



ROCKY MOUNTAIN
Flycasters
30 Years



October 2014 Edition

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From the President

Happy Fall everyone!

I will be extremely brief in my comments this month as I was lucky enough to join a chapter group that fished the Frying Pan River last weekend. You can find a more complete description of the trip by scrolling down to the "**Let's Go Fishing**" section of this issue of the newsletter. But, simply said, it was a great trip, great group, great fish - but wow, the beauty and splendor of fall fishing in Colorado is truly remarkable. I hope we never forget how fortunate we are to live in this wonderful State.

Lots and lots of great programs upcoming with Chris Kennedy this month and Rick Takahashi in November. A description of Chris's talk can be found below. Just scroll down to the **October Meeting Announcement**.

In addition to next Wednesday 's meeting with Chris, don't forget a very special evening is next Tuesday the 14th. We are co-hosting with Odell Brewing Company the Fort Collins showing of the **Patagonia™ film DAMnation**. It is a remarkable film that addresses the benefits of removing outdated and obsolete dams. Come join us for a wonderful evening under the stars at Odell Brewing. You can get more details by scrolling down and you can [click here](#) to watch a film preview/trailer.

Sorry to be brief but I see more leaves turning and await the first true Indian summer day. Can't be too far in the future. Can it?

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



Dick Jefferies

[Chapter Event Calendar](#)

OCTOBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Our speaker for the October 15 meeting of the Rocky Mountain Flycasters will be Chris Kennedy. The title of Chris' talk is *"The History of the Fisheries of Rocky Mountain National Park"*. He will speak on the history of the fisheries of what is now Rocky Mountain National Park, from the historic distribution of fish in the area, to the history of fisheries management and the current cutthroat trout taxonomy situation.

Chris has been a fish biologist with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, working within Rocky Mountain National Park, since 1997. He has also worked at the U.S Air Force Academy, Fort Carson, Rocky Flatts, and Peterson Air Force Base. He has an avid interest in the history of fish in Colorado in general and in Rocky Mountain National Park in particular. In fact, he recently conducted a very successful and well-attended seminar for the Rocky Mountain National Park Conservancy on the history of fish in RMNP.

As many RMF-TU members are aware, Chris is also coauthor of a recent and influential research article on the history, identity and current location of the Greenback Cutthroat Trout, Colorado's state fish.



Fish Biologist Chris Kennedy

The program begins at the Fort Collins Senior center, located at 1200 Raintree Drive, at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, October 15. Plan to arrive at 6:30 PM to chat with other members, tell fish stories and see fly tying demonstrations.



AN OCTOBER SPECIAL EVENT

ODELL BREWING

800 East Lincoln Avenue, Fort Collins CO
October 14th, 2014
Doors open at 7pm

Please join Odell Brewing and Rocky Mountain Flycasters for an evening presentation of the Patagonia™ film DAMNATION. Stunning cinematography highlights this compelling look at the ecological benefits gained from the removal of obsolete dams.

Admission (\$10.00) covers the movie, one Odell beer and snacks.
\$5.00 for additional beers. Gear and swag to be raffled off.

All proceeds benefit Rocky Mountain Flycasters, a 501c3 charitable organization

OCTOBER CONSERVATION NOTES



Dave Piske,
RMF Conservation Chair

BIG THOMPSON RIVER MASTER PLAN NOW OPEN FOR COMMENTS

The Draft Master Plan for recovery and restoration of the Big Thompson River and its North Fork is now available for viewing at: <http://dropcanvas.com/3ggjo>

This will take you to two "zipped" folders where you can see the major parts of the Master Plan. One zipped folder opens the narrative part of the Master Plan, and the other zipper opens the appendices.

The narrative part is easily readable, with many illustrations and photos. It describes the basis and rationale for the Master Plan's recommendations. It includes assessments of risks from future floods quantified in two categories: Resiliency to geomorphic stress (erosion) during future floods and risks of damages to structures during future floods. Also, this part of the Master Plan includes Restoration recommendations for both aquatic and riparian habitats.

The appendix likely to be of most interest to this newsletter's readers is Appendix C. It contains 51 reach maps, each color-coded to indicate the type of resilient and restorative actions deemed appropriate in each reach. These are conceptual, with illustrations of typical solutions, and do not constitute site-specific designs. Those designs will be developed by land owners and managers on a site-by-site basis.

