

July 2015 Edition

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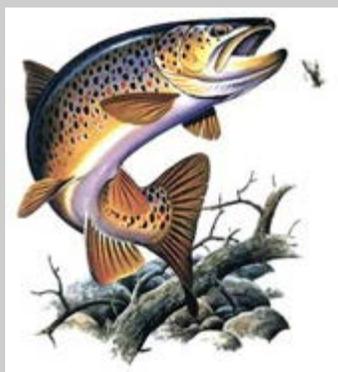
Photos Needed

Sustaining Donors

RMF Quick Links



Sustaining Donor



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From our President



Wil Huett, Rocky Mountain Flycasters President and Lifetime Member of TU

Let's talk about pits. Particularly the pit of your stomach.

Remember the wonderful feelings you got there when that special person said "yes", when your children were born, when you landed that first trophy fish on a whisper thin tippet? The opposite side of those feelings came when the boss said, "I hate to have to do this, but...", and when you lost that monster trout to one last lunge just as you lowered your net.

You felt those emotions in the 'pit of your stomach' didn't you?

And wouldn't it 'be the pits' if our rivers were devoid of fish? Too warm, too slow, too lacking in flow for good habitat?

You can experience more of these good 'pit' feelings easily. Just volunteer as a mentor in our upcoming Youth Day Camp by emailing **Dennis Cook** or call him at 372-9229. You'll get that warm, fuzzy feeling when a camper you've been working with masters the roll cast, or catches their first trout on a fly they tied. Or when you see the light come on as they realize fish aren't "just there", but depend on people taking care of their environment and habitat. Get in touch with Dennis and I'll see you at Camp. We'll compare warm-fuzzies.

We had a change in our leadership team last month when Gil Coleman found it necessary to resign as Trustee At Large. We thank Gil for his contributions and welcome aboard Domingo Rodriguez who has not only accepted the Trustee position but will also serve as Program Chair. If you have ideas for good program subjects and/or presenters, I'm sure he'd welcome a tip. Send him an **email**.

Have you "Given A Day Back" to the fish yet? There are ample opportunities to do so through our own **projects** or via our partner agencies like the **Coalition for the Poudre Watershed, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers**, and **Big Thompson River Restoration Coalition**. And stay tuned for a new and innovative effort being put

you can afford. Special recognition occurs at the \$50 donation level.

Join Our Mailing List!

Forward to a Friend

together by the **United States Forest Service**, and our own Phil Wright. When finalized it will allow us to work on a project on our own schedule and yet contribute to the cleaning up of one of our home streams (where I caught an 18" brown one week prior to the flood).

To learn more about these and other opportunities make sure to read RMF Conservation Chair Dave Piske's Conservation Notes later in this newsletter.

Be a part of all this. It will make your 'pit' feel good. Promise.

Wil Huett, President
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

Chapter Event Calendar

A New Flypaper Feature: *David's Lines*



David Cunningham (pictured above in his famous floppy hat) will be contributing *David's Lines* columns to *The FlyPaper*

Introducing David Cunningham and "David's Lines"

Last year I had the good fortune of accompanying Mark Miller, RMF's Let's Go Fishing Coordinator, and TU leadership team member David Cunningham on a RMF fishing trip to the beautiful Green River in Utah. Although Mark and I have been friends for a few years, neither of us had met David before. So, the 800 mile round trip and two days of floating the river gave us ample time to get to know one another; and, what a pleasure it was! In addition to being a good listener, David is a marvelous story teller. What great stories he told! No matter the topic, he had a great entertaining tale to tell, always delivered with humor.

Since that wonderful Green River trip, I've had an opportunity to read some of David's writing; and, on

each occasion I was charmed by his penetrating observations of fishing and the outdoors, as well as his consistent ability to find humor in the human condition. Because of these qualities, I recently asked David to share some of his stories as an occasional columnist for *The Flypaper*. I was pleased (and you will soon see why) that David generously agreed to make these contributions to *The Flypaper* and to Rocky Mountain Flycasters. Appropriately enough his column will be called "David's Lines".

