

What fish runs how big?

12" 12 1/2" 13" 13 1/2" 14" 14 1/2" 15" 15 1/2" 16" 16 1/2" 17" 17 1/2" 18" 18 1/2" 19" 19 1/2" 20" 20 1/2" 21" 21 1/2" 22" 22 1/2" 23" 23 1/2" 24" 24 1/2" 25" 25 1/2" 26" 26 1/2" 27" 27 1/2" 28" 28 1/2" 29" 29 1/2" 30" 30 1/2" 31" 31 1/2" 32" 32 1/2" 33" 33 1/2" 34" 34 1/2" 35" 35 1/2" 36" 36 1/2"



stillwater river



yellowstone river



bighorn river

magic city fly fishers

### January 2012

www.mcffonline.org  
info@mcffonline.org

### Mark Your Calendar

General Meeting  
January 10th, 6:30  
Billings R&GC

Board Meeting  
January 16th  
TBD

# hackle bender

## January 10, 2012 Program

Tim Wade

Tim Wade of North Fork Anglers has been guiding, instructing and assisting fly fishers in the Yellowstone and Cody, Wyoming region for more than 25 years. Tim has taught and written extensively about fly fishing, fly tying, fly casting and entomology, sharing his knowledge of trout behavior on hundreds of guided trips during that time. Nobody loves serving as a fly fishing guide and outfitter more than Tim Wade. "This is a job that is a privilege for me," Tim says. "My office is not bad either!"

## Extended Fly Tying Classes

Ron Hildebrand

In an effort to meet the needs of people who have completed a Beginning Fly Tying class, more advanced fly tying sessions will be held in February and March at East Rosebud Fly and Tackle from 9:45-12:00 noon. Richard Romersa will provide fly tying materials at his cost with supplementation from the MCFF stash keeping the cost to \$15 for 7 sessions. Preference will be given to fly fishers completing a Beginning Fly Tying class and enrollment is limited to 12 fly tyers. Roger Bauer, Ron Hildebrand, Ron Fisher, and Kit Seaton will lead the 7 sessions. To register you may contact Ron Hildebrand at 656-5111. A check for \$15 made out to "MCFF" will secure your registration. You may also complete registration at the January 10th membership meeting.



Hey, if you know some young people you would like to introduce to fly fishing come to the Great Rockies Sports Show on Friday night, January 20th. It is family night, all children 12 and under enter free. Plus the Magic City Fly Fishers will have their crew of members who specialize in showing kids how to tie their first fly. What, no kids? Well, the show runs Saturday and Sunday as well. We will still be showing kids of all ages how to tie a wooly worm – some of those flies are too creative to just be a wooly worm, we need to have a naming contest for them. Anyway, there's a lot to do. MCFF is manning the Fly Tying Theater again, so you will see some of the club's best tiers. And there are always a couple of folks tying up flies so you can stuff your fly box. Or you can check out all those Canadian lodges ????. They do have great photographs though. Maybe the most fun is to just stop by and visit and tell us about your fall fishing trips or if you are going to squeeze in winter trip this year. You can even buy a ticket for the drift boat.

**See you there at Metrapark**  
**Friday: 1 pm to 8 pm**  
**Saturday: 10 am to 6 pm**  
**Sunday: 10 am to 4 pm**





# Magic City Fly Fishers

Chap. 582 of Trout Unlimited  
Affiliated with the  
Federation of Fly Fishers  
P.O. Box 21693  
Billings, MT 59104  
info@mcffonline.org  
www.mcffonline.org

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## Presidents Message

By Lyle Courtnage

If you are not out there fishing there is nothing better than learning about fishing, or visiting with friends about fishing, or checking out new gadgets or flies to make your fishing more fun. And, January and February are the months do all of the above. That is because two of the year's biggest events are coming up in the next few days. The Great Rockies Sports Show is just around the corner – Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 20th, 21st, and 22nd at Billings Metrapark. Just one month later is the Magic City Fly Fishers Expo – Saturday, February 25th at the Holiday Inn Convention Center. Put both on your calendar right now so you do not forget.

The Great Rockies Sports Show provides many opportunities for fun. If you have kids or grandkids that you want to spend a fun evening with, head to Metrapark on Friday night. Kids 12 and under get in free. There are many things for the young people to do. Maybe the most interesting is the chance to sit down with a MCFF member and tie a wooly worm. I've seen some of the most creative flies come out of the ones these kids tie. Last year one young girl came back over and over. She was pretty good by Sunday. You will also have the chance to see some of the club's best fly tiers at the Fly Tying Theater. We tie several times a day throughout the show.

Now the Expo is fun. It is really two Expos in one. All day Saturday attend the free workshops, check out the latest flies or win a ton of new stuff in Dan Mazel's bucket raffles or silent auctions. Kevin Davis puts on quite a show with the kids as well. What I am really looking forward to though, is at the evening banquet. We have a brand new idea this year, the Big Horn River expert panel. This is a group of four "hall of fame" type guys who know Big Horn River fishing better than most of us know our way around our garage. This astute group, assembled by Doug Haacke, includes Steve Hilbers, Hale Harris, Frank Johnson, and Bob Krumm. Read more about them in Doug's article. We'll put together more details in next month's Hackle Bender. In the meantime, pick up a couple Clackacraft Drift Boat raffle tickets. Don't forget to buy some squares on the rod boards at the meeting as well.

