



June 2016

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Forward to a Friend

From the President

She stood on the bank to my right gangly wielding the fly rod as though it were a flyswatter. She’d missed three brookies in a row that rose the deer-hair ant pattern by awkwardly jerking the fly from their open mouths. Twice I had untangled the resulting effect from the small tree behind us.

“Be patient,” I said in my best counselor voice. “Just wait for it. Let the next one close its mouth and then just lift the rod. Don’t jerk it. Lift it.”

I could sense her energy like that of a thoroughbred in the gates at the Kentucky Derby, all tension and nerves, almost quivering with excitement. But then the stars aligned. A ten-inch Rocky Mountain National Park Brooke Trout-willingly impaled himself on her fly and the battle began.

“Keep the tip up,” I shouted. “Keep a bow in the rod. Reel! Reel! Stop! Okay lift your arms straight up!” And with that she guided her first trout on the fly into my waiting net.

She squealed with delight like a soccer mom at her six-year-old’s first goal. But then she was a soccer mom from Nebraska and catching the first of what would be several trout that fine August afternoon on the upper Big T. That day will likely live in her memory for years to come and draw her back to the mountains again and again.

This was a typical but always enjoyable experience for me guiding first-time fly fishers on our home waters. There’s nothing quite like the experience of catching your first trout on a fly rod. I remember my first as you likely do yours. The tug, as has been well said, is the drug.

I am excited as well as apprehensive to accept the office of President of Rocky Mountain Flycasters. There is so much to learn and so much to be accomplished. However, I am absolutely passionate about the experience of fly-fishing and the conservation efforts that must be accomplished to ensure we have great cold-water fisheries for generations to come.

By way of introduction, I am a native Texan, where I spent much of my life, before falling in love with the Rocky Mountains. I have a wide range of professional experience including pastoral care, corporate chaplaincy, non-profit manage-



Coy Wiley, 2016-2017 President Rocky Mountain Flycasters

ment, human resources, corporate training, client expansion and motivational speaking. I've been a professional fly-fishing guide and a professional musician. and am a licensed Colorado Real Estate Broker with The Group Inc. Real Estate. I've been a member of TU for 3 years and live in Loveland.

I look forward to the next year of serving at your side in RMF. I hope to get to know you better whether we have fly rods, shovels or cold beers in our hands. Let us never take for granted the gifts and opportunities that are ours.

Finally, I want to introduce you to our other new officers. As you will see (immediately below the Chapter Event Calendar) they are an exceedingly talented and committed group. I am very pleased and proud to serve with them.

Coy Wylie, President
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

[Chapter Event Calendar on our web site](#)



Filling up the Calendar

Our calendar pages are some of the most frequently visited on our web site. Wouldn't it be great to see your own pictures displayed there? There are many opportunities for months into the future. Pictures that are well-lit, in focus, on TU topic, and a minimum of 530 pixels wide and 400 pixel in height. Send a copy of fishing or conservation-related pictures to:

[Paul Wehr, Webmaster](#)



2016-2017 Rocky Mountain Flycasters Officers and Trustees

Vice-President Mickey McGuire



Mickey joined the Rocky Mountain Flycasters about five years ago and became more active in 2015 after retiring from the USDA's Agricultural Research Service. He conducted fundamental and applied agricultural entomology and served the last 10 years of his career in administration. He now resides in Loveland with his wife, Vonne Zdenek, who is a Master Gardener and is active in water issues with the League of Women Voters.

Treasurer Tom Culbertson

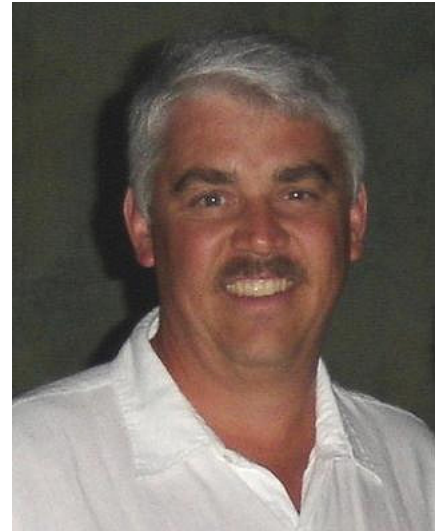


Tom is a retired (2009) businessman with a background in public accounting, auditing and executive management. He is married (to Gayle) and has two children and one grandchild. His hobbies include restoring old cars, sailing, fly fishing, bowling and loafing.

