



August 2013 Edition

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Greetings everyone.

Who knew Thanksgiving came in August? I sure didn't until I realized there are some "Thanks" that need to be offered and they really can't wait until November.

I was honored to spend some time volunteering with our annual Youth Fly Fishing and Conservation Camp. I personally saw the fun, adventure and knowledge gained by 15 remarkable young people. So first some special thanks to our agency partners: National Resource Conservation Service, West Greeley Conservation District, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, US Forest Service: Larimer County Boys and Girls Club; and Colorado Trout Unlimited. What an honor it is to have such a rewarding relationship with all of you.

Closer to home special thanks to Adam Omernick - kudos! You did a great job coordinating this year's camp; Dennis Cook - you are the driving force that has positioned our chapter to be able to provide such a high level of programming; Paul Wehr - your camera eye was keen, driving careful and patience remarkable (must be good ear plugs); Wil Huett - your chuck wagon service was first class (maybe you can convert the pickup into a stream side food and beverage service), Dennis and Amy Galyardt - our campers are always fortunate to have you share your wisdom and knowledge of fishing with them; Dave Piske - your mastery of, and ability to communicate complex conservation issues in a brief and understandable fashion is invaluable.

Thanks also to Bill Perrill, Phil Wright, Bruce Rosenthal, Lee Evans, Jake Ruthven, Ben Zomer, Donna Burrill, Todd Andersen, Alan Jones, Sean Cronin and Cullen Emsing - your time spent with the campers is a true representation of everything good about TU and in particular Rocky Mountain Flycasters.

Top all of that off with Dennis Cook, Dave Piske, Brad Kiehne, Bob Green and Lee Evans showing up for just a little more time on Sunday at the Larimer

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County Fair to help with the kid's fishing pond and it was truly a giving week for which I am thankful to each and every one of you. I am sure I have overlooked someone so I apologize in advance. Happy early Thanksgiving!!

Keep in mind how warm it is and make sure you carry a good thermometer with you. When the waters really start to warm up, give those fish a break. Fish early, fish higher elevations and get them netted and back in the water as quickly as you can.

Don't forget, we are only a month away from our general meetings starting again. Have a terrific rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing many of you on the 18th of September.

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

PS:

If you would like an early preview of events planned for the fall, just click on the link below:

[Chapter Event Calendar](#)

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

[Brad Kiehne](#), Program Director

Fall Membership Meeting Speakers

Kerry Carahar - September 18th: Encampment River - Wade and Float Fishing

Adam Omernick - October 16th: Owner of NOCO Fly Fishing.com presents an evening of Tenkara

Fall Fishing Trips

Since our next monthly meeting will be September, you can still sign up for trips by email or phone. How better to ensure you get in all those fishing days you want, than to start planning them now. And who better to fish with than RMF friends, both old and new. So take a look below and "get started"!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Trip</u>	<u>Host</u>
Sept. 7	RMNP Dream Lake: "Cutthroat Crazyies"	Mark Miller
Sept. 28	Poudre/Big South: "Grand Slam"	Stan Woodring
Oct. 19	Colorado River Main Stem: "Trout Potourri"	Mark Miller
Nov. 9	Big Thompson Canyon: "Brownies Bash"	Mark Miller

It is not too early to be thinking about trip ideas and destinations for next year. If you have a favorite place to fish, please consider passing the idea on to Mark Miller, so he can start building a suggested RMF Trip list for 2014. Any and all ideas are welcome. There are lots of fish out there that need catching !! (contact Mark Miller at 970-744-8229, or at flytyer.miller@gmail.com).

We will be needing Trip Hosts for 2014. If you have been to one of these areas once or twice, you are qualified to host! We just need someone to set up a meeting time and place, some car

pooling, and keep us from getting lost. It's that simple! Contact Mark Miller on his phone or email address. Both are listed above.



