



March 2018

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From the President

Can you believe it's March already! The spring rainbow run is just a few days away! I'm looking forward to four trips I'm already planning over the next several weeks: the Grey Reef/Freemont Canyon trip with some good buddies and the chapter trip back there in April, floating the mighty Big Horn and then a Frying Pan/Roaring Fork trip later with some close friends from out of state. The season is almost upon us. Let's get out there and fish!

I want to express my gratitude to everyone who made last month's **Fly-Tying Expo** the best ever. From our tiers, sponsors and donors to a host of volunteers to everyone who came and bought a ticket and made a bid. It was an amazing evening. About 150 people were present and we set a new record by raising over \$6000 in ticket sales along with the silent and live auctions.

This week I had the pleasure of meeting with **Karla Baise**, Community Outreach Coordinator for **Odell Brewing Company**. Odells has long been a donor and sponsor of RMF. Karla shared with me that the company is going to donate \$10,000 this year to be split evenly between Rocky Mountain Flycasters and Colorado Trout Unlimited in the third quarter. They are very excited to partner with us in the Greenback restoration at Long Draw. Odells will sponsor a River Celebration Day on April 21 along with a volunteer river clean-up through Fort Collins. I encourage our RMF members to come alongside our great sponsor and volunteer to pick up trash and enhance the beauty of our beloved Poudre.

Speaking of Expos, my term as President of RMF is nearing its end. We will have elections in May for several offices. I've greatly enjoyed my two years in this role but look forward to passing the baton to our incoming President. As this responsibility is lifted from me, I will put my time and efforts into developing a **Northern Colorado Fly Fishing Expo**. The timing is not set yet but likely the inaugural event will be in late 2019. I envision a smaller version of the annual Denver Fly Show but with a stronger conservation component. The goal is to pull the NoCo fly fishing community together and link them with TU and other conservation partners.



Coy Wiley, 2017-2018 President
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

The board has already voted for RMF to be the major sponsor and we have a core team of board members to help direct the project. If you would like to be involved in helping plan and put together the very first NoCo Fly Fishing Expo, please **send me an email** or call me at 970-699-9075.

That's enough for now it's time to get out there and wet some flies and set some hooks! I'll see you at the March meeting.

Coy Wylie, President

Rocky Mountain Flycasters-Trout Unlimited

The March Meeting

For the Love of Rivers: A Scientist's Journey

Our speaker for the March 21 meeting is Dr. Kurt Fausch. Dr. Fausch is a fisheries ecologist who spent a career studying how fish make a living in streams, and how streams are linked to their riparian forests. In this talk he crosses boundaries of countries, cultures, and scientific disciplines to explore why healthy, connected rivers are essential for fish, and humans, and how we can conserve them.



Dr. Fausch is a professor emeritus in the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology at Colorado State University, where he taught for 35 years. His research collaborations in stream ecology and fish conservation have taken him throughout Colorado and the West, and worldwide, including to Hokkaido in northern Japan. His experiences were chronicled in the PBS documentary *RiverWebs*, and the 2015 book *For the Love of Rivers: A Scientist's Journey*, which recently won the Sigurd Olson Nature Writing Award. He received lifetime achievement awards from the American Fisheries Society, the World Council of Fisheries Societies, and Fly Fishers International, and served as the acting director of the Graduate Degree Program in Ecology at Colorado State University.

Social hour and fly tying demonstration begins at 6:30 pm at the Fort Collins Senior Center, and the program follows at 7:00 pm. The Fort Collins Senior Center is located at 1200 Raintree Drive off Shields Avenue between Prospect and Drake.

Youth Day Camp

July 30-August 4, 2018
Monday-Saturday
8 AM to 6 PM



Fly Fishing Day Camp

Casting & Riggings
River Restoration
Fish Hatchery
Water Safety
Electro-fishing
Dry & Nymph Techniques
Fly Tying & Knots
Aquatic Insects
Habitat Snorkeling
Trout Anatomy & Behavior

2018 NoCo Youth
River Conservation &
Fly Fishing Day Camp

Sponsored by
Rocky Mountain Flycasters,
Chapter of Trout Unlimited.



