



www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org

April 2017 Newsletter

Tuesday, April 4th at 6pm

BJ's Restaurant- Hamilton

FFB President's Message

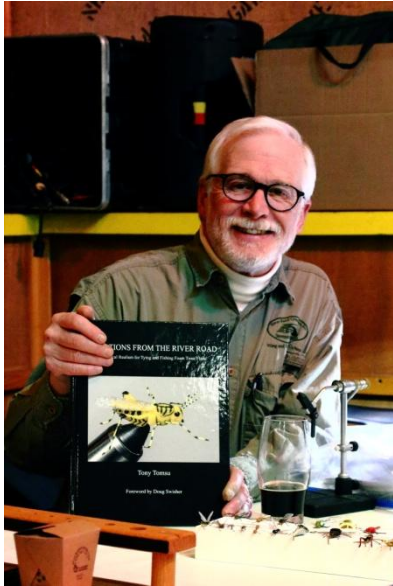
April is almost here and with it comes a host of insects, birds and weather. Whether it is sleet, rain, wind, high water, or a bluebird day, get ready for whatever happens. As 'they' say, "seize the moment". Turkeys are out strutting around, the geese are paired up & there are crocuses blooming; daffodils to follow soon. My house is surrounded by a canopy of bird songs and the longer days signal warmer times ahead. As I do my best to write something stimulating, the river is running high and is slightly off color, but there are people out fishing and catching! This is the time of year to check out the quieter braids and back channels. I have heard it from our Fish Gurus that the trout move into the calmer waters when the flows are up and the water warms up faster in these areas. Whatever your favorite style of fishing is, the opportunity is there for action on streamers, nymphs, emergers and if you are lucky, on a Skwala dry.

As the fishing starts to gear up, so do club activities. Our first "official" outing is on the Missouri the week of April 17th. The Missouri river is a fabulous fishery and on a good day can result in some moments of a lifetime fish. But it can also be fickle river weather wise, so be prepared! May brings ice-out (we hope) on Brown's lake and June heralds the summer time with the Dave Hughes/ Rick HefeLe workshop. We have some great speakers lined up so don't miss our club meetings. Bob Prince has been working overtime to add to and tweak our website-take a look. The Water Forum is going to be starting a new project soon on the East Fork- stay tuned for more info from them. So ya all, get out there and do something, whatever it is. Clubs are about participation, so come, fish, contribute and learn!

"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little."

Tight lines,
Estelle

THE APRIL PROGRAM



Our guest speaker is **TONY TOMSU**

TOPIC: Foam flies and his newly released book, **Creations from the River Road: Practical Realism for Tying and Fishing Foam Trout Flies**



Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot is pleased to welcome Tony Tomsu as our April dinner speaker for our April 4th meeting at BJ's. Tony Tomsu and his wife, Kathi, started River Road Creations, Inc. in 1998. RRC has since grown to become the world's largest manufacturer of wing and foam body cutters. The company also produces other unique fly tying accessories and materials.

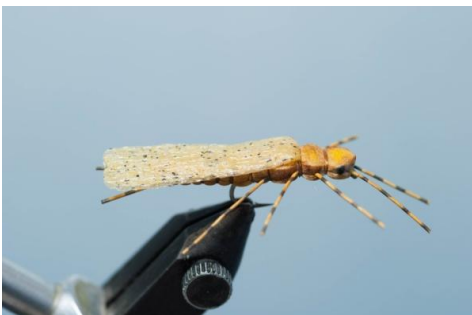
Tony's flies have been featured in *Fly Fisherman*, *Fly Tyer*, *Northwest Fly Fishing*, and *Canadian Fly Fisher* magazines, among others. His innovative fly designs have captured the attention of fly tyers across the globe.

In 2010, Tony was part of a two-person team representing The University of Montana in the inaugural World Varsity Trout Fly Fishing Competition. This first-ever university-level world fly fishing championship was held on Lough Corrib in Cong, County Mayo, Ireland. Tony and his partner finished third out of fifteen international teams.

