



September 2019

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From the President

September 2019

As I mentioned in the August edition of *The Flypaper*, we initiated construction of the path to the pier on the Big Thompson River. I am pleased to announce that with the help of 17 volunteers working more than 150 hours, the pier has been completed. See Will Huett's column below (Community Outreach) for a more complete description and photos.



Mickey McGuire, RMF President

A special shout out to Bill Gedge and his crew of volunteers for another successful Youth Conservation and Fishing camp. All campers were excited to be there and completed the curriculum. A special thank you to St. Peter's fly shop for their donation of guides' time and effort. They always enhance the fishing experience for the campers. Please be sure to sign up to volunteer for next year's camp. You will be amazed at how much the kids appreciate the mentoring and I have no doubt that you will feel enriched by your experience with the camp.

Last spring, with the help of Marty Staab, we started the RMF Pub and Dub where members and guests met to tie flies on the first Wednesday of the month at the Gilded Goat brewery located next to Trader Joes on South College in Fort Collins. Since we were all fishing throughout the summer, we suspended that activity but will start up again in October. Stay tuned for further details!

I will be excited to see everyone again at our next General Meeting that will be held Wednesday September 18, 7:00 PM at the Fort Collins Senior Center. We have reinitiated the pre meeting fly tying table so come early to visit and see one of our fine fly tiers spin up some great patterns.

Until later,

Mickey McGuire
President



See our Calendar of Events

September Membership Meeting



Mark Foley of First Cast Fly Fishing

Ever dream of traveling and fishing Patagonia?

Mark Foley of First Cast Fly Fishing will present a slide show about traveling and fly fishing in Argentina. In 1999, at age 29, Mark spent one year hiking and fishing the Andes mountain range. He is a former Argentina Orvis endorsed fly fishing lodge manager.

During his presentation, he will take us on a journey from Tierra del Fuego to the border of the Bolivian rainforest. We will see spectacular pictures of the Andes, wild trout, Golden Dorado, and other wildlife. Lastly, he will share many travel and fishing tips, giving you many DIY options.

Mark is a lifetime member of TU, and a FFI certified fly casting instructor. More information at: www.firstcastflyfishing.com

Be sure to attend our General Chapter meeting to see Mark and to hear what's going on.

Where: Fort Collins Senior Center; 6:30 for social 1/2 hour; 7:00 PM for meeting.

Events in September



Board Meeting: September 11th, 6, PM at the Harmony office of the Group. Everyone is invited to attend this meeting.



Monthly Membership Meeting, September 18 at 6:30 PM, Senior Center, Fort Collins

Fly Swap: How about sharing a sample of your favorite pattern of the summer at our September general meeting with some of our tyers?

In return you will get recipes and a sample fly from each of the other tyers.

I will let you know how many of your favorite flies to tie about a week before the general meeting. Attach a Mini toe tag to each of your flies with your recipe.

Please email **Dave Morse** to let me know you will participate by the second Wednesday of September.



Help Wanted



Here are some opportunities for interested members to be a part of building our chapter success.

RAFFLES COORDINATOR

Ever wonder how our volunteer Raffle Coordinator provides for your fun, enjoyment and the opportunity to win a fly rod at our meetings? We would like you to consider becoming a part of this extraordinary activity as our current coordinator, Domingo Rodriguez has asked to stand down from this position. It would be great if we could have someone overlap with Domingo to learn the ropes, or fly lines, and eventually lead this effort.

CHAIR, COMMUNITY OUTREACH

After many years our Chairperson, Wil Huett, has announced his retirement and requested that we appoint a successor to become part of the Volunteer Leadership Council. Our RMF Chapter sees itself as a community citizen and enrichment resource, and we need to let citizens and local organizations know more about us. Awareness promotion about our programs, capabilities and services through NoCO print, online channels and social media channels is important, as is building liaisons with organizations and companies that share elements of our conservation mission and outdoors values. This will be an exciting avenue for some member to help advance community awareness and appreciation of our Chapter.

CHAIR, YOUTH OUTREACH

This incredibly important position is probably one of our most personally rewarding experiences you will experience as you contribute your time and talent to the chapter. As part of the Volunteer Leadership Council, you will oversee the contributions of several highly committed volunteers involved with the Youth Camp, Trout in the Classroom, Water Festivals, CSU Educational Learning Center, USFS Free Fishing Day, CSU 5 Rivers Fly Fishing Club and potentially other new programs.

