

The Flypaper

January 2022



A LEADER IN COLDWATER CONSERVATION

[Renew](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Join RMFTU](#)

From the President

Happy New Year!

Here's a tip of my hat to 2022, and hoping it will be a much better year for all of us!

Now, how would you describe 2021? I'm not sure myself. In some ways it was a wild ride, especially due to Covid, which for the second year in a row presented big hurdles in so many ways. It was disheartening to see the continued death toll and the momentous impact on our healthcare system and healthcare workers. Our healthcare workers are all heroes if you ask me. I can't imagine working day after day, month after month, for almost two years, under the extremely difficult circumstances they face each and every day.



Due to Covid, we had to cancel some plans again in 2021, similar to what was necessary in 2020. Cancellations included our Youth Camp and many other activities, including our December Holiday Donor Recognition Party. However, this was a small price to pay to do our best to keep people safe.

Instead of thinking about the things we couldn't do last year, let's focus on the many successes we had in 2021. Let's celebrate those successes and look forward with excitement to all we can do together in the coming year!

New Board Members

I'd like to give a warm welcome to our new RMF Board members:

Dave Haeusler – our new Vice President
Tony Popp – our new Treasurer
Scott Baily – new Director at Large

All three are already deeply involved in our chapter. Dave Haeusler is our Education Committee chair and is wearing both hats now until we can find a new chairperson for this committee. Tony Popp is very involved with our Conservation Committee. Scott Baily is also an important part of the Conservation Committee and is also our chapter point of contact for our Google Workspace and our iVolunteer portal.

There's an old joke in the military that says you should "never volunteer for anything." Luckily for us, that saying holds no sway with these three. I am extremely pleased to have their talent, smarts and energy to help our chapter keep moving forward. Welcome!

Outgoing Board Members

I want to give a big shout-out to our three outgoing board members:

Dave Beede – Vice President
Ruthie Ketola – Director at Large
Ryan Hogan – Treasurer

Thank you for all your volunteer time, for all the zoom meetings you attended (the highlight of your days I'm sure), for all the email you answered, for all the suggestions, for the deep involvement, dedication, and energy you brought to our chapter. We are better and stronger thanks to you! You will be missed by our Board, but we look forward to your continued involvement in our chapter's many projects. And rest assured, I am keeping you all on my 'favorites' speed dial, just in case!

January Membership Meeting:

I hope you will join us for our January membership meeting on Zoom. Our guest speaker will be Joe O'Connor, president of Platte Rivers Veterans Fly Fishing (PRVFF).

In addition to their weekly fly tying and rod building classes during the winter months, PRVFF also sponsors a number of fishing trips each summer. I am sure you have all heard of the Honor Flights that sponsor trips for veterans to fly to Washington DC to have an escorted tour. In concert with this theme, in September 2021, PRVFF sponsored an Honor Float so post-9-11 combat veterans could experience the thrill of floating and fishing a world class fishery, the San Juan River, in New Mexico. All of these trips and activities are at no cost to our Veterans. What a great program! PRVFF will be starting the rod building classes on January 8th. For more information and registration, see the article below.

We are Trout Unlimited – a short video

Check out "[We are Trout Unlimited](#)" from Trout Unlimited on Vimeo. It's uplifting, and shows some of the great reasons that TU exists. If you like this video, make sure you share it!

Operating as One TU – to Fix Our Rivers (authored by TU.ORG)

We believe that the most complex and seemingly insurmountable challenges can be solved when people come together and get to work. Expertise and experience are crucial to creating change, but without hard work by determined people, even best intentions become empty promises and plans remain incomplete. Under this plan, we seek to realize the full potential of our volunteers and supporters by coalescing as One TU—one community in pursuit of a shared vision, mission, and goals.

At TU, we advocate for and repair rivers, and in the process, we strengthen the communities in which we work. We believe success comes when we can bring people together to make positive change.

And there are many successes to celebrate. TU gets results at every scale—local to national—by leveraging our grassroots credibility, nonpartisan pragmatism, and local presence with science, conservation, and advocacy programs that are unrivaled in the conservation world.

