

# The Flypaper

August 2022



A LEADER IN COLDWATER CONSERVATION

Renew

Volunteer

Join RMFTU

## From The President

Hello everyone, and welcome to our Aug Newsletter. I hope you have some good luck fishing this month, maybe even catch some good hatches, and I hope you will join us for our Membership Picnic Aug 14<sup>th</sup>. Team up with a friend and compete in our friendly World Lawn Trout Casting Competition – it will be a blast!

### Upcoming Events

#### Annual Member's Summer Picnic - Aug 14

It's been a long time since we have held a fun chapter event like a picnic. We have reserved a pavilion at Spring Canyon Park in Ft Collins for Sunday August 14<sup>th</sup>, from 11am to 3pm. We hope you will bring the whole family to join in on the fun. The chapter will provide all the food – burgers, brats, and dogs (plus a vegan burger also), along with potato salad and other sides. You just need to bring your favorite drinks. Please note that park rules say no glass containers/bottles and no alcohol allowed.



You ask if there will be games? You bet – for the little ones we will have our famous Kiddie Fishing Pond (with magnetic fish) that is always a big hit with the little ones. We will have Cornhole also, and Lawn Trout. There will also be some fun team competition with Lawn Trout – where you cast a 'fly' (a piece of Velcro) and try to snag the 5 Lawn Trout before the other team reels them in. We will have a few flyrods for people to use, or feel free to bring you own.

Please be sure to register at this link ( [Sign up to join us \(free!!\)](#) ) so we get a good head-count,

so we'll know how much food to buy. We'll have fun – sure hope you can be there!

**Join the Fun HERE - IT'S FREE**

Almost forgot – I'll need some help with the charcoal grills, both cooking and cleaning up. If you've ever seen me using a grill, it's a scary sight, so please let me know if you can volunteer an hour or so to help cook. Your friends will be glad you did!

Directions to Spring Canyon Park in Ft Collins: You'll need to approach the Park from the north side to get to the closest parking area near the pavilion. To do this, go to the intersection of West Drake and South Overland Trail. Go south on South Overland Trail for about a half mile, ending in the parking lot for the park. You'll see two covered pavilions – just look for our blue RMF booth.

**Note – if you use Google maps for the address (3156 S Overland Trail, Fort Collins, CO 80526) it will route you to the south main parking area, and you will have a very, very long walk to the pavilion. So be sure to come in from the north side of the park.**

### **Poudre Riverfest - Aug 20**

This will be held at New Belgium Brewing in Ft Collins. It's all about Education. Restoration. Celebration. The Poudre Riverfest is a free, family-friendly festival that celebrates the Poudre River, promotes restoration, and educates people about our river corridor, an important natural resource in our community. We will have our RMF booth set up at the fest to talk to people about TU's mission and the Poudre Headwaters Project. And we'll have our famous Kiddee Fishing Pond for the little ones. If you attend, be sure to stop by our RMF booth and say hello. We are always looking for a few volunteers to help us set up and tear down, so please email Mark (president@rmftu.org) if you can help out for a couple hours that day.

### **Upcoming Conservation Events**

We have many interesting volunteer opportunities coming up in August and September – too many to list here. So be sure to check out all the projects listed on **iVolunteer**. Your volunteer hours are what makes our chapter run. With your help we can be the 'GSD' chapter . . . "Get Stuff Done". Thanks so much.

**iVolunteer**

### **Donor Recognition Luncheon at Mishawaka**

Over 20 of our sustaining donors made it to our recognition lunch at the 'Mish', which made the event a great success. I was so happy to meet some of our donors that I had not yet been able to meet, primarily due to Covid. To those that attended, thank you so much, it was a true pleasure to meet you!

### **PHP Ambassador training completed in June**

As I mentioned last month, we had approximately 20 chapter members signed up to be trained as PHP Ambassadors. Responsibilities include getting trained on project details and public communications- communicating with anglers and other recreators at Long Draw Reservoir about the PHP and Greenback Cutthroat conservation. Our hope is to have 4 ambassadors at Long Draw on all weekends from early July through Labor Day weekend, and beyond into the fall as long as we have ambassadors who have the time to do so. Additional coverage on weekdays would also be welcome. An ambassador could work from 8am to 12 noon telling folks at Long Draw about the PHP, and then fish the rest of the day, while their buddy works the pm shift. You can now sign up on iVolunteer for both weekends and weekdays. Note that there are two different links, one for weekdays, and another link for weekends, so make sure you click on the correct link.

