

The Outlet



A publication of the Montana Chapter American Fisheries Society
January 2009

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Has it really been eighteen months since our last Outlet? That's a lot of water under the bridge – and fish with it! To be honest I had good intentions of getting this version out last year (can you believe that 2008 is now a past tense) but you know what they say about good intentions. Actually I think our timing here is going to work out well as the Outlet can both provide you some information regarding and motivate you to make plans for the upcoming annual meeting in Kalispell, February 9-13, 2009. For the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, 2009 looks to be a busy year and as president I wanted to take a few moments of your time (if you make it to the bottom of this column anyway) to describe how I intend to focus the efforts of the executive committee (EXCOM).

Obviously the annual meeting chews up a lot of time, especially for the President-Elect, as all of you who have served in that capacity can attest. Our current President-Elect, Scott Barndt, has done a yeoman's job pulling together a 2009 joint annual meeting with the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Because of the complexities of a joint meeting, things have been a little delayed in coming together, but by the time you read this newsletter registration should be underway. Clearly the annual meeting is a great opportunity and forum for presenting management and research data, information exchange, education, professional networking, renewing old friendships and making new ones, and for some, letting your hair down a little. In other words, why would you miss it? Because it's a joint meeting, space will be limited and scheduling (for committee meetings, sessions, business meetings, etc.) will be different than past years, thus I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the early registration and reservation process, which ensures you a room, saves you a little money, provides information on the schedule, and tightens up the projections for the planners.



As attendance at the annual meeting has grown, the effort required to organize the gathering has become nearly overwhelming. While EXCOM has taken some steps to spread out the workload, the reality remains that it is a big task. Because of this (and for other reasons discussed below), I recently proposed that we consider a fourth rung in the presidential ladder. Currently we elect a President-Elect (generally in February) who assumes that role the following September and then progresses to President and Past-President, serving the Chapter as an EXCOM member for three years. An additional officer – say the office of the 1st Vice President – would require the elected individual to serve for four years instead of three. As I have proposed it, the primary roles of the Vice President would be to learn about governance of the Chapter, gradually develop a governing strategy for their Presidential term, and assist the President Elect with the annual meeting. Not only does this help the President Elect, but it also improves the governance of the Chapter and the EXCOM's institutional knowledge. As it stands now, the President Elect is so busy planning the annual meeting, they have little opportunity to ponder and develop their role as President before it is thrust upon them. Further, such a sequence provides at least two folks on the EXCOM (President and Past-

President) who have served for two plus years, maintaining more consistency, mentoring capacity, and institutional knowledge from year to year on the EXCOM. I think this a winner for the Chapter, with the only downside convincing potential candidates that the extra year of service is worth it.

The EXCOM has agreed to bring this proposal to the members for a vote. Such a change requires amendment of the Chapter bylaws. Further, any amendment requires that members be provided the proposal at least 30 days prior to any vote and that the vote passes with a 2/3 majority. This newsletter and a related website announcement will serve as the required notice to the members, and discussion and vote on this proposal will be held during the business luncheon at the annual meeting provided a quorum of members is present.

Among many things a couple of other “fish” rise to the top – the 2009 Montana Legislative Session and Strategic Planning. In past years the Chapter has hired a part-time lobbyist to represent (along with letters from the President) our position on relevant legislation. However, in reviewing this approach with some folks who are more legislatively astute, it was pointed out that our lobbyist was so closely associated with other groups she represented (not of aquatic orientation) that legislators may not have viewed her as fully vested in aquatic issues. Although this was probably an adequate approach, and one we may ultimately come back to, it may not be the best approach for us. Thus EXCOM has decided to take a more active role with the legislature this year. This will include staking out a select few issues that are important to the Chapter and attempting to represent ourselves by providing literature to legislators and testifying in front of committees. An upside is that Chapter member Scott Bosse stays very closely tuned into the legislature and has agreed to help keep us abreast of potential issues. It remains to be seen if this will be an effective approach, especially given the



time it may demand, but I think it an experiment worth trying. I may call on Chapter members with relevant expertise to help prepare position statements or even represent the Chapter in Helena if needed. Personally, I look forward to learning more about the legislative process; however, when and if I do go testify I plan to introduce myself as Pat Clancey so any idiotic quotes or poor performance on behalf of MCAFS is directly attributed to him! If a legislative issue comes to your attention please contact the EXCOM to make sure we are tracking it.

Although I cringe at the thought of developing a Strategic Plan for the Chapter, I do believe it is something we need to consider. The Chapter has grown large enough, with enough resources at hand, that it is important we consider how to practically and efficiently service the membership and appropriately steward our resources while implementing a roadmap to the future. What additional support and service can we provide for the membership? Where do we as an organization want to go and how do we get there? What are our short and long-term goals and objectives? Its easy to become habitual, even organizationally - sometimes things are done because they are the best way to do things, but sometimes things are done only because they've always been done that way or change seems difficult or frightening. I want to make sure we do things that are in best interest of the Chapter and believe strategic planning could help. I am admittedly naïve on the planning front, but can and will lean heavily on our current President-Elect, who is much more versed in such things, as I try to move this vision into at least partial reality over the next 18 months before I put myself out to pasture.

