

# The Flypaper

June 2022



A LEADER IN COLDWATER CONSERVATION

Renew

Volunteer

Join RMFTU

## From The President

### CTU Spring Meeting

Three of your chapter's members (Mark Miller, Dave Haeusler, and Scott Baily) attended a two-day CTU meeting in Redstone Colorado, not far from Glenwood Springs. I won't bore you with the details of the business meeting, but there were a few awards presented on day one worth mentioning. During this time, I had the chance to present a RMF Certificate of Appreciation to CTU Executive Director David Nickum. He and Dick Jefferies did all the heavy lifting to make the Grand Ditch Barrier happen last Fall. Dave Nickum worked with the USFS to put out the Request for Proposal, select a contractor for the job, and then monitor/control all funding. These are the kinds of things that CTU does in the background – the things most of us never know about. CTU provides amazing support to all the chapters in Colorado, and I am so appreciative of their hard work and support.



A little later, the agenda had a block of time to remember those that are no longer with us. CTU had not done this remembrance for over two years due to the Covid virus. There were 4 individuals that had done yeoman's work over many years with TU, that had passed away since 2019. Guess who was the first person they spoke of? Yup, you guessed it. It was **Dick Jefferies**. The wonderful and amazing things they said about Dick warmed my heart. I wish you all could have been there to hear it firsthand.

**Volunteer Orientation Meeting June 15<sup>th</sup>**



It's been quite a while since we were able to hold this meeting in person, so I am really looking forward to telling our RMF story to anyone interested in volunteering to aid our TU mission. Read more about this in Phil's article later in this edition.

### **Speaking of Volunteers**

I need to beat this drum as loudly as I can – we need more participation by our chapter members if our chapter is going to be effective in making a difference. From our conservation projects, to the **Kids Fish Free Day June 4<sup>th</sup>**, to our public booth events like we had back in April and May to help raise money for CPRW, to our May Expo, to our six-day Youth Camp in late July, we really do need more hands to help. I do understand it is difficult to find the time. I remember having three kids at home while my wife was teaching, and I was in the military. Time was precious! But my wife and I agreed I should volunteer at least once each year. It could be an entire day, or it could be 2 hours helping us set up our booth at the New Belgium RiverFest this coming Aug 20<sup>th</sup>. Whether it's an hour or an entire day, lending your hand is important to the success of our chapter. As Dick Jefferies used to say, it feels really good to be part of something bigger than ourselves. In addition to feeling good about contributing to our projects, you'll get to meet some of the fisheries professionals who work so hard to protect and improve our rivers and fisheries. The next time you have a good day on the water, think about these folks and the great job they do year in and year out. And if you can, give something back by volunteering.

### **May was a Busy Month**

On Apr 30, RMF set up our booth for the CPRW fundraiser and Poudre River Appreciation Day at Odells. We handed out brochures on the PHP, and the Kiddie Fishing Pond was a big hit. Well worth the time and effort.

On May 7, we again set up our booth right next to Aaron from St Pete's Flyshop for the "Flylords Party for the Poudre" at New Belgium". Here is what this party was all about: Last year, Larimer County, and the greater Colorado community witnessed the heartbreaking events of the landslides that devastated the Poudre River Canyon following a series of wildfires the year prior. This event upturned the lives of the local communities in many different ways, one of which was laying waste to a good portion of the Poudre River which flowed downstream of the event. Now, the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed (CPRW) is still in the process of mitigating these effects, while continuing its ongoing effort to protect and maintain this iconic river's waters. This is why Flylords and Fat Tire teamed up to throw the event of the summer, and raise money to donate to CPRW, to continue to support their efforts in recovering from last year's events. I'm proud of the fact that RMF puts a lot of effort (and some dollars) into supporting these fundraising efforts which are so critical to our CPRW coalition and their work on fire restoration.

May 14, 2022 - RMF Fly Tying Expo and Angler Rendezvous at the Aztlan Community Center. Nearly all of the invited fly tiers showed up to support this event, which was great. However, being a beautiful spring day, with lots of competing events happening (like graduations), turnout was rather low, but those of us in attendance had a great time, and we made a little money for our chapter functions. Hopefully we will be able to return to a wintertime or early springtime event for our Expo next year, when turnout should be much stronger.

Wait, there's more! Jerry Pellis led our RMF team on two days to conduct the Children's Water Festival (thank you Jerry!). And Scott Baily led our RMF effort to help CPW construct a creel survey station at Hohnholtz Lake (thank you Scott!).

