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RMF Quick Links

Dear Readers,

I was rummaging through some fishing equipment the other day and it suddenly dawned on me how large the wading boots are that some of us will be filling. That turned my thoughts to all of the work that has been done by some particular individuals over the last two or three years. So let me begin my monthly comments by extending some heartfelt thanks from not only myself but our entire organization to Lee Evans, Melinda McPherson and Bryon Fessler. Lee's service as president was exemplary and beyond the call. Melinda kept us organized in her duties as Secretary and Bryon's input and dedication toward improving our membership numbers and communication was first rate and also above and beyond. Our thanks to the three of you and we will all do our part to fill those boots to the best of our abilities.

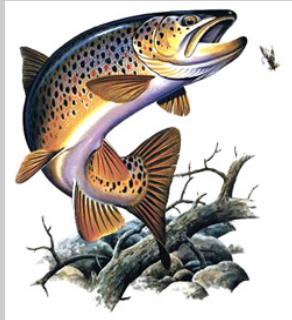
While I am offering heartfelt thanks let me also extend the same to those of you for your generous donation to the **Save The Yellowstone Cutthroat Campaign**. Not only did you help us realize our goal, we exceeded the one thousand dollar contribution goal and ended up sending the campaign funds in excess of two thousand dollars. Well done!!

Last Saturday I had the good fortune to join several other volunteers at the Colorado Youth Outdoors skills camp. What a great time!! It was extremely rewarding to see all of those young people out and about and help them to get a small taste of the recreation rewards available to them by spending some time outdoors. A huge thank you is extended to all of the RMF volunteers that were present on Saturday and special thanks to Paul Wehr for organizing our participation and to Jerry Pelis for emceeding our sessions.

I was going to spend some time and space writing a bit about some of the areas we are going to work specifically hard on to improve. However, considering I live on the west side of Fort Collins and have a panoramic view of the High Park fire, my thoughts instead lean towards reminding all of us that we are one community. I hope that any of you directly affected by this devastating fire are first and foremost safe. Please know we will do what we can to help you in any way possible. I ask our membership and



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subscribers of this newsletter to think about the agencies that will be working tirelessly, first to control this unprecedented wildfire and second to return as much normalcy as possible to those who have realized loss. American Red Cross and Larimer County will find their resources strained to the max. Please consider a donation of time, money or goods to any of these agencies as a way of contributing to the greater good of the community.

We may have only seen the beginning of what could be a very difficult fire season. Have fun but be safe and be smart.

[Dick Jefferies](#), President
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

Please check the RMF calendar and get signed up for any of the numerous volunteer opportunities still available.

Fishing is not an escape from life, but often a deeper immersion into it..."
-Harry Middleton

2012 - 2013 General Meeting Programs

[Dick Jefferies](#), Vice President

Our Guest Speaker series will resume once again on September 19 at 7:00 pm at the [Fort Collins Senior Center](#) (1200 Raintree Drive off Shields Avenue between Prospect and Drake). We already have some great presentations that focus on fall fishing in Rocky Mountain National Park and The Yampa Valley. We will also get you ready for ice off in North Park streams and lakes. Some great presenters will be joining us so start marking your calendars now for the third Wednesday of every month from September 2012 through May of 2013.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for programming contact Dick using the link above and let him know. This is your organization and the more we can bring in speakers that you want to see the better we will all enjoy those shows.

Last season we reintroduced our fly tying demonstrations at the general meetings and it seems as though it was well received. If you are a professional tier and would like to share your skills and provide some tips at the general meetings contact Dick Jefferies and let him know. We will also expand this part of the program over the course of next year to include some casting demonstrations and gear information. We hope it provides you with some great info.



Poudre River Clean-Up, Saturday, June 23

[Lee Evans](#), Project Coordinator

NOTE: The High Park Fire may affect our clean up and picnic. Lee will send an email out in the middle of next week detailing decisions about the clean up. If you're planning on helping, please email Lee so your on his list.



The National Trout Unlimited organization has declared June 23 as a national day for river clean-ups. This year we are scheduled to clean as much of the Poudre as we can with the volunteers we get.

We will meet at Picnic Rock at 8:30 am and be assigned a stretch of the river to clean. We will all report back to Picnic Rock at noon for a picnic supplied by Rocky Mountain Flycasters and to share stories of what we found.

