

The Flypaper

March 2022



A LEADER IN COLDWATER CONSERVATION

Renew

Volunteer

Join RMFTU

From the President

Welcome to Rocky Mountain Flycasters March Newsletter.

Last Fall, TU created a new mission statement: “We bring together diverse interests to care for and recover rivers and streams, so our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout and salmon.”

RMF’s work with the USFS and CPW to reintroduce the Greenback Cutthroat Trout into the Poudre Headwaters falls nicely within this mission statement. We will help restore a piece of Colorado’s legacy that was nearly lost to extinction. Rest assured, your chapter is currently in touch with both of these agencies to find out what volunteer opportunities will be available this summer. We will keep you informed as new information becomes available.



Speaking of the TU mission, here is a related question I heard the other day: “Do we inherit our world from our ancestors (to do with as we wish), or do we borrow it from our children?” TU’s mission statement speaks strongly about the future. As members of TU, when our children grow up and ask “what did you do to improve our world”, I’m confident we will have some very good answers. So yes, I believe, and TU believes, that we borrow it from our children. Let’s be sure to make them proud!

**CTU River Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp
June 12-18, 2022 - Skills, Conservation Principles, and Camaraderie.**

Colorado Trout Unlimited will host the 17th annual River Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp for

teen youth at AEI Base Camp in Taylor Park, Colorado, June 12-18, 2022. Since 2006, youth from across the state and beyond have gathered to complete a week-long program of STEM-based conservation education and instruction in the art of fly fishing. Youth 14-18 are eligible to apply for the camp, and chapters statewide provide scholarships to campers in need. In parallel with Orvis, CTU is working to achieve 50/50 gender diversity at camp.

This camp provides a unique immersive experience for teens interested in the outdoors, fly fishing, and potential conservation-related career paths. Campers participate in hands-on conservation activities and receive one-on-one and group instruction in the art of fly fishing. Their experience is enriched as they make lifelong relationships, "finding their people" and bonding with peers of similar interests. The program exposes campers to the complexity of water management in the west and its nexus with recreation. The diversity of the conservation program is designed so that participants can envision multiple education and career paths that align with their personal passion for the outdoors. [Click here to learn more and apply](#). Applications are due **April 10, 2022**.

CTU River Gala – Fundraiser

Each spring your CTU holds their biggest fundraiser of the year. For the second year in a row, it will be held virtually, due to the ever-present virus, on March 10th.

Funds raised at the GALA are used across our beautiful state to restore trout habitat and reintroduce native cutthroat trout to their home waters, engage youth in conservation education, partner with our 24 Colorado chapters on projects, and advocate for Colorado's rivers and fisheries.

There are great items to bid on – some amazing fishing trips, and other non-fishing related trips. An example from a few years ago, one of our former chapter presidents bid on, and won, a trip for two for an African Safari, that was steeply discounted. So, you never know what deals you may find unless you join in for the virtual party. If you are interested, go here for all the details - <https://coloradotu.org/gala> .

Individual tickets are available for \$20, \$75, or \$100. There is also a free option to enter the auction. Your \$20 ticket includes admission to the virtual gala PLUS entry for a Sarabella fly rod giveaway (drawing night of gala).

\$75 - Individual ticket - Individual ticket includes admission/link to attend virtual event PLUS admission to the in-person Summer event!

Platinum Raffle Entry - \$100 - Platinum raffle: the raffle prize will be a weekend stay at the upscale Madison Valley Ranch in Wyoming. Fly fish and enjoy the scenery; welcome package with lots of goodies included! Drawing for this raffle during the gala on March 10th.

FREE option – If you are only interested in the virtual auction, you can register for free. Just go to the link above, and look for the “Free Registration for Silent Auction” button.

Note - The Silent Auction opens one week prior to the **March 10th** virtual gala program.

