

The Flypaper

[Renew Membership](#)

[Sign Up to Volunteer](#)

[Join the Flycasters](#)

[Table of Contents](#)
[The Vice President](#)

[March Meeting](#)
[Wil Huett, Community Outreach](#)

[Mark Miller, Fishing](#)
[Thomas Wurstler, Fishing Forecast](#)

[Donate and/or Buy Sustaining Donors](#)

From the Vice President

March, 2020

Howdy,

Mickey asked that I lend a hand with writing the President's column this month as he wisely chose to escape one of the snowiest Februaries in recent memory to chase trout in the Southern Hemisphere. I'm sure he will give us a full rundown of the successes and failures from his trip to New Zealand next month. I'm looking forward to a few pictures of gin clear rivers and monster *Salmo Trutta* specimens.

I'd like to start by thanking all of the volunteers, donors and importantly the fly tiers who helped make the 2020 RMF Fly Tying Expo last month a wild success. We had a great turnout this year from long time chapter members and new anglers alike. There was a palpable enthusiasm for some of the tricks and tips provided from over 20 talented craftsmen. Each year the live and silent auction is our top fundraiser which allows the chapter to continue to put on the Fly Fishing Youth Camp and sustains conservation work in the Big Thompson and Poudre watersheds. I'm grateful for your continued support.

If you're like me, you may be feeling a little bit of late Winter cabin fever and itching to fish with anything larger than a #24 midge nymph. So as you begin planning for warmer temperatures and larger bugs be sure to attend the March 18th meeting. Aquatic biologist, founder of **Assent Flyfishing** and all round fly fishing geek Peter Sticher will be presenting an in-depth look at entomology and how to match the hatch this spring. March will also be a **Special Membership Meeting**, which all chapter members are encouraged to attend. We will be voting on the new bylaws approved by the Board of Trustees at the January Leadership Meeting.



Colin Glover, RMF Vice President



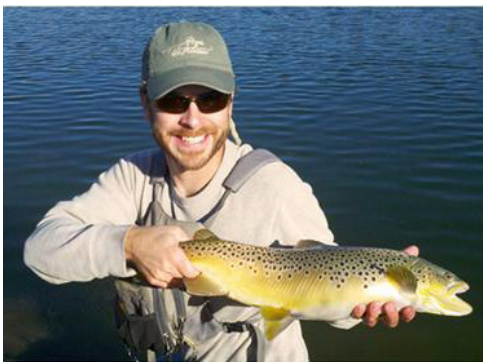
With the return of spring also comes the return of field season for the Rocky Mountain Flycasters. All winter RMF chapter volunteers have been busy planning and collaborating with our education & conservation partners for 2020 field season projects across Larimer County. Upcoming volunteer opportunities include conservation projects such as Poudre tributary temperature monitoring & native greenback cutthroat trout reintroduction efforts as well as education opportunities like our annual Fly Fishing Youth Camp in late Summer. I welcome you to attend the RMF Spring 2020 Volunteer Orientation Meeting on **April 22nd**, at 7:00 PM at CB & Potts at the Collindale Golf Course on Horsetooth Rd. in Fort Collins. This is a great chance to get involved with giving back to our watershed and community while connecting with folks that might even teach you a thing or two about fly fishing!

If you're sharing in that cabin fever I mentioned earlier I encourage you to get on the river whether locally or hit the road for a warmer place. I for one have been day-dreaming of something along the lines of a New Mexico tailwater. After months of too much stale indoor air or the feeling of being physically bombarded by 2020 candidates we can all benefit mentally and physically from the warming temperatures and rising trout. Whether it be unwinding in the solitude of an early season BWO hatch or reveling in the comradery of a coffee with a friend while warming frozen fingers the fishing will only get better by the day. So get out there, stretch your legs and test out some new patterns from the 2020 Fly Tying Expo!

Finally, while you're on the river this spring be sure to stay aware of your surroundings. Brookies and Rainbows will soon start spawning so watch where you walk and stay off the redds to avoid disrupting eggs. Ice shelves and snowy river banks will be increasingly unstable so watch where you walk while on the water. Have fun and be safe.

Tight Lines,
Colin N. Glover, Vice President

March Membership Meeting



Immediately following the brief membership meeting on March 18 to review the bylaws, 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.



