



April 2016 Newsletter

*April meeting – Tuesday April 5th at 6pm
BJ's Restaurant – Hamilton*

***“ All Americans believe that they are born fishermen.
For a man to admit a distaste for fishing would be
like denouncing mother-love or moonlight.”***

***-John Steinbeck
American Author***

The Presidents Message

April is regarded by many a trout fisherman here in the Rockies as one of the finest months to be out on the water. Skwalas, March Browns, Baetis, Drakes, Streamers, it's as they say, "all good" this month. The water is warming up and the trout are hungry and chowing down on all sorts of food items. On our home river you can expect good fishing from Painted Rocks and Sula, all the way to Missoula. It's really one of the few times in the year where the entire river system is truly "on." Try fishing somewhere different or floating a new stretch of river this month, you just might be pleasantly surprised at the results. If anything, you will likely get a break from the crowds. The great thing about April is that the fishing will only be getting better until the snow starts to melt in earnest.

Some good things are happening this month including the first club outing of the year, buggers fly tying, and an important revegetation project on the East fork of the Bitterroot. If you can make the Missouri River Trip on April 20-24 I would highly recommend it. The Mo' can be incredible in April. Midges, Baetis, Streamers, and the usual stellar nymphing round out some solid days of fishing. Afterwards you can cap off the day with a delicious Tombstone pizza at Joe's, (or an actual real meal at Izaak's if you're into that sort of things). No matter what, it's always a good time in the bustling metropolis of Craiglandia.

If you can, I would encourage you to lend a hand on April 9th to help plant some trees and revegetate a much-beleaguered stretch of the East fork. This project is spearheaded by the Bitterroot Water Forum and FFB. It feels good to give a little back to the river that has, and continues to give us great fishing, incredible hatches, memories, and beautiful wild trout. You can end the day knowing that you left our watershed a little better off than when you started. Also, you get to spend the day hanging out with friends and getting a free lunch, not a bad thing.

Tight lines everyone. Get out and enjoy one of our best months for fly flinging.

Bob Prince
President – Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot

The Program

Wade Fredenberg

Wade is a 4th generation Montanan from the Flathead, who received B.S. and M.S. degrees in Fish and Wildlife Management from Montana State University. For twelve years he was employed by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; first in Billings where he managed wild trout in the Bighorn River and then in Bozeman where he had the good fortune to guide State management on the Madison and Gallatin Rivers from 1988-1992. He became a Fish and Wildlife Service employee in 1992, and has since held a variety of Native Fish Coordinator duties for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service out of Creston Hatchery. He has been involved in bull trout conservation and the ESA workings of Bull Trout since 1992.

As an avid angler and Bull Trout worshiper, Wade will present a series of observations about the vulnerability of the species and highlight the dilemma that bull trout face in trying to “recover” in systems like the Bitterroot where angler use is intense. He promises that even if you don’t like what he has to say, at least you’ll enjoy the pictures!

Outings

MISSOURI RIVER TRIP --- APRIL 20--24, HEADHUNTERS FLY SHOP, CRAIG, MT.

BROWNS LAKE TRIP --- MAY 13--15

CLARK CANYON TRIP --- JUNE 10 – 12

SPECIAL NEEDS DAY--- JUNE 26

GEORGETOWN LAKE CAMPING TRIP//LODGEPOLE

CAMPGROUND JULY--- 15 -17.

KARSTETTER CLASSIC AND CLUB PICNIC ---AUG 21

Anyone that wants information should call our Cruise Director Mike Taylor: 961-2448 or 381-7749

Matching Western Hatches Workshop with Fly-fishing Legend Dave Hughes June 4th or 5th

There are a lot of self-proclaimed living legends in the world of fly-fishing, but when the tippet hits the water, there are few that can match up to Dave Hughes!

Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot and the Bitterroot Chapter of Trout Unlimited are jointly sponsoring a workshop-seminar that will bring Dave to Hamilton on June 4th and 5th.

Dave has written over 20 fly fishing books with a focus on stream entomology, including the very informative and readable Handbook of Hatches.

The seminar will be a daylong workshop with at the Corvallis school. There will be a morning classroom session, lunch on your own and an afternoon hands-on program.

The morning session, which will last from 8:00 am until noon, will include numerous color slides of mayflies, stoneflies, caddis flies, midges, damselflies, dragonflies, water boatman, back swimmers, alderflies, scuds, terrestrials, and even bait fish.

