



January 2012
Edition

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Dear Bryon,

Welcome to 2012! We all wish the very best to you and yours for the upcoming year and may you be able to say you had a good year fishing!

We're gearing up to make the next five months fantastic. This month we will be hearing about Euro-Nymphing and tournament techniques from Devin Olsen and Connor Murphy. These methods will increase the number of catches you have and help you catch fish when there's no dry fly action. Our speakers are experienced and eager to share their knowledge. Bring your fishing buddies and learn a new technique.

Next month will be the annual Fly Tying Expo. We will have approximately 20 tiers from around the region to show their latest methods and flies. Bring a note pad and take home some ideas for your own vice. We will have a silent auction, bucket raffles, food, and beginners' instruction. This is our only large fund raiser, so bring your checkbook and plan to spend some money for some great gear and to help in our next year's activities.

We had a great Holiday Party and a couple of our friends went home with a large number of flies. In a completely honest, random drawing, I won the 4 wt rod from Stone Creek. Since I had recently broke my 4 wt, I was thrilled to replace it. The white elephant gift exchange didn't treat me so well, as I went home with a singing bass-looking fish plaque. Someone will get to have it next year! We laughed a lot, and moaned when our great gifts were stolen, but it was fun.

I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, January 18, 2012,

Lee Evans, President

Sustaining Donor



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"Scholars have long known that fishing eventually turns men into philosophers. Unfortunately, it is almost impossible to buy decent tackle on a philosopher's salary." ~Patrick F. McManus

Windy Gap Doesn't Fill the Gap

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair

To those of us concerned with preserving Colorado's coldwater fisheries, and that presumably includes you, dear readers, the word "gap" has several connotations. One connotation is that a gap is a missing element in something. Another is that a gap is a topographic feature in a landscape. A third connotation is that "gap" may refer to a specific project that relates to a combination of both of the first two connotations. This article fits the third connotation.

The front page of the Sunday, January 8 edition of the Fort Collins Coloradoan bellowed the headline, "FILLING THE GAP". The text under that headline describes widespread effects of the proposed Chimney Hollow Reservoir. That reservoir would be located just west of Carter Lake, with a hogback separating the two reservoirs. Chimney Hollow Reservoir would provide additional storage capacity for 13 suppliers of water to certain Front Range cities and for cooling equipment at a generating plant operated by Platte River Power Authority.

As the Coloradoan article points out, the additional water to be stored in Chimney Hollow Reservoir would be a key element in providing a host of new recreational opportunities near to our homes. But where would this water come from? Would the heavens precipitate barrels of new rainfall just so it could be stored in Chimney Hollow? Of course not.

The "new" water source would be the same rainfall and snowmelt that already occurs west of the Continental Divide, and more specifically, within the basin of the upper Colorado River. This not-new water would be diverted from the west slope through existing pipelines of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project. On the west side of the divide, the project is known as the Windy Gap Firming Project. Windy Gap is not only a topographic feature near Granby, but also is the name of a reservoir that seems to be too small for its originally intended purpose.



Filling that gap in Windy Gap Reservoir is the reason for building a new reservoir to be called Chimney Hollow. And, in the absence of compensatory mitigation actions, that additional diversion would create dire results for the trout fishery in the upper Colorado River.

As the Coloradoan article points out, coldwater fisheries experts on the Colorado-based staff of Trout Unlimited believe that the mitigation actions proposed thus far are inadequate to prevent devastation of the trout fishery in the upper Colorado River. [Click here to read the Coloradoan article.](#)

Expected later this year is a final determination of the mitigation actions that are appropriate to preserve the fishery. In an effort to have that determination more closely align with TU's assessments, TU is calling for mitigation efforts beyond those currently being considered.

[You can add your personal support for TU's "Defend the Upper Colorado" campaign by joining on-line.](#)

If you haven't already joined "Defend the Upper Colorado", you are encouraged to do so today.

New Stream Restoration Projects Need Volunteers This Summer

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair

Are you one of the many RMF members who, for some years since completion of the riparian restoration project on the North Fork of the Poudre at Eagles Nest, have been dreaming of getting involved in another "real" stream restoration project? If your definition of a "real" project is getting your hands and feet wet, rolling some rocks and/or emplacing logs along stream banks to provide cover for the trout, or restoring riparian areas damaged by irreverent social use, your dreams will become reality this summer.