Secretary Lance Asherin

Lance has been a TU member for several years now and has been the acting secretary for the Rocky Mountain Flycasters for past two. He works as a forester for the Rocky Mountain

Research Station in Fort Collins. Lance has lived off and on in Fort Collins since 1977. He is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys an occasional round of golf.



Trustee At Large and Membership Chair Linda Jefferies



Linda Jefferies is a native of Colorado and a long time northern Colorado resident. She holds a Bachelor of Science co-degree in Zoology and Biology from Colorado State University with graduate work in Cell and Molecular Biology and Entomology. She has over 15 years of experience as an analytical chemist, and currently works on food oil chemistry at Cargill, Fort Collins. Linda became a lifelong advocate for conservation through her work with the Youth Conservation Corps at Rocky Mountain National Park. This along with her 20 years of involvement as a member and Northern Colorado leader for Camp Fire Boys and Girls solidified her resolve to promote youth activity outdoors. In addition to Camp Fire, Linda has other non-profit involvement with organizations such as The Gillette Entomology Club, and Women in Science at CSU and Northern Colorado Networking Group. She currently serves as the Membership and Woman's Initiative chairperson for RMF. As Trustee at-Large she intends

to continue her work with membership and women's initiative outreach while, promoting cold water conservation, youth outdoor education and active involvement and retention of all RMF members.

Trustee At Large and Program Chair Domingo Rodriquez

Domingo, born and raised in Loveland, has been an angler since he was about 8 yrs old. An uncle (Joe) is responsible for getting him "hooked". He fished for bass, walleye, and catfish growing up. and began fly fishing only 4 years ago. However, he quickly morphed into the role of chapter expert in Czech Nymphing. For the last 17 years Domingo has worked for Mortenson Construction, the last 5 as a Safety Engineer. He



has been a member of RMF for 3 years, 2 as Trustee at large and Program Chair. Domingo enjoys meeting and making new friends and particularly likes RMF fishing trips as well as opportunities to volunteer “on the stream”.

Past President Wil Huett



Wil is an RMF treasure. He started fly fishing for bass in Iowa farm ponds, failed to catch his first fly-rod trout in northwest Nebraska, and has been trying to make up for that failure ever since. He first joined Trout Unlimited in the early to mid 80's, very near the inception of the RMF chapter, and continues as a Lifetime TU Member. Wil retired from the American Red Cross of Montana in 2006 after a distinguished non-profit career, but is well known in the Fort Collins community as a radio broadcaster and administrator, where he served the community for 20 years. Will has lived in Ft Collins since 1971.



June Youth Outreach

Youth Day Camp - Volunteers Sign-Up



Dennis Cook, Youth Outreach Coordinator



Rain or shine..real fishermen!

RMF's (7th annual) Youth Day Camp schedule has been finalized...and it's time for volunteer instructors and mentors to sign up. Your earliest possible volunteer response will be important, to make up for the several weeks delay this year. A PDF of the camp schedule can be [downloaded from our web site](#).

A Volunteers Sign-Up Matrix showing all major volunteer opportunities can be accessed on our [Day Camp Volunteer page](#). You may sign up for a single or multiple activities, but must sign up separately for each separate activity.

- Click on each Activity of your choice - one activity block at a time.
- Insert your name, email address and phone number (cell preferred).
- Click to send each activity selection as a separate automated email. Then move on to the next box(s) and

repeat the same process one block at a time.

- You will receive a separate confirmation email within several days from Dennis for each activity you have selected. If you do not, then send an email to **Dennis Cook**.
- We need volunteers to sign up ASAP to ensure we have enough Instructors, Mentors, etc.

Camp is already 2/3 full and the Coloradoan advertisement is scheduled to run twice more, so based on past years' experience we expect a full acceptance of 15 campers. If you know of any ages 14-17 boys or girls who you think may be interested, please encourage them to hurry and download an Application Packet by clicking here.

