



# High Country Angler

SUMMER 2019

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SINGLE HANDED  
BY LANDON MAYER

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# Youth Camp Celebrates its 14<sup>th</sup> Year

by Colorado TU Staff

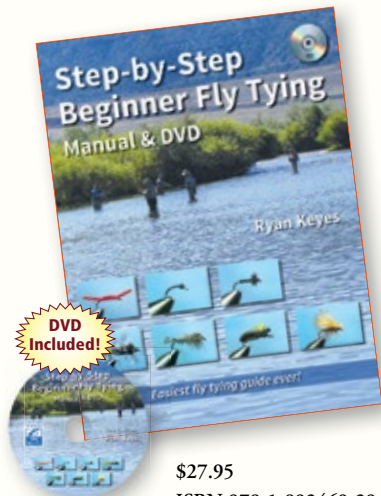
Colorado Trout Unlimited's River Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp celebrates its fourteenth year in June 2019. Our goal is two-fold: to give students the knowledge and skills to become stewards of coldwater fisheries, consistent with Trout Unlimited's mission and goals, and to teach attendees to become proficient fly fishers and fly tyers. Students age 14-18 learn the basics of stream entomology, stream hydrology, water quality, trout biology and pathology, invasive species, habitat management and improvement, and Colorado water law, in addition to basic fly fishing and tying skills. The camp's capacity is 20 students, and both boys and girls attend from every part of Colorado, and occasionally from out of

state. Colorado TU chapters often provide financial support for attendees who could otherwise not afford the \$500 tuition.

Camp graduates have gone on to graduate from college with degrees in environmental engineering, fisheries management, forestry, and many other fields. A former camper formed his own guide service; several have worked as guides during their college years. Another works for a major supplier of fly tying materials; she has also been recognized with a CTU Outstanding Volunteer award for her service as a youth counselor, and now as a regular camp staff member. Camp grads work for the US Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and other public and private conservation organizations. Students have served

on Colorado TU boards. A 2006 camp graduate authored a resolution in favor of water conservation that was passed by the Colorado legislature and signed by the governor. Two campers have attended TU's Teen Summit, an annual leadership conference for teens who have proven their commitment to TU's mission. The CTU Youth Camp has made an impact on several hundred teens and they have gone on to make positive impacts on the world we share.

The camp is a tie that binds the men and women, young and old,



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attendees and staff, in a community of purpose and fellowship around fly fishing and conservation. Most camp staff members remain in contact with some students who attended during their tenure. Some relationships are maintained via social media, others are based on social occasions, and many involve regular fishing expeditions. One of the most rewarding outcomes are the lasting friendships that develop among campers.

The camp has no paid staff—all counselors and presenters

volunteer their time. Counselors include fly shop staff, guides, retired professionals, and TU chapter board members and officers. Two counselors have been associated with the camp for more than 10 years, providing continuity while helping implement new ideas and methods. Presenters come from Trout Unlimited, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and other conservation organizations, as well as CPW hatchery staff and local and federal government organizations. Outstanding campers who demonstrate leadership skills are invited back as youth counselors. Camp venues are provided at low cost by lodges, resorts, and ranches, and they often provide some services at no charge. Camps have been held at Peace Ranch near Basalt, Beaver Run Trout Ranch near Aspen, High Lonesome Ranch near DeBeque, Bar NI Ranch near Stonewall, and currently at Silent Spring Resort near Almont.

The camp was founded in 2006 by former Trout Unlimited National Trustee Sharon Lance and Larry Quilling, Past President of Boulder Flycasters Chapter. It is their legacy that provides the inspiration to make the CTU River Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp among the best in the nation. ■