

The Flypaper

February 2022



A LEADER IN COLDWATER CONSERVATION

Renew

Volunteer

Join RMFTU

From the President

Why I Volunteer

Welcome to our February Newsletter. I hope you are all healthy and well.

I'm also hoping to add a small section to future newsletters about "Why I Volunteer". I thought it would be nice to hear from some of our chapter members about what motivates them to volunteer their time. I'll kick it off:

Trout fishing, the rivers, the mountains, the wildlife, have all given me so many amazing life experiences. I volunteer because I want to give back. I want to share my love of the outdoors with others and help protect our wonderful natural resources for future generations. I want to help someone learn how to cast a flyrod, and see their crazy grin when they catch their first fish. I want to teach someone how to tie a fly, and see the look on their face when they catch their first fish on a fly they tied themselves. When I volunteer, I look around me and see so many motivated, energetic, and excited faces. I feel I am contributing something of great value. It not only makes me feel good, it fills me with optimism and hope for the future. That's why I volunteer!



TU Priority Waters – A National Effort

The primary goal of our national TU organization is to identify a national network of shared priority waters for native and wild trout and salmon, and take strategic action to conserve and restore them.

To achieve this goal, there has been an on-going effort over the past year, among TU chapters all over the nation, to develop a listing of priority waters. Once this list is finalized, those waters most in need of resources will benefit from the collective experience and strength of TU. It has been proven that we can get more done when we engage all of our people and assets across the organization to address a need or opportunity. I believe this national effort will pay big dividends to those waters that make the Priority Waters listing.

So how does this effort apply to us here in northern Colorado? Several of our chapter members have been working on our RMF submission to the Priority Waters listing for northeastern Colorado. I'm thinking it will not be a shock to anyone that we have listed the Poudre River and its headwaters (specifically the Poudre Headwaters Project, or PHP) as the #1 priority for our area.

Reintroducing a threatened sub-species of cutthroat trout (once thought to be extinct) back into its native range is a lofty goal of which we can all be proud. We will be working diligently over the next few years to inform our community about the PHP, and strive to get more community involvement to help complete this project.

I hope you are as excited as I am to get your boots wet while helping to move this project forward. We hope to know by late spring or early summer what projects are on the docket for this summer, and where RMF can help the USFS and CPW with boots-on-the-ground volunteer activities. I'll keep you posted as we get more information.

Let's make good things happen, together!

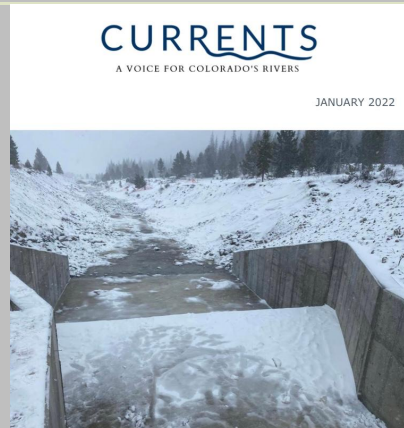
PHP Grand Ditch Upper Barrier Update – Great News!

At our last Conservation Committee meeting in mid-January, Dick Jefferies shared some great news with the committee. Construction started on the upper fish barrier (on the Grand Ditch) in early October. This upper barrier, plus 3 downstream barriers, are needed to keep non-native fish from invading restored Greenback Cutthroat habitat.

Update: the construction crew finally pulled out of the construction site in early January. Amazingly, they were able to get access and keep working even during the snowy and cold spells we had in December and early January.

Here is a summary of what they accomplished, and how the barrier was built. At the upstream portion of the project, they excavated a 5-foot drop in the Grand Ditch. Next, a concrete splashpad was built to take the constant impact of the 5-foot waterfall that was created. Now, they also had to excavate enough earth from the canal bed to maintain a very specific downhill grade so the water flows downhill, but not too fast. This required moving earth for about 600 feet downstream, toward Long Draw reservoir. Next, on both sides of the splashpad, tall concrete walls were also poured to prevent bank erosion. Lastly, both stream banks and stream bed had to be “armored” or covered with rip-rap’ (rock), again to prevent erosion, for 600 feet downstream. About 450 feet was completed, with the rest to be done later this spring.

