



May 2015 Edition

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## From The President

### Thanks and Happenstance

What a tremendous amount of effort put forth by all of the volunteers that showed up Saturday, the 2nd, to work on the Skin Gulch project. What a great start to that project and what a tremendous way to show the results of working collaboratively on restoration projects. To all of Skin Gulch workers - Thank You!

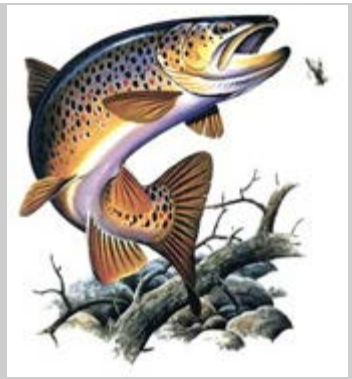
What are the odds though that when I was dropped off from my carpool ride (thanks Dave P) from the volunteer project at Skin Gulch, the first song to play on my radio was Jimmy Cliff's classic, "Many Rivers To Cross". As a fan of both the original Cliff version and the equally wonderful Linda Ronstadt version, at first the song was a soothing balm to my sore muscles. However, in the back of my mind I kept thinking about working on a stream feeding directly into the Poudre all day and then the first song I hear afterward is "Many Rivers to Cross". That is just weird.



Dick Jefferies,  
RMF President 2012-2015

What is not happenstance though are the achievements of Rocky Mountain Flycasters over the last few years. I believe that today the Chapter is as strong as it has ever been and through that strength, has positioned itself to be an ecologic conservation leader in Northern Colorado for years to come. What the Chapter has achieved over the past few years is the result of sound forethought, planning and management by the Leadership Team. I believe the Team also recognizes that our past accomplishments, while worthy, also provide us a means of achieving even greater impacts and outcomes in the future. To the Leadership Team - **Thank You!**

We would not be able to accomplish many of the things that we have done or plan to do without the financial support we have been provided by numerous individuals and businesses. We take very seriously the obligation that comes with your support and we work diligently, using the mission of TU as a guide, to ensure that your contributions are put to best use. To all of our financial supporters - **Thank You!**



Please consider becoming a Sustaining Donor at a level that you can afford. Special recognition occurs at the \$50 donation level.

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Any member-based, nonprofit organization is only as strong as its membership and ultimately those that volunteer their time towards helping the organization. The ever-increasing amount of time that is put forth by all volunteers in this organization is incredible and I am very proud to be a part of such a dedicated group of people. Furthermore, I am honored that you have entrusted me with the mantle of leadership for the past three years. I hope that I have been able to meet or exceed your expectations of what that trust requires. To all of our members and volunteers - **Thank You!**

It has been my extreme pleasure to serve all of you.

Tight lines to all!

**Dick Jefferies,**

President 2012-2015

Rocky Mountain Flycasters

## Chapter Event Calendar

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# May Membership Meeting



Rick Bachand, Speaker

Our Annual Meeting is May 20, 2015 and it is the last meeting of the season until September. Dick Jefferies will present the “State of Rocky Mountain Flycasters” message and we will have an important presentation about local Poudre River activities. We will also hold our annual elections.

For our presentation, we are pleased to present Rick Bachand, who is the Environmental Program Manger with the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department. RMF has been working with the Natural Areas Department for a number of years in the Gateway Park. Building on 20 years of passion for land conservation, Rick is a leading expert in public land management and widely recognized for his award-winning efforts to restore the Poudre River in Fort Collins.

Rick is a member of the Colorado Open Space Alliance steering committee and acts as a policy advisor to the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts. In addition to his 13 years with the City of Fort Collins, Rick proudly served with the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, National Wildlife Federation and Trustees of Reservations.

He earned a M.S. Degree in Forestry and B.S. Degree in Marine Biology. Rick lives in Fort Collins, CO with his wife and two sons.

As usual, the General Meeting is free and open to the public. Social hour (and fly tying demo) begins at 6:30 pm May 02 at the Fort Collins Senior Center, and the program follows at 7:00 pm. We will have local fly tyers at the meeting and an equipment raffle. The Fort Collins Senior Center is located at 1200 Raintree Drive off Shields Avenue between Prospect and Drake.

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## May April Youth Outreach Notes

### Annual RMF Youth Day Camp



This month I've prepared announcements about two important and exciting programs for our youth. One of these is our annual Youth Day Camp (July 27th-August 1) and the other is the U.S. Forest Services Kids' Fishing Fest (June 6). Information about each, including how to sign up is reported below:

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#### YOUTH DAY CAMP

July 27th through August 1st

— MEMBER MENTOR VOLUNTEERS —

Sign up below NOW with just two clicks

Last year's (2014) first use of newsletter signups was successful; so, we are repeating it this year! You can sign up now to ensure you don't miss being part of RMF's outstanding 2015 Youth Day Camp. Below are the activities that require the largest volunteer mentors groups. It's easy!

