



June 2019

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From the President

June 2019

Greetings on a warm June morning. As a reminder, there will be no General Chapter Membership meetings in June, July or August. Our next meeting will be held September 18; look for additional information in the weeks to come.

At our meeting in May, I presented my views on the State of the Chapter. If you missed my comments, you can read the here: <https://rockymtnflycasters.org/pres/beat.php>.

Part of being president is to have the honor of presenting awards to those members who have shown outstanding commitment to your chapter. Dick Jefferies, Phil Wright, Bob Green, Paul Wehr and Kyle Battige each received awards; if you see these folks around town be sure to congratulate them and thank them for their contributions. If you would like to be considered for next year's awards, be sure to get involved, volunteer with whatever time you have available and make a difference in our community! This year's honorees can be found at <https://rockymtnflycasters.org/articles/2018awards.php>. A big thank you to Dennis Cook and Wil Huett for accepting the nominations and developing the awards. They were nicely done.



Mickey McGuire, RMF President

Over the coming three months, since we will not be holding Chapter meetings, we will be communicating with blast emails. If you receive this newsletter, you should also receive the blasts. We will try to keep them concise and informative to communicate volunteer needs or special events. In the meantime, be sure to check our Volunteer Management System <https://rockymtnflycasters.org/volunteer.php> for updates.

I hope you find fishing success in our beautiful Northern Colorado streams and lakes. It can be an interesting and challenging time to hook a trout or two during run-off. Please be careful and I hope to see you in September, if not earlier on one of our volunteer outings.

Until next month,

Mickey McGuire
President



See our Calendar of Events

*BTW, the RMF board will continue to meet over the summer. The first Board Meeting will be at the offices of The Group, located at 2803 E Harmony Rd, Fort Collins, CO 80528.

Thomas Wurster's Fishing Forecast From St. Peters Fly Shop

I'd say it's almost Summer, but there's snow hanging around. We've had no complaints here at the shop because it's allowed us to get more time on the water with ideal flows.



This year's runoff is ramping up to be a big one with the consistent amount of snow we have seen, and especially compared to last year's conditions.

Don't Let It Scare You! I know most of you are seasoned veterans here in Fort Collins and have been through it all before, but there are always fish to catch on the river no matter the conditions. If it simply doesn't interest you, you're in luck because Fort Collins and the rest of Northern Colorado have some of the best warmwater fishing around.

Here you've got a shot at anything from Small Mouth Bass, to the infamous Grass Carp. All of these species are extremely fun to target on a fly rod, and allows you to pursue new challenges after you've mastered runoff fishing. You will never learn something new if you don't try something new! A lot of our staff members here at St. Peter's Fly Shop have rich background in warmwater fishing and will arm you with all the tools you need to be a successful angler. We will be putting on a Free Warmwater Fishing presentation on Wednesday Jun 5th at our South Shop from 5:30-6:30pm. It will be a great time to learn more about carp fishing and bass fishing opportunities, all within reach of Fort Collins. Give them a call at (970)-377-3785 to get

your name on the list. Stop by either shop to load up bugs and terminal tackle or to pick our brains on different fishing opportunities available to you.

Let's Go Fishing with Mark Miller

RMF 2019 Fishing Trip Listing



Here's wishing everyone some fly fishing fun for 2019.

As in most years, the majority of our trips are to local waters, such as the Poudre, RMNP (Dream Lake), Lake Agnes/Joe Wright Reservoir, and Red Feather Lakes.

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 (Trip is full)	Host: Bob Green
June 29	Lake Agnes and Joe Wright Reservoir (Trip is full)	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 & Art Campfield
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

Descriptions of Two Fishing Trips

RMF Members Fish the Seedskadee National Wildlife Refuge – Green River, WY



With two drift boats in tow, five members of the Rocky Mountain Flycasters made the six hour trek to the Seedskadee National Wildlife Refuge on the Green River in Wyoming. Tom Greenup, Mark Miller, David Morse, Frank Bub, and Ron Fletcher packed their tents, sleeping bags, 5 gallon water jugs, and camp stoves for this five-day trip over the Memorial Day weekend.

