



January 2017

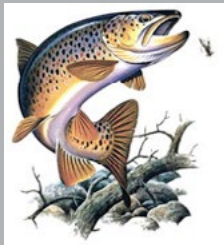
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From the President

It's New Year's Day. 2016 is in the books and 2017 is only hours old as I sit here writing. This last year has been crazy in so many ways. I think we can all agree, no matter what our personal views and values that public dialogue has sunk to new lows. As a society it seems we have lost a large portion of our sense of consideration for others, good manners and etiquette.

By and large, fly-fishers are a different breed and we share similar values that the general public does not always understand. We are active conservationists. We respect and appreciate nature far more than the garden-variety suburbanite. Our involvement in RMF and TU says we value and respect our fellow sportsmen as well. You might say we live by a code.

As more and more people impact our public waters, it's a good idea for our tribe to reflect on our values and how we interact with others we encounter on the stream. Newer fly-fishers are sometimes unaware of the etiquette our sport requires. So whether you've been fly fishing for decades or just a few months, here are some good manners to keep in mind:

First, never, never crowd other anglers. If someone beat to your favorite spot, either go somewhere else or wait until they leave. If you are going to move up stream, move far enough upstream to be out of the way of others. Never "high hole" anyone by jumping ahead just to the next run unless that person is your buddy and that is your strategy for covering the water. There's nothing more frustrating than to arrive in a good spot early only to have a late-comer spook out the hole you were about to move to. If you are in a drift boat, give the anglers on the shore plenty of room and don't crowd them. After all, you are going to cover far more water than they.

When in doubt ask. If the river is particularly crowded, it's always a good



Coy Wiley, 2016-2017 President
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

thing to ask another angler if you feel like you might be too close. Politeness goes a long way to good relationships.

Share the stream. Maybe you found the right combination in a particular place and have caught several nice ones. We all have the temptation to “hover” a hole. Most fishermen will move around you. Some will stop to watch your hookups and hopefully successful landings. However, it’s always nice to share your success. Let someone else have a go at that spot too. You might just find a better place not far away.

Don’t be noisy. Part of the joy of fly fishing is the peace we find on the river. One of the most annoying situations I encounter is people who have no respect for the serenity of our sport. They yell to their companions. They yell when they hook up. They yell when they break off. In my opinion yelling has no place on the stream unless there is an emergency or a 20-incher is in the net. Catch a nice one? High fives and celebration are in order. But remember to respect the presence of other people.

Resolve issues peacefully. Some fly fishers are of the crusty variety and will certainly let you know if you dare to break their code of stream ethics by getting too close or making too much noise. If that happens, my advice is not to get into an argument but apologize and move on. Stressing out won’t help you catch more fish.

Here’s to 2017. May it be a banner year for us all. Let’s each do our part to appreciate others and give back to the sport that so enriches our lives.

To get a jump-start on this upcoming field season, when we and partner agencies will have projects in both drainages, we’ve scheduled a 2017 volunteer orientation for January 12 at 7:00 PM for an informal evening at Mulligan’s Pub. Please come, meet our coordinators, and learn more about how you can help replace fishing emergency with fishing opportunity in our home rivers. If you have not already done so please RSVP this event by clicking [here](#) and indicating your availability for that night. You can also read Phil Wright’s description of this meeting in the OPPORTUNITIES section (below) of this newsletter.

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](#)

January Meeting

Mark Miller, our chapter Fishing Trip Coordinator, will present his 30 min video (“Fly Fishing in the Rockies”) about our chapter trips over the last several years. He hopes to show our members a little of the fun we have



RMF Fishing Trip Coordinator and Film Making Icon, Mark Miller

on these trips, in hopes of encouraging more members to participate. “I think of it as a sort of celebration of all the special and beautiful places we have right here in our backyard, that we sometimes take for granted. And what better way to make new fishing friends than to see and fish new waters, as well as our beloved Poudre and Big Thompson rivers.”

As always, social hour begins at 6:30 pm at the Fort Collins Senior Center, and the program follows at 7:00 pm. Admission is free and the public is welcome. The Fort Collins Senior Center is located at 1200 Raintree Drive off Shields Avenue between Prospect and Drake.

January Conservation Notes



Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

Progress in Restoring Favorite Big Thompson Public Fishing Hole

Prior to the record-breaking Big Thompson River flood in September 2013, the Narrows County Park, located just upstream of Narrows Canyon, was a favorite evening fishing spot, especially for anglers residing in or near Loveland. Reflecting gratitude for that convenient location, and the high quality trout habitat that existed at Narrows Park, volunteers from our chapter annually conducted clean-ups of the Narrows Park.

The 2013 flood waters scoured the stream bottom, moved large boulders downstream of the Park, and left a smooth, graveled stream bed that is now barren of holding waters for fish.

As part of a massive stream restoration project, the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition, with its office located in Loveland, is managing a number of complex river and riparian restoration projects, one of which is called Jasper Lake to Narrows, and includes Narrows County Park.

