

# The Flypaper

May 2022



A LEADER IN COLDWATER CONSERVATION

Renew

Volunteer

Join RMFTU

2022 Fly Tying EXPO Tickets

## From The President

### May- Upcoming Events:

- **Flylords-New Belgium Day** May 7 - Come visit us at our RMF Booth, 2-7pm
- **Hohnholz SWA**, May 9<sup>th</sup>, all day. This entails a partnership between Rocky Mountain Flycasters and Colorado Parks and Wildlife to install necessary equipment to run a voluntary creel survey. See iVolunteer to sign up!
- **RMF EXPO** May 14<sup>th</sup> - Noon-4pm
- **Volunteer Orientation Night**. Date to be determined

**Recovering America's Wildlife Act** (introduced in 2021, not yet law)

Scientists estimate that one-third of wildlife species in the United States are at risk of becoming threatened or endangered without much-needed funding for their proactive conservation.



The bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act, introduced recently by Sens. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Roy Blunt (R-MO), is the Senate version of the bill that was introduced in the House by Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI) as H.R. 2773. It will dedicate \$1.3 billion annually to state fish and wildlife agencies to implement science-based wildlife action plans and an additional \$97.5 million

for tribal fish and wildlife managers to conserve fish and wildlife on tribal lands and waters. Dedicated funding will allow state and tribal wildlife managers to proactively conserve imperiled fish and wildlife species in a voluntary manner that best suits the needs of their states and before federal listing under the Endangered Species Act is warranted.

This bill will lead to more than 30,000 jobs annually —work that will restore natural resources, bolster community resilience and protect valuable natural infrastructure. The resulting healthy, sustainable fish and wildlife populations will drive many sectors of our economy, especially the \$788 billion outdoor recreation industry.

“The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act is one of the most important pieces of legislation for wildlife and wildlife habitats since the passage of the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson acts,” NWTF CEO Becky Humphries said. “We haven’t seen a bill in generations that has as much potential to turn around the spiraling decline of a growing number of wildlife species in the United States, including wild turkeys in some regions.”

The NWTF requests its members reach out to their representatives in both houses of Congress and urge them to support and move this vital legislation forward. For an easy way to contact your representatives, visit [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov).

**Catch and Release** (from the latest issue of Patagonia magazine):

In the late 1930s, Lee Wolf dramatically altered the idea of what it means to be an angler. “Game fish”, he wrote, are too valuable to be caught only once. This thunderbolt spawned the idea of “catch and release” recreational fishing. Facing declining wild fish stocks, the idea caught on, and it’s been standard operating procedure ever since for many anglers.

Almost 100 years later however, it’s time for an update. Here are some considerations and skills the angler must practice today as diligently as they do their casting.

Don’t fish when streamflows are too low or the water temperature is too warm. For trout, temperatures above 65° can be dangerous. And at 67° or higher, your catch is much less likely to survive.

Use only barbless hooks and, if you are a fly tier, be sure to mash the barbs down on all the flies you tie. Master the use of a release tool, such as the Ketchum Release. Minimize air exposure time and handling time. Keep fish wet. And if you must take a photo, only expose the fish to the air for no more than four or five seconds. With a friend who has the camera ready, you can quickly lift the fish 2 to 3 inches above the water, take the photo, and immediately release the fish. Never lay the fish on the bank for a photo if you intend to release it to fight another day.

Land the fish as quickly as possible. Use a net to help control unruly fish. Always use a net with a rubberized bag that won’t remove the fish’s protective slime coating and won’t get tangled in the fish’s gills or fins. (Article by Steve Schmidt, a flyfishing guide and owner of Western Rivers Flyfisher in Salt Lake City, Utah).

These days, “I let my fish go” isn’t enough, says Sascha Danylchuk, Executive Director of “Keep Fish Wet”. Some of our most treasured fish are threatened. They face a lot of different problems. They’re very complex and will take a lot of time to solve . . . *but the fate of fish after release* - that’s far less complex and primarily determined by angler behavior.

