



February 2016
Edition

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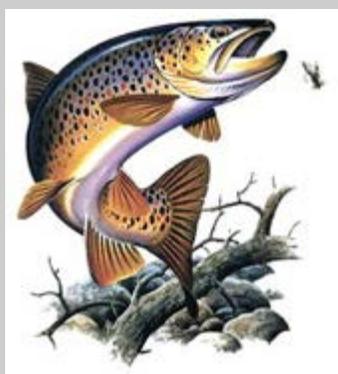
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Please consider

From our President

A Fishing Calendar?

Throughout history many societies have followed lunar calendars. Most of the names they used for their months seem a little quaint to us now. The Harvest Moon name has lasted into modern times but who remembers April as the Moon of Green Grass? Or May as the Month of Three Milkings? August could still easily be known as Weed month - although weeds arrive even earlier in my lawn. Those calendar names were tied to the realities of life for those folks in their times



Wil Huett, RMF President and TU
Lifetime Member

I propose we need a lunar calendar tied to fishing activities. January would be *Rods In The Closet* moon. February would be *Tie Flies Because There's Nothing Else To Do* moon. March would certainly be *Renew Your Fishing License Month* and April might be *Whoa! I Forgot To Fix That Leak In My Waders Moon!* June, which brings peak runoff, could be *Fish The Lakes* moon. August could be the *Hopper-Dropper* moon. October would be the *Moon of Brooks and Browns?*

Well, maybe reinventing the calendar is a silly notion, but let's keep that February idea alive for a little while longer. Tying flies during the iced-up days of winter is an activity many of us enjoy. It may be the next best thing to being on the water and using those flies.

Could that be why Rocky Mountain Flycasters schedules our annual **Fly Tying Expo** (see announcement below) during February? To give you a chance to spend a few hours with some of the best tiers in the territory and be able to take that fresh knowledge home and apply it almost immediately? If you are not a tier now, there will be a chance to learn the basics at beginner's benches. Put **February 17th** on your calendar and we'll 'tie one on' this month. Youngsters often get a kick out of our buggy look-alikes, so bring them along. There's a reduced admission price for them and you might wind up with a tying partner in the house. Read more details below.

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

Join Our Mailing List!

Forward to a Friend

By the way, if you have any gently used gear or memorabilia which would help the silent auction at the Expo, or our regular monthly raffles, please contact our Raffle Chairman, **Cullen Emsing**.

Another ongoing event for tiers may also be of interest. Each month of our regular meetings, Ben Zomer runs our Fly Exchange. Ben picks a theme for the month and participants create their own versions, tying one for each participant plus one extra, and exchange them at the meeting. So each participant gets examples of others' work and the extra flies go into our monthly raffle. Great learning experience and a benefit to the chapter all in one. Try it, you'll like it. (see Ben's article

below and/or send him an **email**.

As a tier you may also be interested in helping Dave Morse with Project Healing Waters tying clinics for veterans. Touch base with **Dave** and find out more about this great way to give back to the vets in our community.

Last month brought a new off-season activity for RMF; we undertook our first group volunteer orientation. Growing out of our fall survey, which revealed an increased interest in upcoming field projects, we had a fun and informative meeting at Mulligan's Pub. See articles below by Dave Piske and by Phil Wright which describe this event and ways you can become involved.

In the spirit of our 'fishing calendar' let me start the action with: Ready....Set....Tie!

Wil Huett, President
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

Chapter Event Calendar



RMF Annual Fly Tying Expo

Dressing the Naked Hook Rocky Mountain Flycasters' 2016 Annual Fly Tying Expo

Admission: \$20 per person (\$10 for students with ID, under 12-free).

With the price of admission, you get a plate of food and a beverage, ten(10) raffle tickets (five(5) for students, none for under 12) for the fly and rod drawings, and a wealth of tying and fishing information.

When: February 17, 2016, 5:30-9:00 p.m.

Where: Fort Collins Senior Center
1200 Raintree Drive Fort Collins, Colorado

Nearly two dozen professional and experienced tiers from our region will converge in Fort Collins for this annual event to demonstrate their fly tying skills and share tips



on tying and fishing with their signature flies.

- Food provided by Canino's
- Beginner's table to learn tying your own flies
- Random drawings for each tier's flies and a fly rod drawing
- Silent auction with many quality equipment items, supplies, books, art, etc.

Learn from tiers such as:

Rick Takahashi, Marty Staab, Dick Shinton, Al Ritt, Judson Knowles, Dave Coulson, Jerry Lehtinen, Michael McFarland, Chris Krueger, Steve Schweitzer, Dennis Martin, Mark McMillan, Eric Pettine, Bob Castner, Caleb van Wagner, Jason Haddix, Adam Omernick, and others.

