



April 2016

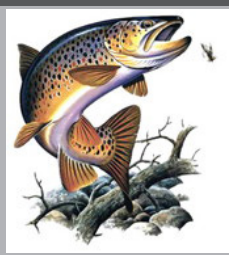
Table of Contents

- From our President
- Chapter Event Calendar
- Filling up the Calendar
- Let's Go Fishing
- May Program Meeting
- May Conservation Notes
- From Our Youth Outreach Coordinator
- Fly Fishing Day Celebration
- Poudre Riverfest
- USFS Kids Free Fishing Day
- Sustaining Donors

RMF Quick Link



Sustaining Donor



Please consider becoming a **Sustaining Donor** at a level that you can afford. Special Recognition occurs at the \$50 level.

Join Our Mailing List!

Forward to a Friend

From our President

May Brings Flowers and More....

May brings not only flowers, but fishing opportunities, two great program presentations and changes to our chapter. I don't know much about flowers, but I can cover the rest of those topics.

The program presentations on **May 18th** will be our last for this season (we'll start up again in September), but last does not mean least! John Perry will tell us more than a little about salmon fishing in Alaska, and you may even hear member Bob Green brag a little about catching salmon on a Tenkara rod with John as his cinematographer.

The May meeting is also our annual meeting and election of officers. Come give our new leadership volunteers a vote of confidence as they take up the reins of an organization which is growing and becoming a recognized force for conservation throughout the region. Lee Evans writes about our new slate in an article posted below and on our website.

Another don't miss May event is Odell's Fly Fishing Day (postponed from last month). Join us **Sunday the 22nd** between 11 and 6 at Odell's Tap Room for family fun: games and fly tying for the kids, fly tying and casting lessons for adults, raffles, music and, of course, the famous Odell's hospitality. See you there! You will find more information about this event in this edition of The Flypaper.

May brings fishing opportunities—maybe hampered a little by high water occurring early this year, but the fish are still there—except in a section of the Big Thompson which can't seem to buy a break from either Mother Nature or human error. Indeed, thousands of fish were recently killed by human error. For my statement about this tragedy and the statement of the Executive Director of Colorado Trout Unlimited see articles in *The Coloradoan* and/or *The Reporter-Herald*.

For other opportunities check out our fishing trips calendar and contact coordinator Mark Miller if you want to join or organize a trip. And don't miss, also in this issue, Mark's description of the RMF outing last month to the Poudre.

April also saw the annual Rendezvous of Colorado Trout Unlimited. Those who attended got updates on important issues such as native trout restoration, the state of the Animas River following the Gold King mine spill (it's doing OK), the latest tactics of anti-hunting/anti-fishing groups, TU's Women's Initiative and Veterans programs, and a good deal more.



Wil Huett,
RMF President and TU
Lifetime Member

At the meeting, Rocky Mountain Flycasters was honored to receive one of CTU's 'Gomo' grants to help with greenback restoration in the Poudre drainage. Also of interest was approval by the CTU board to begin fundraising for a scholarship program for students connected with TU in Colorado through family affiliations or attendance at TU youth camps across the state (ours is August 1-6, don't forget to volunteer!). There is a lot going on these next few weeks (see my separate note below about June 4th) so get involved and you won't later wonder how Spring passed you by.

See you on the 18th and the 22nd and...and.....

Wil Huett, President
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

Chapter Event Calendar



Filling up the Calendar

Our calendar pages are some of the most frequently visited on our web site. Wouldn't it be great to see your own pictures displayed there? There are many opportunities for months into the future. Pictures that are well-lit, in focus, on TU topic, and a minimum of 530 pixels wide and 400 pixel in height. Send a copy of fishing or conservation-related pictures to:

Paul Wehr, Webmaster



Let's Go Fishing

April Trip Report: RMF Poudre Day Trip, April 23rd, 2016

Even though our plan had been to fish the lower Poudre River at Gateway Natural Area, we quickly changed gears once we found out the river at Gateway was running over 350cfs, or about 4-5 times higher than normal for this time of year due to the recent heavy snows of late.

Bob Cogwell, Mickey McGuire, Gil Coleman, and Mark Miller met roadside near the Gateway turn-off, and compared notes/thoughts on where we should go. Luckily, someone at St. Pete's Flyshop had told us to go up the canyon above the south fork of the Poudre, as lots of dirty water was coming from that drainage.

As soon as we passed the south fork, the river volume dropped by about 50% and the water was clear and beautiful. We proceeded to Indian Meadows and rigged up the rods.

