



ROCKY  
MOUNTAIN  
*Flycasters*  
30 Years



# The Flypaper

November 2013 Edition

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I know it is early but the next issue of *The Flypaper* comes out in time to start talking Santa stuff so...Happy Thanksgiving everyone!!

There is a lot of great reading in this issue of *The Flypaper*. Let me get right to it.

1. We have entered the Coloradoan Causes on-line fund raising campaign. A couple of minutes of your time online can put us in the running for a donation from the Causes campaign. Be sure to read the newsletter article from Wil Huett.
2. Guest Night is this month. You don't want to miss this program with Ed Engle, St. Pete's Fly Shop and Elkhorn Rod and Reel. [November 20](#). Look over the information on the Chapter [website](#). Be sure to bring a friend, or two, or three!!
3. We are starting to get a better idea of flood impacts. Be sure and read Dave Piske's article below.
4. As we approach the end of the calendar year we start to look for volunteer nominations. If you know of someone deserving the nomination guidelines are available on the website. I will continue to remind everyone.

See you all at Guest Night on the 20

[Dick Jefferies](#), President  
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

[Sustaining Donor](#) at a level that you can afford. Special Recognition occurs at the \$50 level.

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## [Chapter Event Calendar](#)

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# PROGRAM AND EVENTS

[Brad Kiehne](#), Program Director

### **Monthly Membership Meeting: Guest Night!**

November 20th, 6:30 - 9:00 pm at Fort Collins Senior Center

Bring a friend, bring two friends, bring a car load!! It will be a great evening of entertainment featuring Ed Engle.

St. Pete's Fly Shop will be manning the tying tables. Elkhorn Rod and Reel will have demo rods and reels plus some great on the spot deals.

Rods, gear and other great stuff to be raffled. To learn more about Ed Engle and this special event, go to the Chapter website at <http://www.rockymtnflycasters.org>. Please download the brochure and send it to friends, relatives, coworkers and anyone you think who will enjoy this very special evening.

### **\*LET'S GO FISHING!!\***

[Mark Miller](#), Fishing Trip Coordinator

#### **2013 RMF Fishing Trips**

Only one trip remaining : Nov 9th, weather permitting. The destination was the Big T, so we will need to select a new area to fish. Not sure at this moment where we will fish, but if you would like to get one more day of fishing this fall, please email me so I can add your name to the list. Right now we only have 3 members signed up.

#### **2014 RMF Fishing Trips**

Listed below are some trips we hope to take in 2014. We hope you will consider joining us for some fun and exciting fishing. Sign up for trips at our monthly meetings, or by email or phone. How better to ensure you get in all those fishing days you want, than to start planning them now. And who better to fish with than RMF friends, both old and new. So take a look below and "get started"! We do need some volunteers to act as a Trip Host. If you have been to one of these areas once or twice, you qualify! As a Trip Host, your duties would simply be to arrange a meeting place and time, and possibly carpooling for the longer trips. Oh ya, and duty number one is to keep the rest of us from getting lost - it is that simple! Additionally, if anyone

would like to host a trip elsewhere, please feel free to let me know and I will add your trip to the list. Contact: Mark Miller at [flytyer.miller@gmail.com](mailto:flytyer.miller@gmail.com) or 970-744-8229 (cell).

March 28 - Upper Poudre - (Host: Mark Miller) - weather permitting

April 12 - Poudre River - (Host needed)

April 25-27 - Gray Reef/N Platte float trip (Host: Mark Miller)

May 17-18 - Lake John - (2 nights) (Host needed)

June 14 - Laramie Plains lakes (Host: Frank Cada)

June 21 - Joe Wright Reservoir (Grayling) (Host needed)

July 12 - Lake Agnes - Host: (Host: Ben Zomer)

July 19 - Encampment River, WY (wade trip) - (Host needed)

Aug 9 - Blue Lake (Indian Peaks Wilderness) (Host: David Morse)

Aug 16 - Colorado River Headwaters (Host: Dennis Cook)