To introduce himself, and his first **David's Lines** column, I asked David to tell us a bit about himself. He contributed the following:

I am an Englishman who is very happy to live in Colorado. I am semi-retired from the business world and have renewed my interest in writing. Some of my pieces will relate to actual events, others will be fiction. (My friends tell me I have trouble knowing the difference.) The "David's Line" column will feature the mysteries of our sport, restoration, and the pleasures of good company. Let me know whether or not these stories are worth reading. Life is short - go fishing first.

In his first David's Lines column, *Getting Home-2009*, David describes the experience of being excited by our sport while simultaneously encountering fear, and then describing to a partner or spouse "how the day went" for us.

Getting Home - 2009

by David Cunningham

Yesterday a neighbor stopped by to show me a 3 lb trout that he had caught on the North fork of the Poudre River at Livermore. He is a spin fisherman and usually takes his horse to get him to the river, but this time he had walked in - "About a mile" he said

This morning I had a busy day and by mid-afternoon I decided that I had done enough to play hooky. There were some delays with phone calls and an appearance at a Chamber of Commerce Show-Case event to try to sell some New-Hire software, so it was 5:30 before I got to the Eagles Nest trailhead. Only one other vehicle was at the site. A sign stated that the distance to the river was 1.5 miles. The trail snaked up to a ridge and I could not see the river. The view from the trailhead at 7,500 feet was beautiful, the gray green vegetation of early spring, backed by the foothills of the Rocky Mountains forty miles to the South. I changed my business clothes for boots, an anorak, food, water, fishing gear, staff, and a hunting knife. The afternoon sun warmed the valley from a cloudless sky.

It took me forty-five minutes to reach the river as I missed a fork in the trail and was a little too far to the East. The last section included a 500-foot decent and I was sweating and second-guessing having donned the anorak. On the other side of the river a hiker headed out without seeing me and I guessed that he was the second car in the lot and I had the valley to myself.

The river was perfect, but it was fenced and access was only available by crossing a horse ford and doing a 0.5-mile traverse back to the stream. As often happens when fishing a new spot, I found myself frequently hung up in bushes and snagged on trees. When I reached the river I saw no sign of anything that swims! I fished my way up the south bank of the river until it passed along the bottom of a cliff. I found a ledge that enabled further passage, roll casting small streamers with my back to the wall. Still, no fish. The sun was setting directly upstream so the glare made spotting difficult. An hour later I was happy when the sun finally dropped below the horizon and I could see what I was casting to. But at that point I realized that I was way past the time for a daylight return and I was already quite tired. I was more than 2 miles from the trailhead.

I edged my way back along the ledge and decided to get some height above the river to fix my bearings before the light faded and I risked missing the path. With some haste I scrambled on hands and knees up the skree to reach the bluff on the south side of the river. Scrambling with a fly rod, net dangling from a snap on my vest, and a wading pole was not elegant. The ground was covered in young green cacti but I was grateful that the rattlesnakes were still in hibernation. Halfway up I looked back at the river and the pools below some large rocks. There were no rippling rings of trout rising for a fly. I figured that Frank had extracted the last fish in the river and felt better about having been skunked. A small beaver made a V wake as she paddled from her dam: a classic river scene.

At the top of the bluff I was greeted by an entirely different reality, a gusting wind and a large black cloud that filled my horizon. The cloud quickly erased the last of the light in the west and it began to rain. The rain was followed by thunder and the thunder was bracketed by lightening. From the bluff I found the bridge that I should have seen on the way in and crossed the river.

The path the bridge was on did not connect directly to the trail that I had come down on. It veered too far west, so I slogged off trail to the north to intersect the path back to my Jeep. Now I was being lashed by a windswept torrent of rain and the thunder was rumbling immediately after each lightning strike. There was nowhere to shelter.

After making a half circle I backtracked and found the trail. I began a fast climb. In ten minutes my heart rate was crazy high, probably 160 to 180! Fear had driven my tired legs way too fast. I slowed my pace and that helped me to avoid stepping on a large bedraggled skunk that ambled across the trail. He paid no attention to me. A minute later he was followed by a fox. I figured that it was critter rush hour and a mountain lion might be next in the parade, so I stopped to move my knife to an outside pocket. In the light of a lightning flash I saw a mule deer stag up the trail looking back at me. The rain made the red clay so slick that twice I fell and slid down the path and rolled off onto the grass. I stumbled around getting my rod, pole, and vest reorganized with rain in my eyes and muddied hands. Now it was dark and I was cold, with mud in my boots, but the anorak had kept my body reasonably dry. I experienced difficulty thinking clearly about what was happening. The climb took forever.

