

The Flypaper

Renew Membership

Sign Up to Volunteer

Join the Flycasters

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From the President

January, 2020

Happy New Year, everyone! As I did last year, I would like to reflect on some of our amazing local and state-wide accomplishments from 2019 and welcome some new leaders to our team.

But first, let's look at what's happened on a state level. Colorado Trout Unlimited celebrated its 50th anniversary this year and made a movie about it. The movie, which can be viewed by simply clicking here on [Decades](#). You may also view the [50th booklet](#) by clicking on it.

Back home with the Flycasters we held a volunteer orientation in January that attracted dozens of existing and new volunteers. It was a great turnout at Odells. We also heard about the potential atrocity called the Pebble Mine, proposed at Bristol Bay, home to more than half of the world's sockeye population. TU is not alone in our fight to prevent this mine as many other conservation and environmental groups have taken up the cause. Stay tuned for additional details on how you can make a difference.

In February we developed our first ever action plan that proposed a number of new initiatives related to our volunteer opportunities. As with any new venture, there were some fits and starts but the end product worked well. Look forward to our new action plan in time to hold our volunteer orientation meeting later this spring.

In March, we rolled out a new Chapter social event. The Gilded Goat was kind enough to let us use their mezzanine to get together to tie flies. Led by Marty Staab, we created an opportunity for folks that have never tied, but have wanted to try, to mingle with experienced fly tiers. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm.

Throughout the year, we participated in river cleanups at Gateway, as well as on the Poudre and Big Thompson main stems. It was nice to get out and know we made a difference in keeping trash and soil out of the waterways. We were also present at



Mickey McGuire, RMF President



several community outreach events such as Watson Lake, Rist Canyon and Odells, one of our important corporate donors.

Speaking of our corporate donors, I would be remiss if I didn't again thank Cargill for their very generous donation of \$10,000 last spring. In addition, several of their employees turned out to help construct the path that led to the rebuilt pier. It was great fun and the final product will last for a long time. The pier itself, spearheaded by Dick Jefferies was completed and looks fabulous. Frank Bub navigated the Federal Government to get a sign made, funded by a Gomo Grant from CTU. The sign will be installed in March and there will be an official dedication sometime in April, weather permitting. We will announce those details in later issues of *The Flypaper*.

Our conservation committee led by Ron Dickson was also very active. Stream temperature monitoring, led by Phil Wright continued successfully and several folks volunteered with CSU and Forest Service staff on the Poudre Headwaters Project to restore Greenback cutthroat trout into the upper reaches of the river above Long Draw Reservoir. See the conservation update in this issue of the Fly Paper for a complete run down on our accomplishments and our conservation plans for next year. If you want to develop a better understanding of our local fisheries, participating in our conservation efforts will broaden your knowledge.

Our relationship with Platte River Veterans led to an outstanding event that several of our members participated in. The "Honor Float", covered by local news media offered combat veterans the opportunity to spend several days on the San Juan River with experienced guides. It was a tremendous and moving experience for volunteers and participants alike.

Our youth program is still going strong. Recently, one of our members who moved to Fort Collins volunteered to lead our youth program. Dave Haeusler was heavily involved in the largest TU Chapter in the country and was also involved in multiple levels of the Boy Scouts of America. What a great fit!

Another new volunteer is Jeannie Miller, a longtime Loveland resident who used to work for the city navigating various state bureaucracies. She has agreed to take over our gaming license which we need to hold our monthly raffles from long time raffle coordinator, Domingo Rodriguez. Again, another great fit! Each of these new volunteers stepped up due to outreach from our Leadership Development Committee of Dennis Cook and Wil Huett.

Several RMF members have been invited to comment on various water initiatives in our region. Whether it is to sit on committees related to stream temperature on the Poudre River and the adaptive management committee for NISP, or comment on the Draft EIS for the expansion of Halligan Reservoir, know that our folks are out there fighting the good fight for preservation of our cold water fisheries.

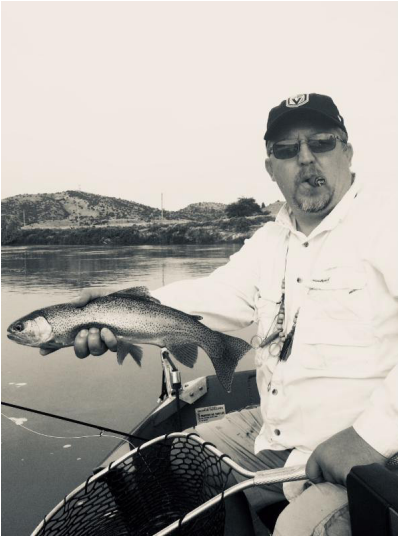
I am looking forward to another great year for RMF. Some planned highlights include a Bylaws revision that will correct a deficiency and add some new efficiencies, roll out of a new Financial Development Plan to secure long term financial stability that will allow us to tackle larger projects, and restructuring of our website. Committees have been formed for each of these initiatives so stay tuned for details.

