

# The Outlet



**A publication of the Montana Chapter American Fisheries Society  
December 2006**

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

How important is AFS?

This is my first President's message to the Montana Chapter, and foremost I would like to say thank you to everyone who has been so welcoming to me as an officer, including our chapter members, the MCAFS ExCom, and the officers of other Chapters. I am excited about MCAFS this year, and appreciate all of the help and encouragement I have received from everyone.

I recently attended the Western Division AFS mid-year meeting for Chapter presidents to discuss WDAFS and western regional fisheries issues. I was pretty impressed with what other Chapters are doing and how much respect the Montana Chapter gets from other states because of our participation and leadership in fisheries issues. We discussed the bull trout survey conducted this year that sprang from a MCAFS member inquiry on how other fisheries biologists perceived the status of bull trout and bull trout management since listing. I mentioned the letter on intelligent design that was authored by a MCAFS member that has now been taken on by the Parent Society for action this coming year. We talked about the upcoming Biological Opinion on the impacts of hydropower development along the Columbia and Snake Rivers. It was decided that WDAFS should volunteer to review and provide comments as Biological Opinion has been remanded to NOAA (more than once) because of scientific inadequacy in the treatment of potential impacts to endangered salmon stocks. The meeting made me more aware of AFS role in how fisheries science works and the level of integrity in our profession.

Unfortunately, we also discussed declining membership in some Chapters and the fact that Western Division has lost 4 chapters in the past year. The North Pacific International Chapter (NPIC) president came to the meeting to ask what he could do to save his chapter, which represents fisheries professionals from Washington and British Columbia. I was amazed that a state like Washington, which must have hundreds of fisheries professionals, had fewer than 100 members in the NPIC (there is no Washington Chapter- so NPIC is the only AFS chapter for the state), while Oregon has annual meetings that attract 400-500 Oregon Chapter members.

My point is two-fold. One - the Montana Chapter has a vital role to play in fisheries science and in AFS at the regional as well as the national level. Two - if you know a fisheries professional who is not a member of AFS, please encourage them to join. Why? Because membership in AFS means a voice in how some of these fisheries issues are decided and which issues get in front of our nation's elected decision makers. Fish are not restricted by State or International boundaries and our decisions, involvement, and knowledge regarding fisheries issues should not be limited by them either.

If membership is a financial reach for the person you approach, offer to sponsor them for a year. Any active AFS member can sponsor (AFS calls it "gifting") someone (or several some ones) and AFS will reduce the sponsored person(s) membership for their first year to \$38. All you have to do is put your member number on their membership application and the new member gets their first year at basically half-price (and there is no cost to you). Student memberships are even a better deal at \$19 and include online journal subscriptions. If your friend recently graduated, they can get a "young professional" membership for \$38 for up to 3 years after graduation. If you want more info on the gifting/sponsorship option, please call or e-mail me and I will help you find the right form on the membership website.

I realize that sometimes the Western Division and the Parent Society can seem less relevant than our local Chapter, but MCAFS and our student subunits are connected to and sustained by these larger organizations. I noticed another detail about many of the WDAFS ExCom members; many are dealing with fisheries issues similar to those in Montana and were well informed on fisheries issues outside of the state where they currently reside in their fisheries careers. Being open to the width and breadth of the fisheries science available through AFS can serve you well in developing professionally and provide perspective on how much we have in common even though we may manage very different fisheries.

This month's *Outlet* has information on our annual meeting in Missoula, actions and programs of our membership, and provides some interesting cautions for those of you contemplating a move to Washington (Tag you're it). Enjoy, and I hope to see all of you in Missoula in February!

*Leanne H. Roulson*

Montana Chapter President

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## **2007 Annual Meeting, Montana Chapter AFS**

***"Return to the river: revisiting and reinvigorating the source of our passion and professionalism"***

**February 13-16, 2007**

**Hilton Garden Inn**

**Missoula, Montana**

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

We are pleased to announce that the 40<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (<http://www.fisheries.org/AFSmontana/>) will be held 14-16 February 2007 at the Missoula Hilton Garden Inn. The plenary session will feature a keynote address by Dr. Mamie Parker, Assistant Director, Fisheries and Habitat Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and special guests to be announced.

Following the plenary session, the meeting will include the usual outstanding technical sessions, contributed papers, trade show, and social events. In addition to these sessions we will have the following symposia:

- Conservation of grayling in Montana
- Native fish and lake trout - churning new water or circling the drain?
- Fish passage: barrier assessment and design

Meeting format will follow the normal pattern: Executive Committee meeting on Monday (Feb 12), Continuing Education Session on Tuesday (February 13), with the general meeting beginning Wednesday morning (February 14) with the plenary session and continuing through Friday at noon (February 16).