We've proven that we can get more done when we engage all our people and assets across the organization to address a need or opportunity. Greater coordination and collaboration among chapters, councils, partners, and national staff amplifies our policy influence, fundraising, and conservation impact. Working toward this new strategic direction, we will continue to advocate for and fix rivers. We will demonstrate anew the power of bringing people together to create positive change—in the waters where trout and salmon thrive, and in the communities that depend on them.

Opportunities to make a difference:

We still have several leadership opportunities, as listed below. We need more chapter members to step up and help us keep moving forward. Even if you are new to our chapter, don't let that hold you back. Speaking for myself, getting involved in our chapter leadership is one of the most enjoyable and rewarding things I have done in a long time. We have fun with our volunteer work, and know we are making a difference. Not only does it feel good to 'give back', but in the process I have made many good friends in the chapter. I know you will also.

Here are our current openings. Please contact me (president@rmftu.org) if you would like more information.

Membership Committee chairperson
Leadership Development Committee members
Events Team Leader
Events Team members
Trout in the Classroom volunteers needed – 3 positions available
Fishing Trip Coordinator/Planner
Social Media Lead
Chapter Historian

Your Fishing Photos:

I know many of you have some fun fishing photos from last summer. A lot of our members would love to see them in our Newsletter or on our Instagram page. Please share them by sending them to me at president@rmftu.org.

Upcoming Events:

Fly Tying at the Gilded Goat – 1st Thursday each month. The next event is scheduled for January 6th at 6:00 PM. If you are new to fly tying, this is a great opportunity to learn from some great instructors, like Marty Staab, who prepares the patterns, gathers the materials and provides instructional videos. Last month we had 17 tiers so come join us for a great time! Please RSVP to mrstaab@gmail.com so he will know how many materials to put together. I almost forgot, at the December tying night, for the first time, we asked participants to show proof of vaccination. This worked very well. A couple of people even thanked us for taking that step to keep everyone as safe as possible.

In closing, I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. If you are like me, I'm tying flies and already counting the days until springtime fishing arrives. Be well and stay safe!

Mark Miller
president@rmftu.org



From the Editor

Email data base update.

Over the next few weeks, the email database used for the Flypaper will be updated. The members data that we receive from Trout Unlimited has not been thoroughly updated in the last year. For most of our chapter members, you will not notice and changes. The only issue might be

a conflict of email address. If your email address to which the Flypaper is delivered is different from the address received from Trout Unlimited, you may receive the Flypaper twice. If that happens next month, drop me a note and I will consolidate your email address so we don't fill up your inbox.

Our goal is to have an accurate list of members that will receive emails directed to the membership, but not the general public. The newsletter will go to the membership and those that subscribed through the Rocky Mountain Flycasters web site.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact news@RMFTU.ORG

Publication deadlines and publish dates.

In general, the Flypaper deadline will be the 1st of each month, unless that day falls on a weekend. If that is the case, deadline will be Monday with publication shortly following.

Thanks you for past submissions and please continue to utilize the Flypaper to keep our membership informed.

Dave Handshue
[Flypaper Editor](#)



Are You a Veteran?

Veterans Fly Fishing program reopening with fly tying and rod making classes

Rocky Mountain Fly Casters has supported the **Platte Rivers Veterans Fly Fishing Program** for many years, providing volunteers and offering free opportunities for TU veterans to learn new skills, meet new friends, and fish new waters. We are in the process of splitting the Loveland/Fort Collins area into two new sections, reflecting the growth of the decade old program, and reopening classes.



The **Loveland area** of Platte Rivers Veterans Fly Fishing will hold its Thursday fly tying class at the Life Center in Loveland from 6-8 pm. No reservation needed.
Address: 1511 East 11th St, Loveland, CO 80537

This is just south of Rt 34, taking Madison Ave south a couple blocks, then left (east) on 11th St. a block or two. Beginners are welcome. The Loveland area will start its weekly rod making classes at the Life Center on Saturday mornings from 9 to noon, beginning on **January 8th**. Rods should be completed by April, in time for Spring fishing.