Many of our volunteers then go fishing for the rest of the day. It is always a great day to meet fellow members and friends and to perform a service to all the users of the Poudre.

Please email [Lee Evans](#) to get your name on the list of volunteers.

'Who Eats Who at the Stream' Part II

Jerry Pelis, Water Festival Coordinator

On May 15th, six RMF volunteers - Teri Gardner, Scott Gardner, Guy Turenne, Jim Merriot, Dennis Cook and Jerry Pelis presented another installment of "Who Eats Who At The Stream". This time the event was the

21st annual Ft. Collins Children's Water Festival held at the Lory Student Center on the CSU campus.

An interactive program was presented to seven different classes totaling 165 energetic 3rd graders who learned about the dynamics and life cycles that occur in a healthy stream environment. To make the learning fun, a game format was used to teach simplified interactions between common stream and riparian inhabitants. The children were divided into 3 groups -aquatic insects, trout, and predators - each identified by a pictorial neck tag. When the water in the stream, depicted by blue tape on the floor began to flow, the insects were "eaten" by the trout who were then "eaten" by the predators. A discussion followed about how a portion of the insects and trout find shelter, lay eggs, and produce nymphs and fry to perpetuate the cycle. We quickly discovered that the third grader aquatic insects and trout were quite creative at avoiding being "eaten". It appeared that the volunteers had as much fun as the kids did.



Trout awaiting the insects swept downstream



The "who eats who scramble"

Summer Youth Volunteer Opportunities - Youth Fishing Days

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

JUNE 9 - COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE'S YOUTH OUTDOOR SKILLS DAY (Fly Fishing)

Clear, hot and lots of kids was the forecast. WOW!! Correct on all accounts! Volunteers of Rocky Mountain Flycaster spent this past Saturday at Swift Ponds working in conjunction with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and other partner organizations to present Outdoor Skills Day. Dozens of Northern Colorado youth participated in the all day event where each young person received some hands-on time in archery, shooting (shotguns), spin casting and of course fly fishing. Bass and bluegill seemed to be the catch of the day and while not every single youngster caught a fish, the excitement among the groups was real. Our hearts were warmed to see the kids so genuinely excited to be, for some, participating in outdoor activities that they had never experienced. And yes, our skin was warmed by the ninety plus degree day with nary a cloud in sight and shade sources stretched far and wide. We are very proud to have been a volunteer participant at this wonderful event and are already making plans as to how we can improve our delivery next year.

Another great opportunity to help youth and their families experience a great time in the outdoors will occur on:

**JULY 21 - U.S. FOREST SERVICE KIDS
FISHING FEST (Spin Fishing)
West Lake Day Use Area - Red Feather
8:00am - 1:00pm**

More volunteers are needed for this fun event, and RMF is an official partner with the Forest Service and several other organizations. (We can also make some plans to wet a line together afterward!) Car pooling will be coordinated for those who request, and additional volunteers details will be provided the first week in July. In any case, we'll all have a good time helping a bunch of excited youngsters spin cast, untangle lines and land fish. Contact Coordinator Dennis Cook at 372-9229 or rkytmnangler@Q.com .



Members are encouraged to bring your kids and grandkids and make a memorable picnic day of it! Space is limited for between 50-100 kids ages 15 and younger, and each will go home sporting a free, new spinning rod & reel. Youths must be accompanied by an adult and the whole family is invited. Those ages 16 or older require a fishing license.

Register by July 16th by email to: [Christopher Carroll](mailto:Christopher.Carroll@USFS) at the USFS with the number of participants, youths ages, and contact information.

Driving directions: West Lake Day-use Area is located just off Red Feather Lakes Road (CR 74E). Drive about 21 miles North from Fort Collins on U.S. Highway 287. Turn West onto Red Feather Lakes Road (CR 74E) and drive about 22 miles. Turn North onto Dowdy Lake Road and West Lake is immediately on your right, with the Day-use Area along its North shore.

Check-in begins at 8:00am, and all the fishy facts activities and fun begin at 8:30 and continue through 1:30pm. Be sure to bring water, lunch, sun screen and bug spray. Adults and older youths who plan to fish also bring along fishing gear, and a cooler if you want to keep your catch. Some fish cleaning provision will be available.

