



August 2017

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From the President

It's almost over but it's been a very busy week for me. We're close to completing our eighth year of Youth River Conservation and Fly Fishing Day Camp. Between work and volunteer hours, I've been burning the candle at both ends but it has been worth it!

Since Monday morning 11 young men (no young ladies applied this year) ages 14-17 have been immersed in all things trout. They have been a wonderful group! Eager, cooperative and enthusiastic, they've poured themselves into all manner of learning opportunities. From basic fishing skills (wading, rigging, knots, casting, reading water, mending, playing and handling fish) to trout habitat and behavior, they have been in the classroom and on the river every day. They've also learned about conservation and put sweat equity into preserving a section of the North Fork of the Big Thompson by setting posts for a fence to keep cattle off the riverbank and



Coy Wiley, 2016-2017 President
Rocky Mountain Flycasters



Sampling fish on the Poudre River

cutting back invasive weeds under the supervision of Wildlands Restoration Volunteers. Of course, they've caught lots of fish too! I enjoyed fishing with different campers and seeing their technique and skills improve through the week. I don't have enough room here to list all the activities but suffice it say, we've all been very busy.

The end result is that each of these campers will conclude the week with the knowledge and skill to become excellent fly fishermen if they put to practice what they have learned. In addition, they have gained an understanding of their responsibility to preserve and protect our watershed for future generations. Only time will tell the impact this week has made on their lives.

I want to thank many of our members for graciously and joyfully donating their time and knowledge to help these young campers. There are too many to name individually and this has truly been a team effort. Some have been there full-time, present for each activity from start to finish. Others, like me, have volunteered as our schedules allowed. Of course, this would not be possible without Dennis Cook who has organized and supervised the camp each year from its inception. His efforts are herculean. We also appreciate Kyle Stack and his team of professional guides from St. Peter's Fly Shop for donating their time and expertise on the water.

I believe this camp is one of our greatest services and investments in our community. If you have never participated I encourage you consider doing so next year. I assure you that you will enjoy yourself and have a great experience paying it forward to future generations of fly fishers and conservationists.

Coy Wylie, President
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

[Chapter Event Calendar on our web site](#)



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](#)



Fishing Buddies

Will (Bill) Whirty, who is retired from Fort Collins Recreation Department, was joined by some of his long time fishing buddies for a fun day of fly fishing and camaraderie on June 1. Organized by friend Dave Mosnik, they fished Nokomis Lake, one of the private lakes in Red Feather, a favorite of his for many years. In addition to Dave, he was joined by Tim Abbott, Mike Calhoon, Terry Keith, Mike Powers, Dave Sexton and Mike Spearnak.

This might have been an ordinary event with guys on the water. But, because of a significant accident, this was only the second time in two years that Will has been able to try fishing from a float tube again. He had an accident on June 27th, 2015 that forever changed his life. He broke his neck, injured his spinal cord and is now a quadriplegic. Will spoke with friends and visualized how with help he could get back in the water. With more than a little help from his friends it was a huge success.

Will was an avid fly fisherman, whether wading a river or float tubing a lake. He began fishing at an early age, dragging worms under logs on small western Connecticut streams. His Grandfather bought him his first fly rod when he turned 12 years old and together they explored the Farmington and Housatonic rivers.

Last August (2016), Will was strong enough to try and fish again, with help from friends, his physical therapist from Craig Hospital and his new local physical therapist. They trekked off to Erie Lake; it worked out well, but as with all first time adventures, new techniques were learned. Unfortunately Will didn't hook up.

But this year's June trip was much better. Although Will is not able to maneuver a float tube by use of fins yet, he can still enjoy a day of fishing from a float tube. He can walk with a walker and assistance into the lake;

once in the seat he gets strapped in and his buddies were able to rig up a tandem rope to tow him around the lake seeking out unsuspecting trout. Velcro-ing the rod to his right hand, Will still has the use of his left hand to play a fish off the reel, fight a jumping Rainbow and land a fish. Being outdoors, spending time with good friends, enjoying something you are passionate about is what brings meaning to life.

Will looks forward to more fishing excursions as he gets stronger; his fishing buddies also look forward to spending a day fly fishing with him. Will invites some of his other disabled friends to join him this September for an outing. He truly understands how fortunate he is because of his good friends and his life long fly fishing passion. Hopefully many more fly fishing trips are on the horizon.



August Conservation Notes



Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

With the multiple river restoration projects that are in various stages of completion in the Big Thompson watershed, it's a special source of pride when the major projects reach the phase-out stage.

Last week the *Loveland Reporter Herald* published a nice story about a completed project so its readers would have a better sense of the types of projects the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition (BTWC) has been leading, and Rocky Mountain Flycasters has been financially supporting.

Here is the story, as reported in the *Reporter Herald*:

http://www.reporterherald.com/news/larimer-county/ci_31162469/restoration-project-completed-big-thompson-river

Phil Wright, our Volunteer Coordinator, provides the following update on the spawning of native trout at Zimmerman Lake:

Spawning Greenback Cutthroat Trout at Zimmerman Lake

In mid-June Rocky Mountain Flycasters (RMF) member Dave Morse and I decided we would go to Zimmerman Lake to observe the greenback cutthroat spawning effort by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) personnel assisted by Colorado Trout Unlimited (CTU) solicited volunteers. Our trip to Zimmerman Lake provided two bonuses, one expected and one unexpected. (More on these bonuses later.)