I hope everyone has a great year fishing and I personally invite you to contribute where you can. Whether it is financial or more importantly, your time, all contributions will be welcomed and used wisely.

THANKS to all who have participated in these endeavors!
Until next month,

Mickey McGuire, President

January Membership Meeting



Joe O'Connor was Introduced to fly tying in the seventh grade. The sport of fly fishing has been his passion more than thirty five years. He has always enjoyed passing along knowledge and experience to those who want to experience catching a fish on a fly they tied themselves.

A graduate of Fort Lewis College, father of four, grandfather of three and married to a fly fishing lady for thirty years, he still find it essential to reserve time to help our men and women of service to experience what I have been free to do for so long. He is committed to ensuring that our participants have the best chance at a world class experience, detailed instruction and all at no cost to them.

Where: Fort Collins Senior Center; 6:30 for social 1/2 hour, 7:00 PM for meeting.

Other Events In December



Board Meeting

When: Wednesday, January 9
Time: 6:00 PM
Where: The Group's Office Bldg. on East Harmony



Social Fly Tying Event

When: Wednesday, January 1, 2020
(Save future dates: First Wednesday each month)
Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Where: Gilded Goat Brewing Company, 3500 South College, Fort Collins, CO (next to Trader Joe's). We tie in the mezzanine.

[Read More](#)

Fly Swap



The theme for the next Fly Swap at the January General meeting will be **Winter Midges** (dry, larva or pupa) of your choice. Plan on bringing 8 identical flies unless you hear differently. Any extra flies will be donated to the raffle or returned to you. Please email [Dave Morse](mailto:dave.morse@rmf.org) to let him know you will participate so we can determine how many flies to tie. As usual, include the recipe with your name on a "toe tag". and bring your flies to the January General RMF meeting. You will receive one fly from each other participant and contribute one for the monthly raffle. We hope that this will be an educational and enjoyable experience this year.

Veterans Support Program



RMFC supports the local military veterans fly fishing program, Platte Rivers Veterans Fly Fishing. Their weekly fly tying and rod making classes will start up January 9 and 11, respectively, at their meeting location in Loveland. The group also meets in Greeley, Cheyenne and Laramie if that is more convenient for you. If you are a veteran (active or former service, retired or disabled) these classes are available to you at no charge. The group also organizes fishing instruction, and single and multi-day fishing trips in the warmer months. Beginners are welcome. Check out this program on the website: platterivers.org where you can register prior to attending class and receive program announcements. You can email the RMF Veterans Program Coordinator, [Dave Morse](mailto:dave.morse@rmf.org), or call 217-418-9386 for more information.

From Bob Green, *The Flypaper* Editor

A Bucket List Trip

When I was a boy I read (well, mostly “looked at”) the photos in my father’s *Field and Stream* magazines. Among the most memorable articles was one devoted to the Boston Red Sox’s right fielder Ted Williams and his fly fishing trips to Argentina.

Last year I was reminded of this article, and the Argentina/Andes river scene, when I watched a Netflix documentary about the life of Ted Williams. I was itching for another bucket-list trip and when I learned St. Peter’s Fly Shop was hosting a trip (under the tutelage of Grant Houx) to precisely this destination. I signed up quickly.

So I’m off on January 16 to scratch off another marker on my bucket list. I will write a follow-up article on this trip. But in the meantime I hope you will enjoy the video below of fishing the rivers of the Andes Mountains.



From Ron Dickson, Our Conservation Chair,



Conservation Update: The Year in Review and Looking Forward to 2020

A productive 2019 field season is behind us. As we look to 2020, the Conservation Committee is working on many exciting activities. Chapter participation not only helps to restore and conserve our local waters, it also provides participants a deeper understanding of our local fisheries. **Contact Ron Dickson** or call 970-689-6909 if you are interested.

