



June 2015 Edition

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RMF Quick Links



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From The Newly Elected President



Wil Huett, RMF-TU President speaks at the 2015 Annual Meeting

Welcome to Spring! I think it has finally arrived, and only a couple of months late! Hope you got some good fishing in between the rain showers.

Please also welcome new members to Rocky Mountain Flycasters' Leadership Team. At the May elections Coy Wylie joined the team as a Trustee and I was proud to assume the role of President of the chapter. Sean Cronin (VP) Lance Asherin (Secretary), Tom Culbertson (Treasurer) and Coy Wiley (Trustee) were also elected.

These and the volunteer project and activity coordinators form the team which puts into action all our conservation projects, educational programs and the fun stuff like fishing trips and the fly exchange.

With the elections, Dick Jefferies steps into his new role as Past President and Lee Evans graduates to "unofficial" status for the first time in more than a decade. Read Dick's astute and challenging "**State of the Chapter**" address and scroll this page down a bit to read Lee's thoughtful reflections on Dick's leadership and achievements. Whatever led me to say yes to following the two such giants as Lee and Dick in this position escapes me at the moment, but I promise my best.

And speaking of 'best' things, the fish in Northern Colorado need all our best efforts to help restore their habitat following the fires and floods of recent years. The chapter has been instrumental in securing grants to repair and rehabilitate our two major watersheds, now it's time to get to work, to turn those grant dollars into good stream and fish habitat. How can you do that? Sign up for a work project and...'Give a Day Back to the Fish!' Give a day of wading in the water without a rod in your hand, but with a shovel or a sack of seed, or a willow probe. Give a day of trail repair or culvert replacement, or teaching young people to fish and preserve our fishing heritage. Go

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on, 'Give a Day'. If each of us gives one day each season on a work project we can accomplish wonders. Will we? It depends....on you.

Our project list is easily available through links provided in the Give a Day Back to the Fish Section (below) in this newsletter, and on our website www.rockymtnflycasters.org. In the very near future are

Seaman Reservoir and the Gateway Adopt-a-trail projects. A little further down the road is your chance to influence future generations during our annual Youth Camp. (Note that in some cases the volunteer sign-up is handled by one of our partner agencies, but go ahead and register and just let them know you proudly represent RMF & TU.)

So, go on..'Give a Day Back to the Fish' who have given you so much pleasure and excitement. They deserve it don't they?

Tight lines to all!

Wil Huett, President
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

Chapter Event Calendar

Reflections And Kudos: Dick Jefferies

By Lee Evans



Past President Dick Jefferies is Recognized for His Contributions to the Chapter by Lee Evans, another Past RMF President

I was very impressed with Dick's State of the Chapter speech made just a year ago. Dick talked about the issues facing our chapter and asked, "Can we?" then proceeded to say "Of course we can. A more important question that I challenge each of you with is 'Will we?'"

He went on to say, "Unlike the easy answers to the question, "Can we?", I cannot give you an easy answer to the question "Will we?" All I know is that ultimately the answer to "Will we?" is borne from each of us looking inward and asking "Will I?"

We know that when Dick asks himself "Will I?", the answer is a resounding "Yes!" I believe Dick came into this office with a few goals: shorten the board meetings, increase our chapter's presence in

our community, increase involvement of our members, and maybe start restoring a greenback cutthroat area in the watershed above Long Draw reservoir.

And then the fire happened. And now our home waters are in danger of serious decline, and the

agenda changed. While we were all asking how our chapter would be able to take on such a massive restoration project, Dick was saying "I will!" and he started working with many different agencies to create a new non-profit which could write grants, cooperate the planning of details, and be prepared to take on the problem over the long term. His efforts resulted in the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed, of which he continues as chairman. And this past week, the coalition put boots on the ground and started with the Skin Gulch project. Creating a new non-profit, jumping through all the hoops to get IRS approval, and attending meeting after meeting is not easily doable. But Dick did and we thank him for it.

To make matters worse, the next year the floods happened, and massive restoration of the Big Thompson became needed. Dick's coalition for the Poudre served as a model for the affected agencies, and, again with Dick's "I will" philosophy and the increased presence of Rocky Mountain Flycasters, the Big Thompson River Restoration Coalition was formed. And a plan to fix the Big T is now in effect, and grants of \$600,000 have been received, with another \$1.5 million pending and this huge restoration project has begun.

To continue with Dick's answer of "Yes I will!" he has committed to staying active with the coalitions, even though his term as president is ending. This sure makes it easier for the new board to continue with Dick's legacy.

Oh, and yes the board meetings are shorter and more efficient. And the community knows who Rocky Mountain Flycasters is. The number of calls we get asking for our involvement proves it.

We appreciate Dick's strategic thinking, his ability to look at long term effects. His experience as a small business owner keeps him ever looking for new opportunities to guide our chapter in the pursuit of TU's mission. His energy and enthusiasm has truly made our chapter more visible. And he was just elected to CTU's board, so he can continue to say "I will!" at the state level. So, thank you, Dick. Our chapter is better because of you. Our home watersheds will be better because of your work. And the number of our members who also say "I will!" has increased substantially because of your example.

