

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN Flycasters



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## From the President

May 2020

Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks? I grew up fly fishing in Colorado with my father who fished only with wet flies cast across the current and then allowed to drift down stream. Gray hackle yellow on top and a renegade trailer, both snelled. After I left home, I was taught to nymph fish by a co-worker; he also improved my dry fly fishing skills.

Over my adult life, I lived in the Midwest for about 20 years and did little if any fly fishing, so my skills deteriorated. After I moved back to Colorado in 2006 to take a job in a regional USDA office, I was lucky to get out 4-5 times each year, so I stuck with what was comfortable. Recently, I have been following the Euro style of fly fishing; in fact, I even bought a 10' fly rod about 4 years ago but hadn't used it.... until last month.

Three things happened in the past 18 months to get me out of my comfort zone and try something new. First, Chapter member Domingo Rodriguez gave an outstanding guest night presentation in 2018 where he extolled the virtues of Euro nymphing. I had watched Domingo on one of our Chapter fishing events catch fish after fish, almost like a vacuum cleaner while the rest of us struggled to catch our usual half dozen. Second, a friend who I taught to fly fish in the more traditional sense took up Euro nymphing last year and his catch rate far surpasses mine. He said it was easy to learn and very productive.

Finally, I took a class this year at the Denver Fly Show from Devin Olsen, Team USA member who broke down the pieces and parts of this style of fishing. He made it sound easy. So, last month, I decided to take only



my 10 ft rod with the specialized leader when I went out on the Big Thompson River to hit some of the new pocket water created when CDOT, CPW and the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition modified the river to withstand the ravages of floods like the one we had in 2013. Even my first day of trying this method, I basically doubled my catch rate compared to what I would have done with a typical strike indicator nymph rig. I was shocked! My other two times on the river, I started picking up strikes a little better and each time I caught more. So, while I still have a lot to learn, I am quickly becoming a convert.

As you are likely aware, the Governor has eased some but not all restrictions related to Covid-19. Restrictions are still in place with physical distancing, keeping groups of people small, and entering newly opened shops in limited numbers (St Pete's and Elkhorn are now open!!). In addition, you might want to check out the TU website for an article titled **Covid-19 and fly fishing** <https://www.tu.org/blog/covid-19-and-fly-fishing/> It lays out some interesting discussions and ways to fish without being exposed or exposing others; in other words let's stay safe out there while enjoying our beautiful lakes and rivers.

Having said all that, we will hold our next General Membership Meeting May 20 via Zoom. Last month, thanks to Zach Jory, our meeting went off without a technical hitch and I thought Matt Fairchild's presentation came across extremely well. This month we will have Karin Miller, our resident Tenkara expert provide her views on new ways to adopt this ancient way of fishing to current fishing conditions. I am really looking forward to her presentation; perhaps this old dog can actually become proficient with yet another new style of fishing!

Until next month,

**Mickey McGuire,**  
President

## Rocky Mountain Flycasters Board News

There have been three changes within your Board of Directors recently. It was with sadness that I accepted **Ron Dickson's** and **Frank Bub's** resignations from the Board last month. I want to publicly thank each of them for their dedicated service to our Chapter. Frank served as Secretary to the Board and was an extremely active volunteer on many projects spanning the conservation, youth and veterans' programs. Ron, as Director at Large also served as Conservation Chair. Ron took over the Conservation committee about a year ago and significantly transformed it into a highly functional committee. While Frank is relocating to be closer to family, Ron has assured me he will continue to be a strong volunteer and advocate for our Chapter. We will miss both their leadership contributions.

The good news is that May 1st, the Board of Directors appointed two successors to the vacant positions. **Jeannie Weaver**, your Raffle Coordinator stepped up and volunteered to be our Secretary. Thank you, Jeannie!! **Dave Beede**, active volunteer with the Conservation Committee agreed to serve as a Director at Large. Dave, we appreciate your willingness to serve our Chapter in your new capacity!

With the passage of the new Bylaws (see below) the Immediate Past President will no longer serve on the Board. Instead there are now three Director at Large Positions and Wil Huett, out IPP has agreed to serve as one of the Directors at Large. Thank you, Wil for your dedication and continuing to serve the Chapter.

All three volunteers will serve in their respective posts until January 1 when the new Board will take their seats. Of course, our newly engaged volunteers may be nominated to continue in their posts and you, the members will have an opportunity to decide who will lead your Chapter at the November elections.

# New Bylaws

## The New By-laws have passed!

By an overwhelming majority, the Chapter membership voted to accept the new Bylaws proposed by your Board of Directors. Therefore, our normal business meeting that includes elections will not be held this month; we will hold this meeting in November. There are several major changes to the By-Laws and if you have interest, you can read them **on our web site**. at To those of you who voted, thank you very much. Your interest in Chapter business is important.

