

# The Flypaper

April 2022



## A LEADER IN COLDWATER CONSERVATION

[Renew](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Join RMFTU](#)

[2022 Fly Tying EXPO Tickets](#)

## From the President

Welcome to your March newsletter. With the warmer weather our frozen lakes and ice-bound rivers are starting to slowly open up. I hope you have had a chance to catch a few early season fish!

What has your chapter been up to recently? Well, March was a very busy month. Your leadership council members met in person for a strategic planning session. Next, several board members met with representatives from the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed and Big Thompson Watershed Coalition to attend the CTU River Stewardship Gala, held again for the second year via Zoom. This was a great opportunity to get to know each other and start building those personal relationships which are so important to our work. Third, we held our March membership meeting in-person for the first time in over two years! We met at the Aztlan Community Center in north Ft Collins and had nearly 50 attendees, all happy to be able to see friends in person. Excellent presentations were given by **Kyle Battige** (CPW) and **Rachel Geiger** (USFS). Many thanks to Kyle and Rachel.



Our plans continue to come together for our Fly Tying Expo and Angler Rendezvous, to be held on **Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>** at the Northside Aztlan Center. I'll let Colin tell you more about this later in this newsletter.

Almost forgot, last Saturday several chapter members attended the Platte Rivers Veterans Fly Fishing annual banquet in Cheyenne, WY. Sure wish I could have been there, as I heard it was a great night with over 450 people in attendance, an excellent speaker, and many wonderful items for auction. This annual fundraiser is what supports the PRVFF program for the entire year. PRVFF activities include winter fly tying weekly in Cheyenne, Greeley, Loveland, and Ft Collins, winter rod building classes (you should see some of the rods made each year – quite impressive), and fishing trips, both one day and multi-day trips, all at no cost to the veterans. A great organization and RMF is proud to support PRVFF to thank vets for their service!

So that was March. What is coming up in April and May you ask?

April :

- Your council will finalize our chapter budget and strategic plan.
- On-going talks with USFS in reference to PHP projects for 2021
- River Appreciation Day Party and River Clean Up at Odell Brewing Company on Saturday April 30th.

May:

- Flylords-New Belgium Day May 7: To kick off Fat Tire's sponsorship of Flylords' "Fishing Ethics" series, Flylords and Fat Tire are teaming up to throw the party of the century at the New Belgium Brewery in an effort to raise money for the "Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed". Through beer, raffle, and ticket proceeds, Flylords and Fat Tire are working towards contributing a sizable donation to the CPRW in an effort to help the Poudre recover from the Poudre Canyon Wildfire of 2021. This event will include vendors, live music, a raffle of amazing fly-fishing gear, and of course – beer.
- Fly Tying Expo and Angler Rendezvous May 14<sup>th</sup>, noon-4pm, Northside Aztlan Center in Fort Collins

I hope you are looking forward to Spring like I am, and I hope you find time to get on the water.

Now get out there and have fun!

Mark Miller, President  
[President@RMFTU.org](mailto:President@RMFTU.org)



## Fly Tying Expo

After holding our first in person meeting of 2022 last month The Rocky Mountain Flycasters are excited to announce that we are holding our annual **Fly Tying Expo and Angler Rendezvous on May 14th at the Northside Aztlan Community Center from 12-4pm.**

Tickets are available here: <https://rmftu.org/2022expo>

In years past this event was held each February and for the last several years it has been our most attended event and a top fundraiser for the chapter. For 2022 in response to COVID-19 we have moved the event to May 14th, in order to ensure an in person event that is bigger and better than ever.

This year will feature locally and regionally recognized fly tyers demoing new patterns and offering one on one QA for tips and techniques. We'll also have fly casting demonstrations, speakers providing updates on conservation and volunteer opportunities with Rocky Mountain Flycasters and other local conservation groups. There will also be a raffle for door prizes and a silent auction with all kinds of fishing gear, fly tying accessories, guided trips, art and more!!

Beer and wine will be provided by Odell Brewing and local food trucks will be one site for lunch and snacks. So make a day of it and we look forward to seeing you on May 14, 2022!

**The Fly Tying Expo** started out as an informal trading of patterns and used gear among members and has become a regional draw for tyers and anglers. This event also provides the chapter with funds to support our programs such as the **youth summer camp, Poudre**



**Headwaters Project and our veterans programing.** We are looking for help from volunteers who are able to collect high quality donations of gear, art, trips and other fishing related items. If you are able to donate to the silent auction or would like to help collect donations from local businesses please contact Colin Glover today at [cglover@thegroupinc.com](mailto:cglover@thegroupinc.com) or any time at (720) 939-9571.

Purchase Expo Tickets



# Rocky Mountain Flycasters 2022 Fly Tying Expo and Angler Rendezvous

Returning in person at the Northside Aztlan Community Center in Fort Collins

**JOIN US ON  
MAY 14 FROM NOON - 4.**

Odell beer and wine will be available and food trucks will be in the parking lot.

