

FLY FISHERS OF THE BITTERROOT



NEWSLETTER FOR JUNE, 2012

THE MEETING

Okay, This is an age test. Our meeting this Tuesday, June 5, will start **early** (5:30 pm) for those who wish. Dan Sheperd of Grizzly Hackle will be in the long grassy area of the Fairgrounds (bordering on Fairgrounds Road) just across the railroad tracks from BJ's. He will have a number of the latest in fly rods (Sage, Winston, Hardy and others), presumably identically outfitted with reels and lines. This will give us an opportunity to compare these rods in exactly the same conditions. About 6:30 pm, we will stroll back to BJ's for our regular meeting, starting at 7:00 pm. If you are indifferent to this casting comparison, show up at BJ's at you normal time and do what you normally do until show time. This message will be repeated throughout this newsletter. This is a test.

THE SPEAKER

Our speaker for June is Dan Shepherd. Dan is well known as the managing partner of the Grizzly Hackle fly shop in Missoula and for his work on the television show "Wild on the Fly". Dan presents a program in two parts. Starting at 5:30 pm, Dan offers FFB members the opportunity to compare and cast the latest generation of fly rods from Hardy, Sage, Winston and others. This hands-on demonstration will be held behind BJ's restaurant on the grass inside the fairgrounds gate. Later in the meeting Dan will share his experiences fly fishing in Slovenia with a series of slides and interesting anecdotes.

THOSE WHO SPAKE

Greg Thomas, editor of *Fly Rod & Reel Magazine*, shared his observations on overlooked trout in the Northern Rockies, from Wyoming's Wind River Range, to Washington's desert lakes, to Montana's windswept and trout-rich Blackfoot Reservation, to the bull trout country of British Columbia and the backwaters of Yellowstone National Park. It was a great program by a fine fellow. Thank you, Greg.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this the rain is falling, the river is still marginal and we are all anxiously waiting real summer fishing. In the meantime we can dwell some events and programs for your consideration:

Casting for Recovery is a non-profit organization that provides "quality of life" events, support and education for women in all stages of breast cancer. Peg Miskin, the national program director, spoke at the April and May meetings. She now lives in the Bitterroot and has challenged us to join her in raising funds to send at least one woman from the Bitterroot to the fly fishing event September 14-16 at West Glacier. Our club board has set a goal to sponsor two women from the Bitterroot! We are strongly encouraging you, the general membership, to help meet the goal of \$1,000 which the Club will match. So far we have more than half the funds so bring your checkbooks to the next meeting! Applications will be available for any of your loved ones interested in attending.

Be sure to look at the Club calendar for details and consider volunteering for these events:

- Special Needs Fishing Day, July 22.
- Riverfest Celebration, with Bitterroot Water Forum, August 11.
- Club picnic at Steve Lilburn's home **on the river**, August 18
- Booth at the Ravalli County Fair, August 30 - September 2
- Other events TBA; River Cleanup, riverbank restoration projects etc.

See you at June meeting!

Jim Cline

FUND RAISER!

Most of you have now met Peg Miskin, one of the Bitterroot's newest residents. Peg is national program director for Casting for Recovery. CfR is a counseling, educational and support group for women who have or are recovered from breast cancer. It introduces participants to the beautiful, rhythmic motion of fly casting as an ideal therapy for exercising the joints and soft tissues affected by the treatments and surgery for breast cancer. CfR is a 501(c)(3) organization. It relies on tax deductible contributions.

The CfR program offers a 2 ½ day retreat for women that involves much the same educational information our Club and BRTU offer in the May Clinic. It ends with a fishing program on the water. These clinics are free to participants, but they cost about \$1000 for each participant. Participants are selected at random. In 2011, CfR conducted 47 retreats in 33 states with over 5000 participants and 1500 volunteers.

Our Board has determined that we should sponsor two participants. Peg Miskin has told us that if our Club puts up the \$2000, she can assure us that two participants from the Bitterroot Valley will be selected, at random. There are already applicants from the Bitterroot.

The Club's Board of Directors has determined to pay up to the full \$2000 cost, less whatever our members contribute. That is, if the Club members contribute \$1000, the Club will match it. If the members contribute \$1200, the Club will put up the other \$800. Several of the Board have already given and more have pledged. Please consider this very worthwhile endeavor. We need to give the total contribution to CfR in June so do it now or at the meeting June 5. You can send checks payable to FFB (marked as a contribution to CfR) to our address, P.O. Box 692, Victor, MT 59875 or give checks to either Leon Powell or Rich Morrissey. We will provide receipts and the contributions are tax deductible.

FLY OF THE MONTH

Green Royal Humpy

By Blaine Wetzsteon

Recipe

Hook: Standard dry #10-18.

Thread: Red, yellow, or green
4 strand heavy flat
floss.

Tail: Moose or elk.

Wing: Calf Tail.

Hump: Moose or elk.

Hackle: Brown or grizzly rooster
hackle.

