



August 2014 Edition

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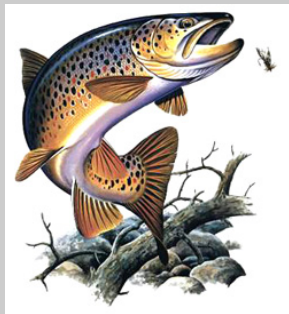
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From the President

Dog Days of August!

Does that mean it is going to dry out a bit around here? Beginning to think parts of the Midwest have made their way to the Rockies. So far, a warm and humid summer.



Make that a warm, humid and busy summer. Just wrapped up another great Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Day Camp. Outstanding program this year attended by some truly engaged youth. It was exciting to see their energy and excitement. There is a really long list of

volunteers that needs to be thanked for participating in the camp this year. However, if I start naming all of them I am going to forget someone or the editor is going to use his word count tool and cut out other stuff in my section.

With that in mind will everyone that participated in this year's Youth Day Camp please accept my most heartfelt appreciation for spending your time with us. Your contribution is what makes the camp successful and enjoyable. For that you have my thanks!

In particular, I want to acknowledge the efforts of Camp Director Dennis Cook not only for this year but for all of the past years camps and for being such a driving force in the development of the program. As many of you are already aware Dennis plans to cut back on the time associated with the camp as of next year. It is my sincere hope that some of you reading this understand how crucial it is that we continue delivery of this program to the next generation of conservationists. We are looking at developing a multi-person team to head up the camp program next year. If you think you might be interested, please contact myself or Dennis Cook to visit a little more about the idea. In the meantime a special thanks is extended to Dennis and all of his hard work!

I had the honor of attending a National TU fly-in to Washington DC in July to visit with Congressional and White House officials to discuss the ongoing efforts by the EPA to clarify definitions to the Clean Water Act and the associated definitions of 'Waters of the

US'. It was an interesting couple of days of meetings. The details involved in the EPA and Army Corps efforts to move forward with revised definitions are far too numerous to adequately cover in the newsletter. If you would like to find out more about the issue, [click here](#). And, if you want even more information send me an email and I will return some links to you that provide a good deal background.

Come check out the booth we are co-hosting with our good friends at the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed during **New West Fest** in Old Town Fort Collins. Many of us will be manning the booth on August 16th and 17th. After that we will see you in September for the beginning of another round of General Meetings!

Stay cool!!

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

"The solution to any problem -- work, love, money, whatever -- is to go fishing, and the worse the problem, the longer the trip should be." —John Gierach

[Chapter Event Calendar](#)

AUGUST CONSERVATION NOTES



Dave Piske, RMF Conservation Chair

Big Thompson River Restoration Master Plan

A preliminary Master Plan for post-flood restoration of the Big Thompson River and its North Fork can be viewed on-line and commented on until August 21. Comments that are received by that date will be considered when refining the plan that will be presented at the stakeholder meeting at 6:00 pm on August 28 at the Thompson School District Administrative Building, 800 South Taft Avenue Loveland, CO 80537.

This preliminary plan depicts the results of anticipated future geomorphic and flood risks, and near-term opportunities for riparian and aquatic habitat enhancements. The Master plan is depicted on a multi-layered map, color-coded to show which of 14 types of remedial actions should be taken and where each of those actions are located along the Big T and its North Fork. The remedial actions are conceptual and are not intended to provide site-specific designs for restoration

projects. Site-specific designs will be among the next steps in the recovery process.

The preliminary plan can be viewed on the Big Thompson River Restoration Coalition web page: <http://www.smapapp.com/Community.aspx?CommunityID=6a38b2b7-9282-42eb-9fdb-48372b7a4297>

Click on Summary Maps on the left side of the screen and zoom in until you see the level of detail you desire. Navigate up or down the river corridor, alternating between Map view and Satellite view at your discretion. You will see symbols that indicate comments posted by other individuals. Clicking on a symbol enables you to read those comments. We would like you to add your comments. Specifically, we would like to know if you:

- support the recommended approaches,
- have additions, deletions, or suggested ways to modify the plans, and/or
- have information about sites that would be useful for the future, when more detailed engineering and restoration plans may be developed.