COORDINATOR, TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

If you enjoy interacting with passionate instructors and students at the elementary, junior and high school, TIC Coordinator may be for you. Working with the schools, you will collaborate with teachers to establish tanks owned by RMF and assist them as they set up and manage the rearing of rainbow trout. What a great experience!

CONTACT:

Members interested in any of these opportunities please contact one of the following for more information. Discussions will be handled in confidence.

Email **Dennis Cook**, Leader Development & Nominations or phone (970) 372-9229

Email **Wil Huett**, Leader Development & Nominations or phone (970) 222-5336

Video of the Month: Argentina



The video of the month for September features Argentina/Patagonia fly fishing on the Chimehuim River. Your editor will accompany St. Pete's host Grant Houx and others to fish this river, and others like it, next January.

From Frank Bub, Our Secretary

Rocky Mountain Flycasters Support the Poudre Headwaters Project Through CSU's Brook Trout DNA Study



"Fish, fish, fish!" was the enthusiastic cry of Dr. Kanno as another dazed Brook Trout floated to the surface. Two net minders jumped to scoop the fish up and transfer it to a bucket, where it joined others to get over the shock.

For 3 days each in late July and early August, we took long, sometimes difficult uphill hikes through the backcountry to the remote streams of Rocky Mountain National Park looking for populations

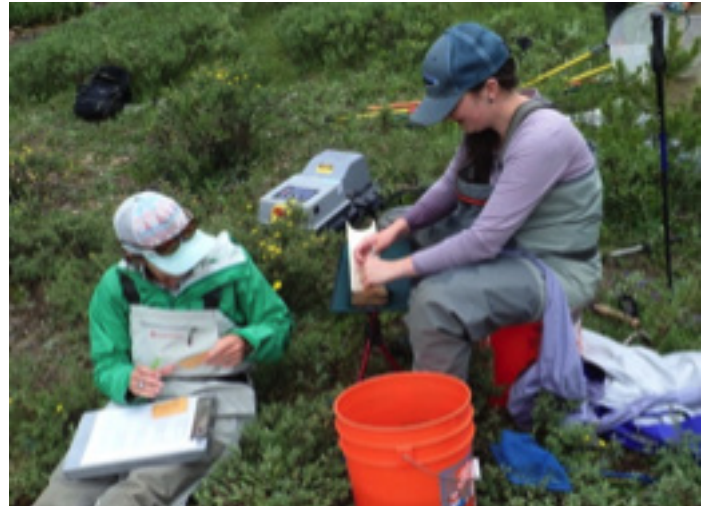
of Brook Trout. Colorado State University (CSU) researchers Dr. Yoichiro Kanno and master's graduate student Audrey Harris were accompanied by Rocky Mountain Flycasters (RMF) volunteers Ron Dickson, June Bigler, and Frank Bub; other CSU faculty; and members of the US Geological Service.

Through a grant with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, CSU is studying Brook Trout in the in the Long Draw area as part of the restoration of Greenback Cutthroat in the headwaters of the Cache la Poudre River. The study involves genetic testing of Brook Trout, which will serve as a surrogate to determine how fish may or may not move between drainages. A specific goal of the Poudre Headwaters Project is to establish a metapopulation – fish populations in multiple waters but connected across the watershed. Colorado Trout Unlimited serves as the trustee for the Project.



Each of us carried 30-plus pounds of gear including electro-shockers, nets, buckets, wad-

ers and boots, rain gear, and fish measuring and recording equipment for up to 7 rugged miles into the wilds. Once at a stream site, we geared up and worked upstream along a 100-meter stretch with 2-3 fish shockers, 3-6 nets, and a collection bucket. Electronic probes were pushed under overhanging banks and scanned through pools. As a shocked fish was immobilized, the netters scrambled to pick it up and drop it into a bucket where the fish recovered along with its mates. Some of the stream currents were fast, with lots of slippery rocks, deep pools, and steep drops, so keeping our footing while trying to net a fish was often a challenge.