Come join us to discover new fly patterns, connect with regional fly shops and tiers, learn about volunteer opportunities with local conservation organizations, make new friends and see some old ones.

All proceeds directly support local coldwater conservation efforts.



Find out more, get tickets and bid on raffle items by visiting

**rmftu.org/2022expo**

or scanning the QR code.



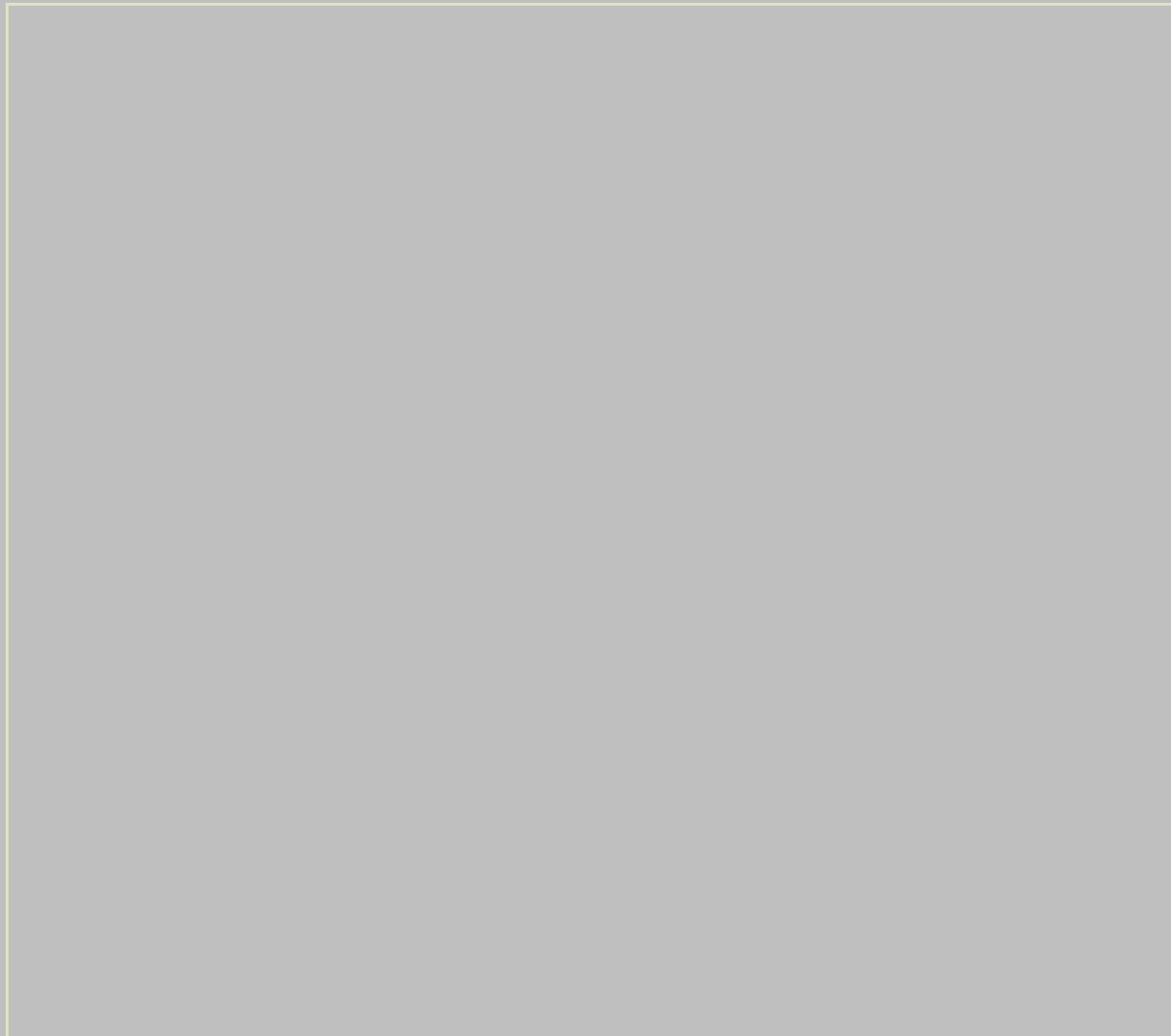
## Become A Poudre Headwater Project Ambassador

### **What is the Poudre Headwaters Project (PHP)?**

The Poudre Headwaters Project is a project in the area of Long Draw Reservoir and the headwaters of the Poudre River that will be the largest interconnected restoration area in Colorado. It's super cool, it's a legacy project and it's the kind of thing you want to get involved in if you care about conservation in the state of Colorado. It is the cornerstone project of Rocky Mountain Flycasters, a major project for CTU, and involves collaboration with the USFS and other agencies.