At the top of the ridge I gained some comfort when I saw lights on the highway, but at that moment the valley was lit up by a huge lightning strike about where I had parked the Jeep. It seemed to last forever and I could clearly see the wooden fence posts around the parking area. I imagined making my way to the parking circle to find a ball of sizzling iron and plastic. But that would only happen if I made it between the lightening that repeatedly struck the ridges less than a mile to the east.

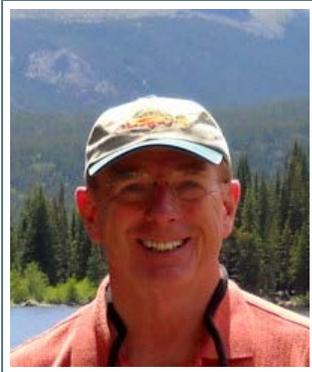
The wind rose but finally the rain, thunder and lightning died away. I stopped to eat a candy bar, using my wading pole to keep myself upright on the quicksilver path. I checked my cell phone to see if I could let Merete know that I would be late for dinner but it would only tell me the time. After another twenty minutes I made it to the parking lot, found the lonely Jeep unscathed. I cranked up the heater and waited until I stopped shivering. The Jeep made easy work of the mud and I passed the gate that should have been shut by now and drove out on to Highway 287. Thirty minutes later I was in the house, warm and dry, sipping a 1554, telling my wife that the last six hours had been time well spent.

This is why I live in Colorado.

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July Youth Outreach Notes

Mentors Needed: Youth Day Camp 2015 is Almost Here!!



Dennis Cook,
Youth Outreach Chair

Only about three weeks remain and several key openings still remain to sign up as a Mentor at RMF's annual Youth Day Camp. Openings are listed on the table below this article. The complete, final schedule is available at rockymtnflycasters.org.

Email **Dennis Cook** or call 372-9229. Leave your name, email address and phone number, and you will be contacted with specific details.



Adam Omernick provides fly casting instruction at 2014 Youth Day Camp

Camp enrollment is almost full, and these ages 14-17 young adults are eager to learn about fly fishing and coldwater conservation. **YOU CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE!** Your gift of just a few hours may inspire a camper to become one of our next generation conservators. Don't delay! Send an email or call NOW before it slips your memory.



Dennis Galyard cheers this campers first trout on a fly.

Mentor Volunteers! You can sign up now to ensure you don't miss being part of RMF's outstanding 2015 Youth Day Camp. The daily activities that require the largest volunteer mentors groups are outlined in the grid below...and signing up is easy!

Just click this link (<http://nocotu.org/S/cvol>). You will be taken to the RMF website that hosts the same activities grid. You simply click on each activity or activities title(s) live link 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.

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>July 27 – Monday 4:30-5:45 Fly Casting (Dry Land) (Still Need 5) Huidekoper Park</p>	<p>July 28 – Tuesday 12:00-3:00 Fly Tying-Introduction (Volunteers Filled) FoCo Classroom TBA</p>	<p>July 28 - Tuesday 3:00-5:30 Fly Casting/Line Management (Still Need 5) Poudre River at Legacy Park</p>
<p>July 29 – Wednesday 8:00-11:00</p>	<p>July 29 – Wednesday 2:00-5:00</p>	<p>July 30 – Thursday 8:00-5:30 Poudre River Fishing, Electro-</p>

<p>Stillwater Fishing (Still Need 5) Swift Ponds</p>	<p>Restoration Project (Volunteers Filled) Big "T" River Lower Canyon</p>	<p>Stun/I.D. (Still Need 5) Poudre River below the Hatchery</p>
<p>July 31 – Friday 8:15-12:00 Snorkeling, Insect Collection, & Entomology (Still Need 2) Poudre River at Legacy Park</p>	<p>July 31 – Friday 2:30-5:00 Fly Tying-Intermediate (Volunteers Filled) FoCo Classroom TBA</p>	<p>August 1 – Saturday 8:00-5:00 Fishing - RMNP (Still Need 2) Cub and Glacier Creeks-Rocky Mountain National Park</p>

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2015 Children’s Water Festival a Success



Students play "Who Eats Who at the Stream?"

