



May 2011

The Flypaper

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

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Dear Bryon,

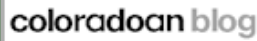
As we get ready for our last meeting before summer, I find myself reflecting back on the two years I've been president. We've accomplished many things and our chapter is much better known. We have increased our membership and our members have been more active than ever. We were recently awarded recognition by the Colorado Trout Unlimited for our work with youth and local agencies are contacting us for help with conservation projects. Your Board has been fantastic and I'll write more about them in a later newsletter.

What better way to start the summer than hearing about fishing and volunteering in Rocky Mountain National Park. Steve Schweitzer (who tied for us at our Expo) will be here to detail his experiences in the Park and will again have his newest book available. Some of you already own it and I hear rave reviews. Chris Kennedy will speak for a few minutes at the beginning of our meeting regarding volunteering with the Greenback restoration that is going on in the Park. Many of our members have helped out and all report a great time. Maybe this is the year you can also be involved.

I got a chance to fish the San Juan with a couple of my boys over the Easter weekend and really had a successful trip. When a 20 inch Brown decides to move up and take your size 24 dry, life gets real exciting. Here's hoping you all get a chance to get out and fish more often this summer, but don't ignore our calls for help with youth camp, river cleanups, trail maintenance, and other calls for volunteers.

Thank you sincerely for all you do.

[Lee Evans](#), President



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"There is certainly something in fishing that tends to produce a gentleness of spirit, a pure serenity of mind." ~by Washington Irving~

Featured Guest Speaker for May

Steve Schweitzer is our featured guest speaker for May 18th. Steve has been part of the fly fishing retail and conservation industry for over 20 years, including a key position as the V.P. of Sales & Marketing at Whiting Farms, where he created the popular products "Bird Fur", "Fly Tyer's Variety Pack" and the "Whiting Hackle Gauge".



He has also served as President of the Lee Wulff chapter and Treasurer of the Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited. Other behind-the-scenes involvement in the industry includes product marketing consulting for leading fly rod and fly tying tool manufacturers and an off-n-on fly shop rat since the early 90's.

Steve is the co-founder of the popular international fly fishing website, [globalflyfisher.com](#), which is in its 16th year. Among his 50+ articles online, his leader tying article, *Hyper-Compleat Guide to Tying Leaders* and accompanying LeaderCalc software has surpassed a quarter million downloads since original publication in 1999.

Over the years, Steve has authored numerous articles appearing in *Fly Fisherman Magazine*, *Angling Trade*, *Trout*, *Wall Street Journal* and a myriad of other regional angling publications. He also is contributing author & illustrator for the book *Drag Free Drift - Presentation Techniques for Fly Fishing*, authored by Joe Kissane. His fly tying patterns appear in books by Chris Mann, John Shewey, FFF Masters,

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Dennis Cook

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Rick Takahashi and others.

Steve's newest book is entitled *A Fly Fishing Guide to Rocky Mountain National Park*, and was just released on January 31, 2011. Steve has spent the last 10 years researching and fly fishing Rocky Mountain National Park. He knows where to fish and how to fish it. If you're going to fly fish the park you'll want to come to our May meeting and be sure to [visit Steve's website for more information](#).

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.

Day Camp Applications Being Accepted

Rocky Mountain Flycasters is now accepting applications from students aged 14 to 18 for its second annual Northern Colorado Youth River Conservation & Fly Fishing Day Camp which will be held on **July 21-23 and July 28-30** at various locations around Fort Collins. The camp is designed to educate students on the importance of coldwater conservation while providing hands-on fly-fishing instruction.

Approximately 15 students are selected each year based on their outdoors commitment to learning about conservation. The cost to attend the camp is only \$30 per student as nearly all of the resources needed to run the camp come from volunteers and donations.



If you have a student or know of a student that would benefit by attending the camp, please point them to the following resources:

[Camp flyer](#)

[Camp information](#)

[Camp application](#)

[2010 Youth Camp pictures, video, and articles](#)

Hurry, you only have until May 31 to apply for this wonderful experience. Questions should be directed to [Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair.

Ballot for May Elections

[Lee Evans](#), President

Your chapter is in need of persons willing to serve on the Board of Directors, especially in the President and Vice President positions. I promise to make sure those positions are not too difficult or time consuming. As immediate past president, I will continue to be involved and will be of assistance to any Board Member who needs it.

