

What fish rises from him?



stillwater river



yellowstone river



bighorn river

magic city fly fishers

hackle bender

February 2012

www.mcffonline.org
info@mcffonline.org

Mark Your Calendar

General Meeting
February 7th, 6:30
Billings R&GC

Board Meeting
February 13th
TBD

MCFF FlyFishing Expo
February 25th
Holiday Inn Billings

February 7, 2012 Program

Kevin Croff

Welcome back Kevin Croff to the Magic City Fly Fishers meeting on Tuesday, February 7. Kevin brings back his popular presentation style that both beginners and experienced fly fishers enjoy. Kevin, an experienced Billings educator, takes complicated concepts and simplifies them with easy to understand PowerPoint illustrations accompanied by clear explanations. So, do not miss this opportunity to learn both basic and advanced fly tying and fly fishing techniques from a great teacher. Kit opens the February 7th meeting with fly tying followed by Kevin's presentation on critical factors both beginners and experts need to know in order for successful fishing on our local waters. If you missed Kevin's workshops in previous years do not miss this meeting to start getting yourself psyched up for this coming year's fishing season.

Tying Demo

Kit Seaton

We all need to consider adding two killer streamers to our fly box. Kit Seaton will be our guest fly tier for our February 7th General Membership meeting. Kit will take us through the John Barr's Slumpbuster using pine squirrel strips and tied matuka style. Kit will also tie Charlie Craven's Gonga a heavy lead-eye sculpin pattern with wiggling shiny sili legs and a realistic head shape. Both flies will be tied by Magic City Fly tiers at our Extended Fly Tying class at East Rosebud Fly and Tackle from 9:45-12:00 on February 11th.

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MCFF Fly Fishing Expo
February 25
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Magic City Fly Fishers

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Presidents Message

By Lyle Courtnage

Tanner White bent over the back of young girl who was excited to tie her first wooly worm. Bob Treece looked on and was probably thinking, "Yeah, he is pretty good with the kids." Tanner's father Bruce appeared to be pleased while he put together some more chenille setups for the next batch of kids to come through January's Great Rockies Sports Show doors. This was the first time that we had one of our younger members help young kids learn to tie their first fly. Tanner was up to the challenge. Plus, he had a great time.

That got me to thinking, "yes, this is what it is all about." This is why we spend so much time and money on helping youth learn to tie flies and how to fly fish. This is why Ron Hildebrand and Kevin Davis spend so much time organizing events for youth. It is to turn out young people like Tanner White who inspire young girls to think that they can fly fish and tie flies, just like the girl Tanner was helping to tie her first wooly worm. Because if we are successful in motivating and inspiring the youth about fly fishing, and fly tying, and the conservation ethic which accompanies our sport, we are assured that there will be cold, pure water for trout into the future. We will know that there will be enthusiastic supporters for catch and release. We will know

that we can find places to fish without crowds of people on all sides.

What we do not know is if we will continue to have the funding to make it all happen. That is why so many Magic City Fly Fishers work so hard to make the annual Expo a success. That is why you need to step up and join (or continue to join) in the effort that brings in the dollars each year so that we can finance our youth efforts. Maybe even more important is that we have the funds to support the conservation efforts that lead to our young people having pristine trout fishing available to them as they grow older.

That is why I encourage you to join in today. I recommend you do three things to make sure we have great trout fishing in Montana available to the young people who we are teaching. 1) Purchase a \$100 Clackacraft Drift Boat raffle ticket, 2) Call in and get your \$100 Gold Package, 3) Buy on additional \$40 banquet ticket for someone to join you in the good times at the banquet on February 25th. The information is in this Hackle Bender newsletter on how to accomplish all three. Sure, it is not a cheap date to attend the Expo and try to win that drift boat. But the return on your investment is high, even if you do not win the raffle.