Oh yeah. You might even get some fishing in this winter too. I heard Q2 weatherman Bob say this year is shaping up like past years of heavy snow in the mountains and none in the valley. My kind of winter. Anyway, I'm just waiting to see if Roger Lee can top his Christmas trout from a couple of years ago before it warms up.

See you at the Sports Show. - Lyle

## BIGHORN PANEL TO HEADLINE EXPO BANQUET

Doug Haacke, Vice President

Sometimes in life, when you get dealt a seemingly lousy hand, you get lucky and draw to an inside straight. Well, that happened with the scheduling of our guest speaker for the expo, Charlie Craven. A misunderstanding led to a scheduling conflict, and Charlie cancelled. As I pondered the situation, I wondered what made Charlie so much more special than some of our local talent. To be sure, we have some amazing outfitters, guides and anglers living practically next door who are not only great fly tiers, but dedicated conservationists, incredible anglers and just all around great guys. I then imagined what it would be like getting a group them together as a panel in an open forum, and asking them all sorts of questions relating to outfitting, guiding and of course, catching big fish. The more I thought about it, the more I realized this could be something worth seeing! With the blessing of the Magic City Fly Fishers Board of Directors, I scheduled Steve Hilbers and Hale Harris of the Bighorn Trout Shop and long time Bighorn River guides Frank Johnson and Bob Krumm to this year's panel. All of these fine gentleman have been either outfitting and/or guiding on the Bighorn for over 25 years and are the best of the best in just about everything they do. They are all four men I greatly admire, and whom I'm proud to call friends and fellow trout advocates. Anyway, just imagine the stories they'll have to tell about the Bighorn, its fishery and angling, and about each other. Join me for the fun and friendship at the MCFF Expo banquet on February 25th, 2012.

## Youth Fly Tying – Trinity Lutheran School

By Kevin Davis, MCFF Secretary

Ted Loomans, a native of Wisconsin, learned to tie flies on an old Herter's vise at age nine from his father and enjoyed growing up and fly fishing Wisconsin's fine trout streams and rivers. After college, Mr. Loomans joined the faculty at Trinity Lutheran School here in Billings and has enjoyed the past seventeen years teaching here. About ten years ago, "Mr. L.", as the students call him, became acquainted with MCFF youth fly tying coordinator Grant Davis which resulted in beginning a youth fly tying program at Trinity. This fall, the program still continues with twenty-two students, led by Mr. Loomans, MCFF's school fly tying coordinator Ron Hildebrand, and other MCFF volunteers. The class is presented as part of the student curriculum during the school day! "Mr. L.", along with all of his students, suggests the art and science of tying flies in the classroom "beats out" a textbook lesson those subjects any day! Dedicated to sharing his passion and having the necessary tools to do so, Mr. Loomans applied for a "One Class at a Time" grant to purchase fly tying vises for his 7th grade classroom. The \$250 grant, provided by a local television station and bank, was approved. Today, fly tying vises, along with all the other necessary equipment and materials, are permanent teaching tools in his classroom.

Trinity Lutheran School is blessed to have Ted Loomans on their staff. Our fly fishing community is fortunate to have this creative educator sharing his passion with the many young people in his classroom each year. Thanks Mr. L!

## Billings Clinic Children's Psychiatric Center

By Ron Hildebrand

On Wednesday December 28th, Roger Bauer, John Gibson, Ron Hildebrand, Karen Page, and Bob Thiesen offered a Fly Fishing Introductory Seminar to 22 young people ranging in age from 7-17. Roger, Ron, and Karen handled the fly tying segment, John took care of the fly casting, and Bob showed them all the equipment we use and shared some of his wisdom about the art and science of fly fishing. Bob said the kids really enjoyed trying on his fit over sun glasses and thought his landing net was cool. In a 30 minute session John had them doing a fine pick up straight line cast despite the 9 foot tapered leaders Ron had on the fly lines. Roger, Ron, and Karen teamed up to help the 22 students master the wooley worm to round out the experience. When John asked one young man what he learned, he said "I learned everything there is to know about fly fishing".

### Beginning Fly Tying

For those enrolled in the beginning fly tying class, the location is moving to Rosebud Fly and Tackle. We will continue to meet on Saturdays at the same time.

January 7-14-21-28  
9:45-12:00



Roger Bauer leading the class at Trinity Lutheran

*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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- Individual Supporter \$20     Family Supporter \$25  
 Youth Supporter (18 years & younger) \$10     Life Supporter \$500

How would you like to receive our monthly newsletter?

- US Mail     Email

Would you be willing to help with our once a year fly fishing EXPO?

- Yes     No

Would you be willing to help by manning a MCFF information/membership  
table once or twice per year for a few hours at the Rocky Sports Show or  
similar event?  Yes     No