That project will rehabilitate extensive trout habitat and adjacent riparian vegetation, leading to, and including the public fishing access to the Big Thompson at Narrows Park.

With a goal of continuing the long-standing support from Rocky Mountain Flycasters, a donation of \$4,500 was transmitted to the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition on December 14, 2016. This donation was made possible by gifts to RMF from two sources; one from Cargill (thank you Linda Jefferies) and a gift from the Trout and Salmon Foundation, located in the Chicago area and including members who ardently support the health of the Big Thompson fishery.

These funds will be used to pay a portion of the costs of post-flood restoration in the Jasper Lake to Nar-

rows project. That project's design has been completed and is now in the permitting stage. Assuming that phase is timely completed, implementation will be underway in Spring, 2017.



January Youth Outreach Notes



Dennis Cook, Youth Outreach Coordinator

2017 Youth Day Camp

Monday, July 31st through Saturday, August 5th

It's a new year...and that time again when we all begin filling in dates that we want to keep clear or designated for some special interest activity - and chapter leadership is hoping many of our members will designate some, most or all of the July 31st through August 5th dates to participate in RMF's 8th annual Youth Day Camp.



Electrofishing along the Poudre

Our RMF Chapter website will begin listing the camp around March 1st, and public promotion will begin around April 1st to select 15 high school young men and women ages 14 through 17. The listing will include a complete Application Packet addressed to interested youths and their parents. The camp's purpose is to offer selected youths an opportunity to learn a new recreational pastime, fly fishing, or to improve existing marginal fly fishing knowledge. Our expectation is that the camp can help them develop increased awareness and interest in the need to take better care of our natural coldwaters outdoors, and hopefully also to consider fly fishing as a lifelong pastime.



The casting stroke.

Each year our Day Camp includes about 25-335 member adult volunteers, some full time, but most part-time involved in one or several activities of their choice such as instructing casting, knots tying or tackle riggings; fly tying; collecting aquatic insects or teaching entomology; serving as Mentor on either river or still water fishing; assisting river safety during snorkeling underwater habitat observation; restoration project; restoration project; electrofishing; etc. The final schedule will be completed before May so final volunteer dates can be confirmed.



A session tying flies.

RMF members interested in volunteering are invited to review last year's camp schedule (It repeats almost identically every year) by [downloading the PDF file](#). If you see an activity, partial or full day, or the entire week that you think might interest you, please drop Dennis Cook email at rkymtnangler@Q.com or call 970-372-9229 to discuss what may be involved.



Attend and Volunteer

Our annual fundraiser, the Rocky Mountain Flycasters' Fly Fishing Expo, will be held on Wednesday, February 15 from 5:30 to 9:00 at the Fort Collins Senior Center.

We have about a dozen of Northern Colorado's best fly tiers signed up to share the newest patterns with you. As always, we'll raffle off a rod and a bunch of flies.

We will also have our silent auction table with a variety of goods and services awaiting your bid. Food will be served and stories shared while socializing with fellow anglers.



CANYOU HELP? We are in need of good, nearly new items for our auction. If you have items that you are willing to donate, please contact President Coy Wylie president@rockymtnflycasters.org or Secretary Lance Asherin secretary@rockymtnflycasters.org .

Volunteer Orientation Meeting

Rocky Mountain Flycasters will hold our 2017 Volunteer Orientation Meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday January 12, 2017 at Mulligan's Pub in Fort Collins. If you have not already done so, please RSVP this event by clicking [here](#) and indicating your availability for that night. Put the January 12, 2017 meeting date on your calendar and please join us for an informal evening at Mulligan's to learn more about this year's Volunteer Opportunities.

At this Volunteer Orientation Meeting you will 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. I look forward to seeing you at the orientation session and on the stream soon after that.

— Phil Wright



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:

<http://prti.colostate.edu/Poudreriverforum> .



Attend, Read, Watch

Dr. Kurt D. Fausch, Professor, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology has recently published a book for a popular audience, *For the Love of Rivers: A Scientist's Journey*, and has been speaking about it around the country since it appeared in 2015. Dr. Fausch will be speaking at Fort Collins Audubon Society on Thursday February 9th at 7:30 pm and has invited us to attend (at the Fort Collins Senior Center). Check out the video to your right.

For The Love of Rivers Book Trailer

For The Love of Rivers Book Trailer



Read

High Country Angler, the magazine of Colorado Trout Unlimited, features two articles about our area. One of them, "Coalitions and Collaboratives", by Dick Jefferies, describes efforts by our local chapters and other agencies to respond to our recent natural catastrophes (page 28) and the other "Aggressive Browns Highlight Poudre River" describes fishing in the Poudre (page 24).

To read these articles go to the magazine at <http://hcamagazine.com>

High Country Angler

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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Rocky Mountain Flycaster Sustaining Donors



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