

What fish was born here?

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stillwater river



yellowstone river



bighorn river

magic city fly fishers

November 2011

www.mcffonline.org
info@mcffonline.org

Mark Your Calendar

General Meeting
November 1st, 6:30
Billings R&GC

Board Meeting
November 7th
TBD

hackle bender

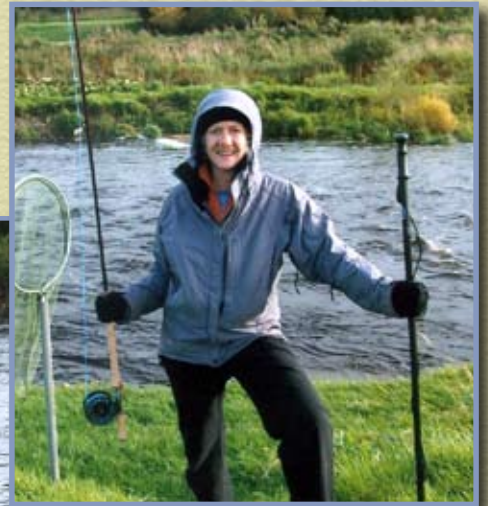
November 1, 2011 Program

Fly Fishing Scotland - A Bucket list Done
By Hugh Huntley

Several years ago, Sylvester Nemes (the soft hackle man) did a program for our club and mentioned that he was going to Scotland for 6 months to check out the salmon fishing. I asked him to plan to do a program again for us about it and he did. While there, he fished the Devron river in the town of Huntly. He even took a picture of the Huntly castle for me as a part of the presentation. Right then I determined to visit the town and the river. Last September, my daughter Pam and I spent two wonderful weeks in Scotland and I did some spey rod fishing on the Devron. I'll be sharing the experience at the November meeting. You may want to make it a bucket list for your future fishing plans. Come and see!

Roger Bauer Tying Demo

Roger Bauer will be our guest fly tier for the November 1st meeting. Roger will be tying his special version of the Wooley Buzzer. This fly has been deadly this fall from the Big Horn to the Stillwater to Rock Creek and several local ponds. If you are looking for a streamer for the November-December fishing you must check out Roger's pattern.



Hugh Huntly with his spey rod and his daughter Pam acting as his gillie



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Magic City Fly Fishers

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There Really is Access to Lilly Pad Lake

Lyle Courtnage

"Lyle, I thought you said this lake was only a mile and a half from the trailhead!" That was my wife (and MCFF member) Peggy's comment two hours into our exploration for Lilly Pad Lake. I was sure Mike Whittington had told me it was an easy hike.

"Just have to get over the initial rise and it is all downhill from there," was my recollection of Mike's suggestion.

We had been hiking for two hours and still no lake. Gee, I had thought we could find Lilly Pad and then move on to Crater Lake, just beyond Lilly Pad. Jeremiah Wood had told me about his adventures the previous year backpacking cutthroat into Crater Lake and I wanted to see how fast they were growing. Those goals were quickly vanishing as we searched the woods for orange trail markers that someone had tied to trees marking some trail – maybe Lilly Pad Lake maybe some secret hunting spot. I certainly was not going to find out this trip. So Peg and I turned back. Eventually we found a relaxing spot on the West Rosebud.

However the point of this story is not to highlight my trailblazing skills. No, the point is to draw attention to a project that, although continuing, with lots of work remaining, is a major success for supporters of access in Montana. A couple of years ago Public Land Water Access (PLWA) highlighted the challenges of public access by writing a story in their newsletter about Lilly Pad Lake <http://www.plwa.org/viewissue.php?id=34>. Now, Lilly Pad is a neat body of water with plenty of Brook Trout (they said). A road goes up to the lake, but the landowner had

cut off access. However, PLWA research found a sliver of BLM land that abutted public state and forest service land that one could follow to Lilly Pad and then to Crater. Only trouble, hard to find the access point and hard to park.