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## Coming Events In May



### Board Meeting

When: Wednesday, May 13  
Time: 6:00 PM  
Where: Online via Zoom



### Social Fly Tying

When: First Wednesday each month, (when COVID-19 is over).  
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.

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## Facebook

If you haven't visited our Rocky Mountain Flycasters FaceBook page lately, be sure to check it out. You will see new content on fishing - of course - and fish photos, but also info on fly tying and occasional tips for all fly fishers. In the near future we'll add a post called "You May be a Fly Fisher If . . ." where we will ask you to fill in the blank. Have some fun with this and see what crazy answers we can come up with! If you are not familiar with FB, just open FB, and in the upper left search box, just type in Rocky Mountain Flycasters.

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## Instagram

RMF now has our very own Instagram page – called (you guessed it) ‘rockymountainflycasters’.

We hope to have some fun with this by posting good photos (with captions) that showcase all the great things we do, and all the worthy projects we support. In addition, we hope that our members will send in photos that they would like to see posted on the site. Any good photos you take related to fishing, fly tying, or just beautiful scenery shots are welcome!

Additionally, we hope to put together a small team of content contributors – maybe 4-5 folks who enjoy taking photos and also enjoy doing social media (FB and Instagram). Zach Jory has volunteered to join Mark Miller in this effort. Please contact **Mark Miller** if you would be interested.

Speaking of photos, we hope to have photos of all the volunteer work we do on conservation projects (especially the Poudre Headwaters Project (PHP) which is the name of the Greenback reintroduction project in the upper Poudre drainage), and also photos of the many other things we do like the youth summer camp, Trout in the Classroom, and photos of our veterans fly tying and rod building. Unfortunately, many of these activities may be cancelled, curtailed, or rescheduled due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. So, we will simply do the best we can during this trying period. And thanks for your support.

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## Flies for Reel Recovery

We have about 17 tiers who are donating their time and materials to tie flies for this worthy organization. Reel Recovery is a non-profit that organizes and runs fly fishing retreats all over the US for men battling cancer. We hope to donate about 50 dozen flies to this cause. Some of these retreats are already being cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak. One retreat is scheduled in Colorado for early September in the Kremmling area. Hopefully it will go off as planned, and we hope to donate our flies for this retreat.

I have collected about 25 dozen flies so far. I have also started posting some photos with some “Thank You” text on our RMF FaceBook page to thank and recognize those folks that are tying and donating flies for this worthy cause. If you would like to join the effort, just contact **Mark Miller**. I hope to box up the flies for mailing around the end of May, or early June, so we still have time to tie up a few more patterns. Thanks to all for your time and efforts – it is greatly appreciated!

—Mark Miller

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## St Peters Fishing Forecast

### From Thomas Wurstler



One of the most anticipated months of the year is here, May! It is time to dust off the cobwebs on those heavier tippets and bigger bugs as river conditions are quickly changing.

The first half of the month will most likely see a substantial climb in flows as the snowmelt starts to trickle down. That means there is a lot more food around for the fish to key in on along with some awesome hatches here to come. Focus on large dries and nymphs. Did someone say Salmon Flies? Be prepared for high-water on our local front range rivers and loading up on the right bugs before that happens. We here at St. Peter’s Fly Shop would like to thank everyone who has supported us through the online store, over the phone orders, and everything in between the past couple weeks. We have never faced these sorts of challenges as a community or business and it is so nice to hear from you all over the phone.



As of Friday May 1st, we are open to curbside pick ups at the Old Town Location ONLY while the South shop is closed for online orders. We understand that these are hard time to shop for larger items like Waders/Boots and Rods/Reels, that is why we have started to allow the option for scheduled appointment to come to the shop and get fitted or to cast rods once you are ready to make a purchase. We do ask that you follow the standard guidelines when here at the shop, which means facemasks are required and any other protection is greatly appreciated for the safety of our community & staff. Give us a call at (970)-498-8968 to set something up or place an order for pickup. We wanted to remind folks that as of April 29th, the Wyoming governor extended the required 14 day quarantine until May 8th, when entering and exiting the state. For more specifics and details on Wyoming in regards to COVID, please visit <https://health.wyo.gov/>. Thank you all for your patience and understanding as we navigate these unusual times. We hope to see you soon!

## From Mark Miller, Our Let's Go Fishing Coordinator

### RMF 2020 Fishing Trip Listing

As you know, almost everything these days is on hold due to the virus. I am still accepting names for those who hope to sign up for a trip. Our plan for now is to take a look at each trip about 2-3 weeks ahead of time, and make a decision to go or to cancel, based upon our local and state guidance, and whether or not we feel the trip can be safely conducted. I do have that sinking feeling that most or all of our trips will need to be cancelled. We definitely want to err on the side of caution.

