



## March 2018

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## From the President

Stress. It's a killer. Literally.

I was feeling it. A difficult business situation, relational issues, feeling over-extended and the death of long-time friend were bearing down on me. I wasn't sleeping well and things I usually enjoy had lost their appeal.

John Gierach has famously written, "The solution to any problem - work, love, money, whatever - is to go fishing, and the worse the problem, the longer the trip should be." Even though I didn't feel like it, I decided to heed this sage advice.



Coy Wiley, 2017-2018 President  
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

It was still early and the morning sun had barely extended into the canyon when I parked in the pull off. I felt the morning chill as I put on my waders and boots. I thought it too early for good fishing so I sat on the tailgate slowly sipped coffee from my Yeti mug listening to the song of the river.

At last I rigged up a rod and climbed down the rocky bank to the water. I'd been to this spot many times before and knew it held trout year round. I flipped my flies into the stream and pulled line from my reel. I was barely paying attention to this first drift when I saw the indicator bump slightly sideways. With no conscious thought, just built-in reflex, I set the hook on a nice little brown on my first cast.

Suddenly everything changed. I became focused. Within a few minutes I netted another, then another. Within the first hour I had five in my net and a couple of others who managed to escape from my hook set.

The sun was up now and the canyon came alive. I moved upstream to another normally productive section and found more browns and rainbows willing to eat my flies. At some point, I sat down on a boulder to rest and began to observe the river. Intent focus on a strike indicator is necessary for successful nymphing but it can cause you to miss so much of what's going on around you.

I sat there not thinking just being. I noticed fish I had not seen while I was fishing. I saw them coming up from

their hiding places to feed on emergers near the surface. I saw some of the season's first blue wing olives. And then I changed tactics and went back to fishing.

By noon I had to pack up and head back to town but as I sat on the tailgate to take off my boots and waders I realized I was very relaxed. For the first time in quite a while my mind was at peace. My phone doesn't work in the canyon. I had not spoken a word in hours. It was just the trout, the river and me. The problems were still there but I was different.

Driving back down the canyon I thought about how important this river is to so many people for so many reasons and it dawned on me that we restore rivers because rivers restore us.

**Congratulations to our readers!** *The Flypaper* received an All Star Award from Constant Contact for excellence in online publication! The content and number of people who actually open and read the newsletter puts us in the top 10% of all Constant Contact customers!



**Coy Wylie, President**  
Rocky Mountain Flycasters-Trout Unlimited

## The April Meeting

Duane Redford, whose motto is *Fear No Water*, will be headlining the April 18 RMF meeting. Guide and author, former teacher and coach, he will share his building blocks approach to fishing. Based on one of his books *The Fly Fisher's Playbook, A Systematic Approach to Nymphing*, we can look forward to some great tips.

Kyle Christenson, CSU doctoral candidate and Behnke Fellowship recipient, will also discuss his research on high mountain lakes. Join us at the Fort Collins Senior Center. Social gathering at 6:30 pm with the general meeting at 7:00 pm.

Social hour and fly tying demonstration begins at 6:30 pm at the Fort Collins Senior Center, and the program follows at 7:00 pm. The Fort Collins Senior Center is located at 1200 Raintree Drive off Shields Avenue between Prospect and Drake.



# Youth Day Camp

**July 30-August 4, 2018**  
**Monday-Saturday**  
**8 AM to 6 PM**



# Fly Fishing Day Camp

**Casting & Riggings**  
**River Restoration**  
**Fish Hatchery**  
**Water Safety**  
**Electro-fishing**  
**Dry & Nymph Techniques**  
**Fly Tying & Knots**  
**Aquatic Insects**  
**Habitat Snorkeling**  
**Trout Anatomy & Behavior**

**2018 NoCo Youth**  
**River Conservation &**  
**Fly Fishing Day Camp**

Sponsored by  
**Rocky Mountain Flycasters,**  
**Chapter of Trout Unlimited.**



**Ages 14-17**



**FOR APPLICATION VISIT:**

<http://nocotu.org/S/youthcamp>

Questions: Contact (970)222-4428 or

[daycamp@rockymtnflycasters.org](mailto:daycamp@rockymtnflycasters.org)

Facebook: [fb.me/NoCoYouthCamp](https://www.facebook.com/NoCoYouthCamp)



Although winter continues to tease us, be certain of two things. First, the **2018 Fly Fishing Day Camp** is just around the corner, and second, the first week of August currently looks fantastic for a snow free, wonderful and jam-packed summer camp. Applications for the camp are now available at <http://nocotu.org/S/youthcamp>.