Additional instructions that will help you use the interactive web site can be found here: <http://bigthompsonriver.org/s-map-help-page/>

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Update on the Big Thompson Fishery

On July 31, Ben Swigle, the Aquatic Biologist with Colorado Parks and Wildlife Department who is responsible for the Big Thompson River fishery, and several other Front Range streams, issued an update on CPW's work related to post-flood restoration of the Big Thompson. To read Ben's report, go to: <http://bigthompsonriver.org/2014/07/31/colorado-parks-wildlife-projects-big-thompson/>

Volunteers Needed on West Creek, a tributary of the Big T near Glen Haven, on September 20, 2014

Glen Haven, a small but extremely vigorous community, was almost washed away during the September, 2013 flood. The residents have gone to near-miraculous efforts to restore their community. You can add to their efforts by joining this project on September 20, essentially the first anniversary of the flood.

Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, the collaborative organization that conducts so many "boots-on-the-ground" ecological restoration projects in both the Big T and the Poudre River watersheds, needs volunteers for a project near Glen Haven on September 20.

See details and register as a volunteer for this project at www.wlrv.org

Click on Projects and Trainings and scroll down the projects list to that date. Register to participate by clicking on the red "Register Here" message in upper right corner of the page.

This is one of a series of projects whose overall objective is to restore and enhance geomorphic and ecosystem function in the Big T watershed, including installing erosion matting and planting native trees, grasses and shrubs whose roots naturally armor stream banks, provide fish & wildlife habitat and protect water quality.

Have questions about this field day? Contact WRV's Watershed Restoration Coordinator, Lukas McNally (a new RMF TU member), at lukas@wlrv.org or call 970-493-2075

Greenback Cutthroat Trout: Research, Governmental Action and Continuing Controversy

A very comprehensive article that updates the latest research, government action and controversies about Colorado state fish was published recently by Denver Westword. You can read this article by clicking on the link below:

http://blogs.westword.com/latestword/2014/08/colorado_protect_greenback_cutthroat_trout.php

AUGUST YOUTH OUTREACH NOTES

Another Success! RMF 2014 Youth Day Camp



Dennis Cook,
Youth Outreach Chair

Despite being rain-stormed out of our Tuesday pond casting exercise, Old Man Weather didn't daunt spirits of this year's campers. Wednesday, also a rainy stormy day you may recall, was our full day fishing the Poudre high in the canyon, and the rain was virtually continuous there - fortunately without lightening. Our intrepid campers' spirit shone that day as they had a successful collective catch experience, mostly on dry flies. This year's camp group was a bit smaller than usual, but its enthusiasm, interest and character were superior.



2014 Rocky Mountain Flycasters Day Campers and Their Mentors after
Fishing Cub Creek in Rocky Mountain National Park

Our group of RMF Mentors this year were also their usual enthusiastic selves, all 21 of them. Across our five year experience in operating the camp, 25 volunteers has been about the smallest number required to ensure good activities management and also one-on-one mentorship for on-water instruction and safety. This year staffing was tight, and RMF can be especially proud of its volunteers, a nice mixture of past-camp repeaters and first-timers, as they bootstrapped to effectively staff several challenging activities. We hope next year we'll have even more newcomers to bolster our group. Let's hear a big "Yeah!" for our RMF volunteers:

Donna Burrill
Cullen Emsing

Dick Jefferies
Linda Jefferies

Jerry Pelis
Domingo Rodriguez

Lee Evans
Bill Franzen
Amy Galyardt
Dennis Galyardt
Wil Huett

Alan Jones
Phil Keller
Scott Kemp
Dave Morse
Adam Omernick

Bruce Rosenthal
Tom Thomas
Paul Wehr
Phil Wright
Ben Zomer

The 2014 Day Camp Photo Gallery can be viewed at [the Rocky Mountain Flycasters website](#).