Contact: [Dennis Cook](mailto:Dennis.Cook)

NoCO Fly Fishing & Conservation Youth Day Camp - July 30th through August 4th

[Dennis Cook](mailto:Dennis.Cook), Youth Outreach Chair



Campers snorkel to examine underwater habitat

All of the 15 camper openings are already filled, so we have a full camp! If you know of an ages 14-18 boy or girl who would like to attend next year's camp, please encourage them to download and have the parents read, the Application & Parents Information packet from the www.rockymtnflycasters.org home page. Then, if still interested, have them contact [Dennis Cook](#) so he will have their information to contact them next year.

Volunteers will begin to be contacted directly starting this month, and interested new volunteers please contact [Dennis Cook](#).

RMF Logo Shirt Patch

A supply of iron-on, 2"x4" RMF logo shirt patches has been purchased for sale to members. Shirt patches can help increase RMF's identity throughout our NoCO area. The patches cost \$1.81 each and are being sold at chapter meetings for \$2.00 each.



Phantom Canyon Trail Maintenance Days

[Guy Turenne](#), Project Coordinator

The Nature Conservancy opened their online events registration in mid April. There are three Trail Maintenance Days listed in their newsletter for which RMF members volunteer. The dates are July 22, August 12 and September 16. The available slots for July 22 filled up quickly. However, there are still a number of openings for August 12 and September 16. The number of volunteers is limited to 12 per day.



If you may not be familiar with this activity; for a number of years RMF has partnered with The Nature Conservancy at their Phantom Canyon Preserve which is situated about 20 miles north of Fort Collins along the North Fork of the Poudre River. RMF volunteers do some minor brush trimming, use power weed whackers to keep the grassy trail along the river open and rebuild rock cairns marking the trail. The work is done in the morning and typically completed by lunch. After lunch the volunteers get to fish the north fork for the afternoon. The fishing in Phantom Canyon is outstanding as it is strict catch and release and there is very limited access. The river is well populated with nice sized browns and rainbows.

If you are interested, I urge you to register as soon as possible, before the remaining slots are filled.

Note: As of May 5, 2012, the July days are full, but additional volunteers are needed for the August and September days. To sign up for volunteer days, email phantomcanyonevents@tnc.org and type the volunteer day name in the subject line; include your name, address, phone, and number of participants you will be bringing. Or call Phantom Canyon Preserve at (970) 484-9996.

RMF Receives Awards and Establishes New Awards Procedure

The Board of Trustees and Leadership Council, Rocky Mountain Flycasters

RMF AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE, ACHIEVEMENT & DISTINCTION



At its April Board meeting your chapter board approved a new Awards procedure to recognize members and chapter partners achievements. Recognition will be announced to chapter members and communicated prominently across our NoCO host community.

The objective is to encourage members' good ideas and export that enthusiasm throughout the chapter, and also to recognize deserving community partner organizations or their representatives that contribute extraordinary support helping RMF accomplish its Mission objectives. Awards will be announced at RMF's May membership Annual Meeting, and awardees may also be nominated to Colorado TU for statewide recognition award consideration at its Spring Rendezvous. Award winners will be selected from among nominees by an annually appointed Awards Committee. It is not required that

every category be awarded every year, and there sometimes may be multiple awardees in a category.

*Nominations for an award category can be submitted by any member of Rocky Mountain Flycasters. Nominations for awards, with supportive information, **must be submitted after January 1 and by January 31 by email to the RMF Secretary at secretary@rockymountainflycasters.org. Complete details of the Awards procedure can be read or downloaded on the chapter website at <http://www.RockyMtnFlycasters.org/articles/rmfawards.php>***

RMF MEMBER AWARDS

Exemplary Chapter Function, Project or Activity Leadership Award
Exemplary Youth Education Award
Exemplary Youth Member Award
Exemplary Conservation Volunteer Award
Outstanding Chapter Volunteer Award

NoCO OUTREACH AWARDS

Exemplary NoCO Guide/Outfitter Award
Coldwater Resource Conservation Award

Please direct any questions to [Dick Jefferies](#) (970-481-2924).