Sept ?? - Flaming Gorge/Green River (UT) (Host needed)  
(2-3 nights. Dates to be determined by participants)

Sept 20 - Blue River (Host needed)

Oct ?? - Poudre (Host: Ben Zomer)

Nov?? - Cheesman Canyon/South Platte (Host: Mark Miller)

## CONSERVATION NOTES

[Dave Piske](#), Conservation Coordinator

### A River In Need Finds Friends Indeed: Big Thompson River Flood Recovery Takes Shape



Big Thompson River, Sept. 2013

Photo Co. Nat. Guard

The Big Thompson River, commonly known as the Big T, is one of the rivers most favored by fly fishermen residing in Front Range communities between Boulder and Fort Collins. Its easy access from those anglers' homes, and the presence of a healthy trout population,

were the keys to Big T's popularity. The status of that trout population and its habitat was drastically altered by three days of record-breaking rainfall and a historic flood beginning September 13, 2013.

From Olympus Dam in Estes Park downstream to the western environs of Loveland, the Big T flows through a steep, narrow canyon that offers little in the way of flood plains that could have spread out and dissipated the huge dynamic power of runoff water the Big T was carrying. Homes and business structures along the river were swept away, totally destroying some communities. Highway 34, paralleling the river, collapsed and became unusable in numerous segments.

The river changed itself in many ways, re-channeling in places, destroying trout holding and spawning habitat, scouring the former streambed and depositing its rubble below the canyon mouth where the water's energy was eventually lessened. After Colorado Parks and Wildlife biologists were able to make a preliminary post-flood examination of the resultant river, Ken Kehmeier, the Northeast Regional Chief Biologist, described the result as being a total re-set of the Big T's ecological system.

When the flood receded, it was soon realized that a vast recovery and restoration effort, involving a wide spectrum of stakeholders and recovery resources, would be needed. In the Big T corridor, informal groups including persons interested in recovery of the trout fishery, began to organize and coordinate their initiatives. What emerged was the Big Thompson River Restoration Coalition (BTRRC), a collaboration of multiple interests working together to produce a recovery of the Big T in a manner intended to maximize the economic, social and environmental benefits of the river.

The goals of BTRRC include:

1. Near-term recovery of key infrastructure needed for municipal, agricultural, property owner, and recreational users, in ways that complement and enhance long-term river restoration goals.
2. Restoration and enhancement of riverbed structure and water flows to optimize habitat for fish and aquatic life.
3. Establishment of plant communities along riverbanks to enhance water quality, encourage species diversity, and improve esthetic values.
4. Incorporation of infrastructure designs that reduce the risk to life and property during future flood events.

As of November 1 the coalition's composition includes nearly 60 individuals representing land owners, non-profit organizations, land management agencies, local companies, consulting firms, and a host of wonderful people. Rocky Mountain Flycasters is honored to be one of the founding members of BTRRC.

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**Rocky Mountain Flycasters Help Out Friends At Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch**

[Dave Piske](#) and [Bob Green](#)



For the past 4 years Sylvan Dale Ranch, a Rocky Mountain Flycasters Sustaining Donor, has provided a major venue during our chapter's Youth Fly Fishing & River Conservation Day Camps. During the September 2013 floods, The Ranch, located alongside the Big Thompson River, suffered enormous damages to its property.

In response to this natural disaster a team of RMF leaders and members helped out by conducting a dual-pronged campaign to assist our Sylvan Dale friends in a period of dire need. What resulted was the most memorable turnout of RMF and allied volunteers in recent years, and a wonderful day of benefit fishing by RMF members at Sylvan Dale's Mother Lake.

### **River Clean-Up: October 19**

Upon the request of David Jessup, co-owner of Sylvan Dale Ranch, Dave Piske, RMF Conservation Chair, spearheaded this rapidly organized but extremely efficient effort. To recruit volunteers, RMF utilized its electronic communication channels as well as a vocal plea at the October 16 chapter meeting. At the end of the meeting, it appeared we would have 14 volunteers committed. But, more were to come!

