

The Outlet

A publication of the Montana Chapter American Fisheries Society

June 2005

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Once again, our Chapter is off to a very productive year, as you will learn in this edition of the *Outlet*. One of the major tasks that our Chapter accomplishes each year is the annual meeting. The annual meeting is often overlooked when we reflect on the past year's accomplishments, but it really is the heart of the MCAFS as it provides the opportunity to advance our knowledge of the fisheries science and a chance to rub elbows with aquatic resource professionals. Being hung by your ankles over the beer keg by Shepard et al. and doing funnels at 4:30 in the morning (at your first meeting as a young, zealous, and clueless student), = \$3.00 for the beer, a massive hangover, and being reprimanded by my (I mean his or her) supervisor; listening to Bob's relentless pursuit of detail and a democratic process during the business meeting = 3 hours of agonizing pain; exchanging fisheries information, advancing the fisheries science, and establishing lifelong friendships = **PRICELESS!**

First, I want to thank Kate Walker for putting together an awesome 38th annual meeting in Missoula that focused on practical approaches to addressing the needs of inland fisheries! The meeting featured Dr. Bruce Rieman as the keynote speaker, followed by many interesting and high-quality presentations on issues facing our fisheries resources. Indeed, our Chapter is growing as evidenced by the fact that we had almost 300 members attend the meeting in 2004 and 2005! Also, I want to thank David Schmetterling for organizing the Continuing Education Workshop on Aquatic Nuisance Species: Identification, Status and Management. Over 50 people attended, which was one of the most well attended workshops in our Chapter's history. Finally, I want to thank all the committee chairs, members, and presenters for all your contributions that made the 2005 meeting such a huge success and established our Chapter as a leader in the United States; your commitment to preserving and conserving our fisheries resources will undoubtedly help ensure healthy and productive aquatic ecosystems for future generations in Montana.

There are a few upcoming events that you should know about. First and foremost, Kate Walker is doing an excellent job organizing the **Summer Workshop**, which will feature hands on experience working on the piscicide application project and collecting baseline population data in Cherry Creek. I want to thank Carter Kruse (Turner Enterprises) and Pat Clancy for creating this unique opportunity to learn more about the use of piscicides to remove non-native fish for conservation purposes. **Sign up now- the deadline for sign up is June 24!** Leanne Roulson (our newly elected President-Elect) and Bob Hughes (WDAFS) are working hard to plan the joint meeting with the **WDAFS in Bozeman** next year. Please read more about it in this issue and get involved- we really need your help to pull this off!

This is probably (hopefully) the last edition of the *Outlet* that I will be el Presidente. I want to thank you all for the opportunity to serve the Chapter in this capacity, and urge you all to get involved at any level to keep our Chapter growing and one of the best in the country. AFS is a great avenue to do what's right for our aquatic resources, regardless of political and social pressures. Our members are some of the finest people and fisheries professionals in the world, and it has been a pleasure working with you and developing friendships that will last a lifetime. As always, go forward and do good things for Montana's fishery resources! Cheers!

Best regards,



Clint Muhlfeld
Montana Chapter AFS President

2005 Summer Workshop

Subject: Hands on Piscicide Application
Location: Cherry Creek, Gallatin National Forest
Dates: Starting August 3 (for approximately 5-7 days)

Details: There is room for 3-6 workshop attendees each day to observe the piscicide treatment. You will be divided up according to available spaces with the crews. Plan for one day with the crews and a hike to get to the site.

DEADLINE FOR SIGN UP – JUNE 24, 2005

If you are interested you must get your name and email address to Pat Clancy (pcensfw@3rivers.net) **by June 24.**

(If you have already responded to Kate, those names have already been added to the list).
If there are only certain days you are available please note that in your email.

Note: State employees you cannot charge state funds to attend this workshop (call Ken McDonald for more information and options).

LOOK: Another great opportunity to see some interesting field work & help at the same time!

There is an additional opportunity to assist Russ Thurow of the Rocky Mountain Research Station PRIOR to the piscicide application. Russ in doing a fish abundance and distribution pre-treatment and then compare those methods with collection of marked carcasses.

Needs: Two additional people each day to do non-snorkeling tasks (block net placement, recording etc.)

Dates: July 25 to August 3

Contact: If you are interested please contact Russ Thurow at 208-373-4377 or rthurow@fs.fed.us **by June 24**



2005 MCAFS ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY



We had a very successful 38th annual meeting of the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society from 8-11 February 2005 at the Doubletree Hotel in Missoula, Montana!

Our chapter is growing!

We had over 275 professionals attend our session this year!