### **RMF Youth Fly Fishing Camp, July 25-30<sup>th</sup>**

As I write this paragraph, I am at Gateway Natural Area with our 12 young campers and many chapter volunteers. Another great day in our 6 day camp. This is so important for our chapter, as this is a wonderful opportunity to show our campers not only how to tie flies and fly fish, but to

also open their eyes to the world of conservation. For some, this camp is a life-changing event in their young lives. For others, it is an introduction to a lifetime sport, that can be passed down from generation to generation. Our youth are our future. And from what I have seen in these young fly fishers, I firmly believe the future looks bright!

In closing, I just want to acknowledge how lucky we all are to live in this place we call home. Colorado is a beautiful state, and northern Colorado is no exception. We live with the beauty of nature all around us. The amazing fauna and flora. The beautiful mountains. All the wildlife we get to see – deer, elk, moose, and bighorn sheep. And best of all . . . a river runs through it! Have a great month!

Mark Miller, President  
[President@RMFTU.org](mailto:President@RMFTU.org)



## Family Picnic

Annual Member's Summer Picnic - August 14

See Mark's article above for directions and complete information

Let's have a  
PICNIC

Location: Spring Canyon Park  
Time-Date: Aug 14<sup>th</sup>, 11-3pm  
A Fun Chapter Event !

**BBQ**



**Fishing**



# Ice Cream



# Casting Games

# Kids Games



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN FLYCASTERS

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Join the Fun [HERE](#)



## RMNP August Volunteer Opportunities

### Rocky Mountain National Park August Volunteer Opportunities

The Rocky Mountain National Park field season is upon us! The RMF chapter has been diligently assisting Chris Kennedy, Fish Biologist with the USFWS, for many years to restore cutthroat trout to RMNP. There are several opportunities in August. Most of which involved fishing!

#### August 2-4 Upper Hutcheson Lake

I need 2 more people to catch fish for me by hook-and-line so that we can collect tissue samples for a mercury project. This will be a camp out at Pear Lake, 6.6 mile hike with 2110 feet of elevation gain. Upper Hutcheson Lake is another 1.4 miles with a 1,400 foot elevation gain from Pear Lake. The goal for the first day is just to make it to Pear and set up camp. We will go to Upper Hutcheson on the 3rd and come out on the 4th. I do have mules scheduled to carry the gear in and out.

#### August 5 Sky Pond

I need as many people as I can get to catch fish for me by hook-and-line so that we can collect tissue samples for a mercury project. This is a day trip with Sky Pond being 4.5 miles from the trailhead with 1800 feet of elevation gain.

#### August 6 (Saturday) Lake Haiyaha

I need as many people as I can get to catch fish for me by hook-and-line so that we can collect tissue samples for a mercury project. This is a day trip with Haiyaha being 2.1 miles from the trailhead with 800 feet of elevation gain.

Check out the rest of this season's volunteer opportunities in RMNP by visiting <https://rmftu.org/rocky-mountain-national-park>

If you are able to volunteer for any dates, please email Chris directly at [chris\\_kennedy@fws.gov](mailto:chris_kennedy@fws.gov)



## Poudre Headwaters Project Volunteering

The summer is heating up, and so are opportunities to participate in a series of outstanding volunteer experiences in partnership with the US Forest Service! Below is a summary of upcoming events, each of which is available for signup at via the Rocky Mountain Flycasters website, [rmftu.org](http://rmftu.org) (click on the Volunteer button).

## VOLUNTEER

If you have expressed interest in participating in the Poudre Headwaters Project, this is your chance! I hope to see you at these upcoming events.

