



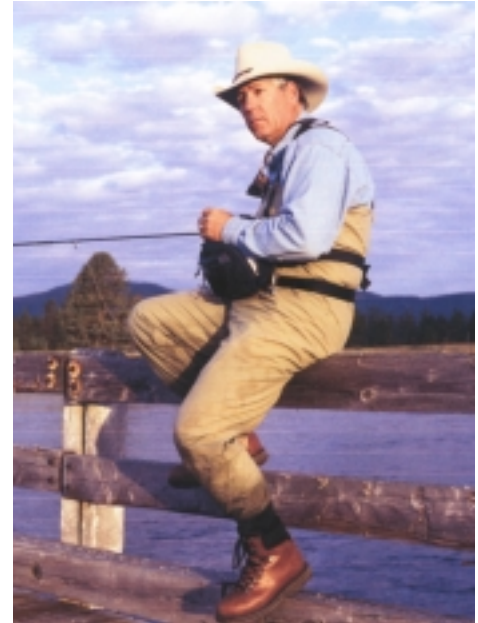
MAGIC CITY
Fly Fishers

THE
Hackle Bender

mcfbillings@earthlink.net • Trout Unlimited website: www.tu.org • FFF website: www.fedflyfishers.org

Program for March 1, 2005

Mike Lawson was born in South Idaho and was raised with a fly rode in his hand. He loves the sport and makes a living sharing that love with others. He is the manager of the Henry's Fork Anglers Fly Shop and is a contract fly tier for Umpqua Feather Merchants. He and his wife Sheralee have three children and live in St. Anthony, Idaho. His summers are busy guiding in many places and his other time is spent doing the "circuit of fly shows and banquet talks." He loves bird hunting as well and plans to be back in our area for some spring turkey hunting. Mike will be tying for us at the meeting and will bring the program "SPRING CREEK MAGIC." He is the author of several books, and magazine articles (he is contributing editor of *Fly Fishing Magazine*) and has several videos with friends like Jack Dennis, Gary LaFontaine and Gordon Eastman. Plan to be on hand and bring a friend.



Ron Fisher's Rod Building Workshops Continue

For March and April from 6:45 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Ron's classes will give helpful tips on doing your own fly rod. He has two helpers at each workshop so you can get personal questions answered. Classes are held in the lower part of the Rod and Gun Club. Bring your questions and your potential rods.

Next Month's Meeting: "Fishing Far and Wide with Norm Zeigler"

Norm is a fishing writer and guide who divides his time between Dillon, Montana and Sanibel Island, Florida. His travels have taken him far and wide with a fly rod and he loves to write and show his experience. His 17 years living and traveling in Europe provide some wonderful moments. Come and share his story April 5 at our meeting.

Meeting Location

All MCFF meetings are held at the Billings Rod and Gun Club. To reach the club, go west about 2.5 miles from the airport entrance on Montana Highway 3, or east about 1.5 miles from the top of Zimmerman Trail on Montana Highway 3.

Watch for a group of mail boxes and a street sign that says "Rod and Gun Club Road" on the north side of the highway. Go north .5 mile to the clubhouse.





Chap. 582 of Trout Unlimited
 Affiliated with the
 Federation of Fly Fishers
 P.O. Box 21693
 Billings, MT 59104
 mcffbillings@earthlink.net

**Board of Directors
 Officers**

Les Zuck, Pres. 656-1811
 Grant Davis, VP 652-6056
 Becky Fleck, Editor .. 322-0202
 Bob Thiesen, Treas. 252-3759

Directors

Donald Ellis 652-1945
 Chris Fleck 322-0202
 John Gibson 656-0384
 Berril Gold 652-5697
 Ron Hildebrand 656-5111
 Hugh Huntley 652-2261
 Roger Lee 656-3312
 Bob Treece 259-5468
 Tom Tyre 896-8821
 Art Warner 652-0597

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.

© 2001-2004 MCFE

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.

From the Desk of the President

Ten years ago the Montana Legislature established a private water leasing program to improve stream flows for trout and protect all private water rights. Trout Unlimited funded and established the Montana Water Project with an office in Bozeman and staffed by Laura Ziemer and Stan Bradshaw to take advantage of this conservation program. To date they have established 20 private leases and conversions. The program has definitely helped to restore and enhance our stream flows.



