



www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org

"Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot is a nonprofit club dedicated to sharing our passion for fly fishing by promoting fellowship, education and stewardship of our fishing resources."

June 2017 Newsletter

**Note date change & place!-JUNE 27, 2017 (Tuesday) at the BITTERROOT INN
Social hour& dinner 5:30 at the Edge Restaurant, Program at 7PM**

President's message

Hi Everyone!

Everything is in full swing in the Bitterroot. The migrating birds are returning, the Farmers' Market is open and of course the inevitable spring runoff and high water is here. I believe that from mid May to mid June there is no place more beautiful than the Bitterroot Valley. The club's calendar is busy too- The Dave Hughes/ Rick Hefele workshop is on the 24th of June and Rick Hefele is our program speaker on the 27th of June. Next come the Special Needs day, tentatively scheduled for the 9th of July quickly followed by the Georgetown Lake outing July 20-23rd. August is the annual picnic on Sunday, the 20th. September the club meeting has been moved to September 12th, and will be back at our old haunts, BJ's. I had the opportunity to help out at the Adult May fly fishing clinic, a joint venture of FFB & BTU. It made May fly by- but what a great group of new members entering our ranks! Many of them had never held a fly rod before, but by the 4th class there was some impressive casting going on. Take the time to meet these people- their enthusiasm is infectious and they are welcome additions to our club. As we all get ready for a summer full of fishing, friends, company and travel, spend some time thinking about how you want to participate in the club next year. December is our annual meeting and the election of the incoming directors for 2018. Several people are retiring from "active duty" this year, so we have will have vacancies to be filled. In the next newsletter I will start detailing the responsibilities of these positions.

In the blink of an eye everything can change. So forgive often and love with all your heart. You may never know when you may not have that chance again. - Author unknown.

I hope you celebrated Memorial Day for those it was meant for.

Tight Lines, Estelle

The June program

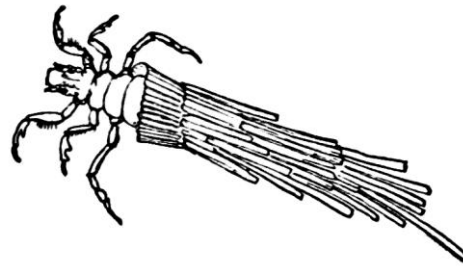


Our Guest Speaker is

***Rick Hefe, world renowned author
and a darn great fly fisher to boot!***

Title of the presentation:

Understanding Emergers



Emerging insects provide some of the most exciting and productive fly-fishing opportunities. But you have to have the right fly and present it the right way. When should you fish in the film, below the film, or high on the water's surface? How is mayfly emergence behavior different from caddis flies? And what about those midges? By understanding the behavior of different insect hatches during this critical stage, you will be able to more effectively select successful fly patterns, and not feel helpless when those trout keep refusing your offerings. This program includes in-depth discussion of emergence behavior, effective fly patterns that cover a range of situations, and presentation techniques to match what the insects are doing in and on the water.

Rick Hafele has a Masters degree in aquatic entomology and a minor in fisheries biology. He has worked as a professional aquatic biologist for over 30 years. Books to his credit include *An Angler's Guide to Aquatic Insects and Their Imitations* (with Scott Roederer, Johnson Books, 1995), *Western Mayfly Hatches* (with Dave Hughes, Amato Pub, 2005), *The Complete Book of Western Hatches* (with Dave Hughes, Amato Pub, 1981), *Nymph Fishing Rivers and Streams* (Stackpole Books, 2006), and most recently the two volume set *Tactics for Trout* and *Seasons for Trout* (Stackpole Books, 2014) co-authored with Dave Hughes and Skip Morris. Rick is also well known for instructional DVD's that include the 1983 classic *Anatomy of a Trout Stream* and more recently the four volume set titled, *Fly Fishing Large Western Rivers*, plus *Nymph Fishing Basics*, *Advanced Nymph Fishing* and *Advanced Tactics for Emergers & Dries*. He also penned the *Entomology* column for *American Angler* magazine for over 30 years. Few fly fishers have Rick's knowledge about the world in which trout live, and for many years he has been sharing that knowledge with fly fishers through books, articles, slide shows and seminars. More info about Rick and his programs can be found at his website: www.rickhafele.com.

Recap of the June Meeting

The May program was offered by Cam Coffin of Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone, Montana. Coffin purchased the shop from Craig Matthews after guiding for Blue Ribbon Flies for more than thirty years. His spirited and informative program focused on the Yellowstone area and was supported by some remarkable photographs in a PowerPoint program. The program was organized by the seasons and included discussions of various rivers, hatches and flies.