All of these events take time and effort, and I would like to sincerely thank those involved. Here are their names, and please forgive me if I missed someone: Dennis Cook, Dave Haeusler, John Bryant, Wayne Carlson, Colin Glover, Roger Slocumb, Bill Rosquist, Jay Weaver, Jeannie Weaver, Scott Baily, Tony Popp, Dave Beede, Lee Evans, Ryan Laudermilch, Bob Castner, Zach Jory, Bill Gillett, Ryan Hogan, Ron Hanser, Jeff Burgess, Paul Wehr, Jerry Pellis, Wil Huett, Ted Sammond, and Dave & Josie Dargatz. And many thanks to the following CPW staff: Aquatic biologist Kyle Battige, property technicians Seth Schwolert and Trever Hall, and fisheries technician Alex Jouney, for their leadership and continued partnership with Rocky Mountain Flycasters!

### **PHP Ambassador Training in June:**

Two training sessions are now scheduled for those that have signed up through iVolunteer to be a PHP Ambassador. The training dates are June 9<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. If you signed up to be a PHP Ambassador and have not yet heard these dates, you will be contacted via email soon with all the info you'll need. For those not familiar with this program, the idea is to have 1-2 Ambassadors at the Long Draw Campground on most weekends to hand out information on the reintroduction of the Greenback Cutthroat trout, and to answer any questions people may have.

### Keep 'em wet:

Just a friendly reminder to "Keep 'em wet" this summer as you handle the fish you catch. The longer the fish is out of the water, the less likely it will survive after being released. If you want to take a photo of your catch, have a friend get the camera ready while you keep the fish in the net in the water (never lay a fish on the bank for a photo). Then simply raise the fish just out of the water for 3-5 seconds for the photo, and gently put it back in the water and release it when it is ready to swim away under its own power. For a great photo, have the angler kneel in the water so you can get the angler, the fish, and the postcard beautiful background all in the shot. And have fun out there

### Your Fishing Photos:

I know many of you have some fun fishing photos. A lot of our members would love to see them in our Newsletter or on our Instagram page. Please share them by sending them to me at [president@rmftu.org](mailto:president@rmftu.org). One tip for good fish photos – kneel in the water while holding the fish just above the surface. This way you get a good shot of the fish and the angler's smiling face. Send me your photos!

Mark Miller, President  
[President@RMFTU.org](mailto:President@RMFTU.org)



## Trout Unlimited Volunteer Orientation Meeting

# TROUT UNLIMITED VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION MEETING JUNE 15TH, FROM 7-9 PM

**Northside Aztlan Community Center  
112 E Willow Street, Fort Collins**

**Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter** of Trout Unlimited will hold a **Volunteer Orientation Meeting** at the **Northside Aztlan Community Center in Fort Collins** on **June 15 from 7-9 PM**. Come to the RMF Volunteer Orientation Meeting to meet the Project Coordinators, and to learn about new volunteer opportunities as well as volunteer opportunities with ongoing projects.

This field season we plan to kick off a new Stream Monitoring Project on water quality monitoring to complement the Chapter's ongoing project on water temperature monitoring in support of native trout restoration. The instrumentation and protocols for the new water quality monitoring project are pretty technical, so if you have a technical background we welcome your help.

Another upcoming activity for this field season will be a revegetation project on La Poudre Pass Creek near Long Draw Reservoir. If you, as I do, like to garden in your high country "backyard," this is the project for you.

Still more volunteer projects this field season will involve stocking greenback cutthroat trout in



Williams Gulch, and assisting in establishing an additional brood stock for greenbacks in northern Larimer County.



These are just a few of the many volunteer opportunities with Rocky Mountain Flycasters. We also need volunteers for other projects including Leadership, Adult and Youth Education, the Summer 6 day Youth Camp, Veterans programs, Trout in the Classroom, Social media and communications, Membership, the Events Team, and more.

You can view and sign up for specific volunteer opportunities here <https://rmftu.ivolunteer.com/#1>

**Please complete the simple survey** to register your intent to attend the June 15 Volunteer Orientation Meeting.

If you would like more information, contact our Volunteer Coordinator Phil Wright at [philwright@ieeee.org](mailto:philwright@ieeee.org)

Do you plan to attend the Volunteer Orientation Meeting? Please click the link below and let us know of your intentions so we may continue to plan for the meeting. THANKS.