The 2015 Children’s Water Festival season came to a close on May 20 with the Rocky Mountain Flycasters giving presentations to eight groups of Ft. Collins area third grade students. Through similar presentations at Loveland and Greeley our small band of volunteers was able to reach 509 elementary students (3rd, 4th, and 5th graders) and 21 teachers with a cold water conservation message and a brief introduction to the Trout Unlimited mission.

We accomplished this through an interactive, hands-on, brains-on game called “Who Is Eating Who At The Stream”. Each student was equipped with a pictorial neck tag as they entered the room, identifying them as either an aquatic insect, a trout, or a stream-side predator. The students were then quickly sent to their respective groups where RMF volunteers expertly led them through exercises, explanations, and leading questions to help them identify what species they were and a little about their life cycles. The students then returned to the “banks of the stream” simulated on the floor.

As the game progressed in the “stream”, the 4th grade trout were only too eager to “eat” 4th grade aquatic insects only to be gobbled up by the waiting predators. Although fun and a bit chaotic, the students learned about how the life cycles of each of the species interact in a stream and depend on one another for survival and how crucial clean, cold water is to the health of the stream and all of its inhabitants.

The session culminated with a “quiz” where students expressed what we all could do to keep our streams clean and healthy and flowing with plenty of cold, clean water. Each student and teacher then left the classroom with a “goodie bag” filled with pertinent information, trading cards, and other fun items donated by Sportsman’s Warehouse, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and Rocky Mountain Flycasters.

The essence of the Children’s Water Festivals each year resembles all of our projects and programs in that success can only be accomplished through the dedication, time commitment, and efforts put forth by our volunteers. Aside from having so much fun interacting with the children, I think we all came away with a sense of accomplishment at helping young people grasp the importance of conservation in general and cold water conservation in particular.

This year’s outstanding volunteers include Rocky Mountain Flycasters members: Linda Jefferies, Wil Huett and Jane, Domingo Rodriguez, Paul Wehr, Dennis Cook, and Jerry Pelis as well as some terrific assistance from University of Northern Colorado students/interns Luke Figgs and Ryan Fitzsimmons. Please ask any of these dedicated volunteers about the Children’s Water Festival experience and consider joining us next year.

—Jerry Pelis

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July Conservation Notes



Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

Those of you have been following RMF conservation activities during the spring and summer will know what an active time this is. In this issue of *The Flypaper* I have five articles to share with you. The first (by me) concerns Soldier Creek. The next two, by Phil Wright and me, are centered around projects on the North Fork of the Big Thompson. A fourth article by Dave Morse describes our efforts to help with the Adopt-A-Trail project. The final posting in this section summarizes other on-going projects for the summer.

1) Volunteers needed for Soldier Creek

Now that the “early rainy season” has passed, stream restoration projects at sites too soggy to wade are coming back onto the “sign-up-now”

schedule. RMF TU member Lukas McNally, whose day job is River Restoration Coordinator for project manager Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, has the following plea for help from RMF volunteers to join the crew at Soldier Canyon. Don't stop reading until you see his invitation to the unique afterparty.

Here is Luke's message. "The Soldier Creek Project is now scheduled for July 11th This is a fun local project on our home turf, the Poudre river right here in town. We will spend the day installing wetland plants and "small woody material" habitat structures. Since the project is right here in town, we will throw an afterparty at the WRV office on Mulberry, Beer and Brats theme. We hope to see lots of TU hats and shirts amongst the volunteer turnout!"

To accept Luke's invitation go to: www.wlrv.net. See you there!

2) The North Fork of the Big Thompson Needs Our Help



Section of the North Fork of the Big Thompson River

On July 1st, I carpooled up the Big Thompson Canyon with Chris Carroll, Fisheries Biologist and Watershed Crew Lead with the US Forest Service for Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest. We had joined forces for a site tour of the road improvement and riparian restoration work (photo above) being performed along the North Fork of the Big Thompson River from Drake upstream to Glen Haven.

