



ROCKY
MOUNTAIN
Flycasters
30 Years



The Flypaper

February 2014 Edition

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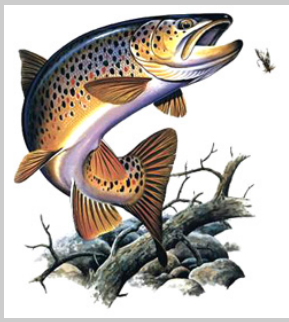
FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dick Jeffries

Anyone had enough snow and cold? If not, don't worry, our heavy snow season is just around the corner. Yippee!! Perfect timing nonetheless for a midwinter respite.

Join us next week at the Fort Collins Senior Center for our annual Fly Tying Expo. It starts at 5:30 on the 19th. Good food, great tiers and yes, a perfect



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opportunity to support Rocky Mountain Flycasters by participating in the silent auction. This is our largest fund raising event of the year and the financial support all of you provide to the local chapter is greatly appreciated.

Another great program headliner is set for March as Marty Bartholomew joins us for the evening. Stay tuned for soon to be announced details regarding a special program in April! We are celebrating the 30th anniversary of Rocky Mountain Flycasters with a special evening of fun.

See you next week at the Expo!!

[Dick Jefferies](#), President
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

[Chapter Event Calendar](#)

PROGRAM AND EVENTS

[Brad Kiehne](#), Program Director



Rocky Mountain Flycasters'



Annual Fly Tying Expo



Fur, Feathers, Yarn, & Steel

Wednesday, February 19, 2014 from 5:30–9:00 p.m.

Nearly two dozen professional and experienced tiers from our region will converge in Fort Collins for this annual event to demonstrate their fly tying skills and share tips on tying and fishing with their special flies. Every year, well over 100 people attend the RMF Fly Tying Expo.

This year the Expo will be even larger and better.

- Well-known tiers share their skills and tips
- Random drawings for each tier's flies and a fly rod drawing
- Silent auctions for many quality equipment items, supplies, books, etc.
- Beginner's table where you can learn to tie your own flies

Admission: \$20 per person (\$10 for students with ID, under 12-free). With the price of admission, you get a plate of food and a beverage, ten(10) raffle tickets (five(5) for students, none for under 12) for the fly and rod drawings, and a wealth of tying and fishing information.

Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity.

When: February 19, 2014, 5:30-9:00 PM

Where: Fort Collins Senior Center
1200 Raintree Drive
Fort Collins, CO

Learn from Marty Staab, Tim England, Dave Coulson, Mark Miller, Jake Ruthven, Mike Kruise, Mark Tracy, Jason Haddix, Guy Turenne, Terry Hubka, Rick Takahashi, Mark McMillan, Al Ritt, Dennis Martin, Thadd Strom, Eric Pettine, Kirk Bein, Grant Hous, Jin Choi, and Connor Murphy, and others.

www.rockymtnflycasters.org/cal/cal.php



* Let's Go Fishing!! *



Mark Miller, Fishing Trip Coordinator

Listed below are some trips we hope to take in 2014. Please note we need some volunteers to act as a Trip Host for some areas. If you have been to one of these once or twice, you qualify! As a Trip Host, your duties would simply be to arrange a meeting place and time, and possibly carpooling for the longer trips. Oh yeah, duty number one is to keep the rest of us from getting lost - it is that simple!

Additionally, if anyone would like to host a trip elsewhere, please feel free to let me know and I will add your trip to the list. Contact me at flytyer.miller@gmail.com or 970-744-8229 (cell).

- **March 29** - Lower Poudre River - (Host: Mark Miller) - weather permitting
- **April 12**- Poudre River - (Host needed)
- **April 25-27** - Gray Reef/North Platte float trip (Host: Mark Miller)
- **May 17-18** - Lake John - (2 nights) (Host needed)
- **June 14** - Laramie Plains lakes (Host: Frank Cada)
- **June 21** - Joe Wright Reservoir (Grayling) (Host needed)
- **July 12**- Lake Agnes - (Host: Ben Zomer)
- **July 19**- Encampment River, WY (wade trip) - (Host needed)
- **Aug 9** - Blue Lake (Indian Peaks Wilderness) (Host: David Morse)
- **Aug 16** - Colorado River Headwaters (Host: Dennis Cook)
- **Sept 12-14** - Flaming Gorge/Green River** (UT) (2-3 nights) (Host needed)
- **Sept 20**- Blue River (Host needed)
- **Oct ??** - Poudre (Host: Ben Zomer)
- **Nov ??** (weather permitting) - Cheesman Canyon/South Platte (Host: Mark Miller)