Rocky Mountain Flycasters Receives CTU Annual Awards

Most Improved Chapter

Outgoing president Lee Evans was presented the award *Most Improved Chapter in Colorado* by CTU Executive Director David Nickum. Upon accepting the award, Lee noted that the entire Leadership team and all of the volunteers were responsible for the Chapter being recognized by the State Council and thanked them for the time and energy they have put toward improving the Chapter.



Outstanding Volunteer

David Nickum then presented to Dave Piske a Colorado Council award for Outstanding Volunteer. Dave's efforts, especially in matters concerning conservation, have not only been a huge asset to Rocky Mountain Flycasters but he has become a valued resource to David and the State Council. We are extremely fortunate to have Dave Piske as a part of our Chapter and we look forward to his continued guidance and counsel.

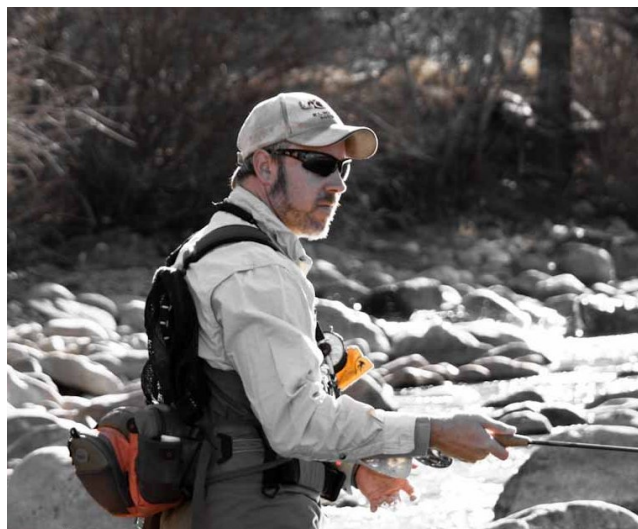


Dave Piske accepts award
from David Nickum

Welcome - Adam Omernick, 2013 Day Camp Coordinator

Adam Omernick has accepted our invitation to join our Youth Day Camp team and to become our Day Camp Coordinator beginning in 2013. He will shadow our team and participate this summer, and then take over coordinating next year's camp.

Adam's San Diego youth included much freshwater fishing for bass, trout and catfish, and was capped with some saltwater fishing in his teens...before moving to Grand Junction in 1993. He then moved to Fort Collins in 1999 where he started fly fishing, married and bought a house in Loveland where he now lives with his wife and son who goes off to college at CU in Boulder this fall. Adam is employed by Certaineed Roofing Products and manages their warehouse in Aurora, and earned a CSU degree in Business Management in 2007 and an MBA in 2009. He also helped open the Bass Pro store in Denver in 2005, working part time in the fishing department for several years.



An ardent fly angler, and with all his free time after finishing his masters degree, in April of 2010 Adam decided to make use of his business management education and started a sideline business www.NoCOFlyFishing.com. He says, "After discovering how much I enjoyed teaching my wife, son and all our neighbors how to fly fish, I wanted to teach others without giving up the day job." As part of NoCOFF he includes an online meet-up group to organize outings and classes through www.meetup.com/nocoflyfishing.

In addition to being a Trout Unlimited member, Adam is also a member of the Federation of Fly Fishers through which he is studying to earn his casting certification next January. Adam's favorite fishing is for Greenback Cutthroat in RMNP, and with his free time beginning August when his son goes off to college he looks forward to volunteering with RMF, fishing with his wife, doing Bikram yoga and walking their two dogs.

Adopt-A-Trail Volunteers Needed for Gateway Natural Area

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair

Based on the success of last year's Trailgate Parties at Gateway Natural Area, Rocky Mountain Flycasters and Fort Collins Natural Areas Department have entered into a three-year agreement to continue the Adopt-a-Trail project in the spectacular setting at the confluence of the Poudre River and its North Fork.

This agreement and two similar ones in other locations are celebrated in [Natural Areas' current newsletter](#). Scroll to third article, "Thank You Trail Adopters".



This year the project will focus on restoring time-worn sections of the 0.75 mile long Black Powder Trail. The trail was originally built in the 1930s. It leads hikers to a summit overlook of the Poudre Canyon and, to the north, an expansive view of Seaman Reservoir with the North Fork valley and the mouth of Phantom Canyon visible in the background.

