



August 2012 Edition

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Sustaining Donor

Dear Members,

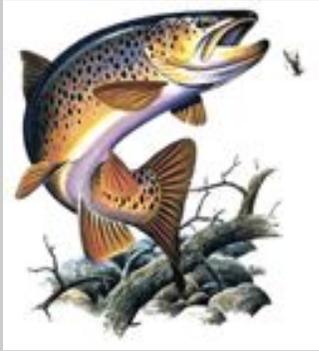
Has it been HOT ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE?????

Man if I wanted to live in the South I would move to the South. No offense to anyone in the land down yonder but this is Colorado for crying out loud, not Alabama. Well at least it's a dry heat (hah)!!

Speaking of heat, think of good ways to give the fish a break through this spell. Yes, that might even include not fishing in warmer waters. Head to the hills and I mean up high. There is some tremendous fishing that waits in the high country and those cooler waters feel refreshing and are much easier on the fish. If you do fish lower, get the fish in and off quickly and make 100% sure they are revived before moving on.

A few rains in July gave all of us a bit of a taste of what we are in for over the next several years regarding river turbidity and deposition following the fires. There is no doubt the lower Poudre will suffer some setback. The million dollar question will be, "How bad and how long"? There seems to be mixed opinion regarding the level of degradation to the Poudre and how long the recovery might be. One thing is certain though, and that is the fact we can lessen the impact by getting involved directly with restoration of the watershed. Rocky Mountain Flycasters has been diligently working to help establish a regional coalition of affected and interested organizations, agencies and individuals that will be the centerpiece of organizing restorative efforts to the burn areas. We have teamed together to form the High Park Restoration Coalition and you can read more about that effort a little further down in the newsletter.

Another announcement that we herald is that Rocky Mountain Flycasters has accepted an invitation to be one of twenty stakeholders that will take part in the "Poudre Runs Through It" - Study, Action Work Group. This group will learn together about all aspects of the Poudre River-its human uses and its



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ecological needs-in order to gain insights and develop strategies for how we can significantly improve the social-ecological functioning of the river. The end result will be just the beginning: a set of action recommendations to be presented to the community.

All in all a busy time at Rocky Mountain Flycasters and we only have a month till we start general meetings again.

[Dick Jefferies](#), President

Rocky Mountain Flycasters

"Three-fourths of the Earth's surface is water, and one-fourth is land. It is quite clear that the good Lord intended us to spend triple the amount of time fishing as taking care of the lawn."

~ Chuck Clark

Please check the RMF on-line calendar and get signed up for any of the numerous volunteer opportunities available.

Rocky Mountain Flycasters Announces the formation of the High Park Restoration Coalition (HPRC)

[Dick Jefferies](#), President

All of you should be aware by now that in June, RMF began a process of discussing restorative efforts in the areas burned by both the High Park and Hewlett Gulch fires. Those two fires burned close to 100,000 acres of forest in the Poudre and Big Thompson watersheds. We were gravely concerned what impacts the fires would have on the watersheds. Additionally, using recent Colorado and Western US fires as examples we knew that restoration costs of those burned areas cannot be done solely through agency response alone. The US Forest Service, National Resource Conservation Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado State Forest Service and Larimer County are all first rate organizations but all those agencies combined do not have the resources to address the ecological damage caused by our two local fire much less all other Colorado fires and continuing fires throughout the Western US this year.

Rocky Mountain Flycasters has teamed with, in a leadership capacity, approximately 40 current member, agency or stakeholder organizations throughout Northern Colorado in order to collectively fund, organize and support restoration needs for the High Park and Hewlett Gulch fire areas. Restoration funds collected for the benefit and use by the coalition will be deposited with the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado. Restoration projects will reviewed and approved by a HPRC Project Review Committee and funding will only be released to those projects that are approved by the committee.

In order to get "boots on the ground" and working on restorative projects, trained project leaders will be required to manage the on-site work. Project leaders will be volunteers in their own right and they can receive their training certification through programs provided by Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (see article below for next available training date).

RMF is expecting to sign off on all official documents required for full participation in the HPRC within the next few days. Once fully operational we will post both RMF volunteer projects as well as cooperative HPRC projects in the newsletter and on the RMF web site.

This is a tremendous opportunity for all anglers and those who support angling to 'give back' to the community and more importantly to give back to the rivers. There is nothing that can be done to eliminate the devastating effects that the fire has caused to the watershed, but we can minimize the length of time it takes for the watershed to begin to recover and regain a sense of normalcy.

