



January 2018

Table of Contents

From the President
Chapter Events Calendar
January Membership Meeting
Membership Chair
Colorado Greenback Update
January Conservation Video of the Month
January Youth Outreach Opportunities
Sustaining Donors

RMF Quick Link



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Please consider becoming a **Sustaining Donor** at a level that you can afford. Special Recognition occurs at the \$50 level.

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From the President

2018, it's hard to believe but it's here. 2017 is in the books. The entire country is in the deep freeze and only the hardest among us are wading the tailwaters. But as we sit by a winter fire or hover over a tying bench we dream dreams of epic hatches and rising noses. We remember the big ones and the little ones from last season. We recall road trips with friends to big water and days of solitude alone on small streams. We plan for what we hope to experience in the coming season.

My plans for 2018 include a "bucket list" trip to Alaska with some good fishing buddies. I hope to make several floats on big water in Colorado, Wyoming and Montana. I want to get back to exploring Rocky Mountain National Park and some of the off-the-beaten-path streams and lakes. I want to try out some new places and go back to some favorite spots. I want to build more memories and share more fishing experiences with friends old and new.

2018 will offer our chapter not only more opportunities to fish but also to help sustain and protect our precious home waters of the Poudre and Big Thompson. We will donate time, money and volunteer hours to projects like the Greenback restoration in the Long Draw area, the handicapped fishing pier and public education project on the Big Thompson. We will introduce many young people not only to fly-fishing but also to ecology and conservation through our youth camp and school programs. To learn more about these and other projects and to get involved, please consider attending the Volunteer Orientation Meeting next Thursday (January 11th - more info below).

Yes, things seem a bit tumultuous. There's division in this country the like I which I've never seen before. But there are also a lot people who care deeply about our environment and the wild places that remain. Let's stand with them.



Coy Wiley, 2016-2017 President
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

Let's each one do our part to ensure that there are still wild places and wild trout for coming generations to chase. Let's make 2018 a year to look back on with joy and gratitude.

Coy Wylie, President
Rocky Mountain Flycasters

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



January Membership Meeting

Aquatic Insects and Fly Fishing in Colorado

What better subject to consider in the dead of winter than aquatic insects and fishing? Colorado State University professor Dr. Boris C. Kondratieff is just the person to bring that subject to us. He will be speaking at our January 17 meeting.

Dr. Kondratieff is the Director of the 3 million specimen C.P. Gillette Museum of Arthropod Diversity at Colorado State University, which is a depository for taxa in the proposed study area. His current interests include insect biodiversity, aquatic insect ecology, and taxonomy. He has published 220 peer reviewed scientific papers and coauthored four books. He has also described numerous new species of stoneflies and other insects. He is familiar with the systematics and ecology of aquatic insects. In addition, he has extensively collected and identified aquatic insects throughout North America and especially Colorado.

Some of us are mostly familiar with Dr. Boris as the leader of insect collection and identification in our Youth Day Camp sessions on the Poudre. His discussions are always entertaining and engaging as well as inspiring young people to locate and identify aquatic insects and relate their importance in an ecological system as well as a potential element in fish diets. This is a great opportunity to gain some insight into local insects and improve your fishing.

Social hour and fly tying demonstration begins at 6:30 pm at the Fort Collins Senior Center, and the program follows at 7:00 pm. We will have a local fly tyer at each general meeting and an equipment raffle following the meeting. Admission is free and the public is welcome. The Fort Collins Senior Center is located at 1200 Raintree Drive off Shields Avenue between Prospect and Drake.



Dr. Kondratieff with Students in the Field

NOTE: Rocky Mountain Flycasters' Fly Tying Expo February 21, 2018

Save the date for our annual Fly Tying Expo. It will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 from 5:30 to 9:00 at the Fort Collins Senior Center. We will have around 2 dozen local tiers there demonstrating their expertise. We will also serve food, have a silent auction, raffle the tiers' flies, and also raffle off a new rod. Please mark your calendar for this very important fundraiser, and be on the lookout for future announcements.

We are always in need of donations of gear, clothing, rods, and other items for our silent auction. If you have some new or gently used gear that you're thinking of donating, now is the time. Ideally you could bring it to the January general meeting, or contact one of our leadership members. You can also email [Lee Evans](#). Thank you!

From the Membership Chair



Linda Jefferies, Membership Chair

The Rocky Mountain Flycasters' Volunteer Management System (VMS) is now online and ready for you! This new application will allow members to create volunteer profiles, sign-up for activities, projects, and fishing trips, create a personal volunteer calendar and keep track of their volunteer hours.

To create your volunteer profile, use the link for the Volunteer Application at <https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?ap=763710236>

I hope you will all sign up on the VMS system. Since this is a new system, please be patient, but do contact me, Linda Jefferies, at membership@rockymtnflycasters.org if you have problems logging in or otherwise. You can also send me emails once you are in the system if you need help working with the system.

I appreciate your help with making the VMS a success!
Linda Jefferies



Colorado Greenback Update

The Denver Post published last Sunday (12/31/17) a brief review of Greenbacks in Colorado and where to find them currently. Its a good story for those who have been following this saga for a while, as well as an introduction to what's known. To read it see the [Denver Post article](#).