Fly Tying in the Schools

Ron Hildebrand

In 1973 Fred Brinkman and John Gibson started our Fly Tying in the Schools program with a class at Alkali Elementary School. Grant Davis picked up the program and coordinated this exemplary program until his passing two years ago. Kevin Davis and Ron Hildebrand coordinate this program today which now is in 13 schools and provides approximately 260 students a very special fly tying experience. Both John Gibson and Hugh Huntley were there in 1973 and have helped with this program for 40 years. Interestingly enough Fred Brinkman's son-in-law Lee Kvilhaug is the Principal of Big Sky Elementary where one of the teams tied flies with 24 students the last two weeks in January. Ron Hildebrand's team includes: Roger Bauer, Bob Ehli, Don Ellis, Hugh Huntley, Karen Page, Roland Short, Bob Thiesen, Don Thompson, Bob Treece, and Les Zuck. Kevin Davis's team includes: Don Findon, John Gibson, Gary Peters, Mike Whittington, Dick Wood, and Ed Zink. Over 1200 hours of volunteer time goes into this program. Thanks to all who have given so much fun to so many fine young boys and girls.



Magic City Fly Fishers' 7th Annual
Fly Fishing Expo

Saturday, February 25
Holiday Inn Billings

FLY FISHING EXPO:

Admission FREE

9:00am - 4:00pm

**Featuring Regional
Fly Fishing Experts.**

**Fly Tying Demos & Workshops
Fly Casting Instruction
Fly Fishing Seminars and Programs
Fly Fishing and Tying Products
Kids Fly Tying Lessons,
Raffle Prizes Throughout the Day**



**Hugh Huntley helping kids tie flies at the
Great Rockies Sports Show**

Banquet & Auction

Saturday, February 25
Holiday Inn Billings
5:00pm - 9:00pm

\$40 per person

**OPEN FORUM PANEL:
Steve Hilbers, Hale Harris,
Frank Johnson, and Bob Krumm**

Live & Silent Auctions:
Custom-Framed Artwork, Fly Rods, Reels, Equip-
ment, Guided Fishing Trips, Custom-Tied Flies by
Distinguished Area Fly Tyers and Bucket Raffles for
a variety of fantastic prize packages

Boat Raffle:
ClackaCraft Drift boat
Tickets \$100 each
Only 100 tickets will be sold.



**For drift boat and banquet tickets please call
Alex Martin at 406-628-9325.
for more information: www.mcffonline.org •
treasurer@mcffonline.org**

The Hackle Bender is a monthly publication of the Magic City Fly Fishers, Chapter 582 of Trout Unlimited, and an affiliate of the Federation of Fly Fishers. It is published by and for the members of the Chapter.

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Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views and positions of the Magic City Fly Fishers, Trout Unlimited, the Federation of Fly Fishers, or their respective officers. Articles, letters, and artwork related to the sport of fly fishing or the conservation, restoration, and preservation of Montana's cold and warm water fisheries are welcome. The editor reserves the right to reject or edit any material submitted. Guidelines for the methods of submission, including computer disks and email, are available upon request. The deadline for submissions is the tenth of the month preceding the month of publication.

magic city fly fishers

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GOLD PACKAGE:

1 banquet ticket \$40
115 bucket raffle tickets \$115
Total Value \$155
Your Cost \$100
Savings..... \$55

SILVER PACKAGE:

1 banquet ticket \$40
60 bucket raffle tickets.... \$60
Total Value \$100
Your Cost \$75
Savings..... \$25

BRONZE PACKAGE:

1 banquet ticket \$40
20 bucket raffle tickets.... \$20
Total Value \$60
Your Cost \$50
Savings..... \$10

ADD-ONS:

Upgrade to
Add'l Banquet Ticket \$35
MCCF Mug \$5

To purchase a package call:
Alex Martin
406-628-9325

Package deals expire:
February 7, 2012

**PACKAGE
DEALS FOR
EXPO
BANQUET
FEBRUARY 25**