### Big South Angling Survey

- This is a continuation of our previous year's survey efforts, performing angling surveys with volunteers to determine the species composition and distribution within Big South Canyon of the Cache la Poudre River. For this survey, we need participants that are interested in the fishing/flyfishing role as well as scientific aid role responsible for measuring fish (length, weight, species). Must be comfortable walking down steep terrain with no established trail. Training before this event by a FS staff member and support will be provided throughout.
- **Dates:** September 12-15, 2022; 9:00am-4:00pm
- **Volunteer Needs:** 10-13 volunteers each day (3 anglers to 1 monitor/scientific aid)

### Mark and Recapture Fish Movement Study

- This is the final year of our fish movement study on the lower barrier site of the Poudre Headwaters Project. During the week-long effort, volunteers will have the opportunity to aid in this study. Some of the tasks may include aiding with electrofishing efforts, transporting gear to study site, transporting and releasing fish downstream of the study site, and aiding with the PIT tagging efforts. Please be prepared to hike at least 5 miles. Training and a project overview will be provided by a FS staff member and support will be provided throughout.
- **Dates:** September 26-29, 2022; 9:00am-4:00pm
- **Volunteer Needs:** 6-10 volunteers each day

### Poudre Headwaters Project Ambassador Program

- Do you enjoy fishing, science communication, and native trout conservation? Become a Poudre Headwaters Project Ambassador! Learn about the Poudre Headwaters Project, the largest native trout restoration project in Colorado, from the land managers and scientists working to restore greenback cutthroat trout to their historic range. Responsibilities include getting trained in project details and public communication from Forest Service staff and starting conversations with anglers and recreators around Long Draw Reservoir about greenback conservation. Come for the fishing, stay for the conversation.
- **Commitment:** Minimum of three 4hr shifts at Long Draw Reservoir over the summer (starting July 4<sup>th</sup>); flexible shift dates with preference for weekends.
- **Incentives:** Fishing opportunities in-between conversations and Poudre Headwaters Project swag!

### Stream Temperature Monitoring Program

- 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.
- Stream temperature is a critical factor for planning greenback cutthroat restoration efforts. Water temps that are too cold won't allow for populations to reproduce effectively and risk the long-term persistence of populations. Temps that are too warm or that might warm too much due to climate change also present challenges for persistence of populations. Deploying data loggers throughout the year, with a fall season retrieval, allows managers to select the ideal watersheds that will allow populations to flourish. Data from loggers managed by RMF has been instrumental in efforts to develop greenback projects in East Fork Roaring Creek, Williams Gulch, George Creek, and those yet to come.
- Several new locations have been deployed in Poverty Gulch and Boston Gulch, and there

is a need for RMF volunteers to retrieve that data in addition to the other program locations (25+). There is additional need to deploy a few new loggers this year, data which will be immediately used in determining viability for new projects to be implemented late in 2022 and early 2023.

- **Dates:** Throughout the summer and fall as volunteers are available and interested. Planning for a fall retrieval jamboree with overnight camping in Poudre Canyon and a blitz on data collection during the day. Phil Wright is your RMF lead on the program and sign-up is available through the RMF website volunteer portal.
- **Volunteer Needs:** The more the merrier! A short hike, some easy work, and some time to fish small streams! Data you collect means greenback on the landscape!

### Neota Creek and Long Draw Reservoir Aquatic Organism Passage Project

- Undersized culverts on forest system roads present a risk to infrastructure and fragment habitat. Located within the Poudre Headwaters Project (PHP), Neota Creek and an unnamed tributary to Long Draw Reservoir are important spawning and rearing habitats; but those streams have small, channel constricting culverts that will act as barriers to fish movement upon completion of the PHP greenback restoration efforts in Long Draw Reservoir. USFS staff will work with a select cadre of RMF volunteers to collect the necessary data to develop construction plans for building new structures that will provide for aquatic organism passage (AOP). Any skills in engineering, AutoCAD drafting, or topographic survey? We can use those!
- **Dates:** TBD but likely 3-4 days in August.
- **Volunteer Needs:** A dedicated, core 3-5 person group that can learn the methods and then educate other members and other chapters in region.

### Barrier Identification and Habitat Survey

- Barriers are another critical piece of greenback cutthroat restoration. Natural waterfalls and other features prevent invasion from those non-native species that would outcompete greenback. Many streams on Canyon Lakes Ranger District have not been surveyed for potential barriers. Volunteers will be supplied with maps of surveyable locations and a protocol for identifying likely barriers. A great opportunity to wet a line for some eager trout on tiny streams too!
- **Dates:** Throughout the summer as volunteers are available.
- **Volunteer Needs:** The more the merrier! A short hike, some easy work, and some time to fish small streams! Data you collect means greenback on the landscape!



## Donor Recognition Party

The riverfront of the Cache la Poudre at The Mishawaka Inn was the setting for RMFTU's first-ever Donor Recognition Party on July 23.