After two passes were completed, each fish's length was recorded, and a small clip of its fin collected. Each fish was returned to the stream and, as far as we could tell, all survived. Back at CSU, for her master's thesis, Audrey will use DNA analyses of the fin samples to determine the population structures, distributions, and movement of Brook Trout families in 19 watershed sites.

It was easy to meet the goal of 40-50 fish per site, and over 100 were collected at a couple of locations. The fish ranged from about 25 to 200 millimeters (1-8 inches). Being able to contribute directly to our conservation mission was not only very rewarding, it was fun! The findings will be helpful in the long-term Poudre Headwaters Project to successfully restore the Greenback Cutthroat Trout in the region.

From Wil Huett, Our Community Outreach Coordinator

Redux & It's not cooling off...up there...or down here!

Redux - last month's report on Pinewood Reservoir Fly Fishing demos by RMF...Received a nice thank you note from Angela Borland, Education and Volunteer Supervisor for Larimer County's Natural Resources Department:

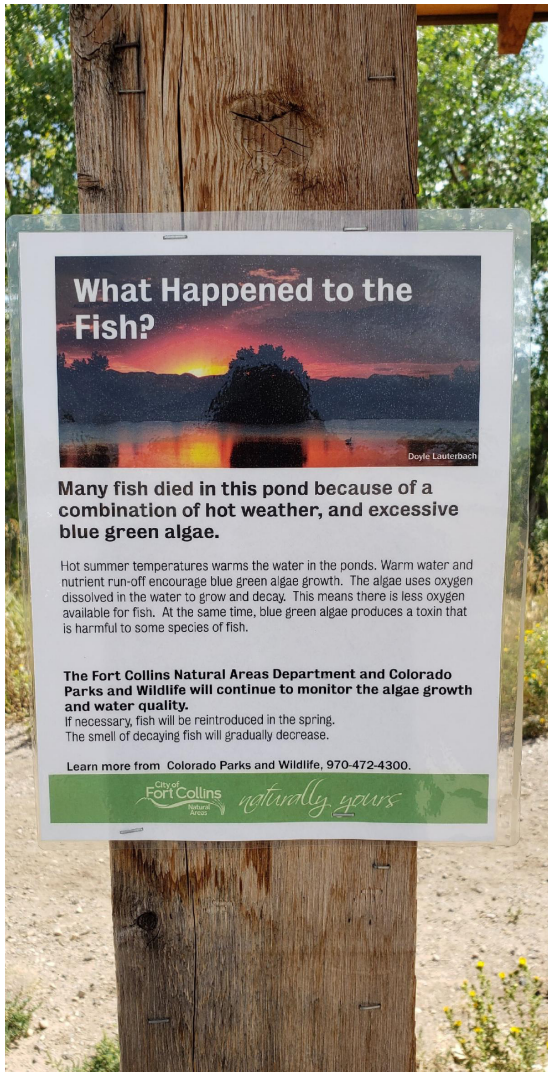
Thanks for the mention and I love the Robert story - I'm going to bring it to our campground host appreciation...to let folks here know how much fun it was. I would like to sit down again later this year to come up with a good plan for how you all would like to be involved next year with Campground and/or Shoreline chats. I also loved the muskie article - I just got back from Lake Superior (No fishing this trip) and certainly appreciate the sentiment of finding a fish that large. Thank you so much for the time you all put in this year.

The Path to the Pier - another step to completion...

Past President Dick Jefferies (blue shirt, above) and current President Mickey McGuire (white shirt) helped prepare the ramp to the newly rebuilt fishing pier at MM 72 in the Big T canyon. The driver remotely controlled the conveyor to place the material for smoothing. After helping build the original back in the 80's it was my pleasure to be part of this step in the restoration. (P.S. A few minutes later I caught a really nice brown out of the hole just above the pier.)



It's not cooling off up there...Alaska continued to report extremely high mid-summer temperatures and reports of resulting losses are now coming in: 'We're seeing *not just stressful temperatures for salmon, but lethal temperatures,*' experts say". Read more about it here Unprecedented heatwave 'kills thousands of fish' in Alaska. Making these losses even worse is that many fish died before reaching their spawning grounds, meaning future populations will suffer. (There are links in that article to other stories on the record setting heat up north.)



It's not cooling off down here either...Although the folks who track weather data tell us this has not been one of Colorado's hottest summers, I found this sign at Fort Collins Riverbend Ponds Natural Area a mite disturbing:

Natural Areas sources tell me they haven't seen fish kills in any other areas, but added the word, "yet".

