



March 2016
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Sustaining Donor

From our President

The Mayer Will Attend Our Meeting!

No I didn't mis-spell that. It's not the head of our city, it's Landon Mayer, one of the acclaimed guides and writers about contemporary Colorado fishing. Don't miss it on **March 16**. Some biographical information about Landon has been posted below, immediately following my column.

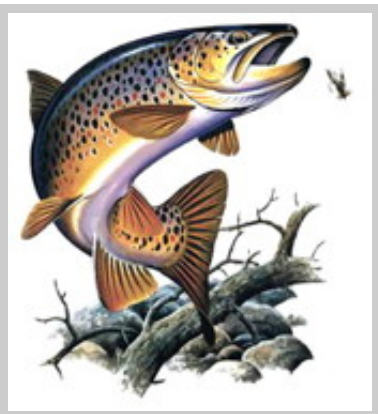


Wil Huett, RMF President and TU
Lifetime Member

Also on the program March 16 general meeting will be this year's RMF-Behnke Fellowship winner, Cheyenne Owens. Cheyenne will give us an insight into the research she has been doing and how the Fellowship has helped. If you have enjoyed the programs we've had this season, Pat Dorsey, John & Jodi Knight, Dave Mosnik, Colorado Women's Flyfishers among them, be sure to thank Trustee & Program Chair Domingo Rodriguez. He must have quite the *little black book* of famous fishing names and numbers! Of course it helps that chapter members, you, turn out in good numbers and make it worth a speaker's time and trouble to come talk to us.

March is also the month in which your billfold deflates as your current fishing license breathes it's last gasp. Don't forget to renew. I talked to a fellow the other day who said he had only gotten one fishing trip in last year. He remarked, "It would have been cheaper to buy a one-day license." I can't refute the statement, but may I make a case against his cost-saving plan? Colorado Parks and Wildlife is what is called an "enterprise" agency. It's like a business: no customers = close the doors, lots of customers = more and better services.

CPW receives next to no general fund dollars. Got that? Most of their funding comes from license sales or park entrance and camping fees. That makes it really important that we buy a license whether we think we're going to "use it up" in fishing time or not. And how do



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you value each trip anyway? I've had half-days so beautiful and so peaceful they were more than worth the cost of an annual license. Some of us, myself included, now qualify for the \$1 senior license. If so, why not find a way to leave a few more dollars in the CPW kitty? I always buy a small game hunting permit, though it has been years since I ventured to use its privileges, but buying it gives CPW a few more dollars to work with. I have toyed with the idea of buying a 2nd rod stamp—only \$5 after all—but I'm afraid in a moment of madness and ambidextrous adventurism I might actually try to use two flyrods at once and wind up cocooning myself in 5 weight line like a giant chrysalis. Someone might hang me in a tree and forget me!

There is an even broader economic argument for supporting CPW with our license fees: the dollars generated by people seeking the fruits of CPW's labor. To get a picture of that you might want to take a look at the **Colorado Recreational Impact Report**. Just a quick glance at a couple of the tables will impress you with how much "customers" using CPW's "products" add to our local economy in dollars spent, jobs supported, etc. Our home counties of Larimer and Weld rank in the top 10 benefitting from outdoor activities. So we have a symbiotic relationship between license fees and the a pinchpenny, buy a license.

Here's another opportunity to support and spread your love of the outdoors. Ft. Collins Natural Areas is currently taking applications for Master Naturalists. The deadline is the 15th of this month. Check out the details at **FCgov.com**.

Look forward to seeing you on the 16th, or maybe out on the stream before that. I'm due for a **wader check**, how about you?