Rocky Mountain Flycasters TU is partnering with [Wildland Restoration Volunteers](#) (WRV) to conduct a substantial stream improvement project on several miles of the North Fork of the Poudre. The project has been conceived, planned, and will be managed by the fisheries staff of the [Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest and Pawnee National Grasslands](#) (A-RNF & PNG). It is located in the Canyon Lakes District and along the course of the North Fork west of its confluence with Killpecker Creek and on the way to Deadman Hill. The specific schedule is to be determined, but expected to be in August and/or September when stream flows are conducive for in-stream work.

This project will involve the use of heavy equipment to cut, transport, and emplace beetle-killed conifer tree trunks along the stream banks. Arrangements for the operation and use of heavy equipment are being made by WRV. WRV will also provide volunteers from its members and skilled crew leaders. RMF TU will provide additional volunteers to work alongside the WRV volunteers and under the supervision of WRV's crew leaders.

Wildlands Restoration Volunteers is a non-profit organization that provides an opportunity for people to come together, learn about their natural environment, and take direct action to restore and care for the land. WRV is based in Boulder, conducts projects throughout Colorado, and has a northern Colorado office in Fort Collins. This writer's personal experience, based on participation as a volunteer in several recent WRV projects in northern Colorado, is that WRV projects are very well organized, conducted with a high regard for the safety of volunteers, and with an underlying motivation for volunteers also having fun while working on WRV projects.

In a longer-term view, RMF TU anticipates engaging in additional conservation and restoration projects within the A-RNF & PNG lands. Some of these will be in partnership with WRV. Others, especially

smaller projects, may involve only TU volunteers working under the supervision of skilled Forest Service personnel and FS volunteer crew leaders. Several candidate small projects are being considered for this summer, each of them involving the hardening of trail crossings of streams where sedimentation stirred up by vehicles is destroying trout and aquatic insect habitats. Some of these creeks hold native cutthroat trout and/or rare aquatic insect species.

Look for future Flypaper and web site announcements of selected projects, some of which are likely in 2012, and others in future years.

Poudre Headwaters Native Trout Recovery Project Update

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair

The status of this project was last reported in the October 2011 Flypaper. That report mentioned that the administrative appeal process for re-licensing of Long Draw Reservoir and Dam had matured; the decision of the Forest Service to proceed with the native trout recovery program as mitigation for the environmental damage to La Poudre Pass Creek caused by the operation of Long Draw Reservoir had been upheld; and the Forest Service had presented a draft land lease to Water Supply and Storage Company, requesting that WSSC sign the lease and then proceed with the recovery program. At that point, it seemed possible, but somewhat doubtful, that the native trout restoration project might soon move into the implementation phase.



The 9th day of November 2011 proved that expectation to be wrong. On that day WSSC instead filed a complaint in Federal District Court in Denver alleging a long list of reasons why the Forest Service had erred in its decision. Progress was in a stall-mode again.

In an effort to avoid another long delay in the court system, the Board of Colorado Trout Unlimited decided that CTU should intervene in the court proceedings, hoping that its voice would assist in reaching an understanding agreeable to all parties. CTU's motion to that effect was filed with the federal court on January 12, 2012. Concurrently, CTU's

motion to intervene is supported by individual declarations from three members of Rocky Mountain Flycasters, each of whom have devoted many volunteer hours to the regulatory proceedings and/or field work in Rocky Mountain National Park and the Long Draw area.

Only time will tell how long the delay in implementation will continue. In the meantime, volunteers from TU will continue to be needed to support continued pre-restoration activities to be conducted by Chris Kennedy this summer. The specific days and locations for those activities will be announced in a future edition of The Flypaper and on the RMF TU web site.

RMF Youth Building Fishing Rod

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

Sawyer Finley, a 2010 RMF Youth Day Camp graduate, wraps a fly rod under instructional mentorship of Jim Tilmant, local fly fishing guru. Sawyer is enrolled in the

Poudre High School International Baccalaureate Diploma program and chose building a rod as his approved project that requires detailed documentation and review.



Youth Leadership Opportunities

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

Coordinator - 2013 Youth Day Camp

RMF needs a person to understudy this summer and take over leading the Day Camp for 2013. Planning details, schedules, contacts, and complete files will be provided. Dennis is retiring after this summer's Day Camp, but will still be available to provide support in 2013.

Coordinator - 2013 Trout in the Classroom

RMF needs a person to understudy the remainder of this year's program, and take over leading the TIC program for the 2012-'13 school year. Planning details, schedules, contacts, and complete files will be provided. Dennis is retiring after this school year's TIC program is completed, but will still be available to provide support in 2013.

Those interested, please contact either [Dennis Cook](#) (970-372-9229) or Vice President [Dick Jefferies](#) (970-481-2924) to discuss your possible interest.