Ideally, the candidate for **President** should come from a present Board member; however, that is not essential. There are many of you in our membership who could be president and already have the necessary experience to run a meeting and emcee the General meetings. The present members of the Board and of the volunteer council are fantastic at making the president's job a breeze.

It is helpful that a **Vice-president** would be a person who would consider running for President at a later time, but this is not essential to holding the office. All of the Board members pitch in to find speakers for our meetings, but the vice president is responsible for keeping the schedule and making follow-up emails.

Here is the current ballot for the elections that will be held at our General meeting on May 18, 2011:

President - Open (please [email me](#) to volunteer)

Vice President - Open (please [email me](#) to volunteer)

Secretary - Melinda MacPherson

Treasurer - Paul Wehr

At-Large - Charles Plunkett

At-Large - Stephanie Mullins

We have 11 Board meetings per year, on the 2nd Wednesday of the month for about 2 hours. Please [email me](#) and say that you'll help out. It's a lot of fun and not hugely demanding. Our Chapter needs you!

Flycasters Receive Awards

At the Annual Colorado Trout Unlimited Rendezvous in Redstone, Colorado, our chapter received a special award, *Exemplary Youth Education Program*, for our Youth Day Camp, Trout in the Classroom and other youth activities that have been performed so well by our many youth program volunteers. Also, a second award of *Outstanding Volunteer* was presented to Dennis Cook for his volunteer work with

both our chapter and Colorado Trout Unlimited. Here's a very well deserved, "Congratulations" and "Thank you" again to all of our Rocky Mountain Flycasters volunteers for these recognitions.



Boys & Girls Club - Volunteers Needed

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

Adult volunteers are needed to make this program for the Boys & Girls Club the best experience possible. Volunteers can present any selection of single or multiple classes they prefer or assist an instructor. We have three more sessions in May as follows:

May 12 - Session 6 (Thursday). This will be a fly tying session at the Fort Collins B&G Club for one and a half hours. Please be there at 3:00 pm. We will be helping the boys and girls tie the San Juan Worm, the Wooley Bugger, and the Mickey Finn Bucktail Streamer (optional, pending time).

May 17 - Session 7 (Tuesday). This will be a fly casting and knots session at the Fort Collins B&G Club for one and a half hours. Please be there at 3:00 pm. We will be helping the boys and girls with refreshers fly casting including a target casting game and knot tying game.

May 19 - Session 8 (Thursday). This will be a pond fly fishing session at Swift Ponds for two hours. Please be there at 3:45 pm. Please bring a net if you have one.

Please contact Dennis to volunteer. You can also reach him by phone at 970-372-9229. The [Fort Collins B&G Club](#) is located at 1608 Lancer Drive.

[Please click here for more information.](#)

Youth Day Camp - Volunteers Needed

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

The Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Day Camp will be held on July 21, 22, 23 and 28, 29, 30. Volunteers are needed to

assist with the camp. If you have not yet registered your name, please contact Dennis. You can also reach him by phone at 970-372-9229. He is beginning to prepare the volunteer activities' assignment schedule.



[Click here for more information.](#)

Eagle's Nest - Volunteers Needed

[Guy Turenne](#), Project Leader and At-Large Member

Come out and assist Larimer County by providing trail maintenance at [Eagle's Nest Open Space](#) that may not otherwise be done, keeping trails in better shape for safer and more enjoyable use. The first trail maintenance day is scheduled for **June 1**. The county requires at least 10 volunteers in order to hold the event. Trail maintenance at Eagle's Nest is an day affair. We generally start at the parking area around 9:00 a.m. and work until around 4:00 p.m. with a mid-day lunch break. The work can involve removing vegetation encroaching on trails, rebuilding water bars, etc. using a variety of hand tools. Participants should dress accordingly and bring along water, lunch, work gloves, appropriate footwear, a hat and sunscreen. Please contact Guy by Friday, May 27 if you want to volunteer.

[Please click here for more information.](#)

CDOW Volunteer Opportunities

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair

Many *Flypaper* readers will enthusiastically recall their volunteer experiences last year while helping Colorado Department of Wildlife at two events. Most memorable was a 3-day project to facilitate an experiment involving survivability of disease-resistant rainbow trout in the main stem of the Poudre River. RMF-TU volunteers also enjoyed assisting the fishing experiences of young anglers at CDOW's

Outdoor Skills Day held at the Delatour Boy Scout Reservation.