After working as a financial analyst for the University of Montana for nearly 20 years, Tony began working full time for RRC in 2016.

In 2017, Tony released his first book, "CREATIONS FROM THE RIVER ROAD: Practical Realism for Tying and Fishing Foam Trout Flies," edited by Dale Burk and published by Stoneydale Press Publishing Company. Tony is donating a copy of this book for our raffle the evening of his presentation.

Tony and Kathi live and work near Stevensville in the Bitterroot Valley of Western Montana.



Upcoming programs

May speaker- **Cam Coffin from Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone**

JUNE 27th [note date change] **Rick Hefe**

FLY OF THE MONTH
Tomsu's Bitterroot Skwala™
Fly Tyer: Tony Tomsu
From the club's book- Fly Fishing the Bitterroot

Hook: Standard dry fly, size 10

Thread: 8/0, yellow

Tails: Goose biots, olive inserted into upper body and super glued

Eyes: Small, black Dritz sewing pins pushed through head. Trim excess pin shaft with side cutters

Abdomen: Upper body – 2mm olive foam cut with River Road Creations Stonefly Body Cutter

Under body – 1mm tan foam using same cutter as the upper body

Wing: River Road Creations River Foam brand wing sheet material, tan

Legs: Pre-marked brown rubber legs, small

Antennae: Same as legs



OUTINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Missouri River Trip – April 17-20th, 2017

Activities will be centered around the Headhunters Fly shop in Craig, Montana. Club members either bring RV's, or rent one of the limited cabins available, to take advantage of this exciting fishery. Many rent Guides for all, or part of their outing, or reserve one of the "Veteran" drift boats graciously provided by Headhunters. The Fly Shop also has reduced guide rates at this time as well.

Club members gather every evening for pot-luck food and beverages and at least one group dinner at Izaaks restaurant right next to the Fly shop. After a long Winter...consider joining other FFB members for the first outing of the year and hopefully some memorable fishing, on the "Big Mo"!!

UPDATE.... need we say more ????





BROWN'S LAKE –still waiting for ice out..... never know when Spring happens around here.....

As Spring approaches, many FFB members begin to turn their attention to the "Ice-out" event at Browns Lake. One of the Club's resident "Browns Lake- Gurus", believes this will happen later than normal this year, possibly the end of April, or early May. Is this any place for a self-respecting Fly Fisherman? It is, if you want to try for Arlee and Kamloops Rainbows up to 10- pounds!! The lake fishes best in early in the year, especially the first month after ice-out. At around 500 acres, it is perfect for pontoons, float tubes, and other small boats. Club members have organized impromptu trips on short notice, to an undeveloped campground near the boat launch. There are no reservations, but plenty of room, and a public rest room near the launch. The timing depends on nature, but if you have an interest, stay tuned at the monthly meeting, or the FFB web site. Perhaps you can join up with someone, or a group, to hook up with other members for an early Spring "Hog-fest".....!

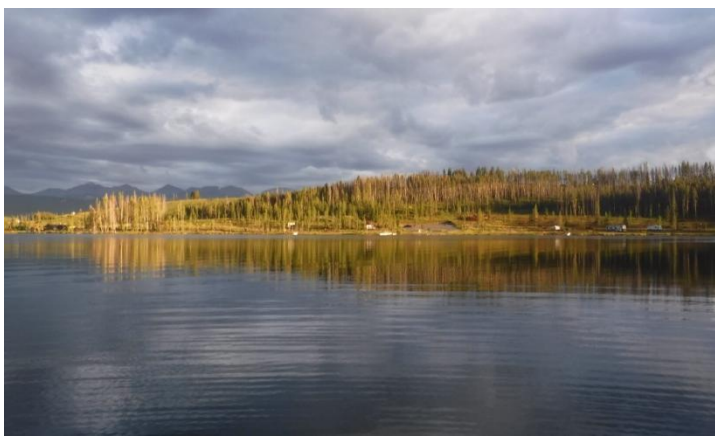
Georgetown Lake dates: July 20-23, 2017 at Lodge pole campground

