



July 2019

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From the President

July 2019

Greetings for July. As a reminder, there will be no General Chapter Membership meetings in July or August. Our next meeting will be held September 18; look for additional information in the weeks to come.

Despite no General meetings, I want you to know your leadership team comprised of the Board of Trustees and the Leadership Council have been hard at work identifying new volunteer opportunities and creating programs for the coming year. In addition, your Board of Trustees worked hard during a retreat June 30 to examine where we have been and where we are going. While we are still digesting all the fantastic ideas that were discussed, you will be hearing more about the up and coming fresh ideas for streamlining and improving the Chapter. Stay tuned for further information.



Mickey McGuire, RMF President

I hope you all received the blast email last week outlining a number of important opportunities for July. Of particular importance, we are excited for the start of Youth Camp on July 29. I know our youth camp coordinator, Bill Gedge, is still looking for volunteers so if you did not receive the email, please be sure to visit our [Volunteer Page](#). Once logged in, go to "check your schedule" to view the calendar page where you will see help wanted ads.

Good luck on the water this month, whether it be flat or flowing, still or moving and I hope to see you on one of our great volunteer activities.

Until next month,

Mickey McGuire
President



[See our Calendar of Events](#)

From the Editor: Donaldson Trout, 3 Fish in 1 at Red Feather Lakes



Cutthroat Trout



Steelhead Trout



Rainbow Trout



Donaldson Trout

The Board of the Red Feather Lakes Storage and Irrigation System (RFSI, a group that monitors the 8 private lakes in Red Feather, rfsi.org) recently had an opportunity to make Donaldson Trout available to members and guests. With consultation from Aquatics Associates, a firm based in Fort Collins, they stocked 500 pounds of this hybrid trout in Shagwa Lake, a body of water that was given a total fresh start last year. The lake was completely drained and refilled. Six aerators were installed and minnows, crawfish and grass carp were stocked before putting the fish in the lake in April.

The Donaldson trout, also known as the Donaldson Steelhead or “Super Trout”, is the result of the blending of Rainbows, Cutthroat and Steelhead trout. Dr. Lauren Donaldson produced this multi-species hybrid in 1944 after 14 years of research in the labs and the streams surrounding the University of Washington. Donaldsons are a fast growing, disease resistant and hard-fighting trout that act more like wild rather than a hatchery fish. Natural trout mature in 4 years and weigh in around 1.5 pounds, Donaldson Trout mature in two years and can weigh up to 10 pounds. Five hundred of these fish, ranging from 13 to 15 inches, were stocked in Shagwa in the spring. They are expected to range from 18 to 20 inches by October.

Most of us have caught Rainbow and Cutthroat Trout, frequently in local streams, lakes and ponds. Environmental and developmental conditions produce wide variation in coloration, but all rainbow trout have a pinkish band running the length of their body. Similarly Cutthroats have brilliant red marks on the underside of their jaws.

Steelheads and Rainbows are actually of the same species and resemble one another physically. But their life cycles are vastly different. Rainbows are freshwater fish. Steelheads are anadromous. They are born in freshwater, migrate to saltwater then back to freshwater to spawn. Consequently we must travel to see a Steelhead. They are known for the ferocity of their behavior on the hook. I once hooked one in the Deschutes River three years ago. Although I didn't land this fish, they remain on my list.



Bobby Magill

So far I have had an opportunity to catch several of these hybrids in Shagwa and recently to host a Flycasters fishing trip to Red Feather. (The photos above are of Bob Magill and Mark Miller with their "wild prizes"). I was totally taken by surprise with the first fish I caught, and continue to be in awe while catching these creatures. They take the fly and generally run deep and far, sometimes getting to my backing, much like a Bonefish. But, they don't stay deep. They jump (my first one five times) repeatedly. I was reminded of a miniaturized version of the 80 pound Tarpon I caught in Cuba last November!

