

The Flypaper

Renew Membership

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From the President

February, 2020

Wow, what a weather finish to January! Who would have thought that we would be as warm as Miami for the Super Bowl! Unfortunately, the warmth did little to unfreeze the rivers, except the in town reaches of The Big T and the Poudre; hope you were able to capitalize on those waters. For me, despite several attempts I went zero for January! The weather forecast looks like we will return to winter as I write this column so I can get caught up on some fly tying.

Which brings me to the next subject, our Annual Fly Tying Expo! I hope you have this on your calendar already—February 19, 5:30 PM at the Fort Collins Senior Center. See the poster immediately below for more details.

Similarly, we continue with our monthly Social Fly Tying event on February 5. This month's pattern is suitable for spring fishing at Horsetooth. See the article below for further information and join us at the Gilded Goat at 6:00 PM.

As you all know, we are an all volunteer organization. There are always volunteer activities where we could use some help. Please see Dennis Cook's article below for a brief summary of our most pressing needs.

Finally, I want to bring to your attention an article below related to the Special Membership Meeting scheduled for our regular March Membership Meeting. Your Board of Trustees along with our Leadership Council have been busy. One of the items that came out of the Board retreat in June was to revamp our Bylaws. We completed this task last month but it is up to you, the members, to consider approving the new Bylaws. That will be the only topic of the Special Membership Meeting; then we will have our speaker, Pete Stitcher who will focus on entomology (a personal favorite subject) and matching the hatch.

Until next month,

Mickey McGuire, President



Mickey McGuire, RMF President



February Fly Tying Expo

Rocky Mountain Flycasters
Presents the 2020 Annual
Fund-Raising Fly Tying Expo

Flys for Fins

Wednesday February 19, 2020 from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Two dozen professional and experienced tiers demonstrate their skills and share tips on tying and fishing their signature flies.

- Food from Canino's and a beverage
- Beginner's table to learn tying your own flies
- Random drawings for each tier's flies and a fly rod
- Live and silent auction for guided trips, fly tying lessons, art, fly rods, gear, and more.
- Learn from such tiers as: Aaron Alexander, Chris Krueger, Dick Shinton, Eric Pettine, Phil Iwane, Rick Takahashi, Mark McMillan, Tim England, Dennis Martin, Rob Stout, Michael McFarland, Steve Rogers, Jason Haddix, Michael Ringus, David Morse, Doug Martin, Chuck Esch, Mark Miller, and others.

Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity.
When: February 19, 2020 5:30-9:00 pm
Where: Fort Collins Senior Center 1200
Raintree Drive, Fort Collins, CO

Funds raised support conservation and education projects, including restoring the fishing pier on the Big Thompson River, greenback trout restoration in several locations, and our annual Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Day Camp.

Sponsored in part by:



Admission: \$20 per person (\$10 for students with ID, under 12 free). With the price of admission, you get a plate of food and a beverage, ten (10) raffle tickets (five (5) for students, none for under 12) for the fly and rod drawings, and a wealth of tying and fishing information.

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<https://www.RockyMtnFlycasters.org>

Where: Fort Collins Senior Center; 5:30 - 9:00 pm.

Upcoming Events In February and March



Board Meeting

When: Wednesday, February 12

Time: 6:00 PM

Where: The Group's Office Bldg. on East Harmony

Special Membership Meeting

The Rocky Mountain Flycasters (RMF) Board of Trustees has unanimously approved proposed updates to the RMF Bylaws. The Board is calling a Special Membership Meeting to vote on those new bylaws at the beginning of the March 18, 2020 general meeting.

Please review the summary of major changes, current Bylaws, and the proposed Bylaws [on our website](#) before the meeting.

If you have comments or concerns, please contact an officer of the [board](#).



Social Fly Tying Event

When: Wednesday, February 5, 2020

(Save future dates: First Wednesday each month)

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Where: Gilded Goat Brewing Company, 3500 South College, Fort Collins, CO (next to Trader Joe's). We tie in the mezzanine.

“Pub and Dub”. It’s free, including your guest! The Flycasters chapter will once again provide material kits for a fly of the month, including all you need to tie a handful! Or you can bring your stuff to tie whatever pleases you. Beginners shouldn’t pass up this opportunity to tie among experienced tyers anxious to help the newbies. (And there are always a few easier kits and friendly instruction for any absolute beginners!)

The pattern for February is the “Horsetooth Clouser”, a venerable minnow pattern modified especially for the outstanding smallmouth bass fishery in our own backyard.