This was a much bigger project than I had ever



*From CTU Currents newsletter –
about the Grand Ditch Barrier*

Winter has set in Colorado's high country - but not before Colorado TU with its partners at the US Forest Service and National Park Service, and contractor L4 Construction, completed installation of a concrete fish barrier on the outlet of the Grand Ditch. The barrier is the first of multiple that will be installed as part of the Poudre Headwaters Project and will open the door for native Greenback cutthroat trout to be restored into the first segment of the proposed metapopulation restoration area. In the years to come, the project will ultimately reclaim nearly 40 miles of habitat to create a true stronghold for Colorado's state fish. Major support for this barrier project was provided through the Colorado

imagined. I guess you could say it is the cornerstone of the Poudre Headwaters Project. And now, for 2022, here's hoping more great progress can be made.

Water Conservation Board, the Long Draw Reservoir Mitigation Trust, and Cabela's Thornton. TU volunteer leader Dick Jefferies, of Jefferies Construction Solutions, has provided major in-kind support with project management as well.

A Letter from CTU

A few months ago I received a fundraising letter from Colorado Trout Unlimited. I thought you may be interested to see what it said:

- *"When you give you support projects like:"*
- *"Creating a future stronghold to support the recovery of Colorado's state fish, the threatened Greenback cutthroat trout, with the Poudre Headwaters Restoration Project. Colorado TU and our Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter have joined agency partners to start construction of the first barrier needed to isolate habitat for upcoming reintroduction of Greenbacks and are advancing the first phase of a long-term project that will ultimately secure nearly 40 miles of connected rivers as home waters for the Greenback."*
- *"Working with local partners and the Gore Range Chapter to study the Blue River in the Silverthorne area and develop recommendations that could restore its waters back to the state's highest quality cold-water habitat ranking, as a Gold Medal fishery."*
- *"Youth programs that reach hundreds of Colorado youth to provide conservation based outdoor education in the form of CTU's youth camp, Trout in the Classroom, STREAM Girls, 5Rivers College clubs, and more."*

Please note, and be proud of the fact, that your RMF chapter is deeply involved in the PHP, of course. But please know that we are also involved with our summer youth camp, Trout in the Classroom, STREAM Girls, 5Rivers College club, and more.

Opportunities to make a difference:

We still have several chapter leadership opportunities, as listed below. We need several more chapter members to volunteer to help us keep moving forward. If you have any questions about these volunteer opportunities, please contact Mark (president@rmftu.org) or Dennis (ldrdev@rmftu.org) for more info. Thanks!

- Chapter Historian
- Membership Committee chairperson
- Events Team Leader
- Events Team members – 4-5 needed
- Leadership Development Committee members
- Trout in the Classroom volunteers needed – 3 positions available
- Fishing Trip Coordinator
- Education Coordinator (Youth and/or Adult)
- Day Camp Committee
- Membership Committee Coordinators

Your Fishing Photos:

I know many of you have some fun fishing photos from last summer. A lot of our members would love to see them in our Newsletter or on our Facebook or Instagram page. Please share them by sending them to me at president@rmftu.org.

Mark Miller
RMFTU President



February Membership Meeting

The February general meeting will be at **7pm on 2/16/22 via Zoom**. In year's past Rocky Mountain Flycasters has hosted a Fly Tying Expo every February in place of the chapter meeting but after 2 years of meeting online we have decided to push the **2022 Fly Tying Expo to May 14th**. We will be rolling out additional information in the coming weeks but the short of it is, the 2022 Fly Tying Expo and Angler Rendezvous will be an **in person event** that will follow Larimer County's COVID-19 guidelines and will expand the programming and fly tying experiences for vendors and attendees. This event is all about coming together and connecting with friends, new and old, while sharing a common passion for fly tying and we look forward to seeing you there.

For the meeting this month we will have **Audry Harris** presenting to the Chapter on her work on **Brook Trout genetics in the Poudre Headwaters** as well as on some of the new work she is doing with Idaho Fish and Game since leaving Colorado State University in late 2021. Additionally to keep with a fly tying theme Marty Staab will be sharing a few new tying patterns to keep you busy during the long winters. We will be sending out an email closer to the meeting with information on the patterns if you want to recreate them yourself or tie along during the meeting.

Colin Glover

Why I Volunteer - Dennis Cook

I was raised in a tiny mountain town in rural Pennsylvania where I played in the mountains that bordered our backyard. I backpacked and camped with Boy Scout buddies and as Scout Master of several troops across the Northeast, and hunted. In those regions of plentiful waters, "Leave no trace" was about my only concept of conservation.