Sponsored in part by:



RMF Needs Leaders and Trustees

Uncle Flycaster Wants You!



OK, it's not as compelling as the famous Uncle Sam recruiting posters, and it certainly lacks the iconic graphic, but it is just as heartfelt.....

Rocky Mountain Flycasters Needs You!

As a conservation organization your participation in field projects is vital, but there is an important dimension of volunteer service beyond the field in administrative and governance efforts. An elected board of Officers and Trustees, along with a volunteer Leadership Team is the group which decides what projects we'll take on, maintains relationships with partner agencies and develops positions on conservation issues when the time arises. These positions require no more than the types of skills we use, or used, daily during work and business careers. Volunteer service in these positions offers the chance to have even greater impact in local conservation, perhaps by chairing an activity, serving as a liaison or helping decide how to budget our dollars each year.

Due to the passage of time and changes in work and personal lives we currently have openings for vice-president, treasurer for trustees. If you want to know more about these positions contact me as **RMF President**.

Treasurer Tom Culbertson is also nearing the end of a three year stint and wants to move on. He's more than glad to visit with you about the details and help a new volunteer get started. Contact Tom by **email**.

On the Leadership team side, newsletter editor Bob Green is retiring, also after a three year stint. We use the Constant Contact system for putting the newsletter together and Bob has offered to provide

hands on training to get a new editor up and running. The newsletter is our premier communications vehicle and our officers and leadership team contribute articles monthly so it's not a one person 'killer' of a job. Contact Bob by **email** for more detailed info.

I hope the volunteer spirit moves you to contact us because...**Uncle Flycaster Needs You!**

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Thanks For Your Help: 2016 Volunteer Orientation



Phil Wright
2016 Orientation Coordinator

Thanks to All for a Successful Volunteer Orientation Meeting

I would like to thank all those who participated in Rocky Mountain Flycasters' **2016 Volunteer Orientation** meeting that was held on January 14 at Mulligan's Pub. This is the first such event that the chapter has organized and volunteer interest was high. There were 40 individuals in attendance at the Orientation that consisted of a brief overview of RMF Volunteer Opportunities followed by breakout sessions to provide volunteers the opportunity to speak directly with Project Coordinators.

Special thanks go out to the Project Coordinators (Dave Piske, Dennis Cook, Guy Turenne, Jerry Pelis, David Morse, Tom Culbertson, and Linda Jefferies) for their preparation and Orientation efforts. Attendee and RMF Leadership team reactions to the event were quite positive and I expect that similar Volunteer Orientation efforts will be undertaken in the future to welcome and inform prospective Volunteers. If you were unable to attend the orientation but would like to register your interest in Volunteering with Rocky Mountain Flycasters, please email me (**Phil Wright**) indicating your interest and I will confirm that you are on the email distribution list that will be used to inform the group of upcoming volunteer opportunities.

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February Conservation Notes

Colorado Water Plan Provides Support for Healthy Rivers

As Phil Wright described in his article above this one, Rocky Mountain Flycasters conducted a Volunteer Orientation session to inform chapter members of a variety of volunteer opportunities in 2016. Recruitment of attendees was focused on persons who had earlier expressed interest in learning about volunteer opportunities. Forty RMF members attended.



Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

The briefing on conservation projects began with an overview of the wide variety of such projects and concluded with an invitation to join in a breakout session to learn more details. The breakout session focused on a 2-day training class, April 2 and 3, 2016 to learn the skills needed to lead crews of 5 to 8 in-experienced volunteers who will be doing riparian ecological restoration projects.

The training course has been developed as part of a grant RMF received to foster and conduct this training for multiple volunteer groups along the Front Range. RMF has sub-contracted those tasks to Synergy Ecological Restoration, Inc. a non-profit Colorado corporation.

RMF has been allotted eleven participants in the April training class. As of this writing, there are two vacancies in that allotment. If you and a friend, or you by yourself, would like to add your name(s) to the April 2 thru April 3 crew leader training session, please send your/their name(s) and email addresses to **Dave Piske**. Based on time of receipt of such notices, responses exceeding the current 2 vacancies will be placed on a Wait List for that training session.

It is imperative that all volunteers be present for both days of training. The training location, yet to be fixed for April 2 & 3, is expected to be at elevations of 6,000 to 8,000 feet along the northern Front Range, and will involve moderate physical activity.

