

September 2005

# FLY PAPER



## Welcome New TU Members

As a member of our National Trout Unlimited Organization, you are also automatically a member of your state chapter and local chapter. To those of you who know us well, welcome back to another season of TU meetings and activities here in our backyard of Larimer, and Weld counties.

For those of you new to our local chapter, Rocky Mountain Flycasters, this special edition newsletter is for you! While the lobbying and fundraising go on at the National and State levels to fight our conservation battles for cold water fisheries, your local chapter is more concerned with putting a "face" on TU and accomplishing local goals while having fun doing it. No, we are not a "fishing club" but we do talk a lot about fishing. We get together monthly for comradery, updates on local events, organize for projects and listen to a speaker or two discuss anything from fishing the Big Thompson to fishing trips to Mexico. Our meetings have something for everyone: a new technique, a way to volunteer in Rocky Mountain National Park or Eagle's Nest, clean ups and picnics, and of course people interested in fishing you can befriend. Every volunteer officer in our chapter has made lifetime friends by starting where you started, and they will be happy to show you the way to doing good for a cause and making a few memories.

Read on to learn more about our upcoming social events, grassroots projects and speakers from far and wide. Of course for more information, simply call an officer on the back of this newsletter for a chat or look up our website [www.rockymtnflycasters.com](http://www.rockymtnflycasters.com). Your next eight newsletters will be on that website or you can email Paul Wehr to have copy sent to you. Glad you're tuned in, hope you will enjoy what is shaping up to be our best year as a chapter yet!

[www.rockymtnflycasters.com](http://www.rockymtnflycasters.com)

## WHO WE ARE

Trout Unlimited is devoted to the protection, preservation and protection of cold water resources. Rocky Mountain Flycasters is the local Chapter of Trout unlimited. Our membership of about 800 resides mostly in Larimer and Weld Counties of Colorado.

In addition to our regular membership meetings, we participate in a number of projects. One is the restoration of the North Fork of the Poudre through Eagles Nest Open Space. We support the County to preserve public fishing access to the Big Thompson River. Our members work with Colorado Youth Outdoors to teach fishing and conservation skills. We participate in the annual Statewide cleanup of Rivers.

Please access our web site [www.rockymtnflycasters.com](http://www.rockymtnflycasters.com) to get more information about this active TU Chapter.



# September Meeting Preview - Fall Fishing in the Northern Rockies

by Vince Wilcox

Fishing this fall should be fantastic on our local waterways, as we have seen some of the best flows in recent years. Even the rafting companies were still in full swing as late as mid August. Most of the tourists have long gone and the kids are back in school, which can make finding a little solitude a whole lot easier. Not only will you notice a difference in the angling pressure, but the fish seem to realize if they don't pack on some weight now, the opportunity is fast escaping. Caddis, Midges, and Blue Wing Olives make up a big part of a trout diet this time of year and fishing the correct size, in the right location, can make fall fishing outstanding.

At the September 14th Rocky Mountain Flycasters meeting I will be talking about some of my best fall fly patterns and how to fish them. I have recently become a contributing write for Fly Tyer Magazine and the first article I wrote for them is an article on Fall Fishing in the Rockies. It will be on newsstands some time in late August or early September (just before the meeting), and I will be demonstrating the five flies that are featured in that issue along with some others I have developed. I will also include fishing tips with a brief section on Entomology for each pattern, including how and where to fish them with the most success. There will also be tying tips that offer some easy to use techniques to pick up your speed at the vise, as well as create a wide variety of variations of my patterns by simply substituting different materials. Finally, I'll talk about two rigging techniques that have been the most successful for me. By understanding what food sources are available, when they are available, and how they behave, you will be able to select the correct fly in any situation, and perhaps more importantly, fish them correctly.