Native Trout Restoration. The Poudre Headwaters Project will create a Greenback Cutthroat Trout sanctuary in the headwaters of the Cache la Poudre River watershed. Frank Bub previously reported on our support of Colorado State University's (CSU) genetics study that will help determine stream connectivity in the planned restoration area. Dick Jefferies coordinated multiple teams in support of the US Forest Service (USFS) as they performed fish sampling for disease certification and evaluated the effectiveness of the lower brook trout barrier of the planned restoration area. Our efforts will continue into 2020 as we provide additional support to CSU's genetic study, and field support to the USFS. With the majesty of Rocky Mountain National Park as a backdrop, these field activities provide an opportunity to help restore and conserve the Colorado native Greenback that is now our state fish.

The value of and rationale for the Poudre Headwaters Project is not always understood. Phil Wright, Mickey McGuire, and Ron Dickson are working on video, print, and presentation materials that will help explain the Project and communicate the scope and objectives of this important restoration effort. Our communications campaign will begin this spring.

Phil Wright recently reported on our stream temperature monitoring efforts. The Temperature Monitoring Team is currently maintaining 22 monitors in the Poudre River watershed. Data from these monitors are used by the USFS to provide needed insight into ongoing native trout restoration efforts. Looking forward to 2020, the Team is planning organizational refinements. These refinements will help us manage this large number of sensors, provide needed training to maintain the skills of our Team, and to recruit new Team members. If you like to hike, check out this Team's work by emailing the **Conservation Committee**.

Big Thompson Restoration. During the 2019 field season, we worked closely with the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition (BTWC) on several vegetative planting and restoration efforts. Colin Glover also used these opportunities to engage our corporate partners at OtterBox and Hach. Rick Musselmann led a stream cleanup team in support of Alpine Anglers and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW).

Frank Bub, Mickey McGuire, and Dick Jefferies led a large effort to create a new interpretive sign and path for the re-built fishing pier. Frank's dedication in working with a myriad of stakeholders to complete the sign is greatly appreciated. The path and sign will be dedicated this coming spring.

Our support of the BTWC continues with Frank Bub's participation on the River Envisioning effort (long range planning). We are currently evaluating an opportunity with the BTWC to perform macro invertebrate (e.g., insects and crustaceans) collection at 14 different sites along the river where restoration work has or will occur.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife Support. This will be a new area for RMF in 2020. Ted Sammons is currently in discussions with CPW's Aquatic Biologist responsible for the Poudre River to identify ways we can support CPW efforts during 2020. At a minimum, this will include helping CPW with electrofishing for annual fish population monitoring. We will also explore support with CPW's Aquatic Biologist for the Big Thompson.

Cold Water Advocacy. The City of Fort Collins reached out to RMF this last Spring requesting an informal review of the draft aquatic mitigation measures for the proposed Halligan Reservoir expansion. Our input helped shape the aquatic mitigation measures proposed in the recently released draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A small RMF team has been formed with support from Colorado Trout Unlimited (CTU) and is busy reviewing and preparing comments on the draft EIS.

Trout Unlimited was invited to participate in the adaptive management effort for the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP). Adaptive management is an iterative process that provides flexibility to adjust mitigation measures to maximize their value and effectiveness. A small team has been formed, which includes staff from CTU. Our participation is just beginning and will continue through 2020.

Stream Stewardship Program. David Beede, Ted Sammons, and Ron Dickson have been busy laying the groundwork for a Stream Stewardship Program (i.e., adopt-a-stream). We are currently focused on the Poudre River and discussing the program with the USFS and CPW. The Conservation Committee is tracking the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed's (CPRW) upper river assessment. Results from this assessment will start becoming available in early 2020 and hopefully provide some insight into potential stream stewardship needs and activities. The BTWC has also approached RMF about an "adopt-a-river" type effort for the Big Thompson.

2020 promises to be an exciting and productive year for our conservation efforts. If you are passionate about cold water fisheries and want to expand your knowledge of our local fisheries, email the [Conservation Committee](#). We are planning a Volunteer Orientation for late April where more information on our conservation, youth, and other Chapter activities will be provided. Announcement of time and location will appear on the RMF website and *The Flypaper* newsletter. Stay tuned and get involved!



From Wil Huett, Our Community Outreach Coordinator



Wil Huett, Outreach Coordinator

The Future of Water...Is Now

Well, that's a cryptic title isn't it? Let's see if I can make it stick.

Water is the bottom line, right? For those who love fishing as their sport, who like to kayak, canoe, tube, swim, eat fish as part of a healthy diet, take a shower, drink coffee—water is the bottom line, the basic requirement. No water, no fish. Bad water no fish. Sure you could canoe or kayak or tube in bad water, and shower, though, really, who wants to?