We moved our family to Denver in 1983, and I became mesmerized with Colorado's mountains and wildlife. So I stored my firearms and joined the western outdoors culture...learning with increasing alarm about threats to our water! I began fly fishing shortly after Colorado arrival and in 2003 joined Trout Unlimited to meet more 'fishy' friends. My awareness of conservation urgency was about to abruptly change!

My TU Chapter had just reformed after its earlier charter loss and like all volunteer organizations needed help. I served as newsletter editor, secretary and president and gradually became more acutely aware of threats to our western forests and waters. The chapter grew and I also volunteered supporting the Colorado TU extension of National TU. From our Parker home in an elevated rural sub-division, I could clearly view the heavy smoke of the 1996 Buffalo Creek Fire and the 2002 Hayman Fire that caused severe forest loss and flood damage at and near my fishing spots, and I began to grasp the magnitude of threats to our forests and waters.

In 2007 our family moved to Fort Collins. After about a year Lee Evans became RMFC President and appointed me Chairperson charged to form a Youth Education activity. "Thank you, Lee." Ever since, I've enjoyed being part of RMFC's evolving leadership team observing its membership growth, and more importantly becoming a functionally diverse and effective community partner supporting NoCO needs. RMFC still has many opportunities to become even more impactful supporting our Federal and State Agencies to address the conservation needs of our neighboring forests and waters.

So, "Why do I volunteer?" I volunteer because it feels good to help make an important difference, and also because of *You!* I've made uncountable friends, many that I consider close friends who share my love of the outdoors. I enjoy almost daily interaction with people who care about the same things I care about, and who find joy in the many small victories that we accomplish together, and also greeting them casually on the streets, rivers or other places we frequent. After my family, the great Colorado outdoors and Trout Unlimited have gifted me more pleasure and

satisfaction than any other experience on this earth. "Thank you" to each of you for being a part of this, and to all of the new volunteers I look forward to meeting and sharing time with.

Dennis Cook



Veterans Fly Fishing Program



Veterans Fly Fishing program expands to Ft Collins

Platte Rivers Veterans Fly Fishing (PRVF) has just opened weekly rod making and fly tying 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 and register for the rod making classes at no cost. The rod classes started in January are now in their 4th week. We can 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 fund raising banquet in March.

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. You heard about our signature trip, the "Honor Float" to the San Juan River at last month's TU meeting where we took 18 post-9/11 combat veterans on a professionally guided fly fishing trip of a lifetime. Our TU Chapter supports the efforts of the PRVFF.



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

Fly tying classes are Thursday evening from 6 to 8 PM.
Rod Building classes are Saturday Morning from 9 to noon.

[Dave Morse](#)

Denver Fly Fishing Show



DENVER FLY FISHING SHOW FEB 11-13, 2022

After a year of COVID delays which basically shut the door on all in person fly fishing shows, the Denver Fly Fishing Show returns, this year at a new venue – the Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center located close to DIA. The show starts on Friday, Feb 11, 10AM-6PM, continues on Saturday, 9AM-5:30PM, and finishes on Sunday 9AM-4:30PM – just in time to get home and watch the Super Bowl.

Although the chapter won't have a booth at the show, chapter member **Paul Bunker** will be at the **TU Native Trout Workgroup** booth displaying all the native trout posters developed by the workgroup. He also will be giving an updated presentation on Fly Fishing in Yellowstone National

Park, answering the questions of where to go in the park to catch Yellowstone and Westslope Cutthroats, as well as Artic Grayling.

Paul could use some company at the booth and has a limited supply of show passes for those who want to put in a hour or two doing a simple grip and grin and talking about the Poudre Headwater Project. If you are interested, contact him at pnsbunker@comcas.net for details.

Paul Bunker



Thoughts on Volunteering from our Members

Expanding on Mark Miller's "Why I Volunteer" idea, one liners were solicited from some of our chapter leadership. The intent was to "pepper" these throughout the newsletter to increase volunteer awareness. I received more responses than anticipated, so I decided to created this "matching quiz". How well do you know our chapter leadership? **Can you match the one liner to the owner? I'll buy a beer for the first person to email the correct answers.** *Editor*

Send answers here

A. I support RMFTU's mission, so I am honored to give of my time, talent and money.

B. Make the world a better place.

C. I volunteer for the love, support, and friendships that come with being part of this community.

D. I love fly fishing, care about our cold waters wellbeing, and have gained a ton of close friends.

E. To help our fish!

F. It is fun, rewarding, and provides me with an opportunity to give back a little bit.

G. I volunteer so my children and grandchildren have the same outdoor opportunities I had growing up.

H. We must protect our grand children's heritage.

I. I feel I am contributing something of great value.

J. I look forward to being able to show my son that I helped to restore a species.

K. Volunteering provides opportunities to broaden your horizons, meet new people with common interests, and to make a difference - all at the same time!