HPRC Training Program Wildlands Restoration Volunteers

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair

Crew Leader Training for Post-Fire Ecological Restoration

Sept. 1, 2012

The High Park and Hewlett Gulch fires of Colorado burned over 90,000 acres of public and private land this year, destroying hundreds of structures and creating long-term threats to our water quality and infrastructure. Working with the High Park Restoration Coalition, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers is gearing up to help restore the most severely burned areas in the coming years. HOWEVER, we can not possibly accomplish this work without crew leaders.

This one-day training is specifically designed to give you some basic skills necessary to lead small crews to restore burn sites. Given the tremendous need for leaders, we are encouraging all of our volunteers to take this important step toward becoming a crew leader and participate in one or more fun and rewarding projects this fall!



Photo courtesy of NFF

Together with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and the Outdoor Stewardship Institute, our team of instructors have an action-packed training focused on post-fire restoration techniques such as seedbed preparation, mulching, and contour log terraces.

TRAINING LOCATION This training will be held in Rist Canyon, one of the many communities burned by the High Park Fire.

MEALS & MATERIALS

Lunch and training materials will be provided.

TRAINING FEE

This training is FREE to volunteers. However, due to the great need for post-fire restoration, we are asking trainees to commit to leading at least one project this fall (Oct 6 or 19). For agency staff and non-volunteers, the cost of this training is \$120.

REGISTER FOR THIS TRAINING (space is limited)

To register for this training, or for additional information, contact [John Giordanengo](#), call 970-493-2075, or sign-up on-line by following this link: [Register for Crew Leader Training](#)

On behalf of all of the Larimer County Residents affected by this fire, Rocky Mountain Flycasters and the High Park restoration Coalition thank you for considering this request to become a crew leader for post-fire restoration efforts!

Volunteers to Celebrate Survival of Gateway Natural Area

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair

Celebrants Urgently Needed --- Saturday, September 8, 2012

8 AM to 11 AM followed by Complimentary Lunch

The idyllic picnic area with two scenic hiking trails at the confluence of the Poudre and its North Fork almost miraculously survived destruction by two wildfires in May and June. The Hewlett wildfire was stopped at the Poudre's west bank across the river from Gateway Natural Area. On the eastern side of the Natural Area, the High Park wildfire burned part of the ridge that is traversed by the Black Powder Trail.

These two trails are maintained by volunteers from Rocky



Mountain Flycasters pursuant to an Adopt-A-Trail agreement between RMF TU and Fort Collins Natural Areas Department. The volunteers' work days are dubbed Trailgate Parties and in 2011 both of the two Trailgate Parties were productive and socially fun events.



This year the Hewlett fire caused cancellation of the scheduled June 30 Trailgate Party. There was serious concern about fire damage to the Black Powder Trail from the subsequent High Park fire.

Recently, Todd Juhasz and Catherine Dillon, the Natural Areas employees who plan and guide the work of RMF TU volunteers, were able to assess results of the High Park fire.

A summary of their conclusions:

The Black Powder trail is in remarkable shape. The fire burned a healthy mosaic through the area and left only a few small "moonscapes" of sterilized, charred soil. Even after the heavy rainfalls shortly after the High Park Fire, there were few washouts. All of the work RMF TU volunteers did last year really helped to protect the trail from those heavy rains. Todd's priority of installing rock steps to the upper portion of the switchback remains, and is now more important than ever. The west side of the summit loop needs intense brushing as the trail corridor is very narrow and nearly hidden by bushes.

Catherine and Todd are looking forward to our next Trailgate Party on September 8th.

Here is what we will do:

Date: Saturday, September 8

Time: Work session: 8am - 11am; Complimentary Lunch: 11am - noon

Location: Gateway Natural Area. To get there, drive west on Highway 14 from Ted's Place to Gateway entrance on right, about a half-mile beyond Mile Marker 117. Drive to far end of picnic area and find parking behind old brick building.

Number of Volunteers needed: 12. Let's show our elation by exceeding that.

Project: Volunteers will be working in two groups. One group, working with Catherine, will be pruning bushes on the summit loop of the Black Powder Trail. The other group, working with Todd, will be building rock steps along the hillside of the lower Black Powder Trail. Step building presents a great opportunity for volunteers to learn and refine technical trail maintenance skills.

To reserve your volunteer space for this celebration, contact [Scott Gardner](#)

HELP RESTORE THE NORTH FORK OF THE POUFRE WITH UP TO 60 LIKE-MINDED VOLUNTEERS

[Dave Piske](#), Conseravation Chair

Here are four irresistable reasons for dedicating your time and energies to this stream restoration project on the weekend of August 24-25.

