



May 2019

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From the President

May 2019

Is anyone else wondering when spring might arrive? I am sitting in my home office watching the snow fall yet again.

We have already had to postpone the March and April Leadership meetings but we should be good to go for May 8; at least I hope so! Having said that, it is nice to see the state of Colorado exit the perpetual drought designation and have enough snow and water in our watersheds for the coming runoff. It can only help to improve our habitat and sustain trout populations.



Mickey McGuire, RMF President

On May 1, I was pleased to represent our chapter as we thanked the major partners who completed the fish passage at Watson Lake a reality. Conceived and led by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, funded by Noosa Yoghurt, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and Morning Fresh Dairy, designed by OneFish Engineering and constructed by L4 Construction and Environmental, the passage was completed this spring. One of our major mission areas is to reconnect waterways for fish migration and this project reconnects approximately 3 miles of the Poudre River. When you get out by Bellvue, be sure to have a gander at this impressive structure on the east side of the lake.

I hope you have all had a chance to review our list of upcoming volunteer activities for the next few months. Just click here to view the list. I wanted to get these out to you so, as you plan your summer and potential vacation time, you can identify a project or event that is meaningful to you. As I have said before, many hands help lighten the load; come on out, meet some members you may not yet know and help make our community and the environment better.

Be sure to take a look at the column below identifying a couple of awards we received at the recent Colorado Trout Unlimited Rendezvous. If you ever have an interest in Chapter leadership, this workshop is an excellent introduction into what TU and CTU offer our Chapters throughout the state.

As our physical therapists said at our March meeting, start that stretching, get in shape and get outside! I am confident the snow will stop.... Sometime...



Mickey McGuire
President

Cargill Donation

We learned last month that Rocky Mountain Flycasters has been chosen as one of the local Cargill Canola Cares quarterly charitable contributions of \$5,000. In addition, we may receive matching funds from their corporate headquarters. This important donation will go to our conservation program to help fund restoration projects within our watersheds. Be sure to attend the May meeting for the presentation of the donation. Thank you Cargill!

May Membership Meeting

The effects of post-flood recovery on trout fisheries in the Big T



Larry Rogstade (L) and Ben Swigle Colorado Parks & Wildlife on the Big Thompson River work site

Speaker: Benjamin Swigle, Colorado Parks & Wildlife 317W. Prospect Road, Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

Severe flooding impacted rivers and streams in the Colorado Front Range during September 2013. Following the flood, rebuilding infrastructure was given top priority and permitting processes were suspended or expedited to facilitate reconstruction activities. In many cases, emergency reconstruction activities led to degradation of stream functions and aquatic habitat. Degradation was often associated with the creation of trapezoidal and heavily armored channels. Initial monitoring following the flood showed variable impacts to fish populations, with changes in trout abundance ranging

from -58% to +69% impacted by flood flows but not further altered during emergency reconstruction. Monitoring sites that underwent substantial channel alterations during emergency reconstruction had an average change in trout abundance of -95%. Contrary to understanding flood flows did not decimate trout populations in the Big Thompson drainage, rather post-flood channel reconstruction was the primarily conduit responsible for the diminished abundance. Following the emergency repairs a massive stream restoration efforts coinciding with the Highway 34 rebuild has resulted in a river corridor less susceptible to flooding and in many cases stream habitat improvements better than pre-existing conditions. This presentation will build upon results from initial pre-flood monitoring efforts by incorporating post-flood fisheries data collected immediately after the flood as well as 1-5 years post flood during the fall of 2013-2018. In additional this talk will discuss in-stream construction activities leading to fish population improvements.

Ben Swigle, a fishery biologist with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, is responsible for sport fish management in all public waters within the Big Thompson, St.Vrain, and Boulder Creek drainages. Ben has served as the primary representative from CPW directing river restoration work in the Big Thompson. Prior to joining CPW in 2005, Ben was a fishery biologist with the USGS in Klamath Falls, OR. Ben received a BS in Biology from the University of Notre Dame and a MS in Aquatic Ecology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Where: Fort Collins Senior Center; 6:30 for social 1/2 hour, 7:00 PM for meeting.

Other Events in May



Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 8 at 215 Jefferson Street @ 6:30 PM; everyone is invited to attend this meeting.



Monthly Membership Meeting, Wednesday, May 15 at 6:30PM, speaker Ben Swigle, Senior Center, Fort Collins.