Finally, a big thank you to all the officers and committee chairs who have helped out over the past year. If I may cliché ... if an organization is only as strong as its members, we are in pretty good shape. A special thanks to Windy Davis who is completing her term as Secretary Treasurer, Lisa Eby who is leaving a huge hole on the Continuing Ed Committee, Lee Nelson (Web Page), Travis Horton (Awards), and Kristi Webb (Membership). We welcome Trevor Selch who has agreed to take over the Awards Committee, Adam Petersen on Web Page, and Amber Steed as Newsletter Editor. Good on you guys! We do have some openings that need to be filled so if you are interested in becoming more involved or active in the Chapter please see the call for committee chairs and officers below.

OK ... maybe that was more than a few moments.



The new Chapter logo designed by member Al Zale. The logo is being integrated into Chapter materials.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND OFFICERS NEEDED

(elections/appointments occur February 12th, assume office in September 2009)

Secretary-Treasurer - elected office, two year term, executive committee member

1st Vice President* - elected office, four year term, executive committee member

President Elect - elected office, three year term, executive committee member

Continuing Education Committee Chair - appointed chair, two year term, responsible for developing continuing education classes at annual meeting

Membership Committee Chair - appointed chair, two year term, responsible for maintaining Chapter membership database (*Note: requires good working knowledge of Access databases*).

Please contact Carter Kruse (carter.kruse@retranches.com) if interested in any of these offices or chairmanships.

* this office will only be filled if Chapter bylaws changes are approved by membership prior to elections. If the proposed changes (see Presidents Corner article above) are not approved candidates for this office will become a candidate for President-Elect.

Chapter Notes

MSU STUDENT SUBUNIT

The Montana State University AFS (MSU-AFS) student subunit hosted the first annual, Western Division AFS Student Colloquium October 23-25, 2008 in Bozeman. Students came from four universities and participated in a variety of social and professional activities designed to foster networking among fisheries students.

The event kicked off on Thursday with a well-attended opening social at a local brew pub. Students, MSU professors, and local fisheries professionals gathered over appetizers and beverages to discuss fisheries research, potential graduate positions, the nuances of fisheries careers, and to make new acquaintances.

On Friday, students participated in a field trip to Yellowstone National Park (YNP). The trip into the Park rewarded students with sights of geysers in the Norris Geyser Basin, waterfalls in Yellowstone River Canyon, and wolves roaming through a 1988 burn area. The Park was serene and quiet with the winter season fast approaching. The day was concluded with a relaxing soak in Boiling River.

MSU-AFS was delighted by the excellent participation in the presentation section of the Colloquium on Saturday. Kris Homel (President) and Lora Tennant (Vice-President), of the MSU-AFS subunit, welcomed students to the meeting. Leanne Roulson, President-Elect of the Western Division, gave an update of WDAFS activities and opportunities, specifically those related to students. After the welcome, the day was filled with 4 sessions of oral presentations and a poster session. A lot of time went into preparing the presentations and the quality was impressive! At the end of the presentations, attendees voted on the location of next year's Colloquium and it was determined that the Colorado State University student subunit will host the Student Colloquium in the autumn of 2009.

The Colloquium closed with a social at a local hot spring, where students soaked and listened to live folk music. The combination of social and professional activities allowed students many opportunities to forge new friendships that will grow stronger through future professional interactions. Furthermore, by bringing students together from throughout the Western Division, everyone had the opportunity to learn about fisheries issues, research, and academic programs from other regions.

The MSU-AFS subunit would like to thank all of the participants in this year's Student Colloquium and would particularly like to thank the Western Division of AFS, the Montana Chapter of AFS, and Montana State University for their generous contributions. Thanks to the effort of so many, the first annual WDAFS Student Colloquium was a success!



Student colloquium opening night social.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CONCERNS COMMITTEE

The Resource Management Concerns Committee submitted two letters since the meeting in February, 2008. The first was a commentary to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regarding the Shields River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plan. The letter addressed concerns specific to the Shields River plan as well as TMDL plans statewide. A second letter was submitted to the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation regarding the September 2008 Oil and Gas Lease sale. We welcome suggestions for issues related to research and management in Montana that deserve comment from MCAFS. If members have suggestions, please contact John Syslo (jsyslo@montana.edu), at MT Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, MSU-PO Box 173460, Bozeman, MT 59717, or (406) 994-3698.

CLIMATE COMMITTEE

Low water, light snowpacks, high air and water temperatures, stressed fish, fishing closures. They are all too familiar to Montana's professional fisheries community. Each of these challenges is increasingly a measure of what some would say is the challenge of our times, global warming.

At the February 2008 Montana Chapter meeting, the executive committee agreed with the recommendation of a number of members to establish a committee to examine global warming, and to help AFS members and others fishery professionals gain a better understanding of how our changing climate might affect aquatic communities and angling. So far, the committee has agreed to a work on a handful of endeavors including:

- Generating a literature review of existing research on global warming and how it is affecting water and aquatic communities.

- Producing a white paper summarizing what we are learning about the projected trend of global warming and its effects on aquatic ecosystems and fish, including synthesizing information from the plenary session at the February chapter meeting.
- Serving as a hub for information transfer on science and policy related to global warming, using the chapter's webpage to house literature and establish links with important sources of information.
- Developing a resolution for chapter adoption, perhaps for submission to the parent society, on what we know about the cause and effects of global warming and how fisheries professionals can contribute to efforts to stem its adverse effects.

