



December 2018

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From the President

December 2018

Greetings all. I am writing this on the day after our fantastic Guest Night Chapter meeting. What a great success as more than 100 people attended and 18 new people joined our membership list! Many thanks go to our leadership team for helping organize the event and, especially to Odell's for donating beer for the evening. I would also like to thank the Fort Collins Senior Center for providing staff to ensure we stayed within TU and SC policies regarding the serving of alcohol. It worked so well, we may try to do this again. I don't know about you but I thought the presentation by Domingo was outstanding as we learned about European nymphing and how that style of fishing can improve our success.



Mickey McGuire, RMF President

A couple of notes from the Board of Trustees:

First, I was sad to receive a letter from Linda Jefferies our Vice President requesting to step off the board due to health issues. I promised her that after her recovery, we would welcome her back with open arms. We are very fortunate to have Colin Glover has accepted our nomination to serve as the new VP.

Colin leaves his post as Trustee at Large which creates a vacancy on the board. Anyone interested in this position should contact Dennis Cook, Chair of our newly formed Leadership Development/Nominations Committee for further information.

Second, we have signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Platte River Veterans Fly Fishers which, formalizes our partnership with them. We have been involved with their organization for the past two years and we see this as the next step to increasing our cooperation with them and they with us; contact Dave Morris for further information.

Please remember that in lieu of our General Chapter Meeting in December, we will instead hold our annual Holiday party. This year, it will be held December 14 at C.B Potts, Colindale. It is always a lot of fun so plan to attend! Please see further informa-



tion about this within the Newsletter. You can purchase your tickets online at nocotu.org/S/18holiday for \$15 by Tuesday December 11 or at the door for \$20. C.B. and Potts is located at 1441 East Horsetooth Road in Fort Collins. This is a really fun event and I hope to see you there.

Until next month,

Mickey McGuire
President

P.S. Click here to read the latest *Coloradoan* story on latest on Poudre fish kill

Holiday Party



We're getting ready for our Annual Holiday Party by selecting a special White Elephant gift and picking out a few flies to share on the Fly Trees. We'll start celebrating at 6:30 pm on December 14 at C.B & Potts Collindale and have a terrific party until about 9 pm.

It's time now to purchase your reservation tickets now online so we can better plan how much food to order. Food, cash bar, gift exchange, new rod raffle, and two fly tree raffles! And, of course, some camaraderie and fish stories with other members.

After Tuesday December 11, tickets at the door will be \$5 more! See more on our [Holiday Party page](#).

Other Events in December



Board Meeting: December 12 at 7:00 PM, Mulligan's. Everyone is invited to attend.



Holiday Party: December 14 at C.B. and Potts (Collindale) 6:30-9:30 PM.



Fly Swap: The Fly Swap fly for December Meeting/Holiday Party is "Winter Stoneflies, for example Little Black Stone, Prince Nymph, etc." Tyers who have not signed up should email Dave Morse of their intention to participate. He will let all those signed up know how many flies they will need to make. Contact [Dave Morse](#) to sign up.

Fish of a Lifetime!



Charlie Byrne, a friend from the Outer Banks of North Carolina and I accompanied Jin Choi and 6 other anglers on a St. Peter's Fly Shop-sponsored fishing trip to Cuba. We had a wonderful six days, catching lots of big bonefish and chasing the ever-elusive permit in an unbelievable setting. We saw no other boats but our own over 6 full days of glorious fishing in the Caribbean. On the last day of our trip, Nelson, our assigned guide for the day, told us to be ready to encounter Tarpon.

Upon leaving the marina, we spent a few of the morning hours catching bonefish. I've included a photo of Charlie with one of these. If you haven't caught a bonefish you might consider reserving a primary place for them on your bucket list. Pound for pound these must be among the most aggressive fish in any type of water. They almost always take you to your backing and make your reel scream. I would have been happy spending the rest of the day admiring and fighting these supercharged creatures. Like Jimmy Valvano, they never give up.

But Nelson had other ideas. We boated to a cozy little inlet after a brief ride over the teal waters. There was no wind, the water was clear as a Rocky Mountain stream, and the sun was shining. Perfect conditions, I am told, for observing and catching Tarpon.

Nelson wanted to see our shock leaders. That's when I discovered I had left my newly purchased leaders back at the hotel.

This did not deter us, however. Nelson quickly

jerry rigged a braided, saltwater leader that Charlie brought. He then asked to see our flies. After rejecting all of our combined assets (Jin Choi tells me that rejecting client flies is a common affliction among salt water guides), he selected a brown Tarpon Bunny. It looked like a mouse to me.



Almost as soon as we began to cast our eyes out over the water, we discovered we must be in Tarpon heaven. The water was literally full of these playful, silvery fish (Nelson said he saw 15). And, immediately Charlie hooked up to one of the thrashing beauties. The fish was about 20-30 pounds and jumped several times in the air. But Charley was able land him after a 10 to 15 minute fight. We were thoroughly excited by the size and marine antics of this guy. Although he jumped out of Charlie's hands and the boat before I could snap a picture, we had a Tarpon in the boat!

