

April 2015

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RMF Quick Links



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From The President

April Showers bring...well for one thing, hopefully some relief from my recurring thought that this Spring is starting to feel a lot like the Spring of 2012. You might remember 2012. It was preceded by a really wet, snow packed 2011 which really got things growing. Especially all of the fine floor level undergrowth. The 2012 snowpack season started out average and by this time that year we were at about 60 - 70% of average and it kept dropping. Hmm..., 2013 and 2014 were wet and now here we are in 2015. Let's hope this isn't the new normal but I am beginning to wonder. Maybe rain and snow dances are in order. If so, let the dances begin!



Dick Jefferies

The 2015 Youth day Camp is open for registration. All information is available below in Dennis Cook's "**April Youth Outreach Notes**" below and on our **website**.

Be sure to get registered for the upcoming fishing trips. They are beginning to fill up and you don't want to miss out. All of this information and a place to register is available below in Mark Miller's "Let's Go Fishing" article and on our **website**. In Mark's article you can also see some excellent videos of last years trips to Gray Reef in Wyoming and the Green River in Utah.

Many thanks to Odell Brewing for inviting us to participate in the fly fishing day at the brewery. It was great fun and we got to meet a lot of new people.

Lastly, we will be posting our summer projects list in the next couple of weeks. If you are interested in volunteering, information will be available on the website directing you how to sign up and become involved.

Ready, set, FISH!!

Dick Jefferies,

Chapter Event Calendar

April Membership Meeting

Fishing Rocky Mountain National Park



Our Speaker Kirk Bien and Friend

In our 2014 Membership Survey an overwhelming number of respondents expressed an interest in signing up for Let's Go Fishing Trips to Rocky Mountain National Park. Accordingly, our Let's Go Fishing Coordinator Mark Miller has responded to your preferences by scheduling trips to The Loch, Dream Lake, the headwaters of the Colorado River, and to the Big Thompson this spring and summer.

And, we are especially pleased that Kirk Bien, owner of Kirk's Fly Shop in Estes Park, has agreed to give us a few tips on fishing these venues and others in RMNP. Kirk has been fly fishing for 20 years, and guiding for 12. And, Rocky Mountain National Park,

specifically Forest Canyon and the Big Thompson River below Lake Estes, are his favorites places to fish. Kirk also guides backpacking and llama pack trips. His favorite fishing buddies are his kids, Luke and Addy. But he and Laurie like to take off to find remote areas in RMNP to fish. Kirk also enjoys ice fishing in the winter and skiing.

Join us on **April 15** at 6:30 pm at the Fort Collins Senior Center. Admission is free and we start with a half hour of social activity and fly tying demonstration followed by the main program at 7:00 pm. After our program we'll raffle a rod and other items to raise funds for our programs.

April Youth Outreach Notes

Annual RMF Youth Day Camp



Dennis Cook,

Youth Outreach Chair

It's time for our annual Youth Day Camp!! Please encourage all your children, grandchildren and neighborhood kids to visit our website:

<http://nocotu.org/S/youthcamp>

At this website, parents can download the Application Packet and schedule and read all about the camp which runs **July 27 through August 1**.

No previous fly fishing experience is required or expected. Applications are now being received, and earlier applications increase acceptance opportunity.

Cost for the camp is only \$30.00, and camper applicants also submit a (one-page maximum) self-description of their interest in the outdoors and why they want to attend the Day Camp. Fifteen campers ages 14 through 17 will be accepted, and will have a terrific time learning fly fishing skills fishing on the Poudre River and Rocky Mountain National Park, stillwater fishing at Swift Ponds, and the "why and how to" of conserving our cold water resources. We're also very excited this year to welcome **St. Peter's Fly Shop** as a partner. Guides from St. Pete's will be joining our instructional group for the Thursday Poudre River fishing day.

Other activities include:

- Fish Hatchery visitation
- Fish Electro-stunning & Identification
- Snorkeling to study underwater habitat
- Casting, riggings, knots & line management
- Trout Anatomy & behavior
- Aquatic Entomology & capturing live aquatic insects
- Fly Tying
- Water safety, netting & handling fish



2014 Camper Anna Catches a Brownie on the Poudre River

Chapter member volunteer Mentors can view the schedule by clicking [here](http://nocotu.org/S/youthcamp) or by downloading it at <http://nocotu.org/S/youthcamp>. We hope to continue providing a 1:1 mentor:camper ratio to ensure safety and quality instruction during on-water activities on the Poudre River, RMNP streams and Swift Ponds.