RMF's 2015 Day Camp will be held Monday, July 27th through Saturday, August 1st. Mark your calendar now to volunteer and become part of this fun and rewarding opportunity to collaborate with some terrific young Americans who will go on to become tomorrow's caretakers of our coldwaters and wildlands.

LET'S GO FISHING

Click [here](#) to view a list of fishing trips we hope to take in 2014. You will be able to indicate your interest online at this new website created for *Let's Go Fishing*.

You might also want to review Dennis Cook's description of the forthcoming RMF trip to the Colorado River Headwaters trip that he will host August 16. Just [click here](#) to learn more about the Colorado River trip.

We do need a volunteer to act as a Trip Host for the Blue River trip in Sept. If you have been to one of these areas once or twice, you qualify! 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 or 970-744-8229 (cell).

Finally, please take a few minutes to read Ben Zomer's report (below) about the July "Let's Go Fishing" trip to Lake Agnes.

"LET'S GO FISHING" REPORT: LAKE AGNES

On Saturday July 14, three RMF members (Paul Wehr, Dave Morse and Bob Green) and Van Hartman, a guest from out-of-state, joined host Ben Zomer for a trip to the glorious high altitude Lake Agnes near Cameron Pass. Although the trip necessitated an unbearably early start, everyone was on time and we drove quickly up the canyon in anticipation of dry fly cutthroats.

The dirt road to the trailhead was a bit worse than last year due to the higher runoff, but both cars made it unscratched. We marveled at the views and Dave Morse gave a quick geology talk as we enjoyed the Nokhu Crags above us.

At over 10,000 feet the short (about 1 mile) but steep trail proved challenging. We huffed and puffed up the incline to the lake though some still existing snow. Upon reaching Lake Agnes we were welcomed with dark skies, a placid, slightly off-color lake and no visible rising fish. However, we were undisturbed by these conditions and had high hopes, at least in spirit, of catching fish.

We quickly geared up and spread out around one corner of the lake. Some braved the 45-degree water and waded in, while others fished from points on the shore. Even with an extra layer of pants, all waders felt the chill. Paul, who fished last year and was skunked, came for retribution. The rest were just ready for anything.



Paul Begins His Revenge With a Nice Cutthroat

The cutthroat trout didn't disappoint. And Paul had his retribution (see photo) and then some! He quickly started catching fish on dry flies and soon everyone was catching fish. Most averaged around 12-14 inches, all beautiful specimens. Fish were caught on dry flies and nymphs, all with equal success.

The dark skies threatened most of the day with very few breaks of sun. Wind was challenging as it shifted direction regularly, but never got so strong as to blow us off. We even heard some thunder on the other side of the ridge and it sprinkled on us for a bit, but it seemed like the fishing gods were kind and we were always on the edge of the

storm as we caught fish throughout the day.

Of particular note about this trip is the extraordinary commitment to the RMF Fly Swap concept demonstrated on the waters by Fly Swap Coordinator Ben Zomer and active participant Dave Morse. Early in the trip Dave hooked up with a fish that broke off and took his fly, a #14 parachute chironomid. No worries for Dave, however, because Ben was quick to show his commitment to the "swap" concept by catching and releasing the same fish, but not before he removed and returned Dave's fly!

Finally by about 4:30 when the bite slowed down dramatically, the waders being pale and shivering and insect repellent worn off, we called it a day. We caught plenty of fish (between 2-12 a piece). With smiles and good cheer we hiked back to our cars and headed home.

Agnes provided us with great memories and we look forward to seeing her again soon.



Dave Morse with a Lake Agnes Cutthroat That Didn't Break Off

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2014-8-5

This email was sent by [Bob Green](#), Rocky Mountain Flycasters Flypaper Editor.