Perhaps the highlight of the FFB outings, is the annual Georgetown Lake trip. Georgetown is a high (6,000 ft), shallow, weedy lake of 3,000 acres, which supports incredible trout numbers. Primarily a Rainbow trout lake, there are also good numbers of Brookies and Kokanee present. Trout up to 15 pounds have been reported, with a good number of 20-plus inches, 4 pound Rainbows not uncommon! Our club trip has evolved into a multi-day campout, with almost 3 dozen attendees last year! Although day trippers were also common, it's much more fun to come and stay, sharing the day's fishing with fellow FFBers around a campfire

There are hatches on Georgetown that can only be labeled...."events"....Damsel flies, callibaetis, and the incredible Traveling Sedge in July. The Sedge hatch is NOT for the "faint of heart"! I personally experienced such an event during our trip last year. When these big, skittering bugs hatch, and are on the water (usually late afternoon), and the trout key on them, the only word to describe it is ..."violent"!!

It doesn't last long, but it was one of the most incredible 90 minutes of fishing I have ever had!

The fishing underneath is exceptional as well, with Damsel nymphs, Buggers, Chronimids, Hares Ears, and Pheasant-tails, among many others. Once you find the trout's favorite "fly-du-jour", hang on for some great fishing! This is truly great stillwater fishing in July, with the stunning scenery and wildlife of the Georgetown lake area on full display. It's not too early to start making plans for joining the club on this memorable event!!



RAFFLE NEWS! *Tickets are 6/\$5; 13/\$10; 30/\$20*

We have some awesome items in upcoming raffles! Rumor has it there will be one of Tony Tomsu's books, some classy earrings, boxes of flies.....

Speaking of flies, our hard working raffle person is reminding our fly tying members that a major source of our raffle revenue comes from member flies that are donated and raffled off at our monthly meetings. Donated flies should be in a box or container and labeled with the pattern name and the name of the tyer. Why not make a personal commitment to donate a dozen of your favorite pattern this year. Help fill the Club's coffers and show off your tying skills!

Special Needs Day : This is an annual event for us, originally organized by Leon Powell. We host about twenty special needs folks at a private, stocked pond. We try to ensure each catches a fish and then we feed them lunch. This event is truly one of the most gratifying things our Club does. You've got to see the grins and hear the whoops when these folks catch a fish! We need a good turn out by members because it really takes about a one-to-one relationship to help these folks. The event generally occurs on a Sunday morning in June or July.

Stay tuned for more info





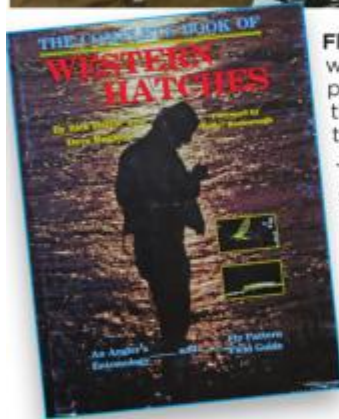
Dave Hughes

Learn from the Best!

Fly Fishing Workshop

**Saturday
June 24, 2017**

**Hannon House,
Darby, Montana**



Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot are sponsoring a one day workshop on Saturday June 24, 2017. The featured presenters will be **Rick Hafele** and **Dave Hughes**. They are the co-authors of *Western Hatches*, which many consider to be the definitive book on this topic.

The course will include a presentation followed by streamside collection and identification of insects. This is followed by a session on matching the insects with the best flies. Demonstrations of best fishing techniques for dry fly, wet fly, and nymph fishing will follow. At the end of the day, one-on-one casting tune-ups will be available from certified IFFF casting instructors.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are provided. The dinner is a Bar-BQ with beer and wine included. Evening entertainment follows. The event will be held at **Steve Lilburn's Hannon House** south of Darby. B&B rooms are available through Steve as well as RV spots with electric hook ups. Tent camping is also available and a restroom is on site. For lodging reservations contact Steve at riverresortslc@gmail.com

We will be selling Bar-BQ tickets separately so spouses or others can join us for the dinner and entertainment portion.