Sylvan Dale also solicited its roster of fly fishing clients, Brian Chavet at Elkhorn Fly Rod and Reel contacted his customers, and Paul Prentiss at Front Range Anglers in Boulder reached out on his blog. The result was a total of 32 volunteers full of tremendous enthusiasm on cleanup day, October 19.



David Jessup, Sylvan Dale Co-Owner, and Dave Piske, RMF Conservation Coordinator, at Sylvan Dale Clean-Up  
*Photo Bob Green*



Some of the 32 Volunteers at Sylvan Dale Ranch

Photo Bob Streeter

Initial expectations were that about 12 volunteers might show up, in which case the pre-planned work would have taken until 4 PM. However, the much larger than expected group of volunteers finished all the pre-planned work by the scheduled start of the lunch period.

After lunch, those who remained relocated to another part of the ranch where an improvised debris cleanup continued until about 2:30 PM. In appreciation of the volunteers' vigorous efforts, Brian Chavet invited all volunteers to enjoy refreshments at the Elkhorn Fly Rod and Reel shop just down the highway, thereby providing a relaxing conclusion to a day spent helping a deserving friend.



A Big Thompson Teddy Bear Survivor Found During Sylvan Dale Volunteer Event -Photo Bob Green

### **Benefit Fly Fishing Day: October 26**

The Sylvan Dale Ranch Benefit Fly Fishing day was proposed by Rocky Mountain Flycasters leadership immediately after the flood, and took place a week after the River Clean-Up Day. This event was organized by Mark Martin, RMF Fishing Trip Coordinator, and Newsletter Editor Bob Green. Both are particularly appreciative of the help of Kathi Willkomm of Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch who made the event happen, and Greg Sheets, Head Guide at Sylvan Dale who oriented the group to the lake and provided tips on fishing. Greg is a former president of RMF.

Like the River Cleanup Event, volunteers stepped up immediately to help Sylvan Dale by paying rod fees to participate. However, to protect the amazing fishery at Sylvan Dale's Mother Lake, only 10 rods were permitted. These rod slots were filled almost immediately. The lucky participants included Jim Ferguson, Steve Sereno, Cullen Emsing, Adam

Omernick, Bob Green, Tom Patrick, Phil Wright, Gil Coleman and Sean Cronin. Dave Piske, who contributed a rod fee, was unable to attend.



Phil Wright Displays One of the Many Trophy Rainbows Caught and Released at Mother Lake -Photo Cullen Emsing

Like the River Clean-Up Event, the weather was very cooperative for the day of fly fishing. Temperatures on this sunny October day reached the mid-sixties and the wind was favorable for fly fishing. And, everyone caught fish! The trophy Rainbows and Browns taken, all gently released, ranged from 18 to 25 inches. These beautiful fish rose to dry flies and took nymphs and streamers at different times during the day, and were caught from the lake bank as well as from belly boats by a bunch of very happy anglers. And, you should have seen the one's that got away!!



Another Rainbow Caught by Cullen Emsing  
Wright Photo Phil

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## YOUTH OUTREACH

[Dennis Cook](#), Coordinator

## **Event Report: Poudre River Clean-up**

Four volunteers represented Rocky Mountain Flycasters on Saturday, September 7, at the Poudre River Cleanup in the West Greeley area. The event was a joint effort of the Poudre Learning Center on the river stretch adjacent to its property, with Excel Energy and CBS Channel 4 as funding agencies, and Colorado TU with RMF participating. Jerry Pelis, RMF's Children's Water Festivals Coordinator and also a regular volunteer at the PLC, devoted the two preceding days to site preparation. On the scheduled workday he was joined by RMF representatives Paul Wehr, Craig Singleton and Stephanie Scott along with 22 additional community volunteers. Greeley area schools use the PLC facilities, grounds and professional faculty for natural outdoors education activities. Brad Kiehne, Program Director Volunteers removed invasive weeds and cleared vegetation to improve safe access to the river. Our thanks to all of these volunteers!