The North Fork is familiar to many of the members and friends of Rocky Mountain Flycasters as a smaller stream with some great fishing, hiking, camping and picnicing opportunities. While I had driven down the North Fork from Estes Park a few months after the flood of September 2013 and seen the substantial damage wrought by flood waters, I was unprepared for the scale of the reconstruction and restoration that is now underway in the canyon. In short, the major portion of the road is being reconstructed, moved higher and away from the river, based on native rock where possible, with new bridges at crossings, and generally designed to better coexist with the changeable nature of a mountain stream.

Chris Carroll provided a great deal of instruction concerning the design, construction, restoration, and impact to the fishery of the floods and rebuilding efforts. What had been a beautiful riparian corridor is currently a large construction project. But with some areas now approaching the completion of construction, Chris Carroll has asked RMF to step up and volunteer some effort to add some finishing touches to the project.

At the June RMF Leadership Meeting, Chris described the North Fork project and his needs for volunteers. With the Chapter's ongoing volunteer efforts after recent fires and floods, Chapter members are keenly aware of the already substantial needs for volunteer efforts. I volunteered to work with Chris to gather teams of volunteers to assist him in accomplishing his restoration goals. Colorado Trout Unlimited has also offered to assist with the project.

Although the precise timing for volunteer efforts awaits a lowering of spring water levels, and further planning and coordination with contractors, please keep this project in mind for your future volunteer efforts during this year's field season. If you would like to be kept informed of volunteer opportunities on the North Fork please email **Phil Wright**. I will happily contact you with further details as they become available. Keep this project in mind as the season progresses. There will be great satisfaction to be had by helping to restore the North Fork to a more natural state with improved environments for fish, wildlife, and our course people.

—Phil Wright

3) Re-vegetation Project on North Fork of Big Thompson

The volunteer work Phil Wright describes above will be done concurrently with County Road 43 reconstruction, expected to be complete in November this year.

Not included in the road reconstruction contract is re-vegetation of land along the course of the re-routed river. Thus, completion of road construction will leave much of the new flood plain, the riparian areas, and some upland areas adjacent to the river still looking pretty much as you see them in Phil's photo posted above.

To progress beyond that situation, an inter-organization team is developing a plan to re-vegetate those lands and do so in a manner that will be a demonstration of the best way to restore flood ravaged river banks and their riparian areas. That requires use of the species and varieties of plants and grasses that are naturally best-adapted to the altitudes and soils where they are placed. Also, those plantings must take place within a seasonal time frame that is favorable for the successful propagation of those plants and grasses.

The team is now identifying what varieties of plants are best adapted, where plantable specimens can be obtained in the quantities required, and when they will be available. Oh yes, what will this cost? And from where will the money come? We anticipate part of the money will come from Colorado Trout Unlimited's "Restore the Range" fund, established after the 2013 flood for purposes such as this. The money in that fund comes from donations from people like you, dear readers. And if you need a tax deduction this year, here and now is a fine place to put your donation to work. To do that, go to www.coloradotu.org and a flashing panel on the home page will draw your attention to "Restore the Range" fund.

Additionally, a portion of a grant Rocky Mountain Flycasters received earlier this year appears eligible for this restoration project. So we hope that grant, matched by similar amounts from RMF's conservation budget, and supplemented by your new donations to "Restore the Range" will all help in

restoring the North Fork to again be one of the favorite nearby streams of our members. In sum, CTU, RMF, and **YOU** personally can all be significant funding sources that will make this revegetation project successful.

A Show of Appreciation

All of us who have volunteered for trout population surveys in Rocky Mountain National Park have enjoyed that experience of seeing what Chris Kennedy, a fellow TU member, has accomplished with your help, and with a minimum of equipment resources. In the past couple of years, Chris' equipment resources have been diminished by acts of nature, (a wildfire that forced abandonment for personal safety), and by vandalism at a back-country camp where equipment was stored. To assuage those losses, RMF's Board has authorized the purchase of equipment replacements in the amount of \$1,000, for use by Chris and the volunteers that are so necessary for him to perform his missions.

4) Adopt-a-Trail

We have adopted the trails at Gateway Natural Area in the lower Poudre Canyon have performed maintenance there for the past couple of years. We have a work day scheduled for Saturday, July 18th, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Work lasts until 11:30 a.m. and includes trail construction, maintenance and grooming. There is no fee to enter. Tell the ranger you are with the TU maintenance team. You can stay afterward and fish or hike.