Dennis Cook, Tom Thomas and Paul Wehr Are All Smiles During Recent RMF Fishing Trip

September 18 Membership Meeting: Kerry Caragher, Guest Speaker
[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Coordinator

Our September guest presenter will be Kerry Caragher, the fishing manager for Orvis-Cherry Creek, and a respected guide and leader in our regional fly fishing industry. Kerry was instrumental in establishing the Orvis 101 program to introduce new anglers to fly fishing, and is also a regular fly tyer and speaker with regional TU chapters.



Kerry Caragher

Kerry also helped secure corporate grant funding for the Golden Mile habitat restoration project on his personal "home waters" of Clear Creek. He frequents the waters of the North Platte watershed in Wyoming, and the Encampment River has become one of his favorite haunts there. Many of us know the Encampment as an outstanding float trip with a limited window of opportunity, but most seem to have overlooked that it is also an equally outstanding wade fishery...if one knows the access points and river lore.

Kerry's presentation will primarily focus on Encampment's wade fishing information. As one of the nearest of Wyoming's larger waters the Encampment offers a reasonably economical day or couple days.

Born in Colorado where his family has lived since the mid 1800's, Kerry's love affair with fly-fishing began at an early age when he learned to fish on the beaver ponds of Buffalo Creek near his grandfather's hotel. Youthful summers were spent fishing and storytelling on the hotel porch and

these remain as fond childhood memories. It came as no surprise to Kerry's parents when he announced his dream of one day becoming a professional fly fisherman. These rich experiences, steeped in Colorado tradition, formed the foundation of Kerry's passion for fly-fishing for wild trout on all the South Platte drainages--a passion nwhich remains strong today. Kerry became an Orvis Endorsed guide and instructor in 1988.

He guided for the Flyfisher in Denver's Cherry Creek shopping district from 1988 to 2000 and The Blue Quill Angler in Evergreen in 1992 and 1993. He has also guided and conducted numerous fishing schools for Anglers All, Ltd. in Littleton and Aspen Outfitting of Aspen. Kerry joined the Orvis Company in 2005 and in 2008 received the Fishing Manager of the year national award. He serves today as the Fishing Manager in the Cherry Creek store in Denver. Kerry has significant experience fly fishing across the Rocky Mountain west. He also enjoys salt water fishing with a fly rod. But, Ireland, the home of his ancestors, remains as Kerry's favorite fly fishing destination.

**Volunteers Needed for a Greeley River Clean-up Project:
September 7, 9:00AM - 12:00PM**

Colorado Trout Unlimited was selected to participate in Xcel's Day of Service where Xcel Energy employees are inviting their communities to give back to their community in the form of volunteer work. CTU is asking Rocky Mountain Flycasters to provide volunteers to help out.

The project is a river beautification and habitat clean- up project along 3 miles of the Poudre River at the Poudre Learning Center just west of Greeley. The project will include trash pick-up, river enhancement projects in the river and invasive species removal. All ages are welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult.

Required equipment includes: closed toe shoes, water bottles, sunscreen, mosquito repellent and long pants are recommended and old waders would be useful but not required. T-shirts and snacks will be provided.

Aside from the important work of improving the environment along the Poudre, this project is an excellent opportunity for Greeley/Weld County RMF members to participate in a project close to home. It is also an opportunity for all to get better acquainted with the Poudre Learning Center, an impressive environmental education center that is becoming a community outreach partner with RMF. Additionally, we would have the opportunity to meet dedicated volunteers from Xcel Energy.

The Poudre Learning Center is located west of Greeley at the intersection of 83rd Ave. and F St. at 8313 West F St., Greeley.

From Hwy 34 - turn North on 83rd Ave, travel 4 miles north to F St., turn left on F St.

From Hwy 34 Business - turn North on 83rd Ave, travel 1.3 miles to F St., turn left on F St.

Alternative route from Greeley - travel west on O St. until it T's with 83rd Ave, turn left. Travel 1.6 miles to F St.

The Poudre Learning Center occupies 65 acres at the intersection of F St. and 83rd Ave, headquartered in a replica old schoolhouse.