After the short hike to Zimmerman Lake from the trailhead at highway 14, we arrived at the lake and hiked over to the spawning site near the inlet to the lake. There we found Boyd Wright, native aquatic species biologist, and his team from CPW. We also found RMF member Frank Bub (on left in photo below) who had volunteered to assist with the spawning.

The CPW team had set net funnel traps in the lake near the inlet the day before and they had separated the captured trout into holding pens for spawning. The photo below shows that the spawning greenback cutthroats look somewhat different from the cutthroats we are used to catching this time of year at Lake Agnes for example.





Since I was observing the greenback spawn rather than volunteering, I had the opportunity to take a short video of the operation. As you can see from the video below, it takes team work to successfully carry out the spawning operation and volunteers can add greatly through their participation.

After we had observed the greenback spawning, Dave Morse and I hiked back down the trail to partake of the expected bonus of our trip. We had expected to park our truck near the inlet end of Joe Wright Reservoir and do some fly fishing in the reservoir for grayling which are usually very numerous in late June

near the inlet creek to the reservoir. Fishing is not allowed in the inlet creek and a quick inspection of the inlet creek revealed why. Many, many grayling were stacked up in the creek as they went upstream to spawn. And as we unexpectedly found, Colorado Parks and Wildlife fisheries personnel were at the creek to spawn and collect grayling eggs. Thus, on this beautiful June day, Dave and I observed a spawning “two-fer”. When I spoke later to CPW staff, they said they collected an estimated 150,000 fertilized eggs to support the state’s grayling production and stocking program from the brood stock at Joe Wright Reservoir.



Finally, Dave and I proceeded on to the expected “bonus” portion of the day. We rigged our rods and proceeded down to the reservoir to fly fish for grayling. Before we could even begin to fish for (sorry, “catch”) grayling, we ran into RMF members Bobby Bottles, and Ben Zomer and his fly fishing 6 year old daughter Sienna. We all caught many grayling and enjoyed each others’ company as well. All and all, this fine day in June was one of the best I have had for a while.

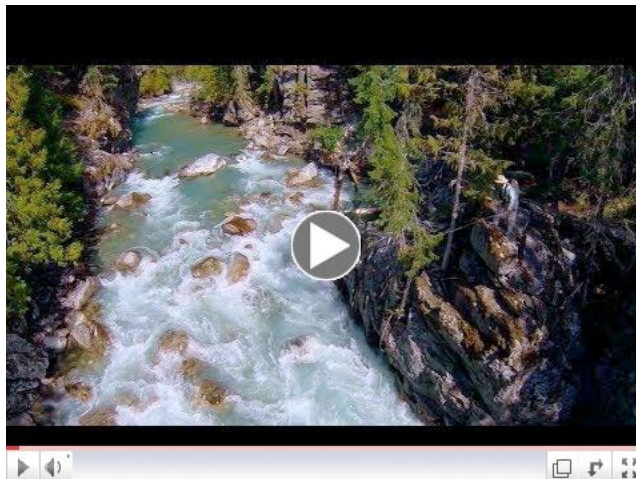


The Flypaper's Video of the Month

The video at the link below illustrates why the classic technique of TU volunteers rolling rocks into a stream to create holding water for trout is so very old fashioned these days. The video was created by David Jessup, co-owner of Sylvan Dale Dude Ranch, located at the mouth of the canyon of the Big Thompson River in Larimer County, Colorado. David says "I finally got around to posting a video of trout habitat restoration in process at Sylvan Dale".

<http://www.davidmjessup.com/trout-habitat-river-restoration-sylvan-dale-ranch/>

And, this one continues our Todd Moen series. It is titled "Fly Fishing for Cutthroat Trout". Give it a click.



August Youth Outreach Notes



Dennis Cook, Youth Outreach Coordinator

As you read this message, the Eighth Annual Summer Fly Fishing Day Camp is underway! We are spending 6 days of fly fishing and conservation education with the young people in the classroom, on the Poudre, In Rocky Mountain National Park, and on local ponds. Thanks again to the dozens of people and local organizations involved in the funding, planning and administration of this annual summer event.

But, there is more. The article below, written by Paul Wehr, describes a recent summer event at the CSU Environmental Learning Center:

Ramble on the River

It was a fun couple of days at the CSU Environmental Learning Center (ELC). About six dozen youngsters got a brief introduction to several aspects of fly fishing. On July 19 and July 26, groups of 10-12 switched between tying “flies” on safety pins and examining aquatic insects seined from the Poudre River, in approximately one-hour class segments.

CSU students in the Natural Sciences Department work as staff for this program introducing elementary level students to the habitat along the river. They are also instrumental in assisting by handling the students during the sessions we provided.