The **new Fort Collins location** is on the second floor of the Elevations Credit Union located just east of College Avenue at 221 Mountain Avenue in Old Town Ft C. This new, spacious facility can easily accommodate both rod making and fly tying classes on Saturday mornings and Thursday evenings, respectively. Rod classes will also start on **January 8th** from 9 to noon. Tying classes will begin as soon as we have supplies and tools lined up for this new location.

To participate in rod making, fly tying or fishing programs, you must first register as a veteran or volunteer member of Platte Rivers Veterans Fly fishing on their website: Platterivers.org.

Rod Making Class signups:

A registered PRVFF veteran is eligible for one, free, lifetime, fly rod kit; instruction, and supplies. The rod will take about 8 to 10 Saturday mornings from 9-noon to complete. We have

25 kits for each location, so registration and commitment to regularly attend are important. You must sign-up for rod class by emailing or calling the respective area lead for the location you plan to use. He will need your name, address, email and phone number and note your rod weight preference (5, 6, or 7 weights available).

Loveland Area Lead:

Darrin Moore, 970-744-0995 or email: lostinak64@yahoo.com

Fort Collins Area Lead:

Dave Morse, 217-418-9386 or email: dgmorse45@gmail.com

If you have made a rod before and would like to volunteer to help the new vets make their rods or assist with tying classes, please let the area leads know. We will need volunteers!

Thank you.

Dave Morse, RMFC Veterans Program Coordinator

*Editor's Note: I got involved with this program as a rod building mentor thinking the organization was just for retired vets. PRVFF is an organization that serves **active, reserve** or retired military and welcomes non-military people as mentors. DH*



Stream Temperature Monitoring



RMF Stream Temperature Monitoring Project 2021 Field Season Wrap Up

Thanks to all the volunteers who went into the field during the 2021 field season to receive training, retrieve data, and to inspect, repair and/or replace temperature sensors this year. The 2021 field season after the 2020 Cameron Peak Fire was a notable challenge for RMF Stream Temperature Monitoring Project (STMP) volunteers.

A total of 21 temperature sensor sites were visited by volunteers during the 2021 Field Season. A total of 17 volunteers visited sensor sites. **The 17 volunteers contributed 441 hours of field service in 2021.** This is a record level of participation for the STMP. I would like to particularly thank the volunteers who offered their time to lead and coordinate sensor visits for the several site location geographical groups.

The Rocky Mountain Flycasters Stream Temperature Monitoring Project began in 2018. With the assistance of the Forest Service and RMF volunteers, the team has now installed and is visiting 26 temperature monitoring sites in tributaries of the Cache la Poudre River. The aim of the Project is to identify suitable habitat for the reintroduction of native cutthroat trout.

The identification of suitable habitat areas in which to establish additional sustainable populations of greenback cutthroat trout on the specie's historic range is a longstanding priority for Rocky Mountain Flycasters, Colorado Trout Unlimited, and our partners. These partners include the **US Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and the Western Native Trout Initiative.** A key requirement for selecting suitable habitat for greenback reintroduction is to assess the water temperature regime in potential reintroduction streams.

We expect to continue the Project during 2022 and welcome your continuing participation in the Project. If you know of others who would like to volunteer with the Project, please have them email me philwright@ieee.org expressing their interest.

Thanks again for all your efforts. We look forward to volunteering with you in 2022. See you on the stream.

Phil Wright

philwright@ieee.org



Another Lake Yellowstone?

Below is a link to an article in the Great Falls Tribune about invasive trout in the Glacier National Park. This article may be of interest to our membership. DH

[Read Article Here](#)



RMFTU Chapter Awards

Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter, Trout Unlimited
is pleased to recognize.....



DICK JEFFERIES
2021 PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The President's award is given to the person the President believes had the most impact through extraordinary efforts that significantly moved the Chapter forward to preserve, protect, reconnect or sustain the mission of Rocky Mountain Flycasters. It is with great pleasure that I have selected you to be the 2021 President's Award recipient. Over the past year you have brought the Chapter to prominence by leading the Conservation Committee to new heights that serve Trout Unlimited's Mission. You have exhibited great leadership, enthusiasm, diligence and teamwork that strengthen the spirit and performance core of both our leadership team and our member and non member volunteers. Thank you so very much for your many hours of contributions.