Sustaining Donors and other attendees enjoyed lunch outdoors, listened to brief remarks and had fun — and some fished in the Poudre.



- RMFTU's President Mark Miller expressed appreciation to all donors. He emphasized how not-for-profit RMFTU could not exist or conduct the many long-term programs without donors' generous financial support. Mark then described RMFTU's conservation, education and other programs.

- RMFTU's Financial Development chair Ron Hanser said our TU chapter now has 115 Sustaining Donors, including individuals and companies who each donated more than \$50 during the past year. Ron thanked donors, described the many ways to donate (money or in-kind gifts), encouraged donors to continue giving whatever they can, and asked them to encourage their friends and family to donate to RMFTU.

- Following lunch, several RMFTU donors, members and

guests fished in The Mishawaka's private stretch of the Poudre. Trout were caught — and released.

The volunteer subcommittee that planned this event included Ron Hanser, Zach Jory, Mark Miller and Tony Popp.

Thanks to all who attended!



## There's Still Time to Make a Difference!

Many thanks to all of you who have stepped up so far to help out with the conservation and education events we've had so far this summer! There is still a lot of important work to do, however, and your participation is more important than ever for the success of these initiatives. So, please try to find a project or two that you can help with. It may be a chance to spend some quality time with your partner, your kids, or even some time on your own!

Here are some upcoming conservation events you might want to consider participating in:

**Restock the Poudre!** As a result of the flash flood last year in Black Hollow, heavy siltation killed most of the fish in the Poudre River from that point to approximately 20 miles downstream. Colorado Parks and Wildlife is planning to stock approximately 115,000 rainbow trout in late August to repopulate fish in the Poudre, Colorado's only wild and scenic river. We'll need lots of help for this! Details and sign up are [here](#).

[Restock Details HERE](#)

Determine the impact of forest fires on the genetic diversity of trout populations. You can capture brook trout to assist CSU researchers in answering this question, as there are two opportunities coming up in August. You can find out more and sign up [here](#).



[Details HERE](#)

Big South Angling survey - here is a chance to fish the beautiful Big South Fork of the Poudre River in the name of science! We'll be working with the US Forest Service to determine trout species composition as part of the Poudre Headwaters Project (PHP). Those who participated last year know what a great time this is. Read more and sign up for this event [here](#).

[Big South Survey Details HERE](#)

Also related to the PHP is a stream temperature monitoring program. Temperature probes have been placed in drainages potentially suitable for greenback cutthroat trout reintroduction, and each year the temperature data needs to be collected and analyzed. There are lots of opportunities to get out and explore with this project! Find out more [here](#).

[Stream Temp Details HERE](#)

Habitat Survey and Barrier Identification - natural barriers, most commonly waterfalls, can serve as a great way to isolate fish populations upstream of the barrier. For the PHP to be successful, greenbacks need to be isolated from competing species such as brook trout. Help the US Forest Service determine where these are by hiking in areas of interest. Sound like fun? Additional information can be found [here](#).

[Habitat Survey Details HERE](#)

Poudre Headwaters Mark and Recapture Survey - this is the final year for studying how fish move up and down stream from the proposed lower barrier for the PHP. Volunteers will work with Forest Service fish biologists in a variety of capacities in this very important work, to be conducted in late September. Find out more [here](#).

[Mark & Recapture Survey Details Here](#)

Greenback Cutthroat Trout Stocking - another important PHP milestone will take place this fall when thousands of greenbacks will be placed into Williams Gulch in late September. The exact date is still being finalized, but please keep an eye out on RMF's [iVolunteer site](#) for updates and participate in this historic event!

[iVolunteer](#)

Again, thanks for all that you do to help RMF succeed in its many activities, none of which would be possible without the outstanding support we get from members like you who volunteer their time.

Scott Baily  
Conservation Chair, RMFTU



**Brookies Bash in RMNP**

At 6:45am on July 9<sup>th</sup>, thirteen enthused RMFC members met and launched our chapter's 11th annual Brookies Bash Fly Fishing Fun Trip on the Colorado River headwater reaches in RMNP. It was a glorious day, highway traffic enroute was light and the river flow was perfect. Eight of our group were welcomed being new or under two-years as TU members, and agreed it was a suitable and enjoyable chapter experience. Before heading home we also rewarded ourselves with an all-hands, delicious dinner at the Casa Grande Restaurant in Estes Park where we celebrated by telling *lies* stories and loudly sharing a lot of laughter. More good times, new friends and happy memories!