The committee also agreed that the chapter increase its outreach efforts to the public, media and policy makers on what the changing climate means to fisheries in Montana.

So far the committee is comprised of Carter Kruse, Mike Young, David Schmetterling and co-chairmen Bruce Farling and Bob Gresswell. For more, or to help on the committee, contact bruce@montanatu.org or bgresswell@usgs.gov.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The end of the year has quickly passed, which means it is time to renew your AFS membership for 2009. To be an active Montana Chapter member, you must be a member of the parent AFS society and pay your Montana Chapter dues. An active Montana Chapter member has voting privileges and receives a subscription to Fisheries magazine. To renew or join go to <http://www.fisheries.org/afs/> and place your cursor over the tab *How You Can Join* and click *Join online* or *Renew online*.

Please feel free to contact Kristi Webb (kwebb@m-m.net) with any membership questions or contact information changes.

SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN COMMITTEE

Over the last couple of years the committee has primarily focused on updating status papers for fishes of special concern in Montana. Most of the status reports that needed to be

updated have been revised and reviewed, but some work remains and we still need a volunteer to author the spoonhead sculpin paper. We haven't been very active since the last meeting, but we will be making a push to work with authors of status reports to tie up some remaining loose ends prior to the next meeting in February. In other matters, the committee drafted a letter for the EXCOM and president to review and send to the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission on behalf of the chapter. This letter was in response to a commission decision to initiate a new public comment period on the ongoing South Fork Flathead Watershed Westslope Cutthroat Trout Conservation Program after a commissioner proposed to postpone the project.

WEB PAGE COMMITTEE

In 2008, the Web Design and Content Committee redesigned the look and feel of the Montana Chapter AFS website. Three design options were provided to EXCOM committee members and a user-friendly design was chosen that incorporated a scrolling photo bar with thumbnail shots of various Montana fishes and fishery folks. Information and web content from the previous site was switched over to the new design in August and September. A goal of the Web Design and Content Committee for 2008 and 2009 will be to provide search capability for the site. Any suggestions to improve the site are welcome.

PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Committee chair is looking for others to join the committee and get involved. I know that we are all busy and maybe there are other committees that have too many members? We all as chapter members have an opportunity to come up with some interesting and meaningful public outreach items from this chapter. Hope to see a few interested chapter members at the next meeting with interests and ideas to work on public outreach items for 09.

AWARDS COMMITTEE

See summary of 2008 annual meeting below.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

See summary of upcoming continuing education workshops in the preliminary agenda for the 2009 annual meeting below.



Robbin Waggoner – US Fish and Wildlife Service

Scott, quit picking on me! I didn't have anything to do with mentoring your bother-in-law! Any time he spent with me, he wished he were somewhere else ("happy place! happy place!"). Now I have to think of something to write, the procrastination king of the entire fish world!

It is an honor to be included in this group that is if being lumped with a bunch of sick puppies is an honor! Well, Brad doesn't seem as twisted as the rest of us, although he did suggest renaming the Tongue River after George Jordan! What the hell?... Little White Boy River?

Anyway, who would have thought a little Rez kid running free in southeast Montana would ever do anything other than hunt, fish, punch cows and put up hay for the rest of his life? I don't precisely recall when the old man told me that he was going to send me to away to college. My little brother had already dropped out of high school, I'd always done good in school, father never had the chance to go to college, yatta, yatta ... I was not exactly enthused about the whole idea of giving up the romantic cowboy lifestyle. I didn't find out until much later that the old man had sold my few head of heifers and my 2 horses to pay for my education, essentially sealing my fate.

In 1981, I was one of two biology majors to graduate from Rocky Mountain College, it took me five years, I had to retake several classes to raise my major GPA (all that drinkin' and druggin' in my early years), but I made it, much to the relief of my major advisor. Immediately after graduation, I turned down my first and last job offer, running a coal testing lab at a mine in Big Horn County. After several jobs working for a couple of different security firms (rattling doors and checking boilers) and cooking lunches at a couple different restaurants (I still cook a meal or two in hunting camp now days, but nothing anybody would pay for), I decided to apply to take the GRE. I was at Eastern Montana College (that's MSU Billings for you youngsters) picking up an application when I spotted a small note on a bulletin board. It read... "Looking for biological experience? Familiar with the Big Horn Mountains of northern Wyoming? Volunteer for the US Fish and Wildlife Service today!" I was the only person to inquire.

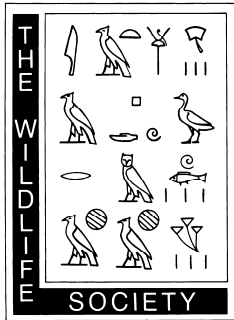
I spent most of the summers of '83 and '84 hiking in the mountains of northern Wyoming between Sheridan and Jackson packing equipment and supplies for the likes of Steve Oddan, Alex Hoar and Bill Jones (easiest work of my life up to that point). I lived off the travel expenses of \$20 per day for lodging and \$10 per day for food. When we were in Jackson, I was reimbursed for actual expenses, so I ate in some pretty fancy places now and then. Word soon got out that there was a kid in the Billings ES Office that, while not always the sharpest tool in the shed, would work for peanuts. In the fall of 1984, I met Ron Skates. Ron explained to me that he was starting to expand a little known office in Kalispell that was founded to assist Montana Indian Tribes with their fish and wildlife management and he offered me a real job as a biological technician. In the spring of 1985, I moved my family to Kalispell and began working out of the Creston Fish and Wildlife Center. Most of the fisheries work was centered on the Blackfeet and Flathead Reservations with smaller amounts of work on the Rocky Boy's and Ft. Belknap Reservations and Glacier National Park. In 3 years we started extending fisheries assistance to the Ft. Peck, Crow and Northern Cheyenne Reservations and Lee Metcalf and Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuges.