Operating As One TU To Fix Our Rivers

Last month I wrote about TU Priority Waters – A National Effort. Here is additional information about this “One TU” strategic plan (taken from TU’s 2021 Strategic Plan):

We believe that the most complex and seemingly insurmountable challenges can be solved when people come together and get to work. Expertise and experience are crucial to creating change, but without hard work by determined people, even best intentions become empty promises and plans remain incomplete.

Under this plan, we seek to realize the full potential of our volunteers and supporters by coalescing as One TU—one community in pursuit of a shared vision, mission, and goals. At TU, we advocate for and repair rivers, and in the process, we strengthen the communities in which we work. We believe success comes when we can bring people together to make positive change.

And there are many successes to celebrate. TU gets results at every scale—local to national—by leveraging our grassroots credibility, nonpartisan pragmatism, and local presence with science, conservation, and advocacy programs that are unrivaled in the conservation world.

We've proven that we can get more done when we engage all our people and assets across the organization to address a need or opportunity. Greater coordination and collaboration among chapters, councils, partners, and national staff amplifies our policy influence, fundraising, and conservation impact.

Working toward this new strategic direction, we will continue to advocate for and fix rivers. We will demonstrate anew the power of bringing people together to create positive change—in the waters where trout and salmon thrive, and in the communities that depend on them.

Available Chapter Leadership Opportunities:

We still have several leadership opportunities, as listed below. We need several chapter members to help us keep moving forward.

Chapter Historian

Events Team Leader

Leadership Development Committee members

Trout in the Classroom volunteers needed – 3 positions available

Fishing Trip Coordinator

VOLUNTEER needed: “JOB OF A LIFETIME”

Honest! RMF's Fishing Fun Trips Coordinator is an opportunity to have more fun than any other RMF member! Just ask me, as I held it for several years.

All you need to do is recruit 5-6 members who are willing to serve as hosts for recreational fishing trips. And, we already have 3-4 hosts that enjoy leading trips each summer, so this task is pretty easy.

We already have one daytrip scheduled on July 10th to fish the Colorado River Headwaters in Rocky Mountain National Park. Most trips will be one-day trips, and a couple might be one or two night trips. Covid put an end to overnight trips for the last 2 years, but we hope to be able to plan those trips again starting this summer.

RMF's Fun Fishing Trips program has been a part of our chapter's history since 2012. Past trips have included Joe Wright Reservoir, Blue River, Green River's "Flaming Gorge", South Platte River 'Dream Stream', Colorado River Gore Canyon, Delaney Buttes lakes, North Platte River's "Gray Reef, Poudre River's Upper Canyon, RMNP's "Dream Lake", Poudre River's "Big South", Big Thompson Canyon, North Platte River's "Miracle Mile", Poudre River 'Gateway Natural Area' reaches, RMNP's Wild Basin's Saint Vrain River headwaters, Yampa River's "World Class Rainbow Tailwater", North Platte's "Fremont Canyon", and RMNP Big Thompson Moraine Park reach. Many of these have been visited many times by our chapter members, and all are excellent places to revisit.

Or, if you know someone who is outgoing and enjoys planning events to get people together, please tell them about this. For more information on this volunteer opportunity, interested members should contact RMF President, Mark Miller, at president@rmftu.org

New Chapter Members – Let's Go Fishing!

As a new chapter member, going on some of our chapter fishing trips is a great way to meet new fishing friends and learn more about our local waters. I encourage all new members to join us for at least one day trip this summer. We have fun fishing together!

I hope you have a great month!

Mark Miller, President
President@RMFTU.org



Welcome New Education Committee Leaders

I am very pleased to announce some volunteers for Education Leadership positions. These leaders will help us move forward in providing a strong education program for the chapter that prepares the community for a lifelong passion for Coldwater Conservation and Fly Fishing. Please welcome:

John Bryant as our new **Education Chair/Youth Outreach Coordinator**,
Jim Durante as our new **NoCO Youth Fly Fishing Day Camp Director**
Tom Schulz as our new **TU Costas 5 Rivers Coordinator** (CSU Liaison).