### **What is the Poudre Headwaters Project Ambassador Program?**

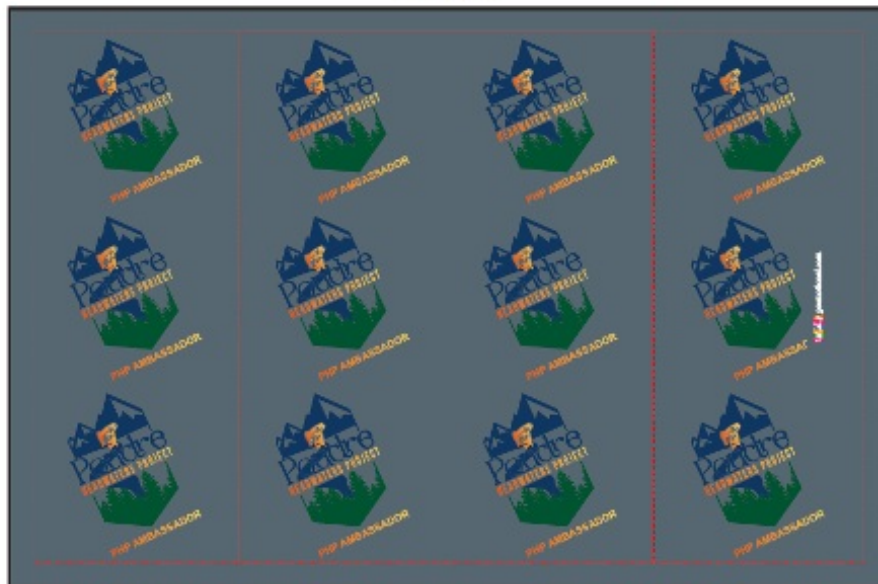
You guessed it. It's being an ambassador for the PHP. If you have a couple weekends a year to spend in the Long Draw area talking to folks about the project, want a neat topic to bring up during conversations, and want some wicked awesome swag - **here's where you can sign up.** Show me the wicked awesome swag you say? Sure, here it is in all its glory.







TOP OF NECK



## Support Big Thompson Watershed Coalition

Estes Park Rotary Club is hosting their 34th annual Duck Race Festival on **May 7th, 2022 at 1pm MST!** The Duck Race is a fun annual event that helps local organizations raise money and provides anyone who adopts a duck the chance to win awesome prizes.

This year the Duck Race is in person and **back on the river** – plus, live streaming of the race will be available!

**Ducks are \$22 each or \$110 for a Quack Pack of 6 ducks.** There will be up to **500 prizes to win**, from National Park getaways in Glacier and Yellowstone, to **cash prizes up to \$8,000**, to so much more!

When you adopt your ducks, you get to choose a charity to support. Please consider choosing **Big Thompson Watershed Coalition** for your charity. We will receive \$19 from each adoption. Our goal this year is to sell 210 duck and raise **\$4,000** for our work in the watershed, and we can only get there with your help!

Over the last year, Big Thompson Watershed Coalition has been a leader in **Cameron Peak Fire recovery** efforts, we worked with communities on **forest health** and wildfire risk reduction projects and planning, and we completed our **River Envisioning Project** that uses input from hundreds of community members and partners to outline priorities for Big T River enhancement projects over the next 20 years.

Without continued support from our community and partners, we will not be able to accomplish all the goals and work we have in the watershed. A duck purchased in support of BTWC will go directly toward our work of building a healthier more resilient watershed for all!

You can **adopt your ducks today** by scanning the QR code in the attached graphic with your phone/tablet camera or by visiting [epduckrace.org/big-t-watershed-coalition](http://epduckrace.org/big-t-watershed-coalition)

The event will begin at Fall River behind Nicky's Steakhouse in Estes Park starting at 1pm MST on May 7th, 2022. **We hope you win!**

On behalf of [Big Thompson Watershed Coalition](http://BigThompsonWatershedCoalition) – thank you for your support!

Mickey McGuire  
Past President  
Rocky Mountain Flycasters  
[Rmftu.org](http://Rmftu.org)  
[mcguiremr@gmail.com](mailto:mcguiremr@gmail.com)

**Adopt ducks to help Big Thompson Watershed Coalition raise \$4,000 and enter to win awesome prizes!**

1 duck "adoption" = \$22      6 "adoptions" = \$110

**Choose BTWC as your charity and proceeds from each duck will support our efforts to lead post-fire recovery and enhance watershed health in the Big T**

**Adopt your duck today!**

Scan the QR code with your phone or tablet camera

Or visit [epduckrace.org/big-t-watershed-coalition](http://epduckrace.org/big-t-watershed-coalition)

**ESTES PARK ROTARY DUCK RACE Festival**

**BIG THOMPSON WATERSHED COALITION**

**Purchase your ducks before 12pm MST on May 7th!**  
**Race starts at Nicky's Steakhouse in Estes Park at 1pm 5/7/2022**  
*live streaming available*



## 2022 Volunteer Orientation Meeting

After a gap of a couple years owing to covid-19, Rocky Mountain Flycasters will again hold an in-person **Volunteer Orientation Meeting in May 2022**. We are still working to finalize the meeting venue and date during the period **May 24-26 at 6-8 PM**. Please put the meeting time and date range on your calendar. We will provide further details and the meeting location in the May RMF Flypaper Newsletter. As details are finalized, look for details on social media and email blasts.

