



ROCKY
MOUNTAIN
Flycasters
30 Years



December 2013 Edition

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[From the President](#)



Dick Jeffries

Happy New Year Everyone!!

I think I have this figured out now. We start our winter months off with a cloud blast and then we settle into balmy temperatures to close the month. As long as we continue to get needed moisture and hopefully enough snowpack to normal... it's all good. Let's hope for no new

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disasters in 2014. We have had enough for a while.

I won't bore you with a suggested list of resolutions. My ability to adhere to my own leaves me want to suggest any to others!

Great stuff in the newsletter as always. Check out Dave Piske's update on our work in the Big T flood recovery effort. There is detailed information on how to get your new Protect Our Rivers license plate and as important as ever our annual Fly Tying Expo is just around the corner.

In support of our commitment to deliver quality programming let's kick off the year with Taylor Edrington and Larry Kingery coming up from Royal Gorge anglers. You will love Taylor's insights on fishing in Alaska and Larry is another master at the vice who you do not want to miss. And, as always, the entire Rocky Mountain Flycasters Event Calendar is available to everyone by clicking on the link below

See you on the 15th!!

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

[Chapter Event Calendar](#)

PROGRAM AND EVENTS

[Brad Kiehne](#), Program Director

Membership Meeting : January 15



Guide Taylor Edrington, Speaker

Taylor Edrington of Royal Gorge Anglers will be our speaker for the January 15 th membership meeting. Taylor's topic is Alaska: A Guides Perspective. He is the son of Royal Gorge Anglers founder Bill Edrington. 2013 was the 25th year of operation of this well known shop in Canon City.

Taylor has been guiding the watersheds of Colorado for over a decade, and spent almost a decade guiding at and managing several flagship fly-out lodges in Alaska. He is a global angler, and hosts fly fishing travel adventures to destinations in 5 continents, in addition to running Royal Gorge Anglers. The program begins at 7:00 PM, but everyone is invited to a social 1/2 hour at 6:30 PM. All meetings are at the Fort Collins Senior Center.

2014 Fly Tying Expo: February 19

It's freezing outside and only tail waters are open. It is the perfect time of year to think about getting ready for the next open water season. Rocky Mountain Flycasters annual Tying Expo is the perfect start. Following on the heels of the International Fly Fishing show in Denver, next month's tying expo will get you right in front of many of Northern Colorado's finest tiers.

Marty Staab, Tim England, Dave Coulson, Mark Miller, Jake Ruthven, Mike Kruse, Mark Tracy, Jason Haddix, Guy Turenne, Terry Hubka, Rick Takahashi, Mark McMillan, Al Ritt, Dennis Martin, Thadd Strom, Eric Pettine, Kirk Bein, Grant Houx, Jin Choi, and Connor Murphy are on the guest list so far with others still to attend.

Great raffle items throughout the night including the tiers own flies!! A loaded silent auction table will provide wonderful opportunity to pick up some quality items and gear!! All of this, including food, is to support the mission of Rocky Mountain Flycasters. This is our annual fund raiser and your attendance and contributions allow us to continue to provide a first rate conservation presence in Northern Colorado.

Don't miss this exciting evening. More details will be distributed electronically and throughout the Northern Colorado communities. The fun begins at 5:30 on the 19th of February at the Fort Collins Senior Center!!

Call for Nominations: RMF Awards

Nominations for an award category can now be submitted by any member of Rocky Mountain Flycasters. Nominations are designed to recognize member volunteers and chapter partners' achievements. Recognition will be announced to chapter members and communicated prominently across our NoCO host community.

The objective is to encourage members' good ideas and export that enthusiasm throughout the chapter, and also to recognize deserving community partner organizations or their representatives that contribute extraordinary support helping RMF accomplish its Mission objectives. Awards will be announced at RMF's May membership Annual Meeting, and awardees may also be nominated to Colorado TU for statewide recognition award consideration at its Spring Rendezvous in April.

Award winners will be selected from among nominees by an annually appointed Awards Committee. It is not required that every category be awarded every year, and there sometimes may be multiple awardees in a single category.