- Over 50 people attended the continuing education workshop **Aquatic Nuisance Species: Identification, Status and Management**. The workshop was an impressive mix of specialists in pathogens, plants and fisheries. The information was a blend of lecture and hands on – with very positive feedback from the attendees. The demand for the class was greater than what we could accommodate, a sure sign this is an issue of great interest to our professionals in Montana.
- We had the pleasure of a thought provoking presentation by Dr. Bruce Rieman to kick off our meeting titled: Practical Solutions in Fish Conservation: A Reflection and Revision. Dr. Rieman challenged us all to rethink some of the assumptions we make as biologists to continue looking at our information and allow our hypotheses to change as the information bases develop.
 - Keep an open mind – continue to learn and adapt!
- The meeting then continued with 10 sessions packed with amazing presentations on the practical approaches to addressing the needs of inland fisheries. I am continually awed by the caliber of professionals working in the state of Montana. We are incredibly fortunate to have these folks working on issues in the state!
 - Future meetings will have to run concurrent sessions to accommodate the interest in presenting at the annual meeting.
- Amazingly the business meeting was very well attended – and thanks to all the members who joined in and were active in guiding the Chapters business!
- The banquet and raffle continue to be a highlight of the meeting (even without food fights and flying napkins). I want to thank you all for restraining from the extracurricular activities - I feel strongly that we need to maintain a fun, yet professional atmosphere at these events.

Again – thank you all for your enthusiasm for the amazing aquatic resources we are charged with protecting in the state of Montana!

2006 WDAFS/MCAFS Combined Chapter Meeting

"Balancing Natives and Newcomers"



The 2006 meeting will take place May 15 – 20 in the mountains of southwestern Montana. Montana State University campus will be the site for the Western Division meeting and we are planning to provide AFS members a taste of the pioneer west, coupled with cutting - edge fisheries technology and research. With that in mind, let's see if the Montana Chapter can't pull together to get involved and start getting organized. We need folks to help out with fund-raising and sponsorships, event planning, program organization, and local arrangements. I have gotten a couple of folks on board for sponsoring symposia, and if anyone else has a theme they would like to arrange a few contributors around, let me (Leanne), Bob Hughes or Chris Guy (Program co-chairs) know.

We will put our first call for Symposia and Papers in the September issue of The Tributary and on the WDAFS website with all the details on preparing and submitting a contribution. That announcement will also contain preliminary local arrangements information, as well as initial ideas for planning tours and recreational opportunities including Yellowstone National Park, blue-ribbon trout waters, and spectacular mountain views. Mark the dates on your calendar now!

Meeting Contacts

Local Arrangements: Leanne Roulson 406-582-0661

lhroulson@garciaandassociates.com

Program: Bob Hughes 541-754-4516

Hughes.Bob@epamail.epa.gov



Chapter Notes

SSC Committee

The native lake trout subcommittee (Bob Bramblett, Greg Hoffman, Dick Oswald, Chris Riley, Bob Snyder) recommended S2 status to the SSC committee; we received only three votes and all three voted to accept the S2 recommendation. The S2 recommendation has been forwarded to EXCOM. Species of Special concern committee members are working on status paper updates for pallid sturgeon, white sturgeon, fluvial arctic grayling, and northern redbelly x finescale dace. We are completing peer review on native lake trout and torrent sculpin status papers.

Bob Bramblett and Greg Hoffman, Co-chairs

Newly Elected Officers and Committee Chairs

Terms Start 1 September 2005

President Elect:

Leanne Roulson

lroulson@garciaandassociates.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Matt Jaeger

matthew_jaeger@yahoo.com

Environmental Concerns Co-Chairs:

Brian Bellgraph and Kiza Gates

bbellgraph@montana.edu

kgates@montana.edu

Membership Chair:

Clint Sestrich

csestrich@fs.fed.us

Newsletter Editor:

Amee Rief

arief@fs.fed.us

U of Montana Subunit President:

John Syslo

juansyslo@yahoo.com

Drop the new officers and committee chairs an e-mail to welcome them and says thanks for their contributions to the profession!

Tag, You're It! If you haven't had a chance yet, check out the latest "Tag" article written by **Travis Horton, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks**. Thanks Travis for doing a great job! Someone should bring a PIT-tag scanner to the next meeting – I got five bucks that says Horton has a tag!

By Travis Horton

Geez Chris, at least you could have gone a bit out of your comfort zone in picking the next person! No, I am honored and that is why it has only taken me 6 months to complete the task.

First, I would like to commend the previous "Tag You're It" authors, it takes a good imagination to come up with turning rabid dogs loose on a gymnasium full of grade school kids and gillnets in the dark to demonstrate fish sampling. Not to mention chipmunks unable to find a Cheez-it, or technicians being taken down by 50lb catfish. You all have set the standard pretty high or maybe it is low?