The site specific designs, permitting for implementation, and funding of restoration projects are the responsibility of the owners/managers of lands fronting on the river, whether they be private parties or government agencies (collectively, the "stakeholders"). Neighborhood Reps, selected by the property owners, will be able to coordinate with projects in other reaches through the Big Thompson River Restoration Coalition (BTRRC). The appendices to the Master Plan contain a wealth of advisory information, including diagrams illustrating the processes for stakeholders to apply for funding of projects on their riverfront properties and descriptions of relevant governmental permits necessary to proceed with proposed projects.

The Draft Master Plan will be on-line until October 17, when it will be taken off-line to consider comments received from stakeholders and modify the plan into its final version. The final version is expected to be available on-line by the end of October.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR STREAM RESTORATION ASSESSMENTS

As many of our readers realize, the largest expanse of designated lands, and many miles of streams impacted by the 2013 floods are those managed by the staff of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest (ARNF), based in Fort Collins. The task of assessing the flood damages, and then developing remedial and restorative action plans has overwhelmed the limited ARNF staff.

To lend a hand to the Forest Service staff in assessing damages to the streams, ARNF and Colorado Trout Unlimited and have joined hands, including three Front Range TU chapters;

Boulder Flycasters, St. Vrain Anglers, and "us" to train and mobilize volunteer crews to perform stream assessments.

Specific rivers and reaches on Forest Service lands have been assigned to each of the three chapters. Rocky Mountain Flycasters has been assigned reaches on three streams; Big Thompson River, Little Thompson River, and the Buckhorn Creek headwaters on the divide between the Big T and Poudre watersheds.

As a result of two recent training sessions, RMF has enough trained volunteers to accomplish the assigned mission EXCEPT that we really need more volunteers to assist the trained crew members by performing on-stream tasks with the trained volunteers to make the tasks less-time consuming and to ease the physical efforts involved.

All or most of the on-stream assessments are expected to be completed before winter sets in. The specific site locations have been identified, and site-by-site work schedules are yet to be established. We expect those schedules will be accommodative of crew members availabilities. The assessments can be accomplished on weekends or on week days, dependent on availabilities of the crew members.

Please email: conservation@rockymtnflycasters.org if your name can be added to the list of RMF members available to assist the trained volunteers.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SHEEP CREEK RECONNECT PROJECT

Here is another opportunity to assist our friends at the Forest Service. A "reconnect" project is nearing completion on Sheep Creek, a Poudre River tributary that joins the main stem Poudre near Sleeping Elephant Mountain. But the project location is high above the Poudre, and is accessed from Crown Point Road, a Forest Road off the Pingree Park Road. The project replaces corrugated metal tube culverts with concrete box culverts, and enables cutthroat trout to reach spawning waters that had become inaccessible to the trout. The work to be accomplished by volunteers will be seeding of native grasses that will sprout in the spring of 2015. Access to the work site is currently blocked miles away from the work site, so access will need to be in company with Forest Service personnel.

The seeding will likely be done on a weekday, on a date yet to be determined based on progress of the contractor. We need only about a half-dozen volunteers. At this time the list will simply be one of persons who are interested, and can be contacted to determine actual availability later in October. To get your name on the "interested" list, email: Conservation@rockymtnflycasters.org

OCTOBER COMMUNITY OUTREACH NOTES

In April, RMF members, in cooperation with Fort Collins Natural Areas staff and other community volunteers, helped build a foot bridge over a runoff channel at the McMurray Natural Area.

That site has undergone considerable work by the city in its campaign to restore the natural floodplain of the Poudre River which flows adjacent to the area, and



Will Huett, Community Outreach Coordinator

during high water, flows through the area. The bridge was designed so its deck would float free in high water and avoid damming up debris. I saw it swinging on its tethers, just as designed, during the peak of spring runoff, but noticed it was missing during a recent hike. So I contacted the city. Here's what Todd Juhasz had to say: "Thanks for volunteering with us. You are correct, the bridge did function as designed. Even during the high flow of almost 6000 cfs, the bridge hung in the current and stayed anchored in place. It was a great success! However, the month long flow of 2500-3000 cfs ultimately scoured out the west foundation and released that half of the bridge fifty feet downstream. It was easily recovered.