Please note: At least an average skill competency is necessary to volunteer for each listed activity...and is essential for casting, fly tying and the Thursday & Saturday fishing trips.

We're looking forward to hosting another group of terrific young people, and helping them progress to better understand the need for coldwater conservation and to learn fly fishing skills to establish a lifelong pastime linked to the natural outdoors. If you have any questions, please either email or call me.

Boy Scouts Fly Fishing Merit Badge

Our chapter now has a member approved as a certified Fly Fishing Merit Badge Counselor. But just one is not enough. We could use a half-dozen.

We are recruiting for six members to apply for FF-MB certification. Average fly fishing competency and basic insects/fly familiarity is required, of course. Beyond that it's not difficult but does require completing an application, agreeing to have a background investigation performed and then waiting about a month for official approval.

FF-MB requirements can be accessed online at http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Fly_Fishing

RMF has accepted on short notice to begin a FF-MB program with a local troop, and on Monday, June 6th will kick off the program at a troop meeting. At least one instructional weekday fishing evening (possibly June 13th) will also be held, and then those Scouts who want to proceed will be identified.

If necessary our single counselor can handle the June 6th meeting, and any interested member is invited to accompany and become part of working with the scouts under the certified counselor's coordination.

Please contact Dennis Cook at (970) 372-9229 or **email** to initiate becoming a counselor, or to discuss any questions.



2016 Children's Water Festivals A "Silver" Success

2016 marked the 25th anniversary of the beginning of the Children's Water Festival program in Northern Colorado. The Children's Water Festivals are designed to augment the water study units mandated by the state of Colorado for elementary aged students. These events are sponsored by municipal utility departments such as Ft. Collins Utilities, Greeley water and wastewater departments, Loveland Water and Power, Loveland Public works and water providers including Central Colorado Water Conservancy District and Northern Water. The overall goal is to raise the awareness



Wil Huett instructs young attendees at Water Festival

of our young people about how important the wise use and conservation of our water resource is in all aspects of their lives. We are involved with three Northern Colorado cities, Greeley, Loveland, and Ft. Collins with a collective attendance of well over 3,000 students each year. A little over 10% of that number passes through the classrooms where Rocky Mountain Fly Casters do their presentations.

Rocky Mountain Flycasters presents a program called “Who Eats Who at the Stream”. We conduct an interactive, hands (and feet) on skit type of activity where the students role play and learn about three of the main characters found in a typical stream—aquatic insects, trout, and terrestrial predators, including fishermen. Through enacting the roles that the three main characters have



Water Festivals Coordinator Jerry Pelis talks to captivated young audience



The feet of participants during a conservation game at Water Festival

in the stream, students learn how each one interacts with and is dependent upon the other and how each of the life cycles overlap and benefit the others. Most importantly, the crucial role that cold, clean water plays in the survival and well being of all the stream creatures is emphasized. A brief discussion follows to point out what all of us can do to help conserve water and insure a flow of cold, clean water in our streams. Each student in each class participates in the sometimes chaotic scenarios. This year 364 students and 16 teachers “got their feet wet” in our simulated stream.

This year marks the fifth year that Rocky Mountain Flycasters has participated in the Children’s Water Festivals and the fifth year that the silver lining created by the amazing RMF volunteers has shown through. No

event that we do from the planning stages through the event itself and the clean up afterwards can be possible without the cadre of dedicated, willing volunteers. The Children’s Water Festival is certainly no exception. Volunteers were on hand to stuff the goodie bags, commute some distance to the events, and patiently explain to wide eyed elementary kids why a great blue heron swallows its’ prey head first and that all trout are not rainbows. It appeared that the volunteers had as much fun as the kids. Many, many thanks to this years’ terrific volunteers - Paul Wehr, Domingo Rodriquez, David Piske, Lee Fritz, Jim Danforth, David Morse, Linda Jefferies, Wil Huett, Jane Vajrt, and Jerry Pelis. A special thanks goes to Wil Huett who kindly took the lead at the Ft. Collins Festival. Each of the three events this year welcomed a new volunteer who joined us for the first time. When you see any of these volunteers, please extend a big thank you to them for their dedication and efforts and ask them about what the experience was like. We would be most happy to have you join us next year.

