



July 2012 Edition

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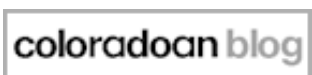
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06-23 Looking towards Glacier View

A warm summers greeting to all,

What an eventful start to the summer indeed. When I began my term as President I started a laundry list of topics that I wanted to cover as continuing editions of the newsletter were published. And then came June 9th.... The day started out to be a very rewarding day as I joined other RMF members and dozens of additional volunteers at Swift Ponds to spend the day at Colorado Youth Outdoors Skills Day sponsored by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Events had just begun in earnest when we all noticed the first signs of a sizeable, yet single and specific column of smoke in the hills above Fort Collins. From our



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vantage point at Swift Ponds just east of I-25, we were afforded a panoramic view of the beginnings of the High Park fire as it was back dropped by a remarkably clear and azure blue sky. Around 12:30 when we were taking a lunch break, all of the volunteers, attendees and most noticeably the CPW personnel in attendance were commenting on how quickly the fire seemed to be growing. The event ended and it was indeed a rewarding day spent introducing fly fishing to dozens of Northern Colorado youth. Yet driving west back into Fort Collins on Harmony and seeing the conflagration I was driving towards, I knew my term as President had changed and for the immediate future I could put my laundry list of topics back in my Board notebook to be used at a later time. On reflection, now that the fire is contained and we are beginning to fully assess the amount of personal loss, recognize a life was lost and slowly come to grips with the reality of the damage that has been done to our watershed, I wonder if June 9th might also become one of those days etched forever in our minds.

[Dick Jefferies](#), President
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

No person steps in the same river twice, for it is not the same river and they are not the same person - adaptation of Heraclitus

Please check the RMF calendar and get signed up for any of the numerous volunteer opportunities still available.

High Park Fire Update

[Dick Jefferies](#), President

First and foremost Rocky Mountain Flycasters would ask all of its members to do whatever possible to assist the victims of the High Park fire in any way possible. Numerous agencies are responding to the needs of the High Park fire residents but we can all help in some form or another. Larimer County is coordinating recovery efforts for fire victims and you may find ways that you can assist by visiting the Larimer County website. Additionally we would offer our condolences to the family and friends of Linda Steadman who lost her life as a result of the High Park fire.

As of this writing the High Park Fire is 100% contained. Everyone is deeply indebted to the courage and determination of all on-line fire crews and the hundreds of support personnel involved in battling the High Park fire. We are forever grateful!. Fire crews are monitoring the fire line perimeter and beginning cleanup operations. The BAER team assessment was completed last week and recommendations will be forthcoming. What does all of this mean now?

There is ample historic evidence of what occurs following a major fire that occurs in a primary watershed that is immediately upstream of a large population area. We need look no further than the Hayman fire ten years ago that occurred southwest of Denver in the upper South Platte drainage. There is no sense in trying to sugar coat the effect of the fire on the watersheds, it is devastating and will take years to recover. That recovery can be shortened and the impacts to the users of the watershed can be minimized somewhat by an aggressive response in restoring the watershed. However, even the most aggressive of restoration response will still mean a recovery period of seven to ten years. In fact the South Platte, after ten years and millions of dollars spent towards restoring the watershed is just now beginning to show signs of normalcy.



Ken Kehmeier, a biologist with Parks and Wildlife, holds sediment blackened with ash at the bottom of the Cache La Poudre River on July 11, 2012. (Heather Rousseau | The Denver Post)

Many of you may be aware from the website that Rocky Mountain Flycasters was developing a plan to form a collaborative organization which will bring together numerous resources to begin to address the effects of the High Park fire. Those efforts are still continuing and beginning to take hold and move forward. We don't yet know what the coalition will be called, what it will look like, how it will function and who it will consist of but we are still moving towards that goal.

If the coalition is to succeed at its highest level, it will need to consist of a wide range of affected interests and agencies. Governing agencies, conservation groups, environmental concerns and numerous volunteer agencies will need to join forces with municipalities, water interests and the business community to form what could quite conceivably be the broadest coalition the region has ever known. It is this kind of effort that will be needed in order to implement a restoration plan that will require 100's of thousands of hours of labor and quite literally tens of millions of dollars over the next decade.

Above all it is most important to remember that only the readily visible fire and smoke has ended. The work has just begun. This issue far surpasses the sport of fly fishing or the camaraderie of a club. This issue will test our resolve as a community and, this issue will galvanize our strength as a region.

Join in Celebrating Survival of Gateway Natural Area

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair

Believe it! Help us celebrate!

Gateway Natural Area survived destruction by not one, but two wildfires during the past three months. The Hewlett wildfire was stopped, almost miraculously, at the Poudre's west bank across the river from Gateway. The more recent High Park wildfire burned part of the ridge that is home to the Black Powder trail.