Mickey McGuire led the Insect Collection and Observation with help from Dennis Cook, Lee Evans, Jim Carrol, and Paul Hilbrecht. They collected insects seining them from the river, then identified them as the students picked them out of the water tubs and sorted them into ice cube trays, and discussed the life cycles of various aquatic insects.



Mickey McGuire explains insect life cycle to young people



Dave Morse teaches how to tie a hat bugger

Tying flies on safety pins was led by David Morse and Domingo Rodriquez, assisted by Paul Wehr. Some of the “wooly buggers” were quite fanciful with students picking favorite colors of yarn and feathers rather than trying to imitate “naturals.” Domingo also had students tie up the cutest little frogs with foam and rubber legs.

Everyone seemed to have a great time with several youngsters repeating the lessons from one week to the next and even from the previous year. We even got a creative group thank-you card from the participants!

Our chapter has presented these classes now for two years, and will be again next summer probably in July. Chapter members who would enjoy volunteering to help in these sessions please contact **Dennis Cook**, who will record your information and contact you early next summer.

Note: The ELC is open to the public and is a lush, green wonderland to observe birds, mammals insects and generally relax in its preserved natural setting.





Tell us your favorite fishing stories.

Every time I fish or socialize with RMF members and friends, I hear wonderful captivating stories about fishing adventures. We all have them- you're not an angler if you don't. Why not have one or more published in The Flypaper? If you are interested or have questions contact **Bob Green**, *The Flypaper* Editor.



Or Send Us a Video

Just send a link think to **The Flypaper Editor**. It will be considered for a future video of the month.

Share a few experiences or a laugh. Did you see something online or did you record a great Experience? Share it!!



Want a fishing buddy?

I created **FindAFishingBuddy.com** a couple of years ago. I recently launched **FindAFishingClub.com**, the largest directory of active fishing clubs in the US. Your clun (RMF) is including on our roster. Thanks, Chuck Christopher.



Donate Your Gear

For the third month, RMF will be collecting donated fishing gear so we can equip needy veterans participating in our Healing Waters program. This can include serviceable waders, boots, nets, vests, rods and reels, etc. There will be a collection box at the May TU meeting, or call Dave Morse to arrange a pick-up. (217-418-9386). Thanks for your support!



Or, would you like to be the RMF Treasurer?

Treasurer - need an experienced accountant/bookkeeper with knowledge of QuickBooks. Ideal for a retired accountant/bookkeeper who would like to donate those skills to a great organization. If you are interested in the position or merely want more information, please contact **Tom Culbertson** or 970-541-7029 or 970-685 1401 (cell).



Let's Go Fishing



Mark Miller, Let's Go Fishing Coordinator

Please see our line-up of fishing destinations for 2017 below. Hopefully these trips will appeal to a lot of you! I'm always open to suggestions if anyone has a special fishing hole they would like to share with our chapter members. If you do, please give me a call and I can help you make it happen. For those interested in the Yampa Trip (September 15-17), Dennis Cook provides more information and some photos below.

Here is our RMF 2017 line-up for the rest of the summer and fall:

Aug 26 - RMNP Small Stream - Dry Fly Fishing - Hosts: Mark Miller and Bill Gillett

Sept 15-17 - Yampa River, Steamboat Springs - Host: Dennis Cook

Sept 22-24 - Frying Pan - Stay on the river and fish a private stretch of the river. - Host: Ben Zomer

Oct 7 - Poudre River - Host: Mark Miller

Oct 21 or 28 - Possible Kokanee Trip - S. Platte / Dream Stream - Host: Mark Miller (weather dependent)

Questions? Contact: [Mark Miller](#) or 970-744-8229 (cell).

The Yampa Beclons!

September 15th - 17th

Six weeks from now a gang of Rocky Mountain Flycasters members will be reveling in the early fall colors of northwest Colorado's beautiful mountains. There's still time for you to sign up confirm for lodging and join us. Our group currently numbers four 'definite' plus two more 'probable' and we'd like to add several more. We will carpool over on Friday morning and return Sunday evening. Tentative lodging is being held at the Wyndham and we'd prefer to hear from others within the next couple weeks so we know exactly how many to plan for.

The Yampa River has become known for its large fish, both rainbow and browns! The river through the town of Steamboat Springs, just a few steps from the fly shop and restaurants, boasts many holding areas for these giant fish. Then, there is the famous tailwater stretch below Stagecoach Reservoir - about 3/4 of a mile of world class waters that rival the Frying Pan, Taylor River and South Platte Dream Stream. These tailwaters are very technical, where fish demand tiny flies and good presenta-





tions, and fight like demons when they are hooked. Many get off, but those you land are truly prize specimens for great selfies! Below the tailwater there is a lengthy productive stretch at the Sarvis Creek SWA, and there also is a long stretch of first class water at the Chuck Lewis SWA just upstream from town toward the reservoir that affords superior fishing only a five minute drive from our hotel. Steamboat rivals any other Colorado location as one of our state's best angling locations.

Sign up to join us for this truly fun and exciting trip:

Register by email [Mark Miller](#) or email trip host [Dennis Cook](#) or call 372-9229 with any questions.



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