Fly Swap: The fly for May is a Mayfly or Stonefly dry fly. Use your imagination and tie something suitable for the local waters. Plan on bringing 8 identical flies unless I notify you differently. Any extra flies will be donated to the raffle or returned to you. Contact [Dave Morse](#) to sign up and so we can determine how many flies to tie. As usual, include the recipe with your name on a "toe tag". and bring your flies to the May RMF meeting. You will receive one fly from each other participant and contribute one for the monthly raffle. We hope that this has been an educational and enjoyable experience this year.

Fun Volunteer Day

The National Forest Service will offer a Free Kids Fishing Day at West Lake in Red Feather Lakes on Saturday, June 1. Kids who register will receive a free spin casting rod and reel, and have a chance to use it on that Saturday morning, from 8:00 am until about 1:00 pm.

Rocky Mountain Flycasters supplies 10-15 volunteers to help the kids cast, catch fish, untangle line, change rigging, bait hooks, deal with snags, and give encouragement to many kids who have never caught a trout. It is a hugely fun day, and the kids and their parents really appreciate all of our help.

If you can spare this Saturday morning to help these kids, please let me know and I will send more details. Contact [Lee Evans](#).

Thank you in advance!

Adopt-a-Trail

Our TU chapter supports the Adopt-a-Trail program of the Fort Collins Natural Areas Office. Our trails are at Gateway Natural area on the Poudre River. We have planned our annual work project for Saturday June 8th. If you would like to assist with this event, contact **Dave Morse**. Work can range from pruning bushes to grading trails to constructing new stone steps, depending on your skills and abilities. We need a dozen folks. Thanks. You get free lunch, free parking and an afternoon to fish at Gateway after our work project.

[Click Here For Calendar Of All Upcoming Events](#)

Colorado Trout Unlimited Awards

Seven of our members attended the Colorado Trout Unlimited Spring Rendezvous held in Glenwood Springs last weekend. It was a great event with 23 of the 24 chapters within the state attending. In addition to the CTU staff, there were also a number of TU national staff in attendance. Colorado is fortunate in that some 24 national TU technical experts live in Colorado and are very accessible to us. One of the great events at Rendezvous is the awards banquet. Last year our Chapter won awards for our Youth Programs and Dave Piske was awarded a major conservation award. This year, Phil Wright received the Outstanding Volunteer Award and Mickey McGuire accepted the award for Exemplary Chapter. These awards come only because many people donate their time to accomplish the mission of Rocky Mountain Flycasters.



RMF members pictured from left to right are: Danny White, Ron Dickson, Phil Wright, Mickey McGuire, Colin Glover, Tracy Craig and Steve Craig.

From CSU's 5 Rivers Fly Fishing Club

CSU 5 Rivers Fly Fishing Club's Trip to Pyramid Lake

By Collin Metscher

A collective sigh floated down the road as our three cars made the turn out of Fort Collins. We were just 14 hours, 7 gas stations, 4 red bulls, and 3 state lines away from our first casts at Pyramid Lake. Spring break was finally here.

Six hours into the night, we found ourselves talking to a tired gas station attendant just East of Evanston, Wyoming. There was a major accident West of us on I-80 that closed down the interstate, and we found a potential

detour to get around the 40 mile closure. With no trepidation, we ventured on, following county roads and our phone's directions. The road quickly turned from pavement to dirt to snowpack. Only one driver (Isaac) got one car (mine) got stuck in the deep drifts along the shoulder. Ben pulled us out, we cracked a few jokes, I took the wheel over, and we went on our way; this time much slower, with the truck in 4WD. After only a few more miles, the road ended in a snow drift. So much for trusting the GPS. The fork to our right seemed to go on, but after a little exploration on foot, we deemed it impassable. Time to turn around.

We reached I-80 to find it closed, still, and decided to take a much longer detour to the North. After confirming the WYDOT report showed clear conditions along our new route, we hit the road for an estimated arrival of 5:30am. So much for sleep.

Those mid morning hours were a blur of headlights and caffeine (plus a few dollars in the truck stop casino slot machines). When we finally turned off the interstate, our anticipation built and the sun kissed the horizon. We crested the desert ridge and saw the deep blue water we would call home for the next week. The salty expanse was much bigger than I imagined; it almost dwarfed the barren snow capped peaks rising behind its shore. A short stop at Crosby's for permits, and we were ready to wader up.

Fishing from a ladder was new to most of our group. We ventured, awkwardly, into the water to join Alex Liston, Ben, and Tyler (the only Pyramid veterans on the trip, and informally the "dirtyfrontrangetroutbums" on Instagram) and climbed up the rungs. In our sleep deprived state, we slowly adjusted to casting heavy lines in the increasingly heavy wind. After a few fishless hours, one by one, we dragged our ladders and bodies out of the water to set up camp and break into the beer supply.