During March, those who are confirmed as attendees of the April 2 & 3 training will be informed of the detailed curriculum contents, the location where the training will take place, car pooling arrangements, and what they should do to prepare for the training.

The contents of the training will be a mix of both lectures and in-the-field work. It includes learning crew-management techniques and operational safety practices. The in-the-field learning includes how to instruct the crew members who will be performing tasks such as; seed-bed preparation, planting of seeds, mulching of planted areas, planting of potted plants and cuttings, installation of erosion controls and emphasizing safety aspects of those operations.

If you have questions about this training, don't hesitate to contact me at the above email address.

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From Our Fly Swap Coordinator

Pssst! Want Some Flies??

Consider joining the fly swap this month. If you tie



Ben Zomer, Fly Swap Coordinator, with a nice rainbow caught on Secret "Fly Swap Fly"

flies, beginner or advanced we want you. All it takes is to sign up with our Fly Swap Coordinator, **Ben Zomer**. You will tie a certain number of flies based on a theme. This month's theme is "Between a rock and a Hard Place" (Stoneflies). Bring your flies to the monthly meeting and you will trade out your flies with those others have tied as well as one of yours that goes into the raffle pot, helping our non-tying friends win some badly needed fish catching creations. Let's face it, it doesn't require a LOT of time. You do it when you're available, and it helps out the organization. A win for all.... Gotta love that. So sign up today.

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Zen Fly Fishing Winter Tenkara Series



Zen Fly Fishing Gear

Finding Balance on the Water

Please consider attending the Second Annual Tenkara Winter Series and New Product Release Event hosted by Zen Fly Fishing Gear. This one day presentation series has a great line-up of incredible speakers that are top notch in the world of tenkara. They'll cover a variety of topics relevant to both the tenkara devotee and the western fly fishing enthusiasts, regardless of skill level: Effective Tenkara Presentations Anyone Can Make; Blue Lining (finding new waters on the map) and Backcountry Tenkara; How to Capture and Improve your Fishing Pictures and; Four Dimensional Casting and Advanced Presentations. This fixed-line method of fly fishing has taken solid hold in the fly fishing industry. Come be a part of it, expand your knowledge and get some fantastic information. Zen Tenkara will also be unveiling new product for the 2016 season. Get a chance to see Zen's newest offerings and take advantage of TWS Specials that will only be available at this event.

Industry leaders, educators and innovators share their knowledge, expertise and personal experiences of tenkara, fly fishing and the great outdoors in an intimate setting that encourages discussion and conversation, paired with visuals, demonstrations and a hands-on experiences.

Our goal is to continue to educate, facilitate and propel tenkara further into the angling world. We aim to make the Tenkara Winter Series into an event that promotes great conversations, relationships, furthers peoples' knowledge and, is simply a day that people look forward to attending each year. For more details and to sign up online, click on the website below:

<http://www.tenkarawinterseries.com>



Let's Go Fishing



Mark Miller, Fishing Coordinator

Listed below are some trips we hope to take in 2016. We will start sign-ups at our Feb meeting. Or, you can email me at **Mark Miller** or call 970-744-8229 (cell).

We have quite a mix of fishing destinations for 2016. Hopefully there is something for you on this list. We'll go after big rainbows at Gray Reef in March (yes, it will likely be cold weather), and big rainbows in June near Laramie at Twin Buttes. June and July will bring a chance to catch grayling and cutthroats in two beautiful high country lakes. Dennis will again host a fun-filled day of small stream fishing with dry flies on the Colo River headwaters in RMNP. Sep and Oct will take us to some water that most people have not fished - the Yampa River at Steamboat Springs, and the Frying Pan and Roaring Fork rivers near

Glenwood Springs. We hope you will join us for all the fun!

- **Mar 18-20** - Miracle Mile, Grey Reef - Host: Ben Zomer
- **Apr 23** - Poudre - Gateway area - Host: ??
- **May 14** - Big Thompson below Lake Estes - Host: ??
- **Jun 4** - Twin Buttes Reservoir near Laramie - Host: Frank Cada (float tubes recommended but not mandatory). Need a WY license.
- **Jun 25** - Joe Wright Reservoir - for Grayling - Host: Dave Morse
- **Jul 9** - Lake Agnes - Cutthroats (near Cameron Pass) - Host: Dave Morse
- **Aug 20** - RMNP Colorado Headwaters - Host: Dennis Cook
- **Sep 16-18** - Yampa Tailwater - Host: Dennis Cook
- **Oct early** - Frying Pan/Roaring Fork- date to be determined - Host: Ben Zomer

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2016-02-01