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November 2010

## The Flypaper

*News and Events from the Rocky Mountain Flycasters  
Chapter of Trout Unlimited*

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### Greetings!

After having what I consider to be a very successful year, it seems only fitting that we start our new fiscal year with an effort to increase our membership. Bryon Fessler, our membership chairman, has been working very hard to make this meeting special for all of us. Greg Evans successfully booked Landon Mayer to speak to us and share his many years of experience with us. Dennis Cook recruited Jake Ruthven to tell us about his experiences in our first ever Youth Fly Fishing and Conservation camp. We have all pitched in to make the raffle table better than ever. It's shaping up to be a great meeting, and I really hope you'll bring a friend or two to learn more about us as well as getting some timely fishing tips from one of the best in the west.

Also, we're looking ahead to another Rocky Mountain Flycasters' Holiday Party, complete with a rod raffle, a fly tree raffle, and our own hilarious White Elephant exchange. The party is scheduled for Dec 9 at C. B. and Potts Collindale location on east Horsetooth. More details on our [website](#).

In January, we will hear from Brian Shipley about fishing the Delaney Buttes Lakes. Perhaps you've seen his article in Southwest Fly Fishing magazine and we expect more details as he shares his experiences with us. February will be our Fly Tying Expo and details will be out about that soon.

We recently tallied up our volunteer hours for a report to TU, and this chapter recorded nearly 6,000 hours of work on behalf of coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. For all of you that gave some time to our cause, I say thank you. We are making a difference and it feels good.

I'm looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday the 17th. Here's hoping one of your raffle tickets is drawn and that you soon find a time to catch a whopper using some ideas learned at our meetings.

Fish on,  
[Lee Evans](#)

*The gods do not deduct from a man's allotted span the hours*

afford. Special recognition occurs at the \$50 level.



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*spent fishing. --Babylonian Proverb*

## Guest Night Featuring Landon Mayer

Wednesday, November 17th, 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM,

Fort Collins Senior Center

As you probably already know, we are holding a Guest Night at our monthly meeting on November 17th. The event will feature Landon Mayer who is a nationally reputed fly fishing guide. You need only pick up a copy of *High Country Angler* or *Fly Fisherman Magazine* to see how popular Landon is to the fly fishing world. He will be sharing techniques and secrets from his recently released book *Sight Fishing for Trout*, so this is an event that you do not want to miss!



Our goal for the Guest Night is to sign up 20 new members. The easiest way to do that is to bring a friend to the event that you think will benefit by joining Rocky Mountain Flycasters and Trout Unlimited (only \$17.50 for the first year). Please complete the [membership form](#), print it, and bring it to the meeting. Anyone who signs up at the meeting gets five free raffle tickets (renewals count as well). Extra membership forms will be available at the meeting; however, we encourage you to complete the form and bring it with you to the meeting to speed up the process at the door. Prizes include fly fishing rods, reels, books, and other great take aways. Admission is free and we expect a large crowd. See you there!

Social hour begins at 6:30 pm, 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.

[To learn more about Landon Mayer, please visit his website.](#)

## RMF Holiday Party

Thursday, December 9th, 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM,

C.B. & Potts - Collindale Golf Course

Celebrate the holidays this year with your friends from Rocky Mountain Flycasters. The event will be held on December 9th from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm at C.B. & Potts at the [Collindale Golf Course](#). Admission is



\$10 per person and there will be a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres. You will receive a separate email invitation in the near future. We

look forward to seeing you there!

## Dr. Behnke - RMF Research Fellowship

The Robert J. Behnke - Rocky Mountain Flycasters Research Fellowship for 2010 was awarded to Brian Wolff, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, Colorado State University. Brian was on hand at our October meeting to discuss his graduate-level work on "Tracing the



origins and movements of invasive fishes in the Upper Colorado River Basin."

According to Brian, an understanding of fish origins and movements, or provenance, is important to many applied issues.