Wil Huett, President
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

Chapter Event Calendar



March Program Meeting

Landon Mayer's angling success is fueled by an addiction to pursuing large trout with small flies and lightweight fly-fishing equipment. Mayer enthusiastically teaches and demonstrates his techniques and on-river knowledge to fellow anglers and has developed innovative strategies for sighting, hooking, and landing selective trout. He shares these tips and secrets in his books *101 Trout Tips: A Guide's Secrets, Tactics and Techniques* (2015), *Colorado's Best Fly Fishing*, *Sight Fishing for Trout*, and *How to Catch the Biggest Trout of Your Life*, in addition to two DVDs: *Landing the Trout of Your Life* and *Weapons of Bass Production*, both of which also feature John Barr.

Landon's passion for fly-fishing has allowed him to make several noteworthy contributions to the

sport on and off the water. This has included travels to fly-fishing related organizations of the Mid-Atlantic, West, Pacific Northwest, Southwest, and Southern states, as well as teaching through guided trips, fly-fishing classes, presentations, and demonstrations of his unique techniques. Mayer is a contributing writer for *Fly Fisherman* and *High Country Angler* magazines. His contributions also have been featured in publications such as *Fly Rod and Reel*, *American Angler*, *Southwest Fly Fishing*, *Field and Stream*, and *Fish and Fly* magazines.

As an ambassador in the fly-fishing industry, Mayer represents several lines including Simms Fly Fishing apparel and is a royalty fly designer for Umpqua Feather Merchants. He is also an advisory team member of Simms, Ross Reels, Scientific Angler, Smith Optics, Fish Pond, Yeti Coolers, and Casio Pro Trek watches.



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Mayer has been guiding in Colorado full time on the South Platte River for the last 19 years, and one full season on the Nak Nek River in Alaska. He resides with his wife, Michelle, and their four children in Florissant, Colorado. For additional information on his services and presentations, contact him at: 719-210-0619 or www.landonmayer.com.

As always, social hour begins at 6:30 pm at the Fort Collins Senior Center, and the program follows at 7:00 pm. Admission is free and the public is welcome. The Fort Collins Senior Center is located at 1200 Raintree Drive off Shields Avenue between Prospect and Drake.



We need a treasurer and a newsletter editor



RMF members Tom Culbertson and Bob Green are retiring from their positions as Treasurer (Tom) and Newsletter Editor (Bob) as soon as they can find replacements. Both have served the chapter for 3 three years. Although neither is “burned out”, and both found their jobs rewarding, its simply time to “change the water”.

Treasurer

The Treasurer job requires some fundamental accounting skills. If you are a practicing accountant or a CPA, this will be an excellent place for you to make a contribution. If you are interested in the position or merely want more information, please contact Tom by **email** or 970-541-7029 or 970-685 1401 (cell).





Newsletter Editor (The Flypaper)

This job requires minimal computing literacy, some fundamental writing skills, and the ability to use an online newsletter software package (Constant Contact). The Flypaper is published monthly and usually requires 8-10 hours for each edition. There is also the opportunity to make a contribution by collecting and analyzing membership data for the chapter, but this is not a requirement. If you are interested in learning more about this position please contact Bob **by email** or 252-255-8204.

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March Conservation Notes



Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

Not-so-Random Thoughts About Seemingly Random Happenings

As the third month of 2016 Marchs in, I'm guessing your thoughts about our trout streams are mostly related to getting out to fish those streams. But in thinking about the fish in those streams, I hope you also remember that some, and especially the Big Thompson watershed streams, are still in need of substantial restoration of fish habitats and riparian areas that were battered by the September 2013 flood.

In this year's roster of conservation projects, soon to be seen on the web site, you will see our usual set of volunteer projects associated with the Poudre watershed. You will also find new projects on the Big Thompson and its North Fork. So our overall roster of projects in 2016 will be more varied than in past years in their activities, locations, and collaborative associations with similarly interested organizations. It's those new relationships, and the processes for volunteering in projects managed by them, that I want to introduce you to.