After seeing how McMurry's restoration functioned during runoff, I was pleased with its ecological effect, but realized that the bridge's design would never withstand the amount or duration of flow moving through the east basin. The bridge was removed and will be completely repurposed at Pineridge Natural Area after a section of trail is realigned there next year. So it's not a total loss."

You'll find pictures of the April work project on www.rockymtnflycasters.org, and who knows, maybe next year you'll see pictures of RMF volunteers placing the same bridge in its new location!

OCTOBER YOUTH OUTREACH NOTES



Dennis Cook,
Youth Outreach Chair

TU Essay Contest Award Winner From Fort Collins!

Every summer, more than 200 TU Camp and Academy graduates across the United States are invited to enter the TU Teen essay contest, in which they share their camp experiences. This year TU has selected four winners, and will be sharing their winning essays and a little bit about the writers throughout the month of October.

Our own **Abby Brooks**, pictured below on the Poudre, won TU's First Honorable Mention Award. Abby's entry is distinguished by the vivid stories she shared. You can read her essay in its entirety below, as well as view a photos of Abby with her 2014 fishing camp mentor, Bruce Rosenthal:

Abby's Essay

Fish have always fascinated me. One time when I was little, we bought some fish for our aquarium. I got to carry the bag with the fish in it out to the car. I was so intrigued with the algae-eater that I tipped the bag so that the fish was on one side and all of the water on the other! As I've gotten older, my love for fishing has increased. About three years ago, my dad started teaching me the basics of fly fishing, but I could never seem to keep my knots from coming undone, or my line from piling up at the end of my rod after a cast. But I never gave up trying to hook that fish that I knew must be there.

I was very excited to learn about the TU fly fishing youth camp. It would be wonderful to get help with my casting and knot tying, but also learn some new things about river habitat, conservation, and entomology.



Abby at RMF Summer Camp
with her catch!

I was not disappointed! On my favorite day of camp, we went to fish the Cache La Poudre, my home river. It was an unusually cold and rainy July day, and I could see low, foggy clouds around the tops of the mountains. A mentor was assigned to each camper as their own personal guide and my guide, Bruce, and I rigged my rod and set out to fish. The first time out I didn't catch anything (except for the trees behind me!), but Bruce gave me some great advice on how to choose what fly to tie on, where to fish, and more casting techniques. I was pretty disappointed about not having caught anything, but Bruce said we were sure to catch a fish after we took a break for lunch. Then I discovered that I had forgotten to bring my lunch! In my head, I pictured my lunch sitting on the kitchen table back at home, instead of in my bag where it should have been!

After Bruce had finished his lunch, we met up again and went to fish a different spot. I tied on a Parachute Adams and was fishing a really nice little seam, right in the foam line where my guide had said to cast...and it happened! I saw a trout rise and attack my fly! The thrill that I felt to have that fish on the end of my line is indescribable, and all the while Bruce was coaching me with, "Keep your rod tip up!" My hands were barely working, red and tingling with numbness, but I managed to angle the trout over to Bruce's net.

Some things never change! All I could do was admire the unique pattern of black spots, the pale pink stripe on the trout's side and the red slash under its jaw. With a picture taken, we released the fish back into its home water.

After that, we waded upstream to fish the undercut bank of a little pool. On the first cast, I saw a silvery flash and set the hook! Aside from the undesirable drizzling rain and the gnawing in my stomach, this day had been a blast!

As I learned with Bruce, tying on the right fly is very important. Through snorkeling and seining, I was able to observe underwater insects and that was a huge help when trying to decide what insect to imitate when fishing. The snorkeling was very fun, but also a little scary at first, just getting comfortable with floating down the river and sticking my head in the water. I wasn't able to see any fish, but some of the others saw and touched some carp.

When we electro-shocked in a different river that was very muddy and silty, we also saw a lot of carp and suckers. It was amazing to see all of the species of fish that lived in just a small section of the river!

Electro-shocking showed me how necessary conservation is for the river and its inhabitants. In the muddy section that we electro-shocked, we netted very few trout, but mainly poorer water tolerant species. Through both of these activities I was able to see the effects of lacking conservation and how that affects all underwater life.