**Green River - September 12-14, 2014: We have 3 boats reserved for Sept 12-14th, assuming we will have some people who would like to float with a guide. This would allow a total of 6 fishermen to fish with a guide each day. This assumes we would drive to the Green early on Friday Sept 12th, arrive around 1pm, and do a "sunset" float that afternoon-evening. The floats on the 13th and 14th would most likely be all day floats, with fishermen returning home late on Sunday, or on Monday for those who wish to extend their trip. The guide can hold these boats until May 1st to allow for our sign-up process. As various folks sign up and commit, we can then finalize the reservations for the float trips. Any combination is fine - e.g., you can float one day, and then rent your own boat the remaining days, or wade fish part of the time, or wade the entire trip. It is strictly up to you. Our group will stay at the Flaming Gorge Resort. They have

reasonable room rates, and a restaurant and fly shop (and boat rentals) on site. Sept is a great time to fish the Green! (Call or email Mark for any questions you may have at flytyer.miller@gmail.com).

Fly Swappin'

[Ben Zomer](#), Fly Swap Coordinator

The Fly Swaps are underway and some of you will get a chance to see the lovely patterns that our members tied for each other and RMF at the upcoming meeting.

We pick a theme each month and anyone who wants to join can sign up and commits to tying multiples of one pattern based on that theme. Each person chooses one pattern to tie. The following month, you bring your creations to the meeting, or get them to the coordinator before the meeting. The flies are grouped so that everyone gets a fly each from the other tiers except their own. That fly goes into a kitty to be donated for the raffle, which will allow the folks at the meeting a chance to win those flies. At the same time, the raffle will raise money for the Chapter.

You don't need to be a great tier to participate or even have some fancy PMDrakeBeatis pattern to participate. Everyone and all skill levels are welcome.

This February-March theme will be "MAYFLY DRY FLIES". So come up with a pattern, sign up at the meeting and twist up a few. If you have any questions feel free to contact Ben via email at benmz@comcast.net.

2014 Children's Water Festivals

[Jerry Pelis](#)

SPRING IS COMING! Along with Spring's gentle wave come promises of milder temperatures, awakening wild flowers, ice free streams, restless insects, hungry trout, and antsy fly fishers.



Jerry Pelis, Water Festival Coordinator

Also riding Springtime's gentle wave are the fertile, inquisitive, receptive minds of school children as they glide toward the end of the school year, pausing at the Children's Water Festival for non-school, fun, hands on lessons on how important our water resource is to all, including stream inhabitants. What a great opportunity for us to plant the seeds of cold water conservation in the minds and hearts of these 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. They are truly a precious resource who will carry the stewardship of our favorite resource into the future. Our interactive game, "Who Eats Who At The Stream", will be conducted at 3 local cities again this year.

We were able to get our crucial message about how important cold, clean water is to our watershed out to 469 children last year.

Please consider volunteering to assist with Children's Water Festivals this year. Satisfaction,

fun, and smiles guaranteed.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Greeley - April 30
Loveland - May 8
Ft. Collins - May 21

Please contact [Jerry Pelis](#) to volunteer or for more information.

CONSERVATION NOTES

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair

OPEN HOUSE EVENTS: FORT COLLINS NATURAL AREAS

Overall Master Plan Open House: January 30, 2014

Despite the slushy snow that delayed traffic headed for the Museum of Discovery, attendance at the Fort Collins Natural Areas' Open House on January 30 attracted a large crowd, including quite a few RMF TU members.

In the ethereal setting of the Dome theater, John Stokes described the motivations and objectives underlying each of the various programs underway in his Natural Areas Department.

Not the least of those programs are the Poudre River ecological improvements now in their second year of implementation. Upstream of Shields St. the river has recently been returned to its long-lost natural condition that permitted easy upstream and downstream migrations of fish looking for suitable habitat. About a hundred years ago a dam to divert irrigation water was built across the full width of the river, blocking fish migration with a vertical 5-foot high barricade. Restoration of the natural fish passage was accomplished this year by removal of that long-unused dam.

