



July 2017

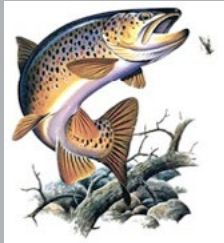
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From the President

Runoff...a blessing and a curse for the fisherman. It is a blessing in that the snowmelt fills the rivers and plunges down to the thirsty population below. The life's blood for our communities, it fills reservoirs and irrigation ditches. It washes the riverbeds of silt and promotes healthy streams. We measure snowmelt and hope for an abundance each year of pure, clear Rocky Mountain Water.

On the other hand, just when the weather is perfect the river is blown out. Turbulent, brown water roars through our normal fishing holes and makes riverbanks dangerous. Sure, fish can still be caught during runoff because they are easy to find, tucked against the banks and the in the softer currents of eddies. But fishing the river in runoff is a challenge.

The best part of runoff for me is that it pushes me to leave the streams and try something different. In the last few weeks I've fished for warm-water species in area lakes and ponds. I've landed bluegill, bass, perch and one carp that near broke my little four-weight rod. I've fished the Laramie Plains Lakes in my belly boat. I did a high-water float on the North Platte below Grey Reef at 4,000 CFS. I've caught eager brookies on the edge of lake ice in the Snowy Range. On a recent day trip with the chapter, I fished Lake Agnes for cutthroats and the inlet of Joe Wright Reservoir for Artic Grayling. Just this week, I made the hike up to The Loch, high in Rocky Mountain National Park with a couple of our members and we caught some finicky cutthroats on dry flies.

The good news is that the flows are slowly subsiding; both the Big T and the Poudre are beginning to clear. The runoff is gradually abating and we are almost to the best part of a fly fisher's year. I hope you are taking every advantage of every opportunity to cast a fly.



Coy Wiley, 2016-2017 President
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

There are a couple of critical issues that I would like to point out. In one of these, the City of Loveland is seeking input concerning the care and use of the Big T as it flows through town. If you fish or utilize any of Loveland's public areas, please take a few moments and respond to the survey. Your input, especially concerning the health of the river and riparian areas is vital. Read more about this project and learn how to take the survey in Dave Piske's column below.

Second, TU is extremely concerned with the proposal by the EPA to repeal the Clean Water Rule. What's more Americans have only 30 days to respond to this proposal. I encourage you to read this article on the CTU website and let your voice be heard by your political representatives. <http://coloradotu.org/2017/06/clean-water-rule-unraveled/>

Coy Wylie, President
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

[Chapter Event Calendar on our web site](#)



Filling up the Calendar

Our calendar pages are some of the most frequently visited on our web site. Wouldn't it be great to see your own pictures displayed there? There are many opportunities for months into the future. Pictures that are well-lit, in focus, on TU topic, and a minimum of 530 pixels wide and 400 pixel in height. Send a copy of fishing or conservation-related pictures to:

[Paul Wehr, Webmaster](#)

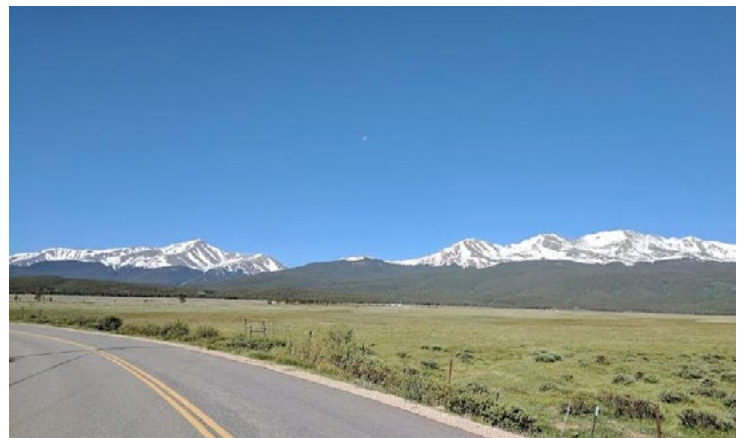


Greenback Cutthroat Report

Spawning Greenback Cutthroat Trout at the Leadville National Fish Hatchery

In mid-June my wife Psyche and I had the opportunity to volunteer for two work days with Chris Kennedy, Fish Biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), at the Leadville National Fish Hatchery outside Leadville CO. We also met and worked with other volunteers, and USFWS and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) professional staff.