January Conservation Notes



Dave Piske, Conservation Chair

Phil Wright, our Volunteer Coordinator, submits the following important announcement:

Rocky Mountain Flycasters will hold our 2018 Volunteer Orientation Meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday January 11, 2018 at Mulligan's Pub in Fort Collins. 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 emailing your RSVP to **Phil Wright**. Put the January 11, 2018 meeting date on your calendar and please join us for an informal evening at Mulligan's to learn more about this year's Volunteer Opportunities.

At this 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, Volunteer Coordinator.



Phil Wright



Video of the Month

As winter continues it's fun to think about what the Poudre River was like before the ice. Remember spring....and summer? Well, let this video take you to the banks of our great resource.



January Youth Outreach Notes

Trout In Classroom (Tic) - Three Schools



Dennis Cook, Youth Outreach Coordinator

TIC's goal is to help connect students to their watersheds. Much information about TIC can be read on TU's national website at www.tu.org/TIC.

This school year is the first time our RMF Chapter has sponsored three TIC classrooms simultaneously. Two are new schools - Poudre High School and Ridgeview Classical Academy, rejoined by Front Range Community College now that building reconstruction is completed. Our chapter has purchased all of the equipment



Approximately 180 eyed healthy eggs, including one bad egg

and lends it to the schools for use.

Two RMF members currently serve as TIC Coordinators for two of the schools, Dave Handshue and Dennis Cook. We need a third member to join our team. Please contact **Dennis Cook** or call (970) 372-9229 if you want to volunteer as a TIC Coordinator or for more information.

TIC Coordinators assist the classroom teacher with early tank setup, obtaining answers to questions or materials requirements, with fish release in the spring and with closing out the tank at school-year end. It's an enjoyable volunteer role. The coordinators work as a team and much information and support is available using a TIC Manual and from RMF's six previous years' experience.

Each classroom receives a supply of 150-200 eggs delivered from a hatchery, and cares for them through hatching, by regularly testing and managing the tank's water chemistries. The hatched fish progress through several early development stages and eventually may grow to about 3 or 4 inches. Throughout their development the students continue to monitor the tank environment, and also learn about the local watersheds and riparian habitat, as well as risk factors.

Mortality of some fish is part of TIC's watersheds' reality lesson. Other key lessons, and observing the fish's behaviors, include information about watershed health. Students learn that trout and the insects they eat are early indicators about water availability and cleanliness, awakening awareness for the fish's survival and also for our human consumption. TIC helps create these awareness lessons which we hope students will remember and carry forward into their adult lives...becoming tomorrow's conservators to help ensure abundant clean, cold water and fish.



Testing water for acidity, ammonia and nitrites



Counting and removing bad eggs before tank insertion

Opportunities for Flycasters

URGENT!!

Our current Board Treasurer, Tom Culbertson, is nearing the end of his term limits. We need someone with a working knowledge of QuickBooks to replace him. Heavy accounting experience or CPA not necessary, but helpful. Be a part of a diverse Board of Trustees for a great conservation organization. Call Tom Culbertson at 970-541-7029 or [email him](#) to get more details.

Support Our Vets?



The Platte Rivers Veteran Flyfishing Program has begun with weekly flytying classes in Loveland. If you are a vet, you are welcome to join us and pick up some flytying skills. All materials and equipment are provided at no cost. In January we will begin our rod making classes in both Loveland and Greeley. If you would like to be a mentor, we'd love to have your assistance. If you would like to be a demonstration tyer for one night, also give me a call. Contact the RMF TU Veterans Program Coordinator, Dave Morse, for more information or to volunteer. It is very gratifying work and we go fishing too. Phone 217-418-9386

or email [Dave Morse](#).

How about a Driftboat?



50% ownership opportunity: 2004 Hyde Low Profile Series Driftboat: \$2500.00 for 50% ownership.

Buyer would also share annual costs such as insurance, trailer registration, and storage. If interested, please contact Mark Miller (970-744-8229).

Want to Tell Your Fishing Stories?



Every time I fish or socialize with RMF members and friends, I hear wonderful captivating stories about fishing adventures. We all have them- you're not an angler if you don't. Why not have one or more published in *The Flypaper*? If you are interested or have questions contact [Bob Green](#), *The Flypaper* Editor.

Or Send Us a Video



Just send a link think to [The Flypaper Editor](#). It will be considered for a future video of the month.

Share a few experiences or a laugh. Did you see something online or did you record a great Experience? Share it!!

Want a fishing buddy?



I created FindAFishingBuddy.com a couple of years ago. I recently launched FindAFishingClub.com, the largest directory of active fishing clubs in the US. Your chapter (RMF) is including on our roster.

Thanks, Chuck Christopher.

Donate Your Gear



Rocky Mountain Flycasters will be collecting donated fishing gear so we can equip needy veterans participating in our Healing Waters program. This can include serviceable waders, boots, nets, vests, rods and reels, etc. There will be a collection box at the May TU meeting, or call Dave Morse to arrange a pick-up. (217-418-9386). Thanks for your support!

Sustaining Donors

Rocky Mountain Flycaster Sustaining Donors



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