

# Montrose company nets prestigious state nod

## *4th local company to earn spot on list*

- **Mayfly president: 'It's very special to us.'**
- **Officials attended Friday night ceremony in Denver**
- **MEDC leader praises Mayfly, other companies**

BY MATT LINDBERG  
MATT.L@MONTROSEPRESS.COM

Mayfly Outdoors has once again had the spotlight placed over its operations and the Montrose community.

The Montrose-based outdoor investment operation was one of 50 businesses statewide named to this year's Colorado Companies to Watch list, and officials were on hand at a reception Friday night in Denver to accept the award.

"We are pleased to recognize Mayfly as one of Colorado's 50 most innovative second stage companies," said Rick Ninneman, Colorado Companies to Watch board chairman, in a statement. "These companies contribute significantly to the growth and economic independence of the state."

Colorado Companies to Watch is an awards program honoring second-stage companies headquartered in Colorado. The organization honors second-stage companies "that develop valuable products and services, create quality jobs, enrich communities and create new industries throughout Colorado."

Mayfly, which was founded in Colorado Springs before becoming headquartered in Montrose, fits the bill. The fly-fishing tackle manufacturer has won numerous awards in excellence regarding innovation, performance and dependability for its various brands, including Charlton, Abel Reels and Ross Reels.

Mayfly has also spearheaded efforts to develop a well-maintained business park known as the Colorado Outdoors Project along the Uncompahgre River near the Justice Center in northwest Montrose, as previously reported by

the Montrose Daily Press. Mayfly's 35,000-square-foot building would be the first component of the development on the acreage.

The Montrose Economic Development Corporation nominated Mayfly for the award, and its executive director, Sandy Head, said the Colorado Outdoors Project will be beneficial to the local area.

"(It) brings new opportunities to Montrose," Head said. "They have received a lot of attention around the state because of the size of the development, as well as the opportunities for business. The State of Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade has sent us several prospects that would be likely candidates for the development."

Mayfly Outdoors President David Drago, who attended the reception Friday with Head and others, said his company's latest honor meant a lot to him. He said his and Mayfly's relationship with the community was important.

"It's very special to us," Drago told the Montrose Daily Press of the award. "We have a strong connection between the business and our community. We succeed when it succeeds, and vice versa."

Mayfly Vice President Craig Baker voiced his excitement about the award in a statement.

"We're absolutely thrilled to be a winner in 2017," he said. "We are also incredibly proud to bring this award home to Montrose to share with our dedicated team and supportive community."

Montrose is no stranger to the Colorado Companies to Watch list. Local businesses Best Sign Systems, Colorado Yurt Company and Gordon Composites Inc. all won the honor in 2009.

MEDC nominates a company for the CCTW list every year, according to Head, who called the competition "tough."

"This is very exciting," Head said. "It's great to have another company added to the list of CCTW winners."

Head noted Best Sign, Colorado Yurt, Gordon Composites and Mayfly all had some similarities that contributed to their inclusions on the list.

"Best Sign Systems had just purchased their second company in Texas and brought it to Montrose, Gordon Composites Inc. expanded

their company with PolyStrand and Colorado Yurt was continuing growth with new lines of yurts. They are all strong manufacturing companies we are fortunate to have located in Montrose," Head said. "The Dragoos have brought a new energy to an established company, Ross Reels, and added the Abel Reel line to the company; they are progressive thinkers. They also have engaged in the community. That is the type of element that makes Montrose the special community that it is."

As for the ever-growing business development scene in Montrose County, Head said the local area's beauty and

diverse economy are driving factors. "We are not dependent on one industry," she stressed. "We are a smaller community and yet we have the amenities of larger communities. We work together to accomplish stated goals and we have very engaged citizens."

*Matt Lindberg is the managing editor for the Montrose Daily Press and an award-winning journalist. He's a University of Kansas graduate with years of experience in the news business, as well as a father of two and a husband. Follow him on Twitter @MattLindberg.*

To comment on this story, visit [montrosepress.com](http://montrosepress.com)



David Drago, president of Mayfly Outdoors, accepted a Colorado Companies to Watch award Friday night in Denver. (Paul Hurschmann/Montrose Daily Press file photo)