RMF Trout in the Classroom (TIC)

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

Windsor High Schools second year TIC program is well underway. The tank compressor failed shortly before Thanksgiving, resulting in excessively warm water that creates chemistry imbalances and can lead to fish deaths. The problem was discovered and fixed in time.



TIC Student Team members sample and check water chemistries daily to ensure required balances. Water chemistry data, fish deaths and observed fish behaviors are recorded in a detailed log. About sixty fish are growing healthily after numerous deaths during initial eggs incubation and hatching.

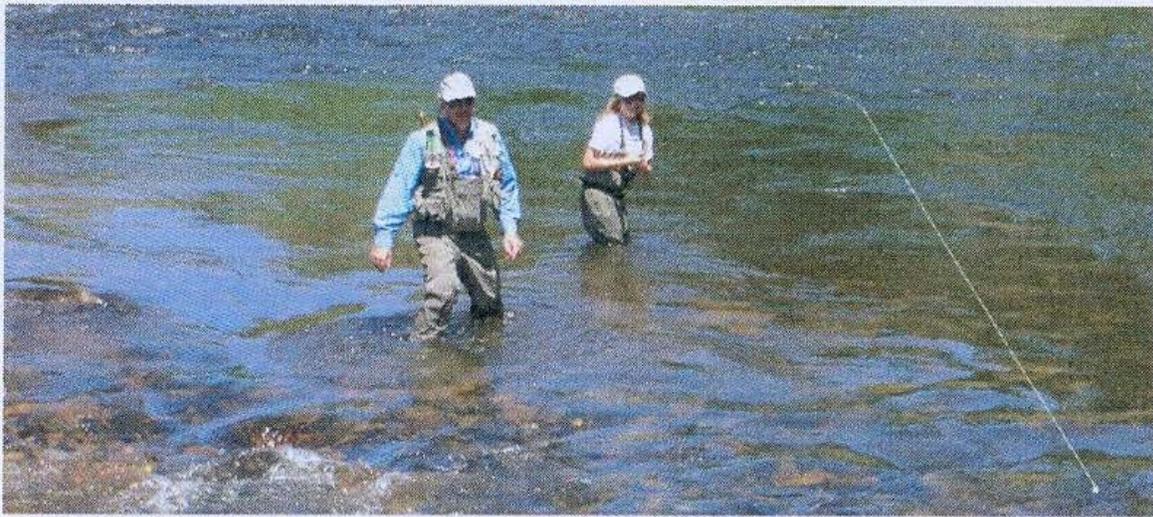


Fish are fed daily. The tank must be cleaned every-other day to remove solid wastes that cause excessive nitrogen levels that can be deadly for fish. TIC student team members maintain logs throughout the entire process.

2012 RMF Youth Day Camp

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

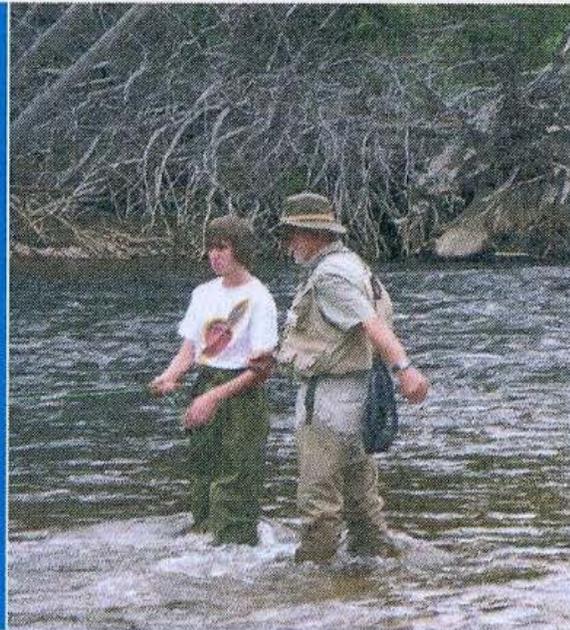
Volunteers please block your available July 31 through August 4 calendar dates. Schedule information and sign-up will begin soon, and there are plenty of volunteer opportunities.



FLY FISHING DAY CAMP

JULY 30th through AUGUST 4th (Ages 14-18)

Casting
Dry & Nymph Techniques
Fly Tying & Knots
Habitat & Entomology
Trout Anatomy & Behavior
Fish Hatchery
Snorkeling
Electrofishing
Rivers Conservation
Water Safety



Six full days - \$30.00

Applications open February 6th
at www.rockymtnflycasters.org



8:00am to 6:00pm daily schedule. Equipment and transportation between activity venues provided. Campers bring bag lunches/rain gear. Questions: 970-372-9229

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