Also, upstream and downstream of Shields Street, ongoing reductions in the height of man-made riverbanks will enable high river flows to diminish their destructive power. The lowered banks at three locations will allow future high flows to spread out onto formerly isolated flood plains and wetlands, thereby reducing flood damages at downstream locations.

Displays in the Open House exhibits area described other potential Natural Areas projects and sought attendee's opinions on five land and river conservation proposals. Included was the question: "What role should Natural Areas play in the conservation and restoration of the Poudre river?" If you missed the Open House opportunity to give your opinion, a channel remains open to send your opinion to Natural Areas Department. Until March 3 you can offer your opinions via email addressed to: fcgov.com/naturalareas/masterplan



Dave Piske

Poudre River Downtown Project Master Plan Open House: February 27

Everyone is invited to give input on this plan that is under development by three cooperating City Departments; Parks Planning, Stormwater, and Natural Areas. This plan is to be presented to City Council when completed later this year. This open house will be Thursday, February 27, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at The Lincoln Center's Columbine Room, 417 West Magnolia Street, Fort Collins. Drop-in anytime between 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free, no registration is required. Learn more on the Downtown Project website.

Big Thompson River Flood Restoration

Progress continues in organizing flood restoration actions by the Big Thompson River Restoration Coalition, in which Rocky Mountain Flycasters is a leading member. To keep informed about specific events and their schedules, read the full story on the RMF TU web site, www.rockymtnflycasters.org. and click on Conservation News.

Coordinator Needed For Gateway Adopt-A-Trail Projects

Gateway Natural Area suffered substantial damages during the September, 2013 flood, including a lateral displacement of the deck on the foot-bridge over the Poudre. The bridge provides the only access to the Black Powder Trail, one of our usual work sites. Currently closed to foot traffic, the bridge will be repaired and reopened to foot traffic before our first Adopt-a-Trail workday. So we expect to soon set the dates for two trail workdays in 2014.

What we really need right now is a volunteer to fill the currently vacant position of Gateway Adopt-a-Trail Coordinator. The Coordinator's duties can be learned by accessing the RMF Orientation Manual on the "RMF Share" Drop Box, then read Position Description #12.

If you tell Dave Piske (conserve@rockymtnflycasters.org) you are interested, you can participate in planning the 2014 activities with Fort Collins Natural Areas staff members, and that will make the transition into the position very easy.



Dennis Cook

YOUTH OUTREACH

[Dennis Cook, Coordinator](#)

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

by [Scott Kemp](#), Science Teacher
Rocky Mountain High School

As you reminiscence back to the days when you were sitting in a science classroom, the thought of raising trout was probably never imagined by you or your teacher. Today, through a national and state funded effort by Trout Unlimited entitled, Trout in the Classroom, <http://www.troutintheclassroom.org/>, this very activity has led to a wonderful interaction of students, staff and trout at Rocky Mountain High School in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Trout in the Classroom is a hands-on experiential project that enables students and staff to be involved with all aspects of raising trout—from receiving the fertilized eggs, a few months ago, to releasing the fish into the Poudre River, in town, this coming May. The project has been challenging and interesting from day one. Preparing for the arrival of the fish required a month



RMHS Teacher and RMF Member Scott Kemp

of conditioning a 55 gallon tank and stabilizing the water chemistry. On October 24th, the rainbow trout eggs arrived by FedEx from the state of Washington. Students counted exactly 200 eggs and placed the eggs in a hatching basket. Before the basket was lowered into the tank, several students got close views with a dissection microscope and were able to see blood flow and movement of the developing embryo within the egg. Junior, Jesse Brokuop exclaimed she didn't know much about trout but now, "I feel like a real scientist." As a teacher, to hear and watch both students and adults react and proclaim their sheer delight and interest with the trout is

rewarding and inspiring.