Please contact Jerry Pelis at jwdp43@comcast.net. You can also sign up to help by going to xcelenergy.ivolunteer. Simply go to the drop down box and select GREELEY-Colorado Trout Unlimited.

Mark Your Calender: Day for Kids Festival Saturday, September 21st

Rocky Mountain Flycasters will again host a booth at the Day for Kids Festival held by the Larimer Boys & Girls Clubs. Larimer Boys & Girls Clubs is an important partner supporting RMF's Youth Day Camp. This year's festival will be held at the new Fort Collins Museum of Discovery located in old town at 408 Mason Court.

Shifts will run from about 10:00am to 1:00 and from 1:00 to 4:00pm, plus about a half-hour each for setup and teardown, and is a pleasant day of visiting with booth guests.

Eight volunteers are needed across two 3½-hour shifts. Each shift needs one fly tier plus three others to demonstrate & instruct simple casting and several basic fishing knots, show guests the aquatic insects, answer fishing questions, hand out information and discuss Rocky Mountain Flycasters activities and the TU mission benefits in Northern Colorado.

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

Free Seminar: Fort Collins Utilities Presents "Get to Know Your River"

The Cache la Poudre River is crawling with a wide diversity of aquatic organisms. Join us for a two-part seminar (classroom and field trip) where you will learn how to collect and identify the macroinvertebrates living in our river.

CLASS SESSION

When: Wednesday, August 21, 6-7:30 PM

Where: JAX Outdoor Gear 1200 N. College Ave. Conference Room

FIELD TRIP

When: Saturday, August 24, 9-11:30 a.m.

Where: Lions Open Space

SIGN UP

Fishing Department at JAX in either Loveland or Fort Collins

Recent Events

Swift Ponds - Project Healing Waters Trip - July 11, 2013

[Bill Perrill](#), Project Coordinator



Viet Nam Vet Shows His Largemouth Bass

Many thanks to Bill Flowers and Robb Bryant for volunteering for the first Project Healing Waters trip since we began to work with them this year. The trip was to Swift Ponds in Windsor. There were about a dozen veterans and a like number of volunteers from Trout Unlimited, Colorado Youth Outdoors, and Project Healing Water. Bill and Robb reported that everyone seemed happy and nearly everyone caught fish. It was reported that one veteran said he got several hits, but did not land any.

Plenty of water and snacks were provided by Project Healing Waters, as well as fly rods and reels. The temperature probably was close to 100 F when the event started at 5 PM with wind from 5 to 10 mph with 15 mph gusts. The group fished until nearly 9:00 PM and it probably had cooled down to 90 F by then!

Bill fished with Ray, a Vietnam veteran. He had done some fly fishing before but was still relatively new to fly casting. He told Bill he had used his grandfather's old bamboo fly rod recently. He was using an Elkhorn 6 weight that Dean, the co-leader of Project Healing Waters had loaned to him. With the wind, it made the new fly anglers frustrated with the casting, especially with weighted streamers. Ray wanted to catch a bass on a fly - since he had not done this before. Bill worked with him on his casting to improve some accuracy and distance. They were successful - Ray landed two largemouth bass on a marabou clouser minnow that Bill had tied. Ray was delighted with the results.

2013 Youth Camp a Success!

[Adam Omernick](#), Day Camp Coordinator

Our fourth, annual Youth Day Camp was again a "full house" of fifteen NoCO campers (pictured below) ages 14-18 from Greeley, Windsor, Loveland and Fort Collins. This year we had three girls...maybe reflecting the reported data in magazines that women are the fastest growing segment of fly angling.



2013 RMF Day Campers

The 2013 camp was fortunate, for a change, not to have to deal with last-minute venue changes caused by extremely heavy & prolonged runoff, drought level runoffs or post-fire urgencies. Again, all the campers were very successful catching fish! Poudre flows were ideal for wading and also for campers' line management, as were the RMNP Moraine park flows, and many campers experienced multiple hits, hookups and in-hand success. Even our time on stillwater resulted in more and larger bass this year.