At this **Volunteer Orientation Meeting** you will again have an opportunity to learn about the different volunteer activities and 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, social media and the next Flypaper Newsletter for a link to sign up and express your interest in attending the **2022 Volunteer Orientation Meeting**. Thanks again, I look forward to seeing you at the orientation session and on the stream soon after that.

Phil Wright



## Veterans News

**Platte Rivers Veterans Fly Fishing** is a non-profit organization that works with local military veterans through fly fishing-related activities. **Rocky Mountain Flycasters** supports this organization, in part, by supplying mentors and instructors. RMFC veterans and volunteers can sign up to be a part of this program on [platterivers.org](http://platterivers.org).

In March, PRVFF completed their annual fund-raising banquet in Cheyenne in record form. Over 450 people attended and they were able to make a significant dent in funding the annual budget. This will provide fishing trips, fly tying and rod kits, at no cost to our local veterans. Our winter fly tying and rod making classes are winding down, but that means fishing is right around the corner. Day trips and a limited number of overnight trips are available to registrants at no cost.

Platte Rivers Veterans Fly Fishing meets regularly in Fort Collins, Loveland, Greeley as well as Cheyenne and Laramie. Contact **Dave Morse**, your RMFC veterans program coordinator ([dmorse@platterivers.org](mailto:dmorse@platterivers.org)) or the PRVFF website for more information. PRVFF will have a fly tying demo and information booth at the Scheels Outdoor Expo 2022 on April 9<sup>th</sup>, from 10-4. Come say hello.

Dave Morse



Tom Greenup, at Pierce Reservoir, a Wyoming lake leased by Platte Rivers Veterans Fly Fishing.



Sylvandale Ranch Expedition Group Pic



## Brookies Galore - Fun Trip!!

**FLY FISHING "FUN TRIP" - JULY 9TH  
COLORADO RIVER HEADWATERS  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK  
BROOKIES GALORE!**

*This trip is typically the first of hopefully many*



*FF Fun Trips again this year. RMNP timed gate entry regulations apply again this year beginning in May, so you might want to consider making reservations with plenty of lead time.*

The mighty Colorado River's headwaters present an entirely different character at about 8,800 feet before it transitions onto the flat, wide meadows crossing Kawuneeche Valley. Its early headwaters' gentle reaches ascend through cool shadows cast by towering spruce and pine, and here its headwaters surround you

with beautiful and exciting mystique. Each of its endless meanders holds a new challenge as the river gently surrenders elevation after its upper reaches pass through the historic Lulu City mining town's ghostly remains several miles above, though still well below its 10,184' LaPoudre Pass origin.

For a short distance, at first...you might encounter a Plein Aire artist in a nearby meadow off to your right capturing in his brush strokes the grandeur of the Grand Canal suspended from the majestic peaks of the Never Summer Range whose spine boasts the Continental Divide immediately to the West. Or a young couple may steal quietly by you with hands clasped eagerly seeking a hidden niche to share private moments...or through the brush you may spy an elderly couple on lawn chairs shaded by a sprawling fir, reading and enjoying warmth radiating from the meadow's sun line...all of these escaping life's fast pace.

One can't wade these reaches without reflecting upon the history that unfolded along these same banks a hundred years ago. And then suddenly behind you, just out of sight there sounds thundering hoof beats that send chills up your back...and you freeze in your tracks and turn your head to see a large moose hurrying off across yet another small meadow into the trees. He probably had been guardedly watching since several earlier turns when you noisily crossed the stream where it had narrowed. What a wonderland where every bend holds a new scene, a new allure, a new mystery that peaks your imagination.

Your rod-in-hand wade along these historic headwaters is so easy, relaxing and never tiring. When afternoon shadows begin to lengthen and you wonder if you should probably turn around, there's always another, and another, beautiful pool just ahead at the next bend...and the next...and so on. The beauty is magnetic; I always hardly allow myself to turn around...but of course, I must, and I begin the quiet walk back downstream, revisiting and drinking in again the feelings I experience as I revisit so many of the familiar scenes that engulfed me on my first visit here a quarter century ago.

This is my absolutely favorite stretch of pristine, Colorado mountain stream! For me it offers the essence of fly fishing. And you too can experience this almost out-of-body peacefulness. And "Oh, yes", I almost forgot to mention...you can also easily have a 45-50 fish day, not to mention all the spine-tingling misses that wriggled off your hook. Big fish? Very few; but many high-personality, colorful brookies plus an occasional cutthroat. This is a perfect outing for experienced anglers to unwind and laugh at themselves a lot, and for new anglers to learn a lot of valuable insights about how to read water and 'fish a river'.