Nominations for awards, with supportive information, must be received by January 31 by email to the RMF Secretary at secretary@rockymtnflycasters.org.

RMF Member Awards

Exemplary Chapter Function, Project or Activity Leadership Award

Exemplary Youth Education Award
Exemplary Youth Member Award
Exemplary Conservation Volunteer Award
Outstanding Chapter Volunteer Award

NoCO Outreach Awards

Exemplary NoCO Guide/Outfitter Award

***Let's Go Fishing!! ***



Mark Miller, Fishing Trip Coordinator

Listed below are some trips we hope to take in 2014. We will start sign-ups at our Jan meeting.

We do need some volunteers to act as a Trip Host. If you have been to one of these areas once or twice, you qualify! As a Trip Host, your duties would simply be to arrange a meeting place and time, and possibly carpooling for the longer trips. Oh ya, and duty number one is to keep the rest of us from getting lost - it is that simple!

Additionally, if anyone would like to host a trip elsewhere, please feel free to let me know and I will add your trip to the list. Contact: Mark Miller at flytyer.miller@gmail.com or 970-744-8229 (cell).

March 28 - Lower Poudre River - (Host: Mark Miller) - weather permitting

April 12- Poudre River - (Host needed)

April 25-27 - Gray Reef / North Platte float trip (Host: Mark Miller)

May 17-18 - Lake John - (2 nights) (Host needed)

June 14 - Laramie Plains lakes (Host: Frank Cada)

June 21- Joe Wright Reservoir (Grayling) (Host needed)

July 12- Lake Agnes - Host: (Host: Ben Zomer)

July 19- Encampment River, WY (wade trip) - (Host needed)

Aug 9- Blue Lake (Indian Peaks Wilderness) (Host: David Morse)

Aug 16 - Colorado River Headwaters (Host: Dennis Cook)

Sept ?? - Flaming Gorge/Green River (UT) (2-3 nights) (Host needed) Dates to be determined based on participants needs

Sept 20- Blue River (Host needed)

Oct ?? - Poudre (Host: Ben Zomer)

Nov ?? (weather permitting) - - Cheesman Canyon/South Platte (Host: Mark Miller)

YOUTH OUTREACH

[Dennis Cooke, Coordinator](#)



Dennis Cooke

2014 Youth Camp: July 28th-August 2nd

RMF's fifth annual Youth River Conservation & Fly Fishing Day Camp preparation is starting...right now. If you are interested to be a part of this exciting RMF youth program as part of the core team throughout the week, now is the time to get involved. Contact Dennis Cook 372-9229 or rkymtnangler@Q.com .



2013 Youth Camp On Site Instruction

We expect this year's 15 openings to again all be filled. Camp typically requires about 24-28 volunteers to ensure that we have a 1:1 mentor instruction on key water activities. Last year we had only 19 volunteers and were slightly shorthanded for those activities, so I'm announcing those dates early now so volunteers can mark their calendars for Mentor availability. We want to have a volunteer mentor for every camper at these activities for both safety and good instruction.

- * July 29th Tuesday - Casting practice at Arapahoe bend Ponds (mid afternoon)
- * July 30th Wednesday - Poudre River in the oxbows & hatchery sections (full day)
- * August 1st Friday - Sylvan Dale ponds, venue tentative pending conditions (morning)
- * August 2nd Saturday - RMNP Moraine Park meadow sections (all afternoon)

Several camp activities this summer (the stillwater fishing, electro-stunning activity and conservation project) may be affected by Big Thompson flood damage conditions. We hope to confirm these activities asap so the overall schedule can be finalized by early February when the application period typically opens.

Additional schedule and venue details will be announced as they are confirmed, and volunteer signup sheets will again be circulated at chapter meetings. In the meantime it's never too early to volunteer by contacting Dennis by phone or email at the contacts listed above.

