



*Editor's Note: The social hour for the general meeting on April 20th will start at 7:00 pm and the program follows at 7:30 pm (this is a change from our normally times). 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. Thank you!*

April 2011

# The Flypaper

*News and Events from the Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter of Trout Unlimited*

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## RMF Quick Links

**Dear Bryon,**

There is no doubt this weather causes us to want to go fishing, and I'm sure many of you already have. We'll do our best to fish the early season before runoff, then turn to our favorite places to go during runoff. We have had some great speakers this year talk to us about a variety of fishing options and we have another one this month. We are honored to get Pat Dorsey to share his expertise on tail water fishing, and know he is definitely one of the best. Call your friends and relatives and invite them to hear what Pat has to say.

Then next month we'll hear from Steve Schweitzer and his ideas on fishing in Rocky Mountain National Park. His book on this subject has received great reviews and surely belongs in your bookcase. It is hard for me to think that the May meeting will be the last meeting of my presidency and the last meeting until the following September, but your chapter is really ending the speaker season with two very excellent guys.

We will have elections in May and there is more about that in a later article in this newsletter. I have always been impressed with the volunteer help that comes from this chapter and truly expect that to continue as we put out a call for Board members.

I want to give a special thanks to the 13 members who ran our booth at the Larimer County Fishing Show. We met a lot of people and hopefully will gain members from it. We are actively recruiting kids ages 14 - 18 for our Youth Camp, and found a number at the fishing show. If you know of any kids you think would like to do our fishing camp, please send them to our [website](#) for the application forms.



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Dennis Cook

Summer means active volunteer opportunities and we'll be sending out requests via e-mail. Mark your calendars for the Thompson River/Narrows Park cleanup scheduled for June 18. We are also looking at other projects along the Poudre and will be letting you know how you can help.

Our chapter is growing, active, and getting recognized by many as THE organization in Northern Colorado to protect, sustain, and restore cold water fisheries and their watersheds. I'm very excited about that...but I'm also looking forward to going fishing.

[Lee Evans](#), President

*"The best time to go fishing is when you can get away."*  
~ Robert Traver

## Featured Guest Speaker for April

Greg Evans, Secretary



Pat Dorsey will be Rocky Mountain Fly Casters featured speaker for the April 20th meeting. Pat Dorsey has an unsurpassed reputation in Colorado and the world for his expertise on Tailwater Fishing and his ability to teach anglers to be successful. The "real deal," Mr. Dorsey has been fishing Colorado Rivers almost his entire life and guiding out of Blue Quill Anglers in Evergreen Colorado for over two decades. He has developed flies and written three books, the latest, [Tying and Fishing Tailwater Flies](#), just recently released. He speaks around the country and is a favorite local celebrity at the International Sportsman's Expo in Denver every year.

Pat Dorsey joins us for a rare Northern Colorado appearance to give his lecture on "Tailwater Flies." Please join us to give Pat a warm welcome. He will have his books available for signing after his talk. We are fortunate and honored to have such a valuable conservationist agree to speak with our chapter. Don't miss Pat Dorsey!

Social hour begins at 7:00 pm (normally 6:30 pm) and the program follows at 7:30 pm (normally 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.

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[Elkhorn Rod & Reel](#)

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## Upcoming Elections - Volunteers Needed!

[Lee Evans](#), President

Are you looking for more fun and the opportunity to promote better fishing and conservation in our area? HELP! Your chapter is in need of persons willing to serve on the Board of Directors. Following our Bylaws, we have need of a candidate for President, Vice-president, and two at-large positions. Elections will be held at our General meeting on May 18, 2011. I promise to make sure those positions are not too difficult or time consuming.



As immediate past president, I will continue to be involved and will be of assistance to any Board Member who needs it.

Ideally, the candidate for **President** should come from a present Board member; however, that is not essential. There are many of you in our membership who could be president and already have the necessary experience to run a meeting and emcee the General meetings. The present members of the Board and of the volunteer council are fantastic at making the president's job a breeze.

It is helpful that a **Vice-president** would be a person who would consider running for President at a later time, but this is not essential to holding the office. All of the Board members pitch in to find speakers for our meetings, but the vice president is responsible for keeping the schedule and making follow-up emails.