In 1988, I was reassigned to Bozeman Fish Technology Center so I could pick up the college courses to qualify as a fisheries biologist (wildlife biologists get the shaft, twice as many required classes). I was fortunate to take classes from Bob White, Bill Gould and Cal Kaya while attending MSU in Bozeman and work with the likes of Charlie Smith, Bob Piper, Pat Dwyer and Greg Kindschi at the Technology Center. I returned to Kalispell and was promoted to fisheries biologist.

Our office is such a small part of the larger Fisheries Division that we have been free to make up our own rules and pretty much do as we please over the years. We have occasionally been in trouble with some Federal or State agency when a Tribe exercised some little known authority or insisted on being treated as an equal when negotiating water, hunting or fishing rights. I still bump into people in my agency that are amazed that we assist Indians with fish and wildlife management on their Reservations. I would even hazard a guess that over 90% (okay, 80%) of the persons in the Denver Regional Office and Washington D.C. Office have seen more polar bears and penguins than Indians (apologies to Chris Rock)!

Throughout my 23 year career (wow! am I old), my job has allowed our office to operate under the radar and do good things on the ground, in many instances, ground that had never been inventoried, all despite working for an agency that seems to be getting out of the fish and wildlife business. It is sweet to find a pure strain cutthroat population or to document a range extension (extended brook stickleback range in opposite corners of the state!). It's even sweeter to help a Tribe establish a fish and wildlife department and develop the expertise to manage their own resources. I have through the years, been able to enjoy working with a small army of students (both college and high school), summer temps, contractors, volunteers, bums off the street (Mogen and Jordan) and rejects from other agencies (Fredenberg), nearly all of which have gone on to practice their craft in the natural resources arena and exceed me in pay, grade and fame. Thanks for all the influences.

Dave Schmetterling, tag it up!



**MONTANA CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
and
MONTANA CHAPTER OF
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**



2009 JOINT CONFERENCE

*February 9 – February 13, 2008
Red Lion Hotel, Kalispell*

**ADAPTING FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT TO HUMAN
DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN MONTANA**

Announcing the 2009 Annual Meeting – a joint meeting of the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and the Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society. This year's theme builds upon the theme of the previous conferences that have captured some of the biggest challenges fish and wildlife managers currently face, such as climate change. Complicating the picture for sustaining aquatic organisms and their habitat over the long term is the changing human face in Montana.

Contact the Red Lion Hotel to reserve your room in the block to get state/federal per diem rates **(1-800-Red-Lion or 1-800-733-5466)**. Free shuttle service to and from the airport and Amtrak. Reserve early if you want to stay on-site.

Rooms also available at:

Hampton Inn (755-7900) - Shuttle service available to and from the airport, Amtrak, and conference.

Hilton Garden Inn (756-4500) - Free shuttle service to and from the airport, Amtrak, and conference. Government rate honored.

Kalispell Grand (755-8100) - Within walking distance of conference.

Travelodge (755-6123) - Within walking distance of conference.

Other Hotels Available in Kalispell:

Aero Inn (755-3798)

Best Western White Oak Grand Hotel (857-2400)

Blue & White Motel (755-4311)

Holiday Inn Express (755-7405)

La Quinta Inn & Suites (257-5255)

Outlaw Inn (755-6100)

Rodeway Inn (755-6700)

**MODERATORS AND
STUDENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

If you are interested in moderating a session or serving as a volunteer, please contact **Scott Barndt** (sbarndt@fs.fed.us). Volunteers will help with AV equipment, registration and other tasks. **Student volunteers will have registration waived!**

Preliminary Agenda

REGISTRATION ~ REGISTRATION DESK NEAR RESTAURANT

- Monday, February 9th: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
 - Tuesday, February 10th: 7:00 AM – 10:00 AM; 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
 - Wednesday, February 11th: 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM
 - Thursday, February 12th: 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM; 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM
 - Friday, February 13th: 7:30 AM – 9:00 AM
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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

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|------------|--|--|
| 8-10 am | Loon Working Group | Contact: Ron Steiner (892-6925) |
| 10-11 pm | Harlequin Duck Working Group | Contact: Steve Gniadek (888-7833) |
| 11 am-3 pm | All Bird Working Group | Contact: Catherine Wightman (490-2329) |
| 3-5 pm | Herp and Amphibian Working Group | Contact: Allison Puchniak (247-2966) |
| 6-8 pm | Bat Working Group | Contact: Kristi DuBois (542-5551) |
| 1-5 pm | Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Executive Committee Meeting | |
| 1-5 pm | USDI Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Biologist Workshop | Contact: Jeff Warren (276-3536) |

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

8-5 pm PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS (Continuing Education)

Workshop Session I:

Impacts of Changing Human Demographics: Invasive Species and Other Species of Concern

