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**Dear Reader,**

I just realized this is the last of these letters that I get to write, as my third term ends at the May meeting. I'm feeling pretty good about that as we have a slate of candidates for your consideration that will continue to make this chapter stronger and better. As you know, our chapter was awarded the state's Most Improved Chapter by Colorado Trout Unlimited at its Spring Rendezvous. We all should be very proud of that, as we've worked hard to make our chapter better. From the Board to the entire leadership council to every member who has volunteered and/or donated to the large group of you that attend meetings and support the raffle...this award is for you!

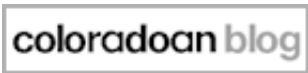
The May meeting is the last meeting before the summer break and the very active volunteer season in front of us. Please check your calendars and get your name on the email lists of those calling for help. If something comes up and you can't make it, we understand that. But don't wait to step up. We really need you!

Caleb VanWagner will be speaking to us at our May meeting and he always gives us a great talk. It's election night, and we will also have announcements about summer activities and projects. The Bylaws say that I need to give a State of the Chapter speech and recognition will be given to the Chapter. It will be a meeting with lots going on, so we really hope all of you can make it.

I just returned from an 18 day trip to Ireland. We drove the coastline around the entire island, and had a great time. I did see some trout water, mostly posted by the anglers' club that owned it. We're so fortunate to be able to drive some 20 minutes or so and have quality public fishing water. We must continue to do our part to guarantee that for our grandkids and their kids and grandkids.

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Sustaining Donor



Please consider becoming a [Sustaining Donor](#) at a level that you can afford. Special Recognition occurs at the \$50 level.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the meeting,

[Lee Evans](#), President  
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

*"If you don't tie your own flies, you're not really a fly fisherman!"*

Friendly quote from Paul, over a pint of Guinness in an Irish pub in Derry, Northern Ireland. I guess I'll have to buy a vice and take some lessons...

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## May Featured Guest Speaker - Caleb VanWagner

[Dick Jefferies](#), Vice President

Caleb VanWagner with Fly Times Productions will be our featured guest speaker on May 16 at 6:30 pm at the [Fort Collins Senior Center](#) (1200 Raintree Drive off Shields Avenue between Prospect and Drake).

Caleb is a life-long resident of Colorado having grown up in Craig and not far in any direction to prime trout waters as well as pike and smallmouth fisheries...sometimes all in the same river! Fly fishing for all of these species can be challenging to say the least but the one with the highest reward is the native Greenback Cutthroat. Caleb is also a pro tier for Peak Vises, competes regularly in casting and accuracy challenges, has won various fly fishing tournaments and competed in the Team USA trials.



There is a lot of similarity in the pursuit of the greenback whether it is in streams or lakes. Spotting fish before an approach combined with stealth, pattern selection and learning how to use the trout's environment in your favor are all helpful bits of information that can turn a ho-hum day into a wonderful and successful outing. The right mind set and plan can make stalking the greenbacks one of the most rewarding fish you can pursue with a rod and reel.

No one summed it up better than the illustrious John Gierach when he said, *"I didn't think this gut affection for cutthroats is any great mystery, it's just for some of us who live and fish in the Rockies and appreciate wilderness, these are the trout that actually belong here the way we would like to belong here: comfortably and thoughtlessly."*

[Click here to learn more about Fly Times Productions.](#)



Joining us at 6:30 on the vise will be this month's featured tier, Dennis Martin. Dennis is a local tier well known to many of us, a fisherman first class, fly shop rat and has been a featured tier at shops including Elkhorn Rod and Reel.

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## **Poudre River Clean-Up, Saturday, June 23**

[Lee Evans](#), Project Coordinator





The National Trout Unlimited organization has declared June 23 as a national day for river clean-ups. This year we are scheduled to clean as much of the Poudre as we can with the volunteers we get.

We will meet at Picnic Rock at 8:30 am and be assigned a stretch of the river to clean. We will all report back to Picnic Rock at noon for a picnic supplied by Rocky Mountain Flycasters and to share stories of what we found.