## VW Diver Dry

**Hook:** Mustad C53S, Tiemco 200R or Dai-Riki 270, sizes 14 to 16

**Thread:** 8/0 to match abdomen

**Head:** Peacock Glass

**Egg Sack/Shuck:** Rust, orange or dun gray Midge Diamond Braid

**Abdomen:** Black, tan or gray Micro Tubing

**Wing:** Tan or dun CDC Puffs

**Antennae:** Tan or brown Tarantu-Legs

**Hackle:** Furnace to match abdomen

**Thorax:** Peacock, olive brown or black Ice Dub



## C Squared

**Hook:** Mustad C49S, Tiemco 2488 or Dai-Riki 125 sizes 12 to 18

**Thread:** Black 6/0 or 8/0

**Head:** Small Black Glass

**Back:** Natural mottled or bustard Thin Skin

**Rib:** Small brown Ultra Wire

**Abdomen:** UV lt. olive, UV tan, or UV callibaetis Ice Dub

**Antennae:** Fine round rubber, black  
**Thorax:** Black ostrich herl

As an example, when fishing in the morning try fishing a VW Diver-Dry, like the one pictured to the left or an AC Caddis like the one shown in the autumn issue of fly Tyer, trailing a T.N.T. (see November 2004 issue of RMFC Flypaper) or Little Green Machine beneath it using 18" to 24" of 5X to 6X tippet. This will work very well early in the day when the caddis and midges are emerging and again later in the day for the evening hatches.

Fishing a double nymph rig can be effective at any time, but especially in the middle of the day when the hatches have subsided or have yet to begin. Try fishing a C-Squared (pictured above) trailing a Marabare or Lint Bug about 18" behind it. Set your indicator height so that it is one and a half to two times the depth of the water you are fishing from the first fly. The speed of the water determines the indicator's setting (I will talk more about that at the September meeting). Place your weight about 10" to 12" above the point fly, as well as placing another smaller weight above the dropper fly. This will ensure that you keep tension on the leader and turn the dropper fly over easier when you are casting.

*Editor's Note:* As well as writing a monthly column for Fly Tyer Magazine, Vince Wilcox has been picked up as a signature tyer with Idylwilde flies, so many of his patterns will be available nationwide beginning this spring. He has also completed "Vince Wilcox's Guide To Tying Nymphs and Dry Flies." Most of the flies in the tying manual were created and battle tested on local waters like the Big Thompson, Poudre and North Platte. The guide retails for \$18.95 but he will be selling them for \$15.00 at the meeting on September 14th. He will also be donating \$.25 of every sale of the guide to our chapter of Trout Unlimited, not only for the ones sold at the meeting but for all future sales as well.

# Eagle's Nest Project



The Rocky Mountain Flycasters has embraced a stream restoration/enhancement project for the North Fork of the Cache la Poudre River in northern Colorado.

Eagle's Nest Open Space, just south of Livermore Colorado, was purchased by Larimer County in January 2001 to conserve the natural, visual, geologic, agricultural and outdoor recreational values of the 755 acre area. Bisecting the area is about 1 mile of the North Fork of the Cache la Poudre River. This section of the North Fork is located downstream from Halligan Reservoir and TNC's Phantom Canyon and upstream from Seaman Reservoir. This reach of the North Fork suffers from periodic low flows and from extensive overgrazing of the riparian vegetation.

The riparian zone was fenced early in 2005 to remove the grazing pressure. To kick off the project, Rocky Mountain Flycasters volunteers assisted in harvesting and propagating willow cuttings and the planting of them plus other shrubs provided by Larimer County in April 2005. The Chapter will continue to work with Larimer County and other partners including the Colorado Division of Wildlife to complete a survey of the river to identify the full range of restoration and enhancement options. A restoration/enhancement plan will be developed soon to guide the Rocky Mountain Flycasters participation in this long-term project.

## Rocky Mountain Flycasters Board of Directors

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Paul Fromme, President (p-pfromme@worldnet.att.net) . . . . . 282-9387  
 Ken Eis, VP (eis@cira.colostate.edu) . . . . . 229-9790  
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 Greg Evans, Secretary (evansgs@comcast.net) . . . . . 204-4004

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 Chris Sheafor, Newsletter Editor (csheafor@healthdistrict.org) . . . . . 224-1714  
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 Glen Colton, Conservation Liaison (glenc1@attbi.com) . . . . . 225-2760  
 Mark Graumlich (mgraumlich@agere.com) . . . . . 204-0911  
 Frank Cada, Media Consultant (fcada@yahoo.com) . . . . . 667-7548  
 Jeremiah Johnson, River Surveillance/Consulting Hydrologist . . . . . 555-5555



## 2005 PICNIC

The 2005 Rocky Mountain Flycasters new member and old friends picnic will be September 18 at Sylvan Dale Ranch. Bring your family and a side dish and come by from 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. We will have burgers and hot dogs, drinks and lots of fun. Also bring your fly rods to fish some of Sylvan Dale's legendary ponds.