Here is what we do at a Trailgate Party. Beginning at 8 A.M. on June 30, 2012 and again on September 8, we will renovate sections of the Black Powder trail that are sadly in need of our help. At eleven we will enjoy a picnic lunch under the canopy of one of the picnic shelters in Gateway

Natural Area. And after the picnic you have your choice of fishing the North Fork between its confluence with the Poudre and the Seaman Reservoir, Seaman Reservoir from its shoreline, or wherever you wish on public waters in the main stem of the Poudre.

[Click here to read more about what happens at a Trailgate Party.](#)

Twelve volunteers are needed each day, and you can sign up for one or both days.

Gateway Natural Area was spared, just barely, from damage by the recent Hewlett wildfire. The burn was stopped at the mainstem Poudre's bank across from the Natural Area, and similarly on the west bank of the North Fork from the confluence upstream to Seaman Reservoir. Gateway's picnic area and both trails maintained by RMF volunteers remain unharmed. Thus, Trailgate Day will go on as scheduled on June 30.

Contact [Scott Gardner](#) to reserve your volunteer space for this project.

New Stream Restoration Project Needs Volunteers

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair

RMF-TU is partnering with [Wildland Restoration Volunteers](#) (WRV) to conduct a substantial stream improvement project on 1.5 miles of the North Fork of the Poudre. The project has been conceived, planned, and will be managed by the fisheries staff of the [Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest and Pawnee National Grasslands](#) (A-RNF & PNG). It is located in the Canyon Lakes District and along the course of the North Fork west of its confluence with Killpecker Creek and on the way to Deadman Hill. The project is scheduled for August 25th and 26th, 2012 when stream flows are conducive for in-stream work.

[Click here to read a more complete description of this project and for easy-to-follow instructions on how to register as an RMF TU volunteer.](#)

Adventures for Volunteers in Rocky Mountain National Park

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair

Chris Kennedy, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services fisheries biologist in the Park, will again be leading hook & line, electrofishing, and other types of field research on trout populations in RMNP.

Chris is the only person on the Park staff who does this work, and obviously the tasks cannot be accomplished by one person acting alone. So Chris depends on volunteers to help him accomplish this field research. Both male and female volunteers are welcome. Volunteering to assist Chris is an excellent way to experience the most pristine and scenic areas in the backcountry of the Park. As a volunteer you will become acquainted with volunteers from several Colorado TU chapters. And from Chris, you will learn much about the habits and habitats of both native and introduced trout species. It all adds up to a bundle of fun, some good exercise, and your valuable contribution to trout fisheries research.

When available, the schedule of trips planned for 2012 will be posted on the [RMF web site](#). The primary contact for people who want to volunteer is [Austin Condon](#) a member of [Alpine Anglers TU](#). Even if you are only thinking of volunteering, ask Austin to put your name on his volunteer list and he will send you update emails shortly before each trip. Then, when you see a trip you want to take, let Austin know you are volunteering for it.

For further information from RMF volunteers who have worked with Chris in past years, please contact Dave Piske, Guy Turenne, or Phil Wright at one of our chapter meetings.



Photo courtesy of Les Beery

SHORTAGE OF JUNE WEEKENDS BENEFITS VOLUNTEERS

It's not often RMF can offer a choice of volunteer activities on a single day. But Saturday, June 23 is such a day. In addition to the Poudre cleanup, described in another article in this newsletter, there is another event that offers a choice of two ways to volunteer. That event is the Carp Fishing Derby sponsored by Fort Collins Natural Areas, our partner organization in Trailgate Parties at Gateway Natural Area. The Carp Fishing Derby takes place at Arapaho Bend Natural Area on the east side of Fort Collins, just north of Harmony Road.

The Derby helps improve warm-water game-fish waters by reducing the population of carp in the ponds.

Your choices for participating in the Derby are twofold. Bring your children to catch carp they will remember forever. If no kids live at your abode, come to help the kids, and the accompanying adults from other families, with their carp fishing techniques.

For more information, go to page 13 at:

<http://www.fcgov.com/naturalareas/pdf/tracks-trails2012.pdf>

Note that families who intend to fish for carp need to register with Natural Areas in advance.

However, if you volunteer only to help other anglers you need not register with Natural Areas, but please let Scott Gardner know in advance just to keep track of our RMF volunteer efforts.



Rocky Mountain Flycaster Sustaining Donors



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