\$30
Per
Person

Ages 14-17



FOR APPLICATION VISIT:
<http://nocotu.org/S/youthcamp>
Questions: Contact (970)222-4428 or
daycamp@rockymtnflycasters.org
Facebook: [fb.me/NoCoYouthCamp](https://www.facebook.com/NoCoYouthCamp)



Although winter continues to tease us, be certain of two things. First, the **2018 Fly Fishing Day Camp** is just around the corner, and second, the first week of August currently looks fantastic for a snow free, wonderful and jam-packed summer camp. Applications for the camp are now available at <http://nocotu.org/S/youthcamp>. We encourage students 14-17 years of age with no or limited fly fishing experience to apply. We have also created a great Facebook page, available at <fb.me/NoCoYouthCamp>. Here you can see an overview of the 6-day camp, pictures from our 2017 camp, and through the process of “liking” and commenting, you can spread the word about the camp to all of your contacts.

In addition to Facebook, we have publicized the Day Camp to local high school science teachers, fly shops and other youth groups. Posters advertising the camp will be available for distribution within the week and we would encourage you to pick up a few at the next meeting and post them in appropriate locations.

Our preliminary schedule for the six-day program has been developed and promises to be an exciting, educational and fun experience for all the campers. We have had a fantastic volunteer turnout, but could also use a few more. Please contact us if you are interested in helping for a few hours or several days.

If you are aware of other groups we may present to or provide information about the camp, please don't hesitate to contact us. We can be reached at daycamp@rockymtnflycasters.org.

— Bill Gedge and Robin Brown, Co-Directors

Dave Piske Steps Aside



Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

David, often simply called Dave, returned to Colorado in 2005 with strong intentions to make Fort Collins his permanent home after residing in many places during 36 years of employment in the telecommunications industry. His first Colorado residency, in Colorado Springs, lasted 6 years. He was called away from the “Springs” for what was expected to be a 90-day temporary assignment. It evolved into a 20-year adventure to help establish, and subsequently manage, a communications-satellite based telecommunications business. After retiring from that career, the memories of outdoors adventures in the Rocky Mountains beckoned him back to Colorado, this time to Fort Collins.

Actually, Dave's love of the outdoors began during his early childhood when he started roaming the forests, lakes, and streams of his native northern Wisconsin. Following his father's example, he became a bait-dunking angler at age four, and grew into an avid fly fisherman during his teen years. Fly fishing continues to be his favorite avocation.

Along the way, he became aware of the need to also be a steward of the aquatic and watershed environments that make that sport possible. Towards that end, Dave has held TU chapter officer positions including secretary, vice-president, and president in the Potomac-Patuxent chapter in Maryland, and represented that chapter in TU's Mid-Atlantic Council. He has been an all-around volunteer in Trout Unlimited activities in three local chapters over a period of more than twenty years. Currently, he is the Conservation Chairman of the Rocky Mountain Flycasters chapter in Fort Collins, Colorado. He also is actively involved in stewardship and advocacy activities involving coldwater resources throughout Colorado. In 2012, he was recognized as one of four statewide TU members who were recognized by Colorado Trout Unlimited as Outstanding Volunteers.

Dave's TU activities have introduced him to volunteer activities with many additional organizations. One of these is **Wildlands Restoration Volunteers**, which he joined early in 2011. With WRV he has earned the title of Crew Leader and worked on projects ranging from riparian plantings, to stream restoration, to trail construction, and post-fire ecological restoration in the High Park burn area. He was an active member of the founding team that formed the **Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed**. He currently represents Trout Unlimited in the **Big Thompson Restoration Coalition**. He also volunteered on stewardship projects at the **Nature Conservancy's Phantom Canyon Preserve** and at Campbell Valley on the Roberts Ranch, supported the U. S. Fish and Wildlife biologist in trout population surveys within Rocky Mountain National Park, assisted the Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife in the Poudre and Big Thompson watersheds, and continues to recruit other volunteers to support the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department along the Poudre River from the Gateway Natural Area downstream to the Arapaho Bend Natural Area. Academically, he holds B. S. and MBA degrees.