[See the “Horsetooth Clouser” video.](#)

It helps if you RSVP to [Marty Staab](#) so we can ensure we have enough of everything, and can address any comments or questions. Be sure to let us know if you are a beginner and we will happily arrange a mentor for the session, or if we can provide loaner tools and equipment.

I hope to see a lot of you at the Gilded Goat on February 5.

[Read More](#)

Fly Swap



The theme for the next Fly Swap at the February Fly Tying Expo will be Stonefly nymphs, for example, Little Black Stone, Yellow Sally, Pat's Rubber Legs, Twenty Incher, Golden Stone, Copper John, etc. For our March General meeting we will tie Caddis wet flies (larva, pupa or emerger)) of your choice. Plan on bringing 10 identical flies unless you hear differently. Any extra flies will be donated to the raffle or returned to you. Please email **Dave Morse** to let him know you will participate 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 February Expo and March RMF meeting. You will receive one fly from each other participant and contribute one for the monthly raffle. We hope that this will be an educational and enjoyable experience this year.

Veterans Support Program



The RMFC veterans' support program works closely with the Platte Rivers Veterans Fly Fishing Program to provide volunteer mentors, gear, and financial contributions. We heard all about this valuable program at the January General Meeting.

We currently are making fly rods and tying flies on a weekly class basis in Loveland and Greeley. These classes are free for all veterans. We have many beginners and could use additional volunteer mentors who can provide over-the-shoulder assistance. Classes are Wednesday (Greeley) and Thursday (Loveland) evenings, and Saturday mornings (at both locations). Let **Dave Morse**, know if you are interested and register as a volunteer on the [Platte Rivers Veterans Fly Fishing website](#).

Donations needed. At the February and March General Meeting, Platte Rivers Veterans Fly Fishing will collect donations that can be used at our major fundraiser banquet and auction on March 28th or to take our vets out on the water. These can be new or used fishing gear, art works, vacation lodging, offer of a guided fishing trip, etc. Raffle tickets for a classic pistol and rifle, along with banquet dinner tickets, will be available from Dave Morse at the General Meeting.

March Speaker

Immediately following the brief membership meeting on March 18 to review the bylaws Dr. Peter Sticher Aquatic Biologist, founder of **Assent Flyfishing** and all round fly fishing geek will be presenting an in-depth look at entomology and how to match the hatch. Aided by high-resolution videos, animations, and his deep knowledge of aquatic biology, you will learn how to identify every bug in, on, and around the river and quickly match it to the best fly patterns in your box. Whether you are just learning to fly fishing or are a seasoned angler, Peter will help you dial in what the fish are feeding on and how to choose the best fly patterns to fish.

From Bob Green, *The Flypaper* Editor

As those of you who are regular readers know, I had planned to report on my trip to Argentina this month in this space. Well, the trip didn't happen for me. Instead, I was hospitalized for 9 days and had an emergency colon



resection right here at PVH. I am recovering from that surgery as I type. But, I asked Grant Houx of St. Peter's to write up a short summary of the trip and send some photos. The summary and photos follow:

There are many reasons to take a destination trip: checking a location off the bucket list, connecting with a fishing buddy, spending time with a family member, or traveling somewhere that is currently in the summer season. Last week St. Peter's hosted a trip to Spring Creek Lodge the perfect location for all the travel reasons above. What an amazing place! The location offers an enormous variety of fishing opportunities including multiple pristine wade fishing creeks, 5 different magnificent floatable rivers, and crystal clear

lakes with damsel fly hatches. Over the week we got to experience all of the options including a luxurious overnight float and camp. Aside from the fishing the Argentine cuisine was out of this world. Unbelievable stream side lunches, and top notch multi course dinners all paired with robust local Malbec wines. Additionally the customer service, professional guides, and attention to detail rounded out what was an amazing week down in Patagonia. St. Peter's Fly Shop will be returning to Spring Creek Lodge January 16th-23rd 2021. Please inquire about details and booking your dream trip with travel director **Grant Houx**.

Dennis Cook, Nominations and Leadership Development Coordinator



Chapter Leadership Opportunities Chairperson, Communications

This new position is an opportunity to oversee unification of our chapter's important communications initiatives and is appointed by the Chapter President. The Communications Chairperson will actively participate with the Coordinators of our web-site, social media, newsletter, traditional media and community media outreach through strategies formulation and implementation of programs, projects and activities.