These leaders will be the focal points for these activities but have broad experience and will be active in many volunteering opportunities. Let's all give them our support.

Dave Haeusler, Vice President
vicepresident@RMFTU.org

March Membership Meeting

The RMFTU Leadership is keeping a close eye on the Larimer County COVID numbers for a possible IN PERSON meeting on **March 16**. As the date gets closer and a decision is made, watch for an announcement via email blast, web site and social media.

Thank you to the members who responded to the survey about in person meetings. Of those that responded, 70 percent were a "yes". If you have any questions or concerns, please send an email and it will be forwarded to the leadership.

Editor
news@RMFTU.org



Fly Tying Expo - IN PERSON!



Rocky Mountain Flycasters 2022 Fly Tying Expo and Angler Rendezvous

Returning in person at the Northside Aztlan Community Center
in Fort Collins

JOIN US ON
MAY 14 FROM NOON - 4.

Odell beer and wine will be available and
food trucks will be in the parking lot.

Come join us to discover new fly patterns, connect with regional
fly shops and tiers, learn about volunteer opportunities with
local conservation organizations, make new friends and
see some old ones.

All proceeds directly support local coldwater
conservation efforts.



Find out more, get tickets and bid on
raffle items by visiting

rmftu.org/2022expo

or scanning the QR code.



Public Access to Rivers

In case you missed this, the following is a link to an article published in the Denver Post. This is a court case that could impact wade fishing in Colorado.

“Freedom to wade”: 80-year-old Colorado fisherman notches win for public access to rivers.
Denver Post Article by Bruce Finley

Read Article [HERE](#)



Platte Rivers Veterans Fly Fishing Update

Our Veterans outreach and support efforts through Platte Rivers Veterans Fly Fishing (PRVF) are continuing through their weekly rod making and flytying classes for veterans in Fort Collins (our fifth location) at the Elevations Credit Union in Old Town on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. It is continuing its classes at the same time in Loveland, Greeley, Laramie and Cheyenne. Veterans participate in the drop-in tying classes at no cost. We can always use some more TU volunteers to help with the classes, especially if you are a fly tyer or have made a rod. Our volunteers include vets and non-vets. Come visit a class.

Program information can be found on the PRVFF website, Platterivers.org. We accept fly tying materials or tool donations for classes, used or new fly fishing equipment for vets, and potential fund raising items (trips, lodging, art, quality gear, etc.) for our annual Gala fund raising banquet which is on March 19th in Cheyenne. Tickets are available on-line at platterivers.org or from Dave Morse, your TU Veterans Program Coordinator.

The program is run by volunteers. We raise all our own funding providing these no-cost classes, fishing instruction, and both day and overnight fishing trips for the local veteran's community. Our TU Chapter generously supports the efforts of the PRVFF.

Contact David Morse, the RMFC Veterans Program Coordinator for more details (217-418-9386 or dmorse@platterivers.org)



Rod Making class. Dave Haeusler and Nicki McELvain getting pointers from Mark Carter.



Vince Herrera's St. Peter's Fly Fishing Report for March



Crisp mornings, birds chirping, the sun is coming up earlier. Spring is here and just like all of you, I am so excited. For anglers this marks the beginning of a new season of doing what we love and I know we are all ready to spend as much time on the water as possible. About half way through the month of February I started to hear birds chirping in the morning and thought to myself "I miss those sounds of being on the water." You don't hear those noises during the winter and it makes you realize how much you miss it when it's gone so I'm pretty excited to have it coming back around. Winter was cold and dry but we did get a sufficient amount of snow on the mountains that will supply us with a decent water season. After a short winter of tying flies, perfecting our knots, and learning new techniques, we are ready to enjoy the fruits of our labor.