We never did find the "magic" fly of the day, but we all managed to catch a few on various offerings, to include small nymphs, beadhead prince, 20 incher stonefly, and Barr's BWO emerger, etc. Being a cloudy and cool day, we were lucky enough to encounter a nice BWO hatch around 11:00 am-1pm. Gil did the best with a dry adult BWO pattern, hooking at least five on top, one being a beautiful 14" rainbow, and another we measured at 16". Bob got a few on top with an ant pattern.



RMF Let's Go Fishing Coordinator Mark Miller



Mickey Maguire pauses his fishing for a photo

I've only fished this area once or twice before, and had forgotten what a beautiful stretch of river this is. We fished for five hours and did not even cover a third of this stretch. I can't wait to fish it again, hopefully fishing into the magic twilight hour. Spending a nice, long summer day here would be a little slice of heaven!



Dr. Gil Coleman performs mouth-assisted chiropractic adjustment for Poudre resident



Bob Cogwell presents his ant pattern

The Remaining 2016 "Let's Go Fishing" Trips

Listed below are the remaining trips we hope to take in 2016. Sign-up at our monthly meeting. Or sign up online on [our chapter website](#).

We have quite a mix of fishing destinations for 2016. Hopefully there is something for you on this list. We'll go after big rainbows in June near Laramie at Twin Buttes. June and July will bring a chance to catch grayling and cutthroats in two beautiful high country lakes. Dennis will again host a fun-filled day of small stream fishing with dry flies on the Colo River headwaters in RMNP. Sep and Oct will take

us to some water that most people have not fished-the Yampa River at Steamboat Springs, and the Frying Pan and Roaring Fork rivers near Glenwood Springs. We hope you will join us for all the fun!

Questions? Contact: Mark Miller at flytyer.miller@gmail.com or 970-744-8229 (cell).

- 14 May - Big Thompson below Lake Estes - Host needed for this trip!
- 4 Jun - Twin Buttes Reservoir near Laramie - Host: Frank Cada (float tubes recommended but not mandatory). Need a WY license.
- 25 Jun - Joe Wright Reservoir - for Grayling - Host: Dave Morse
- 9 July - Lake Agnes - Cutthroats (near Cameron Pass) - Host: Dave Morse
- 20 Aug - RMNP Colorado Headwaters - Host: Dennis Cook
- 16-18 Sep - Yampa Tailwater - Host: Dennis Cook
- early Oct - Frying Pan/Roaring Fork- date to be determined - Host: Ben Zomer



May Program Meeting

Election of RMF Officers and Trustees

The nominating committee, Guy Turenne, Lee Evans, and Dennis Cook, is happy to present this slate of nominations for the board of Rocky Mountain Flycasters:

- Coy Wylie - President
- Mickey McGuire - Vice President

Tom Culbertson - Treasurer
Lance Asherin - Secretary
Linda Jefferies - At Large
Domingo Rodriguez - At Large
Wil Huett - Immediate Past President

This slate will be presented on May 18 before the program. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at that time for any of these positions. We will need proof of acceptance from any person nominated from the floor. Thanks to all who have considered a leadership position for our chapter.

Our May Program

Our featured speaker on May 18 will be John Perry, Owner and Head Guide of Angler's Alibi in Alaska.

John grew up in Michigan on an island called Grosse Ile, in the mouth of the Detroit River and Lake Erie. It was here, surrounded by great fishing and waterfowl hunting that John developed a passion for the outdoors. John moved to Colorado to chase trout in the summers and ski patrol in the winters. John had the privilege to start guiding for Angler's Alibi with his fly fishing mentor TR Rafferty the second year it was in business. He left a head guide job in Colorado to pursue bigger and better fish.

Over the years he has enjoyed developing life-long friendships with the guests and witnessing the most consistent, unbelievable fishing this planet has to offer. John will continue to offer a superior level of service to guests at Angler's Alibi and will keep the fishing program the utmost priority. He resides in Colorado in the off season with his wife Holly, and their 2 boys, River and Grey.



Captain John Perry with a King Salmon taken on the Alagnak River in Alaska

John will talk with us about methods of taking multiple species of salmon, char, rainbow trout and grayling on the Alagnak River in the Bristol Bay, Alaska outback. Take a look at the video below, taken by a camera on a drone flying over the river. I spent a week with John after viewing this video. I had considered a number of Alaskan venues, but this video clinched it for me!

—Bob Green



As always, social hour begins at 6:30 pm at the Fort Collins Senior Center, and the program follows at 7:00 pm. Admission is free and the public is welcome. The Fort Collins Senior Center is located at 1200 Raintree Drive off Shields Avenue between Prospect and Drake.