Although these fish have been available nation-wide for a long time, I first heard about them this spring. I learned, for example, that they are used world-wide in commercial aquaculture operations. In a recent year 18,000 metric tons of Donaldsons were grown in sea cages in Finland. Norway produced the same quantity and Japan about 30,000 metric tons. The fish taste more like salmon than regular trout and their flesh is salmon colored (or so I've read).



Mark Miller

According to a representative of Acquatics Associates, Donaldsons are stocked in private lakes and streams throughout the front range. Colorado Fish and Wildlife does not stock them in public facilities. The closest private facility, about 5 miles north of Fort Collins, is the Rocky Ridge Outdoor Recreational Facility (<https://coloradopro.com>). Another venue, according to Grant Houx of St. Pete's is a ranch on the lower Blue River. Grant says the fish at this location are truly monsters.

Thomas Wurster's Fishing Forecast From St. Peters Fly Shop



The month of July tends to be a busy and hectic month, but in the best way possible. There is so much going on across the state that it will take some thorough planning to get it all done.

One of my favorite types of fishing during this month is hiking to high alpine lakes in search of cutthroat trout. This year's high country season has been very delayed due to the amount of snowpack that we have as well as all the late season cold fronts, but it is finally that time of the year.

It depends on the area that you are fishing, but all lakes below 10,000 ft should be open by now with all

the others above following shortly in the following week or so. Stop by the shop to ask us where to go and what to use. We would love to point you in the right direction so that you can experience the epitome of fly fishing in Colorado.

Not only are there tons of hungry cutthroat cruising the banks of our local lakes, but the rivers should start to shape up in no time. Don't let the high water deter you, there are still plenty of fish to be caught and less crowds to fight out on the river. Be a persevering angler and it will reward you. With the 4th of July being just days away, we will be doing in-store specials on everything from Howler Brother's to Simms apparel, July 1st– July 7th. Don't let the bugs get the best of you this summer and be sure to show up in style to the BBQ this weekend. We've got you covered at either shop location.

Let's Go Fishing with Mark Miller

RMF 2019 Fishing Trip Listing

Here's wishing everyone some fly fishing fun for 2019.

As in most years, the majority of our trips are to local waters, such as the Poudre, RMNP (Dream Lake), Lake Agnes/Joe Wright Reservoir, and Red Feather Lakes.

Something new for this year – a trip to the Great Lakes region for King Salmon, in Oct. See details below.

We will also have a couple trips scheduled for weekdays, since we have many retired chapter members who prefer to fish during the week to avoid the weekend crowds.

If you are a new or beginner fly fisherman, we want you to join us for our trips – we love to help anyone get started in fly fishing, and to help people learn new skills or techniques.

Please contact **Mark Miller** by email to let him know if you are interested in any of these trips. Wherever you decide to fish this year, good luck and tight lines!

Date(s)	Location	Host
July 27	Colorado Headwaters Fun dry fly fishing on the west side of RMNP.	Host: Dennis Cook
Aug 22	RMNP Small Stream Fishing (Thursday)	Host: Bill Gillett & Art Campfield

- | | | |
|----------|---|----------------------|
| Sep 9 | Dream Lake in RMNP (Wednesday)
A one mile hike for some exciting dry fly sight-fishing to rising cutts.
Midweek trip to avoid crowd | Host: Mark Miller |
| Oct 2-6 | Great Lakes Salmon Trip
Trips dates subject to change - will likely be Wed through Sunday in early Oct. through the first week of Oct based on prior history.
We'll fish the Milwaukee River just a mile or two above Lake Michigan. The exact dates will be set only a couple weeks ahead, as we need to time the King Salmon run. Mostly Kings but may also be Coho salmon along with lake-run rainbows and browns. Sight fishing with easy wading, fish will average 20-30 lbs with some bigger. Heavy rods (10wt) recommended. Can drive or fly – your choice. Will stay in hotel near downtown Milwaukee just minutes from the river. For more info contact Richard at 970-219-2019. | Host: Richard Bender |
| Oct 8-10 | Colorado River float – Tuesday-Thursday
Fishing for browns in pre-spawn mode (hungry and aggressive mode)
Camping on the river, or hotel in Kremmling – your choice. | Host: Mark Miller |
| Nov 1-3 | Miracle Mile- weather permitting – Fri-Sun
Browns in aggressive spawn mode, and rainbows after the eggs. Will most likely fish egg patterns and/or streamers. Fun trip if you like to swing streamers, or own a 2-handed rod or switch rod. | Host: Mark Miller |