Talk about getting lucky with the weather! It was freezing cold before we arrived. We then had three cool but beautiful days to fish. Then on our departure day it rained hard the entire day, which was actually very nice because it washed all the mud off our boats and trailers and vehicles.



This place is not known for large numbers of trout, but it is known for good sized fish, and that was true. We only caught about 25 trout (and a few whitefish) total - really had to work for them. But the ones we caught were really great fish - mostly 18-20 inches. They were heavy fish and great fighters. At least one or two rainbows and cut-throats took us into our backing.



For those of you familiar with the North Platte and Gray Reef, the Green

River is similar in the refuge, a large river running through flat sagebrush country. The big difference is the birds – an amazing number and variety. On one of our 8 mile floats, we counted 5 nesting pairs of bald eagles. Another afternoon we were “buzzed” by four huge, brilliant white trumpeter swans that flew over our boat at about



40 feet off the water, the sound of air and wind on their wings clearly audible. Each evening a large great horned owl would visit us, sitting in a tree not far from our picnic table, watching us prepare our dinner. He, or she, also woke us up at 3 am hooting with a nearby friend. It was loud enough that I thought for just a second that one of the owls had gotten into my tent.

So, if you are after large numbers of fish, this is not the place to go. But if you seek a beautiful river in a wild setting, with few people, and friendly owls, this is the place to go. Just be sure to keep you tent door zipped tight!

Brookies Galore
Colorado River Headwaters, RMNP West Slope
Saturday, July 27th

The Colorado River in Rocky Mountain National Park takes on an entirely different character when its headwaters begin their ascent from the flat openness of the Kawuneeche Valley into the cool shadows cast by towering spruce and pines. Here these headwaters begin to narrow and acquire a new and exciting stream mystique. Each of its endless meanders holds a new challenge as the river gently gains elevation and at its upper reaches passes the historic Lulu City gold & silver mining town’s ghostly remains about three miles along toward its origin below LaPoudre Pass, high above.

For a short distance, at first...you may encounter a Plein Aire artist in a nearby meadow trying to capture in his brush strokes the grandeur of the Grand Canal hanging from the majestic peaks immediately to the West...or after a young couple has just flitted by you with hands clasped eagerly seeking a hidden niche to share private moments - you spy through the brush an elderly couple seated reading in the shade of a sprawling fir tree on lawn chairs alongside the warmth from the meadow’s sun line, quietly escaping life’s fast pace.

One can’t walk these banks without reflecting upon the history that unfolded along these same banks a hundred years ago. And then suddenly behind you just out of sight there sounds thundering hoof beats that send chills up your back...and you freeze in your tracks and slowly turn your head to see a large moose striding off across yet another small meadow into the trees edge. She looked almost like the one you guardedly watched several

turns back, ploddingly cross the river that had by then already narrowed even more, just a couple strides ahead of her calf. What a wonderland; every bend holds a new scene, a new allure, a new mystery that your imagination helplessly creates.



These historic headwaters are such an easy walk that it's never tiring; the river channel just so very gradually inclines upward. Along your stroll you will be traversing beneath the peaks of the Never Summer Range whose spine boasts the Continental Divide. It's almost surreal. And then when the afternoon shadows begin to lengthen and you know you need to turn around, there's always another, and another beautiful pool just ahead at the next bend...and the next...and so on. It's beauty is magnetic; I hardly can allow myself to turn around ...but of course, I must, and I begin the quiet walk back downstream, drinking in again

the feelings I'd experienced as I revisit so many of the scenes that had engulfed me at first encounter.

Nonsense, you say? Not so. I've personally experienced every one of these actual occurrences and more, on this my absolute favorite stretch of pristine, Colorado mountain stream. For me, it offers the essence of fly fishing. And you too can experience this almost out of body peacefulness. Oh, yes, I almost forgot to mention ...you could also easily have a 45-50 fish day, not to mention all the spine tingling misses that wriggled off your hook... colorful brookies and possibly an occasional cutt as you gradually wade higher.

Details: 7:00am carpools depart (riders share gas expenses to the drivers); lunch on the water; optional to grab a bite in Estes Park homeward...home before 7:00pm. More details provided in plenty of time for you to prepare. To sign up, or if you've any questions, contact Trip Coordinator, **Dennis Cook** or phone 372-9229.

