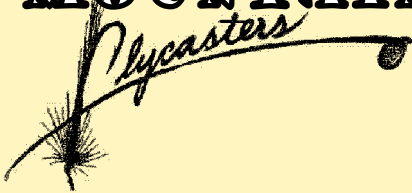


May 2005

FLY PAPER

**ROCKY
MOUNTAIN**



President's Beat

In February our Chapter provided 18 volunteers for the rooting of willow seedlings destined to improve the riparian habitat at Eagles Nest Open Space, on the North Fork of the Poudre River. On April 16, the volunteers planted those seedlings. Thanks to all, and all RMFC members should all be proud of this effort. See the article on the next page for more details.

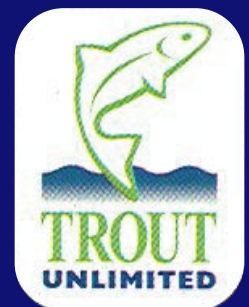
Our Membership meetings have been well attended, and the door raffles have provided sufficient funds to support the meeting expenses. The Board has been actively monitoring the issues related to the proposed sell-off of land along the Big T and its effect on public access to this important local resource. Board members have attended meetings related to the Northern Integrated Supply project (Glade Reservoir Proposal), The members can expect reports about these issues at the next General Membership meeting.

We will again replace the Catch and Release signs on the upper Big T. This year we will do another substantial clean-up activity in the Narrows State Wildlife Area on the Big T. Look for a chance to sign up for these activities at our next meetings.

Our annual Picnic will be in September. The date is Sunday September 18. Only a few of us have to work cooking hot dogs and hamburgers. The rest of you are required to have fun fishing at Sylvan Dale Ranch. Its our way of thanking you all for your volunteer efforts.

City Market Cares

City Market and King Soopers have value cards that shoppers use to get discounts at these stores. Chances are you already have one in your wallet. All you need to do to participate in their electronic fundraising program is sign up once. Then each time that you use your card to shop, the amount of your purchase is registered under the charity of your choice. Four times each year, the total amount registered to each charity is computed and a total of \$125,000 is distributed to the charities, proportional to the registered amounts. Colorado Trout Unlimited is one of the registered Charities. If you sign up as a CTU member, your purchases will add to the total. This costs you nothing, and only requires your effort to sign up. Sign up sheets will be available at our General meetings. The CTU funds will support stream improvement statewide through their mini-grant program.



www.rockymtnflycasters.com

Eagle's Nest Open Space: Willow Planting

What a day! With a pair of golden eagles soaring overhead, a coyote leading us in to the property, and mule deer greeting us at the North Fork, 16 RMF members and family joined the Larimer County Open Lands staff and about 25 or so other volunteers to plant nearly 1,000 willows, sumac, plum, and currant shrubs along and adjacent to the North Fork. The weather couldn't have been better! The RMF folks worked as a team planting about 200 willows and alder that we had collected six weeks ago and rooted in preparation for planting. Larimer County provided additional bare root seedlings. I kind of lost count, but at the very least the RMF folks planted the 200 or so willows we rooted and at least 225 more willows from the county. We also helped with some of the sumac, plum and currant. A fisherman never exaggerates so conservatively, I estimate that our RMF team planted more than 1/2 of the roughly 1,000 total shrubs planted!!

It was a great crew, made up of Ray & Judy Andrus; Ruth, Jim & Dean DeMartini; Lee Evans; Doug Jackman; Nick Haws; Phil Keller; Randy, Allie & Jackson Mergler; Phil & Logan Wright; Paul Wehr; and Bob Streeter. Special thanks to Jim DeMartini, Lee Evans, Phil Keller, & Randy Mergler for tending to the pails of rooting cuttings. Special recognition to Allie Mergler for wading the river and raiding the other group's bucket of willows so we could finish out our area! Thanks to RMF for some refreshments.

We all enjoyed the outing, being near the river and feeling its pull, and good camaraderie! Lee Evans taught several grasshoppers how to swim but did not bring any rises--he says that's the way he usually fishes, too!?!