May Conservation Notes



Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

Progress With Grants for Conservation Projects

New Fishing Pier on Big Thompson: Long-time members of Rocky Mountain Flycasters fondly remember helping to build a fishing pier and access ramp on the Big Thompson River in the late 1970s. It provided easy access to several deep pools in a narrow part of the canyon. Prior to the pier's presence, anglers having limited mobility were unable to fish in those pools. The wood structure was maintained over the years by members of Alpine Anglers chapter, and the efforts of both TU chapters are still memorialized on a sign at the edge of the parking area on Highway 34 near Mile Marker 72. But the record-breaking flood in September 2013 tore the structure from its foundation and swept its remains downstream where they were subsequently removed from the canyon.

Now, the outlook is bright for construction of a more resilient fishing pier that will ease access to those same pools, and be more resilient and survivable in future floods. In a partnership with the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition (BTWC), Rocky Mountain Flycasters and BTWC have submitted an

application for a grant from the **Fishing is Fun program**, that along with in-kind matching funds would finance the new fishing access pier. The grant approval process is in early stages, but if all the coming reviews are positive, the new pier could be in place before the end of 2018.

Stream re-conditioning for Greenback cutthroat introduction

George Creek is a tributary of the North Fork of the Poudre. Its headwater has been selected for re-introduction of greenbacks, Colorado's state fish. But first, the creek needs re-conditioning to provide habitat enabling those sensitive trout to survive in the wild. RMF has received a grant from the **Leo Gomolchak Conservation Grants Program**, a program dedicated to native trout restoration. This grant, along with funds from RMF's conservation budget will enable RMF to contribute to the habitat re-conditioning in collaboration with the two managing agencies, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the U. S. Forest Service.

Conservation Projects Remain Nimble to Elude Spring Storms

Although our concentrated schedule of conservation projects in March and April was somewhat disrupted by untimely snow or rain storms, we have been able to re-schedule some projects and canceled only one, the trail work along the Poudre near North Shields. We were able to complete all restoration on Skin Gulch, thus completing a post-flood two-year riparian restoration project.

Because weather and spring runoff events are long-term unpredictable, it's best to check the calendar of restoration projects that is kept up-to-date by Webmaster Paul at www.rockymtnflycasters.org. The month of May currently has two projects on the North Fork of Big Thompson, Saturday, **May 7** and Tuesday, **May 17**, each being re-vegetation of riparian areas.

Fort Collins' Source Water Protection Plan Welcomes Public Comments

The draft of a report that analyzes threats to the Fort Collins water supply, and co-incidentally to the quality of trout streams in the Poudre watershed, is open for comments from the public until May 13. The draft report can be read at: <http://www.fcgov.com/utilities/what-we-do/water/source-water-protection-plan>.

Don't let its length of more than 50 pages scare you away. By visually scanning the many maps in the report, the major threats to the water supply that Fort Collins depends on will quickly become evident.

This draft also refers to an analysis of threats to the Poudre watershed's resiliency that is now in progress at the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed. Together, these two reports will provide guidance for RMF's fishery conservation programs in the coming years.

Please email your comments and/or questions to Jill Oropeza, at joropeza@fcgov.com by close of business on May 13.



From Our Youth Outreach Coordinator

CSU “5 Rivers” TU Fly Fishing Club



Dennis Cook, Youth Outreach Coordinator

The new CSU 5 Rivers Fly Fishing Club members are busy! In mid March the leaders and core members held an informal gathering to plan how to begin recruitment for mere members. On April 6th the club held it's first official members meeting - attended by 38 students - and the following weekend five including two leaders attended the Western Regional 5 Rivers Clubs Rally held at Meredith, CO, mixing with students from other colleges and learning many program ideas and “how to’s” to implement next fall when CSU returns to campus. The local leadership has already launched two Casting & Fly Fishing Basics classes and two Fly Tying classes. Finals are the week of May 9th and this semester ends on the 13th. Leaders are already beginning to make recruitment and programming plans for when students return next August 16th, so the new club can get off to a fast start.



CSU 5 Rivers Fishing Club tying flies

Youth Day Camp

The 2016 “Application & Parents Information Packet” was posted to the RMF Chapter website on April 1st and can be accessed for download at <http://nocotu.org/S/youthcamp>. Completed Application Packets are now being accepted. No previous fly fishing experience is required.

The Day Camp program is designed for 15 campers (ages 14-17) and we expect that all openings will again be filled. The daily schedule is from 8:00 am to 6:00/7:00 pm. All equipment, transportation between activity venues, and drinking water will be provided. Campers will bring lunches, rain gear, and appropriate clothing.