A critical issue that fish and wildlife managers face that accompanies human development and natural resource extraction is the spread of exotic species. As human population and natural resource use increases, the potential for exacerbated exotic species invasion exists. It affects fish, wildlife, and land management decisions. The morning portion of this workshop will focus on key current and potentially upcoming invasive species of concern in addition to other species of concern that we should all be aware. The session will cover which species are a concern and why, strategies for management, and resources for managers and the public. The afternoon session will be focused around communicating some of the species of special concern that we should be aware of and what resources are available for tracking these species. The goals of the session are to ensure folks have important information regarding these species (which ones to be aware of, identification, status, and resources for education and reporting). These resources are especially critical as we evaluate the potential impact (and current impact) of new development and changing human use of lands. The session will include both aquatic and terrestrial species

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|--------------|--|
| 8:00 - 8:40 | “Priorities for Aquatic Nuisance Species Management” Bob Wilshire (Director, Center for Aquatic Nuisance Species) |
| 8:40 - 9:10 | “Conservation of westslope cutthroat trout in the face of exotic trout” Brad Shepard (Fish Biologist, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks) |
| 9:10 - 9:50 | ”Flowering Rush, an invasive aquatic macrophyte infesting the headwaters of the Columbia River System” Peter Rice, University of Montana and Virgil Dupuis Salish Kootenai College. |
| 9:50 - 10:10 | Break |

- 10:10 - 10:40 "Communication Strategies for weed management and resources for the public"
Mary McFadzen (CIPM Assistant Director for Outreach and Science)
- 10:40 - 11:05 "Ecology and management of invasive species - a conceptual framework"
Dean Pearson (Research Ecologist, U.S. Forest Service)
- 11:05 - 11:30 "Efficacy of a common weed control treatment for mitigating impacts of knapweed invasion"
Yvette Ortega
- 11:30 - 12:00 "Exotics among us"
Tim Feldner (Manager, Commercial Wildlife Permitting, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks)
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch Provided

Species of Concern: listing, database, and resources for tracking their distribution. Bryce Maxell, Alan Cox (Montana Natural Heritage Program) and Scott Story, Bill Daigle (Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks)

- 1:00 - 2:00 Species of Special Concern listings and databases available
- 2:00 - 2:15 Break
- 2:15 - 3:15 Species of Special Concern listings and databases available
- 3:15 - 3:30 Break
- 3:30 - 5:00 Database products and training (Tracker and MFISH Training Session)

Workshop Session II:

Impacts of Changing Human Demographics: Fish and Wildlife Management Challenges and Solutions in the Changing "Face" of Montana

In Montana, we are seeing an increase in population growth that is resulting in complex and somewhat novel management issues. The morning will begin with issues and solutions surrounding the expanding development from population centers in Montana. This session will focus on human, wildlife, and water issues associated with the development, in particular increased overlap with wildlife, working with the variety of landowners in new developments, and responsible development. The afternoon will follow-up with speakers focusing on issues associated with an increase in the number and diversity of users on the landscape, as well as new people coming into Montana. This increase in new people creates issues not only with crowding of recreational resources, but a need to figure out how to work with a variety of types of landowners across a broad landscape.

Moderator: Dan Pletscher

- 8:00 - 8:30 "Suburban and exurban influences on wildlife and fish"
Paul Krausman, Sonja Smith, Jonathan Derbridge & Jerod Merkle (Wildlife Biology Program, Univ. MT)
- 8:30 - 9:15 "Preventing conflicts with predators with an emphasis on bears"
Patti Sowka (Living with Wildlife Grant Program and Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, MFWP)
- 9:15 - 9:45 "The "Partners-In-Life" Program - Bear Shepherding to Reduce Human-Wildlife Conflict"
Russ Palmo (Wind River Bear Institute)
- 9:45 - 10:10 "Bluegrass, Bunchgrass, Barbed Wire, and Black Bears: A Volunteer's Perspective on Subdivisions and Wildlife in Missoula's Grant Creek"
Bert Lindler (President of the Prospect Meadows Homeowners Association)
- 10:10 - 10:30 Morning Break
- 10:30 - 11:20 "Land use planning: regulations, limitations, and incentives for landowners"
Dennis Glick (Regional Director of Northern Rockies Region, Sonoran Institute)

- 11:20 - 12:00 “Using Land Use Planning to Protect Montana’s Wetlands and Riparian Areas”
Janet Ellis (Program Director for Montana Audubon)
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch Provided
- 1:00 - 1:30 “Protecting instream flows in a changing landscape”
Stan Bradshaw (Trout Unlimited)
- 1:30 - 2:00 “River Recreation Management in Montana: Quantity versus Quality”
Charlie Sperry (Recreation Management Specialist, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks)
- 2:00 - 2:40 “Lessons learned from the Blackfoot – steps to success”
Ryen Aashiem (Big Blackfoot Trout Unlimited), Greg Neudecker (Assistant State Coordinator for the Montana Partners for Fish and Wildlife program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's representative in the Blackfoot)
- 2:40 - 3:00 Afternoon Break
- 3:00 - 3:40 “A fine line between success and failure in landscape conservation”
Greg Neudecker (Assistant State Coordinator for the Montana Partners for Fish and Wildlife program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's representative in the Blackfoot)
- 3:40 - 3:55 Owning Eden (film)
- 3:55 - 4:25 “New Montana Landowners/Old Time Traditions: A Changing Landscape in Big Sky Country”
Alan Charles (Coordinator of Landowner/Sportsman Relations, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks)
- 4:25 - 5:00 Wrap-up Panel discussion (with all speakers that are available):
Moderator: Dan Pletscher

