vacancy of Officers and Trustees

Section 1. Not later than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Chapter, the incumbent Board of Trustees shall nominate candidates for each officer position and for the two Trustees at Large. Said nominations shall be included in the Notice of Annual Meeting that shall be posted on the Chapter's Internet website not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the Annual Meeting. Said posting shall constitute the required notice to all Members. Nothing, however, will deny nominations from being made from the floor by Members during the Annual Meeting."

- President: Dick Jefferies
- Vice President: Vacancy. (Continue recruiting for a qualified member to step forward)
- Treasurer: Paul Wehr
- Secretary: Charles Plunkett
- Trustee-at-Large: Stephanie Mullins
- Trustee-at-Large: Sean Cronin
- Immediate Past President: Lee Evans (Automatic progression)

Elections will be held at the May meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted with consent of the nominee.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Cook, Chair
Lee Evans
Stephanie Mullins
Bob Streeter

New Youth Programs Coordinators...Welcome Aboard!

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

Jerry Pelis - Youth Water Festivals

Jerry volunteered last year with the Greeley Children's Water Festival, enjoyed it, and this year answered Rocky Mountain Flycasters call to lead coordinating both the Greeley and the Fort Collins Children's Water Festivals.

Volunteering is not new to Jerry. He worked for Anheuser-Busch for 22 1/2 years before retiring in 2010. During this time he volunteered for business and community service activities, including becoming team leader for A-B's Wildlife Habitat Team which enabled using his Wildlife Biology educational major.

Volunteer service is in Jerry's blood. He is a weekly volunteer at Poudre Learning Center in Greeley (a K-12+ environmental, outdoor learning center), a Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation committee member and summer project coordinator, and a CPW (formerly DOW) volunteer. He's also an active member of Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever, and with our

chapter his TU activities include river clean ups, trail maintenance, and of course Children's Water Festivals. He says that when he retired he shifted emphasis to the really fun stuff!

A 20 year TU member, Jerry is a lifelong fisherman, and also a hunter who enjoys the related hiking and camping of both. He has been a fly fisherman since the late 60's and a fly tier since the late 70's, and professes to still be a novice at both. He's also a lifelong wood worker.

Jerry and wife Susan have lived in LaSalle for 40-years, and have two grown daughters and two grandchildren.



Mark Miller - Trout in the Classroom

Mark has responded to Rocky Mountain Flycasters call to step forward into an ownership role, and volunteered to coordinate our chapter's Trout in the Classroom program at Windsor High School.

After retiring from the military in 2007 following a 20-year career in the Air Force and Colorado Air National Guard, Mark now works for Lockheed-Martin in Boulder. He graduated from CSU in 1977 with a Fisheries Biology major and went on directly to attain an MS Degree in Management while on Air Force active duty.

Mark happily recalls fly fishing for bluegills in Arizona when he was 12, and he has been chasing trout and tying flies ever since. His favorite get-away spots are Trappers Lake in the Flattops, and some high mountain lakes in RMNP where he can stalk some cruising cutthroats. He also likes to chase "the big one" at Grey Reef or Antero Reservoir in South Park. Having taught all three of their children to fly fish, Mark reminisces over those happy days on the water, and now as empty nesters he hopes

this summer to also teach his wife Ursula. Brave man! Mark and Ursula live in Loveland.

Mark is looking forward to becoming active with TIC, and is eager to support finishing this year's activity and then next year kicking off a full year of involvement. He hopes to help share his knowledge and experience with the students at Windsor High School.



Trout in the Classroom - Nearing 2012 Conclusion

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

On Tuesday, April 3rd, two pathologists from the Division of Parks & Wildlife (CPW) collected cadaver samples from 25 of our 35 TIC fish at Windsor High School. This is a requirement before the surviving fish can be permitted for release into public waters, and we'll be informed of the results in about a month. The CPW representatives said that our fish looked healthy and were in good physical shape, and that we can feed them a little more now so they have a bit more fat on their bodies to survive when released. Plans are to obtain permission from the CPW for a specific location for release at a Poudre River location convenient to the school, and to combine it with an entomology capture and identification session focused on river health.

Agribusiness class seniors netted fish from the tank, euthanized them, were instructed how to dissect and remove kidney and spleen samples and then clean up and package them for transport. A freshman introductory agriculture class was also invited in small groups to observe and become acquainted with the sampling activities. A sexually mature male fish was discovered, which the CPW representatives explained is not abnormal in a population where all the fish are the same age. TIC teacher, Nathan Clark, explained that although he was expecting CPW, he had no idea when they might arrive and how it would fit into his class day. After it all was over, he said, "I was pleased and excited for it all to go so smoothly, and it took less than an hour to euthanize, dissect and sample the fish, and then clean up. The students learned much from the process, and all in all it was a very successful activity".

This year Nathan is introducing parallel study tracks - land animals and aquatic animals - as part of Windsor High Schools Agribusiness program. He will be integrating some of the TIC healthy rivers and fish subject matter as he develops the wild aquatics portion of the curriculum.