Hopefully most of you are able to do some local fishing to keep from having withdrawal symptoms!



As you can see below, some months still have trips that are in the planning stage, with exact dates and locations to be nailed down over the next month or so. We will also have some of our trips scheduled for weekdays, since we have many retired chapter members who prefer to fish during the week to avoid the weekend crowds. If you are a new or beginner fly fisherman, we want you to join us for our trips – we love to help anyone get started in fly fishing, and help people learn new skills or techniques.

Please contact **Mark Miller** to let him know if you are interested in any of these trips.

Wherever you decide to fish this year, good luck and tight lines!

<del>Apr 29-May 4</del>	<del>Green River/Seedskaadee Nat'l Wildlife Refuge</del>	<del>Host: Mark Miller</del>
	Trip cancelled due to coroavirus pandemic.	
May 27	Red Feather Lakes	Host: Bob Green
June 10-11	Possible Spinney Mtn Reservoir (2 day trip) Float tubing for big rainbows (Wed-Thurs)	Host: Mark Miller
July 11	Colorado River Headwaters	Host: Dennis Cook
July 16-19	Gunnison River (tentative dates)	Host: Dennis Cook
July – TBD	RMNP- Hike 4 miles to Sky Pond Big Brookies	Host: Ben Zomer
July 17-20	Fish North Park – Ponds & N Platte River Cabin on the Ginger Quill Ranch	Host: Eric Pettine
July 18	Long Draw Reservoir – Float tubes for nice sized cutthroats	Host: Dave Morse
Aug TBD	RMNP Small Stream Fishing (weekday trip)	Host: Bill Gillett/Art C.
Sep TBD	Colo River wade trip, 2-3 days	Host: Bobby Bottles
Oct 28-30	Colorado River – 3 day float trip	Host: Mark Miller

## Community Outreach



Have you wondered about the status of the Yellowstone cutthroat trout?

Back in 1978 the number of Yellowstone cutthroat trout spawning in one tributary peaked at more than 70,000 fish. Fish counts fell over many years to 538 by 2007. The decline is attributed to predation by nonnative lake trout, low water during drought years, and the nonnative parasite that causes whirling disease.

I recently read a report that the NPS effort to remove non-native lake trout from Yellowstone Lake is having positive results. Enough that grizzlies are now foraging on cutthroat trout spawning in tributary streams again. Read more at this link titled: [Yellowstone lake trout are on the retreat.](#)

How accurate is your casting? Here is a short interesting article that states that “Moving the rod in a single plane from the start of a cast to its finish is a real key to accuracy”.

<https://www.hatchmag.com/articles/biggest-killer-cast-accuracy-and-how-avoid-it/7714445>

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## The Rocky Mountain Flycasters’ NoCo Youth Fly Fishing Day Camp July 27 and runs through August 1

With all the uncertainty associated with COVID-19, we are still planning to have our Day Camp. We are still taking applications and encourage that you tell your friends and family about this fantastic opportunity for our young adult anglers. Please follow the link below to Day Camp information:

[Application/Schedule and Parents’ Information packet](#)

We are seeking volunteers from the chapter for this year’s camp. The information packet has the camp schedule and locations. If your schedule allows some time to volunteer for a rewarding experience, please follow the link below to sign up for the various slots available:

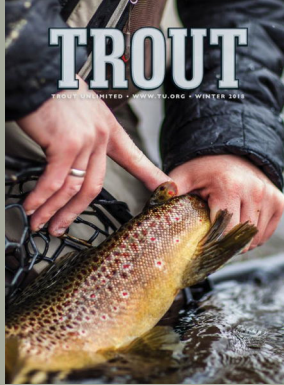
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4DADAD2EA3FE3-2020>

# Online Fly Fishing Magazine Library

High Country  
**Angler**

**MONTANA**  
FLY FISHING MAGAZINE

 **DUN** Magazine



**Hatch Magazine**



 The New  
**Fly Fisher**

## Donate and Buy

**Make a Donation**

**Buy RMF Merchandise**



## Sustaining Donors

# Rocky Mountain Flycasters Sustaining Donors



St. Peter's Fly Shop



John & Tharon Deakins  
In Memory of Linda  
Jefferies

Carl Kronberg  
Dennis Cook  
Bob Green  
Wil Huett

Dr. Dale Rellas  
Rocky Mountain  
Angling Club  
Big Thompson  
Brewery  
Jay Burge  
Art Campfield  
Matthew Doll

Yang Qian & Edward  
McConnaughey  
Lee Evans

Fidelity Charitable  
Great Lakes  
Chiropractic  
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Sustaining Donors are recognized for a full year. <https://rockymtnflycasters.org/articles/donors.php>

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