hackle bender

September 2011
www.mcffonline.org
info@mcffonline.org

Mark Your Calendar

Welcome back cookout
September 13th, 6:30
Billings R&GC

Board Meeting
September 19th
TBD

September 13, 2011 Program

MCFF Welcome back cookout

Bill Geer, Director of the Center for Western Lands for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership headlines our new year kickoff meeting on Tuesday, September 13th. Geer is a leading authority on the effects climate change has on our wildlife, land, and water. His talk will include showing some physical evidence of the changing climate in Montana, several examples of the effects on species fish and wildlife sportsmen care about, and what is being done about it to maintain public hunting and fishing opportunities. After Bill's presentation, you will understand the consequences of the changing climate on Montana and our lifestyle.

Welcome Back Cookout:

Starts at 6:30pm. The cost will be $3.00 which is a bargain for the famous Greg Payton hamburger and chips.

5th Annual Rocky Mountain College and Audubon River Cleanup

The Yellowstone River is the longest free-flowing river in the United States. Volunteers are needed to help float the river or walk sections of shoreline. Much of the section that we float was impacted by the oil spill in Laurel. This year they will using GPS technology to map out large trash items that will take heavier equipment to move.

Sat September 17th, 9:00am. The cleanup will start at Duck Creek Bridge for the river float crew. Other teams will be walking sections of shoreline and cleaning up Two Moon Park, Mystic Park, Riverfront Park and Norm's Island. The float will conclude at Coulson Park, stopping to clean up sections along the way. The city of Billings helps with hauling away what is collected at each location as it is literally mountains of trash.

Need: Volunteers, drift boats, rafts and other stable water craft.

Contact:
Kayhan Ostovar 657-1175,
kayhan.ostovar@rocky.edu
The deadline for signing up is Sept 9.

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Magic City Fly Fishers

Chap. 582 of Trout Unlimited
Affiliated with the
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Billings, MT 59104
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Bighorn Update

By Doug Haacke

If you were like most anglers, you did most of your fly-fishing on the Bighorn this summer because the freestone rivers and creeks stayed high and mostly unfishable until the beginning of August. Of course, the Bighorn was no cake-walk either, where flows set all kinds of records for both the spring and summer. I thought I'd take a few minutes and look back at this extraordinary year on the Bighorn.

The fun really started over the winter, when snow pack grew at a steady rate and continued to accumulate in the mountains well into spring. Despite the wet forecast and record snow pack, the Bureau of Reclamation continued to let the lake fill until the middle of April, when they slowly began ramping up river releases. Normally, things would've been just fine except the BuRec never seems to plan for the unexpected, and Mother Nature decided to catch them with their proverbial pants down. On May 15, BuRec Area Manager Dan Jewell told a group of Yellowtail stakeholders and river enthusiasts that river releases would not exceed 8,500cfs in 2011. He also told landowners living along the river below of the dam that he didn't concern himself with tributary inflows because there wasn't anything he could do about them. Logic would assume his planning did not include any concern for downstream interests either. On May 18, a record weather event happened near Wolf Mountain (near Lodgegrass). This event dropped 10.62 inches of rain in a single day, and caused massive flooding in the Bighorn River below the dam, and in the Little Bighorn River. USGS estimated that combined releases of 8,000cfs from Yellowtail and tributary inflows below the dam amounted to over 20,000cfs near Two Leggins. BuRec was suddenly forced to concern themselves with downstream interests, and cut flows from 8,000cfs down to 3,500cfs. This filled the lake quickly (in some cases over 3 feet per day), and a month later, lake levels were deep in the flood pool. Lake recreation for the summer was completely shut down. When releases were ramped back up, they topped out at 15,500 cfs on June 11, and stayed above 10,000 until nearly the 4th of July when the Corps of Engineers ordered releases dropped for a while to provide some relief to the Missouri main stem. By July 12, flows were back up to 10,000cfs and remained above 6,000cfs until August 18th.

