



The Flypaper

May 2014 Edition

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From the President

Happy May to all!!



Dick Jefferies, President

Is it possible we might actually get some spring weather that doesn't involve 40 mph winds? Forecast is looking extremely "fish friendly"!

Many, many thanks to all who helped put together our 30th Anniversary Party. It was an evening enjoyed by many as we celebrated with old friends and made new ones.

A special thanks to Poudre Learning Center, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, and the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed for taking time to share information with the attendees. John Stokes and his staff along with many others at the Fort Collins Natural Areas Department are to be commended for the detailed information they have put together describing what is an incredible vision and will become a gem through Fort Collins as they look to restore and reconnect the Poudre.

I also want to extend a very special thank you to Karla Baise, the staff, and management at Odell Brewing. Providing us with the use of your facility and your participation made for a truly special evening. The dedication of Odell Brewing to the nonprofit community is truly outstanding. That dedication coupled with your

steadfast support of the need to maintain clear, clean, healthy and vibrant watersheds make you a truly valued community resource!

We are about to wrap up another program season at RMF so don't miss the May meeting. Not only do we have a great program in store, it is also our annual meeting and election of officers will be held. Most important, it is our annual awards night. Please be on hand to acknowledge all of those who will be recognized for their outstanding contributions to Rocky Mountain Flycasters and Trout Unlimited.

In order to continually improve the service that our organization provides, Rocky Mountain Flycasters will be sending out a short electronic survey about mid-May. We will use the results of the survey to help us refine our long term vision and plan for the chapter. The leadership of RMF is excited about where we are as a chapter. We also want to ensure that our future growth and development represents both the interests of our membership and the ideals expressed in the TU mission. Please take a few minutes to respond when you receive the survey. It is a very simple process and your inputs are received anonymously. Tell us what you really think!

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

"The solution to any problem—work, love, money, whatever—is to go fishing, and the worse the problem, the longer the trip should be." —John Gierach

[Chapter Event Calendar](#)

May Programs and Events



Acquatic Biologist Ken Kehmeier, Annual Meeting Speaker

Wednesday, May 21: The Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Flycasters-Trout Unlimited chapter will be held at the Fort Collins Senior Center. A social hour begins at 6:30 PM. Our featured speaker, Ken Kehmeier, is a senior aquatic biologist for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. His long and distinguished career has focused on fisheries management, fishing recreation and aquatic species protection in Northern Colorado. Among many career achievements and accolades, Ken recently received the Colorado TU "**Trout Conservation Award**" at the annual Rendezvous, recognizing his outstanding contributions and leadership in developing mitigation plans for water projects. His efforts helped secure mitigation commitments to protect fishery resources in association with the Chatfield, Moffat, and Windy Gap projects. In addition, he has also been a leader in developing the proposed collaborative project for native trout restoration in the Poudre headwaters.

The meeting will be held at the Fort Collins Senior center. The social hour starts at 6:00 PM and the program, beginning at 7:00, will feature the election of officers and presentations of Annual Awards as well as the talk by Mr. Kehmeier.

LET'S GO FISHING



Mark Miller, RMF Fishing Trip Coordinator

Click [here](#) to view a list of fishing trips we hope to take in 2014.

There is also some new information about two of the trips:

Lake John (May 17-18). This trip will be about 1-2 weeks after ice-out. Should be a great time to hit this lake! If interested, here is the link for the Lake John Resort: www.lakejohnresort.com. Each person needs to make their own reservations for lodging or camping. There is also free camping at Delaney Buttes, just 10 min away.

Fishing should be very good. This lake was reclaimed (poisoned) over 2 years ago to get rid of the suckers, which made up over 90% of the fish population two years ago. This winter, ice fishermen were catching 16-18 trout, very nice fish!

It's best to bring your float tube, or small boat. I would expect the fish to be cruising the shallows, and ready to hit bugger type flies, among many other lake patterns. I've never fished Lake John, but am guessing you may be able to fish from shore (wading) as the weeds should not be bad this early in the spring. Later in summer the weeds make a float tube almost mandatory.

Flaming Gorge/Green River, Utah (September 12-14).

You can still sign up for this trip, but it might be too late to get a guide. However, you can wade fish the Green River easily, or get a buddy and rent a raft to float fish the river. If you have any questions please give me (Mark Miller) a call 970-744-8229 or send an email flytyer@gmail.com.