From Wil Huett our Community Outreach Coordinator

No Ketchup Needed

That title refers to last month's column. If it doesn't make any sense to you, don't worry, just read on.

The controversy over how the city of Thornton will deliver the Poudre River water it purchased years ago rages on. Here are links to some of the latest legal maneuvers:

[Larimer County commissioners respond to Thornton pipeline lawsuit](#)

[Thornton tries to block Save the Poudre, No Pipe Dream from joining pipeline lawsuit](#)

Ever lost any of your fishing gear to thieves? I have. I

experienced a sinking feeling that day when I saw the pickup had been broken into because I knew what would be missing. And it was. The subject has recently been discussed on the Trout Unlimited Community (you may have to log in to the TU webpage to access this): [Caution to all anglers - lock your doors](#). That discussion led to this information: <https://tenkaratalk.com/2019/05/prevent-your-fishing-gear-from-being-stolen/>



Just in case you were still laboring under the misconception that all people hereabouts still adhere to the code of honesty and respect for others' property, here's a link you should read: [Here are the hot spots for vehicle break-ins in Fort Collins](#). The hottest spots may not be near fishing waters you frequent, but I see more than a

little fishing gear around local trailheads. Some of it is occasionally mine as I like to pursue warm-water species in regional natural areas. So take care.

Speaking of that addiction, USA Today recently extolled the virtues of **Bass fishing with a fly rod? Try it – they're not just for trout anymore.** I have to confess that part of my love of warm-water flyfishing goes back many years when, using a borrowed fly rod for my first flyfishing adventure, I plopped a big floating 'something' into an Iowa farm pond and was instantaneously rewarded with a heart-stopping strike by a largemouth which danced and dove his way across the pond until he unhooked himself but left me hooked for life.

The after-effects from that bass linger today. Just a couple of weeks ago I was lucky enough to again be able to pursue smallmouth bass in Northwestern Ontario, and landed more than a few. Like this.....not one of the largest, but fun nonetheless. If bass fishing with a fly rod is not part of your repertoire, try it, I think you'll like it.

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

The Online Fly Fishing Magazine Library

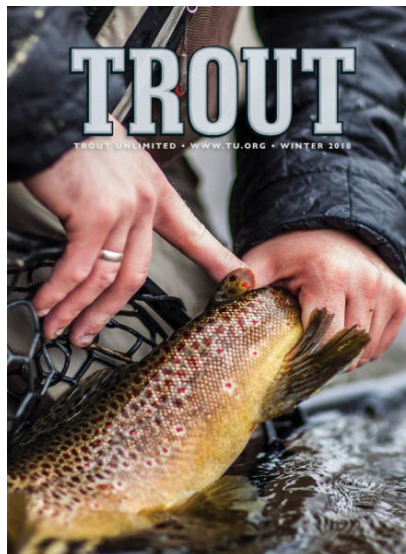
The active link (click) icons below represent a beginning attempt to put together a group of FREE resources available to fly anglers. *Trout Magazine* is published by Trout Unlimited-USA and *High Country Angler* is published by Trout Unlimited-Colorado. Both of these publications are limited to TU members.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

Hatch Magazine





The New
Fly Fisher

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2019-06-01

Bob Green, *The Flypaper* Editor.