Lunch will be provided by TU. All tools and instruction will be provided by Natural Areas Staff. Bring your work gloves, hat, sun screen and sturdy shoes. I have a nice list of volunteers from previous TU meetings, but now is the time to RSVP for this project so I can order lunches. Please call (217-418-9386) or email **David Morse** if you can make it to this service project.

5) Even More Volunteer Opportunities

For information about other forthcoming conservation projects, and to sign up for any of these projects, click on the links below each of the projects:

- July 18 **Gateway Natural Area Adopt-a-Trail**
- July 19 **Phantom Canyon Trail Maintenance and Fishing**
- July 27-August 1 **RMF Youth Fly Fishing & River Conservation Day Camp**
- August 16 **Phantom Canyon Trail Maintenance and Fishing**
- September 12 **Big Thompson Lower North Fork Revegetation with WRV**
- September 19 **Larimer County Boys & Girls Club Day for Kids Festival**
- September 26 **Big Thompson Lower North Fork Revegetation with WRV**
- September 27 **Phantom Canyon Trail Maintenance and Fishing**

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Let's Go Fishing

2015 RMF Trips

In July we will fish locally with two hike-in trips: the first will be



Mark Miller, Let's Go Fishing Coordinator

hosted by Dave Morse, to Lake Agnes, and I'll host the other at Dream Lake in Rocky Mountain National Park. To sign up for these trips, as well as other trips for the remainder of the year, please give me a call (970-744-8229) or send an **email**.

August Trip Preview

RMNP's western side Kawuneeche Valley floor boasts some of the most enjoyable brookie and cutthroat small waters fishing in the state. This upper Colorado River headwaters reach enters the dark pines forest and gently stretches along the feet of the beautiful Never Summer Range. It's easy under foot as you pass through lush meadows and follow erratic meanders dodging granite outcroppings, slowly gaining elevation as it gradually climbs toward the remains of historic silver mining Lulu City. Most anglers don't travel that far though, as they are mesmerized by the mysterious shadows, sounds and scents of the pines that envelop them. Deer, elk, an occasional pine marten or even a moose may lurk around any next turn that also holds enticing riffles leading into a deep corner pool and through a short glide - all housing colorful brookies and cagey cutthroats.



Colorado River headwaters trip host Dennis Cook casts to Brook trout in Rocky Mountain National Park

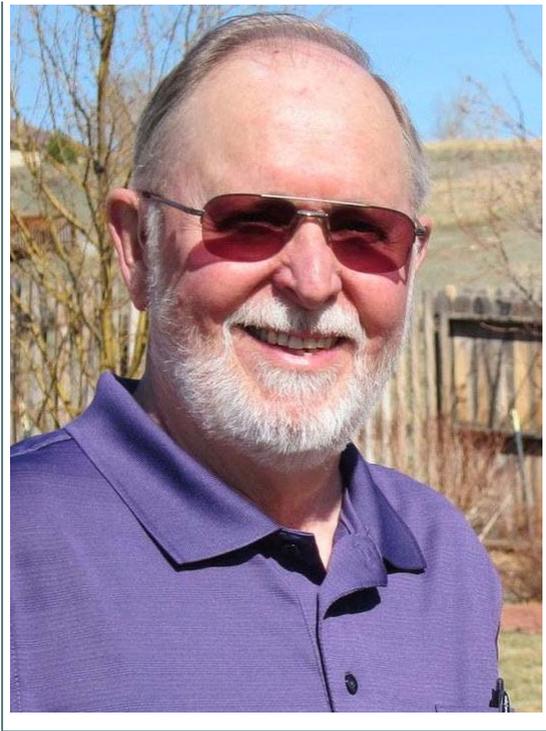
A group of RMF anglers, hosted by Dennis Cook, will make this annual trip again on Saturday, August 29th. We will depart at about 7:00 am and drive across Trail Ridge Road. Carpooling, some may choose to leave mid-to-late afternoon to get home for dinner, and others may remain a bit later to stop briefly in Estes Park for a quick burger or dinner. Register by using Mark's link above or contacting Mark by **email** or call 372-9229 if you have any questions.