Dave announced at our last board meeting that as he was approaching his eighty-ninth birthday that was going to cut back a bit on his activities. We have deeply appreciated the depth and breadth of Dave's vigorous physical contributions and astute writing skills for grants and proposals throughout the years. His gentle humor has lightened a number of tediously detailed discussions and inspired greater efforts from the rest of us.

While Dave will step back from his position as Conservation Coordinator for Rocky Mountain Flycasters, he will continue work with the **Big Thompson Restoration Coalition** which he helped found. Although we may not see Dave as often at our board meetings, restoration work days, or climbing in and out of canyons, we know where to find him.

Thanks Dave Piske, more than we can say.

—Paul Wehr

What's Happening In March?



Board Meeting, March 7 at 7:00 PM, Mulligan's. Everyone is invited to attend



Dr. Lausch, "For the Love of Rivers"
March 21 at 7:00 PM, Senior Center



For the March 21 meeting of Fly Swap, we are tying your favorite rubber-legged fly. This could be a Pat's Rubber Legs, a Chubby Chernobyl, a Hopper, an ant, or a streamer, such as an Autumn Splendor. Use your imagination. This durable material has been used to create legs that attract fish with their live action and is available in a variety of colors and sizes. We currently have six tiers, but more are welcome. Contact [Dave Morse](#) if you wish to contribute. For the Fly Swap, you tie enough copies of one fly to exchange with the others, plus one fly for the evening raffle. Include the recipe on a small toe tag with your fly. Happy tying!

From Phil Wright, Volunteer Coordinator

The 2018 Conservation Field Season: The North Fork of the Big Thompson



Phil Wright

Rocky Mountain Flycasters has participated in riparian restoration projects on the North Fork of the Big Thompson River since shortly after the flood of 2013. To kick off the 2018 field season RMF volunteers again have an opportunity to partner with Wildland Restoration Volunteers (WRV) on Saturday, May 12 on the North Fork.

WRV describes the project stating, "Volunteers will spread pre-staged piles of compost, broadcast native seed specially collected by the US Forest Service, apply engineered wood straw mulch and plant native container stock grown out at WRV's own micro nursery facility." By joining with WRV, RMF volunteers can get on the stream early in the field season to improve riparian soil conditions, and plant seeds and container stock early in the growing season to give those plants a good start.

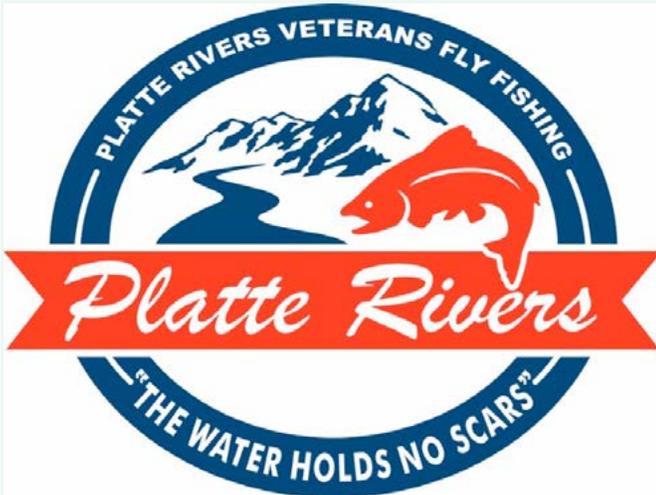
To register as a volunteer for the project, go to the [WRV registration page](#) for the "Big Thompson - Forest Service Flood II" project and click on "Register for this Project." Wildland Restoration Volunteers will follow up with you concerning the details for the day's project including meeting places, car-pooling, conditions, equipment needed, and more.