Every time you catch a fish, it’s an opportunity to practice conservation by using best practices for catch and release. To learn more, go to <https://www.keepfishwet.org/>. Become an advocate and take the pledge (<https://www.keepfishwet.org/advocate>).

**One last tip to protect our fish:**

When wading, be careful of rainbow and cutthroat redds in springtime.

I hope you can make the month of May one to remember! Good luck and tight lines!

Mark Miller, President  
[President@RMFTU.org](mailto:President@RMFTU.org)



# Fly Tying Expo

The Rocky Mountain Flycasters are excited to present the Fly Tying Expo and Angler Rendezvous on May 14th at the Northside Aztlán Community Center from 12-4pm.

Tickets are available here: <https://rmftu.org/2022expo>

This year will feature locally and regionally recognized fly tyers demoing new patterns and offering one on one QA for tips and techniques. We'll also have fly casting demonstrations on the Poudre River, speakers providing updates on conservation and volunteer opportunities with Rocky Mountain Flycasters and other local conservation groups. There will also be a raffle for door prizes and a silent auction with all kinds of fishing gear, fly tying accessories, guided trips, art and more!!

Beer and wine will be provided by Odell Brewing and a local food truck will be on site for lunch and snacks. So make a day of it and we look forward to seeing you on May 14, 2022!

The Fly Tying Expo started out as an informal trading of patterns and used gear among members and has become a regional draw for tyers and anglers. This event also provides the chapter with funds to support our programs such as the youth summer camp, Poudre Headwaters Project and our veterans programming. We are looking for help from volunteers who are able to collect high quality donations of gear, art, trips and other fishing related items. If you are able to donate to the silent auction or would like to help collect donations from local businesses please contact Colin Glover today at [cglover@thegroupinc.com](mailto:cglover@thegroupinc.com) or any time at (720) 939-9571.

Purchase Expo Tickets



## Rocky Mountain Flycasters 2022 Fly Tying Expo and Angler Rendezvous

Returning in person at the Northside Aztlán Community Center  
in Fort Collins

JOIN US ON  
MAY 14 FROM NOON - 4.





Odell beer and wine will be available and food trucks will be in the parking lot.

Come join us to discover new fly patterns, connect with regional fly shops and tiers, learn about volunteer opportunities with local conservation organizations, make new friends and see some old ones.

All proceeds directly support local coldwater conservation efforts.



Find out more, get tickets and bid on raffle items by visiting  
**rmftu.org/2022expo**  
or scanning the QR code.



## Farewell Good Friend

### **With Heavy Heart: A Farewell to our good, good friend, Dick Jefferies**

Many of you may not know that Dick Jefferies passed away in early April. He was a true champion of coldwater conservation, as was his wife Linda, who passed away several years ago. Both Dick and Linda were great supporters of our chapter and Trout Unlimited.

There will be a Celebration of Life for Dick on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Here are the details:

**MAY 6, 3:00 PM (MT)**  
**Windsong Estate Event Center**  
**2901 Saddler Blvd**  
**Severance, CO 80524**

*Dick had so many connections and friends in the world of Conservation. Here is just one example: "I wanted to say I'm very sorry to hear about the passing of your friend, Dick Jeffries. Between Kyle (Kyle Battige, CPW), Ben (Ben Swigle, CPW), and myself he was extremely respected and appreciated over here at CPW. In fact, Ben considered him a close friend and mentor. I just wanted you to know that his friends and family have been in our thoughts.*



*Dick was a champion for native trout, a friend, a damn hard worker, and the person you wanted in your corner when things got tough. It still seems surreal to me that he is simply gone. It was my privilege to share time with him whether staring at concrete pouring, ironing out project plans, brewing beer together, or simply sharing beers at the end of a good day's work. He will be missed undoubtedly, but never forgotten.*