From Wil Huett our Community Outreach Coordinator

A Lot of Links, But No Sausage

We could break out the grill and have a party if all the following were sausage instead of internet links. Sorry but you will have to consume these without the mustard.

News about our home rivers generated a spate of coverage lately. The opening of the Watson Lake fish bypass was one example:

Poudre River fish ladder reconnects 2 miles of fish habitat near Fort Collins

This event was also covered by at least two of the Denver television outlets in multiple broadcasts. Again thanks to CPW, Morning Fresh Dairy, noosa yogurt, and Northern for making this river improvement happen.

The Poudre also caught this attention-getting headline: **2 years and \$2 million later, why is Fort Collins' new whitewater park still closed?**



And the Big T wasn't left out of the spotlight:

Nearly 6 years after Big Thompson flood, FEMA still hasn't funded road, bridge repairs

Returning to an issue mentioned several times before, TU says: [Pebble is trying to buy its friends](#). And this somewhat related link makes me wonder why anyone thinks the Pebble Dam is a good idea: [Vale warns Brazil prosecutors another dam at risk of collapse](#) (This story may have been updated since submitted.)

Note the following is an opinion piece and you, me and even its publisher may or may not agree with the author's viewpoint. I would certainly argue with his comment that Lake Trout are "...beloved by anglers everywhere." [A Chain of Species Destruction at Yellowstone](#). This story has been covered in what's called the 'hook and bullet' media (ie hunting & fishing related) over the years, but this coverage in the NY Times should reach a broader audience.

As the author notes, progress is apparently being made in the battle to restore Yellowstone Lake to 'pre-laker' status. TU agrees in this article: [They're back....](#) Some of you may recall back in 2012 when one of our chapter programs highlighted this problem and the chapter and some individual members contributed to the purchase of radio tags for the laker research project. To all those involved, Thanks!

But it is not time to hang up our spurs when it comes to illegally introduced species. It happens even in our own backyard. Read this from KUSA, channel 9 news: [Earn \\$20 per fish by catching invasive species at northwestern Colorado reservoir](#). At \$20 a fish, maybe there was a profit motive involved here?

And then, after watching a local angler take an obviously undersized bass from a local pond, I ran across this \$44,000 Oops: [Angler cited for 'gross overlimit of trout' after speedy chase](#).

In case you think the above list of links is evidence all I do is sit around and read, I'll have you know I am headed for some Canada fishing shortly and not long after that Alaska is calling. In fact I might miss deadlines (set by our award winning editor Bob Green!) for the next couple of editions. If I do, I guess I'll just have to ketchup later!

From Dave Morse, Adopt-A-Trail Coordinator

Adopt-a-Trail on Saturday, June 8th!

Our TU Chapter will hold its annual Adopt-a-Trail work day along the Poudre River on Saturday morning, June 8, 2019 at Gateway Natural Area. We have agreed with the Fort Collins Natural Areas Department to help maintain two trails along the river in this area. Work will involve pruning brush, grading and possibly trail restoration on the two scenic hilltop hiking routes in the Natural Area. We need your help!

Bring work gloves, sun protection, sturdy foot ware and a hat. We will provide water, lunch and good company. Natural Areas staff will provide instruction and tools. Work tasks will be assigned based on your interest and ability; most are not strenuous.

We will meet at 8:30 a.m. in the back parking lot at Gateway Natural Area. The Area entrance is in the lower Poudre River canyon a few miles west of Ted's Place on Rt. 14. We will work for a few hours and then meet for lunch that RMFC will provide. Afterward, you can fish with other TU members. There is NO entrance fee for the work crew. We will give you a card to post on your dashboard. The North Fork of the Poudre has been fishing very well lately using Caddis dries, small streamers, such as Woolly Buggers, or small midge nymphs, such as RS2, PT's or Zebra midges.