I look forward to volunteering with you on the North Fork of the Big T on Saturday, May 12. – Phil Wright



Platte Rivers Veterans Program Fly Fishing

Platte Rivers Veterans Flyfishing



Our TU chapter helps support the Platte Rivers Veterans Program. This is for disabled and former military veterans and active duty members of the military. We hold weekly fly tying and rod making classes all Fall, Winter, and Spring. We have numerous needy vets who lack reels, fly line, boots and waders. So, if you have some serviceable fishing gear that you would like to donate to them, please bring it to the upcoming TU meetings. Contributions are tax deductible and receipts will be given for your donations.

Speaking of donations, Domingo Rodriguez, Joe O'Connor, and I will be selling tickets at the next two TU meetings for our major, annual Platte Rivers fundraiser, a Gala dinner/auction, to be held at the Cheyenne Ice and Events Center on Saturday evening, April 21st. Come for a great dinner, cash prizes, and to support the oral and silent auctions. It

is great fun for a worthy cause! Tickets cost \$65. All proceeds will support this veterans program by providing fly rod kits, fly tying class materials and equipment, and dozens of fishing trips at NO EXPENSE for these vets who unselfishly served our country. If you or your company would like to show your gratitude and support this program with tax deductible cash donations, sponsorship of a table at the Gala, or donation of oral/silent auction items, such as weekend use of a cabin, fishing or hunting gear or any other items of value, please contact **Dave Morse**, to arrange pick-up or donation in March. Thank you.

We are planning our summer fishing trips right now and are looking for experienced fly fishermen to act as mentors on our trips. We need one mentor for every two vet fly fishers per trip. Your travel expenses are covered. Here are a few characteristics of a mentor from an appreciative vet:

1. Patience - my mentors did not sigh or curse (at least not audibly) when I slapped my line against the water, when I was slow to set the hook on a strike, or when my backcast hooked a branch. I have even hooked one or two of my mentors. They simply went over their instructions again and again.
2. The ability to simplify - Fly fishing is a complex sport. It can bewilder beginners. But good mentors break down complex concepts into simple explanations. One mentor encouraged me to stick with a few simple patterns. Another boiled down my first lesson in casting to: (1) flick your wrist when you cast and (2) keep your eyes on the target. Still another taught me that the foam line in the current is the feed line.
3. Unselfishness - Real mentors sacrifice the time they could be fishing and share the prime spots they could be fishing. They act more like a guide whose mission it is to set up the fly fishers for success.
4. Humility - These mentors are some of the best fly fishers on the planet. But none of them felt the need to inform me about this. I had to coax out of them the stories about their fly fishing heroics.

Okay, does this interest you? We need one mentor for every two fly fishers for each trip. Can you help? Contact **Dave Morse**, your RMFC Veterans Program Coordinator, for more information or call at 217-418-9386.

Meet Will Lennon, RMF Intern



Will Lennon, RMF Intern

My name is William Lennon. I was born in the small town of Sonoma, California and spent a majority of my life growing up in a valley surrounded by rolling hills, lined with vineyards. I was blessed to be born into a family where fly fishing was a cherished pastime, for not only my parents, but my grandparents as well. When I was 8 years old, I received my first fly rod for Christmas. After a year or so of practice casting on the lawn, I found myself obsessed with that little Cabela's 4wt, and spent many days throughout middle school fishing largemouth bass from the neighboring irrigation ponds. My grandfather had owned a small house on a large, spring fed river in north eastern California. Fall River is home to one of the largest mayfly species in North America, the Hexagenia Mayfly. I spent many summers on that river, timing the world famous "hex hatch" and catching very large, healthy rainbow trout. Through the years, my family had fallen in love with the Fall River Valley.