Psyche and I camped at the Halfmoon Campground near the base of Mt. Elbert, Colorado's highest peak, which was a short commute to the hatchery. The Leadville National Fish Hatchery was established



Mt. Elbert (left) and Mt. Massive (right) during the AM commute to Leadville National Fish Hatchery

in 1889 at the base of Mt. Massive and is the second oldest US federally operated fish hatchery in existence today.

The weather near Leadville was perfect though mornings were a bit chilly. A key purpose of the greenback spawning effort at Leadville this spring was to mate specific, genetically tested, individual trout so as to increase the genetic diversity of the relatively small remaining population of this threatened cutthroat trout species. To this end, Chris Kennedy had prepared a lengthy and detailed spreadsheet to identify and track individual pairs to be spawned. Each trout was equipped with an RF ID tag which could be read electronically to verify the identity of each individual male and female trout for this matrix spawning exercise. Segregating, selecting, handling and spawning each pair of genetically tested trout was quite labor intensive so a good number of



Chris Kennedy USFWS Fish Biologist reviews his spreadsheet to select specific male and female cutthroats for spawning.



Chris and volunteers Ross McNearney and Psyche Spangler, getting organized to spawn greenback cutthroats. The eggs were extracted by hand from the ripe female trout.



Releasing eggs from a female greenback cutthroat at the Leadville National Fish Hatchery.

volunteers and professional staff were required to complete the task.

The fertilized eggs from spawning each individually selected pair of greenbacks were labeled and placed in an individual screen rearing box and placed in stacked trays of flowing water. After spawning the genetically matrixed cutthroats, we went on to production spawning of the additional greenback cutthroat trout brood stock.

The eggs were then fertilized with milt from a male greenback cutthroat and placed in the relatively large rearing containers as shown below. The production spawning fertilized eggs were separated by birth year group and by origin, e.g., wild or hatchery, to provide for some genetic diversity while the genetically matrixed fertilized eggs were catalogued and placed in individual trays in the rearing cabinets to Psyche's left in the photo at right.

The hatchery is supplied with filtered cold water which originates as runoff from the nearby Sawatch Range. Owing to the constant flow of cold water through the Hatchery building, it was pretty chilly work even in mid-June when outside daytime temperatures were in the 70's. Balancing on walkways above the



Fertilized greenback cutthroat eggs collected during production spawning.

hatchery raceways was tricky but no one fell into the chilly water.

Volunteering at the Leadville National Fish Hatchery was fun, educational and very satisfying. It was inspiring to see the level of effort and commitment of the fisheries professionals, as well as volunteers, to preserve and protect the threatened greenback cutthroat trout, Colorado's state fish. With ongoing future efforts, we can hope to once again be able to fish for, and catch, native trout in central Colorado.

—Phil Wright



July Conservation Notes



Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

As you have seen from Phil Wright's great report (above), Rocky Mountain Volunteers participated in very important and exciting conservation efforts during June. Another local effort is being spearheaded by the City of Loveland. They really want to hear from our readers about the Big Thompson River.

As the availability of new grant monies for recovery from 2013 flood damages goes into its final months, the City of Loveland has received funds that are now available for planning and implementing ecological, recreational, and sociological improvements to the Big Thompson River and its adjoining public lands.

A contractor has been hired for development of a new Master Plan for 9 miles of the river through the city, from the Morey Natural Area in the west almost to I-25 in the east.

To obtain guidance from the public as to what and where improvements ought to be implemented, the City is gathering public opinions as to the features that should be incorporated into a new master plan for that reach of the river.