But, there will always be water...won't there?

Read the information the following links lead you to and then we'll talk:

[Environmental review released for Fort Collins' proposed expansion of Halligan Reservoir](#)

[Exclusive: Controversial mining company coached Alaska's governor to lobby White House](#)

[Dunleavy responds to Pebble Mine report](#)

[Rising Cost of Water Rights in Loveland Squeezes Local Developers](#)

[New lawn watering limits coming in Colorado Springs](#)

This last article led me to ask about restrictions in the principal cities in RMF chapter territory:

Reponses (edited for brevity):

"The article was not accurate in that Fort Collins doesn't currently have the formal type of restrictions that Colorado Springs just enacted.... Denver does have similar restrictions, as does Greeley. We certainly promote irrigation best practices through our programs, like the Sprinkler Audit Program.... We are in the process of reviewing and updating our Water Shortage Action Plan, which is what allows the City to enact restrictions under certain conditions that affect the availability of our water supplies and our ability to meet normal water demands (like a drought)."

- You can learn more and provide comment if you would like by visiting this website:
ourcity.fcgov.com/water-shortage-planning

"Yes, Greeley has had watering restrictions since 1907 although they have changed throughout the years. Since 2017, Greeley has had water budget billing in place for single family residential (SFR) customers and has piloted lifting the days-of-the-week restrictions for those customers only.... As we have seen no increase in demand because of this temporary flexibility, we are taking the permanent change to city council in 2020. We will also extend the non-watering hours from noon-5 to no watering 10-6pm in adequate water years..."

Please check out our websites

Water Budget: efficiencyrewarded.com

General Conservation: greeleygov.com/conserv

(Note: Loveland had not responded by deadline time.)

To me, the overarching message in those articles and responses is:

I- there may not always be enough water, or good water

- 2- it can't be denied that governmental action at many levels has a lot to do with water
- 3- anything 'governmental' leads inevitably to 'politics'.

So, can a water-lover ignore today's political maneuvering involving water? I vote "NO". You, me...we...must be involved in making our voices heard, in responding to calls to action. Have you responded when TU sends an action alert re: Bristol Bay or the Clean Water Act or the Land and Water Conservation Fund? Pro or con, by not replying you may be determining the future of water, and your sport, today.

Elsewhere, here are a couple of updates you might have missed:

[Poudre River fish kill unsolved](#)

A friend saw this and said, "surely they died happy". I'm not so sure.

[Thousands of dead fish in Kentucky river after Jim Beam warehouse fire](#)

Finally, this article trips several emotional triggers for me. (Yes, envy is one of them!) See what it does for you.

[The World Champ of Fly-Casting Just Wants to Be a Teen](#)

That's all for now. Hope this new year brings you the best of everything.

Thomas Wurster's Fishing Forecast from St. Peters Fly Shop



What's your resolution for 2020? If it involves fly fishing, there are plenty of opportunities to get a head start during the month of January! We are getting deep into tailwater season as ice and low flows make our freestone rivers all but unfishable. Tailwaters freeze much less with year-round water temperatures hovering around 40 degrees. These sections are great places to chase big trout and challenge yourself as an angler, so bundle up and start your 2020 with some bruisers! Some of our favorite tailwater sections are on the North and South Platte Rivers, both reasonable day trips from northern Colorado. Come on into the shop for ideas on where to fish and what to use when you get there. This

time of year is also a great time to sit down at the vise with a warm drink and a game playing on the TV. If you want to improve your tying this year, or even start your journey into the world of fur and feathers, St. Pete's has you covered. Our Intro to Fly Tying classes go over everything you need to begin tying your own flies. Call or stop by to get your seat in our January 11th class at our Old Town shop or our January 25th class at the south shop, both run \$50. Also check out our tying demos by professionals Alec Gerbec on January 18th and Charlie Craven on January 25th, both at the south shop. These demos are free, we just ask that you call to RSVP.

Finally, stop by our booth to say hello at the Fly Fishing Show in Denver! We will be there January 3rd, 4th, and 5th and we will have special deals!

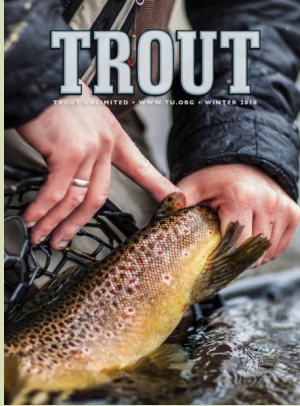
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Bob Green, *The Flypaper* Editor.