



December 2016

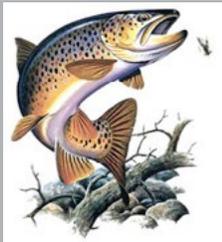
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From the President

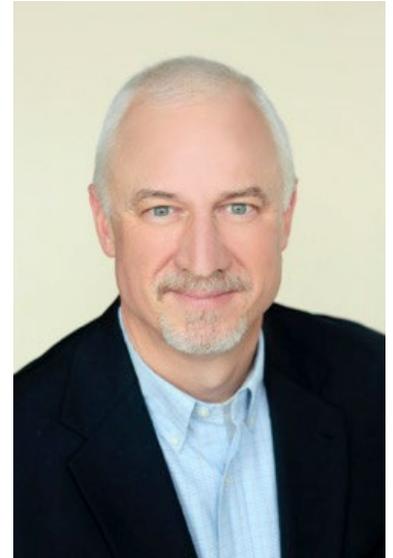
To me it seems like August was just a couple of weeks ago, but we are bearing down on Christmas and New Year's in a matter of days! I hope 2016 has been good to you. I hope you've enjoyed your families and friends and have felt the joy of a tight line on many waters. My New Year's resolution for 2017 is simple: work less; fish more.

Though there may be ice on the river and a fire in the hearth, RMF is still busy. I want to thank everyone for making our November chapter meeting an outstanding success! I'm grateful to all of you who brought friends to "Guest Night." Membership Coordinator Linda Jefferies reports that we had 11 new members sign up and 3 renewals. Our guest speaker, "The Bug Guy" Robert Younghanz, was not only informative but highly entertaining.

Of course in December we forgo our regular chapter meeting for our annual Holiday Party on December 10. All the information is here in the newsletter and on our website. I hope to see all of you for a great time and the infamous white elephant gift exchange. I've still got a few days to figure out what I'm bringing!

As you consider your end of year giving, you likely know about Colorado Give Day, on December 6. There will be matching funds for gifts to non-profits and RMF and CTU qualify. You can keep your gift local by donating to RMF. See the newsletter for the "how to".

Conservation and fishing go hand in hand. Without strategic care of our streams and rivers, we can't sustain trout habitat. I'm proud of how our members embrace this balance. Please plan to attend our Volunteer Orientation Meeting in January and learn how you can participate in the many restoration projects coming up next year. This information is also provided in this newsletter,



Coy Wiley, 2016-2017 President
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

It may be winter but the fish are still feeding. I'm going to layer up, tie some of my favorite tiny midge patterns and hit the tailwater. Who is with me?

Coy Wylie, President
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

[Chapter Event Calendar on our web site](#)



Filling up the Calendar

Our calendar pages are some of the most frequently visited on our web site. Wouldn't it be great to see your own pictures displayed there? There are many opportunities for months into the future. Pictures that are well-lit, in focus, on TU topic, and a minimum of 530 pixels wide and 400 pixel in height. Send a copy of fishing or conservation-related pictures to:

[Paul Wehr, Webmaster](#)



**2016 Rocky Mountain Flycasters' Holiday Party
Online sales end Wednesday 7 December!
After that, tickets will be \$20 at the door.**



It is the season again. Rocky Mountain Flycasters is holding a Holiday Party on Saturday, December 10, 2016 at C.B. & Potts' Collindale, at 1441 East Horsetooth Road. (The W. Elizabeth location is closed.)

We will start socializing at 6:30, eat from 7:00 to 8:00, then have the infamous White Elephant Gift Exchange, raffle drawings for the two fly trees and a brand new fly rod.



Champion nymphler Domingo Rodriguez with another rainbow

Cost this year will be \$15.00 per person for tickets purchased online (below). Tickets at the door will be \$20 per person. Everyone will get heavy hors d'œuvres from the C.B. & Potts kitchen and raffle tickets. If you wish to participate in the White Elephant exchange, bring a wrapped white elephant gift. (We missed the beautiful fish lamp again last year!) Because of our larger attendance, please bring only one gift per couple. We always have a great time at these parties, and it is especially good to meet and socialize with our significant others.