Jerry Pelis, *Water Festivals Coordinator*



June Conservation Notes



Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

Rivers and Trails Restoration Projects

With the change of seasons from Spring towards Summer our recent series of riparian vegetation plantings pauses until Autumn. But when you are fishing in the Poudre or Big Thompson watersheds, take a few minutes to look at the new growth in re-vegetated areas. On the Skin Gulch tributary, look about a quarter-mile upstream of its confluence with the Poudre. In the Big Thompson watershed look at the lower North Fork of the Big Thompson just upstream from Drake.

For the next several months our opportunities for volunteers shift to the more traditional affiliations that Rocky Mountain Flycasters sustains with Fort Collins Natural Areas at Gateway Natural Area, on July 23, and three days with the Nature Conservancy at its Phantom Canyon Preserve on July 31, August 21, and September 18. And please do remember that each of those projects has post-project time allotted for fishing towards the end of each day. More information about each of those projects can be found on our web site.

Farewell and Welcome

In the past month, we have honored Heather Knight for her two decades of outstanding leadership in preserving and protecting Phantom Canyon's unique natural qualities, including its remarkable rainbow and brown trout self-sustaining populations. In her retirement Heather remains in this area and has accepted a position at CSU involving its education of graduate students heading for careers involving the environmental sciences.

I hope that each of you who participate in the Phantom Canyon activities will soon meet Heather's successor, Sally Ross. In my brief-so-far acquaintance with Sally, I am enthused that the Preserve will continue to have energetic and deeply engaged leadership from Sally and her assistant, Milagra Bock.

Rocky Mountain National Park Fishery Research Projects

Again this year, Chris Kennedy, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist assigned to the Park for summer research projects, has a full schedule of trips into the Park's backcountry, beginning in July, snowmelt progress permitting. On Wednesday June 8, Chris will reveal the locales and astounding scenery for each of his projects, all of which are dependent upon volunteers to accomplish their missions. Chris, who has also been a key party in discovering the genetics of Greenback Cutthroat trout, will also speak on that subject during the meeting of the TU chapter host, Alpine Anglers in Estes Park. The location is the local History Museum on 4th Street, Estes Park, and the time is 7:00 PM, June 8.

To contact me about any of our conservation projects conserve@rockymtnflycasters.org.

Adopt-a-Trail Project with Ft Collins Natural Areas Dept

We will be heading up to Gateway Park for our annual TU trail maintenance project along the Poudre River on Saturday, July 23rd. We will meet at Gateway at 8:30 a.m. and will work through the morning. We may be improving the trail surface, building rock steps or pruning brush. Lunch, tools, water and guidance will be provided. We need a dozen people to make this an effective day. Bring gloves, long sleeve shirt and pants, and sun protection. Entrance is free for volunteers and you can stay and fish in the afternoon. Please email me (below) if you plan to come so we can have a good lunch count.

--Dave Morse, Adopt-a-Trail Coordinator (dgmorse45@gmail.com)



Dave Morse, Adopt-a-Trail

USFS Kids Free Fishing Day

Saturday, June 4, 2016

West Lake at Red Feather Lakes, CO

8:30 - 1:30

Don't forget to bring the kids to the free fishing day at West Lake in Red Feather. Each registered kid will get a free rod and an opportunity to catch fish with help from Forest Service personnel and volunteers from RMF. Register at <https://canyonlakesrangerdistrict-kids-fishing-fest-2016.eventbrite.co.uk>

NOTICE: I could still use around 5 more volunteers for the event. Volunteers show up on the north side of West Lake at 8:15 and get instructions. Mostly, we'll be helping kids use their new spin rods. It is always a fun day and the kids' parents really appreciate us! If you can help out, let me know at leesandie@msn.com

Opportunities

For Sale



I have a canoe for sale. It is getting to be a bit much for me to get on and off my car and has seen little use in the past couple of years. It is an L L Bean, Old Town Discovery Sport which I believe is 16' 9" in length. It is a square end canoe with a wooden motor mount which is rated for up to a 5 hp motor. It has oar locks and oars, two paddles, can comfortably seat four people and is rated for 850lbs (people, motor and gear). There is also a