You can offer your ideas, whether or not you are a resident of Loveland, and responses will be tracked as coming from residents or non-residents.

The online survey is open through midnight on July 16 on the city website:

<http://www.cityofloveland.org/government/open-city-hall>



Poudre Riverfest

A BIG “THANK YOU!” to the volunteers who helped set up, staff three shifts at our RMFC booth for the Saturday, June 3rd Poudre RiverFest, and then close up.

Mickey McGuire
Phil Wright
Dave Piske

Amy Galyardt
Dennis Galyardt
DeDe Poulson
Dennis Cook

Linda Jefferies
Dick Jefferies
Ruthie Ketola

The RiverFest was a social blast! The festival opened at noon with live music all day, many booths celebrating all the natural outdoors activities related to the river, kids activities & face painting, prize raffles and lots of New Belgium’s foamy sud’s and food trucks. Our booth featured a fly tier, river insects display, casting demo’s and instructions, fly fishing knots tying and information about our Youth Day Camp. It’s fun! ...and next year we hopefully will add some new names to our chapter’s booth staff.



The Flypaper’s Video of the Month

Our “Video of the Month” is for everyone who has dreamed of catching a Steelhead, those who have tried and failed, and for anyone else. It continues our concentration on the fine art of fly fishing by Todd Moen. Enjoy!



July Youth Outreach Notes



Dennis Cook, Youth Outreach Coordinator

LAST CALL! ...FOR YOUTH DAY CAMP



This is your last notice!!!

Youth Day Camp starts on Monday, July 31st and there are still a few openings, so encourage your sons, daughters, grandkids and neighborhood kids to sign up for this opportunity to learn a lifelong natural outdoors skill - fly fishing. Only \$30.00 for a full six days learning about our natural outdoors.

Go now to <http://nocotu.org/S/campapply> and download the Parents Information & Camp Application Packet. Have your youth complete and mail the application and other materials ASAP.

Volunteers, it's also the last notice of your opportunity to sign up as a volunteer and lend a helping hand assisting some teenager to learn about this great pastime we all love so much.

Go now to [Camp Volunteers](#), and sign up for one of the few remaining volunteer positions. Openings still remaining are...

- Monday - July 31st:** Introduction to Casting - 3 Openings
- Tuesday - Aug. 1st:** Intro Fly Tying - 9 Openings
Reading the Water & Line Mgm't - 3 Openings
- Wednesday - Aug. 2nd:** Stillwater Fishing (Swift Ponds) - 2 Openings
Restoration Project (Big 'T' North Fork) - 2 Openings
- Thursday - Aug. 3rd:** Electro-shocking - FULL
Upper Poudre Canyon Fishing - 3 Openings
- Friday - August 4th:** Intermediate Fly Tying - 6 Openings
Snorkeling, Insect Collection, Fly Fishing Entomology - FULL
- Saturday - August 5th:** Fishing - Rocky Mountain National Park - 1 Opening

Girl Scouts Of America: Fly Fishing Introduction

Camp Activity

Monday, July 17th 8:30am-3:00pm

We need six member volunteers to assist again this year for the Girl Scouts Day Camp. Middle school and high school age scouts are divided into four groups of about 18 each, and we have two groups in the morning and another two in the afternoon. It's generally an enjoyable, laid back activity and is held at Lon Hagler Lake near Loveland. Our volunteers wear articles of fly fishing clothing and gear, and assist with casting, explaining our equipment and flies, etc. The July 17th event date is very close, so volunteers need to sign up asap.

Contact Dennis Cook at rkymtnangler@q.com or (970) 372-9229



Volunteers Needed: Csu Environmental Learning Center

Wednesdays, July 19 And July 26

8:00 am until 4:00 pm

We are assisted by ELC staff who manage the youngsters while our two teams provide fly tying of a Woolly Buzzer on a safety pin, and also help them collect insects in the Poudre River that flows by the ELC facility. The youngsters are approximately ages 10-13 and organized into small groups of about ten each, two groups in each of the morning and again in the afternoon. Activity is not rigorous at all, and is broken up by snack breaks and lunch.