- Led the formation of a core group of volunteers who donated many hours of hard work on multiple projects
- Conceptually designed a list of important projects that will bring additional prominence to the Chapter now and into the future
- Worked with Colorado Trout Unlimited and the US Forest Service to assume leadership on the construction of the Grand Ditch Barrier; the first major project required for successful reintroduction of the Greenback Cutthroat Trout. This effort assured the Poudre Headwaters Project remains on schedule
- Provided project management and oversight for CTU and the Chapter of the construction process requiring multiple weekly trips to above Long Draw Reservoir
- Acted as the liason between the Chapter and outside partners such as the US Forest Service, CTU, National Park Service, Colorado State University faculty and graduate students, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife

You have made your mark as a true conservation leader in Colorado, and it is with great appreciation that you are the recipient of the 2021 President's Award.

Mark Miller, Chapter President,
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

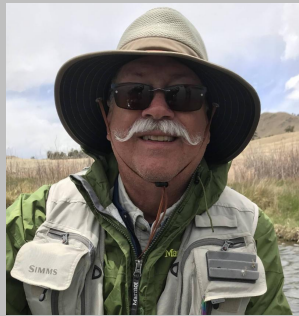
RUTH ANN KETOLA
2021 OUTSTANDING CHAPTER VOLUNTEER

It is with great pleasure that I am able to inform you of this recognition acknowledged by your leadership peers. Over the years you have been a leading volunteer across many of our leadership



and conservation activities that contribute to serve Trout Unlimited's Mission to conserve, protect, restore and sustain our coldwater resources and natural surroundings. You have exhibited great enthusiasm, diligence and team companionship that strengthen the spirit and performance core of both our leadership team and membership volunteer camaraderie. Thank you so very much for your many hours 'on the ground' and administratively behind the scene!

- Four years distinguished contribution on the Chapter Board as Secretary and Director at Large
- Diversified participation in multiple conservation activities
- Youth Day Camps & Stream Girls
- Conservation Committee Member
- Headwater Streams Temperature Monitoring
- Gateway Natural Area Trail Maintenance
- Monofilament Collection & Disposal



PHILIP WRIGHT 2021 EXEMPLARY CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER

It is with great pleasure that I am able to inform you of this recognition acknowledged by your leadership peers. Many years you have been a member of our Conservation Committee and primary leader across our conservation activities that contribute to serving Trout Unlimited's Mission to conserve, protect, restore and sustain our coldwater resources and natural surroundings. You have exhibited great enthusiasm, diligence and team companionship that strengthen the spirit and performance core of both our conservation programs and membership volunteer camaraderie. Thank you so very much for your many hours 'on the ground' and administratively behind the scene!

- As a member of the 2021 Conservation Committee, plus as an individual volunteer achieving 121 'on the ground' total diversified project hours!
- Continued as Leader and "Spirit" of the Headwater Streams Temperature Monitoring Project that you established three years ago, and this season substantially increased sites and participation hours to 441 total, plus strengthened leadership by instituting regional section coordinators.



RONALD HANSER 2021 EXEMPLARY CHAPTER FUNCTION, PROJECT OR ACTIVITY VOLUNTEER

It is with great pleasure that I am able to inform you of this recognition acknowledged by your leadership peers. Over the past year you have been a leading volunteer involving many of our leadership decisions and chapter activities that contribute to serve Trout Unlimited's Mission to conserve, protect, restore and sustain our coldwater resources and natural surroundings. You have exhibited great enthusiasm, diligence and team companionship that strengthen the spirit and performance core of both our leadership team and membership volunteers' thinking and camaraderie. Thank you so very much for your many hours of behind the scene contributions and committees' synergy.

- Exemplary participation and contributor as a Board Director at Large
- Conceptual design & formation of our Financial Development Committee
- Recruitment of dedicated, creative and *involved committee members
- Awareness of potential new audiences, introduction of creative outreach strategies and establishment of ongoing fundraising techniques
- Leadership during the pandemic year inspiring adaptive evolution of the annual Expo fundraiser

- Expansion of the year-end Holiday Party to include donors recognition



**DAVID NICKUM
COLDWATER RESOURCE CONSERVATION AWARD**

This community award intended for a non-member community individual or organization is not granted every year. It extends Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter appreciation and recognition for exceptional contributions toward chapter related coldwater conservation through professional and/or volunteer efforts.