The Hewlett fire caused cancellation of the scheduled June 30 Trailgate Party. There was more concern about what damage the Black Powder Trail may have suffered from the High Park fire. The official burn-map shows it located within the burned area. Recently, Todd Juhasz, the Natural Areas Public Improvements Technician who plans and guides the work of our volunteers, was able to assess the results of the High Park fire. Todd reports:

"The Black Powder trail is still closed, but I had a chance to survey it recently, and it is in remarkable shape. The fire burnt a healthy mosaic through the area and left only a few small

"moonscapes" of sterilized, charred soil. Even after the heavy rainfall of the past weekend there were few washouts. My priority of installing check steps to the upper portion of the switchback remains, and is now more important than ever. In addition, the west side of the summit still needs intense brushing as the trail corridor is becoming quite tight and nearly hidden. Cate and I look forward to our next Trailgate with all of you on September 8th. Thanks!"

So that's the good news and all the more reason for RMF volunteers to register with Scott Gardner to join the Trailgate Party on September 8 !

The previously scheduled Trailgate Party will be an occasion for celebrating

Here is what we will do at this Trailgate Party. Beginning at 8 A.M. on September 8, we will renovate sections of the Black Powder trail that are awaiting our help. At eleven we will enjoy a picnic lunch under the canopy of one of the picnic shelters in Gateway Natural Area. And after the picnic you have your choice of activities for the remainder of the day.

At least twelve volunteers are needed. Let's show our elation and exceed that number.

To reserve your volunteer space for this celebration, contact [Scott Gardner](#)



North Fork Poudre Stream Restoration Project Needs Volunteers

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair

In a remote area of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest that was untouched by the High Park wildfire, RMF-TU is partnering with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (www.wlrv.org) to conduct a substantial stream improvement project on 1.5 miles of the North Fork of the Poudre. The project has been

conceived, planned, and will be managed by the fisheries staff of the A-RNF. It is located in the Canyon Lakes District and along the course of the North Fork west of its confluence with Killpecker Creek. The project is scheduled for August 25th and 26th, 2012 when stream flows are expected to be conducive for in-stream work.



To read a more complete description of this project and for easy-to-follow instructions on how to register as an RMF TU volunteer go to: <http://www.rockymtnflycasters.org/flashes.php#nfork2012>

2012 YOUTH DAY CAMP - VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Hurry, so you don't miss this out on this 'good time' event!

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

On Monday, July 30th, the 3rd annual NoCO Youth River Conservation & Fly Fishing Day Camp kicks off! Fifteen excited campers ages 14-18 will converge upon our camp staff to learn about why coldwater conservation is important and what all goes on in Colorado's high country to make sure we have a good supply of healthy cold water to support our families' life needs and the wonderful natural recreation choices that so many enjoy. There are still volunteer opportunities to help make this year's Day Camp a success. Only a small handful on volunteers engage all week or even a large part of it. Most work just a couple activities or several days. Maybe you'd like to help mentor a camper to fish on one or more of the three big fishing days (2-rivers & 1-stillwater); or how about helping them catch and learn about aquatic insects; supervising dead-float snorkeling to examine underwater habitat and citizens can be tons of fun; if you're a good basic knots tier we have a spot for you; herding cats as



Snorkeling to view habitat

we electrofish is usually a lot of fun too; or overseeing willows planting is enjoyable; and helping kids wrap thread the correct direction following the head tiers instructions is satisfying for the adult as for the camper...all of these and more is available, and we need you to volunteer! Take a look at the Day Camp schedule on our website at:

[2012 RMF Youth Day Camp Schedule](#)



Learn proper landing and release

RMF NEEDS "YOU" TO PUT SMILES ON KIDS FACES! KIDS FREE FISHING FEST - This coming Saturday!!!

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

The U.S. Forest Service is an important partner for Rocky Mountain Flycasters, and has invited RMF to co-host this exciting children's event. RMF is to provide between 15-20 volunteers to help the kids with instruction so they can get the thrill of having a fish in the end of a line - and then the angler gets to take home free his or her very own rod! We'll be using spin cast equipment. All kids will be pre-registered and accompanied by an adult, and the Forest Service is expecting to host 50 kids ages 15 and under.



Some signed up volunteers have declined so we're short of our target number of volunteers, and are uncomfortably close to the event date. This will be a fun event and the time commitment on-scene is only between 7:00 am to 2:00pm on July 21st for the event, and for an hour in the evening of Thursday July 19th for a short orientation and organization session at USFS headquarters at 2150 Centre Avenue. At the meeting all volunteers receive event t-shirt 'uniform' to wear, and we will cover how to help the kids, duties of a volunteer, equipment familiarization, parking arrangements, special fishing regulations, etc.

Contact Dennis Cook at rkymtnangler@Q.com or 970-372-9229 to volunteer, or for more details and to arrange car pooling if needed. We can also plan to wet a line afterward for those who would like.