My grandfather passed, and while I was in my last year of high school, my parents bought a piece of property downstream. I am very happy and lucky to now call that cold, deep river my home.

I first chose Fish and Wildlife Conservation Biology as my major, with the intention on gaining knowledge and working in a field that I have always had a deep affinity for: studying and observing the world. I didn't want a career that would confine me to an office or bind me to a desk where I couldn't be where I wanted to be: outdoors. I wanted to get my hands dirty and work in streams and rivers. However, I soon would realize, that the word "conservation" was the real reason I was going to school. Freshwater ecosystems make up some of the most bio diverse systems on the planet. Within the crisp, running streams are fragile species, native to the mountains of Colorado. These streams are irreplaceable, and many implications with the population growth has put free stone rivers in danger. I have a set goal to preserve what I hold dear. To keep the simple mountain or spring fed rivers, like the one flowing in my backyard in California, running and full of life. Life that will be sustainable for the future generations to come.

I would like to thank the Rocky Mountain Flycasters for presenting me with the scholarship and internship. The money received went directly into the payment of my tuition. More importantly, I would like to thank the Flycasters for the opportunity to work within the TU community. I hope to preserve and protect the values that TU is built around and while working within my internship, I have gained critical insight, knowledge and experience that are making these hopes a reality.

If you see me at any of the TU events, don't hesitate to talk to or ask me any questions. I am always happy to exchange fishing stories or receive a few tips on where the big ones are.

Tight Lines!
-Will Lennon

Let's Go Fishing

"River of Gold" by Mark Miller

This photo was taken in September of 2017 on the upper Cache La Poudre River (simply known as "the Poudre" to those of us lucky enough to call it our "Home Water").

A bright sun, clear blue sky, and the low, crystal clear flows of the Fall season joined forces to create a spectacularly beautiful streambed in this section of the river that is chock-full of wild and wily brown trout.



As it is now early Fall, the females will soon start preparing their redds, while the males will soon sport their amazing spawning colors. As fly-fisher men and women, we are incredibly fortunate to not only observe, but to carefully wade right into this never-ending cycle of life and participate, in some small way, in the underwater world of the trout. If we are especially fortunate, we may even be able to fool one of these specimens into taking an artificial fly made with our own hands, briefly cradle that wild creature in our own hands, burn a high-def photo into the recesses of our mind that will warm our hearts on a cold winter day, and smile in reverent awe as it slips our grasp and returns to its river home, to continue the cycle.

I am very lucky, indeed, to call the Poudre my Home Water.

Let's Go Fishing- Fishing Trips for 2018

Listed below are our trips for 2018. If interested, please sign up on-line on our chapter website. We have quite a mix of fishing destinations for 2018. Hopefully there is something for you on this list. We hope you will join us for all the fun!

April 27-29

Gray Reef, WY

Host: Ben Zomer

April is a great time for big rainbows at Gray Reef, WY. Only 8 slots available. To secure your spot for this trip please email Ben Zomer directly (benmz@comcast.net) and send him a deposit of \$50 (which is half the cost of lodging)

May 17-19 (Thur-Sat)

Lake John in North Park

Host: Mark Miller

Camping and fishing for fast growing rainbows in North Park. Delaney Buttes is also next door. Join us for any of the days that work for you. IE: fish and camp Thurs-Friday, or Friday- Saturday, or Friday-Sunday, etc. Mark Miller will be there Thurs-Sat. Bring your boat or canoe or float tube.

May 30

Private Waters, Red Feather Lakes

Host Bob Green

Spend a day catching large brown, rainbow, brook, and palamino trout from these amply stocked private lakes. Limit of 4 anglers.