We ask that you bring a few flies and divide them between the two trees as we will raffle two trees again this year. We had a great turnout of flies last year as well as a huge pile of White Elephant gifts.

In order to better predict the amount of food to order, we ask that you order your tickets online below. We will need to cut off online sales Wednesday the 7th.

<http://www.rockymtnflycasters.org/forms/holiday16.php>



Catch Of The Year! Perfect In Every Way



Dr. Robin Cook and her "perfect" 29 1/2 inch Rainbow

It was a perfect morning, cool, crisp, clear, with the smell of autumn leaves in the air. The river was low and clear, and full of promise.

The pull of the river was magical. I couldn't wait to stand on its edge and listen to its call, to step in, cast the line, anticipate the hook-up.

Beneath the water, large, dark images of trout, moving sideways and up and down as they fed. Flashes of white mouths. Oh my, what an adrenaline rush!

I saw her. Actively feeding alongside a large boulder. As large a rainbow as I have ever seen. Time for a streamer, not a size 22 midge.

Cast and strip; cast and strip. YES! She sucked in the bunny leech and the fight was on! Head shaking vigorously,

running, rolling. My knees shaking and heart pounding.

Finally, finally she is in the net. I am in awe at her size and beauty, humbled by her magnificent spirit to run free. She is perfect.

Editors Note: Robin originally submitted the above essay, which gave me a fantastic picture of the complete experience. Upon my request, she submitted a picture; and upon a second request reported it was a 29 1/2 incher, and that her next largest fish that day was 25 inches! The modesty prize is hereby awarded.



Adult Fishing Classes

Kudos to Rocky Mountain Flycasters and especially Domingo Rodriguez for the first series of Adult Fly Fishing Education! For non-fishers and half-fishers like me (folks who have caught a fish on a fly but are not sure how or why), it was a great six hours spread over three sessions.

In session one Milt Mays helped me understand rod, reel and line setup and casting as I had never 'gotten it' before. Sure, I know I need even more practice, but we were all laying out some pretty good casts by the end of the session with his and other RMF members' help.



Rocky Mountain Flycasters' Adult Fly Fishing Class

Session two took us through leader and tippet setups and knot tying. I still think the blood knot would have stumped Houdini, but the surgeon's knot and Eugene Bend are now parts of my repertoire.



Author Jane Asthalter Vajgrt - half-fisher on the way to full-fisher status!

In the final session we identified 'bugs' from the chapter's collection and matched them to flies for a better understanding of what and where fish eat.

If you are a 'just-beginning' or a 'wanna-be' fly fisher member, look for another series in the spring and take some big steps toward enjoying the fun of fly fishing.

December Conservation Notes



Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

It's that time of year when we begin looking ahead to the 2017 in-the-field season for conservation projects.

We start by enticing new and prospective volunteers to help make the year 2017 even more effective than was the 2016 season. Toward that purpose, an article by Phil Wright describes the volunteer orientation session scheduled for January 12. It is intended to increase the quantity of volunteers involved in the chapter's conservation and other missions. Another of our goals for 2017 is to broaden the skills and experience of RMF volunteers beyond the basics needed for conservation project volunteers.

Each conservation project requires a set of crew leaders who are proficient in special skills beyond those of the typical volunteer crew member. Each crew requires a crew leader trained in both the human relationships necessary to lead impromptu-assembled groups of volunteer laborers, and also has the basic technical knowledge required to guide the crew to perform

the assigned tasks.

Additionally, each project requires volunteers having supportive roles such as feeding the crews, and managing the transport of tools to the project site, assembling tools in a manner that expedites their distribution to crews, and at the end of the workday, supervising the cleaning and reassembling of tools for their next use.

Training sessions for such candidate leadership and supportive roles will be organized early in 2017, so readers are encouraged to participate in these special roles as ways to volunteer their services towards the conservation programs of Rocky Mountain Flycasters.

2017 Volunteer Orientation Meeting

In November 2016 we surveyed you, our volunteer base, to assess interest in volunteering with Rocky Mountain Flycasters (RMF). Your survey responses provided us with a good picture of how, when and where you would like to volunteer with RMF.