The recipient is David Nickum, Executive Director of Colorado Trout Unlimited and a fierce advocate for ensuring coldwater is protected, restored and reconnected throughout the state. Over the past few years several contentious water projects in Northern Colorado worked their way through the permitting process. At each opportunity to provide public comment, Mr. Nickum helped chapter members submit written and verbal responses. He drafted documents, provided additional resources, and was always there to provide valuable assistance.

Most importantly for Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter, Mr. Nickum has provided immeasurable support for the Poudre Headwaters Project that will restore the threatened greenback cutthroat trout to approximately 40 miles of streams and lakes. In particular, he along with Rocky Mountain Flycasters member Dick Jefferies and former CTU Board President Cam Chandler, negotiated with the U.S. Forest Service to initiate construction of the Grand Ditch Barrier; the first major project phase required for successful reintroduction of the Greenback Cutthroat native subspecies. As part of this effort, Mr. Nickum also obtained a major portion of the construction costs funding through a grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board. This complex effort enabled the U.S. Forest Service to allow a non-governmental entity to take over a major project on their land, and is monumental and enabled construction to remain on time and optimize costs for the overall project.



**COURTNEY GUTMAN
PUBLIC PARTNER AWARD**

The Rocky Mountain Flycasters Public Partner Award is intended for a member of the public, and is not granted every year. It extends Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter appreciation and recognition for professional or volunteer support that uniquely sparks a new project or enhances an existing Chapter Mission initiative.

The recipient is Courtney Gutman, former Executive Director of the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition Director (recently resigned). Ms. Gutman served very effectively in her role, and her impact on the Big Thompson Watershed has been considerable, especially on the cold water reaches. She led completion of appointments for the accessible fishing pier that better enable less physically capable people to enjoy the river, and also led to creation of a more sustainable foot path to reduce erosion potential. She also initiated a major contribution - the Benthic Macroinvertebrate Program initiative with which RMF Chapter members are annually involved. This included leading a CPW/BTWC/RMF team to identify approved macroinvertebrate collection sites that complement the river flood recovery diagnostic plan, and multi-year funding for analysis of the benthic macroinvertebrate samples collected annually.

Ms. Gutman's hard work and dedication to coldwater sections of the river complimented our chapter's Mission priorities and has strengthened the partnership between our Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter and the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition.



Report for January



The new year is here, the holidays are over, and it's time to start the new year out fresh! We hope everyone had a fantastic holiday season. It was nice to get back to seeing family and living a little bit more of a regular lifestyle in 2021. It wasn't until about half way through December that we saw the weather cool down a little bit so now lets just hope for some moisture! Now that winter is in full swing the waters are low and we can focus on planning and preparing for the Spring of 2022!

The front range has started to fall into winter mode leaving anglers with little open water. For any fair weather anglers this is not an issue but for the dedicated, year-round anglers, have no fear. We still have a handful of options to scratch that itch during the cold and snowy days. We are fortunate enough to be situated between two wonderful

drainage systems that have running water year-round. The North and South Platte. Just about a 3 hour drive away, these two fisheries alone offer some really big and hungry fish that will be feeding every day. We also happen to be pretty close to the Big Thompson and Gateway Natural Area. You won't find as much room to spread out on the Big Thompson but below Lake Estes is going to be home to some very nice, healthy trout all year. At Gateway Natural Area in Poudre Canon you will find tons of rising fish eating only the smallest midge dries but stripping small wooly buggers and crayfish back here can yield some fantastic results. These fisheries can be incredibly fun but also quite the test for any angler. I often think "how smart can fish be?" but then I'm the one scratching my head when I watch them ignore my flies. To help get you in tune with these types of waters we put together Technical Tailwaters. This is a 2-hour classroom session where you will learn how to maneuver your way around even the smartest fish. You will cover technique, trout diet, what a tailwater actually is and much more. These fish didn't become stubborn for now reason so we want to show you why they are so peculiar.