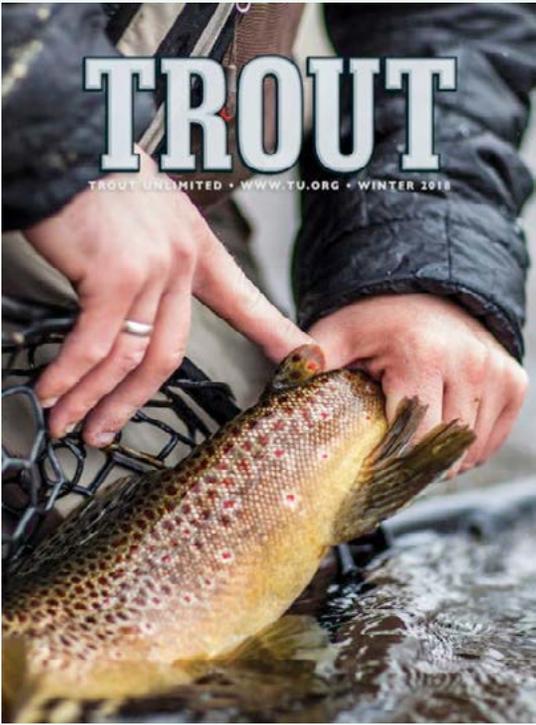
June 23rd or 30th	Joe Wright/Lake Agnes	Host: Dave Morse
Date depends on ice-out timing. We'll fish for cutthroats early at Agnes, then Joe Wright for Grayling in the afternoon and evening hours. Always a fun time catching grayling.		
July – date TBD	High Country Lake, WY	Host: Ben Zomer
Who doesn't want to catch a Golden Trout? A 2 mile hike for this rarest of trout		
Aug (date TBD-mid/late Aug)	RMNP Small Streams	Host: Bill Gillett
Small stream fun with dry flies in the Park makes for a great day!		
Sep date TBD	Frying Pan or Upper Green River in WY	Host: Ben Zomer
3 day trip – still working on the location – either Frying Pan or Upper Green		
Oct 6th –	Kokanee Trip – S. Platte / Dream Stream	Host: Mark Miller
Questions? Email Mark Miller or call 970-744-8229 (cell).		

The Library

The active link (click) icons below represent a beginning attempt to put together a group of FREE resources available to fly anglers. The first (Trout Magazine) is published by Trout Unlimited-USA and the third (High Country Angler) is published by Trout Unlimited-Colorado. Both of these publications are limited to TU members. The others, however, are for everyone

This page will be continually updated so you can always get to the most current issue of both of these magazines. Just click on the icon of the magazine you wish to read.

Please help me update these magazines by sending the URL for any FREE resources that you find worthwhile. Happy reading!



Hatch Magazine

High Country
Angler

MONTANA
FLY FISHING MAGAZINE



The New
FlyFisher

Call for Members Interested in Chapter Positions

Your Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter Board of Trustees is accepting candidates for the following chapter leadership elective positions for the upcoming 2018-1019 fiscal year.

President	Secretary
Vice President	Trustee At Large
Treasurer	Trustee At Large

Chapter members who want more information about any of the positions, who may be interested to be considered for any of these positions, or who want to suggest the name of a prospect for one or more of the positions, please contact one of the four members of the Nominations Committee listed below. All conversations will be handled with executive committee confidentiality.

Dennis Cook	970-372-9229	Email Dennis Cook
Lee Evans	970-443-0197	Email Lee
Bob Green	252-255-8204	Email Bob Green
Wil Huett	970-222-5336	Email Wil Huett

The final slate of nominated chapter officials will be published on the RMFC website by May 1st and the 2018-2019 term officials will be elected at our chapter's May 16, 2018 Annual General Meeting. Elected officials will participate in a transitional overlap with current incumbents, and officially take office effective October 1st.

Coy Wylie, President

[Link for Chapter Events Calendar on our web site](#)

Donate and/or Buy



[Make a Donation](#)

[Buy RMF Merchandise](#)

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Rocky Mountain Flycaster Sustaining Donors



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2018-03-02i

Bob Green, *The Flypaper* Editor.