Please sign up on the Chapter web page (rockymtnflycasters.org)(Volunteer button on the left column) so we can record your hours AND email or call Dave Morse if you can attend so he can have a proper meal count or notify you in case of inclement weather. Let him know if you have any diet restrictions. We hope to have a dozen or more people attend. Will you be one? RSVP at 217-418-9386 or email [Dave Morse](mailto:Dave.Morse@rockymtnflycasters.org) by Thursday, June 6th.Thanks!



Frank Bub, Coordinator of Volunteers for Long Draw Project

Brook Trout Field Sampling in the Long Draw Region.



During the summer of 2019, Dr.Yoichiro Kanno of Colorado State University has received funding to conduct an inventory of the Brook Trout populations in the Upper Cache La Poudre River Basin and streams around Long Draw Reservoir. Rocky Mountain Flycasters has been asked to support this project with citizen scientists to work alongside Dr. Kanno and a graduate student.

The effort will include electro-shocking fish in 16 sections of various creeks, netting 30-50 Brook Trout, measuring their lengths, taking a small fin sample, and returning the fish to their habitat. The sizes and DNA from the fin samples will provide information on the population distributions of these fish. This is a long-term effort

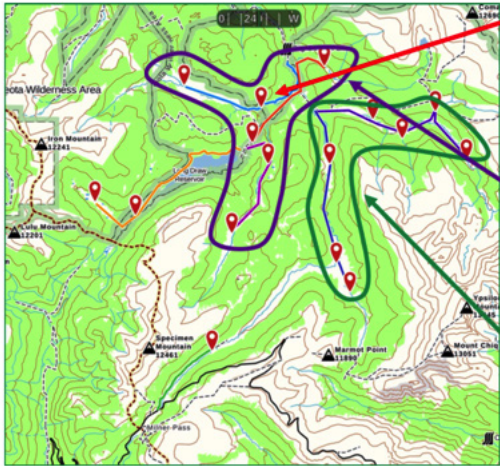
associated with the Greenback Trout Restoration Project in the Rockies, sponsored by Trout Unlimited.

We need RMF volunteers to assist with this work. During two surveys, each over a 3-day period, we will camp in the Corral Cabin area near Long Draw, hike into the back country along selected streams and help the CSU scientists with the data collection. This will be above 10,000 ft, and there will be bushwhacking and wading through marshes and along streams. Volunteers will need to be able to hike in high country as long as 4 miles each way and help carry equipment. Disinfected boots and waders will be necessary. Familiarity with this area will be a plus.

The two surveys will run from Monday to Wednesday starting on July 29 and August 5. We will camp for 2 nights in the Long Draw area with your own gear. Meals will be provided. An orientation day is planned for Sunday, July 21.

If you are interested, go to the VMS page on the RMF website and apply. If you have questions, please contact our coordinator, [Frank Bub](mailto:Frank.Bub@rockymtnflycasters.org).

Area – Streams Around Long Draw Reservoir



- Base Camp**
 - Basic accommodations
 - Tent sites
- Survey 1 (July 29-31) – 6 locations**
 1. Corral Creek Trail (2 sites – 3.33 miles)
 2. Willow Creek (2 sites – 2.48 miles)
 3. La Poudre Pass Creek to Cascade Creek (2 sites – 2.74 mi)
- Survey 2 (August 5 – 7) – 7 locations**
 1. Hagues Creek Trail (4 sites – 4.11 miles)
 2. Poudre River to Chapin Creek (3 sites – 3.97 miles)

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

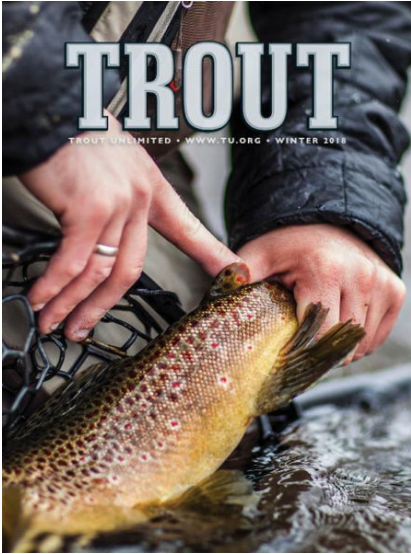
The Online Fly Fishing Magazine Library

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



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2019-06-01

Bob Green, *The Flypaper* Editor.