



September 2011

The Flypaper

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

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Dear Bryon,

Here we are finishing up a great summer for Rocky Mountain Flycasters. We had a very productive summer, thanks to the many volunteers who gave of their time to help us achieve our vision.

The biggest news is that Dick Jeffries has agreed to be appointed vice president by the Board. Dick has been attending Board meetings and agreed to take a leadership role, and we all really appreciate that. You can read more about him in this newsletter. He has already begun to line up speakers and further our cause. Many thanks to Dick for stepping up.

As you know, we will ask you to vote on the revised bylaws at the September 21 meeting. Dick and Dave Piske will be available to answer questions, and you can view the [proposed changes](#) on our website. Most of the changes are minor wording changes to keep our bylaws in line with National Trout Unlimited. The most significant, perhaps, is the change of the term limits of the office of President from 2 terms to 3 terms. If the new bylaws are approved, I expect the board to appoint me president for a third term. This is not a bad thing, in my view, but we really need to spread the leadership roles to include more members.

I think you will find Grant's talk about fall fishing the Poudre interesting and informative. This is a meeting where you can gather information and put it to use for yourself the next day. We all fish the Poudre, but the collective information Grant gathers from his own and his guides' experiences will increase our success. I believe this is the ideal first meeting topic. Bring your fishing friends and increase your knowledge of our own Poudre River.

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE: The Holiday Party has been changed to Friday, December 9. We had originally scheduled it for Thursday, but booking issues at C B & Potts on West



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Elizabeth caused us to move it to Friday. Mark your calendars now and save the date.

On a personal note, I will be fishing the Snake in Wyoming with my sons and sons-in law and will not be at this meeting. I'll surely be thinking of all of you as I watch my boys hammer the Snake River Cutthroats with huge hopper patterns. Well, at least that's the plan!

Thanks for all you do for our chapter and, as always, we value and appreciate your feedback. Do you have a speaker or topic you'd like to see at one of our meetings? Contact one of the board members and we'll look into booking it. You all should be fishing your tippetts off...now is the best time of the year.

[Lee Evans](#)

Interim President

A wild trout in its native habitat is a compact example of the Earth working well. ~Cristopher Camuto

Greeley's Milton Seaman Reservoir Gates

[Lee Evans](#), Interim President



Rocky Mountain Flycasters has just received the following notice from Eric Reckentine, Deputy Director of Water Resources for the City of Greeley. This news may affect the fishing and water quality of the stretch of the North Fork of the Poudre from Seaman's Reservoir down to the confluence with the main stem. The City of Greeley is working closely with CDOW and all necessary approvals are in place. Our Chapter wishes to inform you of this repair and will keep you posted as to developments. If you're fishing there and see conditions that alarm you, please send an email to [Lee Evans](#). The notice reads:

Greeley's Milton Seaman Reservoir gates have faced a gradual loss of mechanical function and has compromised safe reservoir operations. The existing outlet gates, and the hydraulics that operate them, date back to the original reservoir construction in the late 1940s. Despite routine

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maintenance over the years, two of the five gates are currently inoperable.

Greeley has determined that it must replace all five gate cylinders and associated hydraulic elements to ensure the continued safe operation of the reservoir. The City plans to start the project on September 14, 2011 and complete it no later than April 1, 2012. Unfortunately, Greeley cannot perform this maintenance without some temporary impacts to the Poudre River North Fork and potentially its main stem. I would like to speak with you and keep you informed of the potential impacts which will include darkening of the water, potential sheen from the biodegradable oils removed from the existing hydraulic system, and potentially fish kill. We have contacted or are in the process of contacting the affected parties, and have regulatory approvals etc.

[Click here to see a map of the area.](#)

[Click here to read the article in the Greeley Tribune.](#)

Trustee Profile - Dick Jefferies

Editor's note: *Dick was recently appointed to the Board of Trustees and he currently serves as the RMF Vice President. Here are a few Q&As to get to know Dick a little better:*



Can you tell us a little bit about yourself, where you grew up, and how you

became interested in TU? I am a native Coloradoan born and raised on a farm northeast of Brush and more specifically near the small farming community of Hillrose. If memory serves me correctly, I was with the same six kids for the first six years of elementary school in Hillrose. Imagine my culture shock moving to Ft. Collins in the late 70's when the population was around 55,000 people. I have fond memories of growing up on the family farm but especially of my Dad's insistence that at least once a summer we had to get to the mountains for some fly fishing. I still have the rod and reel my Dad bought for me when I was young and have managed to keep a few of the flies we used back then. I have known about TU for years and recently, when I saw some of the activities the local organization was doing in the area of youth development, I was convinced it was a place for me to serve.

Why are you interested in serving on the Board? After several years of leadership in non-profit youth service organizations, especially one serving an outdoor and service mission, I became accutely aware of the value volunteers bring to the non-profit world. I did and still do marvel at the impact a small group of dedicated individuals can have

when they are simply directed by the mission of an organization. Since I believe whole heartedly in the mission of Trout Unlimited and therefore the mission of the local chapter, I know there will be ample opportunity for great good to come from volunteering my time with this organization. Furthermore, what could be better than volunteering your time with a group of individuals, both men and women, who hold the sport and art of flyfishing so dear. Good people, an opportunity to serve my community through a solid organization and all centered around flyfishing. So surprising, this opportunity to serve in Nirvana.