3.5hp Tohatsu outboard motor (canoe is rated for up to 5 hp), and an electric trolling motor that has been used with the canoe also for sale. Located in Fort Collins. Contact **Guy Turenne**, phone **970-377-2814**

For Bass Anglers

John Lindsey of Lindsey and Associates (Vancouver, Washington) has asked us to make our bass anglers aware of a new bass website bigbassflyfishing.com that's devoted to "anglers targeting 4-5 pound bass" on top water. John will make a \$50 cash contribution to RMF when/if our members purchase \$500 worth of merchandise. If you purchase something John asks that you enter our organizations name (Rocky Mountain Flycasters) in the PayPal Notes section and he will credit the amount to RMF.

Would You Like to be the RMF Treasurer?

Tom Culbertson, our current treasurer, has agreed to serve until we can recruit someone to take his place. The treasurer job requires some fundamental accounting skills. If you are a practicing accountant or a CPA, this will be an excellent place for you to make a contribution. If you are interested in the position or merely want more information, please contact Tom at srrealty45@gmail.com or 970-541-7029 or 970-685 1401 (cell).



Let's Go Fishing 2016

The Remaining 2016 "Let's Go Fishing" Trips

Listed below are the remaining trips we hope to take in 2016. Or sign up on line on our chapter website or contact me flytyer.miller@gmail.com or 970-744-8229 (cell).

We have quite a mix of fishing destinations for 2016. Hopefully there is something for you on this list. We'll go after big rainbows in June near Laramie at Twin Buttes. June and July will bring a chance to catch grayling and cutthroats in two beautiful high country lakes. Dennis will again host a fun-filled day of small stream fishing with dry flies on the Colo River headwaters in RMNP. Sep and Oct will take us to some water that most people have not fished - the Yampa River at Steamboat Springs, and the Frying Pan and Roaring Fork rivers near Glenwood Springs. We hope you will join us for all the fun!



Mark Miller, Let's Go Fishing Coordinator

- **14 May** - Big Thompson below Lake Estes - Host needed for this trip!
- **4 June** - Twin Buttes Reservoir near Laramie - Host: Frank Cada (float tubes recommended but not mandatory). Need a WY license.
- **25 June** - Joe Wright Reservoir - for Grayling - Host: Dave Morse
- **9 July** - Lake Agnes - Cutthroats (near Cameron Pass) - Host: Dave Morse
- **20 August** - RMNP Colorado Headwaters - Host: Dennis Cook
- **16-18 September** - Yampa Tailwater - Host: Dennis Cook
- early Oct - Frying Pan/Roaring Fork- date to be determined - Host: Ben Zomer

Fly Fishing Video

John Ender, a fly fishing filmmaker attended our recent Festival at ODells. He sent Coy, our president, a brief video he made about fly fishing passion. I thought readers of *Let's Go Fishing* would be particularly interested. All you need to do is click here. The film was produced by Sciacca Productions (sciaccaproductions.com), who hired EnderPost Inc. (EnderPost.com) to edit the piece.

Questions? Contact: Email **Mark Miller** at or call 970-744-8229 (cell).



Sustaining Donors

Rocky Mountain Flycaster Sustaining Donors



St. Peter's Fly Shop



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- Dr. Ron Sheets Memorial
- Greg Evans
- Bob Green
- Dave Piske
- Frank Cada
- Vicky Russell
- Tom Culbertson
- Yang Qian &
- Edward McConnaughey
- Lee Evans
- Wil Huett
- Marc McKenzie
- Robert Streeter
- Jax Fish House
- Jay's Bistro
- Dave Mosnik
- Eric Reckentine
- Domingo Rodriguez
- Steve Schweitzer
- Thomas VerStraate
- Yampa Valley Anglers
- Robert H. Hillen Memorial
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- CooperSmith's
- Mawson Lumber
- Rare Italian
- Sears Trostel Lumber
- Sonny Lubicks
- The Kitchen
- Wabi Sabi



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