A few beers, naps, and sunburns later, we hit the water once again hoping the evening bite would be more productive. It was, especially for me. I was shocked that something ate my sloppily tied black and charreusse popcorn beetle. The colorful Summit Strain Lahontan Cutthroat I reeled in was gorgeous; too gorgeous to fall for such a simple pattern, I thought. I had consistent action for about an hour after that, reeling in 5 or 6 more fish.

We stayed until dark; about half the group landed a fish. Not too shabby, we thought. Our campfire didn't last long that night. Lullabies have nothing on a night of driving and a day on the water (and a little whiskey). We had agreed to get up early to catch the morning bite; legally, we could start fishing an hour before sunrise at about 6am. Many taps of the snooze button later, I got up around 7:30. Most everyone was in camp or in their tent still. I took some solace that I wasn't the only one who slept in. Alex Deetjen returned to camp not long after we started the coffee pot. "Did you not get my calls?" he asked. I did not, but wish I did. He went on to tell us that he got up on time and had caught a monster that took him for a 200 yard jaunt along the beach. A gracious angler from the next camp over helped him net the fish and take a picture. To my disbelief, this fish was indeed a monster. It was at least 12 pounds, if not 15. This gave me a new outlook on my relationship with the snooze button.

The rest of the day was fairly slow, as was Monday. Oh well, I thought. I was happy to be away from civilization. Our campsite was close to another group of anglers, and the beach always had lines of ladders in the mornings and evenings. Still, it felt remote. Being on the reservation, under the treeless skies, overshadowed by peaks felt pure. I never would have known such a beautiful place could appear in the middle of the Nevada desert.

Monday night, Alex Liston, Tyler, and Ben took off for a night in a hotel and a day or two fishing the Truckee river. In their absence, we made some... let's call them bold... plans. Robert Hagerty ("Cap'n Rob"), the owner of Pyramid Fly Co, was taking Isaac and Greta out on guide trip Tuesday, and had come to check in. Rob told us about a particular boulder in a different spot on the lake; he jokingly called it "party rock." Apparently, a big group of anglers from Wyoming had been waking up at 2am to claim the rock. Being a Fort Collins native, CSU alumni, and CSU employee, the cap'n had the appropriate level of passion for our rivalry with University of Wyoming. He told us to take the rock from them. We were hesitant, but intrigued.

Jarrold later realized someone he knew was in the Wyoming group (thanks, Instagram). Let's just say he's not the biggest fan of this individual. So Jarrold, emboldened by this discovery, made his decision. "I'm going. If you all want fish it, join me. Great. If not, I'm still going." As the stars brightened and the clock read 11pm, Jarrold and Nick began the trek over to take the rock. Regulations prohibit night fishing and camping on the rock. Unattended gear doesn't mean anything; anyone can still claim the spot. They hunkered down, attempted to take some astrophotography, and watched Talladega Nights on Jarrold's phone. At 2am, the Wyoming group showed up, as expected. "What are you guys doing down there? Are you camping?" they asked, frustrated and confused. Jarrold quickly touted back, "Nope, just hanging out taking pictures." Disgruntled, the group got in their truck on the bank, headlights on, where they remained for the night.

The rest of us joined Jarrold and Nick in the morning, one by one, as we woke up. The early morning bite was great, and they roped in fish after fish. We decided to hold down the rock for the rest of the day. JP had his chironomid presentation down, and caught fish throughout the morning. Sometime in the afternoon, we watched one of the Wyoming anglers rope in a 15 pounder down the bank from us. Karma, I suppose. The evening picked up again, and I caught 3 nice summits back to back. As darkness fell, we headed back to camp and swapped stories with Tyler, Ben, and Alex Liston. They had little success on the Truckee, and less success at the blackjack tables. Everyone was excited for the next day - a big storm was supposed to blow in.

Sure enough, at 4am, we awoke to our tents getting blasted by rain and dirt. The wind shook the nylon violently. Some of the tents ripped, but we were otherwise unscathed. The rain and wind slowed down by sunrise; time to fish. The storm didn't turn up the action like we were hoping, and the day was slow. We watched more clouds roll in over the lake and grabbed raincoats before making our way to the ladders for the afternoon/evening session. The fishing remained slow; so slow that Alex Liston decided to take a nap on the beach. Like the great friends that we are, we slowly added items from the shore to the Alex-shaped mound on the beach, then outlined his body in rocks. We snuck back to our ladders and let sleeping beauty rest.