**Matt Fairchild**, US Forest Service  
Fish Biologist

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*My best memory of Dick was from several years ago when he led the effort (as he so often did) to finish construction of the access fishing pier on the Big Thompson River, which had been wiped out by the 2013 flood. About 5-6 of us were there that day, and I did not know what to expect. Someone said Dick will be here shortly. A few minutes later, Dick drives up and there is a huge dump truck behind him loaded with tons of gravel, to be used for the wheel chair accessible path. Dick also made (I've no idea how) the metal structure that connects the gravel path to the actual deck of the pier. Without Dick, this project would never have been completed.*

*In my new position as president of our chapter, I have come to know and appreciate Dick even more. It seemed like Dick knew, or was friends with, just about everyone with any connection to Colorado fisheries. I called and emailed him almost weekly over the last year, trying to pick his brain and soak up at least a small fraction of his encyclopedic knowledge. I know his shoes are very hard to fill, and his passion for the outdoors, conservation, fisheries, and family were palpable to all who knew him. I am better for having known him. I think we are all better for having known him. We will all miss him dearly.*

**Mark Miller**, President  
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

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*Tight Lines*

**Rocky Mountain Flycasters Needs You !!!**

**WE NEED**



Your opportunity is right here, **now**, with Rocky Mountain Flycasters! We need to tell all of NoCO



about RMF's upcoming activities season quickly as people begin to emerge from their Covid cocoons. A bevy of summer and fall activities are scheduled with more coming, and we have a very small window of opportunity to inform NoCO about all of the exciting things that are going to start happening!

RMF's Communications Committee needs to fill several key opportunities operating in partnership with the Communications Chairperson, Zach Jory. All positions will regularly confer with chapter leadership, especially the Conservation, Education, and Membership Committees to understand and present subject content to engage and grow membership, chapter activities interest and volunteer participation in our Chapter.

**Community Outreach Coordinator** – Assist in marketing with a focus on building community partnerships. This role will include responsibilities for partner events and projects; developing relationships with media, and coordinating with local conservation agencies.

**Webmaster** - This is a codeless webmaster position. We use Squarespace as our Content Management System and GoDaddy to host. No web development experience is required. No previous webmaster experience is required, although a general familiarity with online applications is important. Familiarity with DNS and web security best practices will also be helpful in this role

Responsibilities include:

- Regular update of website content
- Optimize Search Engine Operation
- Optimize site navigability and flow
- Maintain site security
- Debug pages and fix broken links or images
- Monitor and analyze site performance with Google Analytics
- Manage Google Ads

**Contact: Zach Jory at [comms@rmftu.org](mailto:comms@rmftu.org)** with your initial thinking and to discuss if it would be a good fit. Let's talk asap!



## Volunteer Opportunity IN RMNP

### Volunteer to Assist with 2022 Field Projects in Rocky Mountain National Park

The 2022 field schedule for conservation and fish monitoring work in RMNP is now available. There are many great opportunities beginning in July to assist Chris Kennedy with this important work.

Chris Kennedy is a Fish Biologist with the USFWS who handles the bulk of fish management in Rocky Mountain National Park. As a one-man crew, he relies heavily on volunteers to complete projects during the field season, which generally runs from July through October. Trout Unlimited volunteers have been volunteering with Chris for many years to complete this important conservation work in RMNP.

[View the 2022 schedule and sign up to help](#)



## May Events - Please Note Changes

**Please mark your calendars for the Fly Tying Expo as that will take the place of our monthly membership meeting. The additional events are as follows:**

May 7th Party for the Poudre at New Belgium

May 9th Passive Creel Survey at Hohnholz Lakes

**May 12th 2022 FLY TYING EXPO**

## No General Membership Meeting on May 18th

May 24-26th Volunteer Orientation Meeting

Watch for complete information via social media and email blasts.