[Volunteer Orientation Meeting Reply](#)



## Trout In The Classroom - Fingerlings Released!!!

**Rocky Mountain Flycasters** 2021-'22 and 2022-'23 TIC project to become possibly the best two successive school years of its first decade hosting Trout in the Classroom in Northern Colorado. This year Severance Middle School's 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade science classes and Greeley West Senior High School's advanced placement natural sciences class both hosted TIC tanks and raised rainbow fingerling trout from eggs. On May 10<sup>th</sup> Severance students, and on May 13<sup>th</sup> Greeley students, held a class field trip activity and each released over fifty 3" to 4" rainbow trout fingerlings into the Poudre River.





*Releasing Fingerlings*



*Crawfish Capture*

Both current TIC schools' science teachers have confirmed they will again host a TIC Tank for the 2022-'23 school year. They will also be joined by the Fort Collins Lincoln Middle School science class led by an experienced fish tank teacher – which will represent a Rocky Mountain TIC trifecta success as all-science curriculum schools. Interestingly too, the Severance and the Fort Collins science teachers both are members of your own Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter!



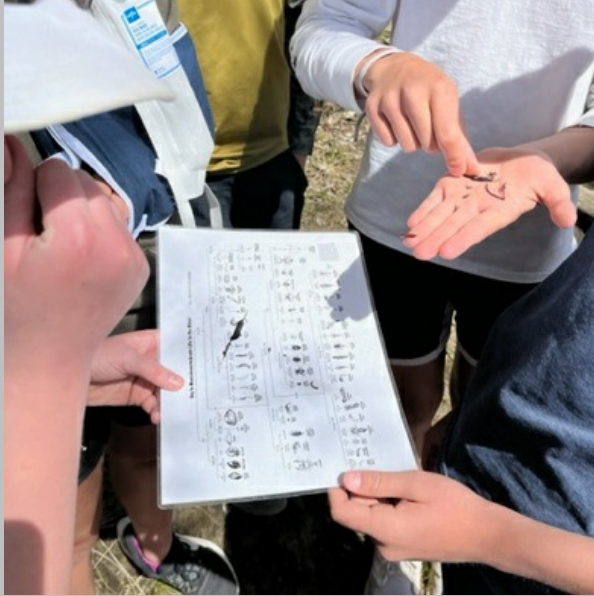
*To avoid temperature differential shock, a student tempers the school tank's colder water with warmer river water.*



*School fish are transported in buckets equipped with an aerator to maintain life-sustaining oxygen balance.*

**Trout in the Classroom** is a conservation-oriented, environmental education program in which students monitor tank water quality, engage in stream and ecosystems habitat study, learn to appreciate cold water resources as a human necessity and begin to foster a conservation ethic. The school year end fingerlings release is often a class field day at which students release their fingerlings, capture and study macro invertebrates, engage in some riverbank cleanup, and sometimes students also experiment with fly casting.





Matching Macroinvertebrates to Image Key



Trash Collection

### MEMBER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!!! TIC COORDINATOR

RMF's TIC Coordinator is retiring after a decade of developing RMF's TIC Program, and now RMF Chapter is seeking a replacement – or even a couple or three replacements to share the activities.

**Good news! (1)** The current Coordinator has agreed to support the new Coordinator(s) transition!

**(2)** Experienced TIC teachers!

**(3)** Plenty of lead-time to review the TIC Manual, ask questions and discuss whatever you want

to know before making a decision!

**Interested members contact:** John Bryant, Education Committee Chair  
at [greenume@gmail.com](mailto:greenume@gmail.com)



## Volunteer Opportunity IN RMNP

### Volunteer to Assist with 2022 Field Projects in Rocky Mountain National Park

The 2022 field schedule for conservation and fish monitoring work in RMNP is now available. There are many great opportunities beginning in July to assist Chris Kennedy with this important work.

Chris Kennedy is a Fish Biologist with the USFWS who handles the bulk of fish management in Rocky Mountain National Park. As a one-man crew, he relies heavily on volunteers to complete projects during the field season, which generally runs from July through October. Trout Unlimited volunteers have been volunteering with Chris for many years to complete this important conservation work in RMNP.

[View the 2022 schedule and sign up to help](#)



## Hohnholz Lakes Creel Project





In early May, four RMF volunteers continued the chapter's partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) at the Hohnholz Lakes State Wildlife Area, located a few miles south of the Wyoming border. Goals for this project included building and installing passive creel survey stations, installing digital cameras at each of the three lakes and the property's access to the Laramie River, and building a fence to enclose the signs and survey station at the Hohnholz Lakes Campground.

There were a few snow squalls in the area when crews arrived that morning, but they quickly gave way to clear skies. It would have been a lovely spring day if it weren't for the wind, which can really blow up there! The weather aside, everything we had hoped to accomplish was achieved and everyone had a good time working together.