### Continuing Education Workshop

A pre-meeting Continuing Education Workshop will be held **February 13** titled *How to Move Fish, Water and Wood through Culverts*

Registration and course information will be available soon on our website and through *The Outlet*. Contact **Lisa Eby**, Continuing Education Chair, with any questions ([leby@forestry.umt.edu](mailto:leby@forestry.umt.edu)).

### Contributed Papers

**The deadline for submitting abstracts is January 1, 2007** and the guidelines for submitting abstracts can be found on the chapter website. Please contact **David Schmetterling** ([dschmett@bigsky.net](mailto:dschmett@bigsky.net), (406) 542-5514) for more information and to submit an abstract. (<http://www.fisheries.org/AFSmontana/>).

### Registration

Registration information and additional meeting and workshop details will be available in the on though our web site: <http://www.fisheries.org/AFSmontana>.

Please register early to avoid late fees and to take advantage of other opportunities. Late fees will be assessed after January 26.

<b>Registration prices:</b>	<b>Early</b>	<b>Late</b>
Regular member:	150	275
Retired member:	75	100
Graduate student:	50	75
Undergraduate student:	Free*	25

\*Free with volunteer hours,  
and registration before Jan 26

-Contact David Schmetterling for volunteer hours

### Lodging

The meeting will be held at the Missoula Hilton Garden Inn.

Room costs for Single/Double Occupancy per night are (plus taxes and fees):

Jacuzzi Suites:	\$73
Room with 1 King bed:	\$73
Room with 2 Queen beds:	\$73

All reservation requests need to be guaranteed by a major credit card, and please reference Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society to ensure room availability and the state rate for the conference. Please make reservations by **January 13, 2007** by phone (406-532-5300 or 1-877-STAY HGI).

This is the major gathering of the year for fisheries professionals of all affiliations across the state. It's a great opportunity to network, exchange information and explore issues. Hope you all can attend!

**For more information about the meeting & call for papers, please contact:**

**David Schmetterling**

2007 Meeting Chair and President-Elect

Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks

3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula, 59804

[dschmett@bigsky.net](mailto:dschmett@bigsky.net); (406) 542-5514

## **Trade Show – VENDORS NEEDED**

Dates: **February 14-16, 2007**

Location: Hilton Garden Inn  
Missoula, Montana

If you are interested in participating or know of companies that are please contact: **Kate Walker** ASAP at [kpwalker@fs.fed.us](mailto:kpwalker@fs.fed.us), 406-657-6205 ext 222.

## **2007 Awards for MCAFS – *start nominating now!***

**The deadline for nominations is **January 1, 2007****

Categories include:

- Outdoor Writers or Reporters
- Educators
- Landowners
- Groups, Organizations or other Individuals
- Career Achievement
- Natural Resource Professional
- Best Professional Presentation
- Outstanding Fishery Professional

Send letters of nomination to: **Travis Horton** at [thorton@mt.gov](mailto:thorton@mt.gov).

**Also, if you are interested in being a volunteer judge for student and professional presentation awards, please contact Travis ASAP at the email address listed above or by phone at (406) 444-3364.**

# Chapter Notes

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## *Raffle Committee*

Montana State University Student Subunit is organizing the raffle and we have already received some generous donations. We will be raffling or auctioning off a full tanned moose hide that was harvested by Wally McClure and a beautiful log bed handmade by Wally. Those proceeds will be directly contributed to the Wally McClure Scholarship fund. We are also looking for any donations from talented AFS craftsmen and women for the general raffle. We would be happy to take extra paraphernalia promoting your projects or organizations (t-shirts, hats, coffee mugs, etc...). Half of this year general raffle proceeds will go back to MT AFS. Please contact **Windy Davis** if you would like to contribute. [wdavis@montana.edu](mailto:wdavis@montana.edu), (406) 994-6643

Items can be shipped to  
MSUAFS  
301 Lewis Hall  
Montana State University  
Bozeman, MT 59717

Thank you.  
Windy N. Davis

## *Species of Special Concern Committee*

Greg Hoffman has resigned as co-chair of the Species of Special Concern Committee as he has taken a job in Minnesota. Craig Barfoot has volunteered to serve as SSC co-chair.

Thanks,

Bob Bramblett  
SSC Co-Chair

## *Resource Management Concerns Committee*

The RMC submitted a comment letter this fall to the Swan River State Forest regarding the Three Creeks Timber Sale Draft EIS. We welcome suggestions for any issues related to resource management in Montana that deserves comment from MTAFS. If any Montana AFS members have such suggestions, please contact Leslie Bahn ([lbahn@montana.edu](mailto:lbahn@montana.edu)) and Kiza Gates ([kgates@montana.edu](mailto:kgates@montana.edu)), at Montana State University, 301 Lewis Hall, Bozeman, MT 59717 or (406) 994-3698.