The Day Camp's is dependent upon our RMF volunteers and this summer nineteen members participated to make the event a success: Todd Anderson, Donna Burrill, Dennis Cook, Sean Cronin, Cullen Emsing, Lee Evans, Dennis Galyardt, Amy Galyardt, Wil Huett, Dick Jefferies, Alan Jones, Adam Omernick, Dave Piske, Bill Perrill, Bruce Rosenfeld, Jake Ruthven, Paul Wehr, Phil Wright, and Ben Zomer. RMF is also appreciative of, and equally dependent upon, all our many sponsors, partners and donors that help make this event a success - Larimer Boys & Girls Clubs, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Colorado Trout Unlimited, QDROMAN, CMS Mechanical Services, OtterCares Foundation, Odell Brewing, The Coloradoan, Sylvan Dale Ranch, Unisource Worldwide, Pioneer Printing, Stone Creek Ltd., Rise Rods and Hills Discount Flies. This year's camp also benefited from a very nice article in the "Causes" section of the August 2nd Coloradoan newspaper issue, and we're hopeful this will further contribute to continued growth of camp applications. We again, for the second year, have stockpiled a few applicants who were underage or a bit late applying, and who will be contacted next year to provide an opportunity to reapply. The camp has always been held starting the last Monday of July and extending through the first Saturday of August, and probably will be again in 2014.

Larimer County Fair: Kids Fishing Pond

[Dennis Cook](#), Youth Outreach Coordinator

Sunday August 5 was a typical sunny Colorado day for most, but for hundreds of kids it was their first opportunity to catch and touch a beautiful rainbow trout. Rocky Mountain Flycasters had been approached by the Larimer County Fair Committee for volunteers to staff the pond between 10:00am to 5:00pm. Six members, Dick Jefferies, Brad Kiehne, Bob Green, Dave Piske, Lee Evans and Dennis Cook all hope it will be the first of many such opportunities, and that lots of those same kids will become anglers and respectful of the natural outdoors. The line formed early

and never stopped all day. Every ten minutes the pool was vacated and a new group entered and fished until they either caught a fish or the time ended. We're hopeful that we'll be invited again next year, but that we'll receive the invitation early enough that there's time to get an article into the Flypaper and invite more members to volunteer.



RMF Volunteer Brad Kiehne



Bob Green and Dave Piske

CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair

Thanks to Volunteers at Gateway Adopt-a-Trail Day, June 29, 2013

On as glorious a summer morning as one could wish, a group of 12 eager volunteers gathered at Gateway Natural area to lend their energies to rehabilitating the two major foot trails in that Fort Collins Natural Area. It was 8 AM on Saturday, June 29. The volunteers were greeted by Todd Juhasz and his two assistants, Judd and Scott. The volunteers were: Scott Baily, Donna Burrill, Tim Cochran, Al Fink, Tim Gaines, Beverly Morse, David Morse, Jerry Pelis, Dave Piske, Bruce Rosenthal, Phil Wright, and Stan Woodring.

Forming into three teams, two of the teams hiked to the Black Powder Trail where they constructed rock steps to make the climb to the summit easier than it had been. And they also generally improved water drainage along the trail. The third team went to the Overlook Trail where they restored the critical edge of the trail by reducing a berm that had accumulated from the high volume of hiker traffic on that trail. The reconditioned tread now drains runoff water as if it were new.

After just three hours of concentrated efforts the planned work was complete, and it was time for refreshments. After a delicious and substantial lunch provided by Avogadro's of Fort Collins, and receiving praise from the Natural Areas staff for the well-done job, the volunteers dispersed to other activities of their individual choices.

The Fort Collins Natural Areas staff, and the hundreds of hikers using these trails greatly appreciate the trail improvements produced by these volunteers. And the City of Fort Collins has expressed its appreciation for the volunteers' accomplishments by providing a handsome sign recognizing Rocky Mountain Flycasters volunteers. The sign is mounted on the kiosk adjacent to the picnic shelter where we enjoyed lunch-time refreshments.

Evidence of the intensity of the crews' efforts and the resultant joys from their success, is seen in these photos of the teams at the work sites on the trails.