This camp has greatly enhanced my love of fishing and the rivers that I fish, and I will always look back on this camp as the best week of this summer. I am very thankful for the mentors and all of the advice and encouragement they gave me and am looking forward to putting all that I have learned into practice!

Abby Brooks, Fort Collins Colorado



Abby and her mentor Bruce Rosenthal

Flies For Campers

Chapter members who can't serve as mentors for the RMF Day Camp may wish to contribute by donating flies. Each day camper receives a fly box with as many flies as RMF can obtain, and getting a good supply for them is usually a challenge. **Many thanks!** to member and mentor Bruce Rosenfeld, who recently donated several dozen flies. Some of these are in the photo below.

Other members who would like to help RMF's 2015 Day



Camp be another success are invited to also consider this opportunity to donate flies, self-tied or purchased. Any flies that are applicable for use on the Poudre and Big "T" are much appreciated. Also, RMF can provide an In-Kind donation tax receipt for the estimated value that may be qualified for use at year-end.

Contact: Dennis Cook at rkymtnangler@Q.com or 372-9229

Eggs Installed At Rocky Mountain High School Trout In The Classroom Program

The newly hatched sac fry are released into the 50-gallon tank (see photo below) and immediately dive to submerge among the gravel at the tank bottom. They will live hidden for about 12-14 days consuming all or most of their nutrients, and then begin emerging as fry and gradually begin eating granular food fed by the students in carefully limited quantity. Overfeeding is a major cause of death for small fry. Students learn about water chemistries, cleanliness and temperatures that distinguish the cold water trout species from warm water species, and also about the cannibalistic nature of growing fish. Science studies also include healthy riparian habitat, fish diseases such as whirling disease and related aspects that are important for survival in the wild. After about six months, the fish will be subjected to state certified technician dissections for tissue samples removal from a representative number of fish, and assuming the lab tests find them healthy the remaining fish will be released into the Poudre River.

Classroom science teacher, Scott Kemp (who is also a RMF Chapter member) says, "The students have been anticipating the arrival of the eggs for awhile and are excited to watch the life stages of the trout. The idea of a living organism in the classroom for most of the school year is rather unique, and our trout are an indicator species that thrives on clean cold water that is crucial to Colorado's ecosystems, ecology and economy. They are learning through this project, that all living things are dependent on other living organisms and their physical environment. Ecosystems recycle resources and energy for those living



things, and in Colorado we depend on quality water to support trout and people. The aquarium is an artificial habitat that mimics nature and its water quality specifications. In the classroom we have to control the water quality with chemicals and water changes. I've told the students the story of TU and their gracious donation to fund the entire project, and in turn we will do our best science to study and care for the fish. They especially like the idea that they are personally involved with the process and the day to day operations in this student run project, and they are committed to every trout living and making it to the Poudre River in late April."

In above photo freshman science class members each receive eggs to gently count and insert into a hatching basket in the 50 gallon tank. Healthy eggs are bright orange and each have a dark eye. The 220 eggs will rest for about 10-12 days before beginning to hatch as rainbow sac fry...each about a half inch long and with a stomach protrusion.

DAY FOR KIDS FESTIVAL

Larimer County Boys & Girls Clubs has been one of RMF's valued Youth Day Camp Partners for the past five years. RMF has also provided a booth exhibit at LBGC's annual Youth Festival, and this year over 2,000 guests attended the festival.

This year volunteers included fly tiers Jerry Pelis & Bruce Rosenthal, Donna Burrill, Paul Wehr, Aja Andrusyk and 'JR' Gregory. Our crew hosted many festival guests try their hand at casting or better understanding fly tying, discussing our annual Day Camp and explaining RMF-TU's mission, local conservation projects and activities.



RMF Webmaster Paul Wehr coaches a participant at the Day for Kids Festival kiddie pool while mother watches

OCTOBER "LET'S GO FISHING" NOTES

Described below is the one remaining trip we'll take in 2014. There is still time to sign up. To sign up for this trip, or just ask questions, Contact: Mark Miller at flytyer.miller@gmail.com or 970-744-8229 (cell).