Bowe Colohan, TIC Student Team Leader, dissects and removes organ samples



CPW pathologist instructs Kyle and Ryan how to dissect and remove samples

Summer Youth Volunteer Opportunities

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

The summer's youth activities schedule is taking shape, and volunteer opportunities are described below.



APRIL 25 - GREELEY CHILDREN'S WATER FESTIVAL. We need 4 more volunteers! This festival has been held annually for more than 20 years and our target audience is 4th graders. This will be RMF's second year participating in this festival and we will have a new activity called "Who Eats Who At the River?" This will be a hands-on activity with a simulated river habitat. Children will take roles of various insects, fish and predators, and will learn about the food chain and healthy rivers. The activity is scripted and volunteers will facilitate roles, oversee children's "discoveries" and answer questions. The location is Island Grove Park in Greeley and the hours are

from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm plus setup and tear down time. Lunch is included. Interested volunteers should contact [Jerry Pelis](#).

MAY 15 - FORT COLLINS CHILDREN'S WATER FESTIVAL. We need 2 more volunteers! Similar to the Greeley festival, the Fort Collins festival has been held annually for more than 20 years and our target audience is 3rd graders. This will be RMF's first time participating in this festival and we will have a new activity called "Who Eats Who At the River?" (see the above description for more details). The location is the CSU campus in Fort Collins and the hours are from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm plus setup and tear down time. Lunch is included. Interested volunteers should contact [Jerry Pelis](#).

JUNE 9 - COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE'S YOUTH OUTDOOR SKILLS DAY. We need 12 more volunteers! This will be RMF's second year managing the fly fishing activity. All youths will be accompanied by an adult. Volunteers will assist youths to cast, land and handle caught fish, and also staff an RMF information booth. The location is Swift Ponds in Fort Collins and it will be an all-day event. Lunch is included. Interested volunteers should contact [Paul Wehr](#).



JULY 21 - U.S. FOREST SERVICE KIDS FISHING DAY. We need 12 more volunteers!

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 an RMF information booth. The location is West Lake in Red Feather Lakes and the hours are 9:00 am to 1:00 pm plus setup and tear down time. Lunch is included. Interested volunteers should contact [Dennis Cook](#).

JULY 30 THRU AUG 4 - RMF'S YOUTH DAY CAMP. We need lots of volunteers! This will be 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 being 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 apply. The location is Fort Collins and Loveland facilities and rivers. Previous years' volunteers will be contacted starting in May. Interested new volunteers should contact [Dennis Cook](#).

Preview of 2012 Conservation Projects

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair

This glorious spring weather certainly has stirred our readers into finding more time for fishing. Complementing those interests, RMF TU also has more conservation projects than in recent years. Together, we can look forward to both increased enjoyment of the coldwater fishery resources and increased opportunities to restore, protect and conserve those resources.

Below is a condensed list of those 2012 conservation projects that have firm dates. More background information on each of these can be found on the [RMF TU web site](#).

Several additional projects are planned, but specific dates are not yet established. Those projects will be

described in future editions of this newsletter and on the web site when their dates become firm. Here is the firm list.

June 23 TU **National Rivers Cleanup Day** 15 Volunteers. Half-day easy activity. RMF volunteers will celebrate this nationwide event in scenic Poudre Canyon, cleaning up trash along the main stream of the Poudre River. Meet at 8:30 AM at Picnic Rock near milepost 119. Finish about noon with a complimentary picnic lunch. Sign-up with [Lee Evans](#).

June 30 **Gateway Natural Area Trail Improvements** 12 Volunteers. Half-day moderate activity. First of two events in second year of partnering with City of Fort Collins Natural Areas. Help restore $\frac{3}{4}$ miles of Black Powder Trail from erosion and decades of wear by foot traffic on historic trail adjacent to confluence of Poudre's North Fork with main river. Complimentary picnic lunch followed by flies & lures only, catch & release trout fishing. Sign-up with [Scott Gardner](#).

July 22 **River Trail Stewardship at Phantom Canyon Preserve** 12 Volunteers. 1-Day, Fairly strenuous activity. Partnered event with The Nature Conservancy. Restore foot trail in spectacular roadless canyon on North Fork of Poudre. Rumors are there may be some time for catch & release fishing. (Back-up day July 29 in event of postponement). Sign-up: Via TNC in accord with instructions soon to be announced.

August 12 **River Trail Stewardship at Phantom Canyon Preserve** 12 Volunteers. 1-Day, Fairly strenuous activity. Partnered event with The Nature Conservancy. Restore foot trail in spectacular roadless canyon on North Fork of Poudre. Rumors are there may be some time for catch & release fishing. (Back-up day August 19 in event of postponement). Sign-up: Via TNC in accord with instructions soon to be announced.

August 25 & 26 **River Restoration, North Fork Poudre** 20 TU Volunteers each day. Moderately strenuous activity. Project is partnered with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers and US Forest Service. Overnight campsites nestled among trees in the Canyon Lakes Ranger District west of Red Feather Lakes. Cooked meals provided by WRV volunteers. Help restore a 1.5 mile corridor of the North Fork upstream of Killpecker Creek. Install beetle-killed timber in-stream structures, decompact and restore denuded streamside areas, and restore native plants by sowing seeds previously collected by WRV volunteers. Learn more from Matt Fairchild, USFS Fisheries Biologist, during April 18 RMF membership meeting. Sign-up at the [WRV website](#). After signing in, enter "RMF TU" as your Group name. More detailed enrollment instructions for this project are on the [RMF website](#).