This year there will be several new CDOW-sponsored events needing volunteers to help make them successful. And, further good news is that it will be easier than ever for volunteers to enroll.

First Event: Colorado Special Olympics

CDOW is seeking at least 20 volunteers to assist with a [fishing clinic](#) as part of the Colorado Special Olympics. It is scheduled to be held at Swift Ponds in Fort Collins on Saturday, June 11, 2011 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to assist with set-up and break-down, manning the casting station, knot tying station, assist with fishing, and working at an urban wildlife booth. Lunch will be provided.



This event is for 200 special needs participants and their mentors. The day is divided into a morning group and an afternoon group with 100 participants at each. There will be an overlap of the two groups at lunch. When registering (see more below) volunteers should indicate their preferences as to the type of activities they prefer, and whether they are available for all day, or just the morning or afternoon sessions.

Future CDOW Events

The Special Olympics is the first of several fishing-related volunteer opportunities being organized by Allison Kincaid, CDOW's Hunting/Fishing Outreach Coordinator for the NE Region. She is planning several more clinics in the coming months and she's really interested in working with RMF-TU volunteers.

Special Registration for RMF-TU Volunteers

Because each CDOW event can utilize only a limited number of volunteers, special provisions are being established for enrollment of RMF-TU volunteers. They would be contacted first for fishing events before CDOW opens it to general volunteers. To receive advance notices for each of the

forthcoming events, you should register now to get on the advance-notice list, even if you cannot volunteer for the Special Olympics event. Donna Forrest, CDOW's Education & Volunteer Program Assistant, will be the person that RMF-TU volunteers will work with to get signed up as a CDOW volunteer.

Here is the information for registering

Go to the [CDOW Volunteer website](#) and complete and submit an online application. Enter the following text, "Allison Kincaid, Fishing Clinics" on the "Additional Information" page where the line states "If yes, list project or staff person." Once your application has been submitted, please contact Donna via [email](#), letting her know you are a member of Rocky Mountain Flycasters chapter of Trout Unlimited and that you have completed the registration process. Donna will then get your registration activated.

Finally, you won't have to worry about submitting the online test. But it is advisable for you to review and familiarize yourself with the [CDOW Volunteer Handbook](#). Donna will contact you via email once your profile is activated, so it's important that you have an active email address.

Adopt-a-Trail at Gateway Natural Area

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair



[Gateway Natural Area](#) at the confluence of the North Fork of the Poudre with the main flow of the Poudre River, being close to Fort Collins, is a favorite fishing site of many RMF members. It also is the graduation site for RMF's River Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Day Camp.

Gateway is one of City of Fort Collins Natural Areas, a collection of special places in and near Fort Collins that provide public access to over 32,000 acres of natural areas. Recently the Fort Collins Natural Areas management staff invited the RMF Board of Directors to consider participating in any of several candidate activities supporting the management of Natural Areas. Your Board decided that Gateway is the Fort Collins Natural Area most relevant to

RMF members' interests. More specifically, RMF plans to enter into an Adopt-a-Trail agreement with Fort Collins in which RMF volunteers will participate in foot-trail maintenance within the Gateway Natural Area. This activity will be similar to the trail maintenance work that RMF volunteers have conducted during the past 6 years at Larimer County's Eagles Nest Open Space. So, Gateway will become an addition to what RMF volunteers are already doing to protect and maintain trails in our nearby public lands natural areas.

The Adopt-a-Trail agreement is in the formative process, so stay tuned for additional news as it develops.

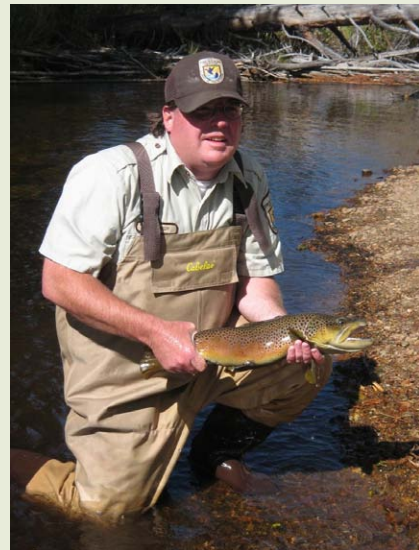
Adventures for Volunteers in Rocky Mountain National Park

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair

During the May 18 general chapter meeting you will not only learn from Steve Schweitzer about fishing in Rocky Mountain National, but also be able to meet Chris Kennedy, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services fisheries biologist in the Park. Chris's summertime assignment is to conduct field research on trout populations in RMNP and he has been doing this for many years.