Nov 1st, 2014 (weather permitting) - Cheesman Canyon/South Platte. - (Host: Mark Miller). This is a state treasure, and a beautiful stream in a beautiful canyon. The rainbows there aren't too bad either, if you can catch them. Plan on nymphing with small stuff - size 20 and smaller. Could also be a good time to get lucky with a nice Blue Wing Olive hatch.



Mark Miller, "Let's Go Fishing" Coordinator

Let's Go Fishing Report: The Frying Pan River Trip

Last week eight Rocky Mountain Flycasters, pictured below, traveled to Basalt, Colorado to fish the Gold Metal Waters of the Frying Pan River. This successful and well attended adventure was planned and organized by RMF's Fly Swap Coordinator Ben Zomer. Many of the attendee's asked me to give a special **shout-out** to Ben. So, thanks Ben!!

As illustrated by the smiles and grins of the participants in the photo below, all had a wonderful time! And, the guys caught and released lots of Rainbow and Brown trout. Consistent with the "Pans" reputation for big fish, at least 12 of the catches were over 18 inches and half of those were 20 inches or more.



Left to Right: Gil Coleman, Dick Jefferies, Ben Zomer, Domingo Rodriquez, Bob Green, Dave Morse, Coy Wylie, Bruce Rosenthal

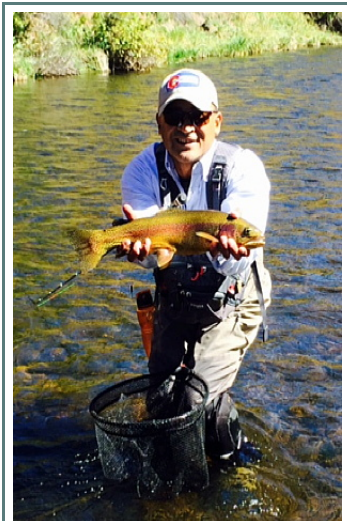
The Rocky Mountain Anglers “Let’s Go Fishing” Trip, October 2-5, 2014

Motivated by plans to add a Roaring Fork float to the groups’ Frying Pan agenda, Dave Morse and Bob Green left Fort Collins on Wednesday afternoon. However, because the “Fork” was muddy, the two waded the Frying Pan on Thursday with an excellent guide. Dave and Bob met the other members of the group Friday at the riverside cabin Ben Zomer had reserved earlier. The Friday departure group, Ben Zomer, Dick Jefferies, Coy Wylie, Gil Coleman, and Domingo Rodriquez, left Fort Collins/Loveland at 4:00 AM Friday morning! Bruce Rosenthal, who traveled from his nearby mountain cabin in the region, also joined the group Friday morning.

Except for Wednesday afternoon and evening rain/snow, the weather during the trip was perfect! Low winds, ample sunshine and the beauty of the river and canyon kept everyone in high spirits. And, it didn’t hurt that President Dick Jefferies emerged from “the closet” as a gourmet cook. Dick carefully planned, expertly prepared and generously served tasty and creative breakfasts and dinners for all eight anglers. And, he appropriately selected wines to complement each dinner. The group hopes Dick will be back next year.



Chef Jefferies pauses as he considers the next culinary step in the cabin’s kitchen



Domingo and a 22" Brownie taken by Czech Nymphing on private waters owned by Taylor Creek Anglers.

As renters of one of the Taylor Creek Cabins on the Frying Pan, we had exclusive and private access to about 3/4 of a mile of the river. And, we hopped into our vehicles for short trips when we wanted to fish the upper or lower regions of the river. We used a variety of surface and subsurface techniques and everyone caught fish. Nevertheless Domingo Rodriquez was the most consistent and successful angler among us. He utilized, almost exclusively, an 11 foot fly rod and Czech Nymphing techniques. Domingo caught fish each outing each day and landed at least two of the six 20 inchers that were taken by the group during the trip. Because of his knowledge, mastery and success on the Pan, the group asked Domingo to

consider speaking at one of our forthcoming membership meetings. He has generously agreed to do so and is working with Dick Jefferies to arrange a date in Spring 2015.



Dave Morse with a 20" Rainbow taken by traditional Western dry dropper nymphing in the upper Frying Pan near Rosie's Hole.

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