There also will be a Steamboat Springs weekend group trip on September 18th - 20th to fish the Yampa River. Register by using the same contact information above.

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Rocky Mountain Flycasters in the News

An article by RMF Past President Lee Evans titled "Step up and volunteer to restore our rivers" appeared this week (June 25, 2015) in *The Coloradoan*. Lee's article appeared as a "soapbox" editorial in the newspaper's Opinion section. In this piece Lee describes where we



(RMF) have focused our substantial volunteer efforts in the past and where we might go in the future. An appeal is also made to community members to join us and help rebuild and restore the storm and fire ravaged Poudre and Big Thompson Canyons. To read Lee's editorial, continue below.

Soapbox: Step up and volunteer to restore our rivers

Most of this newspaper's readers will have driven up the Poudre or Big Thompson River canyons and seen men and women standing hip deep in the river, swinging a fishing rod to form their line into an elegant loop that shoots a small imitation fly out onto the water in search of a Colorado trout. They are there for hours, adorned in floppy hats, wearing a vest carrying an assortment of small tools, addicted to their sport. But for many of the 900 of them who are members of the Rocky Mountain Flycasters chapter of Trout Unlimited, what you see is the tip of the iceberg. The bulk of RMF's activities are devoted to conservation of the watersheds that quench the thirst of our community.

In May, when Dick Jefferies finished his term as president of RMF, he reminded the chapter of their 5,000 hours volunteered toward protection, reconnection and restoration of our streams and rivers. The need for volunteer activity increased dramatically when the fires in 2012 and the floods in 2013 struck the region. Dozens of parks, wetland areas, and culverts were destroyed. In 2014 Dick asked the chapter to make a commitment to a new restoration effort. He said, "Unlike the easy answer to the question, "Can we?," I cannot give you an easy answer to the question "Will we?" The answer to "Will we" comes from each member asking, "Will I?" Members answered "I will," and the chapter participated in the formation of two nonprofit organizations, the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed, and the Big Thompson River Restoration Coalition. To date, these organizations have secured grants totaling \$600,000 to be spent on the two river basins.

In April 2015, the Poudre River coalition put the first "boots on the ground," to work preparing soil, planting willows and spreading seed where Stove Prairie Road joins Highway 14. Another 5,000 hours of work remains to be done.

Restorations to wetlands and riverbanks call for volunteers from all sections of the community. The work varies from data recording, to manning a field kitchen, seed collection, ground preparation, mulching, and planting trees and shrubs. Almost everyone has the capability to help in one or other of these tasks. It is a fulfilling activity for a family group. Now the question for Northern Colorado is, "Can we get it done?"

Without prompt community effort we could forget how beautiful the lost facilities were and how much we enjoyed them. You only have to look at the ditch section of the Big Thompson to know what I mean. You know that "Can we?" comes down to "Will You?" Please say "Yes" and join those floppy hatted characters down at the river, but bring a shovel instead of a rod. Participation in a

restoration team is highly satisfying, and you will see the fruits of your labor in renewed recreation and sustained water quality for years to come. You can see details of the projects on the RMF Home page at www.rockymtnflycasters.org.

Lee Evans is past president of the Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Fort Collins.

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Photos Needed

Calling all photojournalists

I invite all Rocky Mountain Flycasters to submit their photos taken during Chapter-related volunteer activities, as well as your favorite fish and fishing photos, for use in the Chapter Newsletter and Chapter General Meeting Slideshow. Please submit relatively high quality photo files and include photo place name (I hope I can identify the fish species as required) and a person's name for the photo credit. Please send photos to my **email**.

Not all photos can be used but we strive to provide Chapter members and the public with a comprehensive, accurate and appealing image of all the things the Chapter and its members do in support of coldwater fisheries. If you plan in advance to take photos, for example, at a Chapter volunteer event, please inform the RMF communications staff (community outreach, newsletter editor, webmaster, slideshow coordinator) and the Chapter president so that Chapter Leadership will know an event is being covered photographically.

Chapter Leadership may from time to time request that volunteer photographers cover specific events and aspects of an event. We thank you for your efforts on behalf of the Chapter and look forward to having the opportunity to utilize your photos to support and expand our mission.

—Phil Wright

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