Many of our volunteers then go fishing for the rest of the day. It is always a great day to meet fellow members and friends and to perform a service to all the users of the Poudre.

Please email [Lee Evans](mailto:Lee.Evans@rmf.org) to get your name on the list of volunteers.

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## Who Eats Who at the Stream!

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

On April 25th RMF exhibited at Greeley's annual Children's Water Festival...in the Livestock Building at Island Grove Regional Park. Children's Festivals Coordinator Jerry Pelis, with volunteers Jim Merriott and Dennis Cook, presented RMF's new activity "Who Eats Who At The Stream" to six groups totaling 153 fourth graders. This activity allows each child to take the part of various species of aquatic insects, trout and

predators...and of course eat or avoid being eaten by the applicable next higher dominance creature that lives in and around our healthy stream (floor tape, balloons & materials simulating pools, riffles, rocks, bushes, wooden animals, etc.). Through this entertaining game the youngsters learned what is necessary to help keep a stream healthy, plus some of the visual indicators to help them recognize if a stream is, or is not, healthy. Our activity was designed under guidance by the educational staff at Poudre Learning Center in Greeley, to ensure age-appropriateness for 3rd and 4th graders. Each youngster received a bookmark that depicted



Class stands on riverside while Jerry explains the exercise

activity main points and a brochure presenting an opportunity to become a Trout Unlimited Stream Explorer, plus a bag of fishing and conservation information from Colorado Parks & Wildlife.

## Summer Youth Volunteer Opportunities - Youth Fishing Days

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

RMF has committed to staff two Saturday fishing events this summer for two of our closest partnering organizations - Colorado Parks & Wildlife and U.S. Forest Service. Each minimally requires 15 volunteers assisting youths to cast and land fish and untangle lines, while answering questions and explaining about ethics in the outdoors and simple conservation subjects...and possibly staff an RMF information booth. Each event is only about 6-hours long and youths are accompanied by a parent or adult. A bag lunch is provided also for volunteers. Please be generous with your time to support these two organizations that do so much to keep our outdoor resources and fisheries healthy.

### JUNE 9 - COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE'S YOUTH OUTDOOR SKILLS DAY (Fly Fishing)

**Still need 10 or more volunteers** 9:00am-1:00pm plus setup & teardown.

**Location:** Swift Ponds at SE junction of I-25 and Kechter Road (LCR 36). Enter from LCR 36 about 200 yards West of LCR 5. **Contact:** [Paul Wehr](#)



Give them a reason to go outside

### JULY 21 - U.S. FOREST SERVICE KIDS FISHING DAY (Spin Fishing)

**Need 12 or more volunteers** 9:00am-1:00pm plus setup & teardown. **Location:** West Lake at Red



Feather.

**Carpooling:** Will be coordinated for volunteers. Contact: [Dennis Cook](#)

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## NoCO Fly Fishing & Conservation Youth Day Camp - July 30th through August 4th

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair



Campers snorkel to examine underwater habitat

Nine of the 15 camper openings are already filled, so if you know of an ages 14-18 boy or girl please encourage them to download the Application & Parents Information packet from the [www.rockymtnflycasters.org](http://www.rockymtnflycasters.org) home page. Camp runs from 8:00am to 6:00pm daily Monday through Saturday, and activities take place in Fort Collins and Loveland facilities and rivers locations.

Volunteers will begin to be contacted directly starting this month, and interested new volunteers please contact [Dennis Cook](#).

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### RMF Logo Shirt Patch

A supply of iron-on, 2"x4" RMF logo shirt patches has been purchased for sale to members. Shirt patches can help increase RMF's identity throughout our NoCO area. The patches cost \$1.81 each and are being sold at chapter meetings for \$2.00 each.



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## Phantom Canyon Trail Maintenance Days

[Guy Turenne](#), Project Coordinator

The Nature Conservancy opened their online events registration in mid April. There are three Trail Maintenance Days listed in their newsletter for which RMF members volunteer. The dates are July 22, August 12 and September 16. The available slots for July 22 filled up quickly. However, there are still a number of openings for August 12 and September 16. The number of volunteers is limited to 12 per day.