## 2022 Volunteer Orientation Meeting

After a gap of a couple years owing to covid-19, Rocky Mountain Flycasters will again hold an in-person **Volunteer Orientation Meeting in May 2022**. We are still working to finalize the meeting venue and date during the period **May 24-26 at 6-8 PM**. Please put the meeting time and date range on your calendar. We will provide further details and the meeting location in the May RMF Flypaper Newsletter. **As details are finalized, look for details on social media and email blasts.**

At this **Volunteer Orientation Meeting** you will again have an opportunity to learn about the different volunteer activities and to speak with Project Coordinators across the entire range of volunteer opportunities with RMF and its partner organizations. The evening's program will include a few minutes of introduction, some question and answer time, and then a chance to visit with the leaders of all the projects that capture your interest.

We hope to see you there. Watch your email inbox, social media and the next Flypaper Newsletter for a link to sign up and express your interest in attending the **2022 Volunteer Orientation Meeting**. Thanks again, I look forward to seeing you at the orientation session and on the stream soon after that.

Phil Wright



## Trout In The Classroom Nears Fish Release

Next week will mark the end of RMF's tenth year sponsoring TIC in NoCO Schools. This past year saw very active tanks in science classrooms at Greeley West High School and Severance Middle School. Primary elements of each TIC setup include a fifty-gallon tank, water filtration system, and a water chiller system. During the eggs' maturation and hatching, and for at least a month following, the tank is enclosed to ensure steady temperature control, and also to grow, develop their body functions and stabilize.



Students raised fish from 200 eggs to about 75 surviving fingerlings that ranged to lengths between 2" to 4" – a much better survival rate than in a real river environment. Throughout the year students measure daily water chemistries to ensure habitat health, vacuum clean the water and periodically change 5–10 gallons of water to re-stabilize overall quality, and ensured that the tank maintained a constant 52 degrees temperature. Students feed the fish and learn about environmental variables that fish must withstand in a natural cold water stream.

Students at each school will release about 48 fish that remain after about 24 had to be euthanized and sent to a USFWS laboratory for pathology tests to ensure they are disease free for release into the Poudre River.

Each teacher and the RMF Coordinator has an informative TIC Manual that clarifies procedures and provides answers to most questions. To equip a TIC installation costs about \$1,300 initially,



plus about \$500 additionally per year for the various supplements and to pay for the pathogen testing shipping/handling and lab processing.

**Tic is also a Volunteer Opportunity!** Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter expects to continue with two TIC schools next fall, and is seeking to add two new TIC Coordinators to split responsibilities. Most activity occurs at the beginning and end of each TIC year. The current Coordinator will remain available to guide startup with the new Coordinators' and to answer questions throughout the year.

Contact: Dennis Cook at [rkymtnangler@gmail.com](mailto:rkymtnangler@gmail.com) with your initial thinking and to discuss. No commitments either way until some agreement is established. Let's talk asap!



## Brookies Galore - Fun Trip!!

**FLY FISHING "FUN TRIP" - JULY 9TH  
COLORADO RIVER HEADWATERS  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK**



The trip is half full, so about 6 more open spots remain for the next members who sign up.

**Details:** 7:00am carpools depart from the Jax Outdoors/Loveland West store located on the corner of West Eisenhower Blvd. (US 34) at Wilson Avenue. Riders share gas expenses with drivers. Lunch is together sharing stories on the river, so bring water and pack snacks. At day's end each car's riders choose whether to grab a bite in Estes Park, or not and continue homeward.