The ELC staff does a good job of handling the youngsters, and it's really an enjoyable day for our volunteers who are divided into two teams - one of fly tying instruction assistants and the other of river insects collection assistants.

We have experienced team leaders for both activities, and need 4-6 member volunteers each day who have very basic beginner fly tying skills, or who enjoy wading in the river to collect insects, to assist the instructors.

Please contact Dennis Cook at rkymtnangler@q.com or (970) 372-9229 asap, so we know we will have enough help to fulfill our roles.





Tell us your favorite fishing stories.

Every time I fish or socialize with RMF members and friends, I hear wonderful captivating stories about fishing adventures. We all have them- you're not an angler if you don't. Why not have one or more published in The Flypaper? If you are interested or have questions contact **Bob Green**, The Flypaper Editor.



Or Send Us a Video

Just send a link think to **The Flypaper Editor**. It will be considered for a future video of the month.

Share a few experiences or a laugh. Did you see something online or did you record a great Experience? Share it!!



How About Adopting a Trail?

Our second, and final, work project of the year for the Fort Collins Natural Area Department will be at Gateway Natural Area in the Lower Poudre Canyon, on July 15th. Save The date!!!

We will conduct trail maintenance, such as grading, pruning brush, and rebuilding portions of the two overlook trails. We will meet at the Gateway parking lot located back by the old water plant at 8:30 a.m. and work 'til about 11:30. You will not need to pay the entrance fee because you are on the work project. Just tell the entrance guard.

TU will provide lunch and the Natural Areas Staff will provide assignments, tools, water and instruction. Bring work gloves, sun protection, and your rod and waders for fishing. You are free to stay at Gateway after the work project and fish til dusk.

Please contact **Dave Morse**, or call 217-418-9386, if you will be coming. We need an accurate head count to plan for meals. We are hoping for a dozen folks.

See you there!



Want a fishing buddy?

I created **FindAFishingBuddy.com** a couple of years ago. I recently launched **FindAFishingClub.com**, the largest directory of active fishing clubs in the US. Your clun (RMF) is including on our roster. Thanks, Chuck Christopher.



Donate Your Gear

For the third month, RMF will be collecting donated fishing gear so we can equip needy veterans participating in our Healing Waters program. This can include serviceable waders, boots, nets, vests, rods and reels, etc. There will be a collection box at the May TU meeting, or call Dave Morse to arrange a pick-up. (217-418-9386). Thanks for your support!



Or, would you like to be the RMF Treasurer?

Treasurer - need an experienced accountant/bookkeeper with knowledge of QuickBooks. Ideal for a retired accountant/bookkeeper who would like to donate those skills to a great organization. If you are interested in the position or merely want more information, please contact [Tom Culbertson](#) or 970-541-7029 or 970-685 1401 (cell).



Let's Go Fishing



Mark Miller, Let's Go Fishing Coordinator

Wow! What a June! Plenty of fishing and plenty of future plans. Please see the description of Dennis Cook's hosted trip in September and Dave Morse's report (both below) of the recent Joe Wright/Zimmerman Lake trip.

Please see our line-up of fishing destinations for 2017 below. Hopefully these trips will appeal to a lot of you! I'm always open to suggestions if anyone has a special fishing hole they would like to share this coming summer. If you do, please give me a call and I can help you make it happen.

Captain's log, stardate: June 24th, 2017.

Here is our RMF 2017 line-up for the rest of the summer and fall:

July 15 - Upper Poudre River - Host: Cameren Shinabery

Aug 26 - RMNP Small Stream - Dry Fly Fishing - Hosts: Mark Miller and Bill Gillett

Sept 15-17 - Yampa River, Steamboat Springs - Host: Dennis Cook

Sept 22-24 - Frying Pan - Stay on the river and fish a private stretch of the river. - Host: Ben Zomer

Oct 7 - Poudre River - Host: Mark Miller

Oct 21 or 28 - Possible Kokanee Trip - S. Platte / Dream Stream - Host: Mark Miller (weather dependent)

Questions? Contact: [Mark Miller](#) or 970-744-8229 (cell).