For the fourth year in a row, Reclamation has played this dangerous game of managing the reservoir very conservatively, and making every attempt to keep lake levels high and within a 20 foot window. This leaves little or no room for spring runoff, and of course, no room for emergencies or special circumstances. We were blessed to have good fishing on the 'horn, but the high river releases took its toll on the outfitters, guides and lodges, and it will be years before an accurate assessment of the downstream flood damages will be calculated.

Kit and Zoe Seaton at Emerald Lake

www.mcffonline.org

Membership Update

Are you a current member of MCFF?
Don Findon, MCFF Membership Chairman

Your current membership contribution expiration date can be found in the address box of the Hackle Bender mailed to you. Those receiving the Hackle Bender by email will receive an email and or letter when their membership contributions are due.

Your membership contributions go a long ways to help support our monthly meetings, fly tying programs and other club activities.

You can register at our monthly meeting at the membership registration table or mail in a registration form with your contribution to MCFF, PO Box 21693 Billings, MT 59109. Registration forms can be found in our monthly Hackle Bender or on our web site at www.mcffonline.org.

There have been no changes in membership registration fees this year. They are currently at $20 for an individual, $25 for a family and $18 for a youth membership (18 years and younger). There is also a lifetime membership available for $500 for those wishing to take advantage of this option.

There are currently 204 paid up memberships listed on our roster. Nearly 50 members are listed who are not currently paid up members.

Please contact me at 406-671-6429, or at findon@bresnan.net if you have any questions about your membership.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please contact the membership chairman at findon@bresnan.net or call 406-671-6429 if you plan to have an address change.

ADVERTISING

Interested in placing an ad in the next Hackle Bender. Send inquiry to info@mcffonline.org

FWP to host open house meetings

To discuss proposed fishing regulation changes for 2012-2015

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks will host a series of open house meetings to discuss and seek comment on proposed fishing regulation changes for 2012-15. The changes, which would go into effect March 1, 2012, include regulations in the Western, Central and Eastern fishing districts.
Details on the proposed changes, and opportunities to comment, are available for review on the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov. Click "Proposed Fishing Regulations for 2012-2015".
Locations, dates and times for the open houses include:

Glasgow—Sept. 7, 7-9 p.m.:
Cottonwood Inn, Highway 2 E.
Hamilton—Sept. 7, 6-9 p.m.:
USDA Forest Service Office, 1801 North 1st St.
Billings—Sept. 8, 7-9 p.m.:
FWP Region 5 Headquarters, 2300 Lake Elmo Dr.
Havre—Sept. 8, 7-9 p.m.:
Duck Inn; 1300 First St.
Missoula—Sept. 8, 6-9 p.m.:
FWP Region 2 Headquarters, 3201 Spurgin Rd.
Helena—Sept. 12, 7-9 p.m.:
Montana Wild Outdoor Learning Center,
off Hwy12/Euclid at 2668 Broadwater Ave.
Plentywood—Sept. 12, 7-9 p.m.:
Sheridan County Library, 100 W Laurel Ave.
Darby—Sept. 14, 6-9 p.m.:
Community Clubhouse, 106 N. Main St.
Miles City—Sept. 14, 7-9 p.m.:
Miles City Community College, 2715 Dickinson St.
Bozeman—Sept. 15, 7-9 p.m.:
FWP Region 3 Headquarters, 1400 South 19th St.
Great Falls—Sept 15, 7-9 p.m.:
Region 4 Headquarters, 4600 Giant Springs Rd.

Comments must be received by Sept. 19. Send comments by mail to: 2012-15 Fishing Regulations; FWP Fisheries Bureau, P.O. Box 200701; Helena, MT 59601.
The FWP Commission will take final action on the proposals on Oct. 13 in Helena. For more information contact your nearest FWP office or call Don Skaar at 406-444-7409.

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.

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Chapter 582 of
Trout Unlimited

Please drop off this membership renewal form, along with your dues, at the next monthly meeting, or mail to Magic City Fly Fishers.

Magic City
Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 21693
Billings, MT 59104

Chapter 582 of Trout Unlimited

MCFF 2011 membership renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail Address _____

❑ New Membership ❑ Renewal

❑ Individual Membership $20 ❑ Family Membership $25

❑ Youth Membership (18 years & younger) $10 ❑ Life Membership $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