If you are interested to learn more about the Communications Chairperson position, email Chapter President [Mickey McGuire](#) or phone (970) 214-1449.

Camp Director, RMF Youth Fly Fishing Day Camp

The chapter's 2020 Youth Fly Fishing Day Camp, our 11th consecutive year, will be held **Monday July 27th through Saturday August 1st**. Education Chairperson, Dave Haeusler will serve as Camp Director this year, and wants to identify a member to work with and support him—and then to become Camp Director of the 2021 and future camps. It is necessary that interested persons must be available throughout the camp week, and also enjoy youths ages 14 through 17. Camp planning and preparation activities will begin in the next week or so. Experience volunteering with previous RMF Camp activities, or leadership of similar multi-activity programs is also helpful. Another possibility may be for two member/friends to job-share in the Camp Director role. This is an excellent opportunity to learn and transition into the Camp Director position.

If you are interested to learn more about the Camp Director position, email Education Chairperson [Dave Haeusler](#) or phone (972) 822-7126.

Coordinator, Trout In The Classroom

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) is a conservation-oriented environmental education program for middle and high school students' science programs. Through the school year, students raise trout from eggs to fry and develop them to about four-inch long fish, and then release them into Poudre River reaches or area lakes approved by Colorado Parks & Wildlife. Raising fish from the eggs stage, and monitoring and caring for young trout fosters a conservation ethic awareness in participating students and promotes a better understanding of our regional fresh water streams and river resources. If you would enjoy interacting with passionate teachers to support students in the middle school and high school levels, TIC Coordinator may be a satisfying RMF leadership opportunity for you.

The TIC Coordinator's role is to support teachers to maintain their TIC installations, and to include information as part of their science lesson plans that helps students understand what is required to maintain healthy

watersheds and fish. This current school year provides an opportunity for new TIC Coordinators to observe our Severance Middle School science teacher and become familiar with TIC. In the Fall of 2020 we also expect Fort Collins Ridgeview Classical Academy to re-activate its tank and for Greeley West High School to also join TIC.

RMF's goal is to have an individual TIC Coordinator for each school. You will provide RMF-owned tanks and equipment and collaborate with teachers to support teacher-student teams as they set up and manage the rearing of rainbow trout. What a great experience! TIC activity occurs during the September through May academic school year, and RMF plans to start a training class for several new TIC Coordinators as soon as possible. Each TIC Coordinator will receive a comprehensive Colorado TIC Manual and other materials. So right now is an excellent opportunity to get knowledgeable about TIC and ready to accept a school assignment starting this coming September.

**If you are interested to learn more about the TIC Coordinator position, email Education Chairperson [Dave Haeusler](#) or phone (972) 822-7126.

From Wil Huett, Our Community Outreach Coordinator

HELP!



Wil Huett, Outreach Coordinator

HELP #1 - There is no shortage of organizations or causes crying out for help these days. Maybe there never was. I suspect pleading began the moment people started exchanging information with each other. But those of us attuned to the natural world, I think, bear a special burden to plead our cause.

Why? Read one or both of the following (may have to sign in); I'll be here when you come back:

[Mayfly numbers drop by half since 2012, threatening food chain](#)
[Massive Mayfly Swarms Are Getting Smaller](#)

Mayfly swarms are not new to me. I grew up on the Mississippi. At normal flows it was a mile wide at my hometown. When it flooded? Seven miles wide. In really bad times they dismissed high school students who could join the sandbag lines. I spent a few cold and drizzly nights camped on a levee with the current hissing by a few feet away in one direction and a camp of trustees from the nearby state prison about the same distance in the other.

On another watery occasion I was single-handedly manning pumps and sandbags on a piece of private property, again sleeping on the ground, the night it warmed up enough for all the creepy crawlies to awaken. I can still develop a pretty serious shiver just thinking about that night.

But the point here is mayflies. I remember those gigantic hatches. I remember how they piled up under streetlights and taking a corner too fast led to an insect-induced skid. I saw their carcasses hauled away by end loaders and dump trucks. I remember car engines overheating from masses of insects smothering radiators. I remember them being so thick and slick on the pavement you couldn't drive up the steepest riverside hills. That's my hand in the first photo; I didn't take the second but I have been there when it looked like that.

Mayfly hatches still play a part in my life since I make a trip each year to northern waters - a trip timed to catch a hexagenia hatch and the smallmouth bass gorging on them.