Use the table below or link to our **2015 Camp Mentor page**. You will be taken to the RMF website that displays the same grid you see below. There you simply click the activity or activities title(s) you want and enter your name, phone number and email for each. Click once more and it's enroute to the volunteer coordinator. You will receive an acknowledgement email within a couple days.



As we get nearer to the camp dates you will receive all the information needed for you to participate and enjoy working with some terrific youngsters.

**Indicate your interest(s) in volunteering by clicking one of the link(s) in the table below. Each link will start an email message using your default email program with the event as the subject line. Please add your name, email address and phone number.**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>July 27 – Monday</b> 4:30-5:45</p> <p><b>Fly Casting (Dry Land)</b> (Need 12) Huidekoper Park</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>July 28 – Tuesday</b> 12:00-3:00</p> <p><b>Fly Tying-Introduction</b> (Need 8) FoCo Classroom TBA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>July 28 - Tuesday</b> 3:00-5:30</p> <p><b>Fly Casting/Line Management</b> (Need 12) Poudre River at Legacy Park</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>July 29 – Wednesday</b> 8:00-11:00</p> <p><b>Stillwater Fishing</b> (Need 12) Swift Ponds</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>July 29 – Wednesday</b> 2:00-5:00</p> <p><b>Restoration Project</b> (Need 6) Big "T" River Lower Canyon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>July 30 – Thursday</b> 8:00-5:30</p> <p><b>Poudre River Fishing, Electro-Stun/I.D.</b> (Need 15) Poudre River below the Hatchery</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>July 31 – Friday</b> 8:15-12:00</p> <p><b>Snorkeling, Insect Collection, &amp; Entomology</b> (Need 8) Poudre River at Legacy Park</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>July 31 – Friday</b> 2:30-5:00</p> <p><b>Fly Tying-Intermediate</b> (Need 8) FoCo Classroom TBA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>August 1 – Saturday</b> 8:00-5:00</p> <p><b>Fishing - RMNP</b> (Need 15) Cub and Glacier Creeks-Rocky Mountain National Park</p>

# Kids Free Fishing Fest!

(a U.S. Forest Service Sponsored Event)

**Saturday, June 6th**  
**West Lake, Day-use Area...at Red Feather**  
**8:00am - 1:30pm**

**12 To 15 Volunteers Are Needed** for this fun event that the USFS has relied upon our chapter members to assist youngsters with rigging spin cast rods, casting, landing fish, etc.

Volunteers contact **Lee Evans**, Event Coordinator.

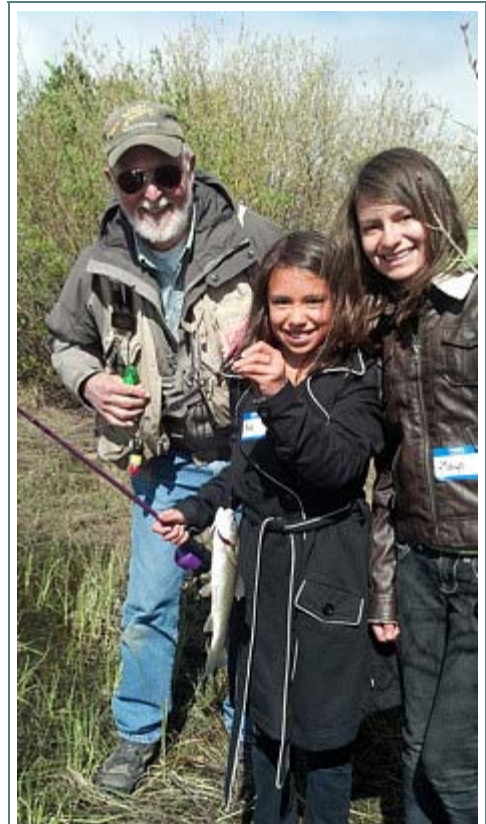
Car pooling for volunteers will be coordinated for those who request, and additional details will be provided in late May. Last year we had a good time helping a bunch of excited youngsters spin cast, untangle lines and land fish. Members are encouraged to consider registering and bringing your kids and grandkids and make a memorable picnic day of it!

Space is limited for between 50-60 kids, and each youth age 15 and younger will go home sporting a free, new spinning rod & reel. Youths must be accompanied by an adult and the whole family is invited. Those ages 16 or older require a fishing license.

