



January 2019

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From the President

January 2019

As we look back on 2018, I hope you and your loved ones found joy and happiness over the holiday season. We also need to keep in mind those less fortunate as we move into 2019. I have served as your president for the past 7 months and in this column I will reflect on some of the amazing contributions to our mission your Chapter has achieved.

In January, we held our third Volunteer Orientation Meeting that many of you attended.

The meeting resulted in several new people volunteering for various activities and this has made our Chapter stronger. Later in this newsletter, you will see an announcement for our upcoming Volunteer Orientation Meeting which will be held January 10. Meghan Barker, TU's Alaska Organizer will be there to discuss the challenges to Bristol Bay created by the proposed Pebble Mine.

In February we had one of our more successful fundraisers. The Fly Tying Expo brought in a couple dozen fly tyers from around the region and we raised about \$4,000 that were used for Chapter projects due to your generosity. We will be

following up with the details for the 2019 Expo shortly. Be sure to mark your calendars now for February 20.

In May you elected a new leadership team. I am grateful to have such a wonderful group of people to work with and we have started on several new initiatives. Under the leadership of Dick Jefferies, we worked with the Forest Service to kick off the Long Draw Greenback Cutthroat Trout reintroduction program. With the generosity and help of Odells brewing, we created a new beer with Dick's creative slogan "if the water is good for the fish, its good for the beer". Odells also donated \$5,000 to our cause.

One of the things I am most proud of is our youth programs. The water festivals, our help with the Environmental Learning Center and, of course, youth camp reached hundreds of kids in 2018. The education they received from our volunteers is creating the next generation of environmental stewards. Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities for our youth programs.



Mickey McGuire, RMF President



Under the leadership of our Conservation Committee and especially Phil Wright, we now have a stream temperature monitoring program that will continue for the foreseeable future. See <https://coloradotu.org/blog/2018/12/fishing-for-fahrenheit> for a nice recap of this project. Our conservation volunteers also helped out with a fish tagging project in the Long Draw project, stream bank revegetation projects and other activities.

You might be interested to know that the Fishing Pier at Mile Marker 72 in the Big Thompson Canyon is nearing completion. Jefferies Construction, Kiewit, the Forest Service, CDOT, and the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition have donated time and materials to see that this pier will survive the next major flood. Stay tuned for a ribbon cutting ceremony that will be held this spring.

Finally, we have learned that a fish passage is under construction at Watson Lake on the Poudre River. Though not mentioned in the Press Release, RMF volunteers had a role in getting this project off the ground.

Overall, we should be proud of the efforts put forth by our volunteers. We reported to TU National a total of almost 5,000 hours of volunteer labor. While this sounds like a lot, I know we can do better. With a chapter of over 900 members we have approximately 100 active volunteers. You have all heard the saying, “many hands make light work” and as we move forward into the new year, I hope you can find the time to spare a few hours in support of our mission. What we do is important and will have lasting impact.

Mickey McGuire
President

January Membership Meeting: Connor Murphy



Connor Murphy and rainbow

A Fort Collins native, Connor Murphy has been an avid fly fisherman and trout enthusiast for most of his life. Over the last 15 years Connor has traveled the country as an exhibition fly tier in addition to competing extensively in both fly fishing and fly-casting.

Connor has been a familiar face around St. Peters Fly Shop for much of the last decade as well, either in shop, teaching classes or guiding locally. Since his graduation from Colorado State University in 2017 with a degree in Fisheries Biology, Connor has spent his summers as a guide for Dave Duncan and Sons Ltd. on the Kanektok River in Alaska.

Connor will focus his talk on Alaska fishing. To get into the appropriate mood, however, we recommend you take a peak at the brief Alaska “trailer” produced by our own Mark Miller and features a trip taken in August by 6 of our members. While the “release date” for the much longer video will be later in January, this brief film will certainly get you into the mood for Connor and for Alaska. I will post the entire video in the February *Flypaper*.



Events in January



Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 9 at 7:00 PM, Mulligan's. Everyone is invited to attend.



Monthly Membership Meeting, Speaker Connor Murphy, Alaska, Wednesday, 6:30 PM, January 16, Senior Center.



Fly Swap: The fly of the month is the Midge. In the Fly Swap, we each make enough flies of one pattern to share with the other participants. Included with each fly is a little toe tag that contains the recipe, Fly Name and your name. You can never tell when you get a collector item. Personally, I don't usually fish my Fly Swap flies, but keep them so I can have a pattern to tie more. Trout love midges most of the time, particularly in the winter when there isn't much other food around. You can tie a larva, pupa or adult fly. Rick Takahashi and Jerry Hubka's book, "Modern Midges" had hundreds of patterns. Make one that has worked for you in the local rivers. Let Dave Morse know you are participating and he will get back to you a week before the regular TU meeting with the number of flies to make. One fly from each of us goes into the meeting raffle. Contact [Dave Morse](#) to sign up.