Sept. 8 **Gateway Natural Area Trail Improvements** 12 Volunteers. Half-day moderate activity. Second of two events partnering with City of Fort Collins Natural Areas. Help restore $\frac{3}{4}$ miles of Black Powder Trail from erosion and decades of wear by foot traffic on historic trail adjacent to confluence of Poudre's North Fork with main river. Complimentary picnic lunch followed by flies & lures only, catch & release trout fishing. Sign-up with [Scott Gardner](#).

Sept. 16 **River Trail Stewardship at Phantom Canyon** 12 Volunteers. 1-Day. Fairly strenuous activity. Partnered event in The Nature Conservancy's Preserve. Restore foot trail in spectacular roadless canyon on North Fork of Poudre. Rumors are there may be some time for catch & release fishing. (Back-up day July 29 in event of postponement). Sign-up: Via TNC in accord with instructions soon to be announced.

Dates & Hours set by you: a Conservation Project that fits everyone's schedule. Waste monofilament fishing line collections. Easy activity. A partnership with City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department. Help save wildlife from strangulation by entanglements in waste monofilament abandoned along the course of the Poudre River. City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Dept. has installed approximately 20 specially designed receptacles near favorite fishing areas along the Poudre River trails. Anglers are using these to conveniently and temporarily store waste line. But contents of the receptacles need to be collected by someone who returns that waste to the Natural Areas headquarters on Hoffman Mill Road. Be one of the RMF volunteers who do that. Additional volunteers, preferably those who live in or near northwest Fort Collins, please contact RMF TU's chief collector, [Bruce Rosenthal](#) or phone 970-686-9752. The wildlife saved, and the recyclers who process the waste, will love you.

Other projects. Among the projects still in the formative stage are the field research activities conducted by Chris Kennedy, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Fisheries Biologist in Rocky Mountain National Park. These projects normally begin in early July and extend through September. Chris will present his schedule and needs for volunteers at the May16 RMF TU membership meeting.

RMF Newsletter Recognized

[Newsletter Editor](#)

Thank you to the RMF members and supporters who read the newsletter each month. According to Constant Contact, the service RMF uses to stay in regular contact with our members and supporters, *"Your efforts last year to reach your customers and engage with them were exemplary. Stellar. Your customers noticed and responded positively. And we certainly noticed. That's why we're so proud to name you to our roster of 2011 All Stars. This status is an annual designation that only 10% of our customers achieve!"*



Constant Contact looks for customers who are great relationship marketers, and get the kind of results that reflect their hard work. The All Star Awards is how they recognize customers who stand out from the more than 500,000 organizations who use their services. The criteria include having been a customer the entire calendar year; consistently high open rates (greater than 25%), click through rates, and low bounce rates; regular contact with your audience; using tools like Join My Mailing List to grow your audience, either on your website or Facebook; using social tools to share and promote your content or events; and regularly viewing your reports to see how you're doing.

The majority of this work occurs behind the scenes but the results are noteworthy. For example, in the past two years, we have more than doubled the amount of members and supporters who subscribe to our newsletter (from 400 to over 1,000 today). Additionally, the average industry "open" rate for non-profit e-newsletters is 20 percent. The average open rate for our newsletter last year was 43 percent, well above the industry average but still lots of room for improvement.

We value you, your support, and your opinions. We want this to be evident through every contact we have with you. We also want to hear from you, because your comments and suggestions will help us to get better at what we do. This is what Trout Unlimited is all about. We are 140,000 conservation-minded anglers and supporters united behind a simple philosophy: take care of the fish, and the fishing will take care of itself.

And, because we can't say it enough...Thank you again!

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.](#)



**JOIN
US!**

To Register:

Visit the City's
Volunteer

Registration Page:

[http://www.cityofloveland.org/
index.aspx?page=917](http://www.cityofloveland.org/index.aspx?page=917)

Call: 970-962-2627

Email:

Stormwater@
ci.loveland.co.us

**Additional
Information:**

[http://www.cityofloveland.org/
index.aspx?page=505](http://www.cityofloveland.org/index.aspx?page=505)



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City of Loveland
Stormwater Engineering



Annual Spring Waterway Clean-Up

*Help us protect and improve our local waterways
by participating in this community service event.*

Date: **Saturday, April 21, 2012**

Time: **9:00 am to 12:00 noon**

Location: **Loveland Civic Center &
other designated locations**



Please dress appropriately: old clothes, work gloves, hats, work boots/shoes (waders, if possible). Garbage bags & water provided.

NOTE: Participants between the ages of 13-18 not accompanied by a parent or guardian must bring a pre-signed liability form. Children between the ages of 6-12 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Children under the age of 6 may not participate in a waterway clean-up.

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This newsletter was prepared by gofish2020@comcast.net |

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