In the meantime check out the brief video prepared by Peter.

Fort Collins Senior Center; March 18, 2020, 6:30 - 9:00 pm.

Upcoming Events in March



Board Meeting

When: Wednesday, March 11
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, March 4, 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 March is the “Bow Tie Buzzer”, a productive Chironomid pattern that accounts for lots of trout in local stillwaters, especially after iceout!

[See the “Bow Tie Buzzer” 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.

We hope to see a lot of you at the Gilded Goat on March 4.

[Read More](#)

Fly Swap



The fly for March is a Caddis pupa or larva. Recently there were 11 swappers. Any extra flies will be donated to the raffle or returned to you. Please email [Dave Morse](mailto:dave.morse@rockymountainflycasters.com) 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 in a container to the 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. Next month we will tie terrestrials. Stay tuned!

Veterans Support Program

Rocky Mountain Flycasters supports veterans through the Platte Rivers Veterans Fly Fishing organization that regularly meets in Loveland/Ft Collins, Greeley, Cheyenne and Laramie, and currently serves over 550 local veterans. We hold no-cost fly tying classes every Thursday evening and are in the middle of rod making classes which meet on Saturday mornings. Fishing trips will start up when we get open water. If you are interested in participating as a mentor or veteran, contact Dave Morse, the local lead. This is a program to support all vets and you do not need to be a veteran to mentor.



The ninth annual gala banquet and fundraiser for Platte Rivers Veterans Fly Fishing will be held in Cheyenne at the Little America Hotel and Resort, 2800 W Lincoln Way on March 28, 2020. Doors open at 3:30 with dinner served at 6:00. Admission (\$75) includes a fabulous dinner and the opportunity to bid on outstanding silent and oral auctions for trips, vacations, fishing gear, crafts, Crown Royal and wine packages, and novelties. In addition there are two gun raffles (\$20 a ticket) to win either a Christensen Arms Mesa 6.5 Creedmoor match- grade rifle or a Smith and Wesson Model 610, 10mm revolver. Both guns are top quality collector items. You do not need to be present to win.

A variety of sponsor tables are also available. The Platinum Table for 8 guests is available for \$900 and includes beer or wine glasses and one custom, veteran-made, fly rod. The Support Our Troops table for 2 guests and 6

seats for needy vets is available for \$450. A Gold Table is available for 8 guests for \$450. All tables include sponsor and program recognition.

Contact your TU Veterans Program Coordinator, [Dave Morse](#), or other leaders, [Domingo Rodriguez](#), or [Joe O'Connor](#) for info and tickets. Dinner and raffle tickets will be available at the March RMF monthly meeting. Let's support our local veterans! Thanks.

From Wil Huett, Our Community Outreach Coordinator

The Ins and Outs of Entrances and Exits



Wil Huett, Outreach Coordinator

Is 'every exit an entrance' to something else? Or, does, 'the door swing both ways'? Either hackneyed phrase involves entrances and exits. Here are some of both pertinent to our world of natural resources and especially water and the fish who, hopefully, live in it.

Entrance: we don't want an open-door policy for these guys.

[8 Aquatic Invasive Species](#) are Threatening Fisheries Across the U.S.

Exit: one unwelcome downside to the entrance above. Let's hope it's not a closing door.

[Invasive species slow walleye growth](#), study says, meaning fewer survive winters

Exit: I sure hope this headline doesn't someday include our backyard fisheries. Could it?

[10 Great East Coast Fisheries That No Longer Exist](#)

Reader's choice: is this an Entrance or Exit?

[Proposed Glade Reservoir](#) Neighbors Have Questions

Exit: definitely. With maybe some lessons to be learned?

['Vale ended our lives': Broken Brumadinho](#) a year after dam collapse

Entrance: I'm willing to bet next week's paycheck that the entrance to fishing for most of us involved a worm on the end of a line. But what kind of worm was it?

[Jumping Worms](#) Are Taking Over North American Forests

Exit: since a lot of us will soon be venturing out for vacations and fishing holidays, here's a resource you might not have explored. It may make your temporary exits more enjoyable.

[Parks with Fish](#)

Entrance: Welcome Rachel Jones - the latest in a distinguished lineup to be awarded the Robert J. Behnke-Rocky Mountain Flycasters Research Fellowship at CSU.