[Click Here For Calendar Of All Upcoming Events](#)

David's Lines is Back

Fishing without walking

Flypaper readers with an amazing memory, may recall the story of the drama that unfolded when I took my 10' PorteBote to Delaney Butte, near Walden in Wyoming. That excursion was necessary to convince my wife, Merete, of the sanity of having bought a 100 lbs foldable boat, which had floated on the lake at the back of our house for six years. Desperate measures were needed to show that the Portebote was, 1) Actually portable, 2) Something I could lift, 3) Able to survive Wyoming's balmy weather. An 18 hour round trip proved my case. It ended when I dragged my beaten body out of my Jeep and into bed, where I mumbled, "Wonderful day. Bote was great". Fortunately, Merete was asleep.



David Cunningham

A few years have passed, and now I find myself searching for ways to fish without too much walking.

Fishing the local rivers requires quite a bit of dexterity in clambering down the banks, and stepping over and around bowling ball sized rocks. I was never great at this and I try to avoid it altogether now. But fishing from river banks is a big limitation.

I have never managed to get comfortable in the over-sized life vests my friends call float tubes.

So, of course, I bought a boat.

Not a real boat, but a 7' PackFish 7 inflatable, from Sea Eagle. I had seen the video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nIo-jlIM5vU>, and was an immediate fan. The attraction for me was a carry weight of 27 lbs, that I can still manage. And, the boat was half off in an end of year sale, late in October. Bingo.

I was keen to get to know my new toy, so the day the boat arrived I blew it up and sat it out on the lawn. The inner space is 5' 6", and you sit on an inflated seat at one end and brace your feet against the other end. I needed to know how I would fit, and what equipment I could bring with me. So, I put on the gear I thought reasonable, and sat in the boat.

It was reasonable that the neighbors would be curious when they saw a man dressed in waders, life vest, and Norwegian water proof hat, sitting in an inflatable boat, in the middle of the Adriel Hills development. But I think it was excessive that they started calling the fire department when I began dry casting. My rationale for this activity may have seemed a little strange to them on account of the six inches of snow that covered most of the grass, and the 15 knot wind that whipped through the ash trees.

I rowed home before the fire engines arrived, feeling "fairly" confident that the PackFish7 was a good idea.

I delayed an actual water launch until the snow melted, and the wind died down, which happened the following Wednesday at 3 pm. To keep the outing simple, I limited my goal to boating, not fishing. I stuffed everything into the Buick and drove 15 miles to Douglas lake, nr Waverly. Ten minutes stomping on the bellows air pump filled the boat. I had a folding dolly that could be tied to rings on the bottom of the boat, to provide easy transportation for the inflated boat. The dolly enabled me to load the oars, and seat, etc, into the boat. I added a paddle to allow me to find out whether paddling would be an alternative to rowing; then a walking staff in case I beached on the far side of the lake and needed to walk home. I had left my wad-

ers at home and opted for my Boss knee boots and an old pair of jeans. I did bring my life vest and the hat. The temperature was in the low 50s.

Fully loaded, I started down the ramp. Half way down, there was a "Crack", and a dolly wheel fell off, rolled down the ramp, and disappeared into the water! Undeterred, I steered the single-wheel dolly to the bottom of the ramp, rigged the oars, fitted the seat, and prepared to launch.

Several boaters and one fisherman watched my maneuvers.

I immediately found that it is not easy to step from a ramp with a 10 percent slope, into an untethered, small floating object. Not wanting to disappoint my audience, I knelt on the side float and rolled in. My momentum launched the boat while one leg was still out of the boat, my ass was on the floorboard, and my head was on the seat. Feigning nonchalance, I wriggled around until my ass was where it should be.

At this point, it was time to show my prowess as a rower. The PackFish has two built in skegs that are designed to help the boat track straight, a big advantage over typical inflatables. I expected to skim across the lake. Unfortunately, the boat's designer must have had a coracle in mind, because he put carry handles on each side of the boat, immediately behind the oarlocks. It was not possible to pull on the oars without lifting them ear-hole high to get over the handles. I couldn't get the boat going fast enough to test the tracking capability.

A breeze wafted me 50 yds from the ramp and my admirers lost interest, except for the fisherman who had climbed to high ground for a better view. He seemed to be holding a phone up, perhaps hoping to get a video of a Titanic episode.