**Details:** 7:00am carpools depart from the Jax Outdoors/Loveland West store located on the corner of West Eisenhower Blvd. (US 34) at Wilson Avenue. Riders share gas expenses with drivers; lunch is together sharing stories on the river, so bring water and pack snacks. At day's end each car's riders choose whether to grab a bite in Estes Park, or not, and continue homeward. More details are provided in plenty of time for you to prepare. To sign up, or if you've any questions, email Trip Coordinator, Dennis Cook at [rkytmnangler@gmail.com](mailto:rkytmnangler@gmail.com).



## Youth Fly Fishing Day Camp Returns



**Youth Fly Fishing Day Camp** is coming back this Summer 2022. After a couple of years off **Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter**, Trout Unlimited will be bringing back the Youth Day Camp this July. **Dates for the 2022 camp are Monday July 25th through Saturday July 30th.**

Each day will typically include both **fly fishing instruction and activities**. These activities will teach fly fishing recreation and stewardship which may include ecology and conservation of aquatic and riparian habitats. Camp is being planned to take place at locations in **Fort Collins and the Poudre River watershed.**



Participation in the Camp is intended for young people between the **ages of 14-17**. Necessary adult participants will include **instructors, guides, drivers, and mentors**. We're looking for Trout Unlimited members and friends who have an interest and experience in river conservation, fly fishing and have a desire to share in teaching and mentoring young people. If you know a young person who might be interested in coming to Camp please encourage them to apply. All of the information and application will be on the website <https://rmftu.org/youth-day-camp>. Please consider volunteering as an adult participant by going to the Rocky Mountain Flycasters Trout Unlimited (RMFTU) Volunteer Portal. We look forward to having full participation by youth and adults.

John Bryant  
Education Chairman  
RMFTU

Information and Application [HERE](#)

[RMF Volunteer Portal](#)



## RMFTU 2022 - 2023 Fundraising Plan

In addition to your membership in Rocky Mountain Flycasters, our leadership team invites you to also provide financial support. Funds are needed to help RMFTU **conserve, protect and restore** our local coldwater fisheries in Northern Colorado's Front Range; **create more volunteer programs**; and share the experience of fishing with additional people.

RMFTU's year-long plan for fundraising is conducted by our Financial Development Committee. The volunteer committee, chaired by Ron Hanser, includes members David Beede, Cullen Emsing, Colin Glover, Dave Haeusler, Zach Jory, Ryan Laudermilch, Mark Miller, Tony Popp and Ben Voss. The committee works to benefit RMFTU by elevating a "culture of giving" so our chapter can fulfill its mission.

Each RMFTU member is encouraged to consider contributing whatever they can and, if possible, donate \$50 to be recognized as a Sustaining Donor.

Here are donation opportunities for you during the next fiscal year:

- Purchase a ticket to attend RMFTU's annual fundraiser, Fly Tying Expo on May 14.
- Purchase RMFTU's online raffle tickets for a chance to win prizes, and help produce revenue for RMFTU.
- Register and participate in the Corporate Reward Programs of Amazon (AmazonSmile) and Kroger (Kroger Community Rewards); designate Rocky Mountain Flycasters to receive funds based upon your purchases. Complete information is available in the [July 2021 Flypaper](#)

- Respond to email campaigns during April and September when individuals (members and volunteers) and sponsors (businesses and organizations) will be encouraged to contribute.
- Attend the Donor Recognition event this summer.
- Participate in Colorado Gives Day in December and designating a gift to RMFTU.
- Purchase RMFTU-branded merchandise during our monthly general meetings.
- Ask if your employer offers “matching gifts” and arrange for the company to match your donations to RMFTU.
- Consider including RMFTU in your will, or donating assets.

You'll hear more about each activity via The Flypaper and emails throughout the year.

For more information, visit the DONATE page on RMFTU.org or email to Ron at [FinancialDev@RMFTU.org](mailto:FinancialDev@RMFTU.org).



## Larimer County Manager Retires

### Larimer County Manager Linda Hoffman Retires:

Our president, Mark Miller, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Linda Hoffman, Larimer County Manager, on March 8<sup>th</sup>, for her many years of service to protect our watersheds - specifically for her work with the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed, and the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition, to respond to several large scale natural disasters like the High Park fire, 2013 flood, and the Cameron Peak Fire. Due in large part to her hard work, Larimer County made significant efforts to help northeast Colorado recover from these natural disasters.

Thank you Linda!



Mark Miller and Linda Hoffman (Larimer County Manager) with Larimer County Commissioners. Pictured, left to right, are Kristin Stephens, John Kefalas, Linda Hoffman, Mark Miller, and Jody Shadduck-McNally.