Scott Baily

Dennis Cook

Colin Glover

Dave Haeusler

Ron Hanser

Vince Herrera

Ryan Hogan

Zach Jory

Mark Miller

Jerry Pelis

Jeannie Weaver



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



We have wrapped up the first month of 2022 and with February coming around we are just that much closer to spring and the fishing season. Despite some really cold nights and mornings, there have still been some really nice sections of open water on the foothills. The winter season is a great time to test your skills and target some of the picky trout that anglers are faced with this time of year. Fish become very skittish and require a delicate presentation in order to feel comfortable enough to eat. Although it's cold, this is my favorite time of the year to find some solitude on a cloudy day and get out there and catch some of these fish myself.

The winter months bring big changes to a trout's environment. Water temperatures drop, food sources become very small, and the fish just want to focus on staying protected. With the very cold water temperatures, a trout's metabolism will slow down, requiring less oxygen and food to maintain their spot in the water. This behavior causes fish to "slow down" and they will become less active during this time of year. The food sources also shift over to small midges and blue winged olives. This is a food source that can endure the cold water and air temperatures leaving the fish with very natural, and small meals. The water contains less particles in the winter thus creating a crystal clear environment for the fish. Without these factors in mind a day out in the cold can be frustrating but as long as you have some 6x fluorocarbon, a lightweight indicator, and some small bugs you can turn your day around quickly. These key factors are also the main reason why anglers fish the tailwaters below reservoirs this time of year. These tailwaters offer fish a warmer, less harsh environment to live in. These areas have constant food sources coming out of the reservoir, constant water temperatures, and change less throughout the year making fish extremely comfortable. Tailwaters will be just as if not more technical than freestone streams because of these constant variables. On January 29th from 2-4pm we will be running a Technical Tailwaters class. I class designed to give anglers the upper hand on these technical waters. The techniques learned in this class can easily carry over to freestone streams during the winter.

Winter is also a great time of year to practice any tying, technique, and learn about our waters. This is going to improve our time out on the water during the spring, summer and fall. At the end of the day fly fishing is muscle memory and the more you can practice and form that muscle memory the easier and more fun those outings become. It will feel good to go out there and catch fish every time you are on the water but it comes with practice and lots of trial and error. We want to help you get there from the shop so feel free to come in and ask some questions and chat. Tying has been a big part of my winter season and if you have wanted to dabble in learning to tie some flies you should take advantage of our Intro to Fly Tying Class. We tie 3 patterns that will teach fundamental skills like thread wrapping, securing materials to the hooks, how to apply dubbing and creating an anatomically correct fly. You'll learn some very important techniques that will help you progress into more intricate patterns as time goes on. It's very easy to get discouraged if you don't start small and this class will help expedite that process. Join us for a session on January 29th at the South Shop and you'll see just how fantastic this sector of fly fishing can be. We also have an Intermediate Tying class for those who are beyond the basics. We will cover some tougher techniques like hackle wrapping, deer hair wings, and creating a parachute. These techniques don't come overnight so we would like to give you the pointers that we follow every time we tie. This will be on March 19th. Although a little bit later, you can take the intro class with us, and then the intermediate class and be well on your way to twisting up your own fly boxes. The winter is no time to forget about trout fishing because it is still very much around during the winter months, and the more we stay engaged the more we learn and form that muscle memory. I hope everyone has had an excellent start to their new year. We look forward to seeing you all around the shop and if you have any questions never hesitate to reach out to us. Enjoy February!



Video of the Month



Five Flies...
Long but informative - enjoy



Upcoming Events

RMF Calendar

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

Wednesday, February 9 RMF Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 16 General
Membership Meeting via Zoom

Link to [Zoom](#) Meeting

Join ZOOM Meeting



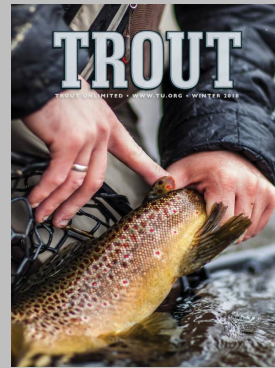
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