We plan to leave for this trip about 5 AM on Friday (Sept 12) morning and return home about 10:00 PM Sunday night (Sept. 14). Cost will be about \$100 for 2 nights lodging, with food and Utah fishing licenses on top of that. If you haven't fished Green River before, check out these fly

fishing videos on this youtube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLjYowHnFHc>.

Hosts Needed: As you can see from our scheduled trips, we still need some volunteers to act as a Trip Host. If you have been to one of these areas 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 ya, and duty number one is to keep the rest of us from getting lost - it is that simple! Please contact me if you would like to host one of the listed trips or to suggest a different location. My contact info: flytyer.miller@gmail.com or 970-744-8229.

Fishing Report: The Gray Reef Trip



A motley crew of six, pictured above, departed Ft Collins in the early morning light on Friday, April 25th, for the 3.5 hr drive to the North Platte River at Grey Reef, near Alcova, WY. From left the crew included Dennis Cook, Ben Zomer, Bob Green, Gil Coleman, Coy Wylie (one of our newest RMF members), and trip host Mark Miller. All had visions of large, hefty rainbow trout. As you can see from the pictures below, they were not disappointed! The size and number of trout in this stretch of the North Platte River is simply amazing. Almost every fish netted was between 15-18" long.

Look at the amazing video (click <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArKVJum3iuk&feature=youtu.be>) of these fish in action (and the antics of the motley crew!) With two drift boats at our disposal, the group floated the 8 mile stretch from Grey Reef dam to the Lusby take-out. Part of the fun was anchoring the boats in the middle of the river in ankle deep water, getting out of the boat and wade fishing several small riffles and seams that all held nice trout. [Read more](#) at the end of this newsletter.



RMF members Ben Zomer (left) and Dennis Cook (right) show big fish and big smiles



MAY CONSERVATION NOTES



Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

Wednesday May 7—Fundraiser for the Big Thompson Restoration Coalition

St. Peters Fly Shop and New Belgium Brewery have teamed to show the film *Waypoints* as a fund-raiser for the Big Thompson River Restoration Coalition on **May 7**. *Waypoints* is a Confluence film about fly fishing around the world. ([Click here](#)) to see a trailer).

You can enjoy this beautiful and exciting movie and contribute to Big Thompson restoration at New Belgium Brewery on [May 7](#). Doors will open at **6 p.m.** and the show starts at **7 p.m.** Tickets (your contribution) are \$15 and include snacks and a couple of New Belgium beverages. Proceeds go to the Big Thompson River Restoration Coalition. Tickets are now available for purchase (cash only) at both St. Peter's locations:
202 Remington Street, Fort Collins CO (970-498-8969) and
2008 East Harmony Road, Fort Collins, CO (970-377-3785)

Please help get the word out so that we can raise some money for river restoration along the Big Thompson River. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact St. Petes at one of the phone numbers or by email at shop@stpetes.com.

RMF At McMurry Natural Area

It was a terrific day to be out with Rocky Mountain Flycasters and members of the Natural Area Department of Fort Collins! Fourteen volunteers turned out to assist with some reconstruction work at the McMurry Natural Area. The area was heavily altered by the floods of September 2013.

Projects included an overflow channel, a line collecting unit, decking a boardwalk, as well as working on edges of natural trails. See more pictures on our [conservation page](#).

MAY YOUTH OUTREACH NOTES



Dennis Cook, Youth
Outreach Chair

DATE CHANGE - YOUTH OUTDOOR SKILLS AT SWIFT PONDS

The date for this event has **changed to September 20 (previously May 31)**.

Each year NoCO youths have an opportunity to sample a potpourri of outdoor skills at this event, and see if they might want to learn more about one, or even several. Skills include fly fishing, spin fishing, archery, viewing/tracking, BB gun and shotgun activities. Youths must all pre-register and be accompanied by an adult or older sibling. Youths, with their adult sponsor, are divided into groups of about fifteen and rotate through each activity area during periods of about one-hour each.