The two **At-Large** positions are perfect for someone who wants to get involved and learn more of the workings of the chapter before becoming an officer. Here is a chance to give a bit more to Rocky Mountain Flycasters.

I am happy to report I have candidates for Secretary and Treasurer and appreciate these people for stepping up. We have 11 Board meetings per year, on the 2nd Wednesday of the month for about 2 hours. Please [email me today](#) and say that you'll help out. It's a lot of fun and not hugely demanding. Our Chapter needs you. Thank you in advance.

## Membership Record Shattered

[Bryon Fessler](#), Membership Chair

We continue to shatter our previous membership record in terms of the number of Chapter-acquired new members for this fiscal year and we want to keep that momentum going. **To date, we have 28 Chapter-acquired new members for the current fiscal year!** This is truly a huge accomplishment and it is something that all of us can celebrate. For comparison purposes, we had seven Chapter-acquired new members for the previous two fiscal years and three Chapter-acquired new members the fiscal year before that.

With five months left to go in the current fiscal year, **we urge you to ask your family, friends, fellow anglers, and coworkers to join Trout Unlimited** and help protect our country's trout and salmon fisheries. Our Chapter needs new members because they bring in new ideas and talents.



They also renew at a higher rate than other members and are more likely to become active members that attend Chapter meetings, come to workdays, serve as Chapter leaders, etc.

It is easy to join TU at the special introductory rate of just \$17.50. This low introductory rate is available to new members only and \$15 of your \$17.50 dues is automatically rebated back to our chapter when you [sign up at this website](#) and select "Colorado" and then "010 - Rocky Mountain Flycasters". In addition to knowing you are doing your part to protect the resource we all enjoy, you will also receive the following membership benefits: 1-year subscription to TROUT magazine, TU calendar (mailed late Summer), official TU membership card, car rental & hotel discounts, TU decal, Rocky Mountain Flycasters membership, and five free raffle tickets if you sign up at one of our monthly meetings.

[Sign up today!](#)

## Trail Maintenance Days 2011

[Guy Turenne](#), Project Leader and At-Large Member

RMF has been involved in Trail Maintenance at the Larimer County [Eagle's Nest Open Space](#) and The Nature Conservancy's [Phantom Canyon Preserve](#) for several years. These are part of our Chapter's volunteer efforts. For Eagle's Nest, this assists Larimer County by providing trail maintenance that may not otherwise be done, keeping trails in better shape for safer and more enjoyable use. For Phantom Canyon, trail maintenance keeps the trail marked and cleared of vegetation along the North Fork of the Cache La Poudre and following a morning of work, participants can enjoy an afternoon fishing.

The County provides tools and staff supervision for trail maintenance efforts. This means overtime pay for staff that works on weekends. This year in an effort to get the most out of their available resources, Larimer County is asking participating volunteer groups to consider a weekday as one of their work days in order to reduce overtime costs. **The days RMF has volunteered for are Wednesday, June 1st and Saturday, October 8th.** The June 1st date is after schools have let out so hopefully some students will volunteer. People interested in signing up should contact me directly. The County requests that participating groups have a minimum of 10 participants for trail maintenance



activities. **I need to confirm our participation a week in advance so make sure you [contact me](#) by May 25th for the June 1st date and October 1st for the second date.**

**For Eagle's Nest, trail maintenance is an all day affair.** We generally start at the parking area around 9:00 a.m. and work until around 4:00 p.m. with a mid-day lunch break. The work can involve removing vegetation encroaching on trails, rebuilding water bars, etc. using a variety of hand tools. Participants should dress accordingly and bring along water, lunch, work gloves, appropriate footwear, a hat and sunscreen.



**Trail maintenance at Phantom Canyon is a bit different.** There is a trail at the bottom of the canyon that runs alongside the North Fork of the Poudre for roughly 6 miles and crosses the river several times. Maintenance here involves rebuilding the rock cairns that mark the trail and cutting the vegetation along the trail. The vegetation is mostly grass and is cut with gas operated weed whackers, with lopping shears used on any heavier woody growth.