## **Program Report: Trout in the Classroom, 2013-2014 School Year**

RMF has started TIC at a second school, Rocky Mountain High School, where it will operate under the classroom supervision of RMF member and Science Teacher Scott Kemp. The tank, chiller, biological filter and other equipment were set up on October 7th and after operating for a test week to ensure the system would maintain correct water chemistries and temperature, eggs arrived and were placed into the tank on October 24th. The eggs first had to be sorted to remove any sick or dead ones before placing 200 eyed eggs, some already evidencing tiny moving creatures inside, into the tank's breeder basket. The tank has been enclosed with sheet Styrofoam and will be kept dark. As the eggs hatch any egg residue or eggs that have died must be removed from the breeder basket to avoid contaminating others. In about 10 days all the eggs will have hatched releasing about a half-inch long sac fry. When all are hatched the basket will be inverted and the sac fry will immediately dive to the bottom of the tank and hide in the gravel and remain there for about 14 days feeding on the nutrients in their sacs. Then they will emerge from the gravel and swim to the surface, whereupon they become referred to as swim-up fry. When most of the swim-up fry have visibly consumed their food sac, students will begin hand feeding the fish using three increasingly coarser granular food. Front Range Community College will also repeat TIC this school year. On November 6th they will set up their equipment and begin the same process described above.





Sorting and Counting Eggs  
*Photo Dennis Cook*



Viewing Eggs Under a Microscope  
*Photo Dennis Cook*



Photographing Eggs  
*Photo Dennis Cook*

### **Volunteers Needed: Trout in the Classroom**

Timing is perfect right now for a member to step forward and get involved to experience a complete TIC cycle. It's not difficult; it just takes the exposure of participating with me and going through a complete school year, and then taking over coordination next year with confidence that you still have backup for any questions or to cover when your schedule may necessitate. Contact: Dennis Cook 372-9229 [rkymtnangler@Q.com](mailto:rkymtnangler@Q.com)

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**VOTE FOR ROCKY MOUNTAIN FLYCASTERS !**

[Wil Huett](#), Community Outreach Coordinator

### **Vote for RMF Online!**

On Sunday (11/3/13) the *Ft Collins Coloradoan* newspaper printed a special section (tucked inside the cartoons) on the 48 non-profits profiled in their "Causes" columns this past year.

**Rocky Mountain Flycasters** (pg 17) was one of those organizations highlighted. In fact, *The Coloradoan* covered our annual Youth Day Camp in the August 2nd edition. The print version was accompanied by an online version and a brief video of our campers learning to fish. *The Coloradoan* even liked our still photos so much they posted a separate gallery of them later.

*The Coloradoan* is now inviting readers to vote online for their 3 favorite organizations from this year's Causes group. The top 3 vote getters will be profiled in greater detail and readers will be urged to support them with donations - matched up to \$5,000 by *The Coloradoan*. Placing in the top 3 could mean more \$\$ for our conservation and education efforts!

You may also 'like' this campaign on *Facebook* so your friends and neighbors can also vote.

PLEASE vote for RMF as a favorite - before [11/15](#) - if not a subscriber follow this link. If you are a subscriber you can vote from the link in the electronic edition.

<http://www.coloradoan.com/viewint/article/99999999/LIFESTYLE09/121009004/Causes-Giving-Campaign>

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### **GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT**

We're always looking for pictures germane to fly fishing, rivers, lakes, and watershed conservation, volunteers doing that work, fly tying, sharing fishing with youngsters and others, so the options are varied. Most suitable would be local with RMF members, but some other destinations will be considered. Having permission to publish on our website will be implicit for submitted photos so make certain you have permission from anyone in your pictures.

Photographers will be acknowledged in a caption with the picture so rush those pictures in. Send your pictures to [webmaster@rockymtnflycasters.org](mailto:webmaster@rockymtnflycasters.org).

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# Rocky Mountain Flycaster Sustaining Donors



St. Peter's Fly Shop



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Nick Kosmicki

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Dave Burnett

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**C.B. & POTTS.**  
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2013-10-31