Two natural disasters, the High Park wildfire in 2012, and the 2013 floods, were declared National Disasters. They coincided with other fires and floods south of us on the Front Range. Federally appropriated "Disaster Recovery" funding brought a "flood" of Federal money to be administered by Colorado state government agencies on its way to local stakeholders. And in qualifying to use those funds, "Recovery" projects at the local level must also be resilient to future

fires/floods/invasives that will disturb our natural ecological systems.

Prior to those disasters, the Poudre and Big T watersheds, had been a society of localized governments, residential neighborhoods, private ranches and farms, government-lands managers, and conservation organizations typically focused on certain natural species. When Mother Nature turned loose those recent disasters, the local societies soon realized there was an unmet need to better coordinate their common interests in flood and fire recovery. The result was formation of coalitions to better coordinate the multiple and diverse recovery initiatives.

Today, the coalitions are demonstrating their value by more effective assessments of the needs of the ecological systems, prioritizing the needs of the local communities, dealing with complex financial management systems, providing expertise in restoring the ecological processes, and managing the planning and implementation of complex restoration projects.

Throughout this multi-year process, our TU chapter has been active in the leadership and development of coalitions in the Poudre and Big Thompson watersheds. That has drawn our chapter into new collaborations, some with previously non-existent organizations. And that is why, on our master list of conservation projects, you will see the names of nonprofit organizations such as: Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed, Big Thompson Watershed Coalition, Synergy Ecological Restoration, and Wildlands Restoration Volunteers. The functional relationships between Rocky Mountain Flycasters and these and similar organizations will vary from one project to another. When RMF members volunteer to participate in projects managed by those or other managing organizations, the enrollment processes will vary from one to another. We strive to make all the enrollment processes easy, but if you encounter problems in enrolling as a volunteer in a particular project, don't hesitate to seek help via email to **Dave Piske**.

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Youth Outreach Notes

2016 Youth Day Camp August **1st** through August 6th*

*Please note the corrected opening date of the Day Camp



Dennis Cook,
Youth Outreach Chair



Campers electroshocking under supervision of Division of Wildlife Aquatics staff and RMF volunteer mentors.

Preparations for RMF's 6th Annual Youth Day Camp are in progress, and the *preliminary* schedule can be accessed on our **web site**. The 2016 Application Packet will be posted on the RMF website for the applications window to open on April 1st. Based on the number of advance emails already received before public promotion begins, this again may be a full camp.

Members who have participated before, I will be in touch with you as soon as the schedule is firm. Interested members who have not participated before are requested to drop me an email giving me an idea of your availability dates and preferred activities. All prospective Mentor volunteers please mark your calendars to reserve as many of these dates as possible to participate. In early April we will begin firming up specific assignments.

More information will appear in the April issue. Please feel encouraged to phone or email me if you've any questions. **Dennis Cook** or phone (970) 372-9229.

2016 Children's Water Festivals

The 2016 Children's Water Festival season is quickly approaching. Celebrating 25 years in Northern Colorado this year, the Festivals offer the Rocky Mountain Flycasters a golden opportunity to introduce 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders to the basic concepts of cold water conservation so vital to our mission. We accomplish this through an interactive skit-like game called "Who Eats Who at the Stream" which provides a fun learning experience for the students, involves all students in each class, and invariably brings a smile to the faces of the RMF volunteers as well.

The Festival dates are:

- Greeley - **April 27**
- Loveland - **May 12**
- Ft. Collins - **May 18**



Dennis Cook identifies different species of fish at 2015 Children's Water Festival

Many thanks to those who have already volunteered but we could still use more help. We need one more volunteer for Greeley and three more volunteers to make the Ft. Collins event happen. Please

consider joining us.

Contact: **Jerry Pelis**, Water Festivals Director



From Our Fly Swap Coordinator



Ben Zomer, Fly Swap Coordinator, with a nice rainbow caught on Secret "Fly Swap Fly"

Pssst! Want Some Flies??