Note: The speech reproduced below was presented by Lee Evans, another Past President, at The 2015 Rocky Mountain Flycasters' Annual meeting.

June Youth Outreach Notes

Annual RMF Youth Day Camp July 27th through August 1st

VOLUNTEERS, PLEASE SIGN UP NOW...with just two clicks

Youth Campers! Two-thirds of all the Day Camp openings are filled. If you still have a son or daughter who may be interested, or a grandchild, or know of a neighborhood youngster...NOW is the time to excite them to hurry and apply. You can download the complete **Parents Information and Application Packet** at the following weblink:

<http://www.rockymtnflycasters.org/proj/youth/camp2015.php>



Dennis Cook, Youth Outreach Chair



2014 RMF Day Camp Graduates and Mentors

Mentor Volunteers! You can sign up now to ensure you don't miss being part of RMF's



Day Camp 2014: Electro-Fishing

outstanding 2015 Youth Day Camp. The daily activities that require the largest volunteer mentors groups are outlined in the grid below...and signing up is easy!

Just click this link <http://nocotu.org/S/cvol>.

You will be taken to the RMF website that hosts the same activities grid. You simply click on each activity or activities title(s) live link you want-and enter your name, phone number and email for each. Click once more and it's enroute to the volunteer coordinator. You will receive an acknowledgement email within a

couple days.

At mid-June volunteers will receive all the schedule, location and activities information needed to participate in their selected activities, enabling them to enjoy working with some terrific youngsters.

Indicate your interest(s) in volunteering by clicking one of the link(s) in the table below. Each link will start an email message using your default email program with the event as the subject line. Please add your name, email address and phone number.

<p>July 27 – Monday 4:30-5:45 Fly Casting (Dry Land) (Need 12) Huidekoper Park</p>	<p>July 28 – Tuesday 12:00-3:00 Fly Tying-Introduction (Need 8) FoCo Classroom TBA</p>	<p>July 28 - Tuesday 3:00-5:30 Fly Casting/Line Management (Need 12) Poudre River at Legacy Park</p>
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<p>July 29 – Wednesday 8:00-11:00</p> <p>Stillwater Fishing (Need 12) Swift Ponds</p>	<p>July 29 – Wednesday 2:00-5:00</p> <p>Restoration Project (Need 6) Big “T” River Lower Canyon</p>	<p>July 30 – Thursday 8:00-5:30</p> <p>Poudre River Fishing, Electro-Stun/I.D. (Need 15) Poudre River below the Hatchery</p>
<p>July 31 – Friday 8:15-12:00</p> <p>Snorkeling, Insect Collection, & Entomology (Need 8) Poudre River at Legacy Park</p>	<p>July 31 – Friday 2:30-5:00</p> <p>Fly Tying-Intermediate (Need 8) FoCo Classroom TBA</p>	<p>August 1 – Saturday 8:00-5:00</p> <p>Fishing - RMNP (Need 15) Cub and Glacier Creeks-Rocky Mountain National Park</p>

Trout in the Classroom Fish Release: Rocky Mountain High School



Rocky Mountain High School students release Rainbow Trout

Mid-afternoon of May 18th provided a brief respite from the rain, just enough for TIC classroom teacher Scott Kemp and five students to transfer the remaining classroom tank fish into large buckets and transport them to the Gustav Swanson Natural Area. There, at a calm backwater just off the 1670 cfs main river flows, they were joined by several additional science teachers, a couple parents and a very inquisitive two-year old sibling observer. All were eager to watch the 2015 release of the seventeen remaining rainbow trout from the classroom tank that had been their home the past nine months.

The freshman science class had raised the fish from eggs, cleaning the tank, feeding, performing frequent water chemistry tests and observing behaviors - ably facilitated by Scott who is an RMF Chapter TU member and a long time volunteer in the RMNP summer cutthroat field studies. (Scott also involves students with the natural outdoors in a FoCo Natural Areas program engaging them with wildlands and wildlife observation.)

Trout in the Classroom's objective is to create an awareness and interest among youth about natural requirements in the



Rocky Mountain High School teacher and TIC Coordinator Scott Kemp with TIC student participants

wild to sustain fish to live healthily, and also of the riparian habitat (both water and adjacent land organisms) requirements to support healthy coldwaters and rivers where trout are an early indicator of water quality. Rocky Mountain Flycasters has sponsored T.I.C. tanks for three years in Windsor High School, two years in Rocky Mountain High School which will repeat again next year, and also two years at Front Range Community College which will resume next year following interruption for a year of major facilities construction.

Trout in the Classroom is an RMF activity in which members can volunteer to become involved. Please contact Dennis Cook at TIC@rockymtnflycasters.org or (970) 372-9229 if you may have interest and would like to know more about the TIC program.

June Conservation Notes



Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

Because many RMF conservation activities are planned or underway, there is much to report this month. In the first article I describe the season's first restoration project at Skin Gulch. The second article/announcement summarizes the "Give a Day to the Fish" conservation projects that President Will Huett described in his Presidents Letter for June. Links to each of these activities, for your convenience, have been provided by RMF Webmaster Paul Wehr. Finally, last but certainly not least, RMF member Phil Wright provides information about specific field research opportunities for individuals to contribute to the field research of USFWS Fish Biologist Chris Kennedy in Rocky Mountain National park.