The practical scientific lessons and benefits are real. Students are involved in the daily maintenance of the tank and care of the trout. The biggest highlight is the daily feedings of the trout as they have become celebrities and numerous students regularly check on their progress. Classes take turns and note observations of feeding behaviors, while, testing the water for ammonia, nitrates, nitrites and pH levels. Additionally, students observe and note water changes, monitor the filter and chiller, which is a key component of trout habitat as it keeps the water temperature a cool 52 degrees Fahrenheit. Students see the critical components that control a trout's life such as conservation of resources and the unmistakable connection between the physical, biological and chemical aspect of clean water.

The difficult lessons of life and death are common as the cycle of nature is observed. A percentage of trout don't make it even in a protective environment like ours with an absence of predators. Many trout have died due to simple genetics - dealt a "bad hand", the lack of instinct to eat, the competition for food and space, etc. As April approaches, several trout will be sacrificed for testing purposes to ensure they are disease free before the remaining fish are released into the river. While research suggests that only 1-2% of wild trout survive to spawning age, we are on target to release 45, three-inch trout.

Currently, the trout are following nature's course, from egg to sac fry to free, swimming fish. This classroom partnership with Trout Unlimited has been an exceptional experience, from the inception with Dennis Cook's careful planning and expertise, to the anticipated release. Students are already discussing how they will release their fish to the wild, Poudre River. If you are in the neighborhood, please feel invited to stop by to see the trout. Check in at the front office at RMHS, pick up a visitor pass and walk to Science room 522. You will be glad you did and you may even see a trout rise, for real!

TIC BEGINS IT'S SECOND YEAR AT FRONT RANGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

On January 16th RMF members Bruce Rosenfeld and Dennis Cook visited FRCC and joined class instructor Heather Dannahower kicking off another TIC project year. A refrigerated package of rainbow trout eggs arrived from the nursery, were unpacked, inspected and 206 carefully were transferred into the mesh breeder basket and placed into the water attached to the side of the tank. During the previous month the tank had been cleaned and filled, let sit to release chlorination, chemicals added to ensure zero toxins and maintained at 52 degrees for about three weeks to make certain all the equipment operated correctly.



Over the weekend of January 24-27 all 206 of the eggs hatched as sac fry, were released to live in the gravel for about a week while feeding nutrients from their sacs, and then began rising in the water column (life stage known then as alevins) in search of real food...so feeding of very fine particulate began. In a couple weeks the fry will begin to develop the vertical parr markings along their sides as they grow, and then become known as parr fry. For the remainder of the semester students will check water chemistry and temperature to ensure all is well. Some fish will die, especially during the tank's nitrogen cycle as it establishes its

chemistry norm, but we're optimistic we'll again have a large population remaining before Parks & Wildlife conducts their pathology dissection tests...and eventual release in early May.

YOUR TRASH CAN SAVE RMF CASH!

RMF's youth education programs need 15 fly rod tip sections for casting introduction. We are referring to the approximately 2' to 3' end section of a rod. Our intention is to attach a short braided line to the section's tip end...so the tip eyelet or other eyelets can be missing. Even extra old tip section blanks will also work for our purpose.

Contact: Dennis Cook 372-9229 or rkymtnangler@Q.com.
Thank you.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

[Wil Huett](#), Coordinator

Rocky Mountain Flycasters unveiled a new public education display Feb 8th at the Poudre River Forum. The display, made possible by a 2013 grant from Colorado TU, will be used at similar events to tell the story of the conservation efforts and activities the chapter provides in our community. Members will have a chance to see the display at the Fly Tying Expo on Feb 19, and

again at the Larimer County Fishing Expo March 8th and 9th.

Thanks for design of this new chapter education effort go to a committee of Dennis Cook, Lee Evans and Paul Wehr. Paul's experience and ability in design and layout were especially valuable. Many members and partner agencies provided photos which are used to show 'boots on the ground' activities. Who knows, you may be in one or more of those photos! Better check it out.

CHAPTER HISTORY

Formation Of The Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter Of Trout Unlimited

[Lee Evans, Past President](#)

Sometime in the late 1970's a group of anglers from northern Colorado started a Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) club and Eric Pettine was president. Shortly thereafter, a Trout Unlimited chapter was formed and Mark Vaughn was president. Eric Pettine reports that it was decided to put the two clubs together and form a chapter of Trout Unlimited/FFF called Northern Colorado Anglers. This new club was able to keep the number 010, indicating we were the tenth TU chapter in the nation.