More details are provided in plenty of time for you to prepare. To sign up, or if you've any questions, email Trip Coordinator, Dennis Cook at [rkymtnangler@gmail.com](mailto:rkymtnangler@gmail.com)



## 23 Native Trout Species

TU has a goal to make a difference in protecting the 23 native trout species that still survive here in North America. And Colorado TU has a goal to make a difference in protecting the three surviving native trout sub-species here in Colorado: The Colorado River Cutthroat, the Rio Grande Cutthroat, and our very own Greenback Cutthroat, which is native to the South Platte River basin. These sub-species evolved over tens of thousands of years. Let's take care of them and help them thrive! It may not be easy, but it is the right thing to do. It's a part of our heritage that was nearly lost forever. This is one way we can make things better than we found them. I like to say this is a gift to future generations. I hope you agree.



## Black Hollow Cleanup

On April 16<sup>th</sup> seven Rocky Mountain Flycasters members participated as part of a multi-



organizations were that cleaned up post-flood debris from the Poudre River banks. The weather forecast promised nothing but cold and windy, but Dave Haeusler, Roger and Liz Slocomb, Tim Utz, Jacob Ertel, Jeff Burgess and Matt Rogers, all dressed warmly and responded. This was the third USFS Cleanup Project covering about a river mile near milepost 87.3 where Black Hollow Creek exits from Black Gulch and intersects with the river across from Arrowhead Lodge Visitors Center.



Photo credit: Roger Slocomb

Fortunately the weather gave them all a bit of a break, and spirits really brightened at lunch when a Subway truck appeared. Post event team members' quotes included: "We collected quite a bit of trash including a complete cabalás tent under a very large log, lots of styrofoam and some old pictures, vcr tapes, etc". "We got to meet a couple of land owners; they were pleasant and were happy that we were there to help". "We picked up pieces of debris that did not belong in the river and tried to get as much of the debris as possible before the runoff season." "I had a great time helping out with the river cleanup."

Those who participated all seemed to have experienced an overall positive outcome and personal sense of value from their participation.



## RMF Supports River Appreciation Day

### Rocky Mountain Flycasters Supports Coalition for the Poudre Watershed (CPWR) River Appreciation Day at Odell's Brewery

Nine illustrious members of RMF staffed our RMF booth on April 30th at the fundraiser for CPRW. In addition to talking about our mission with the public, many of us got to meet some of our partners in conservation, to include people from CPRW, She's Fly, Protect Our Rivers, and St Peter's Flyshop. We also had a chance to sample some free beer - tough job - but someone has to do it, right? Our staff for the day included: Bill Gillett, Wayne Carlson, Jeff Burgess, Roger Slocumb, Dennis Cook, Zach Jory, Tony Popp, Colin Glover, and Mark Miller. This is an example of some of the easy and fun volunteer events we have every summer. We had a great time! We'd love to have more members join in on the fun next time. Oh ya, did I mention free beer?



Jeff, Wayne, Bill, and Roger keep an eye on things.



Zach doing his magic with our new wireless credit card readers.



Having a few laughs at Odell's Brewery.



## Your Fishing Photos

I know many of you have some fun fishing photos. A lot of our members would love to see them in our Newsletter or on our Instagram page. Please share them by sending them to me at [president@rmftu.org](mailto:president@rmftu.org). One tip for good fish photos – kneel in the water while holding the fish just above the surface. This way you get a good shot of the fish and the angler's smiling face. Send me your photos!

Mark Miller  
President, RMF

## Video of the Month



Hatch information Video from Orvis



## RMF Merchandise

We have the following items for sale to show your pride in our chapter:

- 1) Columbia shirts, men's and women's, long-sleeve
- 2) Caps (with logo badge sewn on front)
- 3) Yeti 20-ounce tumbler

[Purchase RMF Merchandise](#)

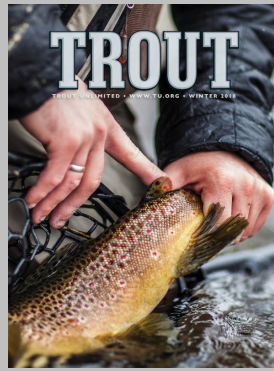
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## Rocky Mountain Flycasters Sustaining Donors



St. Peter's Fly Shop



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