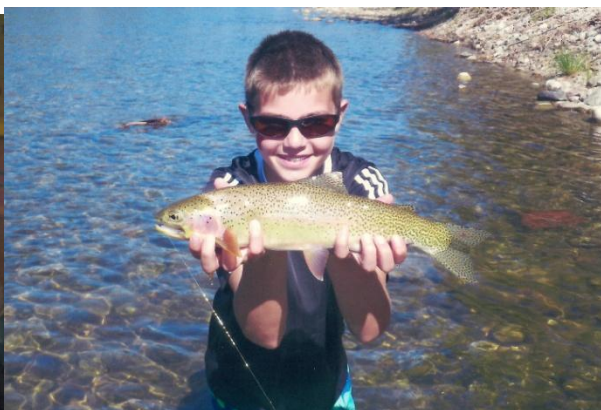


The Humpy is a good fast water fly that floats well. It is a colorful attractor that matches a variety of insects including the dun of large mayflies.

The origin of the Humpy is credited to Keith Kenyon, a 1940's Montana guide. He designed the fly to be used on the Firehole river. As the popularity of the fly increased the name "goofy deer hair fly" was shortened to "Goofus Bug." When Dan Bailey began selling the fly in the 1950's he called it the "Poor Man's Wulff." The name "Humpy" came from Boots Allen's fly shop in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.



Blaine as featured tier at a Wednesday night session at the Brewery.



No caption needed!

ODDS AND ENDS

Fly of the Month:

All Club members are invited to submit flies to be considered for Fly of the Month. Send your recipes and pictures to Bob Percy at rwpearcy@gmail.com.

Fly tying:

Given the high water, it's still going on Wednesday evening, 5:30 pm, at the Brew Pub.

Pig Roast:

Actually, this year the piggy gets a break. The cooking team of Bob Fickett, Rich Morrissey and little Mickey from LA (Fickett's friend) has broken up as the Ficketts will be in Alaska and Morrissey has no desire to take on the fearsome porker alone. But hold your water. We will BBQ rib eye steaks.

The date is Saturday, August 18 at 5:00 pm. And, we will have this event at the Bitterroot River-side home of Club member Steve Lilburn. More to follow.

Stafford Pond Event:

Every year, the Club sponsors a day of fishing for a large group of special needs folks from Ravalli County Services. We meet at 9:00 am at Stafford Pond, a private pond off Skalkaho Creek, and help them each catch at least one stocked trout. We feed them a lunch and everybody has a good time. Our Club has traditionally staffed this event with about 20 volunteers and that many or more are needed.

The date this year will be Sunday, July 22. Mark it and come participate in a most rewarding event.

Flick Time:

Garry Harrington is the promoter for the soon-to-be-released fly fishing film *Where The Yellowstone Goes*, which will premiere in Missoula on Saturday, **June 9** at the Wilma Theatre at 7:30 pm. Please check out his trailer at www.wheretheyellowstonegoes.com to get a glimpse of this film, which will make its world premiere in Bozeman.

Grizzly Hackle is the Missoula sponsor of the event, and tickets will be on sale there (\$13 at the door; \$10 advance). Grizzly Hackle is putting on a pre-show burgers and brats party starting at 6:30 pm at the shop. Telephone 406-721-8996.

News from BRTU:**JUNE 2 TU BURNT FORK REVEGETATION PROJECT.**

Your help on this project will have an immediate positive impact on the health of the Burnt Fork! Over the past year, Trout Unlimited installed a mile of riparian fencing on the Ellison Cattle Company property, just east of Stevensville. Portions of the stream need to be planted with riparian vegetation to provide shade and stabilize the stream bank. Please consider lending a hand for all or part of the day! You'll get a sack lunch!

The work crew will meet on Saturday, June 2nd. at the Stevensville Ranger District Office at 10 a.m. (88 Main St. Stevensville MT) and work from 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Nick Littman ph. 541-1195 or nlittman@tu.org

SEPTEMBER 28 BRTU BANQUET

BRTU is starting to work on the banquet. TU really needs some volunteers. This will be TU's 33rd annual banquet! Please let Marshall Bloom know if you are willing to assist. drtrout@mtbloom.net

CLASSIFIEDS

The Board of Directors has a policy concerning classified ads in our newsletter. We want to facilitate our members selling unwanted, unneeded gear. The following rules apply: (1) the seller must be a Club member; (2) the seller must be noncommercial; (3) this editor has full right to edit submitted materials; they should be "Tweet" size (4) the ads will run a maximum of two times and then be retired; (5) the thing or things to be sold must be related to fly fishing;

and (6) we not will charge for the ad placement and take no responsibility for its accuracy.

Raft for sale: 12' Avon Redshank' frame & seat; 3 oars; 4 life vest (pfd); NRS straps; dry bags; cooler to fit frame; misc boating parts & pieces. \$1000.00
Contact: Paul Sharp 406.531.0108

FOR FUN

It's good to be dour every once in a while. The humor section is on vacation.

THE AUTHOR

One of the aspects of fly fishing that I love is the communion of fisher folk. Guys with violently opposing political views or widely differing financial statuses will find common ground and friendship over the open fly book. The PhD finds the fly he needs in the high school dropout's collection. Age differences melt away (well, almost). And there is no glass ceiling on a trout river. Just ask Donna. It's a great leveling and attraction of mutual interests. So, here's to you, buddy!

You can reach me at 406-381-5611 or **richmorrisey@q.com**. I encourage newsletter ideas.