## Poudre Headwaters Project

I recently read an article in Hatch magazine, written by Ted Williams. He says “the State of Montana, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service now have a rare opportunity to save Westslope and Yellowstone cutthroats (both endangered).”

*This sounds familiar, doesn't it? It sounds just like our Poudre Headwaters Project to restore the Greenback Cutthroat to the upper Poudre River.*

He then goes on to discuss the many threats to our native trout. “Of the myriad threats currently facing native trout, few if any are more deadly than non-native fish. For example, in the Great Basin and Rocky Mountains, non-native rainbow trout indigenous to the Pacific northwest are rapidly hybridizing cutthroat trout into oblivion. Of the 14 subspecies of cutthroats recognized in 2002 by Dr. Robert Behnke (1929-2013), then considered the world’s leading authority on salmonids, all are vastly diminished, and some are listed as threatened or endangered. Three were thought to be extinct at one time, including our greenback.

*In our case, on the upper reaches of the Poudre River, brook trout outcompeted our native greenbacks, resulting in their complete disappearance. And there was likely some hybridization*



*with rainbow trout as well.*

For many biologists the quest to restore native fish was rooted in guiding principles inspired by ecologist Aldo Leopold who said “that there are a lot of benefits of preserving native species, to preserving all the parts — just to leave a part of the natural world intact for our successors so they can have some inkling of what it was like here before man changed the whole ecosystem.”

I hope you will agree, restoring the Greenback Cutthroat to the upper Poudre River is a lofty and very worthwhile goal. I'm so glad that our chapter has the chance to be a part of this story. I know I'll be telling my grandchildren about it in the not-too-distant future!

Let's make history together!  
Mark Miller



## PHP Construction Oversight

**Help needed – with construction oversight:** Many of you are aware that our very own Dick Jeffries volunteered his time and talents to provide oversight during the construction of the Grand Ditch Upper Barrier last Oct-Jan. Well, we are in need of another volunteer with the right experience to once again provide oversight, this time for a new barrier going in on Corral Creek, just downstream of Long Draw Reservoir, this summer or fall. If you might be interested, please contact Mark Miller ([president@rmftu.org](mailto:president@rmftu.org)) as soon as possible. Having someone to fill this badly needed role will be extremely important to the success of this next PHP barrier. We believe CTU will hold the contract again on this barrier installation, so this person will be the eyes and ears on the ground for CTU.



## Member Profile



### Meet Wayne Carlson Membership Chair

In November 2014, just prior to my retirement, my wife, Annie, and I moved to Loveland from Swartz Creek, Michigan. Annie worked at setting up our new home while I commuted from Michigan until June of 2015. We discovered Loveland and northern Colorado when we vacationed in Estes Park in August 2014. In the five years prior to our Estes vacation we made many trips to Montana, Idaho, and Colorado searching for our retirement community. When we drove through Loveland on our way to Estes Park we looked at each other and said “I think this is the place”.

I initially became a TU member in the mid nineties. I renewed my interest in fly fishing, after spending seventeen years on active duty in the Navy, thanks to an apprentice I was working with on a construction project. He had been a salmon and steelhead guide on the Big Manistee River in Michigan. My interest in fly fishing and fly tying has grown ever since and was a motivating factor toward our decision to move to Colorado. As my enthusiasm for trout fishing grew so did my understanding of the role TU plays in the preservation of habitat and our environment in general. Cold water species of fish, trout and salmon in particular, are a barometer for the quality of our water ways. As much as I enjoy a day on the water fly fishing I know this opportunity may not be there for future generations if we don't address factors that impact fish habitat.

My introduction to trout fishing began at a very young age. I was born in Iron River, Michigan, a small town in the western end of the Upper Peninsula. Yes, I am a Yooper (UP-er). Both my grandfather and father were avid trout fisherman. My dad preferred bait fishing and tossing spinners and my grandfather was a fly fisherman. I spent countless days fishing the creeks and

rivers near our home with my grandfather, dad and brother. I was introduced to a fly rod by my grandfather, mainly because fly rods were the only fishing rods he owned. I would spend evenings fishing with him dunking night crawlers while he would casually catch a limit of brook trout.

My family moved from the UP to Flint, Michigan when I was eight years old. My brothers and I were very involved in the Boy Scouts where we learned a great deal about conservation and respect for the environment. In Scouts we had the opportunity to work on wildlife habitat and stream improvement projects. Two years after graduating from high school I enlisted in the Navy and trained to be a construction electrician, one of the ratings within the Navy SeaBee community. During my Navy career I also spent seven years as a Navy recruiter.

Following my time in the military I worked as an electrician and was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union. After twelve years of working with my tools as an electrician and electrical foreman I was hired to be the organizer for our local union. I was the organizer and business agent for six years and in 2010 I was elected to the position of Business Manager of our five hundred person local union. Following retirement and our move to Loveland I worked part time for a year, at Home Depot. In the fall of 2017 I hired into Scheels to work part time in their fishing/fly fishing shops. I managed Scheels Fly Fishing Shop for the entire year of 2021 and officially ended my employment the end on January 2022.