This year the program expires and will require Legislative action for renewal. Trout Unlimited would like it to become a permanent part of our water user's act and has also recommended enhancements.

I strongly recommend that you support this program's renewal by the Legislature. If you would like to become more informed, TU has published a very worthwhile report, "Private Water Leases - A Montana Approach." This is a ten year history of the program and includes a short dissertation of Montana's very complicated water laws. Copies of the report may be obtained by contacting TU's Bozeman Office, 321 East Main Street, Bozeman, MT 59715, Phone: (406) 522-7291; E-Mail: lziemer@tu.org.

A Word of Thanks to Magic City Fly Fishers

Thanks guys for coming out once again to celebrate Shepherd Junior High's second annual hobby day. The kids had an awesome time behind the vise. My tying club grows after every tying session you present. Thanks for your time and expert knowledge. You can't give a greater gift to a child than a hobby that can be enjoyed for a lifetime.

Thanks again!
 Todd Rose
 Shepherd Public Schools
 Shepherd, Montana



Best and Worst Times to Fly Fish

The Best Times To Fish

The very best time to catch fish is just prior to the arrival of a frontal system after a period of stable weather. For example: If the weather has been in the upper 80's or low 90's and a frontal system of rain and wind is forecast, try to time your trip to hit the water several hours before the front arrives. Even when the rain and wind arrive and the barometer is dropping, fishing should be excellent. The fishing will tail off dramatically when the temperature begins to drop.

If general if the barometric pressure is stable or rising, the fishing should be okay.

As a rule, cloudy days are better than clear days, and warm days are better than cool days. Windy days are usually better than calm days.

Remember:

*“When the wind's from the west,
the fish bite best.*

*When the winds from the east,
the fish bite the least.*

*When the wind's from the south,
the hook gets right into the fish's mouth.”*

The Worst Times To Fish

Cold fronts that often follow a frontal system are fishing trip “killers.” In our part of the world, once the wind whips in from the east or north, the barometer has dropped, and the temperature turns cold it will be very tough fishing for 24 – 48 hours. The fish will simply stop being active.

Because trout are cold-blooded creatures, very cold water (32 – 40 degrees) tends to make fish lethargic. They may still bite, but the fly must be placed within inches of the nose of the fish to be successful.

Very warm water (anything from 70 degrees and up) is deadly to fish. The stress from being caught in very warm water will often kill them. During hot July and August days, it is best to fish only in the early morning hours or not at all.

A Word to the Wise!

Remember the 2004 – 2005 fishing license is only good through February and the new 2005 – 2006 ones are good beginning March 1.

Don't get caught on the stream without a valid license – fishing costs enough anyway!!

Rainbow Run Fly Shop To Re-Open in March

Jim McCall, proprietor of the shop, reports that the ‘new and improved’ shop will be opening in March. It will be enlarged and the front doors will be facing the new parking lot. Nine foot rods will stand on each end with the new heightened ceiling. As a club, let's support our ‘local guys’ and visit the shop soon! Rainbow Run is located at 2244 Grand Avenue, Billings, MT 59102; Phone: (406) 656-3455.

Housing for the 2005 Federation of Fly Fishers Conclave: August 10 – 13

To have such a great event so close is real break for us here in Billings. The Conclave will be held at the high school in Livingston. The club has made arrangements with Camp Luccock, a Methodist Church Camp just south of Livingston, for housing at \$12.00 per night and \$6.00 per breakfast (optional). There are limited spaces open for Wednesday and Thursday nights. Friday and Saturday have openings for all who are interested. Check with Hugh Huntley, Program Chair, for details.





P.O. Box 21693
Billings, MT 59104

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BILLINGS, MT
PERMIT NO. 315



Chapter 582 of
Trout Unlimited



USE THIS FORM TO PURCHASE YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS BY MAIL.

Name: _____ Phone _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Number of Tickets To Purchase: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

(1 Ticket for \$5.00; 5 Tickets for \$20.00)

Enclose and mail your check to Magic City Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 21693, Billings, Montana 59104.

Magic City Fly Fishers will complete the required information on each ticket and return your raffle ticket stub and receipt by mail. You do not need to be present to win.

RAFFLE TICKETS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS.