Traditional fisheries methods, e.g., capture-recapture, have been

incapable of determining provenance in many cases-mainly because of limited sampling efforts, large spatial scales, and high costs. Strontium isotope ratios ("Sr ratios") show great promise as a natural tracer for studying fish populations. For his study, Brian and co-researcher, Brett Johnson, examined the utility of otolith Sr ratios to determine provenance of invasive piscivores throughout the Upper Colorado River Basin. Their work suggests that Sr ratios are nearly unique across all reservoirs examined, consistent among species in a given reservoir, and temporally stable across many years. The implications from their research suggest that Sr ratios can be used to determine locations of escapement with the precision of within a year's time, which could provide important insights into processes that increase escapement risk such as dam operations, weather conditions, fish behavior, and fish physiology. Lee Evans, our chapter president, summed up Brian's presentation using words like "Wow!" and "Impressive!" Great job, Brian!

## BSA Merit Badge

Dennis Cook, Youth Outreach Chair

This coming Spring we will get our long awaited

[Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge](#) Counselor program started. The local Boy Scout Council's Fishing Coordinator is enthused at the prospects of our support for his current one-man program. Our preliminary plan is to focus on

working with Scouts from city troops in small incremental sessions locally. [Camp Ben Delatour](#) also has a well stocked lake that can be a resource as we proceed. Volunteers are needed, and activities will be planned that are sensitive to personal schedules and time expectations. Please contact [Dennis Cook](#) (970-372-9229) for additional information and to explore possible interest.



## Day Camp 2011

Dennis Cook, Youth Outreach Chair

With our first [Youth Day Camp](#) now behind us, our 2010 Camp faculty has suggested several refinements and we are collaborating on these and have already begun planning for next year. We plan to begin accepting applications on February 1st. The 2011 dates are July 21-23 and 28-30, and members are encouraged to start "talking up" the Day Camp with their kids, grandkids and any neighbors kids between ages 14-18. A flyer with more details will be posted on the RMF website in the near future.

In our 2011 Day Camp we will have the full 15 campers (this year we had a pilot group of nine) and will need more volunteers, especially for the on-river activities. It's never too early for members to inquire about how they can help, and even confirm volunteering, and we hope to add about ten new volunteers for 2011. Your availability may enable you to participate for a day, or you may want to for several days; we can almost always accommodate your availability...and want to share this enjoyable experience with as many members as possible. We think that if you talk with any of the 2010 Camp's volunteers ([see list on RMF website](#)) you will learn they had a rewarding and very satisfying experience introducing these outstanding young adults to coldwater conservation and a lifelong fly fishing recreational pastime. Please contact [Dennis Cook](#) (970-372-9229) for additional information and to explore possible interest.

## LBGC "Day for Kids" Booth

Dennis Cook, Youth Outreach Chair



On September 25th RMF sponsored a booth at the [Larimer Boys & Girls Clubs](#) (LBGC) "Day For Kids" held at Front Range Village along East Harmony Road. Dennis Martin and Jake Ruthven (Youth member) tied flies, Bryon Fessler ran the knots tying activity, Dennis Cook monitored the Youth Day Camp exhibit and Cullen Emsing & Rich

Bader did casting instructions. We also had an aquatic insects display that all helped explain. Many youngsters and parents visited our booth, and we feel it was well received and are glad to have contributed to our Partner LBGs huge success of this first large youth festival.

## Trout in the Classroom (TIC)

Dennis Cook, Youth Outreach Chair



Rocky Mountain Flycasters TIC project is hosted in the Agriculture Program at [Windsor High School](#) and has started off quite successfully. Teachers [Nathan Clark](#) and [Melinda Spaur](#) have assigned a designated TIC Team comprised of Freshmen, Juniors and Seniors to

manage the fish as an accredited Future Farmers of America project, and all four class levels of students have visibility and involvement with the project.

Beginning on September 1st the fish tank was installed, filled, and enclosed with styrofoam to create total darkness in readiness for the eggs to be delivered. Our 50 gallon tank is rated to optimally raise 200 fish. The eggs arrived by FedEx on September 23rd and we were surprised to receive 420! The designated TIC Student Project Team counted and transferred 419 of the eggs (the eye of one was dead) from the shipping container into the hatching basket.