What motivates you as a volunteer? I think the motivation an individual brings to a group is directly proportionate to their belief in the mission of the organization. Some individuals will show up stick a toe in the water try to be as helpful as possible, some show up willing to wade in wherever they are needed regardless of their comfort level, then there are those that dive in and will do everything they can to lead the organization forward in an ever fresh and positive direction. To me all of those individuals are important in their own way. The difference however, in those volunteers, is the depth of their commitment to the mission of the organization. I believe in the mission of Trout Unlimited and am willing to do what is necessary to advance the cause of the local chapter throughout the greater community of Northern Colorado. I am especially excited about the opportunity to 'reach out' to the youth of our community and share the nature of our mission with them. That mission, 'to conserve, protect and restore North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds', becomes even easier to believe in when you condense it into its simplest construct - 'If it's good for the trout, it's good for the people'.

Nominating Committee

[Dennis Cook](#), Nominations Committee Chair

You will read more in this issue about Dick Jefferies who has stepped forward to serve RMF as our Vice President. Dick's name will be submitted to the chapter board, in compliance with chapter bylaws, for appointment approval to fill that vacancy at the September Board meeting. Dick has substantial non-profit outdoor youth organization leadership experience as board member and board president of the Campfire USA Colorado-Wyoming Council. He also was an enthusiastic volunteer throughout RMF's entire 2011 Youth Day Camp. Dick is a long-time fly angler and new RMF member.

Eric Pettine has also stepped forward and volunteered to co-coordinate RMF's 2011-'12 Trout in the Classroom activity at Windsor High School. Eric is a longtime RMF member, prominent fly angler and fly tier, guide and contributor to articles in angling magazines.

The Nominating Committee's focus now is to identify members who might be interested in chapter Board

positions for the May 2012 election. A Vice President candidate will be needed to succeed Dick Jefferies, and we will also need candidates for Board Members At Large. Additionally, there are requirements for several Youth Activity Coordinators and other committee positions.

The Nominating Committee remains active seeking members who will step forward to explore RMF's various leadership needs, and who want to help continue building our chapter to become a Colorado leader. Please email one of the following committee members and arrange a time to discuss the various chapter leadership opportunities.

[Dennis Cook](#)
[Lee Evans](#)
[Stephanie Mullins](#)
[Bob Streeter](#)

"Day for Kids Festival"- Saturday, Sep 17

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

Three to five volunteers are still needed (we only have two) to help staff RMF's booth at the Larimer Boys & Girls Clubs "Day For Kids" Festival. Volunteers will demonstrate and teach casting, demonstrate some common fishing knots, discuss local aquatic insects, and promote our RMF Chapter and Youth Day Camp. We have enough fly tiers. This is a really upbeat public festival open to the general public, and a fun day. Please contact Dennis Cook via [email](#) or call him at 372-9229 to volunteer.



Trailgate Parties at Gateway Natural Area

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair



Early on the refreshingly cool morning of September 10, twelve RMF TU volunteers gathered at the Fort Collins Gateway Natural Area in the Poudre River Canyon. They were there for the second, and last for this year, Trailgate Party.

To open the party, and with six deer appropriately romping in the meadow behind her, Catherine Dillon, Service Learning Educator at Fort Collins Natural Areas Group, presented an illustrated talk on wildlife recently observed in the Gateway Natural Area. Her talk, based on observations recorded by Ranger Steve, was applauded by the volunteers as the deer paraded off-stage toward the Poudre River.

Then Todd Juhasz, Trail Technician at Fort Collins Natural Areas Group, explained the tasks the volunteers were to undertake. One part of the work involved drainage improvements on the Overlook Trail. Widening of its corridor had been the object of volunteers' attention during the first Trailgate Party in August. The major attention this day was on the Black Powder Trail. It involved clearing bushes obstructing the trail corridor and also making trail drainage improvements at strategic locations. The energetic volunteers completed all the work that Todd had set as the objective for the day within the planned three-hour time span. Todd supervised the volunteer team doing the drainage improvements, and Catherine lead the team doing the corridor widening.

To conclude the organized portion of the day, RMF Volunteer Coordinators Teri and Scott Gardner produced a luncheon of sandwiches with an assortment of condiments and supplemented with a delicious pecan pie. The entire event was well-planned by Catherine, Todd, Teri, and Scott and the volunteers appreciated those preparations that made the day go so smoothly. At the close of the Trailgate Party, those who had the time and inclination went flyfishing in the sparkling waters of the Poudre River, but avoided the North Fork because its waters are temporarily stained by repairs to the discharge gates on the Seaman Dam just upstream.

Those who worked on these two trails in 2011 recognize the need for additional loving care of these great trails next year. To facilitate that, RMF TU expects to continue the Adopt-a-Trail Agreement with the Fort Collins Natural Areas Program in 2012. Look for announcements of specifics in *The Flypaper* newsletter and on the RMF web site next spring.

Got content? Thank you for taking the time to read our monthly newsletter. Your suggestions and comments are always welcome and can be sent to the [Editor](#). We also welcome your content and fishing stories!

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