CPW maintains easements on three lakes that are collectively known as Hohnholz Lakes, and leases water from a local rancher to maintain these productive fisheries. In addition to providing labor for this project, RMF contributed lumber and other materials. CPW provided project leadership, tools and equipment, and everything required for the digital camera stations.

In the past, the cost and logistics of using a temporary employee at a relatively remote area has prohibited CPW from gathering creel data that is important to effectively manage these fisheries. Now, digital cameras are recording daily angler activity every 15 minutes, and fishermen have the opportunity to record details about their experience through voluntary, self-service survey stations. While data about angler use of the area will be far more accurate than ever before, the quality of data from anglers will depend upon how many fishermen take the time to accurately complete the surveys. If you fish Hohnholz Lakes this year, please fill out a survey for each of the areas you visit!





This project was important because creel data provides valuable information about angler use, catch rates, harvest rates, satisfaction, and preferences. This passive creel survey should provide data driven insights into the economic impact and use of these fisheries that will hopefully help to justify another long-term water lease between CPW and the local ranch. In addition to usage data, CPW will also receive information on the quality of fishing at the lakes and nearby Laramie River that will help inform fisheries management decisions.



Many thanks to the following RMF volunteers: Dave & Josie Dargatz for helping with the survey box construction, to Dennis Cook, Ted Sammond, Wil Huett, and Scott Baily for helping with the on-site installation; and to the following CPW staff: Aquatic biologist Kyle Battige, property technicians Seth Schwolert and Trever Hall, and fisheries technician Alex Journey for their leadership and continued partnership with Rocky Mountain Flycasters! It was a pleasure working with all of you.

Scott Baily  
RMF Director at Large  
Acting Conservation Chair



## Diversity Study

My name is **Arianna Basto** and I am a researcher from **Colorado State University** in the Human Dimensions of Natural Resources (HDNR) department. We are conducting a study on fisher's motivations, constraints, and experiences in recreational fishing. The title of this study is ***"Exploring Latino motivations, constraints, and negotiation strategies in recreational fishing in Colorado to improve participation and experience"***.

We would like to interview women and men anglers that identify as **Latino, Hispanic, and/or Chicano** about their experience in fishing. The





interview may be in English or Spanish and in the interviewee's preferred delivery method (virtual, via telephone, or in-person). It will last roughly 45-60 minutes. If decide to participate, and change your mind, you may withdraw from participation at any time without penalty.

This study is part of the larger project "*Cultivating access and diversity of recreational fishing in Colorado*" lead by Dr. Anna Lavoie (HDNR) and Dr. Mike Quartuch of Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). The results will inform the outreach, education, and recruitment efforts CPW to foster BIPOC engagement in recreational fishing and improve their experience.

Would you like to participate or have any questions about this project? If so, please contact:

Arianna Basto at 571-645-0398, or [aribasto@colostate.edu](mailto:aribasto@colostate.edu)  
Dr. Anna Lavoie at 978-594-3154, or [anna.lavoie@colostate.edu](mailto:anna.lavoie@colostate.edu)

For more information, click on the flyer below.

[Recreational Fishing Project \(PDF\)](#)

[Proyecto Pesca Recreativa \(PDF\)](#)



## Brookies Galore - Fun Trip!!

**FLY FISHING "FUN TRIP" - JULY 9TH  
COLORADO RIVER HEADWATERS  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK**



The trip is half full, so about 6 more open spots remain for the next members who sign up.

**Details:** 7:00am carpools depart from the Jax Outdoors/Loveland West store located on the corner of West Eisenhower Blvd. (US 34) at Wilson Avenue. Riders share gas expenses with drivers. Lunch is together sharing stories on the river, so bring water and pack snacks. At day's end each car's riders choose whether to grab a bite in Estes Park, or not and continue homeward.

More details are provided in plenty of time for you to prepare. To sign up, or if you've any questions, email Trip Coordinator, Dennis Cook at [rkymtnangler@gmail.com](mailto:rkymtnangler@gmail.com)



## Vince Herrera's St. Pete's Fly Fishing Report For June

Howdy, everyone! We have made it to the on season, the tail-end of spring, runoff, high-water, and days out on the water have been great. We have seen a massive influx of guided trips, people coming in to browse, folks hitting the water, and we have even been so busy over here, my article for May completely slipped away from me. With runoff still pumping we have seen big changes to our watersheds and the warm weather opens new opportunities like warm water or high alpine fishing. This is not only my favorite time of the year but a lot of the fellas at the shop also love fishing during the summer because of the diversity of fish and different locations to catch them. Hopefully we have all had some productive adventures so far but as summer comes



around just remember that we are here to help you with any endeavors you have had out on the water.