Thanks again to all who participated this spring in the two days at Eagles' Nest. We will continue to work with Larimer County Open Lands and the Colorado Division of Wildlife to design further stream improvements and develop our long-term project there more fully. Stay tuned!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for Rocky Mountain National Park Lily Lake Greenback Patrol

This job helps the Park Law Enforcement Ranger inform the Public of the "Catch and Release" and barbless hook regulations at Lily Lake and help enforce the spawning area closure during spawning season. Volunteers wear the National Park Volunteer uniform and work on a chosen day of the week, either morning, afternoon or evening patrol from May through August.

You set your schedule and there is flexibility if you need to skip a week.

Contact Austin Condon at AWCFlash@AOL.com if you are interested in helping at Lily Lake.

Park Fishery Biologist Assistance

This job is helping the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Biologist with his greenback cutthroat trout research. There are varieties of jobs and you can pick the one that suits your time and stamina, as some of the work requires long hikes into remote areas of the Park.

Contact Dan Dilts at dldlmd@charter.net if you are interested in helping the Fish Biologist.

Both of these jobs, helping with the fisheries, at Rocky Mountain National Park are interesting and rewarding.

If you have any questions about either program please call John Barber at 970-593-1880

Phantom Canyon Public Fishing

by Ken Eis



For several years members of the local Fort Collins Trout Unlimited Chapter have administered The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) public fishing program. The program is designed to allow fly fishermen and women an opportunity to have a true wilderness fishing experience without going to Alaska or Mongolia. Phantom Canyon is about 4 miles North of Livermore, on US 287.

The program is in two parts. Each year a guide list is compiled for those qualified to guide TNC's guests into Phantom Canyon. Guides need to be competent fly fisher persons who are physically fit, capable of assisting TNC's guests and representing the Conservancy. If you wish to be considered for guiding please contact Ken Eis at eis@cira.colostate.edu. Title your email Phantom Canyon Guiding. Give Ken a short resume of your experience fishing, general health, any first aid experience, and any experience you have fishing in the Canyon

The second element of the program is a public lottery for typically 4 days of fishing, usually in the months of June and/or July. These four days are two Saturday/Sunday weekend days. On each day 6 pairs (a winner and his/her buddy) are met at TNC's gate by Conservancy personnel and the assigned guides. Everyone packs into a few cars for the drive into TNC's facility, given a briefing on the fishing and safety rules, and proceed the mile (600 feet down) to the river. The six 1-mile reaches are assigned to each pair of fishermen and the fishing day begins.

Although the details of the fishing are provided to the winners and guides each year, here are the basics. The actual fishing days are determined by TNC's staff and depend on the flow of the water in the Canyon, release schedule for Halligan Reservoir, and the water temperature.

Lottery Procedures:

1. Names are accepted starting 1 February each year. The only way to apply is via e-mail. Your e-mail should go to eis@cira.colostate.edu. Ken Eis administers the lottery from his office computer. Your e-mail should have the title Phantom Canyon Fishing, any other title is likely to be thrown away before reading in this day and age of spam and viruses. The email should give your partner's name as well and the dates you would like to be considered for. Everyone is then on Ken's list and will be notified of actual fishing dates if they have not already been published. The lottery is held publicly at a TU board meeting that is announced the month before. Yes you can witness the drawing. TU is always looking for new members for their board.
2. To qualify you need not be a TU or TNC member but still mindful of both organizations rules and sensibilities.
3. For updates on the lottery and fishing please go the Rocky Mountain Fly Caster web site: www.rockymtnflycasters.com

General Considerations:

1. Fishing is barbless hooks and flies only. No bait or spinners are allowed. The fisherperson's age is irrelevant. The fishing is catch and release only.
2. Fishing requires frequent wading across the river to follow the trail. So waders and the ability to wade in reasonably fast water is mandatory. Yes people can wet wade but the abundance of poison ivy along the trail and rattlesnakes makes bear legs problematic.
3. Only the fisherperson and their fishing buddy are allowed. Non-fishing buddies are not allowed. This is to allow the maximum number of fishing days possible. TNC has other days for non-fishers.
4. You can expect to walk from 3-7 miles on your fishing day. That includes 600 feet down and 600 feet out during the heat of the day. Most of us carry our waders, boots, fishing gear, lunch, and water down and put on the waders on at the river. At the end of the day everyone converts back to hiking boots, shorts, and backpacks for the climb out.
5. No alcohol is allowed on the TNC property.