If you may not be familiar with this activity; for a number of years RMF has partnered with The Nature Conservancy at their Phantom Canyon Preserve which is situated about 20 miles north of Fort Collins along the North Fork of the Poudre River. RMF volunteers do some minor brush trimming, use power weed whackers to keep the grassy trail along the river open and rebuild rock cairns marking the trail. The work is done in the morning and typically completed by lunch. After lunch the volunteers get to fish the north fork for the afternoon. The fishing in Phantom Canyon is outstanding as it is strict catch and release and there is very limited access. The river is well populated with nice sized browns and rainbows.

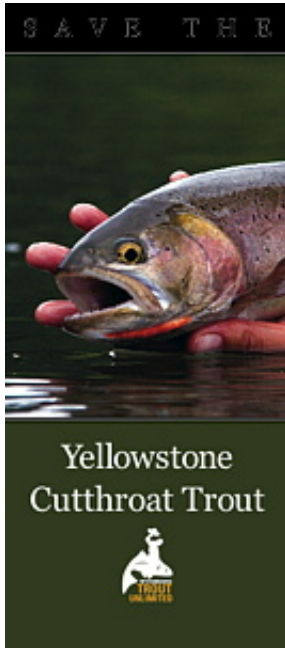
If you are interested, I urge you to register as soon as possible, before the remaining slots are filled.

*Note:* As of May 5, 2012, the July days are full, but additional volunteers are needed for the August and September days. To sign up for volunteer days, email [phantomcanyonevents@tnc.org](mailto:phantomcanyonevents@tnc.org) and type the volunteer day name in the subject line; include your name, address, phone, and number of participants you will be bringing. Or call Phantom Canyon Preserve at (970) 484-9996.

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## Save the Yellowstone Cutthroat Campaign

The Board of Trustees and Leadership Council, Rocky Mountain Flycasters



Last week Rocky Mountain Flycasters kicked off a matching donation challenge to raise money for the Save the Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout project on Yellowstone Lake. The devastation by the lake trout of the native Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout cannot be understated and the effect on other species around Yellowstone Lake is being noted.

Your help is needed to restore the native Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout. Rocky Mountain Flycasters is challenging its members to donate to the eradication efforts and will match donations up to a total of \$1000. The donations will go to Save the Yellowstone Cutthroat to purchase electronic monitoring equipment. That equipment is used to map the lake trout population and define exactly where their spawning grounds are located. Once those areas are determined an efficient eradication campaign can be instituted.

As this is being written, a number of generous, concerned members and others have stepped forward to contribute. We are now nearly half-way to meeting the challenge that RMF has posed. [You can see a simple graph on our home page that illustrates the donations and our goal.](#) We do not have much time to meet this goal (May 13) as the National Park Service, Fish and Game, Trout Unlimited, and the East Yellowstone Chapter of TU need to purchase equipment for the season.

To make your donation and have it matched by RMF:

- [Make a donation on the Rocky Mountain Flycasters website.](#)
- Send check or money order directly to Rocky Mountain Flycasters made out to "Save the Yellowstone Cutthroat". Mail to Paul Wehr, Treasurer, Rocky Mountain Flycasters, 330 Smith Street, Fort Collins, CO 80524.

Please direct any questions to [Dick Jefferies](#) (970-481-2924) or [Paul Wehr](#) (970-672-4337).

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## Welcome Wil Huett, Community Outreach Chair

[Paul Wehr](#), Treasurer



Rocky Mountain Flycasters has added member Wil Huett to the Board of Directors to serve as Community Outreach Chair. He will work to present an organized face to our TU chapter and serve as a contact person for any community group or individual approaching us and we can be confident that the organization will be well-represented.

Wil is a native of southeast Iowa, in the Mississippi River country. He started fly fishing for bass in farm ponds and was introduced to trout fishing after moving to northwest Nebraska in 1965. Wil came to Ft Collins in 1971 and has been here except for 2003-2006 when he lived in Montana.

In the radio business for 40 years, he started at age 15. He was in chapter management with the American Red Cross locally and in Montana for 15 years and now retired. Wil has written free-lance magazine articles including-Field and Stream and taught continuing education courses in magazine article writing at area colleges and universities.