As the rain picked up, we remained dedicated to waving our expensive sticks, hoping to net one last cutty. JP had consistent action, and the rest of us persevered fishless. As darkness fell, Ben netted two and Alex Deetjen stayed to the bitter end, finally hooking some twilight beetle-eaters. This was the most interesting phenomenon about Pyramid. We saw it all week. One person would, for whatever reason, catch fish back to back while others throwing the same pattern and presentation just 20 feet away had no eats whatsoever. This lake is something special.

Thursday morning, we loaded Nick and I's cars and wished the dirty front range trout bums luck. As we pulled away, I couldn't help but think about all the hours I spent casting into the salty abyss. I didn't catch that many fish. But every single one was absolutely stunning. This is the mainstream appeal of Pyramid - huge cutthroat trout. Yet, the real value of the trip was not just the fish we caught. Learning about the history of this place was fascinating. Cresting a ridge in the desert only to find this lake was breathtaking. Pyramid Lake is truly a special, special place.

From Wil Huett, Our Community Outreach Coordinator



Big Time Busy Season Underway!

I hope you spent some time going over the list of projects that was emailed recently.

Ambitious? Yes. Too Ambitious? Not!

There are 800+ names on our membership rolls. If each of us would give just one day to one project during the upcoming season we could accomplish so much it would almost be scary.

I figure it isn't fair for me to be only a 'taker'. That is, enjoy the results of other people's efforts without my giving back something so the next person can share the fun. Since my wallet is not fat enough to allow me to be a philanthropist, my contribution has to be via my head, hands and feet.

That's why I participated in the recent cleanup on the Big T. And like most chapter projects it wasn't all work. I met some new people, nice folks all, and saw some previously passed by water that I now know I need to fish sometime in the near future. So it's a win-win.

I'll be back on the Big T June 10th at the ribbon cutting for the reconstructed fishing pier. I helped build the original and don't want to miss seeing the latest version inaugurated. Hope there are some other 'originals' still around who will join us in planting a few willows, thanking the folks who worked so hard to make it happen - and maybe fishing some of that new water I discovered last week.

Here's another interesting piece about the 'water that runs past us':

Northern Water plans to trade water with dozens of farms for Poudre River reservoir project

Isn't spring in Colorado wonderful? Where else can you experience all four seasons within a hour or two? As I write this it is snowing which makes the accompanying photo feel even more out of place. Read more about it here: [Record-Breaking 17-Foot-Long Burmese Python Found in Florida](#)



And to think I was fishing there just before this was taken!

Thomas Wurster's St. Peter's Fishing

Forecast for April

May can be one of the most exciting times of the year here in the great state of Colorado. It's a time where the fish wake up from the winter and SPRING into action. Midges, BWO's, and Caddis all come off in abundance and there is plenty of time to get out on the water with the difference in time. This is also typically the time where the Stillwater lakes in our areas shed their winter coats and open for us to wet a line. It's a time to get after it and go explore some old and new water. With all that being said, there are some awesome opportunities coming up in the next month at St.Peter's Fly Shop including a Landon Mayer Spring Kick Off Event and a variety of free presentations. Not to mention our 13th Annual Scott Day where we will be having in house specials on all Scott Fly Rods and a wide variety of other companies like Airflow, Abel, Echo, and plenty more! It's a day not to miss. Stop in the shop to pick some of our employees brains about current opportunities and don't be shy to ask any questions you might have. Happy Spring Folks and we look forward to seeing you around either shop.

—Thomas Wurster



The Online Fly Fishing Magazine Library

The active link (click) icons below represent a beginning attempt to put together a group of FREE resources available to fly anglers. *Trout Magazine* is published by Trout Unlimited-USA and *High Country Angler* is published by Trout Unlimited-Colorado. Both of these publications are limited to TU members. The others, however, are for everyone.

This page will be continually updated so you can always get to the most current issue of both of these magazines. Just click on the icon of the magazine you wish to read.

Please help me update these magazines by sending the URL for any FREE resources that you find worthwhile. Happy reading!

Hatch Magazine

HighCountry
Angler

 **DUN** Magazine

MONTANA
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The New
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Buy RMF Merchandise

Let's Go Fishing with Mark Miller

RMF 2019 Fishing Trip Listing



Here's wishing everyone some fly fishing fun for 2019. As you can see below, some months still have trips that are in the planning stage, with exact dates and locations to be nailed down over the next month or so.

Something new for this year – a trip to the Great Lakes region for King Salmon, in Oct. See details below.

We will also have a couple trips scheduled for weekdays, since we have many retired chapter members who prefer to fish during the week to avoid the weekend crowds.