I tried push rowing, and, with great exertion, made some headway. When I reached the foot of the dam, I needed to back off, but push rowing does not enable good maneuverability. I shipped the oars and assembled my 8' double ended paddle, to see if it would give me better traction. However, the oars cannot easily be tied along the side of the boat and they kept falling out, acting as sheet anchors. Progress was slow.

My mind recalled how easily the two young men in the PackFish7 video had rowed and fished in Patagonia. My resentment of youth and marketing climbed to new heights.

It was now 5:30 pm and the sun was low on the

horizon. I was 100 yards from the dock. Not a soul remained on the lake and the fisherman was walking away. The breeze had freshened, so I gritted my teeth and push rowed to the ramp. I couldn't go fast enough to run the bow up the ramp, so I faced the challenge, "How do you get out of a bobbing boat, facing an off-shore wind, without a grapple hook to fling over the rail?" My shaky balance wouldn't allow me to stand up in the rocking boat and step out with any confidence. If I were to roll over into the shallow water at the foot of the ramp, my boots would fill with water, as the boat slid off into the lake.

The solution was to use my fishing staff to push on the ramp, under the lake side of the boat, and force it two feet up the ramp. Once beached, I was able to roll out onto dry ground, grab the blade of the shore-side oar, rise from my knees, and stand tall on the dock. There was no applause.

I was exhausted by the rowing effort and still had to get everything back into the car. The dolly was trash, so I clomped up the ramp to get the Buick. Reversing down the ramp was complicated by the setting sun being exquisitely positioned between the hood and the visor, shining directly into my eyes. The reversing camera showed a clear picture of the texture of the cement. The side mirrors offered gloomy shadows. I opened the windows so that I could exit gracefully when the Buick slipped into the lake. But all went well and, as darkness fell, I headed for home.

Back in the garage, I contemplated the pile of deflated polypropylene, oars, seat, pump, life vest, and boots. I had to admit that it was a lot more stuff than my buddy's float tube.

I can't wait for my inaugural tube-run down the Green River in June.

—David Cunningham.

From Phil Wright, Our Volunteer Coordinator

Upcoming Volunteer Orientation Meeting – NOTE change of Venue and Time

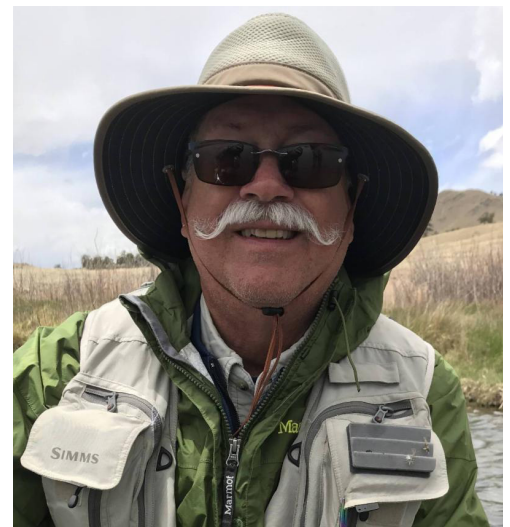
LOCATION
Odell's Taproom

DATE AND TIME
01/10/19 6:00 pm

The 2019 Rocky Mountain Flycasters Volunteer Orientation Meeting is looking to be bigger and better than ever before. This year's Volunteer Orientation Meeting will be held at the Odell Brewing Taproom starting at 6:00 PM on Thursday January 10.

If you have not already done so, please let us know whether or not you will accept our invitation to attend this special meeting by simply clicking on the invitation above my photo.

Put the January 10, 2019 meeting date on your calendar and please join us for an informal evening at Odell's to learn more about this year's Volunteer Opportunities.



Phil Wright, Volunteer Coordinator

We will host several guests at the 2019 Volunteer Orientation Meeting. Meghan Barker, Trout Unlimited's Alaska Organizer will be there to discuss the challenges to Bristol Bay created by the proposed Pebble Mine. At this year's Volunteer Orientation Meeting you will 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. I look forward to seeing you at the orientation session and on the stream soon after that. - Phil Wright

From Wil Huett, Our Community Outreach Coordinator

Questions

Q: Is your Fly Fishing Guide Willing to Die for You? That's a BIG question! I have to think about that a while...but it's a question central to a book written by one of our own.

After recommending a mystery series centered on a Montana fishing guide a while back, I was reminded of our own Milt Mays' thriller *The Guide*.

A long time chapter member, Milt sets his tale in our local area with emphasis on Rocky Mountain National Park. It is not his only book and you may choose to while away a few non-fishing days with Milt's words. You can visit his website @ www.milt-mays.com

Q: Have you been over the North College Avenue bridge in Ft Collins lately?