- 1. ESCAPE THE HEAT & DROUGHT OF FORTCOLLINS**
- 2. ENJOY A WEEKEND IN COOL, LUSH ALPINE FOREST**
- 3. LET OTHER SKILLED COOKS PREPARE THE MEALS**
- 4. CAMP ALONG A GURGLING HEADWATER STREAM**

How many more reasons do you need to join with the Rocky Mountain Flycasters volunteers and Wilderness Restoration Volunteers who will be enjoying all those amenities while restoring an almost magical



reach of one of our home-water streams?

Commit your weekend of August 24 and 25 now.

Join your favorite buddies and make some new friends on the North Fork Restoration Project.

Volunteers need not be members of RMF or WRV, but do need to register in advance.

For registration instructions, go to: [North Fork Project Registration](#)



2012 NoCO RIVER CONSERVATION & FLY FISHING YOUTH DAY CAMP... A HUGE SUCCESS

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

Fourteen youths ages 14-18 were welcomed on July 30th and the 2012 NoCO River Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Day Camp got underway. One registered youth was a no-show or we would have had the full fifteen youths complement for the first time. The camp was oversubscribed and we had to decline about twenty applicants who all were encouraged to reapply for our 2013's camp. Because of Poudre water conditions we had to relocate two half-days of on-water activities to the Big Thompson and Moraine Park in Rocky Mountain National Park; otherwise all venues were used successfully as planned.

Twenty-four chapter volunteers served as instructional mentors, including eight first-timers, about the same as for each of the first and second years' camps. We could have

used about four more at each of the river fishing activities, but several doubled up and the campers all received good instruction, despite not quite having a 1:1 camper:mentor ratio.

Mark your calendar now for the end of July 2013, and join us for some Day Camp activities; you'll

enjoy the experience and be glad you did. Exact dates will probably

be approved in September and

announced in the October FlyPaper issue.

THANK YOU! to...

Dennis Galyardt, Amy Galyardt, Adam Omernick, Dick Jefferies, Todd Anderson, Wil Huett, Dave Piske, Phil Wright, Stan Woodring, Frank Cada, Mark Miller, Jake Ruthven, Alan Jones, Dave Thomas, Jerry Pelis, Jamie Karlak, Brad Kiehne, Dennis Martin, Cullen Emsing, Lee Evans, John Bookman, Phil Keller and Dennis Cook...and all seemed to be enjoying themselves.



Andy shows off his bass catch, learning early that there are many species that can be caught on a fly.



Frank Cada explains about investigating what insects are active before deciding which fly to use.



2012 Camp Attendees with Completion Certificates

U.S. FOREST SERVICE KIDS FREE FISHING FEST

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

It was another one of those really hot Saturdays that seem to greet all of the summer kids fishing events. This time though it was at West Lake in Red Feather, so the temperatures there were a bit cooler than in town, and many local residents and visitors came out to enjoy the water. About 65 of these were registrants for the USFS Fishing Fest, and our volunteers enjoyed walking the lake shores visiting with the families, offering suggestions to help improve success, assisting with untangling lines, releasing wiggling fish and watching the young anglers at first avoiding the crayfish and later enjoying playing with them. It brought back memories to most of us recalling our early fishing adventures with mom & dad or an older sibling.

Encouraging young people to try their hand at fishing is a first step toward introducing them to the joys of outdoors recreation, and the potential that they may someday become the next generation of conservationists who will take care of our valuable coldwater resources.

MANY THANKS to...Alan Jones, Al Fink, Ben Zomer, Carl Eschenbrenner, Paul Wehr, Amy Galyardt, Dennis Galyardt, Greg Evans, Stacey Evans, Grace Evans, Lewis Evans, Dick Jefferies, Dave Piske and Dennis Cook...who seemed to be 'in the spirit' of the event almost as much as the young anglers. As one



Ben Zomer introduces crayfish lore to young anglers

remarked during a brief conversation, "It's an opportunity to give back for those who helped get me started."



Young angler with - Fish On!

DAY FOR KIDS FESTIVAL - VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

September 22nd

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

It's that time again for RMF members to help support its partner, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County. The annual Day For Kids Festival is a free entertainment event for NoCO families' youngsters to have fun...while also building community awareness about the life-changing programs at the Boys & Girls Clubs in Fort Collins, Loveland and Wellington.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County is a partner of our chapter helping to make our Youth Day Camp possible and a success. The festival will again be held at the Promenade Shops at Centerra in Loveland. Each year RMF has a booth that provides opportunities for the kids to try out fly casting and also observe bottled aquatic insects, watch fly tying, try out tying knots and become aware of the Trout Unlimited conservation mission and opportunities.

We will have two shifts (with 5-6 volunteers) from 11:00am-2:00pm with each having two fly tiers, and three/four others to interact with visitors about the booth's other offerings.