Fly Fishing for Kids (Middle School)

"Many Thanks!" to Dennis and Amy Galyardt, both retired teachers, for developing a middle school (approximately ages 12-14) curriculum to be used with the Larimer Boys & Girls Clubs beginning spring of 2014. Class modules are designed as activity/games-based and under one hour duration. The goal is to simply introduce youths to the fun and basic concepts of fly fishing...not to become proficient anglers which they can learn at our week-long Day Camp. Instructors will be provided with detailed and partially scripted curriculum instructions, and all activity props/materials for every class.

We are hopeful that several instructors will be interested for each module. Instructors need only to study the materials, become familiar with the activities/games and props, and arrive ready to have an enjoyable experience.



Interested members can discuss any questions and receive a copy of the module(s) they are interested to consider, and also become familiar with the materials and activities props by contacting Dennis Cook as soon as possible at 372-9229 or rkymtnangler@Q.com.

Curriculum

Introduction To The Adventures Of Fly Fishing (55 minutes)

Fly Fishing Tackle versus Spin Casting Tackle
Fly Fishing Gear - Displayed And Explained
Indoor Casting Practice (with fly rod tip and a line)
Rigging A Fly Rod

Casting (30 minutes)

Three Basic Steps of Fly Casting

Overhead (Inline) Cast and Roll Cast - Demonstration
Outdoor Casting Practice

Knots (20 minutes)

Learn two knots for fly fishing
Double Surgeon
Improved Clinch

Fish Inside And Out (55 minutes)

Local Fish Identification
External Fish Anatomy
Internal Fish Anatomy
"Build A Human Fish" (Activity)

The Fish's Watery World (55 minutes)

Aquatic Habitats
"Aquatic Food Web" (Activity)
Aquatic Insect Life Cycle
"Macro-Invertebrates Tell All" (Activity)
[Or "Critter Cube Count" (Activity)]
"Match A Bug...Catch A Fish" (Worksheet)

Fly Tying (55 minutes)

Fly Tying Tools
Fly Tying Materials
Basic Fly Tying
San Juan Worm
Bead Head Midge
Wooly Bugger

Let's Go Fishing! (2 Hours)

- KOA Campground



TIC Coordinator

There's still time to get in on the ground floor of the Front Range Community College TIC Project. We are scheduled to receive eggs on Thursday, January 16th, and will place them in the breeder basket that afternoon.

Fish at our Rocky Mountain High School Project are doing well and there will be more detailed information next issue.

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

CONSERVATION NOTES

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Chair



Dave Piske

Natural Disaster Recovery Projects Will be Conservation Highlights in 2014

As events of 2013 recede into a dim background, it's easy to forget some events that should remain in the forefront of our thoughts about the New Year. Two in that category are High Park Burn Area restoration projects and Big Thompson Flood restoration projects. The High Park Restoration projects will continue in 2014, so watch for more information in the March newsletter.

Meanwhile, the Big T flood restoration projects are quickly moving onto center stage. Much has been accomplished behind the publicly visible scenes. Here is a synopsis of what's happening. For more details, and to keep apprised of future activities, go to: www.bigthompsonriver.org This is the brand new web site of the Big Thompson River Restoration Coalition (BTRRC).

BTRRC's mission is of limited duration, focused on restoring, and where feasible, improving the ecological health of the Big Thompson River from Olympus Dam at Estes Park to the river's confluence with the South Platte River.

BTRRC is a collaborative group of individuals, non-profits, businesses, and government agencies bringing a wide variety of interests into a systematic approach to river restoration activities. Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter of Trout Unlimited is one of the numerous participants in this coalition.

The Coalition functions with four working groups:

Steering Committee: Charged with overall implementation of Coalition goals.

Fiscal Committee: Oversees funding procedures and ensures responsible fiscal practices.

Technical Advisory Committee: Trained hydrologists, biologists and engineers qualified to undertake assessments, design restoration projects, and advise the Coalition on restoration practices.

Education and Outreach Committee: Works to publicize the BTRRC and encourages public participation in Coalition activities.

RMF TU actively participates on the Steering and Fiscal Committees.

Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV), has agreed to serve as General Coordinator and Fiscal Sponsor of BTRRC. WRV is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization with an impressive track record in restoring landscapes affected by disasters, such as the High Park Fire.

BTRRC accomplishments to date have included:

Rapid Assessment Completed. Using a recognized protocol, a team of experts completed rapid assessments to scientifically describe the post-flood characteristics of the river between the Olympus Dam and the City of Loveland. This data will be publically available via a map on the BTRRC website this winter.

Planning Grant Received. WRV has received a grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) to develop a Big Thompson River Restoration Master Plan to guide restoration efforts of BTRRC.

Master Plan Development. The Restoration Master Plan will identify and analyze restoration options to meet the needs of the river and those who live, work, and play alongside it. Hiring of a river restoration consulting team to develop the Master Plan is proceeding. The goal is to complete the Master Plan before the end of 2014.

Emergency Stabilization Projects. Several such projects will be taking place before 2014's spring run-off. Funding has been secured for exigency projects and details of these clean-ups and restoration projects will be announced as soon as detailed plans are completed.

Financing Restoration Projects. As funds and volunteers become available, BTRRC will allocate resources to specific restoration projects. These projects will modify river channels, protect river banks, restore riverside vegetation, remove debris, and put tools and food in the hands of hundreds of volunteers.

Government Agency Coordination. One of the challenges of disaster recovery work is the coordination of scores of agencies tasked with different restoration activities, varying priorities, and funding limits. BTRRC is pleased that agencies in our area have come together in a highly cooperative spirit of openness and communication to avoid duplication of effort and maximize effectiveness.

Access Issues. BTRRC firmly respects private property rights along the river. Its adopted policy is: "Throughout our master planning and river restoration process, we will NOT advocate for access to private property, but will respect any current public easements. Our mission is simply to restore the river. Any access issues we may consider will be on public property or those properties where public easements currently exist".

Individuals Can Help Restore the Big T

You can help to achieve a \$50,000 fundraising goal by January 31, 2014 by contributing to a fundraising campaign at www.youcaring.com/btrrc, and by spreading the word about this campaign to friends, colleagues, and family.

You can volunteer to participate in restoration projects as they are announced during 2014.

If you are interested in participating in any of the BTRRC committees, contact Dave Piske by emailing conserve@rockymtnflycasters.org

City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Master Plan Open House

Especially for those readers who have volunteered on any of our numerous projects with Natural Areas, and for everyone else who may be interested, here is a chance to share your feedback on what the next decade of city-sponsored land conservation and stewardship should hold.

Attend this open house on Thursday, January 30, 4-7 p.m. at the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, 408 Mason Court. Stop by anytime to view posters and share feedback in the classrooms. A short overview presentation by City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department Director, John Stokes, will be at 5:15 and 6:15 p.m. in the dome. Free, no registration required. For those that can't make the Open House, an online comment opportunity will be available afterwards at www.fcgov.com/naturalareas. There will be a second open house in the spring and the plan will be presented to City Council this summer.

TU License Plates: Protect Our Rivers

They are finally available!! When you need to renew your vehicle license plates this year, you can now make a contribution to Colorado TU that will be used to help protect our outstanding cold-water rivers. By doing so you can also proudly display a beautiful Protect Our Rivers plate on your vehicle. Following is the process to obtain your own special plate.



First, go to the website www.protectourrivers.net. This is the site where you will make an online donation of 25.00 to Colorado TU. 100% of this donation goes to CTU and will be dedicated to the protection of Colorado rivers. Following your donation, a certificate will be sent to you which you will then take to your local County Clerk's office to get your plate. In addition to your annual vehicle registration fee, you may be required to pay a one-time special plate fee.

Once you have your new plate on your vehicle, snap a picture and email it to us at president@rockymtnflycaters.org and we will put together a collage of all of those who locally participate in the program.

GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT

[Paul Wehr, Webmaster](mailto:president@rockymtnflycaters.org)



Paul Wehr

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. Most suitable would be local with 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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