The Day Camp is a fast-paced six days of instruction, participation, and great fun. Campers learn how to fly fish, and also about responsibility for the watersheds, riparian habitat, river ecology, and the trout.

Time on the water includes learning to read the water, electro-stunning and identifying fish, chasing finicky hungry trout on the Poudre River and in Rocky Mountain National Park, and a hands-on conservation project, as well as casting to eager bass on still-water ponds. We look forward to having another great group of campers, just as in previous years.



Fly Fishing Day Celebration Odell Brewing Company Family, Fun, Fly Fishing - Beer



Sounds like a perfect day! Join us **Sunday, the 22nd** from 11 am till 6 pm at Odell Brewing for the second annual Fly Fishing Day Celebration. Sundays at Odell Brewing are centered around a relaxed, family friendly atmosphere.

We are extremely honored that Odell Brewing has announced this April Rocky Mountain Flycasters is their Charity of the Month. Additional proceeds from the Fly Fishing Party will go to Rocky Mountain Flycasters so we can continue our work in Northern Colorado Watersheds.

Fly casting lessons with St. Pete's; Fly Tying with Pig Farm Ink and Iron Fly; Great food (fish tacos) from The Goodness; Live Music (Rusty 44); Youth activities with Rocky Mountain Flycasters. This truly is a day to celebrate our love of fly fishing with friends and family.

Rocky Mountain Flycasters will have an information booth available with information about TU; Project Healing Waters and our Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Day Camp. Information and sign up for numerous restoration projects and other Rocky Mountain Flycasters activities will also be available.

A special treat will be the custom, small batch beer brewed by Odell and St. Pete's Fly Shop. Six barrels of Hoppa Droppa Juicy Pale Ale will be available for this event only.

Help us extend a special thank you to Odell Brewing for their ongoing financial support to TU and Rocky Mountain Flycasters by joining us next Sunday.

Any day can be a good day, but a day at Odell Brewing is a memorable day! See you there.



Poudre Riverfest

Since we have two volunteer staffed events scheduled **June 4th** - the USFS Kid's Free Fishing Day at West Lake and Big Thompson lower North Fork revegetation - I know your time will be limited, but thought you'd want to tell your neighbors about.....the Poudre RiverFest, 9am - 6 pm, a free, family-friendly festival held at Legacy Park in Ft Collins. This is the festival's 3rd year, and our friends and conservation partners at the Coalition for the Poudre Watershed (CPRW) are helping organize it.

Why help promote an event that competes with chapter projects? Because the more people who become acquainted with the river, it's benefits and its challenges, the more friends we have for conservation and rehabilitation efforts.

Participants at the festival can:

- Experience scientific research at a bird banding station and go on nature walks to learn about the river and its inhabitants.

- Volunteer to enhance wildlife habitat along the river with hands-on service projects.
- Learn about conserving the Poudre River and its resources through a photo scavenger hunt and kids' activities.
- Connect with local organizations that conserve the river.
- Dance to live music from Justin Roth, Grant Farm and Mama Lenny and the Remedy.
- Enjoy beer from New Belgium Brewing Co. and food from local eateries.
- Parking is limited at the site; check out the website to find options or alternatives.

You can find more information about the Poudre RiverFest at: <http://www.poudreriverfest.org/>



USFS Kids Free Fishing Day

Once again, RMF will volunteer to help out at the USFS Kids Free Fishing Day on **June 4, 2016** at West Lake in Red Feather Lakes, CO. Mark your calendars and expect more details as they become available.

Lee Evans will coordinate the volunteers for this day to help kids catch fish. Many of the kids will catch their first fish ever. The USFS gives each kid a spin rod to fish with, then to take home for future trips. It is a very delightful day for all involved.

Contact Lee at leesandie@msn.com if you would like to volunteer to help kids from 8:30 am until about 2:00 pm. Thanks!!

Sustaining Donors

Rocky Mountain Flycaster Sustaining Donors



St. Peter's Fly Shop



Fred Ebert
Dr. Ron Sheets Memorial
Greg Evans
Bob Green
Dave Piske
Frank Cada
Vicky Russell
Tom Culbertson
Yang Qian &
Edward McConnaughey
Lee Evans
Wil Huett
Marc McKenzie
Robert Streeter
Jax Fish House
Jay's Bistro
Dave Mosnik
Eric Reckentine
Domingo Rodriquez
Steve Schweitzer
Thomas VerStraate
Yampa Valley Anglers
Robert H. Hillen Memorial
Paul Wehr
CooperSmith's
Mawson Lumber
Rare Italian
Sears Trostel Lumber
Sonny Lubicks
The Kitchen
Wabi Sabi



2016-05-01