The trail down into the canyon from the visitors center is less than a half mile long but there is a 500' change in elevation so it is fairly steep, please keep this in mind when signing up. Again, participants should bring along water, lunch, work gloves, appropriate footwear, a hat and sunscreen. In addition participants will be carrying tools into and out of the canyon along with any fishing gear brought along if you decide to fish in the afternoon. If you will not be fishing, you should still bring along wading gear for crossing the river. Due to the limited access at Phantom Canyon which involves a locked gate at the main road, once you start the day there it is difficult to leave early so plan accordingly. Parking is severely limited at Phantom Canyon so carpooling is strongly advised.

**Signing up for Phantom Canyon trail maintenance will be done one of two ways.** Once the dates are confirmed by The Nature Conservancy in their [newsletter](#), we will have a link on the RMF website that will take you to The Nature Conservancy online sign up. The other method will be to go directly to [The Nature Conservancy website](#). There are three dates being scheduled for this year: **Sunday, July 17th, from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. with a back up date of July 24th in case of bad weather; Sunday August 14th, same times, with a back up date of August 28st; and Sunday,**

September 18th, same times, with no back up date.

## What Would "Ike" Say?

### What Will You Say?

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair

Ike was Dwight D Eisenhower, 34th President of our nation and, during World War II, Supreme Commander of all Allied Forces in Western Europe. Ike was known for his encouraging smile, firm determination, and persuasion skills that carried him through tough times in both war and peace. Ike was also an avid flyfisher whose favorite recreation was trout fishing on Colorado's Fraser River.

If Ike were to posthumously visit to the Fraser River today, here is one of the sights he would see.



*Jim Creek at the Fraser River canal pipeline (photo courtesy [Grand County Stream Management Plan](#))*

You are looking at Jim Creek, a tributary of the Fraser as it was in August 2008. No, those damp red rocks are not the real Jim Creek. The rocks only tell you where Jim Creek used to be when Ike fished the Fraser. Now, almost in its entirety, Jim Creek is captured at a diversion structure upstream of this point and it becomes part of the water that flows overhead to the east slope through that giant steel tube.

During Ike's fishing days, the mission of Jim Creek was to deliver cold water to the Fraser and Colorado Rivers, and to provide spawning habitat for trout. Today, the mission of Jim Creek is to divert west slope water to thirsty people and bluegrass lawns in Denver. And about half of the water delivered to Denver from this and other inter-basin diversions is used to sustain lawns and landscaping.

So, ponder the question: **"What would Ike say if he were able to visit the Fraser River today?"** We cannot know exactly what Ike would say, but we can presume he would not speak favorably of the scene. In Ike's absence, we can read what one of today's fishing guides on the Fraser says, and it's not good news. [Click here to see what Jeff Ehler says in the Denver Post article.](#)

As of now, about 65% of the Colorado River's natural flows are being diverted to east slope water users, not only in Denver, but all up and down the Front Range from Denver to Fort Collins. And the two water suppliers that deliver those diversions propose to divert even more Colorado River water to the east slope. Doesn't that sound like a threat to collapse the entire fishery of the upper Colorado River basin?

#### **What will YOU say about that threat?**

The [Colorado Wildlife Commission](#) is currently reviewing proposals by those two water suppliers, [Denver Water](#) and [Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District](#) (Northern), as to how they would manage the operation of their respective water supply systems to preclude further degradation of the Colorado River and Fraser River ecosystems and fisheries, and possibly improve the already degraded condition of those fisheries.

The Wildlife Commission invites comments from the public on those proposals. Final versions of the proposals were presented to the Commission on April 7th. **Public comments will be accepted until June 6, 2011**, and should be sent to:

Colorado Wildlife Commission  
c/o Public Involvement Unit  
Colorado Division of Wildlife  
6060 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80216  
[wildlife.comm@state.co.us](mailto:wildlife.comm@state.co.us)

Colorado Trout Unlimited will soon be issuing a list of talking points for TU members to use in formulating their personal comments. [Click here to receive those talking points and updates on the status of proceedings via email.](#) Your comments will carry weight in the ensuing decisions by the Commission.