— Bill Gedge and Robin Brown, Co-Directors  
daycamp@rockymtnflycasters.org.

## River Appreciation Day at Odell's Brewery



### River Appreciation Day at Odell Brewery

**SUNDAY – APRIL 22nd**

**8:30am – 11am**

Join us for a River clean up from 9am to 11am. Volunteers will meet at 8:30am in the brewery parking lot. After the clean up, all volunteers will receive lunch and a free pint of Odell.

**11am - 6pm**

Our friends from **Mountain Whitewater Descents**, **Rocky Mt. Flycasters Trout Unlimited**, and **St. Pete's Fly Shop** will be hanging out giving tutorials and sharing info on how to enjoy our rivers this summer. Show off your skills in a fly tying competition held by our friends at **Pig Farm Ink**. Our friends from **Wildland Restoration Volunteers** and **Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed** will also be there so you can learn more about how to protect our rivers.

Live Music from 4-6pm. Plus we'll be tapping our brand new Nail Knot Craft Lager and you'll be able to enter to win some sick Patagonia gear.

See you there!

**8:30am:** Volunteers meet at in the brewery parking lot.

**9:00 – 11am:** Clean and spruce up the river through town.

After the clean up, all volunteers and their families will receive lunch and a free pint of Odell.

## What's Happening In April?



**Board Meeting**, April 11 at 7:00 PM, Mulligan's. Everyone is invited to



attend  
**Monthly Meeting**, Duane Redford,



April 18 at 7:00 PM, Senior Center

### **Fly Swap**

The April fly is any "Lake Fly": Callibaetis, Chironomid, Boatman, terrestrial, frog, leach, minnow, etc. Contact **Dave Morse** if you wish to contribute. For the Fly Swap, you tie enough copies of one fly to exchange with the others, plus one fly for the evening raffle. Include the recipe on a small tag with your fly. Happy tying!

## From Phil Wright, Volunteer Coordinator

### The 2018 Conservation Field Season: The North Fork of the Big Thompson



Phil Wright

Rocky Mountain Flycasters has participated in riparian restoration projects on the North Fork of the Big Thompson River since shortly after the flood of 2013. To kick off the 2018 field season RMF volunteers again have an opportunity to partner with Wildland Restoration Volunteers (WRV) on Saturday, May 12 on the North Fork.

WRV describes the project stating, “Volunteers will spread pre-staged piles of compost, broadcast native seed specially collected by the US Forest Service, apply engineered wood straw mulch and plant native container stock grown out at WRV’s own micro nursery facility.” By joining with WRV, RMF volunteers can get on the stream early in the field season to improve riparian soil conditions, and plant seeds and container stock early in the growing season to give those plants a good start.

To register as a volunteer for the project, go to the [WRV registration page](#) for the “Big Thompson - Forest Service Flood II” project and click on “Register for this Project.” Wildland Restoration Volunteers will follow up with you concerning the details for the day’s project including meeting places, carpooling, conditions, equipment needed, and more.

I look forward to volunteering with you on the North Fork of the Big T on Saturday, May 12.  
– Phil Wright

## From Past President Wil Huett: The Behnke Fellowship

### Be Proud Flycasters!



Wil Huett, Past President

OK Flycasters, puff out your chests a little. Adjust your cap to a jaunty little tilt and Be Proud! Why? Because you and your chapter are having an effect on fisheries science across a wide spectrum of the Western states.

How?

Through our partnership with CSU and the late Dr Robert J Behnke, better known as Dr Trout, and the graduate fellowship established in his name.

A little history:

Rocky Mountain Flycasters adopted the idea of a Fellowship to honor longtime chapter member and world famed researcher Dr Behnke in the early 2000’s. Dr Behnke and his family endowed the fund with a generous gift in 2007 and since then it has become one of the premier fellowships awarded by the Warner College of Natural Resources at CSU. It is awarded annually to: a student of superior academic achievement whose research focuses on the biology, ecology and management of salmonids and/or cold water conservation and who demonstrates a commitment to the fisheries profession.

The 2017 award went to Kyle Christianson for his work on the effects of climate on trout habitat in high mountain lakes. Kyle will be a guest presenter at our April 18th meeting, and since much of his research has been done in the Rawah Wilderness you may pick up a few practical fishing pointers.

You can check out the past award winners, their research subjects and the wide range of their current activities by clicking the button at the end of this article. Just a little hint, there are at least four states involved and job descriptions ranging from fly shop owner/guide to senior research scientist.

The selection process for the 2018 Fellowship award is going on now and will surely add to the reputation of CSU, the Fellowship and Rocky Mountain Flycasters. As Professor Brett Johnson of CSU said, "Yeah, you guys are having an effect on the fisheries profession."