This fieldwork consists of capturing trout, identifying the species, noting any abnormalities, measuring and weighing them, recording the statistics, and returning the trout unharmed to the water where caught. Capture methods in streams include electro-shocking & dip netting, and in lakes; gill netting and hook & line capture (sometimes called fly fishing).

Chris is the only person on the Park staff that conducts this work. Obviously the tasks cannot be accomplished by one person acting alone. So Chris depends on volunteers to help him accomplish his field research. Both male and female volunteers are welcome. Volunteering to assist Chris is an excellent way to experience the most pristine and scenic areas in the backcountry. You will become acquainted with volunteers from several Colorado TU chapters. And from Chris, you will learn much about the habits and habitats of both native and introduced trout species. It all adds up to a bundle of fun, some good exercise, and your valuable contribution to native trout fisheries research. What's more, Chris shows his appreciation for your help by sponsoring a season-end



Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at a resort in Estes Park at the end of the fieldwork season.

During the research field season, in July, August and September, there is a wide range of types of trips. Trips may be as short as one day, or as long as five days. Overnight stays may be at a Park Ranger cabin or in primitive backcountry campgrounds. Research sites may be adjacent to a road, or as much as 10 miles one-way from a road. Elevation changes from a road to the research site may be as little as none or more than 3,000 vertical feet. Some trips may have pack mules to carry the heavy gear. Some camping equipment (tents & sleeping bags) may be borrowed from the Alpine Anglers chapter of TU in Estes Park. So you can select trips that suit both your interests and your stamina.

The schedule of trips planned for 2011 will be available at our May 18 meeting. The trip schedule will also be posted on the RMF web site. The primary contact for people who want to volunteer is [Austin Condon](#) a member of Alpine Anglers TU. If you want to volunteer, ask Austin to put your name on his volunteer list and he will send you update emails shortly before each trip. Then, when you see a trip you want to take, let Austin know you are volunteering for it.

For further information from RMF volunteers who have worked with Chris in past years, please contact Dave Piske, Guy Turenne, or Phil Wright at one of our chapter meetings.

Children's Water Festival

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

On April 27th Jerry Pelis, Phil Keller and Dennis Cook hosted 144 fourth graders and their teachers at the 20th Anniversary of this event that is one of the oldest in the nation and is co-sponsored by the [West Greeley Conservation District](#). The festival



brings water professionals from around Colorado to provide presentations and activities about water, conservation, human health, and aquatic life. It's goal is to teach students that water is an essential, limited resource and that they can take action.

RMF's volunteers' six presentations explained about Colorado's diminishing rivers due to reduced snowfall and increasing population, trans-basin diversions supplying western Colorado water to Front Range residents, and that we need to take measures to help our threatened rivers. They explained that aquatic insects are indicators of river health and the riparian food chain foundation.



[Ask About Fly Fishing - Internet Radio](#) was created, from a love of learning about fly fishing, by its founders D. Roger Maves and Don Bishop. Founded on January 1st, 2006, it started with the idea that fellow fly fishers should be able to learn from fly fishing experts, while sitting in the comfort of their home. By combining both streaming audio over the Internet and the telephone conference call, Roger and Don defined the delivery methods for their live interviews. Listeners can listen to the broadcasts by telephone or by just clicking on a link on their computer screen.

Taking it a step further, each call is recorded and transcribed so that even if a listener can't make the live call, they can listen to the recorded call or read the written transcripts at a later date. Over time the archived calls become part of a library that listeners can access whenever they want. Ask About Fly Fishing also offers other global services to its users including directories for shops, guides, travel, media and clubs and an events calendar. Ask About Fly Fishing seeks to create a center for education, learning and communication between fly fishers worldwide.

Got content? 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](#). We also welcome your content and fishing stories!

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