## Greeley Water Festival

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair



The [Water Festival's](#) purpose is to educate fourth grade students "...on the importance of water as a valuable resource, and how it impacts our natural environment...". RMF has been invited to participate in this annual event. **The Festival will be**

**held on April 27th from 9:00 a.m. 'til 2:00 p.m.** (plus

setup/teardown time) at the Island Grove Regional Park. Groups of 30 students (with counselors) will rotate through our 'classroom' area for 20-minute sessions, scheduled with a 20-minute break between sessions. We will host six or seven such sessions, and volunteers will be provided a complimentary lunch break.

Our 'classroom' will consist of two banquet tables/chairs and an audio/video floor area. We will give a brief talk about river insects and their importance as indicator species' of healthy water, show a brief entomology video segment, have a brief activity and provide an informative 'take home' handout.

**We need six volunteers to handle this opportunity** to introduce local youngsters to a few basic concepts about why we must take care of our coldwater resources.

[Please email or call me to volunteer](#) (970-372-9229).

## Larimer Boys & Girls Club - Conservation & Fishing Classes

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

Volunteers are needed to help present a series of eight, mostly one-hour, after school introductory conservation & fishing classes for the Fort Collins Larimer Boys & Girls Clubs on April 25 & 28 and also May 3, 5, 9, 12, 17, & 19. Sessions begin at 3:30pm. Topics include Intro to Fishing, Casting & Knots, River Insects & Fish Anatomy, Conservation Principles, Basic Fly Tying, Refresher Casting & Knots. On May 9th we'll be seining & identifying bugs at Lions Park for a couple hours, and on May 19th we'll have a final couple hours Fishing Class at Swift Ponds.

This is not specifically a fly fishing series. Rather, it differentiates spin and fly fishing, and emphasizes fishing as an interesting and exciting recreational pastime, while associating the conservation message throughout the series. Youths in the classes will most typically be varied across ages 11 through 16.

Volunteers can present any selection of single or multiple classes they prefer...so that it can be an enjoyable experience.

[Please email or call me to volunteer](#) (970-372-9229).

## Youth Day Camp

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

Volunteers for the many interesting Day Camp scheduled activities have begun notifying me, but we still have need of more. [Visit the Day Camp Volunteers webpage](#) to see the





schedule and described volunteer opportunities.

RMF Fly Tiers! You can help too, and in a big way. We need a variety of basic flies for the campers. A list of the flies appears on the [Day Camp Volunteers webpage](#).

**Please note that the deadline for submitting your RMF Youth Camp application is May 31, 2011.**

[Please email or call me to volunteer](#) (970-372-9229).

## Trout in the Classroom

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

On April 5th, CDOW Senior Fish Pathologist, Pete Walker, visited with our Windsor High School TIC Student Fish Team. He chatted briefly with two seniors who plan to attend college this fall for major studies related to careers in the Division of Wildlife or U.S. Forestry Service, and two other underclassmen who will form the core of our Student team next year.



*Dissecting and collecting tissue samples*

The main purpose of Pete's visit was to sample 16 of our least healthy looking fish, dissecting them and collecting tissue samples. Three samples are taken from the kidney and one from the spleen, to be analyzed for various diseases. The Student Team helped Pete with the dissection and preparation for some to be shipped to a Montana laboratory and the rest to the CDOW Aquatic Pathology Laboratory in Brush, Colorado. It typically requires at least

30-days for these analysis to be completed, after which we hope for a 'clean bill of health' so we can then arrange with our local CDOW Aquatic staff to coordinate a release of our fish.

Following this sampling our TIC tank still has about 40 very healthy fish, many easily 4-inches long and with a robust girth. [Visit the TIC page on our Chapter website](#) to view photographs of our Student Team dissecting for pathology samples.

RMF is currently also investigating a second TIC opportunity at another NoCO school location that has approached us. More information will follow as this new opportunity develops.