It's never too late to start tying flies and after writing this article for quite some time now, you all know I love to tie flies. Filling up rows in a fly box is one of the most aesthetically pleasing, satisfying tasks I've ever accomplished and this snowballed into a complete obsession and it's a good workout for the brain. It all began with coming into St.Peter's and we want you folks to enjoy fly tying just as much as all of us do. Intro to Fly Tying gets the ball rolling for any aspiring tier by learning to tie the San Juan Worm, Hares Ear Nymph, and the Wooly Bugger. The 3 essential patterns alone will introduce you to the techniques used to tie almost any fly pattern available. Overall it is a fun, laid back class where people can learn together, with each other and share the same interests for a few hours. Our next class is January 8th from 10-1pm at our South store. It can be intimidating learning something new, especially with strangers around but don't let that hold you back. We want to make things as easy and comfortable for you so come hang out. You can sign up online, over the phone, or in store for \$50.00. The shop also has Trout Behavior coming back. This class is sweet. By looking at metabolic processes, what trout need in order to survive, and learning a little bit about their environment students learn about different behavioral patterns in trout. This will help anglers become more successful on the water on any given outing but this time of year fish get really hard to even approach. Our next session is on February 5th from 10-12pm. For \$35.00 dollars this is a hard one to pass up.

Everyone here at the shop hopes you had a very wonderful holiday season. Although it flies by every year, it's always fun to get some time off from work to see friends, family and hopefully get a little fishing in. Have a fantastic 2022! If anyone is looking for places to fish, flies to tie, stories to tell, or pictures to show, just come by and we'd love to see them.



Video of the Month



Upcoming Events

[RMF Calendar](#)

Thursday, January 6 Pub & Dub
RSVP [Marty Staab](#).

Wednesday, January 12 RMF Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 19 General
Membership Meeting via Zoom

Link to [Zoom](#) Meeting

[Join ZOOM Meeting](#)



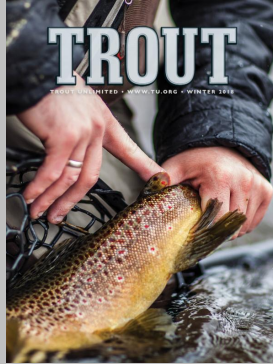
RMF Merchandise

[Purchase RMF Merchandise](#)

[Make a Donation](#)



Online Fly Fishing Magazines



Rocky Mountain Flycasters Sustaining Donors



St. Peter's Fly Shop



Cutthroat Trout Donor

Art Campfield
Frederick Ebert
Jeffery P. Burleson
John and Tharon Deakins
QDROMAN

Rainbow Trout Donor

Bob Green
David Beede
Dennis Cook
Gary Fonay
Mark Miller
Mickey McGuire
Rocky Mountain Angling Club
St. Pete's Fly Shop

Brown Trout Donor

Doug Nagel
Eric Philp
Fred Boutin
JAX Outdoor Gear
Jay and Jeannie Weaver
Jim Danforth
John Craig
Lee Evans
Mike Malvey
Paul Bunker
Paul Wehr
Phillip Paarlberg
Ronald Hanser
Ryan Hogan
Ruthie Ketola
Robert Streeter
Scott Bailly

Brook Trout Donor

Anthony and Rita Popp
Ben Voss
Bernard Birnbaum
Billy Draper
Brett Foreman
Brett Johnson
Charles Revier
CSU AFS
David Smeltzer
Douglas Nagel
Eric A. Pettine
Gary Littauer
Jane Looney
Jim Ferguson
John Kammlade
Kevin Mabry
Mike Davis

Zach Jory

She's Fly
Stephen Brutscher
Ted Sammond
Terri L. Smalley
Thomas Schultz
Tom Culbertson
Willam Rosquist
Zen Tenkara Flyfishing
Zen Tenkara

Richard Krebs
Swift River Fly Fishing
Terrance Sullivan



Rocky Mountain Flycasters
RMFTU.org
P.O. Box 1694, Fort Collins, CO
80524-1694