Then, it was my turn. I had hooked a Tarpon in Mexico about a year ago. I only remember that it took a lot of effort, sometimes repeatedly, to securely set the hook. I was ready this time.

In what seemed like only a few minutes I was able to sight cast to a huge Tarpon. Surprisingly, he took the Tarpon Bunny immediately and the fight was on. This was a big fish! Our guide estimated him at 80 pounds.

The fight lasted 45 minutes and was "sound and fury" from beginning to end. Charlie and Nelson encouraged and shouted supportive comments throughout the fight. I was encouraged to anticipate the jumps

and to kneel down when the fish was getting ready to jump. It seems to me that he jumped 6 to 8 times, maybe more. And, the sound of an 80-pound fish jumping seemed like a human jumping into the water. Or, at least that's how I remember it.



After 30 minutes or so, when the fish seemed tired, Nelson surprised me by jumping into the waist deep water. He tried to “land” the fish by the line. But, the fish was having none of it and took off for another 15 minutes of the continuing fight. Nelson got back into



the boat and repeated his attempts to secure the fish in the same way for 3 or 4 times before the fish finally was beaten.

When Nelson had secured the fish, Charlie and I jumped in the water for pictures, post mortems and admiration. We all were yelling at one another, giving high fives, taking photos and proudly acting like adolescent boys. Even after we had revived and released the fish, we remained in the water for a while to contemplate what we had witnessed and experienced.

I don't expect to catch another 80-pound fish (although I will continue to try). This was truly my fish of a lifetime! I will never forget it.



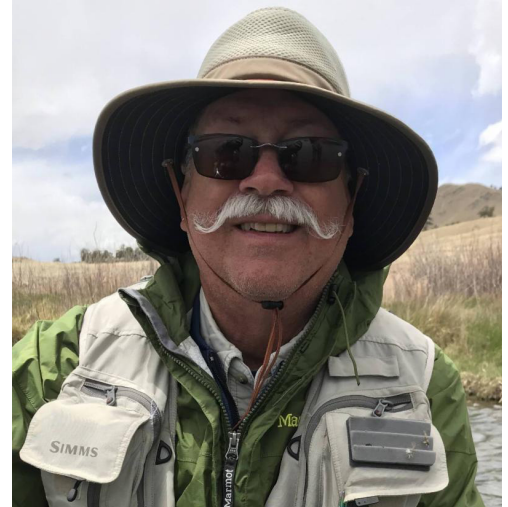
Editor's Note: I did leave one thing out. I caught a terrible case of e coli in Cuba. Actually, my flu was active on the Friday I caught the fish. 12 days of the worst experience of my life. But, I would endure the e coli again to just catch that fish. In a New York minute! —Bob Green

From Phil Wright, Our Volunteer Coordinator

I would like to thank you all for your efforts this field season. We installed 15 temperature sensors, and we took on the responsibility to visit and download data from 4 additional sensors that were previously installed by the Forest Service, for a total of 19 stream temperature sensors on various tributaries in the upper Poudre River watershed.

This fall the team was able to visit 14 of the 19 temperature sensor locations. Data retrieval continued into November but as the photo of Guy Turenne taken on Fall Creek on November 9 shows, the field season is now at a close. (Guy and I could not stand in Fall Creek but we could stand on Fall Creek.)

Next field season we will make plans to visit and download temperature sensor data after water levels fall and we will try to complete our tasks before the streams ice up again. On Thursday November 15, several of the team were able to meet up on short notice (I am sorry for the short notice) at Odell Brewing and raise a beer (or two) to recap and discuss the field season and our lessons learned. Several observations were made, some of which I will repeat here.



Phil Wright, Volunteer Coordinator



Guy Turenne at Fall Creek in November

There was general interest in learning more about and becoming more proficient in the use of our smartphones for GPS mapping while we are in the field. We each shared our experiences with a variety of smartphone apps and map sources for mapping, tracking and capturing GPS coordinates. It was suggested that we might plan to get together during the off season this winter to share additional mapping and GPS skills and learning. I think another get together or two at Odell to discuss mapping would be a good use of time and I will plan to call a meeting or two on this subject during the off season.

Another suggestion was discussed concerning improving the design of the tidbit sensor housings to make installation and data retrieval

quicker and easier (we have some engineers in the group and they are always working on “continuous improvements”). There was also discussion of connecting with other groups and personnel that we understand are interested in stream monitoring efforts and in some cases are already monitoring stream temperatures in the region. We observed that the RMF membership and other members of the community seem to value stream monitoring efforts in general, are strongly supportive of such efforts, and are willing to volunteer. We plan to reach out to additional interested parties to build further support and volunteer participation for our stream monitoring programs.

Please make note that Rocky Mountain Flycasters stream temperature monitoring project is a part of a larger monitoring project involved in native trout restoration.