Just like us, the fish along the foothills get pretty excited too. With the warmer season right on the horizon fish look forward to eating lots of meals as the water temperatures and bug activity begin to change. The winter season pushes trout to their limits in terms of survival with cold temperatures, small food sources, and crystal clear waters but this is the time of year where they are extremely hungry, their metabolism speeds up, and they are ready to pack on some weight. As the day begins to warm up so will the water thus allowing Baetis or Blue Wing Olive Nymphs

to become more active. During the winter I am using primarily midges to target trout but now I will begin to turn my focus less towards midges and more towards blue wing olives. Both nymphs and adults. I keep midges in the chamber just in case of a great hatch, or if fish still prefer to take smaller bugs but they will be the ones to tell you. This change also gets fish excited to move around and search for their meals. The rainbow and cutthroat trout will soon begin to pre-spawn and those two factors alone make for some crazy streamer fishing. Another reason why I am so excited for this weather to warm up. The warm water helps fish recognize that they have to eat and they need something big to stay satisfied and spawning puts trout in an aggressive mood so you should be able to get some grabs on some big flies this spring. If you have not already, stop by and grab your tickets for the **Fly Fishing Film Tour**. This year the film is back at the **Lincoln Center** which makes for a fun environment that really kicks the season off on a positive note. This year's film will be on **Saturday, March 19th**. There will be drinks, a raffle, music, and some great movies about fly fishing both saltwater and freshwater. Tickets are \$18.00 a piece and this is a fun event for anyone old or young. It's also just a great night for some camaraderie with the rest of the Fort Collins Fly Fishing community. You can buy tickets at the shop or online and we hope to see you there.

We also have some juicy classes on the schedule for the spring season. We have just a couple classroom sessions left before we begin to move into our on the water classes so get in while you can. One class I highly recommend is Trout Behavior. This class really does give you some great info to utilize on the water. It teaches you what trout and when, where and why they can want it. If you can consider those factors on the water you will catch a fish every time you go fishing. The next session is on Saturday, April 2nd so give us a call to sign up. I always talk about this class and it's because it really does give you a huge insight on what fish eat and when and that is the entomology class. Without knowing what fish eat you are just guessing and hoping that the wrong fly will appeal to a fish when it can be much easier and you can have a lot more confidence. When it comes down to it, fish know what they are eating and they know when it is available and where so with our entomology course we look at real specimens in vials and on paper. We learn their hatch times and life cycles so we know when to tie on the appropriate fly for the waters we fish. This class is applicable to all anglers in the west as the insects we learn about inhabit most of the rivers in the Western United States. You'll freak out when you see these same bugs alive right in our backyard. They were under our feet the whole time. Lastly, with spring runoff right around the corner taking the time to learn about spey fishing will open you up to the whole farbank. Literally. With a skagit head and spey rod you can blast nymph rigs and heavy streamers right to the other side of the river with ease. This isn't the most effective way to use this rod but you can cover way more water during runoff than a single handed rod ever could. This is a 6 hour class on the water so it does require a learning curve but once you get a snap-t cast tuned up, it will be all you can think about. Attendance is limited so call us soon but the class will be on Saturday, April 9th from 10am-4pm. You can find a full list of our schedule and events over at stpetes.com.

We're excited for Spring to settle in and it couldn't show up any faster but until then we will be here waiting to help you get set up for the coming months. Never be afraid to come in and ask us for some help, it's what we love doing.



Video of the Month



Small Creek Fishing - Colorado



Upcoming Events

RMF Calendar

Thursday, March 3 Pub & Dub
RSVP [Marty Staab](#).

Wednesday, March 9 RMF Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 16 General Membership Meeting

Link to [Zoom](#) Meeting

Join ZOOM Meeting



RMF Merchandise

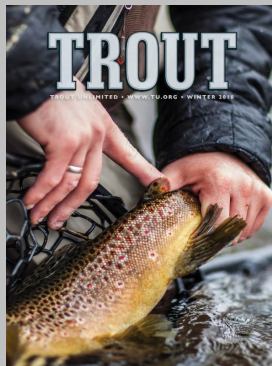
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