Fun Fishing Trip to the Yampa River - A Large Trout Haven (September 15th-17th, 2017)

Each year a gang of us makes the four-hour drive to Steamboat Springs to fish one of Colorado's most popular big fish rivers. The tail waters below Stagecoach reservoir are a haven for a virtual sea of 20" to 26" beautiful rainbows and browns! It's your opportunity to catch a five-pounder and get that photo you've always wanted for over the fireplace mantle - and it won't be the only big fish you catch! There also are several convenient State Wildlife Area stretches that hold really nice fish and deserve our attention, and several of them are within about a 5-10 minute drive from our lodging.



Carpools will depart Friday morning and return Sunday evening. We'll pick up some quick breakfast foods and sandwich makings for lunch on the river, and enjoy a favorite libation (or two) over dinner in town, along with stories of our day on the water. Everybody's welcome...old salts, novices, guys, gals. Don't wait until the last minute, so we can know numbers and can arrange comfortable and affordable lodging accommodations.

Sign up **ASAP** and join us to fish each of these truly fun and exciting locations:

Register before September 1st with trip host **Dennis Cook** at 372-9229.

Lake Agnes and Joe Wright Reservoir: 2017 Trip Report

On June 24th, seven folks from TU headed out early for Lake Agnes, which is located a few miles west of Cameron Pass in the Colorado State Park. The access road to the Lake Agnes trail head had just open the day before, which saved us from an extra 1-1/2 mile hike. The 0.7 mile trail required navigating over a couple of snow banks as we snaked up about 500 vertical feet to reach the lake.

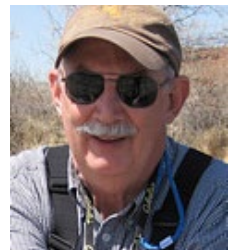
We were rewarded with the breath taking view of the cirque lake and some beautiful fish on a picture perfect weather day with little wind and lots of sunshine. After having no action on surface flies and seeing few cruising fish, Coy or Mark decided to fish deep with sinking lines or weighted flies followed by a small nymph. Mark's fish-catching fly was a small bead-headed, soft hackle, Pheasant Tail. He landed 4 or 5 fish with this set-up. The rest of us followed this strategy with our own small nymph combo and most of us caught a fish or two.



Being eager to fish for Grayling, we headed down the trail and then drove to nearby Joe Wright Reservoir where we fished in the inlet cove, just beyond the restricted portion of the feeder creek. The lake was loaded with fish that attacked most every small nymph that we threw at them. Copper Johns, PT's, scuds, and even small Woolly Buggers caught fish, using tight line or indicator techniques. Most people landed a good handful or two of fish in just a couple of hours by the time we quit about 6pm for the drive home.



The trip attendees included Ruthie Ketola, Coy Wylie, Mark Miller, Paul Wehr and his son-in-law Hany, Bill Ottino and me. It was a great trip for the scenery, the beauty of the fish, and the rare chance to catch a Grayling in Colorado. A couple of days later I went back with Phil Wright to observe CPW fisheries biologists that were collecting Grayling in Joe Wright Creek and spawning them for their annual collection of 400,000 eggs that would be reared at the Shavano Hatchery and then distributed around the State. The same day, we hiked to Lake Zimmerman to observe collection and artificial spawning of the pure Greenback trout by CPW. We ran into RMFC member, Frank Bub, there who was an active volunteer assistant. That project would collect and spawn fish for the next 6 days. We were pleased to note that the Lake Zimmerman Greenbacks had grown to 12 or 13 inches since they were introduced in 2013.



Dave Morse, trip host

Contact [Dave Morse](#) for questions.



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