On October 4th all but one of the eggs hatched, netting 418 'sac fry' (aka alevins) that immediately swam to the bottom and buried themselves in the gravel to feed on the nutrient sac attached to their abdomen while hiding in the dark substrate. When their sacs became depleted, between October 26th to 28th, they emerged now as 'swim-up fry' less than one-inch long, and all swam to the water surface to be fed. The fish will develop vertical parr lines on their sides as they grow, and are referred to as 'fry/parr' during this stage. As they grow and attain the one-inch to three-inch length they will be referred to as 'fingerlings'. Students are impressed with how all of the fish advanced through these development stages virtually simultaneously.

The high occupancy fish community in our tank necessitates that the student team be especially conscientious. An important rule of thumb throughout the life with us of these tiny fish is to not over-feed them because it may more likely increase death rate. The fish are being fed three times daily, and 5 gallons of water is also changed each day...about double the normal requirement. Additionally, the students take water samples daily to monitor water quality, which from time to time needs to be treated with prescribed reagents.

## Trout Unlimited Annual Report

Paul Wehr, Treasurer

It was busy last year and the Annual Report to Trout Unlimited has been completed and sent in. We're in pretty good financial shape. Our income was slightly more than we spent so we are building a little cushion for future major expenses. It could be the Long Draw Mitigation project will draw on those reserves.

What was truly impressive in filling out the TU report was the number of volunteer hours that our chapter contributed to the organization. Our members and other volunteers supplied nearly 6,000 hours to help with conservation projects, fundraising, youth education, and general operations of the chapter.

Over 75% of our conservation hours were directed to the "Protect" category for our work on the CDOW Fish Relocation project, the Big Thompson Narrows Cleanup, and the Poudre Cleanup. The balance went to "Reconnect" and "Restore" for Phantom Canyon and Eagle's Nest.

Our amazing Youth Outreach this year involved nearly 1,700 hours of volunteer work. This was comprised of the NoCO Youth Day Camp, Trout in the Classroom, the CDOW Poudre Rendezvous, and The Larimer County Boys & Girls Club "Day for Kids."

## Practice Clean Angling

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) pose a serious threat to TU's mission to conserve, protect, and restore North America's coldwater fisheries. Plants, organisms and pathogens such as whirling disease, didymo, (an invasive algae), New Zealand mud snails, VHS, and zebra and quagga mussels are invading new waters at an alarming rate. While there are many ways that AIS can be transmitted, scientific

evidence has clearly demonstrated that an angler's equipment, including boats and felt soled waders and boots are potential AIS carriers and are responsible for the introduction of AIS in rivers and streams across the country. At its annual meeting in

Salt Lake City in 2008, TU issued a [policy](#) requesting wader and boot manufacturers and anglers to eliminate the use of felt soled waders and boots and to adopt the clean angling practices to inspect, clean, and dry angling equipment and to avoid moving fish, fish parts, plants or water between drainages. Several states have addressed the aquatic invasive species/felt soled wader issue. In 2010, Alaska banned the use of felt-soled waders and boots and Vermont will soon do the same.



TU's commitment to banning felt-soled waders is based on sound science. An article written by Bob Wiltshire, Director of the Center for Aquatic Nuisance Species, entitled "[The Science of Felt](#)" compiles the information and answers the

questions regarding the science behind the elimination of the use of felt soled waders and boots.

[This article is courtesy of TU's website.](#) Photo by Mark Lance.

## Help Us Collect 3,000 Signatures for Save Our Rivers License Plate!



Colorado Trout Unlimited (CTU), with help from Nimby Design Group, developed the Save Our Rivers license plate to raise much needed funds for river protection right here in Colorado. But this plate

will not be produced until we collect 3,000 signatures from all our members and friends

[Click here to read more about the plate and to sign the petition.](#)

## Sign Up for TU Podcasts



TU President and CEO Chris Wood hosts a weekly podcast on the Orvis podcast channel each Tuesday about conservation, fishing and everything related to TU.

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Thank you for taking the time to read our monthly newsletter. Your suggestions and comments are always welcome and can be sent to the [Editor](#).