If you have been keeping up with the Poudre River flows or any other freestone rivers, you will have noticed that run off is here and it doesn't take an experienced angler to see this rise in flow as well. One night we went to bed with 300cfs and the next day it was all the way up to 1,900cfs. That is a huge increase. When water gets big, I think a lot of us have the tendency to become intimidated by the high water and shy away from fishing the river when these conditions become apparent. It doesn't have to be intimidating and a lot of times this year I am fishing

from the bank or up to my knees in water and you can still catch plenty of fish. When runoff starts, all the big bugs and debris that has settled over wintertime is now becoming active and being stirred and kicked up as water comes through. These meals get pushed out into the water column where they become available to fish and trout will capitalize on these big meals all day. Flows become fast and this makes it hard for fish to hold so they will locate slower water which happens to be conveniently located right along the banks and up in trees where we will be standing. If you aren't catching fish, there is a good chance that it can be because you are standing where the fish were located and spooked them. As a new approach for summer, I will often fish the water along the bank before I even think about stepping in just to avoid spooking the fish and increase my chances of catching any trout that may be there. Then you can gradually make your way into the stream. I position myself below the fish so every cast I will have the least amount of drag affecting my flies and only the leader is landing over the fish. Opposed to across stream presentations when the high flows can cause more drag interference. Your fly selection will be focused more on bigger bugs with defining characteristics like dark bodies, big legs, flash, and weight. Flows are fast and deposit big stoneflies, leeches, large mayflies and more into the water and fish know this. Trout also only have a very short window to process these bugs as meals above info, I have found the hopper dropper rig to be my go-to rig for the summer. You can rig up a #12 hopper up front with a stonefly underneath by about 2 feet. This will be a great place to start. Fish will be in the shallow, slower water either looking at the surface or ahead in the current for food and this rig covers both so well. For me, if it isn't a hopper dropper rig that I'm throwing then it's a double dry fly rig during a hatch. I have all winter to stare at an indicator so experiment and change rigs to find out what you have the most confidence in.

The Poudre is different now, no doubt, but there are still fish there and they are of great quality. So don't let people tell you all the fish are gone because they are there but we have several other available resources at just a 30-minute drive away as well. The Big Thompson has been fishing so good and we have seen more people giving that river a shot now more than ever. This is a tailwater, so these flows are always cold and



always consistent, so the trout have a pretty stable environment year round. This does make those fish finer tuned to where they live so you will notice that these fish are picky, smart, and won't take just any fly. Lately those fish have still been munching on #18-20 BWO dry flies and nymphs, #20-22 Midge Larvae, and #16-12 Grasshoppers from the surface. On top of the cold-water fisheries, we have warm-water fisheries as well. This is so fun and if we want to take care of our rivers, so it doesn't make much sense to keep fishing for trout and stressing them out. This hurts the resource and the fish, so this is a good time to go and poke at some smallmouth bass and carp. The ponds in Fort Collins are loaded with these fish but no one takes the time to go and look for them. They fight too, let me tell ya. On the next warm day, take a step away from your comfort zone and try something new. All you need is some Clouser Minnows and Poppers and you will be set for a fun day. I usually fish my Clousers on short, fast strips and this will get the fish interested but sometimes they like short and fast retrieves and others they want slow and long retrieves. Carp are very spooky and like a delicate presentation. After you spook a couple, you will want to practice your casting. When you hook one you just keep your rod tip up and hold on because carp will spool you into your backing quick. Often enough it's a matter of finding the carp that is already feeding and putting a fly right in front of it and even the slightest splash will spook the fish. They will test your skill and patience but have fun with it. When it all blends



together, that moment in time is perfect. Summer is here folks! Have a fun, safe, responsible time out there and always remember that we will be here to help.



## Video of the Month



How about some Float Tubing!!



## RMF Merchandise

We have the following items for sale to show your pride in our chapter:

- 1) Columbia shirts, men's and women's, long-sleeve
- 2) Caps (with logo badge sewn on front)
- 3) Yeti 20-ounce tumbler

[Purchase RMF Merchandise](#)

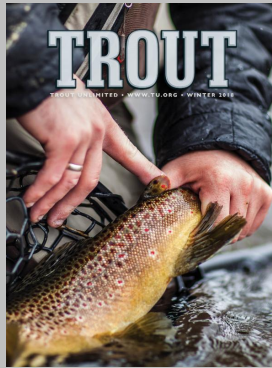


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