Dave's color photography has been collected over the past 30 years and is quite spectacular. Dave will explain how to recognize insects, select effective imitations, and present these flies as natural insects in front of feeding trout. No Latin is involved.

For the afternoon part of the workshop, which begins at 1:00 pm, we will meet at a streamside site to begin the hands-on portion of the session. The class of 25 will divide into two groups. Half of the class will work with Dave to collect and identify insects from the stream. The other half will receive some tune-up casting instruction from Richard Sagara. Halfway through the afternoon session the groups will switch. Dick is a certified IFFF casting instructor, and more importantly,

he is a good teacher. You will definitely come away with some improvements to your casting.

After the session, we will host an informal gathering to get to know Dave and Dick, and share a cool beverage. Cost for the seminar is \$50 for members of Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot and Bitterroot Trout Unlimited. Nonmembers may attend for \$60.

To register please indicate your preferred day, and send your name, phone number and email address to Dave Ward dward451@comcast.net.

“After my brother and I became good fly fishermen, we realized that our father was not a great fly caster, but he was accurate and stylish and wore a glove on his casting hand. As he buttoned on his glove in preparation to giving us a lesson he would say “It is an art that is performed on a four-count rhythm between ten and two o’clock.”

-Norman MacLean
A River Runs Through It

Fly of the Month
Spring Creek Partridge Caddis
By Greg Chester

Recipe



Hook #14 Tiemco 100 dry fly hook
(I like the Tiemco 900BL
also)
Thread 8/0 olive Unithread
Shuck and underwing Olive antron yarn
Abdomen Green turkey or goose biot
Overwing Hungarian Partridge feather
Post Poly yarn, white
Thorax Olive dubbing, Superfine
Hackle Grizzly saddle

It seems caddis aren't too popular on the Bitterroot these days although I find loads of them when turning over rocks. I therefore always have a few patterns in my box should I be lucky enough to enjoy a hatch. Geoff Fitzgerald and I were wading the East Fork in August and were having fair success with mayfly nymphs and a few cinnamon ants. At about 9:30 AM a tan caddis hatch commenced and we switched to Elk Hair Caddis and X-Caddis patterns with improved success. Then a darker caddis took over and required a bug change. A quick search through my boxes yielded a pattern I've been working on lately. It's adapted from patterns by Rene Harrop, Mike Lawson and Gary Lafontaine. I simply call it a Spring Creek Partridge since Rene, Mike and Gary used their patterns in slow moving waters around Montana and Idaho. I've had great success with this bug for Harriman Ranch and Silver Creek hatches and it was red hot for the East Fork fish in August. We both caught loads of good fish topped by an 18 and 19 inch. Pretty amazing considering the smallish water.

It's a fairly straightforward tie with common materials but I've included step-by-step instructions and a photo to aid in your tying. The photos and Recipe are for an olive pattern. Adjust colors accordingly for any caddis:

Tying Instructions

- Attach thread and tie back to a point over the hook barb
- Tie in a single ply of antron yarn leaving a short length for the tail with the remaining length of yarn toward the hook eye.

- Wrap thread over yarn to the midpoint of the shank.
- Wrap back to the hook barb and attach the biot. Note the “notch” orientation at the biot end in the photo. I moisten the biot just prior to tying in to reduce the chance of it breaking. Wrap the biot forward with neat, overlapping wraps resulting in a nicely segmented abdomen.
- Tie off biot and tie back underwing. Trim underwing at about the end of the hook and comb out fibers of both the shuck and underwing.



- Prepare and tie in a mottled Partridge feather. Take care to keep the feather centered on the hook with a length extending beyond the end of the hook.
- At the wing position tie in a length of poly yarn as if tying in spent wings. Bring

the 2 wings upright together and create a post by wrapping thread at the base of the poly yarn. This method of tying in posts greatly reduces bulk in the thorax area.

Tie in the hackle but don't wrap yet.

- Dub a thorax on either side of the post.
- Wrap hackle parachute style – about 5 wraps and tie off.
- Form a neat head, whip finish, cement the head and the fly is complete.

I like the parachute/post style if it doesn't scare the fish. With very picky fish I tie it with conventional hackling over a peacock herl base and I trim a “v” in the hackle under the hook so it floats flat in the surface film. It's a bit harder to see but seems to perform better with picky trout.

Good Luck!