Young Angler with Fish: 2013 Outdoor Skills Day

Rocky Mountain Flycasters volunteers have operated the Fly Fishing activity and assisted youths to try their hand at casting fly rods

and trying to catch a fish in Swift Ponds well stocked waters. Typically each group is greeted, listens to a brief opening explanation about fly fishing skills, observes a casting demonstration, is assisted to fit them with a rod...and then they go with their adult sponsor to an assigned lake section and try themselves. Most, but not all, are accompanied by a RMF volunteer, depending upon the experience of the accompanying adult. Volunteers oversee all participants observing for safety, lending some instruction and ensuring that the equipment isn't abused.

The event is held at the CYO Center at Swift Ponds at the corner of LCR 5 and LCR 36 (Kechter Road) immediately East of and bordering I-25. Details have not yet been released, but it's usually between 9:00am and 2:00pm. Volunteers have been served a sack lunch, and it's always a fun time. Many volunteers are required, so please mark your calendar now to lend a hand.

YOUTH DAY CAMP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Camper Receives On-Stream Fly Fishing Instruction at 2013 Camp

RMF's Youth Day Camp will be in its 5th year this summer...assuming we get enough volunteers. Listed below is information describing the activities that require large groups of volunteers. Some members have already signed up and we are deeply appreciative, but we need more.

We all have at some time commented how much we love our fly fishing pastime, and about how we enjoy when we can pass the same opportunity along to youths in our community. Now is your chance to bring this to life for yourselves.

New application of technology enables you now to sign up online. Simply click on [this link](#) for the activity or activities you want to volunteer for, and it will guide you to provide your name, phone and email information. For your convenience, all activities are listed below.

ACTIVITIES

July 29 - Tuesday - Fly Casting (Need 15)
River Bend ponds 2:30-5:30

July 30 - Wednesday - River Fishing (Need 15)
Poudre Canyon 8:00-5:00

July 31 - Thursday - Still Water Fishing (Need 15)
Swift Ponds 8:00-11:00

July 31 - Thursday - Electroshock & Restoration Proj. Big Thompson 12:30-5:30
(Need 8)

ACTIVITIES

Aug 1 - Friday - Snorkeling & Entomology (Need 8)
Poudre - Lions Park 8:00-Noon

Aug 1 - Friday - Fly Tying Intro (Need 9)
Conf Room, FoCo - TBA 2:30-5:30

Aug 2 - Saturday - Fly Tying Intermed (Need 9)
CMS, Windsor Conf Room 8:00-11:00

Aug 2 - Saturday - Stream Fishing (Need 15)
RMNP Noon-5:00

USFS Kids Free Fishing Day

Saturday, June 7th West Lake, Day-use Area...at Red Feather Lakes 8:00am - 1:30pm
12 to 15 volunteers are needed for this fun event that the USFS has relied upon our chapter

members to assist youngsters with rigging spin cast rods, casting, landing fish, etc. Contact Coordinator Lee Evans at leesandie@msn.com

Car pooling for volunteers will be coordinated for those who request, and additional details will be provided in late May. Last year we had a good time helping a bunch of excited youngsters spin cast, untangle lines and land fish. Members are encouraged to consider registering and bringing your kids and grandkids and make a memorable picnic day of it!



Past RMF President Lee Evans Assists Young Anglers at Red Feather Lakes

Space is limited for between 50-60 kids, and each youth age 15 and younger will go home sporting a free, new spinning rod & reel. Youths must be accompanied by an adult and the whole family is invited. Those ages 16 or older require a fishing license.

Participant Families must Register ASAP by email to christophercarroll@fs.fed.us with the number of participants, youths ages, and contact information.

Driving directions: West Lake Day-use Area is located just off Red Feather Lakes Road (CR 74E). Drive about 21 miles North from Fort Collins on U.S. Highway 287. Turn West onto Red Feather Lakes Road (CR 74E) and drive about 22 miles. Turn North onto Dowdy Lake Road and West Lake is immediately on your right, with the Day-Use Area along its North shore.

Check-in begins at 8:00am, and all the fishy facts activities and fun begin at 8:30 and continue through 1:30pm. Be sure to bring water, lunch, sun screen and bug spray. Adults and older youths who plan to fish also bring along fishing gear, and a cooler if you want to keep your catch.

Children's Water Festival

We could still use a few volunteers for each of the two remaining Children's Water Festivals.