## **Tag, You're It!** Check out the latest "Tag" article written by **Scott Barndt**.

It's been exactly 10 years this month (December 2006) since Montana State University finally decided I'd haunted its hallowed halls for long enough, and cut its ties with me (at least until fund-raising time). That's the startling realization that came to me as I began panicked reflection upon my fisheries career in preparation for this column, my responsibility due to Craig Barfoot's gracious tag, the panic a combined result of having no idea what to write about and a timely reminder that this was due *last* week. As I contemplated the past decade, which, besides grad school, encompasses time working for the US Fish and Wildlife Service in the Pacific Northwest, and Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the US Forest Service in Montana, I wondered what, exactly, are the most salient lessons I've learned? After a bit of contemplation, in roughly chronological order, here's what came to mind:

- 1) Just because a Vietnam veteran is holding a rifle and standing in the doorway of the room you're staying in at your research project site, late at night, looking down at you in your sleeping bag with a weird look in his eye, *doesn't* mean that he's completely crazy and that you can't become good friends;
- 2) Porcupine quills *can* pierce the sidewall of a truck tire;
- 3) You *can* get your work truck unstuck from a bog near Augusta, with two jacks and lots of boards, but it takes a *tow-truck* to get another tow-truck unstuck from the same bog;
- 4) Dr. Cal Kaya *did* wear some of the same clothes and shoes (cleaned reasonably often, of course) during his entire 30+ year tenure at MSU;
- 5) People farming pot on a National Wildlife Refuge *can* actually be pretty harmless, as long as they've been smoking a bunch of their crop;
- 6) Co-workers using the aforementioned drug (and some others) make for *very* interesting adventures both in the office and the field;
- 7) The movie *Deliverance* *could've* just as easily been filmed in Skamania County, Washington, as West Virginia;
- 8) A sea-going freighter, despite being three football fields long, *can* sneak up on you when you're night-shocking on the Willamette River, and nearly run you over before you know it's there;
- 9) You can tell if someone's a *real* fish biologist or not by whether they'll actually touch the lampreys you catch in a trap;
- 10) It's not *nearly* as hard to sink an 8-foot screw trap as you might think;
- 11) Doing 310 permit inspections for folks who've known, but not necessarily loved, your family for 5 generations doesn't exactly *improve* relationships much, and those who do like your family may call your mom if they don't like what you're doing;
- 12) Mobile-probe electrofishing *will* reveal most character flaws or coordination issues you may possess, especially when you have a raw crew;
- 13) When using a FS firefighter saw-crew to help fall trees for a stream-restoration project, *do not* leave them alone at a location for too long, or you will have a clear-cut develop, despite whatever you may have instructed them to do;
- 14) *Do not* let your seasonal fisheries technician, the one who used to drive M1A1 tanks in the US Army, drive *any* of your cooperator's vehicles;

15) *Do not* quote the poet Billy Collins ('...and so the priceless moments of the day are squandered one-by-one, or perhaps a thousand at a time, with quandary and useless interrogation...') at a FS Interdisciplinary Team meeting, no matter how long and useless the meeting is.

I know there have been other important lessons in the past decade, but these 15 come most quickly to mind.

To close, I'd like to echo what previous columnists have said, both about the high quality of aquatics folks in Montana and the way in which they generally work well together for the greater good of the resource. In other places I've worked, that hasn't been my experience. Too often, fish managers there would focus on the small differences that separated them instead of the great amount that united them; with the result that very little constructive work was achieved for the resource. It's been very refreshing to come back to Montana and work with folks from many different agencies and organizations to get a lot of good work done!

Now for the tag – we've heard from some biologists from FWP, Bureau of Reclamation, MSU Coop Fisheries Unit, Confederated Tribes of the Salish Kootenai, and now the Forest Service. So, to keep the diversity of perspective and experience coming, **I tag Brent Mabbott, PPL-MT.**

**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!*

## *Other Conference News:*



### **2007 Oregon Chapter Annual Meeting 43<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

**"Big Fish over Big Dams: Complexities, Controversies, and Opportunities"**

**February 27 - March 2, 2007**

**Eugene Hilton and Conference Center, Eugene, Oregon**

On-line registration for the 2007 Oregon Chapter Annual Meeting will start on December 1, 2006. Go to: [www.oregonstate.edu/conferences/registration.html](http://www.oregonstate.edu/conferences/registration.html) to register. You can also visit the Oregon Chapter website: [www.orafs.org](http://www.orafs.org) for meeting details and updates.

If you have questions about registration for the 2007 Oregon Chapter Annual Meeting contact Danielle Warner at: [ORAFS@comcast.net](mailto:ORAFS@comcast.net), or 360-807-4065.

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**american fisheries society**  
**MONTANA CHAPTER**

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