Consider joining the fly swap this month. If you tie flies, beginner or advanced we want you. All it takes is to sign up with our Fly Swap Coordinator, **Ben Zomer**. You will tie a certain number of flies based on a theme. February's theme was "Between a rock and a Hard Place" (Stoneflies). Bring your flies to the monthly meeting and you will trade out your flies with those others have tied as well as one of yours that goes into the raffle pot, helping our non-tying friends win some badly needed fish catching creations. Let's face it, it doesn't require a LOT of time. You do it when you're available, and it helps out the organization.

A win for all... Gotta love that. So sign up today.

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Zen Fly Fishing Winter Tenkara Series



Zen Fly Fishing Gear

Finding Balance on the Water

Please consider attending the Second Annual Tenkara Winter Series and New Product Release Event hosted by Zen Fly Fishing Gear on **March 12, 2016**. This one day presentation series has a great line-up of incredible speakers that are top notch in the world of tenkara. They'll cover a variety of topics relevant to both the tenkara devotee and the western fly fishing enthusiasts, regardless of skill level: Effective Tenkara Presentations Anyone Can Make; Blue Lining (finding new waters on the map) and Backcountry Tenkara; How to Capture and Improve your Fishing Pictures and; Four Dimensional Casting and Advanced Presentations. This fixed-line method of fly fishing has taken solid hold in the fly fishing industry. Come be a part of it, expand your knowledge and get some fantastic information. Zen Tenkara will also be unveiling new product for the 2016 season. Get

a chance to see Zen's newest offerings and take advantage of TWS Specials that will only be available at this event.

Industry leaders, educators and innovators share their knowledge, expertise and personal experiences of tenkara, fly fishing and the great outdoors in an intimate setting that encourages discussion and conversation, paired with visuals, demonstrations and a hands-on experiences.

Our goal is to continue to educate, facilitate and propel tenkara further into the angling world. We aim to make the Tenkara Winter Series into an event that promotes great conversations, relationships, furthers peoples' knowledge and, is simply a day that people look forward to attending each year. For more details and to sign up online, click on the website below:

<http://www.tenkarawinterseries.com>



Let's Go Fishing 2016



Mark Miller, Fishing Coordinator

Listed below are some trips we hope to take in 2016. We will start sign-ups at our Feb meeting. Or, you can email me at **Mark Miller** or call 970-744-8229 (cell).

We have quite a mix of fishing destinations for 2016. Hopefully there is something for you on this list. We'll go after big rainbows at Gray Reef in March (yes, it will likely be cold weather), and big rainbows in June near Laramie at Twin Buttes. June and July will bring a chance to catch grayling and cutthroats in two beautiful high country lakes.

Dennis will again host a fun-filled day of small stream fishing with dry flies on the Colo River headwaters in RMNP. September and October will take us to some water that most people have not fished - the Yampa River at Steamboat Springs, and the Frying Pan and Roaring Fork rivers near Glenwood Springs. We hope you will join us for all the fun!

- **Mar 18-20** - Miracle Mile, Grey Reef - Host: Ben Zomer
- **Apr 23** - Poudre - Gateway area - Host: ??
- **May 14** - Big Thompson below Lake Estes - Host: ??
- **Jun 4** - Twin Buttes Reservoir near Laramie - Host: Frank Cada (float tubes recommended but not mandatory). Need a WY license.
- **Jun 25** - Joe Wright Reservoir - for Grayling - Host: Dave Morse
- **Jul 9** - Lake Agnes - Cutthroats (near Cameron Pass) - Host: Dave Morse
- **Aug 20** - RMNP Colorado Headwaters - Host: Dennis Cook
- **Sep 16-18** - Yampa Tailwater - Host: Dennis Cook
- **Oct early** - Frying Pan/Roaring Fork- date to be determined - Host: Ben Zomer

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Sustaining Donors

Rocky Mountain Flycaster Sustaining Donors



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Dr. Ron Sheets Memorial
Greg Evans
Dave Piske
Frank Cada
Dennis Cook
Vicky Russell
Tom Culbertson
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