To further inform your interests we organized and held on January 14, 2016 a Volunteer Orientation Meeting to provide you with an opportunity to meet with RMF Project Coordinators and get up to speed with the year's volunteer opportunities. Based on the success of this Orientation Meeting and the following 2016 field season, we will again hold a Volunteer Orientation Meeting on January 12, 2017 at Mulligan's Pub in Fort Collins. Please put the January 12, 2017 meeting date on your calendar.

At this Volunteer Orientation Meeting you will again have an opportunity to speak with Project Coordinators across the entire range of volunteer opportunities with RMF and its partner organizations. The evening's program will include a few minutes of introduction, some question and answer time, and then a chance to visit with the leaders of all the projects that capture your interest.

We hope to see you there. Watch your email inbox and the next Flypaper Newsletter for a link to sign up and express your interest in attending the 2017 Volunteer Orientation Meeting. Thanks again, I look forward to seeing you at the orientation session and on the stream soon after that.

- Phil Wright

December Youth Outreach Notes

CSU '5 Rivers' Fly Fishing Club



Dennis Cook, Youth Outreach Coordinator



The new '5 Rivers' Student Club has re-formed this fall semester, elected a full set of officers and leaders, established dues and held several well attended student meetings. Membership has grown nicely to approximately 30 now - and still growing, and they've produced club logo tee shirts, held a couple 'Casting on the Quad' sessions and a two very successful social fly tying nights. Three Club members also joined our RMF work crew October 15th recovering large chunks of flood strewn road asphalt from the Big Thompson. On September 11th they also participated in a 'Get Trashed' event (a competitive river cleanup fundraiser on the Poudre, combined with fishing and activities afterwards - sponsored by Pig Farm Ink) fundraiser. Another September highlight was a road trip seven members made to Western State Colorado University in Gunnison as guests visiting the '5 Rivers' Club there, and to catch the early Kokanee spawn. A great time was had by all...as you can see from the picture above.

On another note...in response to the newsletter solicitation for interested members, Dale Rellas has accepted the position as RMF Chapter Liaison supporting the CSU '5 Rivers' Club. Dale has been coordinating with the Club and recently hosted a meeting of the CSU Club's leadership team with the national staff coordinator for TU's '5 Rivers' campus clubs programs. There are about 50 such clubs nationally and we're very excited to have CSU also participating.





Give

You may have heard about Colorado Gives Day, December 6, 2016. If donations to non profits are received that day, matching funds may be applied. Colorado Trout Unlimited is one of the recipients and can be utilized for donating funds to CTU or to the Rocky Mountain Flycasters chapter.



If you choose to donate to CTU, that is fine but if you would like your donations to stay local, be sure to indicate in the Special Instructions/Comments box that the funds you are donating should be sent to Rocky Mountain Flycasters in Fort Collins. The head of CTU, David Nickum promised the funds would be forwarded if such a request is made. The following link can be used to access the donations site directly:

<https://www.coloradogives.org/coloradoTU/overview>

Attend

The Fourth Annual River Forum “As The River Flows—Forest to Plains”, Friday, Feb 3, 2017, 8:30-4:30, Island Grove Events Center, Greeley.

Register by Jan 27:

prti.colostate.edu/Poudreriverforum



Tell us your favorite fishing stories.

Every time I fish or socialize with RMF members and friends, I hear wonderful captivating stories about fishing adventures. We all have them—you're not an angler if you don't. Why not have one or more published in The Flypaper? If you are interested or have questions contact Bob Green, The Flypaper Editor bobgreen250@gmail.com.



Or, would you like to be the RMF Treasurer?

Tom Culbertson, our current treasurer, has agreed to serve until we can recruit someone to take his place. The treasurer job requires some fundamental accounting skills. If you are a practicing accountant or a CPA, this will be an excellent place for you to make a contribution. If you are interested in the position or merely want more information, please contact Tom at srrealty45@gmail.com or 970-541-7029 or 970-685 1401 (cell).



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