**Back Row:** Jeff Burgess, Roger Thompson, Scott Baily, Terry Gibbons, Mike Nichols, Bill Ottino, Dennis Cook

**Front Row:** John Wilson, Tony Popp, Ron Hanser, Bill Gillette, Jim Durante, Frank Reid



## Vince Herrera's St. Pete's Fly Fishing Report For August

Over the last several weeks we have had so many good opportunities to get out and enjoy time in the outdoors. We have had so much rain that vegetation is thriving, the rivers are flowing, hatches are hatching and the fish are fishing. High alpine season is here and this is our chance to get away from the heat and enjoy some of the secluded fishing that can be had just by hiking into some lakes. With temperatures rising into the high 80's and 90's it will be our responsibility to know the right times to be on the water. This will ensure that we keep the fish and the resource flourishing.

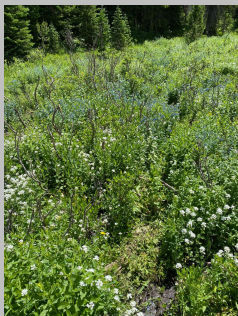
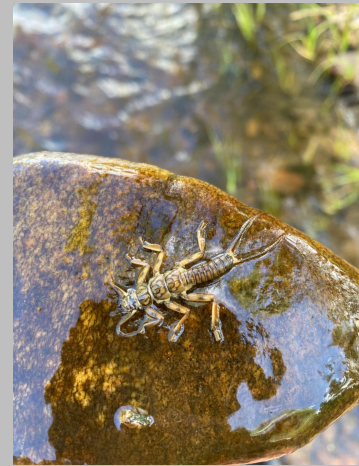


Beating the heat in the summertime isn't too hard to manage when you live in Colorado but for the avid fly angler this can throw a big wrench into your plans. We are lucky enough to be situated right at the base of the Rocky Mountains that are chalk full of rivers, creeks, streams, and high alpine lakes that are loaded with stocked and wild trout and they all share one thing in common: They want good water temperatures. When temperatures rise during the summer water gets hot very quickly and this will change the behavior and well being of trout. When water is too hot, oxygen becomes scarce. This supply of oxygen drives the metabolism in a trout telling them to eat, rest, hunt, etc. When air temperatures increase so will water temperatures and this makes dissolved oxygen hard to find in the water. Without good oxygen, fish know to hunker down to conserve this energy. The risk of feeding is not worth the reward to the fish so they will wait until water

temperatures and oxygen levels become ideal enough for their metabolism to keep functioning at optimal levels. This is why carrying a thermometer is so important during these hot months. When temping the river we should be looking for water that ranges between 50-60 degrees fahrenheit. This is when you will find fish the most active, spread out, and eating throughout the day. When temperatures exceed 60 degrees you can increase your tippet size to reel fish in quicker but generally it is best to avoid hurting the resource and locate some cooler water. After 65 degrees I tend to go chase some warm water critters, or even hit some high alpine lakes and

creeks. Cooler water can be found in higher elevations where the daily temperature is always a little lower and if I'm hot, sweaty, and uncomfortable when fishing then imagine how the trout feel. So let's head up to higher elevations.

Higher elevations offer some pretty awesome adventures and if you like wild fish, solitude, amazing views, and the occasional moose sighting then you will love it in the high country. With Cameron Pass, Rocky Mountain National Park and the Snowy Mountain Range all within a day's drive there are plenty of ways to access cooler temps, happy fish, and beautiful sights. The seasons begin much later in the high alpine and tend to pass by a little quicker so the fish really know that this is their time to eat as much as possible and will take advantage of a lot of the flies that hit the water. No matter where you choose to go, have some small ants, beetles, and hoppers. I've had some of my most memorable times throwing a single Para-Ant and sight fishing for trout in crystal clear waters. On top of the small terrestrials you will also want mayflies and caddis. A Parachute Adams in #24-16 will cover all the bases from tiny little midge adults all the way to Callibaetis adults for when they start eating from the top and a standard #14-18 Elk Hair Caddis is a great addition as well. You can also hang little nymphs below your hoppers and this will get some eats too. I like Tak's Crystal Chironomid #12 and Red Copper Johns in #20. I'll drop these anywhere from 1-4 feet below a hopper and let them soak along the drop offs until the hopper dunks. A drop is where you can see rocks along the shallow bottom and depth transitions from shallow to deep water where you can literally see the shelf of rocks drop off. You can spend the day walking around the lake looking for cruising fish after cruising fish or you can fish some of the small inlets and outlets to some of these lakes where you can find some beautiful trout. It's a blast. If you choose to hike far then that is when you will start to have an entire lake to yourself. Pure bliss. This season sticks around for about 3 or 4 months so take advantage of it now before it gets too cold for those fish up there.