Dan Omasta of Colorado Trout Unlimited wrote to the temperature logger team saying thank you all for your outstanding work on this stream monitoring project. What started as a small grant with “20 or so sites” spread across the Front Range has blossomed into a robust citizen science effort that has helped provide signif-

icant data to the Greenback Recovery Team and our agency partners. You all took a basic idea of a project and turned it into something impactful and long-lasting. On behalf of Colorado Trout Unlimited, we thank you all for your hard work and passion for this recovery effort. These sites will play an important role in the selection and development of future recovery efforts and will provide the baseline data and context for river management into the future. Here at CTU, we are so proud of the quality and passion of our volunteers. Thank you all for what you do for TU and your watershed.”

If you are interested in participating in the stream temperature monitoring project or would like additional information please contact me by email at philwright@ieee.org.

Again, I thank the temperature logger team for your interest and participation in RMF’s stream monitoring efforts. I look forward to building project capabilities and establishing a substantial database of stream data going forward. See you on the stream.

2019 Volunteer Orientation Meeting

Rocky Mountain Flycasters will again hold a Volunteer Orientation Meeting at 7:00-9:00 PM on Thursday January 10, 2019. Please put the January 10, 2019 meeting date on your calendar. Further details and the meeting location will be available soon and will be distributed by email and in the January RMF Newsletter, *The Flypaper*.

At this Volunteer Orientation Meeting you will again have an opportunity to speak with Project Coordinators across the entire range of volunteer opportunities with RMF and its partner organizations. The evening’s program will include a few minutes of introduction, some question and answer time, and then a chance to visit with the leaders of all the projects that capture your interest.

We hope to see you there. Watch your email inbox and the next Flypaper Newsletter for a link to sign up and express your interest in attending the 2019 Volunteer Orientation Meeting. Thanks again, I look forward to seeing you at the orientation session and on the stream soon after that.

—Phil Wright

Yellowstone Anyone?

Volunteers Needed for Yellowstone National Park Fisheries Work

I read an article in our November newsletter with great interest, as I’m sure some of you did also. If anyone would like to volunteer (July and August of 2019), I would be happy to help you contact the program’s point of contact. Just let me know you are interested by calling me at 970-744-8229. Getting directly involved in “boots on the ground” fisheries work is very rewarding, as many of you know. And getting to do this work in YNP makes it even more exciting. I’m not sure I should use the word “work” though. Anytime work involves a flyrod in my hand all day . . . well, that’s just plain fun! (Mark Miller)

St. Peter's Fly Fishing Forecast for December

Well...Its crazy to say this but December is here! It feels like just yesterday the leaves were changing and the trout were sipping on BWO's and other small Mayflies like it was going out of style.

December is a time where the clothing you wear and the gear your bring with you can make or break the day. Be prepared for cooler temps with tons of insulated gear and some GorTex Waders! Now, just because its Winter-time in Colorado doesn't mean that there isn't great fishing opportunity. It's the time to concentrate on tailwaters and lower elevation freestones that aren't covered by ice.

Midges will be your best friend this time of the year because there isn't much else hatching. Some of our go-to midge patters here at St.Peter's Fly Shop are the **Poison Tung (Blue) #20& Midge Bomb (Red) #22**. For the other side of it, the dries, we like the **Eric's Hi-Vis Midge #20-22& Sprout Midge (Black) #20-22**. These are great options for either type of river that you intend to fish (Freestone vs. Tailwater), but if you are going to fish some tailwaters consider deeper rigs as well as the occasional streamer if your feeling bold.

A couple that we always have in our box would be the **Thin Mint #6-12 & Ish Snitch #6** for smaller streamers and **The Sex Dungeon (black/Olive/White) #2 & Peanut Envy #2** if you're feeling like chucking the big meat. Be sure to stop by either shop



location to help you push challenging conditions like freezing guides, cold/numb hands, or layering options. Our season never stops and we are constantly trying to improve our experiences on the water. Come pick our brains on ways to stay engaged during the winter season, especially since other anglers tend to disappear when conditions turn unfavorable. If your looking to avoid these types of conditions be sure to check out the full line up of tying demos going on at St.Peter's South Shop. It's a great time of the year to get the bench cleaned up and the boxes filled! There is a link below to the shop with the full schedule. Happy Tying!
click here

Thomas Wurster

The Online Fly Fishing Magazine Library

The active link (click) icons below represent a beginning attempt to put together a group of FREE resources available to fly anglers. *Trout Magazine* is published by Trout Unlimited-USA and *High Country Angler* is published by Trout Unlimited-Colorado. Both of these publications are limited to TU members. The others, however, are for everyone.

This page will be continually updated so you can always get to the most current issue of both of these magazines. Just click on the icon of the magazine you wish to read.

Please help me update these magazines by sending the URL for any FREE resources that you find worthwhile. Happy reading! Paul Wehr, our webmaster, just submitted a new magazine. Give it a try : <https://dunmagazine.com>

Hatch Magazine

High Country Angler

 **DUN** Magazine

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Bob Green, *The Flypaper* Editor.