Rachel says she was practicing catch & release fishing from an early age - often to the frustration of her grandfather!

Rachel will give us a glimpse into some of the findings of her research at the April 15 chapter meeting. It is interesting info, I promise.

Exit and Entrance: as I make an exit, Mark Miller makes an entrance as RMF's new Community Outreach coordinator. You are familiar with Mark as the organizer of our members & guests fishing trips (elsewhere in this edition), which he will continue to organize. And I hope to run into you on one or more of them.

Remember: you can't have tight lines without conserving the resource!

In her own words: "A Colorado native, I grew up hiking, lake fishing and camping in Black Forest and ranging all over the Southern portion of the state. During the pursuit of my undergraduate degree in Evolutionary and Ecological Biology from the University of Colorado Boulder, I spent a fall in the Turks and Caicos Islands in a marine resource study, a choice made from my love of scuba diving and saltwater. Following college, I worked for the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in their Conservation department before transferring to a position with Colorado Parks and Wildlife focusing on the conservation of native aquatic species. This position took me all over the state despite its basis in the Southeast and enabled me to work with a wide variety of fish including warm water and transition zone natives, isolated populations of Cutthroat Trout, the occasional sport fish and even the little Boreal Toad. I later hopped the Continental Divide, coming to rest in Gunnison working with Rio Grande native fish and sage grouse, as well as picking up a love for fly fishing. I am now a masters student at Colorado State University working on improving fish passageway designs to better reconnect rivers for a wide variety of species."

Rachel will give us a glimpse into some of the findings of her research at the April 15 chapter meeting. It is interesting info, I promise.



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 10-12	Gray Reef	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
May 27	Red Feather Lakes Float tube private lakes for big browns, rainbos, donaldsons, palaminos, brookies	Host: Bob Green
June 10-11	Possible Spinney Mtn Reservoir 2 day trip) Float tubing for big rainbows (Wed-Thurs)	Host: Mark Miller
July 16-19	Gunnison River	Host: Dennis Cook
July 17-20	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

From Thomas Wurstler, The Saint Peters' Fly Shop Fishing Forecast

Spring is just around the corner here on the front range and the days keep getting longer. We have had plenty of time to fish the technical tailwaters and low streams and now we can gear up for the spring and summer. Once



we start to see consistent sunlight, we can guarantee those fish will be out from the deep holes and munching midge emergers. At the warmest points of the day we can start to fish small baetis nymphs. Pheasant Tails, Slim Shadies, Juju Baetis and Jigged Baetis.

Stop by the shop to check out several of the new flies that we brought in for this upcoming season. The new jig flies, nymphs, dries and streamers are all must haves as far as the trout are concerned but here at St. Petes we like them too. Speaking of streamers we will be having two presentations on streamer techniques and tactics.

RSVP to get in the Free Streamer presentation on March 5th or our On the Water Streamer Presentation for \$100.00. Both will be excellent ways to get familiar with this underutilized and effective method of angling. Hopefully everyone got to enjoy themselves at the 2020 Fly fishing film tour. It usually sets the tone and gets the community scratching to get outside and feel a tug on the end of their line. If you didn't get your dose of amazing independent fishing films at the film tour then now is the chance.

The Drake Magazine will be holding a similar event at New Belgium Brewery on March 11th. Tickets are limited and on sale at St. Peters so come have a beer and enjoy a movie with us. Some of our days are still a bit cold and windy and if you are hanging out at your vice tying then you're doing something right. There is still the opportunity to come down and watch Phil Iwane tie at our free demos on Saturday, March 7th and Landon Mayer on March 14th. Both fellas have extensive knowledge of our local fisheries and it never hurts to learn a few tips and tricks from professional tiers. We hope the ants in your pants aren't making you itch for fish too much but if it becomes too much to bare, stop by the fly shop and come get some of that excitement out of your system.

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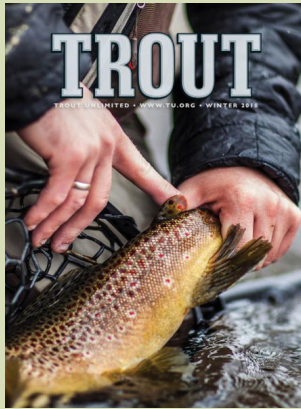
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Bob Green, *The Flypaper* Editor.