The remedy was a joint effort of the Beartooth Backcountry Horsemen, Billings Rod and Gun Club, the BLM and most importantly the Montana Conservation Corps (MCC). Of course you know we had plenty of moisture this spring. One consequence was that MCC was unable to complete a previous project. Ernie Strum of the Beartooth Backcountry Horsemen helped organize the effort to support the MCC starting the trail to Lilly Pad. They accomplished a lot. The trail they worked on is a superhighway of trails. The trail switchbacks up the steep hillside. It starts just off the West Rosebud road. This is the section Peggy and I had no trouble with. Then you have to maneuver the old trail – if that is really the trail.

Right now the only marker of where the trail starts is the old Lazy EL signs suggesting you not trespass. The county commissioners have stated they would improve the road and parking which would make it easier to find and leave your car. However, they are busy still cleaning up from the spring rains. Maybe it is in their five-year plan.

In the meantime, we owe Ernie Strum and the Backcountry Horsemen a big thank you for helping organize the MCC's work as well as the support they received from BLM and the Billings Rod and Gun Club. We will have Ernie on a club program soon to give us an update of this project. In the meantime I guess I had better talk Mike Whittington into showing me the real trail to Lilly Pad Lake.



Trout Lake by Daniel Mazel



Nice Cut on a cone bead stonefly at Trout Lake Mid Sept.
-Dan Mazel

MONTANA 2012-2015 FISHING REGULATION CHANGES APPROVED

The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission has approved 44 fishing regulation changes for 2012-2015.

"During the recent public comment period we heard from nearly 500 anglers on the proposed regulations," said Don Skaar, supervisor of the FWP fish management section. "Based in large part on these comments, the FWP Commission also approved revisions to three of the previously proposed regulations."

The revisions were:

- The Missouri River trout limit from Holter Dam to Cascade was set at three trout daily, one over 18 inches, and only one may be a brown trout;
- The Yellowstone River trout limit from Yellowstone National Park to the I-90 bridge in Billings was set at four rainbow and/or brown trout daily and in possession, only one over 18 inches; and
- The Central and Eastern District catfish limit was changed to 10 daily, 20 in possession.

Skaar said the remainder of the regulation changes were approved by the commission as proposed, including 14 related to sport fish management. For example, on the Bitterroot River, two catch-and-release sections were combined, and the one over 14-inch restriction on brown trout in the East Fork was removed, and rainbow trout harvest on the East and West forks eliminated.

In other approved fishing regulation changes:

- 12 clarify, standardize or simplify existing regulations;
- 10 support native species conservation—species like bull trout, sauger, and cutthroat trout; and
- Eight establish family fishing waters, where there will be catch and release angling only for adults and some harvest for children 14 years of age and younger.

Montana's fishing regulations are reviewed every four years. The public is engaged through local area meetings and invited to make recommendations. FWP presents the revised fishing regulations to the FWP Commission for tentative approval followed by a 30 day public comment period.

To review the 2012-2015 fishing regulations adopted by the Commission, go to the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov on the Fishing page and click on 2012-2015 Fishing Regulations.

MCFF Beginning Fly Tying Class

Ron Hildebrand

Sign Ups are now being taken for the MCFF Beginning Fly Tying class which will be held on Saturdays beginning November 5 from 9:45-12 noon at the Rainbow Run Fly Shop. This is a members only class with a minimum enrollment of 8 and a maximum of 16 students. A materials fee of \$15 will be charged for this 10 session class.

You may register at the November meeting or by contacting Ron Hildebrand at 656-5111 or by E-Mail at rwhcmh@imt.net. To complete your registration you must provide a check for \$15 made out to Magic City Fly Fishers to Ron prior to the start of the class. Roger Bauer will be the primary instructor with support from

Ron Hildebrand, Karen Page, Kit Seaton, and Robert Thiesen.



Karen Page shows here enthusiasm over a beautiful Rainbow.

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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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