Contact: Dennis Cook at rkymtnangler@Q.com or 970-372-9229



Wil Huett explains bottled samples of aquatic insects to boys as a father watches

Phantom Canyon Trail Maintenance Days

[Guy Turenne](#), Project Coordinator

The Nature Conservancy opened their online events registration in mid April. There is one last Trail Maintenance Day listed in their newsletter for which RMF members volunteer. The date is September 16. The number of volunteers is limited to 12 per day so sign up before the slots are gone.



If you are not familiar with this activity; for a number of years RMF has partnered with The Nature Conservancy at

their Phantom Canyon Preserve which is situated about 20 miles north of Fort Collins along the North Fork of the Poudre River. RMF volunteers do some minor brush trimming, use power weed whackers to keep the grassy trail along the river open and rebuild rock cairns marking the trail. The work is done in the morning and typically completed by lunch. After lunch the volunteers get to fish the north fork for the afternoon. The fishing in Phantom Canyon is outstanding as it is strict catch and release and there is very limited access. The river is well populated with nice sized browns and rainbows.

If you are interested, I urge you to register as soon as possible, before the remaining slots are filled.

Note: To sign up for volunteer days, email [Phantom Canyon Events](#) and type the volunteer day name in the subject line; include your name, address, phone, and number of participants you will be bringing. Or call Phantom Canyon Preserve at (970) 484-9996.

Call for Volunteers to Assist with Cutthroat Recovery in Long Draw Reservoir area of Rocky Mountain National Park

[Phil Wright](#), Volunteer Coordinator

During the period August 20 through September 7, 2012, I will be coordinating volunteers to assist Chris Kennedy in the Long Draw area of Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) in the Poudre River, Hague Creek, Hazeline Creek and connecting drainages. The planned effort will consist of measuring water flows, performing trend surveys and stream mapping, as well as electrofishing. Chris Kennedy working alone cannot accomplish these tasks without the assistance of volunteers. I and other chapter members, as well as folks from inside and outside the region, have in past years volunteered to work with Chris in the Long Draw area of RMNP. We have all had a great time, learned a lot, and contributed to an important cutthroat trout recovery program. I look forward to you volunteering with us in the Long Draw area of RMNP this field season.

To express your interest and to participate as a volunteer on this project, please email me, Phil Wright, using the link above. Both male and female volunteers are welcome. I will compile an email distribution list and send out updates as volunteer time approaches. For additional opportunities to help Chris in other parts of RMNP, see his complete schedule and instructions for volunteering at <http://www.rockymtnflycasters.org/articles/rmnpsched.php>

As always, the work plan schedule is subject to change, so we will stay in touch by email to confirm dates, activities and meeting places.



Checking stream flows

Chris Kennedy has recently provided the following information for volunteers:

I am looking for help on the following projects in August:

August 20-22 North Inlet/Lake Nanita. The plan is to hike into the ranger camp (8.25 miles, 1000 feet of elevation gain) on the 20th then head up to the upper North Inlet to collect tissue samples from the cutthroats in that vicinity by hook-and-line. This is some of the best cutthroat stream fishing in the park. On the 21st we will head up to Lake Nanita (2.75 miles, 1600 feet) to collect fish by hook-and-line for mercury testing. Nanita is considered the best cutthroat trout fishery in the state. That evening we will return to the ranger camp and spend the night (or hike all the way out if people want to). If we spend another night then we will hike out on the 22nd.

August 27-31 Streams in Long Draw area. I need one person maximum who is a good hiker per day. We will be taking water flows, pH readings and switching thermograph on the various streams in the Long Draw area (Poudre River, Hague Creek, Hazeline Creek, Mummy Pass Creek and Willow Creek). I have the use of the Hague Creek ranger camp for the week. The camp has a stove, pots/pans, bedding. The Long Draw Road will be closed to the public, but we have been given permission to go

Give Us Your Best Shot

Visitors to the Rocky Mountain Flycasters' calendar on the web will notice that the calendar pictures stop at September, 2012. We need some more pictures to enhance our calendar. If you have some photos or snapshots that you think would look good on our calendar for a month, send them to the webmaster.

We're looking for pictures germane to fly fishing, rivers, lakes, and watershed conservation, volunteers doing that work, fly tying, sharing fishing with youngsters and others, so the options are varied. It would be nice if many of them were local to RMF members, but some destinations will be considered. Having permission to publish on our website will be implicit for submitted photos so make certain you have permission from anyone in your pictures. Photographers will be acknowledged in a caption with the picture so rush those pictures in. We need pictures for November, 2012 through September, 2013...and beyond.

Send your pictures to [Webmaster](#)

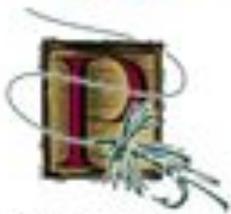
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