Other Tuesday Functions

- 8 am - 12 pm USDI Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Biologist Workshop - Continued
- 8 am - 5 pm MFWP and USFWS Fisheries and Hatchery Managers – Fisheries Summit
Contact: Mark Maskill (758-6870)
- 1 - 5 pm Flathead/Swan Lake Trout Working Group
Contact: Wade Fredenberg (758-6872)
- 6:30 - 8:30 pm Bald Eagle Working Group Meeting
- 5:30 - 9 pm Mixer For Workshop Participants
- Hors d’voeures, keg beer, wine, no host bar.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- 8:00 Welcome – President MT AFS and President MT TWS
- 8:30 **Plenary Session** “Adapting Fish and Wildlife Management to Montana’s New Demographics”
Session Chair: Brian Kahn
- 8:40 **Montana’s Wildlife Legacy: Decimation to Restoration**
Speakers: Jim Williams, Terry Lonner, Harold Picton
- 9:20 **Montana Challenge: Defining Montana’s New Demographics**
Speaker: Suzanne Miller
- 10:00 **Fish and Wildlife Values in the West**
Speakers: Dr. Michael Manfredo, Dr. Tara Teel
- 10:40 Break

11:10 A **Wildlife Manager's Challenge: Greater Yellowstone area elk movements: brucellosis risk and hunter access**
Speaker: Julie Cunningham

11:40 A **Fishery Manager's Challenge – Case Study of fish management in “today's reality”**
Speaker: Jim Vashro

11:50 **Putting It All Together: What it means for Natural Resource Managers in Montana; Now and Into the Future**
Session Chair: Brian Kahn

12:00 – 1:00 **Lunch – On Your Own**

1:00 **Montana's Landowners: Management Implications of Montana's Changing Demographics . (20 minutes each)**
Hunter Access – Alan Charles
Plum Creek Adaptation and Adjustment – Loren Hicks
Perspective of a Non-traditional Landowner/Manager – Russ Miller
Perspective of a Traditional Landowner/Manager – Jim Stone
Stream Access – Bob Lane
Water Rights – Stan Bradshaw

3:00 Break

3:15 **“How Are Fish and Wildlife Managers, and the Agencies or Organizations They Represent, Going to Adapt to This Change?”**
FWP Director – Joe Maurier (Tentative)
USFS Deputy Regional Forester – Jane Cotrell
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation – Jack Blackwood
Montana Trout Unlimited – Bruce Farling

4:35 **“Putting It All Together: What it means for Natural Resource Managers in Montana; Now and Into the Future”**
Session Chair: Brian Kahn

5:30 – 9:00 **Plenary Social**
• Keg beer, wine, no host bar, hors d'oeuvres

Other Wednesday Functions

8 am - 5am Tradeshow
5:30 - 9 pm Student Mentoring Session
4:45 - 6 pm MTAFS Committee Meetings
7 - 9 pm Montana Association of Fish and Wildlife Biologists – General Membership Meeting
(Mark Sullivan – Contact)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

8:00 - 5:00 Concurrent Breakout Sessions

8:00 - 5:00 Tradeshow

12:00 - 2:00 MT TWS and MT AFS Business Luncheons

6:00 – 10:00 Banquet
• Keg beer, wine, no host bar.
• Silent Auction and Raffle
• Election Results
• Awards
• Entertainment – John Dunnigan

Meet John Dunnigan

(www.johndunnigan.com)

Musician. Songwriter. Entertainer. Funny man. Baseball coach. Pancake maker. Lawn mower. John Dunnigan is many things. He's also one lucky, plucky guy. He's been fortunate to play music for a living almost his entire life. Choose any stringed instrument and odds are he can pick it - guitar, banjo, pedal steel. He also blows a mean harp. During his career, John has played with Bonnie Raitt, Asleep at the Wheel, Norton Buffalo, The Dirt Band, Kris Kristofferson and many others including Bruce Springsteen.

Growing up in Northern California, John experienced the same electric jolt that sparked many a young musical career – he saw the Beatles on The Ed Sullivan Show. It rocked his world. He bought a guitar and soon began playing some of the leading venues in California - pizza venues, that is. John later toured the country with a band and eventually landed in Big Fork where he pulled off the road and decided to plant roots.

As he played around the Flathead Valley night after late night, it slowly dawned on John that he was destined for mediocrity. So, he developed a solo act and started writing original songs that were both heartfelt and hilarious. Songs like “I Don’t Touch, I Just Look” and “I’m Too White To Sing Reggae.” Over the years, he has recorded several CDs that feature some of the leading musicians in the Flathead Valley.

Since arriving in Montana a generation ago, John has raised a lot of roofs with his spirited, crowd-pleasing music. He has also raised two sons (Andy and Jimmy) with his wife (Andrea). Simply put, John Dunnigan is a devoted family man and dynamic, first-rate entertainer.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

8:00 Concurrent Breakout Sessions – End Time determined by the number of abstracts received.