This chapter "was active for a few years, but then lapsed into inactivity. Realizing the importance of having an active chapter, several old and new members cooperated to re-activate the chapter as Rocky Mountain Flycasters." (This is a direct quote from the minutes of the first public meeting of Rocky Mountain Flycasters, dated May 25, 1983.)

In a letter dated June 6, 1983, Robert L Herbst, Executive Director of Trout Unlimited, writes: "It gives me considerable pleasure to inform you that the Trout Unlimited Executive Committee, in session on June 4, approved the Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter's request for a charter."

CEO Herbst went on to write: "We are very pleased that the formerly inactive Northern Colorado Anglers Chapter has been completely reorganized and infused with new life."

The officers of the new chapter were recorded in the first minutes as Pat Beauchamp, President; Vance Vorndam, Vice President/Program Chair; Tom Christian, Secretary/Treasurer; Kevin Burkhardt, Newsletter Editor; Mike Davis, Membership Chair/Publicity Director; and Dan Neill, Stream Reconstruction.

The bylaws list the original board of directors as Richard Bauer, Rocky Bloskas, William Connaughton, Jr., Mikael Davis, James Schmehl, James Shook, Robert Trossen, and Michael Herbst with James Ferguson listed as the Initial Incorporator.

Rocky Mountain Flycasters chapter is now in its 30th year and will celebrate its 30th anniversary at a meeting this spring. RMF has grown and increased its activities over the years with the help of the following Presidents:

- Pat Beauchamp '83, '84, '85, '86
- Steve Goto '87, '88
- Cy Sampson '89
- Jim Ferguson '90, '91, '92
- Bruce Biggi '93, '94
- Rick Bauer '95, '96
- Tom Post '97, '98
- Greg Sheets '99, '00, '01

- Paul Fromme '02, '03, '04
- Ken Eis '05, '06
- Greg Evans '07, '08
- Lee Evans '09, '10, '11
- Dick Jefferies '12, '13 to present

The original meeting of Rocky Mountain Flycasters showed 37 anglers in attendance, including Eric Pettine, Rick Takahashi, and Louis Swift. Also in attendance almost every month was Dr. Robert Behnke. Over the first 5-7 years, the chapter membership grew from 37 members to over 400. Monthly meetings moved from a room in the Poudre Valley REA at College and Harmony to various locations, finally settling in a banquet room in the hotel now known as the Fort Collins Hilton. Our first Christmas party was held in the Grange Hall in Bellvue!!

Some of the early stream improvement projects include check dams on the Little South Fork of the Poudre along the picnic ground section below Pingree Park. Those check dams are still in place and working their magic, even after 30 years of fires, floods, and pestilence.

The chapter also instigated, funded, and—with involvement from Corps of Engineers and the DOW—designed and placed structure in the Big Thompson River at Big Elk Meadows. This section below the dam now has the best biomass in the river and is enjoyed by many anglers every day. In 1989, under the presidency of Cy Sampson, our chapter played a leading role in the construction of the handicapped access to the river. (Editor’s note: Unfortunately, this entire structure was washed away during the floods of September 2013.) We also worked hard to get a Catch and Release designation on the Big Thompson from Estes Park downstream to the Waltonia Bridge. Our volunteers placed all the signs indicating that it was a catch and release area. We held many river clean-ups on both the Big Thompson and the Poudre.



Lee Evans

Our chapter now counts upwards of 1000 members and continues to sustain, restore, reconnect and protect the rivers and their watersheds. The RMF Chapter is one of the finest chapters of Trout Unlimited, thanks to the

support of thousands of local members, hundreds of board members, thirteen presidents, Colorado TU, and of course, national Trout Unlimited. We perhaps face our biggest challenges ever as we work to restore our home waters after the recent devastating fires and floods.

GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT

[Paul Wehr](#), Webmaster

We're always looking for pictures germane to fly fishing, rivers, lakes, and watershed conservation, volunteers doing that work, fly tying, sharing fishing with youngsters and others, so the options are varied. Most suitable would be local with RMF members, but some other destinations will be considered. Having permission to publish on our website will be implicit for submitted photos so make certain you have permission from anyone in your pictures.



Paul Wehr

Photographers will be acknowledged in a caption with the picture so rush those pictures in. Send

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