Rock Shopping Crew: Photo by Al Fink



Overlook Trail Crew: Photo by Todd Juhasz



Rock Placement Crew: Photo by Al Fink

Volunteers Sought for September 14 Project At Gateway Natural Area

To finish up the Gateway trail projects planned by Fort Collins Natural Areas for the year 2013, there will be a second Adopt-a-Trail day on Saturday, September 14. That will successfully conclude the third year of Rocky Mountain Flycasters' participation in the Adopt-a-Trail program at Gateway. During those three years many of the volunteers have developed a continuing enthusiasm for the Gateway trails.

Whether you will be a returning volunteer on September 14, or a new volunteer, you are encouraged to join us for this year's second Adopt-a-Trail day.

The start time will be 8:00 AM, and the work will end at 11:00 AM, followed immediately by lunch. Let Dave Piske know you will be a volunteer, and there will be enough refreshments for everyone. Contact Dave at: dpsk@aol.com.

Volunteers Needed Now Through October for High Park Ecological Restoration

With repetitive earthslides continuing to block Highway 14 and Rist Canyon Road throughout the month of July, Mother Nature keeps reminding us that the ecological restoration work in severely burned areas of the High Park Fire is not finished.

These slides move sediment and debris across the roads, where it enters the Poudre River or Horsetooth Reservoir, either directly or via tributary streams. The coarser sediments in the slide soon settle to cover the streambed where aquatic insects breed, thus reducing the food supply for the trout population. Finer sediments are carried downstream to where they become part of the intakes for Fort Collins and Greeley municipal water supplies. In the water treatment process, the sediments can damage the filtration equipment that supplies your household water. In the worst case, the municipal water intakes from the Poudre are shut down until the sediment clears. Such a shutdown leaves your water supply dependent on other limited sources.

To prevent this chain of detrimental effects, volunteers continue to be needed to mitigate, at its sources, the erosion that creates the landslides. The mitigation involves installing devices, such as straw wattles that slow the runoff of rainwater high up on the burned slopes. Mitigation also includes seeding native grasses and mulching those areas to create a substitute for the organic duff on the forest floor that was burned away during the High Park Fire.

Volunteers continue to be needed for projects scheduled in August, September, and October. Currently scheduled dates are: Sunday, August 11; Sunday, September 15; Saturday, October 5; and Saturday October 26.

Management of these projects is conducted by Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, one of RMF's partners in the new Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed.

To register as a volunteer, go to: www.wlrv.org

If you are not already enrolled with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers to receive project information, first enroll before you can register for a specific project. There is no obligation incurred by taking this preliminary step. More complete instructions for enrolling and registering can be seen at: www.rockymtnflycasters.org. Simply click on "Volunteer" in the left-hand column on the RMF home page.

Poudre River Downtown Project Open House

Thursday, September 5, 6- 8 p.m. at the Lincoln Center, Columbine Room, 417 W. Magnolia St. Learn about opportunities and constraints along the Cache la Poudre River corridor from Shields Street to Mulberry Street. Review and give input on concepts for improving recreation, habitat and stormwater mitigation. Special presentation about kayaking opportunities and constraints (5-6 p.m. in Founders Room). Free, no registration required.

GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT

A big thanks to Stephen Thrapp, Frank Locker, Jerry Pelis, Bob Green, and David Morse for terrific photos that we've added to our calendar pages. We have several hundred shots to sort

through from this year's Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Day Camp before we make some selections from that. We'll still have some open calendar pages to fill. Phases of the moon currently run through 2020.

We're always looking for pictures germane to fly fishing, rivers, lakes, and watershed conservation, volunteers doing that work, fly tying, sharing fishing with youngsters and others, so the options are varied. It would be nice if many of them were local to RMF members, but some other destinations will be considered. Having permission to publish on our website will be implicit for submitted photos so make certain you have permission from anyone in your pictures.

Photographers will be acknowledged in a caption with the picture so rush those pictures in. Send your pictures to webmaster@rockymtnflycasters.org.

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