Participant Families must Register in advance online at **eventbrite.co.uk** with the number of participants, youths ages, and contact information.

Driving directions: West Lake Day-use Area is located just off Red Feather Lakes Road (CR 74E). Drive about 21 miles North from Fort Collins on U.S. Highway 287. Turn West onto Red Feather Lakes Road (CR 74E) and drive about 22 miles. Turn North onto Dowdy Lake Road and West Lake is immediately on your right, with the Day-Use Area along its North shore.

Check-in begins at 8:00am, and all the fishy facts activities and fun begin at 8:30 and continue through 1:30pm. Be sure to bring water, lunch, sun screen and bug spray. Adults and older youths who plan to fish also bring along fishing gear, and a cooler if you want to keep your catch.



RMF Coordinator Lee Evans and young fishers displaying their catch.

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## May Conservation Notes

April and May have been very busy months for Rocky Mountain Flycaster conservation volunteers and; and, there is much to do in the months that come. In the series of articles below, I report first on a collaborative CPRW project in early May in which RMF volunteers were involved with WRV and other volunteers. In the second article I describe a project to



Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

develop a framework to assess the health of the Poudre River. In the third and fourth articles RMF leadership team member David Morse provides information about two additional projects he coordinates for RMF: Project Healing Waters and the Adopt-A-Trail program.

## **A Landmark Day in the Poudre River Watershed**



Volunteers being welcomed in the AM by by Lucas McNally, River Restoration Coordinator

Outwardly, Saturday, May 2 was just a pleasant springtime day in the Poudre Canyon. It also was a fine day for a diverse group of more than 40 volunteers who were there to aid the ecological recovery of a Poudre River tributary that had been ravaged by a combination of natural disasters.

Early that morning the lower-most run of Skin Gulch was a raw landscape of newly re-graded barren earth along both sides of a meandering stream channel. An earth-moving contractor had just finished reshaping the stream channel and adjacent terrain. But the scene still reflected the combined after-effects of the High Park Wildfire in 2012 and the Front Range floods in 2013. By the end of the day May 2, a 2,200 feet length of riparian and upland areas on both sides of Skin Gulch would be enriched with Biosol and Humate and on its way to re-vegetation from hand-dispersed native grass seeds. Additionally, hundreds of willow and cottonwood cuttings would be planted in riparian areas overlying sub-surface water, and unstable stream banks would be stabilized with erosion-resistant matting anchored to the ground. All the manual labor to accomplish these tasks was provided by the volunteers.



WRV volunteers prepping an unstable stream bank

This project was a unique accomplishment in an evolutionary, multi-organization process that began shortly after the High Park Wildfire. Improving the capability of the local community to address post-disaster impacts on our ecological systems was a goal that was recognized in late 2012. What is now the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed (CPRW) is the organization leading the way to that goal.

In 2012, Rocky Mountain Flycasters recognized the importance of having a community-based effort in implementing Trout Unlimited's mission of protecting, conserving, and restoring coldwater resources. RMF-TU was active in establishing CPRW, and our current TU chapter president also chairs the Board of CPRW. The Skin Gulch project on May 2 was the first post-fire and post-flood restoration project involving the Poudre's coldwater fishery. A follow-on project will take place on 3,500 feet of another Skin Gulch reach on October 24 & 25. These projects bring together the combined resources of three non-profit organizations. CPRW's Executive Director is the Managing Partner of the Skin Gulch projects, leading fundraising for project costs, maintaining landowner relations with the U S Forest Service, and is the overall coordinator of all involved partners. Wildlands Restoration Volunteers and Rocky Mountain Flycasters are the partners who recruit and manage the volunteers who accomplish the extensive handwork. Technical design and contractor management functions are provided by AloTerra Restoration Services, LLC.



RMF Volunteers planting willow cuttings

The presence of nine volunteers from RMF demonstrated the commitment of RMF to support these CPRW activities. Some of our elder volunteers were also inspired by the enthusiasm of the younger volunteers from both RMF and WRV who carried out the most rigorous tasks. Looking forward to the next Skin Gulch project on October 24 & 25, we enthusiastically encourage an even greater involvement of RMF volunteers in that follow-on project and in other similar projects to come on our chapter's home waters.

## **New Gradable Framework to Assess Poudre River's Health:**

### **A Decision Support and Analysis Tool for Proposed Water Projects**

Rocky Mountain Flycasters is one among several groups that envision the Poudre River as being maintained as a healthy and resilient river. What has been absent to support that concept is a tool that qualitatively grades the Poudre's physical, chemical, and biologic characteristics that interactively provide measures of the Poudre's health.