Wayne Carlson  
TMFTU Membership Chair  
[membership@rmftu.org](mailto:membership@rmftu.org)



## Invasive threat: Smallmouth bass caught near Yellowstone border

[Read Article HERE](#)



## Vince Herrera's St. Peter's Fly Fishing Report for April

Spring is finally here and after being in the shop for 3 years I can almost smell the excitement just oozing off of everyone. The snow fall we received mixed with the cabin fever we all feel makes for a ton of anticipation as we inch closer towards our run off season. I can't speak for everyone but I sure am excited to see how the Poudre is going to perform this year. Now that it has been about 2 years since the Cameron Peak Fire I sure do hope we get to see the Poudre River start to make a recovery but we will just have to wait and see. It's time to wrap up some of the tying we have been working so hard on and put some of those creations to work out





on the water. Whether you are waiting for some of your favorite lakes to ice off or looking forward to early spring dry fly fishing the time is now, folks.

As we emerge into April we will want to be stocked on the water with some small midges still. Don't completely throw them out of your pack yet because on the cool mornings I'd say before 10am you will see some very large midge hatches taking place. You will literally see piles and groups of midges on the water forming clusters and little chunks of midges. Have some Griffith's Gnats ready to throw. If they are hatching in large numbers then you know there must be tons of them down on the bottom of the river still so I'll fish annelids a lot as well as some Zebra Midges in the sizes 18-20. This will still be part of the fishes diet still but this is the time of year when I start to turn my focus to small mayflies. Around the front range, various species of mayflies will hatch at a variety of times but from March to May Blue Winged Olives will be on the menu. The blue winged olive nymph can best be represented with your classic old pheasant tail. Why fix it if it isn't broken right? This fly catches fish everywhere and is often overlooked by anglers of all ages. There's just so much fancy stuff out there but oftentimes going back to the basics is the key to success. I've been fishing those already in size 18's and 20's but I'll gradually increase these sizes as we move closer to may. If I'm not bouncing flies off the bottom at the beginning of the day I will decrease my depth as the BWO's begin to emerge off the bottom of the river. I always have had the most confidence in RS2's. This fly fishes so well either in the middle water column or in/just below the surface film where fish will pick off the vulnerable cripples. If you have ever seen fish making little dimples when they eat instead of hearing and seeing the splashes then this is your cue that the fish are sipping the bugs that haven't quite poked through the surface yet. They are literally crippled when they are trying to squeeze out of their nymph skin as an adult. Fish see this and know the fly cannot just take off thus earning a free meal while expending little energy. This phenomenon takes place several times in a day as the water gets to around 38 degrees so be ready. You can go out there with Pheasant Tails, Rs2's, and Parachute Adams and just crush fish all day. Have fun!

Keep your eyes peeled because now that we have reached spring, St.Peter's on the water classes are now back in session starting with On the Water Nymphing Strategies and Fly Fishing School on April 9th, 2022. Both of these classes cover a dense curriculum aimed to make your time out on the water more efficient and enjoyable. Fly Fishing School gets any newcomer familiar with the terminology, insect life, technique, knots and much more with a 4 hour class room session followed by an additional 4 hours on the water with our instructors for \$150 dollars. It's easy to find this info online but it's extremely hard trying to differentiate between what info you will absolutely need to remember and what information you might not need every outing. If you are beyond the basics, Nymphing Strategies is designed to help you dial in specific techniques despite the many variables that are taken into account with this go-to method of fishing. On April 23rd, our very own Dan Nicks will host our On the Water Streamer class. After a long winter when fish are ready to really feed on some big meals, streamers can bring some big, hungry fish to the net. It's a little more complex than just tying on a big fly and blind casting it into fast water and after catching a nice fish on a streamer it will quickly become one of your favorite ways to fish. This is an On the Water class where you will be in the water and covering specific material put together by one of our guides at the shop. The amount of knowledge attained will be useful for the rest of your time out on the water. We run these classes pretty frequently so if you can't make these dates, there's always a chance in the future. I hope to see some of you there with us, hanging out on the Poudre River.