Be Proud, Flycasters...Be Proud.  
Click to Read Table

## Let's Go Fishing

### Fishing Trips for 2018



Mark Miller, Let's Go Fishing Coordinator

Listed below are our trips for 2018. If interested, please sign up on-line on our chapter website. We have quite a mix of fishing destinations for 2018. Hopefully there is something for you on this list. We hope you will join us for all the fun!

**April 27-29    Gray Reef, WY    Host: Ben Zomer**

April is a great time for big rainbows at Gray Reef, WY. Only 8 slots available. To secure your spot for this trip please email Ben Zomer directly if you want to go.

**May 17-19 (Thur-Sat)    Lake John in North Park    Host: Mark Miller**

Camping and fishing for fast growing rainbows in North Park. Delaney Buttes is also next door. Join us for any of the days that work for you. I.E., fish and camp Thurs-Friday, or Friday- Saturday, or Friday-Sunday, etc. Mark Miller will be there Thurs-Sat. Bring your boat or canoe or float tube. Lodging (on your own) is also available in Walden if you prefer that to camping.

**May 30    Private Waters, Red Feather Lakes    Host Bob Green**

Spend a day catching large brown, rainbow, brook, and palamino trout from these amply stocked private lakes. Limit of 4 anglers. Email Bob directly to reserve a spot.

**June 23rd    Joe Wright/Lake Agnes    Host: Dave Morse**

Date depends on ice-out timing. We'll fish for cutthroats early at Agnes, then Joe Wright for Grayling in the afternoon and evening hours. Always a fun time catching grayling.

**July – date TBD    High Country Lake, WY    Host: Ben Zomer**

Who doesn't want to catch a Golden Trout? A 2 mile hike for this rarest of trout

**Aug 22 (Wed)    RMNP Small Streams    Host: Bill Gillett/Mark Miller**

Small stream fun with dry flies in the Park makes for a great day!

**Sep date TBD    Frying Pan or Upper Green River in WY    Host: Ben Zomer**

3 day trip – still working on the location – either Frying Pan or Upper Green

Oct 5-6th – Kokanee Trip – S. Platte/Dream Stream Host: Mark Miller

Let's plan on driving to Fairplay Friday pm, get a hotel room, and then have a great day on Saturday fishing for Kokanee. Drive home late Saturday pm. Last year we cancelled our plans to fish on Oct 21st due to bad weather – hopefully, by fishing earlier in the month, we will be blessed with good weather.

Questions? Email [Mark Miller](#) or call 970-744-8229 (cell).

## The Library

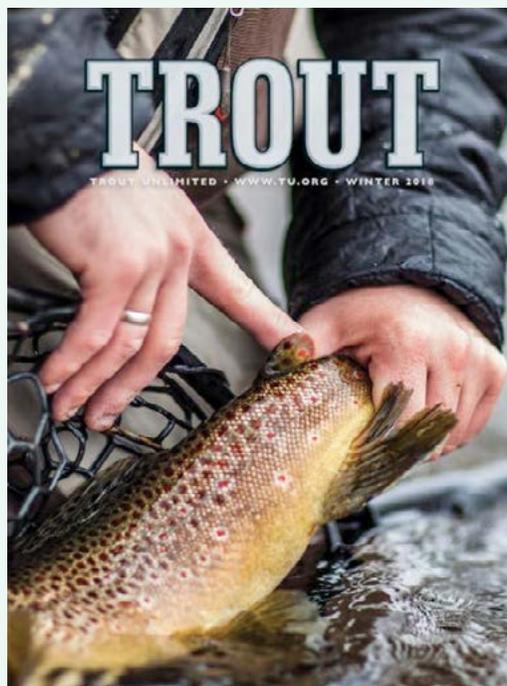
The active link (click) icons below represent a beginning attempt to put together a group of FREE resources available to fly anglers. The first (Trout Magazine) is published by Trout Unlimited-USA and the third (High Country Angler) is published by Trout Unlimited-Colorado. Both of these publications are limited to TU members. The others, however, are for everyone

This page will be continually updated so you can always get to the most current issue of both of these magazines. Just click on the icon of the magazine you wish to read.

Please help me update these magazines by sending the URL for any FREE resources that you find worthwhile. Happy reading!

# High Country Angler

## Hatch Magazine



# MONTANA

FLY FISHING MAGAZINE



The New  
**FlyFisher**

[Link for Chapter Events Calendar on our web site](#)

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[Buy RMF Merchandise](#)

## Sustaining Donors

### Rocky Mountain Flycaster Sustaining Donors



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