If you are a new or beginner fly fisherman, we want you to join us for our trips – we love to help anyone get started in fly fishing, and to help people learn new skills or techniques.

Please contact **Mark Miller** by email to let him know if you are interested in any of these trips. Wherever you decide to fish this year, good luck and tight lines!

Date(s)	Location	Host
June 5th	Red Feather Lakes (Tip is full)	Host: Bob Green
June 29	Lake Agnes and Joe Wright Reservoir	Host: David Morse
July 27	Colorado Headwaters Fun dry fly fishing on the west side of RMNP.	Host: Dennis Cook
Aug 22	RMNP Small Stream Fishing (Thursday)	Host: Bill Gillett
Sep 9	Dream Lake in RMNP (Wednesday) A one mile hike for some exciting dry fly sight-fishing to rising cutts. Midweek trip to avoid crowd	Host: Mark Miller
Oct 2-6	Great Lakes Salmon Trip Trips dates subject to change - will likely be Wed through Sunday in early Oct. through the first week of Oct based on prior history. We'll fish the Milwaukee River just a mile or two above Lake Michigan. The exact dates will be set only a couple weeks ahead, as we need to time the King Salmon run. Mostly Kings but may also be Coho salmon along with lake-run rainbows and browns. Sight fishing with easy wading, fish will average 20-30 lbs with some bigger. Heavy rods (10wt) recommended. Can drive or fly – your choice. Will stay in hotel near downtown Milwaukee just minutes from the river. For more info contact Richard at 970-219-2019.	Host: Richard Bender
Oct 8-10	Colorado River float – Tuesday-Thursday Fishing for browns in pre-spawn mode (hungry and aggressive mode) Camping on the river, or hotel in Kremmling – your choice.	Host: Mark Miller
Nov 1-3	Miracle Mile- weather permitting – Fri-Sun Browns in aggressive spawn mode, and rainbows after the eggs. Will most likely fish egg patterns and/or streamers. Fun trip if you like to swing streamers, or own a 2-handed rod or switch rod.	Host: Mark Miller

NoCo Youth River Conservation & Fly Fishing Day Camp

Applications are now open for this year's Fly Fishing Day Camp. The camp will be held July 29 through August 3, 2019 and again, we are expecting a full enrollment by late April. Chapter members are encouraged to volunteer and are also encouraged to spread the word about the camp. The camp is open to both boys and girls ages 14-17. Details and applications can be found on the Rocky Mountain Flycasters website. At the next several chapter meetings we will have posters about the camp that may be distributed. Any questions can be addressed to **Bill Gedge, Camp Director by email** or phone 203-444-6276.



Fly Fishing Day Camp

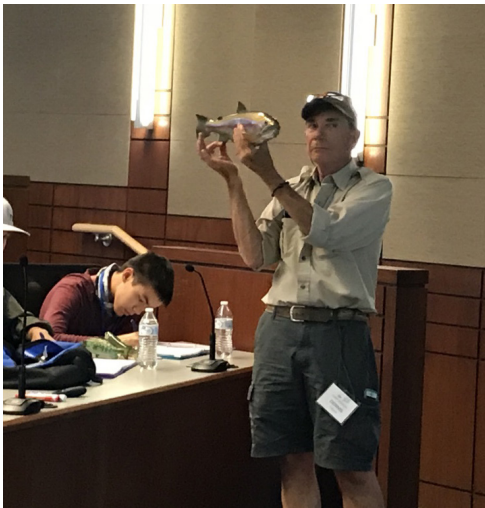
**July 29-August 3, 2019
Monday-Saturday
8 AM to 6 PM**

2019 NoCo Youth River Conservation & Fly Fishing Day Camp

Sponsored by
Rocky Mountain Flycasters,
Chapter of Trout Unlimited.



Casting & Riggings
River Restoration
Fish Hatchery
Water Safety
Electro-fishing
Dry & Nymph Techniques
Fly Tying & Knots
Aquatic Insects
Habitat Snorkeling
Trout Anatomy & Behavior



Ages 14-17

**\$30
Per
Person**

FOR APPLICATION VISIT:

<http://nocotu.org/S/youthcamp>

Questions: Contact (203) 444-6276 or

daycamp@rockymtnflycasters.org

Facebook: [fb.me/NoCoYouthCamp](https://www.facebook.com/NoCoYouthCamp)



Rocky Mountain Flycaster Sustaining Donors



St. Peter's Fly Shop



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Sustaining Donors are recognized for a full year. <https://rockymtnflycasters.org/articles/donors.php>

2019-05-01

Bob Green, *The Flypaper* Editor.