DAY FOR KIDS FESTIVAL - VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY September 22nd

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

Rocky Mountain Flycasters will again host a booth at the Day for Kids festival held by the Larimer Boys & Girls Clubs that is an important partner of RMF's Youth Day Camp. The event is sponsored by OtterCares Foundation (also a sponsor of RMF's Youth Day Camp) at the Promenade Shops area of the Centerra Shopping Plaza. The festival runs from 10:00am to 4:00pm, plus about a half-hour setup and teardown

time, and is a pleasant day of visiting with booth guests.

Ten volunteers are needed across two 3-hour shifts to tie flies, demonstrate and assist with basic casting instruction, explain aquatic insects, demonstrate and assist tying basic fishing knots, and discuss Rocky Mountain Flycasters activities and the TU mission benefits in Colorado.

Contact: Dennis Cook at rkymtnangler@Q.com or 970-372-9229



Wil Huett explains bottled samples of aquatic insects to boys as a father watches

Phantom Canyon Trail Maintenance Days

[Guy Turenne](#), Project Coordinator

The Nature Conservancy opened their online events registration in mid April. There are three Trail Maintenance Days listed in their newsletter for which RMF members volunteer. The dates are July 22, August 12 and September 16. The available slots for July 22 filled up quickly. However, there are still a number of openings for August 12 and September 16. The number of volunteers is limited to 12 per day.



If you are not familiar with this activity; for a number of years RMF has partnered with The Nature Conservancy at their Phantom Canyon Preserve which is situated about 20 miles north of Fort Collins along the North Fork of the Poudre River. RMF volunteers do some minor brush trimming, use power weed whackers to keep the grassy trail along the river open and rebuild rock cairns marking the trail. The work is done in the morning and typically completed by lunch. After lunch the volunteers get to fish the north fork for the afternoon. The fishing in Phantom Canyon is outstanding as it is strict catch and release and there is very limited access. The river is well populated with nice sized browns and rainbows.

If you are interested, I urge you to register as soon as possible, before the remaining slots are filled.

Note: The July days are full, but additional volunteers are needed for the August and September days. To sign up for volunteer days, email [Phantom Canyon Events](#) and type the volunteer day name in the subject line; include your name, address, phone, and number of participants you will be bringing. Or call Phantom Canyon Preserve at (970) 484-9996.

Call for Volunteers to Assist with Cutthroat Recovery in Long Draw Reservoir area of Rocky Mountain National Park

[Phil Wright](#), Volunteer Coordinator

During the period August 20 through September 7, 2012, I will be coordinating volunteers to assist Chris Kennedy in the Long Draw area of Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) in the Poudre River, Hague Creek, Hazeline Creek and connecting drainages. The planned effort will consist of measuring water flows, performing trend surveys and stream mapping, as well as electrofishing. Chris Kennedy working alone cannot accomplish these tasks without the assistance of volunteers. I and other chapter members, as well as folks from inside and outside the region, have in past years volunteered to work with Chris in the Long Draw area of RMNP. We have all had a great time, learned a lot, and contributed to an important cutthroat trout recovery program. I look forward to you volunteering with us in the Long Draw area of RMNP this field season.

To express your interest and to participate as a volunteer on this project, please email me, Phil Wright, using the link above. Both male and female volunteers are welcome. I will compile an email distribution list and send out updates as volunteer time approaches. For additional opportunities to help Chris in other parts of RMNP, see his complete schedule and instructions for volunteering at

<http://www.rockymtnflycasters.org/articles/rmnpshed.php>

As always, the work plan schedule is subject to change, so we will stay in touch by email to confirm dates, activities and **meeting places**.

There will be opportunities for day trips as well as multi-day backcountry overnights. I have now hiked, camped and volunteered in the Long Draw area for several years. I am happy to answer questions, and to provide details about directions, carpooling, level of effort, hiking and camping details, etc. If you have questions, feel free to email me.

As Dave Piske, RMF's Conservation Chair, has noted in prior newsletters, Rocky Mountain Flycasters solicits, encourages and supports volunteers to assist Chris Kennedy, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services fisheries biologist in Rocky Mountain National Park. The Chapter is particularly invested in the headwaters of the Poudre River in the Park. This area is the subject of a multi-year, multi-agency cutthroat trout restoration effort. I hope you will find time to volunteer with us in RMNP this year. I look forward to meeting you on the trail or in the stream.



Checking stream flows

CPW OUTDOOR SKILLS RENDEZVOUS

Fun was had by all!

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Chair

Saturday, June 9th was a HOT day! but our sturdy volunteers (Paul Wehr, Jerry Pelis, Dick Jefferies, Lee Evans, Jim Merriott, Austin Heacock, Ben Zomer and Terry Little) braved Mother Nature in the true spirit of 'giving' to see smiles on kids faces. This is an annual event sponsored by the Colorado Parks & Wildlife that RMF supports. Our crew hosted several groups of about 30 adults & children, and after several instructional sessions and some casting practice broke into smaller units with each volunteer helping 4-6 participants to fish. Kids & families had fun despite the >90° weather which kept the fish deep...tho several were caught.



Jerry Pelis teaches casting with a practice rod

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