- May 5 Loveland at Good Shepard Church--Fifth grade
- May 21 Ft. Collins at Front Range Community College--Third grade

It is truly a rewarding experience to help these young people get headed down the conservation trail. They are all eager to learn at this age so what better opportunity to start them thinking about the Trout Unlimited mission and developing a strong commitment to a positive environmental ethic. We will take steps in this direction by engaging these lively third, fourth, and fifth graders in a fun, active game called "Who Eats Who at the Stream" which teaches the rudiments of trout stream ecology. We also give some natural history lessons about the some of the key species in a stream environment, including trout, aquatic insects, and the

predators one might find residing along a stream. No experience is necessary, all that is needed is a desire to help young people learn about our favorite environment and carry on our heritage. Flexible scripts will be provided so no memorization or long speeches will be required. Please join us if you can. Smiles guaranteed.

For further information or to volunteer, please contact Jerry Pelis at jwdp43@comcast.net

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2014-5-1

Grey Reef Fishing addendum

Small (size 18-20) midge and BWO emerger patterns were the meal ticket each day. Afternoons saw some very nice BWO hatches with lots of adult mayflies on the surface, and lots of rising fish, but all of our success was still sub-surface.

Beautiful weather and little wind greeted us on Friday and Saturday, but Sunday started out with snow and a temp of 39 degrees. Dressed like we were going ice fishing or downhill skiing, we hit the river just below the dam (near the launch ramp) from 11am to 4pm, and had our best luck of the trip. The trout never stopped hitting.

Everyone had a great time, and even though the fishing was great, the fellowship was even better. Everyone survived the trip in good form, although our host Mark unintentionally almost killed Coy two times! "Yes, I am fortunate that Coy isn't suing me," Mark said. "While Coy was standing up in the boat to net a fish for Gil, I hit a rock that almost tossed him into the river (hee hee)."

"Next, I noticed that the rear boat seat seemed a little loose, as if ready to fall off the seat pedestal. So I took the seat off and inspected it closely, deemed it serviceable, and reinstalled it. No problem – as I can fix almost anything." (Mark's motto is: if it doesn't move and should, use WD40. If it moves and shouldn't, use duct tape)!!

"About 5 minutes later, while quietly rowing the boat into perfect position for Coy to cast to a big rainbow, I hear this huge crashing sound from the back of the boat. I thought we had been rammed by another boat. Just before I started to abandon ship with my life vest clutched tightly in my hands, I happened to see Coy curled up on his behind, in the bottom of the boat, under his knee brace, and no seat on the seat pedestal (oops). I guess the duct tape didn't hold?"

In summary, good fishing, good times, and good friends. It just don't get no better than that !!

PS: The objective of our chapter trips is to have fun and get to know each other (and to catch a few fish). But we still have certain rules to adhere to. Since this was one of our longer distance trips, over a three day period, the rules were a little more stringent than usual. The Rules for Grey Reef were as follows:

To make sure our trip goes smoothly, the following simple rules must be strictly followed:

1. Old guys are always right
2. Old guys rule
3. If the old guy is wrong, refer to rule number one
4. No rap music allowed
5. I promise not to catch any fish under 16 inches long
6. No wild fish stories allowed

7. If I do tell wild fish stories, they must be absolutely true
8. If I get caught making up a wild fish story, I have to buy a round of beer
9. Everything I eat this weekend will have bacon on it
10. If my buddy has a big fish on, and I am rowing, I promise not to purposely spin the boat and wrap the line around his neck
11. If the boat spins by accident and wraps the line around my buddy's neck and breaks his leader, I promise not to laugh
12. If anything breaks, just ask Coy to fix it with Clear Cure Goo
13. If not sure what fly to use, tie on anything made with Clear Cure Goo
14. If that doesn't work, put a little bacon on it
15. If you rip a fish's lips off, immediately reattach with Clear Cure Goo (under Coy's careful guidance)
16. All flies should have the barb mashed down – much easier to remove fly from your buddy's ear
17. Bring pliers to remove fly from buddy's ear
18. Don't ask Mark to tell any Arizona snake stories – he won't stop once he gets going (snake in the shower; snake in the wheel well at 50 mph; snake in the bedroom dresser)
19. Have a great time!
20. Almost forgot – no rap music!!