Registration:

SIGN UP NOW! Participation is limited to the first 25 registrants. Cost is \$150 for FFB members and \$175 for nonmembers. Sign up by using the registration form on the website of FFB: www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org

A deposit of \$50 insures you a place at the event which is limited to the first 25 who sign up and pay the full program cost. A portion of the Funds over and above the program cost will be earmarked for a Bitter Root Water Forum Project.



Rick Hafele

**Go to the website to download the registration form!
This is a once in a life time opportunity. Don't miss it!**

Blue-Winged Olives



"Behavior." In addition to being common and abundant, blue-winged olives seem to do whatever it takes to become food for trout. Because nymphs are active swimmers, they move around a lot, which puts them out in the water column where trout can find them. They are one of the most common aquatic insects in stream drift, so not only do they swim, but they also let go of the bottom and drift in large numbers. Mature nymphs emerge by swimming up to the water's surface, putting them directly in front of feeding trout. Most species of blue-winged olives complete several generations per year instead of just one like most mayflies, so the same species emerges two or three times a year, resulting in mature nymphs swimming up to the surface multiple times. Couple this with the fact that most streams contain several species of blue-winged olives, and you can see why they are so important.

Size is critical when selecting patterns and blue-winged olives are small. Mature nymphs, even for the largest species, rarely reach a size 16 hook. Most species need to be matched with flies in the 18 or 20 range. Thus when choosing a pattern for these important mayflies, smaller is definitely better. The variety of species of blue-winged olives also means the size and color of the naturals vary by season and from one stream to the next. The only sure way to get a close match is to collect a few naturals and compare them with your flies."

Rick Hafele, Nymph-Fishing Rivers and Streams: A Biologist's view of Taking Trout Below the Surface, Stackpole Books 2006, p. 100

This excerpt is from one of Rick Hafele's books.

Looking for contributors & writers for the newsletter

Hey all you club members, we need your input to keep this newsletter, well, news worthy! Send your fishing reports and news items to the editor, Jim Calvery- jimmie.calvery@gmail.com- by the **21st** of each month to be included in the next newsletter. Get those pictures to him too. Set margins at .5 & use a size 12 Calibri font. Please send in as a doc. document.

Interesting links? - send those to Dick Ellis –ellis_r@fortlewis.edu.

Did you see a good article on a fishing technique, or even better, you can write one? Whatever you can do will help keep the newsletter up to date, relevant and interesting.

Announcing... ***A Fly Fishing Clinic***

sponsored by The Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot (FFB) and the Bitterroot Chapter of Trout Unlimited (BRTU)



^ Wednesdays in May, 2017 (5/3, 10, 17 & 24) Corvallis
Middle School, 6 – 8:30 PM



Designed for beginning adult anglers

- Comprehensive curriculum covering all aspects of fly fishing.
- Great value at **\$50 per person**
- Enrollment includes a 1 year membership in BRTU & FFB
- Already a member? ...then your tuition is only \$35

Special Feature!

Casting instruction provided by Chuck Stranahan and his expert staff.

Chuck and Steve Davis are Federation of Fly Fishers Certified Casting Instructors

Sign up deadline - April 15!!

Limited enrollment so sign up early!

You may enroll at [Freestone Fly Shop](#) in Hamilton or
[Chuck Stranahans Flies and Guides](#) in Hamilton.

You may also mail in your enrollment form plus a check payable to BRTU
BRTU PO Box 262 Hamilton MT 59840

Questions? Call Greg Chester at 406-363-0033 or Chuck Stranahan at 406-363-4197

Cut here

Fly Fishing Clinic

Tuition: \$50 (\$35 if a member of BRTU or FFB) Make checks payable to BRTU.