You might be a fisheries professional if:

- 1) You have first-hand knowledge that boxer shorts and ticks don't mix.
- 2) You are so used to blood and gore that you will set your sandwich down on the skeleton of a carp—with no second thought—when you need an extra hand.
- 3) The smell of clove doesn't remind you of food or cigarettes.
- 4) You start to wonder if you have killed more fish during your career than you have helped.
- 5) When you chuckle under your breath at the enthusiasm of a new person going night shocking.
- 6) You start to realize that the people who always suggest running a Schnabel estimate have never actually done one.
- 7) You start to dread wearing chest waders.
- 8) You have considered tagging yourself (just for fun) with one of the following: PIT tag, Floy tag, jaw tag, VI tag, etc.
- 9) You laugh at your friend for mounting a hatchery fish with no fins.
- 10) You can tell the difference between Johnson and Evinrude oils by taste.
- 11) Art from Joe Tomelleri is all you own.
- 12) You have a collection of dried fish parts on your windowsill or bookshelf.
- 13) You have ever gotten excited and shouted, "Look it's a _____"! Fill in the blank with a family or the scientific name of aquatic insect.
- 14) You have heard of a "Tickle Me Liknes" doll.
- 15) Finally, you have a "Big-mouth Billy Bass", fish pins, fish ties, fish shirts, fish hats, fish underwear, etc. that relatives have given to you.

I would like to use this opportunity to reflect on my reign as secretary/treasurer. It has been fun and I appreciate the opportunity to help out the society and the resources. It has also been a pleasure to work with so many dedicated and professional individuals.

Craig Barfoot, Tag You're It!

Tag, You're It" (TYI) is a great opportunity for Montana Chapter AFS fisheries professionals to express ideas or anecdotes to entertain others and/or to explore issues. TYI takes advantage of Internet communication and provides an excellent opportunity for members to get to know one another better. *Check out the previous Tag, You're It articles on the MCAFS website!*

MCAFS Officers and Committee Chairs

President	Clint Muhlfeld	MFWP – 490 N Meridian Rd Kalispell, MT 59901	751-4542	cmuhlfeld@state.mt.us
Past-president	Steve Leathe	MFWP – 4600 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls, MT 50405	454-5855	sleathe@state.mt.us
President-elect	Kate Walker	5646 Prospect Dr Missoula, MT 59808	329-3287	walkersmith@onewest.net
Secretary- Treasurer	Travis Horton	MFWP – 4600 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls, MT 50405	454-5853	thorton@state.mt.us
MSU Student Subunit	Andy Dux	MT Coop Fishery Research Unit Montana State University Bozeman, MT 59717	994-3698	adux@montana.edu
UM Student Subunit	Dawson Dunning	235 E. Central Ave. Missoula, MT 59801		flashbackpt@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor	Amee Rief	Kootenai NF 1437 N Hwy 2 Troy, MT 59935	295-7422	arief@fs.fed.us
Awards	Buddy Drake	PO Box 4183 Bozeman, MT 59772	388-1888	bdrake@montanadsl.net
Continuing Education	David Schmetterling	MFWP - 3201 Spurgin Road Missoula, MT 59804	542-5514	rschmetterling@state.mt.us
Public Outreach	John Wachsmuth	MFWP - 490 N Meridian Rd Kalispell, MT 50405	751-4554	jwachsmuth@state.mt.us
Environmental Concerns	Carol Endicott	Confluence PO Box 1133 211 N Grand Bozeman, MT 59711	585-9500	cendicott@confluenceinc.com
Historian	Paul Hamlin	MFWP - 4600 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls, MT 59405	454-5852	pdhamlin@yahoo.com
Land Management Co-chairs	Jay Frederick	USFWS 100 North Park Ave.- suite 320 Helena, MT 59601	449-5225 ext 207	jay_frederick@fws.gov
	Ron Spoon	PO Box 1137 Townsend, MT 59644	266-4237	fwprs@in-tch.com
Lobbyist	Vacant			
Membership	Dan Downing	USFS Wisdom Ranger District Box 238, Wisdom MT 59761	689-3243	d Downing@fs.fed.us
Species of Special Concern Co-chairs	Greg Hoffman	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 17115 Highway #37 Libby, MT 59923	293-7751 ext255	gregory.c.hoffman@usace.army.mil
	Bob Bramblett	MT Coop Fishery Research Unit Montana State University Bozeman, MT 59717	994-4433	bbram@montana.edu
Raffle	Brent Mabbott	PPL Montana 45 Basin Creek Road Butte, MT 59701	533-3447	lbmabbott@pplmt.com
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