Summer is our favorite season at St.Peter's and any of the employees at the shop will tell you just how fun it is to chase some of these high alpine destinations, hatches, and fish. The water is plentiful, dry-fly fishing is really good, and it feels good to have the extra daylight. We also have to know how to treat the resource with great care to ensure for more fun next summer and the years that will follow. Always remember that if you need help, we are here for you. It's what we truly love to do so stop by, ask questions, and enjoy your summer adventures out there.



## Video of the Month



Fly Fishing Colorado...  
Can anyone identify this spot???



# RMF Merchandise

We have the following items for sale to show your pride in our chapter:

- 1) Columbia shirts, men's and women's, long-sleeve
- 2) Caps (with logo badge sewn on front)
- 3) Yeti 20-ounce tumbler

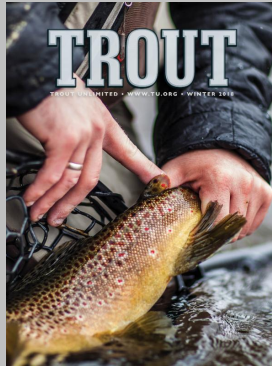
[Purchase RMF Merchandise](#)

[Make a Donation](#)



## Online Fly Fishing Magazines

HighCountry  
**Angler**



**MONTANA**  
FLY FISHING MAGAZINE

[Hatch Magazine](#)

The New  
**FlyFisher**

[Dun Magazine](#)



## Rocky Mountain Flycasters Sustaining Donors

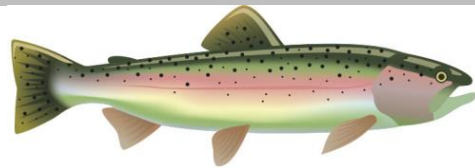


St. Peter's Fly Shop



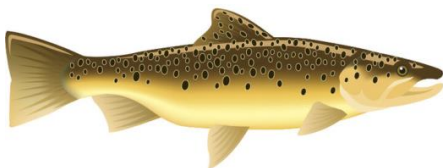
**Cutthroat Trout Donor**  
**(\$1000+)**

David Bowden  
Jeff and Michelle Burleson  
Art Campfield  
John and Tharon Deakins  
Frederick Ebert  
Gary Fonay  
Carl Kronberg  
The Nature Conservancy  
QDROMAN  
St. Peter's Fly Shop  
United Way of Larimer County



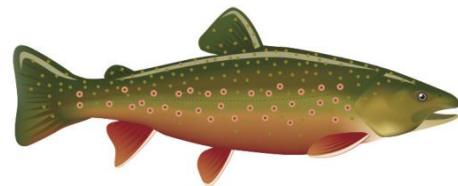
**Rainbow Trout Donor**  
**(\$500 - \$999)**

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Bob Green  
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Ronald Kee  
Mickey McGuire  
Odell Brewing Co.  
Eric Philp  
Rocky Mountain Angling Club  
Jay Weaver



**Brown Trout Donor**  
**(\$100 - \$499)**

Scott Baily  
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Stephen Brutscher  
Paul Bunker  
Business Card Factory of Colorado  
Community First Foundation  
Dennis and Teresa Cook  
Dennis and Sharon Cox  
John Craig



**Brook Trout Donor**  
**(\$50 - \$99)**

Benevity Community Impact Fund  
Bernard Birnbaum  
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Frank Cada  
David R. Campbell  
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Zach Jory  
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Rep Your Water  
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Rocky Mountain Flycasters  
[RMFTU.org](http://RMFTU.org)  
P.O. Box 1694, Fort Collins, CO  
80524-1694