If mailing send to BRTU, PO Box 262, Hamilton MT 59840

Name _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

NEWS & NOTES

CASTING FOR RECOVERY's Glacier program is having their retreat early and in a new locale this year. **CfR** provides free support and education retreats for women of any age and in any stage of breast cancer treatment or recovery, and incorporates fly fishing into the program. It's a three day retreat and Sunday, June 11, 2017 is fishing day where the participants are guided one on one wade fishing for 3 hours. You do not need to be a licensed guide, just comfortable wading with a novice fly fisher, tying on flies, landing fish and helping them w/ the basics. The retreat will be at Lubrecht Forest Lodge, East of Missoula on H 200 about 1.5 hours from Hamilton. Fishing location is not set yet but decided but will be close by, somewhere on the Blackfoot. 14 river helpers are needed. If anyone is interested in being a river helper, **please contact Peg Miskin, castone@castingforrecovery.org or call her at [707-529-2760](tel:707-529-2760)**. Would love to have the FFB represented this year for this important special day!

The 20th **Bitterroot Buggers** class is in full swing! Sponsored by **BRTU and Keystone Enrichment Program**. Buggers dates, all Tuesdays and all at the Keystone facilities in Hamilton; Class runs 6:30-8:00 PM
Mar 7 - Apr 4 5 tying classes * Apr 11-Casting and knots Apr TBD: Stock Farm picnic *



Here is the rough projected timeline for the East Fork project we will be doing this year.

Mid to late April - Bank Revegetation Treatment (will need a few volunteers but probably won't put it out to everyone) *Might have a day of cutting willow stakes but have not decided for sure.*

May - Fencing (pursuing a contractor for this)

July - Browse protectors around existing plants (will put out a call for volunteers on this)

Late September to early October - Planting nursery plants and putting browse protectors around the more palatable species (will put out a call for volunteers on this)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 4th – CLUB MEETING
April 4th – Buggers- fly tying class 6-8:30
April 10th – **Board meeting**
April 11th – Buggers- casting & knots 6-8:30
April 17th – 20th FFB Missouri Trip
May 2nd – CLUB MEETING
May 3rd – MAY CLINIC with TU 6-8:30 PM
May 8th – **Board meeting**
May 10th – MAY CLINIC with TU 6-8:30 PM
May 17th – MAY CLINIC with TU 6-8:30 PM
May 21st Jenny West's Fly Fishing Clinic for women - 9:30-4 PM
May 24th – MAY CLINIC with TU 6-8:30 PM
June 12th – **Board meeting**
June 24th - DH/RH workshop
June 27th – June FFB club meeting
There is no club meeting in July
July 10th – **Board meeting**
July 20th-23rd Georgetown Trip
August 7th – **Board meeting**
August 20th – Annual club picnic
Sept. 11th – **Board meeting**
Sept 12th (note date chg—is the 2nd Tuesday of the month)- FFB Sept. club meeting
Sept 29th-30th “*Cast One for Hope*”

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Web Page Admin/assistant: assistance needed in maintaining our web page
www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org May train up to be webpage admin. Contact Bob Prince (robertprince@gmail.com)

FFB MERCHANDISE PROGRAM

FFB graphically labeled merchandise is available at www.okeefesreef.com Sample merchandise can be seen at <http://www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org/> page

FFB members can order from the website and have merchandise delivered to their home.
We have negotiated a **10% discount** with the vendor on all orders from Club members. Items for ladies also!

TIDBITS FROM THE PAST

In 2009 the First Annual FFB Pig Roast was held in July at Lake Como. And yes, they did roast a pig! Also in September 2009, the club started dues—probably to offset the costs of roasting the pig.

LINKS

For great info for the upcoming Missouri trip:

<http://www.headhuntersflyshop.com>

Link to the 2016 Annual slide show :

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bxt0j6peW5JyMm44RTVMXzhWekE/view>

Link for Mays' speaker- great blog & fly tying videos <http://www.blue-ribbon-flies.com>

CLASSIFIEDS

The Board of Directors set 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

OTHER

- **Name tags and lanyards are ready and are at the check in table**