1) CPRW's 1st Restoration Project of the Season at Skin Gulch Complete

First of all, here's another huge THANK YOU to all who participated in the Skin Gulch restoration project in early May. This additional THANK YOU supplements the conservation note in the May edition of The Fly Paper. This one comes from the Project's General Manager, Jen Kovacs, also Executive Director of the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed, (CPRW). Jen was the lead organizer of the project. Her thanks, repeated here, appeared recently in the CPRW newsletter.

CPRW and our project partners completed the first phase of a post-fire/post flood restoration project at Skin Gulch, where Stove Prairie Rd meets CO-14. A big thank you goes out to all the partners that made the project happen - USFS Canyon Lakes Ranger District, AloTerra & NRSI for making sure we had a well designed project; to WRV for bringing together fantastic volunteers, including a great team from our coalition partner, Rocky Mountain Flycasters, and to our funders at CDPHE & CWCB. We planted close to 2000 willow stakes, laid out erosion matting over unstable banks, and covered 3 acres of degraded habitat with native grass seeds. Next time you are driving or biking in the Poudre Canyon, stop to take a peek at how the project is doing. This summer and fall we will be working on the next phase of this project so stay tuned for news of more opportunities to get involved."

With the month of June typically being the peak of snowmelt runoff in Front Range rivers, June is a

slow time for stream restoration projects. However July brings with it the calls for volunteers to assist with fish research work in Rocky Mountain National Park. Phil Wright describes those opportunities in a nearby article.

In the realm of conservation advocacy, it appears likely that, in June or July, the long-expected Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) on the Cache La Poudre River will be released for comments from the public. Usually, there will be an open house, or similar event, for members of the public to learn details of the proposal and to offer their comments. Stay tuned for that scenario to begin, and hopefully, many of you will offer your personal comments on the project and in the time frame to be announced.

2) Give a Day Back to the Fish

For more information about forthcoming conservation projects, and to sign up for any of these projects, click on the links below for each projects:

- June 20 **RMF-WLRV Seaman Reservoir River Restoration**
- July 18 **Gateway Natural Area Adopt-a-Trail**
- July 19 **Phantom Canyon Trail Maintenance and Fishing**
- July 27-August 1 **RMF Youth Fly Fishing & River Conservation Day Camp**
- August 16 **Phantom Canyon Trail Maintenance and Fishing**
- September 12 **Big Thompson Lower North Fork Revegetation with WRV**
- September 19 **Larimer County Boys & Girls Club Day for Kids Festival**
- September 26 **Big Thompson Lower North Fork Revegetation with WRV**
- September 27 **Phantom Canyon Trail Maintenance and Fishing**

3) Volunteer this Field Season in Rocky Mountain National Park with the US Fish and Wildlife Service

The field season is fast approaching for volunteering in Rocky Mountain National Park with Chris Kennedy of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Volunteers assist Chris with a range of coldwater fish study projects and tasks ranging from simple day long projects in the front country to more strenuous extended efforts in the backcountry of RMNP.

There are opportunities with Chris for volunteers to match their interests and capabilities to the conservation task at hand. Chris will talk about his upcoming field season at the Alpine Anglers meeting on Wednesday June 10th. The meeting will be held in Estes Park at the Estes Park Area Historical Museum, 200 4th St., starting at 7PM. The featured speaker will be Ben Swigle, CPW aquatic biologist, who will be speaking about the fish populations in the Big Thompson River before and after the flooding of 2013. Rocky Mountain Flycasters members often carpool up to Estes for this informative June meeting with Alpine Anglers Trout Unlimited chapter.



If you are interested in being informed of volunteer activities with Chris Kennedy in RMNP contact Austin Condon by email at awcflash@aol.com. If you would like to contact an RMF chapter member about volunteering with Chris Kennedy contact **Phil Wright**, **Guy Turrene**, or **Dave Piske**.

By Phil Wright

Let's Go Fishing



Mark Miller, Let's Go Fishing Coordinator

Let's Go Fishing: 2015 RMF Trips

Although monthly RMF membership meetings are suspended until the fall, our "Let's Go Fishing Trips" for 2015 continue through November. Among our trips last month, a group of RMF anglers (see photo below) traveled to the Gray Reef in Wyoming had lots of fun and caught lots of fish. See the photos below. This month we will fish locally with a combo trip (two for one!) to the Poudre Canyon where we will fish the Cache La Poudre AND Joe Wright Reservoir. To sign up for this trip, as well as other trips for the remainder

of the year, [click here](#), and indicate your trip and we will get in touch. If you have previously signed up for a trip and we haven't contacted you, please give me a call (970-744-8229) or send an **email**.



RMF-TU Members Bob McGill, Ben Zomer, Domingo Rodriguez and Gil Coleman during April trip to fish the Gray Reef in Wyoming: Photo by trip host Mark Miller

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