The Fishing – We've saved the best for last. The fishing is wonderful. You can expect to catch browns and rainbows in the 10-26 inch class. A 16 incher is normal and will fight like a 20 incher since he is likely to have never felt a hook in his mouth before. The North Fork of the Poudre that runs through the Canyon is a series of rapids, riffles, and slow on-the-bend pools. Depending on water conditions the clarity of the water is usually from 6 inches to 3-4 feet. Like most of the rest of the Poudre this section is a freestone river with lots of nymphs. Stone fly patterns are always good. Although the guides always recommend nymphs, dry flies can and often do work. The fish are neither leader shy nor match-the-hatch technically picky.

May General Meeting

The Rocky Mountain Fly Casters will meet at the University Park Holiday Inn, 425 W. Prospect, on May 11. Social hour begins at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:00. If you haven't heard Don Davis of Great Western Flyfishing talk about nymphing you are in for a treat this month. His presentation is extremely interesting and infomative. Our last few meetings have been well attended and we appreciate your interest. Bring a friend. Admission is free and the public is welcome. This will be the last general meeting of the Rocky Mountain Flycasters until September. Come meet some fellow anglers, learn about local coldwater consevation and get a world-class education on nymph fishing.



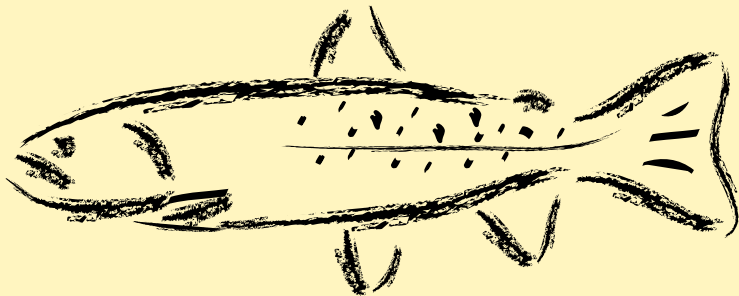
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Greg Evans, Secretary (gsevans@frii.com)	204-4004

Committee Directors:

Frank Cada, Web Master (fcada@yahoo.com)	667-7548
Chris Sheafor, Newsletter Editor (csheafor@healthdistrict.org)	224-1714
Bill Graham, Membership Director (billgr@oneimage.com)	667-4333
Membership Director	Vacant
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Greg Sheets, Big T Coordinator (gregorysheets@comcast.net)	667-8569
Glen Colton, Conservation Liaison (glenc1@attbi.com)	225-2760
Ralph Kronkow (kronk1@oneimage.com)	203-1931
Marsh Ragland (marsh@pcisys.net)	(303)776-9786
Lee Evans, Program Director (sevans@frii.com)	204-4004
Mark Graumlich (mgraumlich@agree.com)	204-0911



Calendar of Events

**Rocky Mountain Flycasters
General Meeting, Wednesday
6:30 PM, May 11 at The
University Park Hyatt/Holiday
Inn in Ft. Collins.**

**May Board Meeting on the
17th at The Depot in Loveland.**

**Board Meetings will also be
held June 14th and August
16th at the Depot.**

**We have a cleanup project at
the Narrows SWA in the Big
Thomson Canyon planned for
May 21. We will also be plac-
ing Catch and Release Signs
along the Big Thompson River
that day.**

**Our Summer Party will be
September 18th at Sylvan Dale
Ranch.**