So the thought of losing those hatches robs me of part of my past as well as part of my future.

If you are one of the many fishers younger than I, this article, and others like it, may be more a part of your future than of my past.

The insects can't plead for help. The water can't cry out for relief. We have to do it.

By the way, our own Poudre and Big T have lost insect hatches too. Just ask CSU's Boris Kondratieff ([Colorado State hosts a museum teeming with bugs](#)). Dr Boris is a good friend of RMF and insects everywhere. It is not just a problem 'over there'.

HELP #2 - I have previously encouraged you to check out the discussions in the TU Open Forum. In a recent discussion of competitive fishing and catch & release, I learned something I thought you would find interesting, and it came from a local source. Thanks to David Smeltzer of LaPorte for permission to reprint his contribution and a follow-up comment,

"I'm aware that we are talking about C&R as it applies to competitive fishing contests, but I will interject another aspect in C&R fishing that we all need to be aware of.

My concern is C&R fishing for salmonids in winter cold water conditions. During these conditions the protective mucus on the fishes body that protects it from bacteria and parasites does not replenish itself very well in very cold water. The replacement of this protective coating can take days, not hours, in cold water conditions. If the mucous is rubbed off through handling or netting it can result in a cold water fungus developing that can erode a fishes flesh and can result in the death of the fish.

"Additionally, fish living in these cold water conditions have limited energy reserves and food supplies so any stress from being caught will very negatively impact their ability to survive. That is why, in my opinion, C&R fishing in winter, cold water conditions is not a good idea.

"I am now retired, but after more than 30 years involved in the fisheries business with the then Colorado Division of Wildlife I saw first hand what the handling of trout in cold water conditions could result in. I would therefore hope that fishermen and women think about this before they pursue trout in winter, especially those that reside in cold water stream environments.

Followup: "For further clarification, if need be, my experience with trout and "cold water fungus" stems from my work within the fish hatchery system and thus seeing this phenomenon in cold water rearing conditions. This infection can most certainly occur in wild stream fish living in cold water conditions. Water in the 30's temperature range which we see in most trout streams in Colorado in winter. My point

about stress, energy reserves and food supplies for example is no different than concerns about running a herd of deer or elk during harsh winter conditions and its negative impact on their health and survival abilities.“

Many of us have modified the way we handle fish; David's comments make me think extra-special care is required if we head out in winter.

Mea Culpa: after all that, here's **HELP #3**: Anyone out there proficient in using the Google Suite of products? If you are willing to share your experience, please contact me.

From Mark Miller, Our Let's Go Fishing Coordinator



Here's wishing everyone some fly fishing fun for 2020. 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.

We will also have some of our 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 help people learn new skills or techniques.

Please email [Mark Miller](#) 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!

March 24	Poudre River (Gateway Area) - Tuesday	Host: Mark Miller
April TBD	Gray Reef – dates to be determined	Host: Ben Zomer
Apr 29-May 4	Green River/Seedskaadee Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Camping is the name of the game for this trip.	Host: Mark Miller
June TBD	Red Feather Lakes	Host: Bob Green
June 10-11	Possible Spinney Mtn Reservoir 2 day trip) Float tubing for big rainbows (Wed-Thurs)	Host: Mark Miller
July/Aug TBD	Colorado Headwaters or Gunnison River Location depends on water levels	Host: Dennis Cook
July TBD	RMNP- Hike 4 miles to Sky Pond Big Brookies	Host: Ben Zomer
July 17-20	Fish North Park – Ponds & N Platte River Cabin on the Ginger Quill Ranch	Host: Eric Pettine
July 18	Long Draw Reservoir – Float tubes for nice sized cutthroats	Host: Dave Morse
Aug TBD	RMNP Small Stream Fishing (weekday trip)	Host: Bill Gillett/Art C.
Sep TBD	Colo River wade trip, 2-3 days	Host: Bobby Bottles
Oct TBD	Colorado River – 3 day trip	Host: Mark Miller

Donate and/or Buy

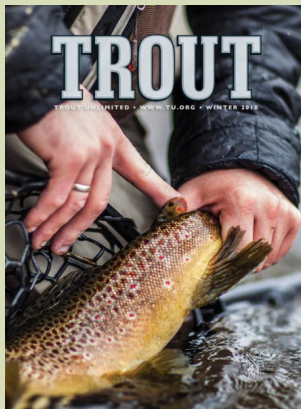
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2020-02-01

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Bob Green, *The Flypaper* Editor.