Now, a multi-department group of Fort Collins employees and three Fort Collins Advisory Boards have produced a Framework for making evaluations of the Poudre's health. Its application will be focused on those reaches of the river that supply the city's consumptive needs and also its multiple non-consumptive uses, especially within the city's boundaries. To learn more about the new Framework, go to: [fcgov.com/riverhealth](http://fcgov.com/riverhealth).

Development of this Framework began in February 2015. It is expected to be ready for use when the public is invited to comment on the proposed diversions of Poudre River flows to be stored in a new off-stream reservoir proposed north of Ted's Place. That public comment period may begin as soon as



June, 2015.

Fort Collins City Council has these topics on the agenda of its work session on Tuesday, May 12. <http://www.fcgov.com/cityclerk/agendas.php> A comprehensive description of the river health Framework and its relationship to the proposed reservoir project is viewable on the posted agenda of the Council's Work Session for May 12. <http://www.fcgov.com/cityclerk/agendas.php>

Additionally, a scheduled Open House on May 21 provides the opportunity for the public to learn more about this new Framework. It is an event where you can discuss your thoughts and raise questions with people who developed the Framework. The Open House will be on Thursday May 21 from 4 PM until 7 PM in the Community Room at 215 North Mason St. in Fort Collins. During the Open House, presentations will be made at 4:30, 5: 30 and 6:30.

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## Project Healing Waters

RMFC supports the Project Healing Waters program for disabled veterans. Thus far, our work has focused on fly tying classes; we have held weekly classes at St. Pete's for the last few months. I thank **Domingo Rodriguez** and **Steve Becker** for assisting nearly every week. We also thank the seven different fly tyers who have led the classes. We are in the process of organizing the various Project Healing Water chapters in northern Colorado and southeastern Wyoming and plan on having regional fly fishing-related events for our vets and their families. A central office, conference room and a stocked lake have been donated in Windsor that will help to give the PHW program more visibility and local structure. If you are able to support PHW with your fly tying, casting or fishing skills or just want to assist or make a donation, contact **Dave Morse**, the RMFC TU Healing Waters Coordinator or see him at our monthly TU meetings.

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## Adopt-A-Trail

Our TU chapter also supports the **Adopt-a-Trail** program of the Fort Collins Natural Areas Department. Our trails are at Gateway Natural area on the Poudre River. We planned a work project on Saturday May 9th and July 18th. Rain and mud postponed the May 9th work and will be rescheduled for Wednesday, May 13th at 8:30 a.m. If you would like to assist with either event, contact **Dave Morse**. Work can range from pruning bushes to grading trails to constructing new stone steps, depending on your skills and abilities. Thanks. You get free lunch, free parking and an afternoon to fish at Gateway after our work project.

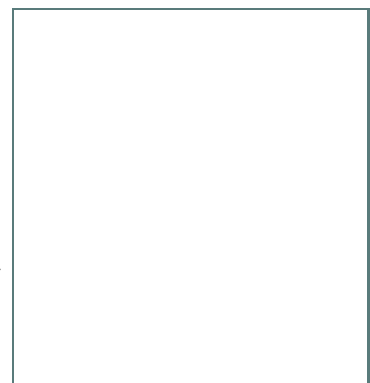
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## May Community Outreach Notes

### Time to Recruit Armchair Conservationists

You know the type: the vocal armchair conservationists who “*save the world*” by buying a rain barrel, or unplugging their cell phone chargers when not in use.

Well, this is the summer to get them involved in some real conservation work. RMF members (that means you, right?) will be joining with partner organizations, their members and the public to work on a list of real conservation projects. We'll be rolling rocks, wielding shovels and getting



our boots muddy throughout Northern Colorado's watersheds.

So when you sign up for work projects on the Poudre or Big Thompson, recruit that neighbor who talks a good game, that person who turns the computer off over lunch hour to save energy. Let's show them the "boots on the ground" meaning of conservation.

See a list of projects on our **web page**, review the projects described by Dave Piske and Dave Morris in **Conservation Notes** in this issue of *The Flypaper*, and then sign-up on the links provided.



Community Outreach Chair Wil Huett and friend

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## 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** 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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## Sustaining Donors

# Rocky Mountain Flycaster Sustaining Donors



St. Peter's Fly Shop



- Fred Ebert
- Patagonia
- Greg Evans
- Dave Piske
- Brooks & Tammy Bentley
- Marc Brown
- Dennis Cook
- Tom Culbertson
- Lee Evans
- Wil Huett
- Jax Fish House
- Blue Agave Grill
- Canino's Italian Restaurant
- Dana Echols Photography
- RARE Italian Grill
- Sonny Lubick's Steakhouse
- The Kitchen



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