This article caught me by surprise: despite the plentiful powder on Colorado's mountain slopes last winter, and the continuing high flows of our local rivers:

First-ever mandatory water cutbacks will kick in next year along the Colorado River

Colorado Governor earns plaudits from TU and other sources for a recent executive order:

Gov. Polis' Executive Order Protects Western Wildlife & Hunting Traditions and

Colorado Governor prioritizes wildlife conservation.

We have failed to recognize during the past that rivers are migration corridors, (and great natural firebreaks too: Healthy riparian zones are natural fire breaks) but now we know, so let's not let our 'fishy wildlife' be excluded from these new initiatives.

Time to go catch a few fish, but don't forget to Protect, Reconnect and Restore the habitat they need so you can catch them tomorrow as well.

Forecast From St. Peters Fly Shop

With summer coming to a close and fall just over the horizon we've got one of the most exciting seasons to fish coming up. August treated us to some phenomenal fishing and all that leftover water from our runoff season is fixing to make September one for the books. Additionally, most of the reservoirs in the area are still holding full or close to full water levels and should provide us with consistent flows throughout the fall season. Make sure to take advantage of the excellent hopper fishing all across the front range and with the odd weather we experienced we're seeing some hatches get pushed back to later points in the year. We're still seeing prolific trico, caddis, and pmd hatches both early mornings and late afternoons. Aside from dry fly fishing, nymph and streamer fishing will get better everyday and September is the best time of year to hone these skills to a point. To help get these skills down and excitement up we're putting on a free Fall Nymphing Tips and Tactics presentation September 18th along with an On the Water Nymphing Class on September 28th. For any more information on these classes or any of the other events going on around the shop stop in or give us a call.

Let's Go Fishing with Mark Miller

RMF 2019 Fishing Trip Listing

Here's wishing everyone some fly fishing fun for 2019.

Fall is just around the corner, water levels are good and crystal clear, and the fish are feeding – Get Out There!

If you are a new or beginner fly fisherman, we want you to join us for our trips – we love to help anyone get started in fly fishing, and to help people learn new skills or techniques.

Please contact **Mark Miller** by email to let him know if you are interested in any of these trips.

Wherever you decide to fish this year, good luck and tight lines!

Date(s)	Location	Host
Sep 9	Dream Lake in RMNP (Wednesday) A one mile hike for some exciting dry fly sight-fishing to rising cutts. Midweek trip to avoid crowd	Host: Mark Miller
Oct 8-10	Colorado River float – Tuesday-Thursday Fishing for browns in pre-spawn mode (hungry and aggressive mode) Camping on the river, or hotel in Kremmling – your choice.	Host: Mark Miller
Nov 1-3	Miracle Mile- weather permitting – Fri-Sun Browns in aggressive spawn mode, and rainbows after the eggs. Will most likely fish egg patterns and/or streamers. Fun trip if you like to swing streamers.	Host: Mark Miller

The Online Fly Fishing Magazine Library

The active link (click) icons below represent a beginning attempt to put together a group of FREE resources available to fly anglers. *Trout Magazine* is published by Trout Unlimited-USA and *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.

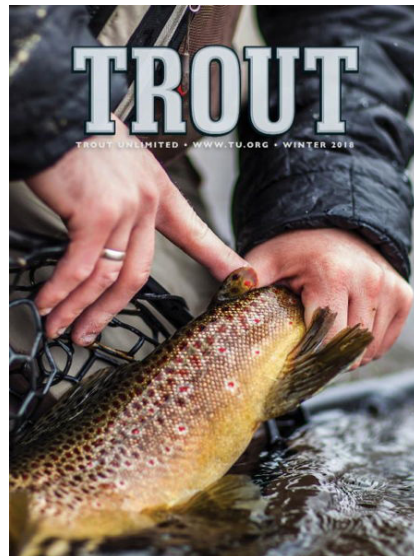
Please help me update these magazines by sending the URL for any FREE resources that you find worthwhile. Happy reading!

Hatch Magazine

High Country
Angler

 **DUN** Magazine

MONTANA
FLY FISHING MAGAZINE



The New
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2019-09-01

Bob Green, *The Flypaper* Editor.