Closing Presidents’ Message

PLEASE NOTE CHANGES FROM TRADITIONAL MEETING FORMAT: Meeting format was negotiated with TWS to accommodate needs of both societies. Therefore, awards will be handed out at the banquet – note that guests can be brought to the banquet for an additional \$25 fee. The banquet will feature LIVE entertainment by musician and humorist John Dunnigan (www.johndunnigan.com). Business meetings will be held during the lunch hour on Thursday– if you wish to attend the meeting, **remember to register for the lunch that day.**

Draft agendas for the continuing education and plenary sessions will be posted to the website and updated as they change!

Conference Registration

On-line registration is open at the website: <http://www.mtgs-etc.com/mtafs5.htm>

Conference Fees for 2009:

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Early Registration | \$135 (Last day - January 26 th) |
| Late (At the Door) | \$225 |
| Single Day Early | \$65 |
| Single Day at the Door | \$65 |
| Retired | \$50 |
| Student | \$45 |
| Workshops | \$75 (includes breaks and buffet lunch) |
| Extra Banquet Tickets | \$25 |
| Business Luncheon | \$15 (Thursday) |

Other Conference Highlights

ICEFISHING! If there is enough interest, Monday and Friday are available for groups to venture out onto a local lake to pursue kokanee, perch, etc. BYOG or ask for loaners (limited availability) when you get here. Contact Jim Vashro – 751-4550.

Ski Whitefish Mountain: <http://www.skiwhitefish.com/>

Numerous X-Country Skiing Opportunities – More information available at conference
Buffalo Hills (free and close to Red Lion)
Whitefish area trails

There are many individual and group tour possibilities. Contact the Red Lion Hotel for a list of available tours and activities.

FINAL CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS!

The submission deadline of Jan. 1 has passed. However, the Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society will continue to accept submissions until January 16; therefore, the MCAFS deadline will be **extended to January 16**. Please send submissions to **Scott Barndt** (sbarndt@fs.fed.us). Thank you to those who have already made submissions! See Chapter website for submission guidelines.



2008 Awardees (l to r): Sue Camp (group); Al Zale (educator); Roger Muggli (group); Leanne Roulson (past-president); Russ Forba (natural resource professional); Matt Jaeger (fish professional); and Yvette Converse (individual achievement).

2008 ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

Over 180 members of the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society gathered in Billings, Montana, February 12-14th for the 41st annual meeting of the Chapter. The meeting was organized around the theme of “*Warming to the Future: Preparing for the Potential Effects of Climate Change on Montana’s Aquatic Resources*” and the opening plenary session included six very informative papers discussing science and policy related to this topic. A consistent message to a somber audience was that climate change will likely be the biggest issue that aquatic biologists, managers, researchers, and practitioners have ever faced. The Montana Chapter subsequently formed a Climate Committee that was initially charged with summarizing relevant climate science to provide members and policy makers with information.

The meeting opened with a full day continuing education workshop – “*Estimation Methods for Absolute and Relative Measures of Fish Populations*” – taught by Drs. Daniel Hayes (Michigan State University) and Wayne Hubert (University of Wyoming – USGS Cooperative Research Unit). The course was well taught and provided a solid platform for members looking for either an initial exposure to or a refresher in sampling and estimation techniques. We recommend this course to other chapters. Following the plenary session, technical papers and posters were presented by scientists from a wide range of agencies, organizations, and universities on topics as diverse as large river fisheries management, native fish restoration and management and prairie stream fishes. Highlights of Chapter committee caucuses and the business meeting included a focus on climate change, status assessments for Montana’s native and sensitive aquatic species, the effects of discharge water associated with coal bed natural gas recovery, and distribution of resource action fund grants. Scott Barndt, fishery biologist for the Gallatin National Forest, was chosen as President-Elect and will assume that role in September. The Chapter is considering a joint annual meeting with the Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society in 2009. As intended, the meeting provided a great forum for information exchange, education, professional discourse, and reconnection of friendships and acquaintances.

At our 41st Annual Meeting the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society was excited and proud to recognize the achievements of several fisheries resources professionals. The following individuals were

recognized for outstanding effort and achievement on behalf of Montana’s aquatic resources:

Matthew Jaeger (Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks) was recognized as our **Fish Professional of the Year** for his efforts on behalf of native Missouri River fishes, include pallid sturgeon. This award is the highest recognition of the Montana Chapter. Matt also received the **Best Professional Paper** award for his presentation entitled “*Is anybody out there? Survival estimation of hatchery reared pallid sturgeon*”.

Russ Forba (US Environmental Protection Agency) received the **Natural Resource Professional of the Year** award for his concerted efforts on behalf of the environment and fishes on the Milltown Dam removal project.

Yvette Converse (US Fish and Wildlife Service – Bozeman Fish Technology Center) was given an **Individual Achievement** award for her work on behalf of native and endangered fishes, and aquatic education.

The **Collaborative Group** award was given to the **Muggli Fish Passage Group** for their efforts towards improving fish passage at water diversion structures on the Yellowstone River.

Dr. Alexander Zale was recognized as Montana’s **Outstanding Educator** for his past and ongoing efforts as an educator at Montana State University – USGS Cooperative Research Unit, especially in graduate student mentorship and instruction.

Leanne Roulson (Garcia and Associates) was presented with a **Past-President’s** plaque in recognition of her dedicated sacrifice on behalf of the Chapter. We appreciate her professionalism and leadership over the past three years and wish her the best as she assumes officer duties with the Western Division.