Member anglers can volunteer now to serve as Mentors to assist campers develop good fishing knowledge, skills and techniques. Please contact Dennis Cook by email or phone at rkymtangler@Q.com or (970) 372-9229 asap to discuss activities interest and availability.

April Conservation Notes



Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

Although the calendar says it's early in April, the days are fast approaching when Rocky Mountain Flycasters needs volunteer commitments for two projects in early May. The first two Saturdays, May 2 and May 9 are the days when we need your help. But your action to sign up for either, or both, projects is what's needed right now. See below how easy it is to join in with other volunteers on these projects.

The Poudre watershed still suffers, in some places, from the effects of the High Park fire in 2012. And those effects were aggravated by the September 2013 flood. One of those places is Skin Gulch, a tributary that continues to carry massive amounts of silt into the Poudre River near the junction of Highway 14 and Stove Prairie Road. Our friends at the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed (CPRW) are managing an ecological restoration project there on Forest Service land. The project will stop the erosion by reconstructing the banks and riparian areas at the lower end of Skin Gulch.

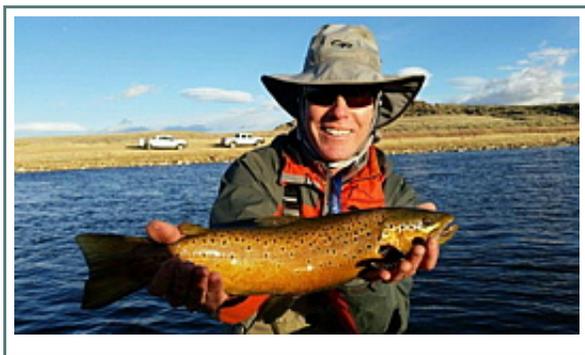
Extensive earth-moving will be done by a contractor prior to May 2. Once that is completed, re-vegetation and some finishing touches on bank stabilization will be accomplished by volunteers using hand tools.

The primary source of volunteers will be Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV), a group we have collaborated with in past years. For the Skin Gulch project, RMF has committed to provide 20 of the 70 volunteers needed on May 2. There will be a variety of tasks such as seed-bed preparation, seeding by hand techniques, mulching of seeded areas, and installation of anti-erosion mesh mats over some stream bank terrain.

On-line registration of volunteers from RMF is accomplished via the WRV web site www.wlrv.org. On the opening page, click on Projects and scroll down to the May 2 project at Skin Gulch. Follow the instructions for registering as a volunteer. As you go through that process, which begins with establishing your personal password for subsequent access to the website, you will see a box with an elective button alongside where you can identify your affiliation with our group. Click on that button and select "RMFlycasters". Following your registration, about a week prior to May 2, you will receive an email from WRV informing you of project details, what to bring with you on May 2, and where to meet for car-pooling to the project site. Another opportunity to register as a volunteer will be paper forms at the April 15 general meeting of Rocky Mountain Flycasters.

Another Poudre River favorite project, entering its fifth consecutive year, is the Adopt-A-Trail program usually held at Gateway Natural Area. Dependent on needs, the location may be at another of the City of Fort Collins' Natural Areas along the Poudre. This program at Gateway involves trail rehabilitation near the confluence of the Poudre's North Fork with the Poudre's main stem. Work four hours in the morning, then enjoy a rewarding lunch, and fish in the afternoon. Two dates are scheduled; May 9 and July 18 . The location will be selected a month prior to these dates. The RMF-TU contact for more information and to sign-up is Dave Morse dgmorse45@gmail.com.

Let's Go Fishing



Let's Go Fishing: 2015 RMF Trips

To view the trips we have planned for 2015 see this **signup page**. Please join us by signing up at this website or at our monthly meeting.

We have also scheduled some hike-in trips to lakes in RMNP this year. In our member survey last fall, RMNP got the most member interest. There will be some exciting sight fishing to rising cutthroats with dry flies. We hope you will join us for all the fun!

Questions? Contact: Mark Miller at flytyer.miller@gmail.com or 970-744-8229 (cell).

If you would like to see what we do on some of these trips, I've included two brief videos below. The first video shows our 2014 Gray Reef, Wyoming trip and the second our 2014 trip to the

Green River in Utah. Just click on the arrow within each video to watch.



2014 Grey Reef Trip



2014 Green River Trip

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2015-04-03