Wil brings an involvement in many community organizations over the years including elective office as a board member of the Health District of Northern Larimer County (1997-2003).

He has three adult children and five grandchildren, including three in south Florida which makes a great excuse for a couple of warm weather fishing trips a year.

Wil says he has been a member since probably the early 80's and mostly enjoys work projects, including remembering helping build the handicap access up the Thompson. He reminds us "In fact I did a slide show presentation for the meeting program on that project." He also recalls building plunge pools up on the Michigan at Gould years ago. Of that project he recalls "It was a 2 day project and we camped out. Dr Behnke didn't have a tent and when it rained during the night he rolled under my pickup to stay dry."

We're glad to have you with us Wil.



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## **Adopt-A-Trail Volunteers Needed for Gateway Natural Area**

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair

Based on the success of last year's Trailgate Parties at Gateway Natural Area, Rocky Mountain Flycasters and Fort Collins Natural Areas Department have entered into a three-year agreement to continue the Adopt-a-Trail project in the spectacular setting at the confluence of the Poudre River and its North Fork.

This agreement and two similar ones in other locations are celebrated in [Natural Areas' current newsletter](#), Scroll to third article, "Thank You Trail Adopters".



This year the project will focus on restoring time-worn sections of the 0.75 mile long Black Powder Trail. The trail was originally built in the 1930s. It leads hikers to a summit overlook of the Poudre Canyon and, to the north, an expansive view of Seaman Reservoir with the North Fork valley and the mouth of Phantom Canyon visible in the background.

Here is what we do at a Trailgate Party. Beginning at 8 A.M. on June 30, 2012 and again on September 8, we will renovate sections of the Black Powder trail that are sadly in need of our help. At

eleven we will enjoy a picnic lunch under the canopy of one of the picnic shelters in Gateway Natural Area. And after the picnic you have your choice of fishing the North Fork between its confluence with the Poudre and the Seaman Reservoir, Seaman Reservoir from its shoreline, or wherever you wish on public waters in the main stem of the Poudre.

[Click here to read more about what happens at a Trailgate Party.](#)

Twelve volunteers are needed each day, and you can sign up for one or both days.

Contact [Scott Gardner](#) to reserve your volunteer space for this project.

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## New Stream Restoration Project Needs Volunteers

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair

RMF-TU is partnering with [Wildland Restoration Volunteers](#) (WRV) to conduct a substantial stream improvement project on 1.5 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.

[Click here to read a more complete description of this project and for easy-to-follow instructions on how to register as an RMF TU volunteer.](#)

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## Adventures for Volunteers in Rocky Mountain National Park

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair

During the May 16 RMF TU chapter meeting you will be able to meet Chris Kennedy, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services fisheries biologist in the Park. Chris's summertime assignment is to conduct field research on trout populations in RMNP and he has been doing this for many years.

However, Chris is the only person on the Park staff who does this work. Obviously the tasks cannot be accomplished by one person acting alone. So Chris depends on volunteers to help him accomplish this field research. Both male and female volunteers are welcome. Volunteering to assist Chris is an excellent way to experience the most pristine and scenic areas in the backcountry of the Park. As a volunteer you will become acquainted with volunteers from several Colorado TU chapters. And from Chris, you will learn much about the habits and habitats of both native and introduced trout

species. It all adds up to a bundle of fun, some good exercise, and your valuable contribution to trout fisheries research.

The schedule of trips planned for 2012 will be available at our May 16 meeting. When available, the trip schedule will also be posted on the [RME web site](#). The primary contact for people who want to volunteer is [Austin Condon](#) a member of [Alpine Anglers TU](#). If you want to volunteer, ask Austin to put your name on his volunteer list and he will send you update emails shortly before each trip. Then, when you see a trip you want to take, let Austin know you are volunteering for it.

For further information from RMF volunteers who have worked with Chris in past years, please contact Dave Piske, Guy Turenne, or Phil Wright at one of our chapter meetings.



Photo courtesy of Les Beery



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