## NEW ZEALAND MUDSNAILS

...a new invasion to worry about

Have you fished the South Platte, South Boulder Creek, the Madison, or the Yellowstone in the last year? If so you may be helping this invasion.... Read on.

Everyone knows about Whirling Disease, but we have a new threat from New Zealand. The NZ mud snail is now showing up in Colorado waters.

This little snail (1/8 inch long or smaller) is a hitchhiker that has arrived on the boots of fly fishermen. Yes this time we can't point our finger at the other guys.

The problem is they are hard to kill, and can survive weeks out of the water. When introduced to a water system the multiply into vast sheets and their numbers gobble up all the food the supports our favorite Mayflies, Caddis, and Stoneflies. When this happens the entire ecosystem of a river can collapse. Our cold water resource becomes a one species preserve and it ain't rainbows. Since there is no fish food available, the trout and other top predators starve. This is worse than whirling disease, sort of a no trout left alive plague. And the prime vector (carrier) has been fly fishermen.

What can we do? The snails can be cleaned off of boots with vinegar or 409 cleaning solution. Unlike the tams of whirling disease fame its not just good enough to treat your felt bottoms. The snails can attach to boot lacings, waders, nets etc. And they are so small that only very close inspection can potentially detect them. Be careful out there.

# Programs for 2005-2006

This year Rocky Mountain Flycasters is reaching out and branching out its agenda of monthly speakers. You may be impressed! First off, we are offering a full slate of speakers already scheduled, so you will know who the speaker is and what he or she is speaking on way ahead of time. We will supplement this program agenda with a monthly profile on the speaker, so those of you wishing to do some homework can come prepared with questions on destinations, techniques or whatever to help everyone learn more.

Second, we have heard our members say they want more information about fishing Colorado. We start locally with the Big T and Poudre Rivers in September, Then we have the schedule packed with professional guides on the Arkansas, South Platte, and Colorado. Included in the list is Pat Dorsey in March who was not only nationally recognized as guide of year several years running; he now has a book coming out this spring. In May, we are also trying to reach out to our female fly fishers with a visit from Janice O'Shea of trouttrips.com.

And for a little spice on the program fair of hardcore fishing and trip planning, we are happy to have Mike Riesner in November speak on Baja fishing. The Christmas Party is again scheduled at The Depot in Loveland since last year was a great success. And to round things out we are proud to offer two programs focused on tying. One is a presentation by Steve Schweitzer direct from whiting farms who comes highly recommended. And, our annual swap meet and fly tying expo is in February with some of the best tiers in the country showing techniques. It should be like an old hunting lodge, everyone expected to shoot the Bull.

We hope you can join us, new member, new friend and old friends are all welcome. As always we start with a social hour at 6:30pm, short meeting at 7:00 pm and our presentation at 7:15pm and the timeless raffle to follow. Rocky Balaska of Stone Creek Wholesales will again be providing our rods- Thanks to him. Oh, one last thing, we are not meeting at the Holiday on Prospect anymore. It's now the HILTON on Prospect. See you there every second Wednesday!

## Calendar of Events

**September 7 - Volunteers needed to teach knot tying and flycasting to Colorado Youth Outdoors participants. Call Greg Sheets at 667-8569 for more information.**

**September 14 - General meeting at 6:30 PM at the Hilton in Ft. Collins. Vince Wilcox will talk about Fall Fishing in Northern Colorado**

**September 20 - Rocky Mountain Flycasters Board Meeting at the Depot in Loveland, 7:00 PM all are welcome.**

**September 24 - Statewide River Cleanup. Meet at Picnic Rock in the Poudre Canyon at 9:00 AM. We will work until noon.**

**October 12 - General Meeting, Landon Mayer of Extreme Fly Fishing on Catching Trophy Trout.**

**November 9 - General Meeting, Mark Rieser of Baja Fishing Co. on Big Game Fishing.**

**December 3 - Christmas Party at The Depot Restaurant in Loveland, \$5 hors d'ouvres.**