Just recently I returned from a destination travel trip through St.Peter's. I want to share this briefly not to boast but to get you all to think about taking what I consider one of the best trips of my life. Costa De Cocos is located in Xcalak, Mexico just South of the Belize Border. We host this trip during the winter months through St.Peter's so everything lined up perfectly and Thomas and I got to check it out. For any angler aspiring to go on a saltwater journey then you should start here. This wonderland of a fishery just sets the bar so high on multiple levels. From the amazing people, the outstanding homemade food, to fishing the crystal clear flats of Mexico everything was just outstanding. Costa De Cocos seriously needs to publish a cookbook. From the moment you get off of the van you are greeted by wonderful people that love seeing you happy during your stay. The staff also happens to run the kitchen and bar and if you are up to it, getting to know these people make leaving the lodge that much harder. You make friends with the staff, the guides, and the other folks there that are enjoying their own experience outside of fishing. The food all comes from a local farm located just minutes away from the lodge where everything is made fresh on the daily. Stuff I have had here in America was just so much better in Xcalak where you can actually see the ground that the food comes from. Every day was a new experience with new opportunities awaiting only just footsteps away from your comfortable little polapa. You come back to a made bed, clear trash cans, and several bottled waters as your day

under the sun comes to an end. Not to mention the drinks in hand waiting for you as you get off the boat. The guides knew exactly where to find the fish every day and there was no shortage of sight fishing and a bent rod. You gain a whole new respect for having a freshwater fishery just moments away from your house and fishing in general. The hard work that your guide will do in order to get a fish on the end of your line is just incredible. Just try polling the boat and you'll see. A day on the boat out there is something you can only dream about and I would highly recommend checking this place out at some point during your fishing journey. The folks at Costa De Cocos are so humble, work incredibly hard, and have fun with you the whole time. It really makes you realize how fortunate we are to be able to leave Fort Collins, fly on a plane to Mexico, and enjoy their backyard for an entire week. If you have any questions on upcoming dates for this specific location just call the shop. It really is worthwhile and when you get back you will realize what a priceless experience it really is. Just start practicing your double hauls and back casts now because you will quickly be humbled on the front of that boat when there is a fish coming at you and you have to cast into a 20 mile per hour wind in one shot. Spring is here and so is some great fishing so stop by the shop and we will get you set up with the tools for the trade.



## Fishing Photos

### Your Fishing Photos:

I know many of you have some fun fishing photos from last summer. A lot of our members would love to see them in our Newsletter or on our Instagram page. Please share them by sending them to Mark Miller at [president@rmftu.org](mailto:president@rmftu.org).



## Video of the Month



Older Video of the Poudre - enjoy!



## Upcoming Events

Thursday, April 7 Pub & Dub  
RSVP [Marty Staab](#).

Wednesday, April 13 RMF Board Meeting

RMF Calendar





## RMF Merchandise

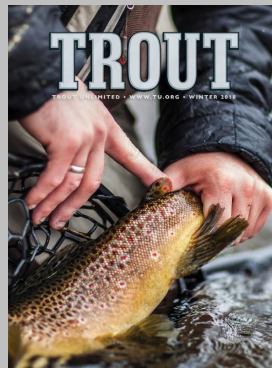
Purchase RMF Merchandise

Make a Donation



## Online Fly Fishing Magazines

High Country  
**Angler**



**MONTANA**  
FLY FISHING MAGAZINE

Hatch Magazine

The New  
**FlyFisher**

Dun Magazine



## Rocky Mountain Flycasters Sustaining Donors



St. Peter's Fly Shop



**Cutthroat Trout Donor**

Art Campfield  
Frederick Ebert  
Jeffery P. Burluson  
Jerry Peters  
John and Tharon Deakins  
QDROMAN

**Rainbow Trout Donor**

Bob Green  
David Beede  
Dennis Cook  
Gary Fonay  
Ron Kee  
Mark Miller  
Mickey McGuire  
Rocky Mountain Angling Club  
St. Pete's Fly Shop  
Zach Jory

**Brown Trout Donor**

Bret and Jayla Poppleton  
Bryan Hoag  
Carl Chambers  
Carol Cochran  
Chuck Negrelli  
Colin Glover  
Daniel Arguello  
Dave Haeusler

**Brown Trout Donor  
(cont)**

Dave Richardson Art  
Dennis Cook  
Doug Nagel  
Eric Philp  
Fred Boutin  
JAX Outdoor Gear  
Jay and Jeannie Weaver  
Jim Danforth  
John Craig  
Lee Evans  
Mike Malvey  
Paul Bunker  
Paul Wehr  
Philip Paarlberg  
Ronald Hanser  
Ryan Hogan  
Ruthie Ketola  
Robert Streeter  
Scott Baily  
She's Fly  
Stephen Brutscher  
Ted Sammond  
Terri L. Smalley  
Thomas Schultz  
Tom Culbertson  
Willam Rosquist  
Zen Tenkara Flyfishing  
Zen Tenkara

**Brook Trout Donor**

Anthony and Rita Popp  
Ben Voss  
Bernard Birnbaum  
Billy Draper  
Brett Foreman  
Brett Johnson  
Charles Revier  
CSU AFS  
David Smeltzer  
Douglas Nagel  
Eric A. Pettine  
Gary Littauer  
Jane Looney  
Jim Ferguson  
John Kammlade  
Kevin Mabry  
Mike Davis  
Richard Krebs  
Swift River Fly Fishing  
Terrance Sullivan







[RMFTU.org](http://RMFTU.org)  
P.O. Box 1694, Fort Collins, CO  
80524-1694