Peter Brown (Montana State University) received the **Best Student Paper** award for his presentation “*Effects of fish size and stream characteristics on piscicide effectiveness*”. Peter is advised by Dr. Zale.

Finally, **Carter Fredenberg** (University of Montana undergraduate), **Benjamin Goodman** (Montana State University graduate student), and **Lora Tennant** (Montana State University graduate student) received **Wally McClure Scholarships** for their scholastic accomplishments.

TREASURER'S REPORT FROM 09/18/08 TO 01/07/09

Total Chapter Assets/ Liabilities

Checking Account \$10,162.72
Trust Fund \$25,784.75
Wally McClure Scholarship Fund \$17,484.38
TOTAL \$53,431.85

CHECKING ACCOUNT – First Interstate Bank

Beginning Balance 09/08/08 \$9,947.72
Gains/(Loss) \$215.00

Ending Balance 01/06/09 **\$10,162.72**

TRUST FUND—PAX WORLD FUND BALANCE

Beginning Balance 09/18/08 \$30,379.38
Gains/(Loss) (4,594.63)

Ending Balance 01/06/09 **\$25,784.75**

WALLY MCCLURE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Beginning Balance 09/18/08 \$21,526.30
Gains/(Loss) (4041.92)

Ending Balance 01/06/09 **\$17,484.38**

American Fisheries Society



Western Division Annual Meeting
Evolution of the Western Landscape:
Balancing Habitat, Land, and Water Management for Fish.
Albuquerque, New Mexico
May 3-7, 2009

**Western Division currently seeking submissions for symposia, contributed papers, and symposia.
Visit the meeting website at <http://www.aznmfishsoup.org/wdafs09/index.htm>**

| Officers | Name | Address | Office 406- | E-mail |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--|-------------|-----------------------------|
| President | Carter Kruse | Turner Enterprises, Inc. 1123 Research Drive Bozeman, MT 59718 | 556-8508 | carter.kruse@retranches.com |
| Past-president | David Schmetterling | Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks 3201 Spurgin Road Missoula, MT 59804 | 542-5514 | dschmett@bigsky.net |
| President-elect | Scott Barndt | USFS-Gallatin National Forest 10 E. Babcock, PO Box 130, Bozeman, MT 5977 | 587-6711 | sbarndt@fs.fed.us |
| Secretary-Treasurer | Windy Davis | FWP Region 7 Headquarters Industrial Site West, P.O. Box 1630 Miles City, MT 59301 | 234-0942 | widavis@montana.gov |
| MSU Student Subunit | Kris Homel | MT Coop Fishery Research Unit Montana State University 301 Lewis Hall, PO Box 173460 Bozeman, MT 59717 | 994-1823 | krishomel@hotmail.com |
| UM Student Subunit | | | | |
| Committee Chairs | Name | | Office 406- | E-mail |
| Newsletter Editor | Amber Steed | Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks 490 N Meridian Rd Kalispell, MT 50405 | 751-4541 | asteed@mt.gov |
| Awards | Travis Horton | Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Fisheries Division P.O. Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620 | 444-3364 | thorton@mt.gov |
| Continuing Education | Lisa Eby | University of Montana College of Forestry and Conservation Dept. of Ecosystem and Conservation Science Missoula, MT 59812 | 243-5984 | lisa.eby@umontana.edu |
| Public Outreach | John Wachsmuth | Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks 490 N Meridian Rd Kalispell, MT 50405 | 751-4554 | jwachsmuth@mt.gov |
| Resource Management Concerns | John Syslo | MT Coop Fishery Research Unit Montana State University 301 Lewis Hall, PO Box 173460 Bozeman, MT 59717 | 994-3698 | jsyslo@montana.edu |
| Historian | Paul Hamlin | Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks 4600 Giant Springs Road Great Falls, MT 50405 | 454-5852 | phamlin@mt.gov |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---|----------|----------------------------------|
| Climate | Bruce Farling | Trout Unlimited PO Box 7186 Missoula, MT 59807 | 543-0054 | bruce@montanatu.org |
| | Bob Gresswell | MT Coop Fishery Research Unit Montana State University 301 Lewis Hall Bozeman, MT 59717 | 994-7085 | bgreswell@usgs.gov |
| Legislation | Scott Bosse | Greater Yellowstone Coalition PO Box 1874 Bozeman, MT 59771 | 586-1593 | sbosse@greateryellowstone.org |
| Membership | Kristi Webb | Morrison-Maierle, Inc. 3011 Palmer Street Missoula, Montana 59808 | 542-8880 | kwebb@m-m.net |
| Species of Special Concern | Craig Barfoot | Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe 2238 Meadow Road, PO Box 278 Pablo, MT 59855 | 675-2700 | craigb@cskt.org |
| | Bob Bramblett | Montana Cooperative Fishery Research Unit Department of Ecology Montana State University Bozeman, MT 59717 | 994-4433 | bbram@montana.edu |
| | Greg Hoffman | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Libby, MT | 883-2888 | gregory.c.hoffman@usace.army.mil |
| Raffle | MSU Student Subunit | Kris Homel MT Coop Fishery Research Unit Montana State University 301 Lewis Hall Bozeman, MT 59717 | 994-6643 | krishomel@hotmail.com |
| Web Page | Adam Petersen | Montana State Lands 1515 E 6th Ave Helena 59620 | 444-1275 | apetersen@mt.gov |