If not, you have missed the ongoing process of removing the old Coy diversion structure and rebuilding the stretch of the Poudre just below to accommodate a whitewater park and other river recreation. If so inclined, you can do a little 'sidewalk superintending' from the bridge. Scheduled for completion this summer, you can find out more and see some photos here: [Poudre River Whitewater Park](#)

Q: Have you been out to Watson Lake in Bellvue recently?

Another river rebuilding project is going on there. A fish ladder is being constructed at the diversion into the lake. Fish need the ability to move to find the best conditions for survival and this project will reconnect two significant reaches of the Poudre. Read more about it here from [The North Forty News: Fish Ladder Coming to Watson Lake](#)

It is worth noting that RMF was involved to some extent with each of these projects. When asked to provide a letter of support for the water park your Board of Trustees responded with a proviso that the project should contribute to a healthier aquatic environment. Past President Dick Jefferies and current President Mickey McGuire participated in early planning stages of the Watson project. Reconnect is one of the four pillars of the TU Conservation Agenda, and both of these projects meet that criteria, so "Thanks" to all involved.

Q: What are you doing January 10th?

That's the date of Rocky Mountain Flycasters next Volunteer Orientation. You may recall seeing an email about it recently. For several years now we have staged this event during the 'off' season to help folks plan their participation in conservation and education projects when the season turns to 'on'. And it's not for members only. Please bring friends and neighbors who may also want to help improve our rivers and recreation opportunities. They do not have to be members to help us roll rocks and plant willows! Volunteer coordinator Phil Wright has more about it in a separate column in this edition.

Q: Do you participate in the TU Open Forum?

Available on the Trout Unlimited web page this forum discusses almost anything a member wants to bring up. A lot of questions and answers about destinations, guides, gear, etc. One of the recent and most entertaining discussions asked the question 'What is the Most Useless Fly Fishing Gadget You Ever Purchased'? Fun discussion, and I'm sure some of us had to smile a little ruefully at a few entries. (Yeah, I have one of those somewhere!)

If you follow these ongoing conversations you may be surprised how often our local and area rivers come up as subjects of interest to fishers far and wide.

Ok, so back to question one...?

I've had a guide drive off a hungry horde of marauding rats while camping on the beach - I swear they were the size of racoons! I've had a guide, carefully, haze a skunk out of camp. I've had a guide rattle pans to keep a bear moving on. I've had a guide fend off an angry rattler with an oar. I've had a guide probably suffer frostbite cleaning the ice off my line and untying my sloppy-casting (ie wind) knots as we fished in a blizzard. But I don't think I've never put one in a position to die for me - unless terminally embarrassed by my technique.

I guess you'll have to read Milt's book to see how he puts *The Guide* in that position.



Wil Huett, Past President

Mark Your Calendars

The annual Rocky Mountain Flycasters' Fly Tying Expo will be **Wednesday, February 20, 2019**. It will be held at the Fort Collins Senior Center beginning at 5:30 pm and will feature about two dozen of the best tiers Northern Colorado has to offer. We will also serve dinner, have a silent auction (and possibly a live auction), raffle a rod and many flies. A beginners' table will also be featured. Plan now to attend and support our major fund raiser of the year!

Thomas Wurster's St. Peter's Fishing

Forecast for January

Happy New Year everyone! Here is your monthly update from St Peter's Fly Shop. As of the first of the month much of the water we are accustomed to fishing around Fort Collins is frozen. With the upcoming warmer weather, we should hopefully see some more open water in the lower Poudre and on the North Fork of the Poudre. More open water can be found on the Big Thompson and the South Platte River. Flows on many of the sections of the South Platte have remained steady throughout the season and offer some great technical fishing for large trout. The Grey Reef section of the North Platte is also a great option if you'd like to get away from the crowd. If you plan on heading out to any of these tail waters just make sure you come equipped with your 6x tippet and size 20 – 24 midges. If tiny flies and cold fingers don't sound enticing, it is a perfect time to get away to some saltwater destinations.

Here at St. Peter's Fly Shop we host a wide variety of saltwater destination trips to exotic locations such as Cuba, Mexico, and Belize. Some of the best fishing in the world can be found at some of these locations and it's a great way to combat the cold weather and short days here in Northern Colorado. It gives us a light at the end of the tunnel and allows us to keep the gears turning, literally! If you have an interest or questions please give us a call at (970)-498-8968 or visit our Destination Travels Page here: <https://stpetes.com/blog/destination-travel>

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

MONTANA

FLY FISHING MAGAZINE



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Wil Huett
Mickey McGuire
Sharon Neenan
Michael Ringus
Domingo Rodriguez

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Richard Withey
Paul Wehr

2019-01-01

Bob Green, *The Flypaper* Editor.