## Fly Fishing Merit Badge

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

Registration for the planned training session was small, so our volunteer support was not required. RMF will be setting up a BSA Fly Fishing Merit Badge Counselor program, however, and will be contacting those who volunteered to consider this alternative. Merit Badge Counselors work with a couple Scouts at a time at mutually convenient times scheduled by the Counselor, and are not limited by large class logistics.

Merit Badge counseling isn't intended to make a Scout 'proficient' as we most might normally think; instead, the objective is to achieve an introductory skill level sufficient for the Scout to continue fishing until he decides if it is an interest he chooses to pursue. Typically, this requires only one or two counseling sessions and several hours on a river and/or pond...plus the Scout's own additional practice.

The [BSA website shows](#) the Fly Fishing Merit Badge requirements and some additional online instructional resources.

## Say NO to Genetically Modified Fish

Jack Williams, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, Trout Unlimited



As the senior scientist at Trout Unlimited, I'd like you to join me in urging the FDA to conduct a full environmental impact statement before approving genetically modified salmon. A group known as AquaBounty has created a new type of fish by mixing the genes of a Chinook salmon and an eel-like fish called an ocean pout. They are seeking approval from the FDA. This one decision could change wild salmon fisheries forever. If these genetically engineered fish are approved, and escape into the wild, fisheries experts say they could cause catastrophic damage to the last remaining stocks of wild salmon. AquaBounty has established safeguards to make sure that their stocks of genetically modified fish are sterile and have no way of escaping confinement, but who will ensure the proper sterilization and confinement of these fish as their use extends to global markets?

We simply want the FDA to conduct a full environmental impact analysis and consult with salmon fisheries experts from federal agencies like NOAA Fisheries and the Fish and Wildlife Service before making their decision. It's up to you and me to stand up and protect wild salmon and healthy fisheries. Until we have more information, and until we've assessed all of the risks, the FDA should not approve this fish.

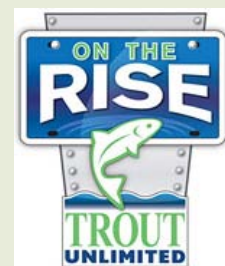
[Click here to sign the petition.](#)

Thanks for your support of Trout Unlimited.

## On the Rise - 2011 Season

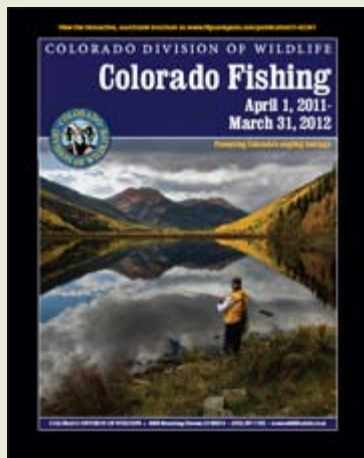
Article Courtesy [Trout Unlimited](#)

Trout Unlimited's television program *On the Rise*, began its third season on [Sportsman Channel](#) on March 28th. The show will air at the following times: Mondays at 1:00 p.m., Tuesdays at 10:30 p.m., Fridays at 7:30 a.m., and Saturdays at 12:30 p.m. Please note that all times are Eastern. The 2011 season is hosted by Jed Fiebelkorn. A world-class angler, Jed is a Montana fishing



guide and outfitter, a former professional hockey player and previously, the host of Fly Fisherman's television program.

## Colorado Annual Fishing License



It is finally spring and that means it is now time to get your fishing license renewed. April 1st is the date when the season begins for your Colorado Annual Fishing License. A Colorado fishing license is required for anyone 16 and older who fishes in Colorado. An annual fishing license is \$26 for Colorado residents and \$56 for nonresidents. Seniors 64 and older who are residents of Colorado can purchase an annual fishing license for \$1. This year

Senate Bill 235 of the Colorado Revised Statutes authorizes changes to the [Habitat Stamp](#) beginning April 1, 2011. Changes include: The Habitat Stamp will cost \$10, individuals will only have to purchase one Habitat Stamp for the entire season (April 1, 2011 - March 31, 2012), and the lifetime Habitat Stamp will cost \$300. What this means is your Annual License will have a total cost of \$36.

For more information the Colorado Division of Wildlife has a new on-line [Colorado Fishing Brochure 2011](#).

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