Photos of the winter midge hatches on the Madison caused a loud reaction from FFB members. Also, the fly box with Blue Ribbon Flies patterns that were tied and donated by Greg Chester was the main attraction of the evening raffle.

The program elicited a positive reaction from members and brought several recommendations that the club should consider an outing in the West Yellowstone area. If that has appeal, please contact one of the board members.



Fly of the Month

The Mikulak Sedge, or Travelling Sedge by *Greg Chester*

To accompany Ed Gannon's nice write up about fishing this great fly, especially on Georgetown Lake I thought I'd submit some tying instructions and photos of the Mikulak Sedge that Denny Westover suggested.

Here are the materials I used

- Hook Tiemco #280 Hopper Hook size 8
- Thread – Light Olive Unithread, 8/0
- Dubbing – MFC Frog's Hair Dubbing, Skwalla color
- Wings, head - Medium Elk



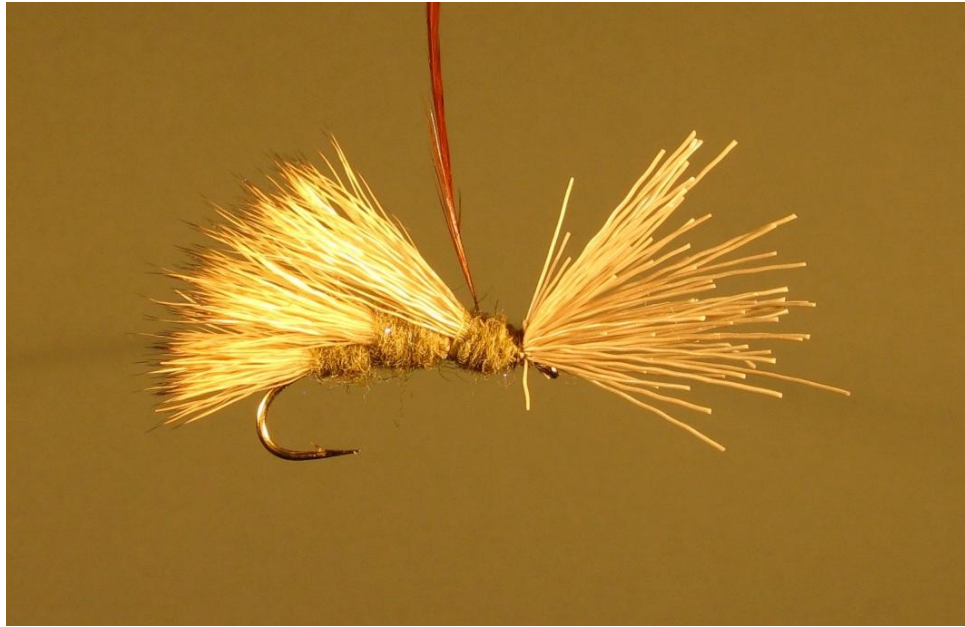
Wrap a thread base of tying thread

Tie in Elk tail/body as shown in photo. Resulting tail length to be $\frac{1}{2}$ body length...Don't overly flair hair at tail tie –in point.



Dub over body as shown.

Tie in a wing of elk hair as shown with tips just short of the tail length, dub as shown.



Tie in another wing, again with tips just short of the previous wing. This helps create the tent wing profile. This time don't clip the butts yet. Dub over the body as shown and tie in a brown saddle hackle, dry fly style, one size less than normal. In this case a size 10.



To complete the Sedge, post the elk butts as shown and clip to form a short head. Wrap hackle forward about 4 turns and tie off. Then clip the hackle flat on the bottom to allow it to float flush on the surface. Lastly apply ample cement to harden the head. This will facilitate "waking" the fly on the surface, just like the real bug. Ed offers a good technique in his write up.

Good Luck!

OUTINGS AND EVENTS

Georgetown Lake July 20-23, 2017: ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!!

If you plan to attend this outing, **you must make your own reservations** for a campsite.

You MUST GET RESERVATIONS ASAP. The campsites are filling up.

Go to: Recreation.gov

Search for: Campgrounds Georgetown Lake, Anaconda, Mt.Beaverhead National Forest

Then scroll down to: Lodgepole campground Make reservation, you will not be able to pick a specific site, if you have a senior pass/golden age you will get a discount at checkout.

Call Dorreen if you have any problems 363-0744

The club potluck is Saturday night-July 22nd. We provide: hamburgers, brats, & buns, along with all the fixins---ketchup, mustard, mayo, onions, lettuce, tomato, pickles, cheese, & chips. Also a keg of beer and water. Some soda. We supply the paper goods & utensils. Everyone is encouraged to bring a side dish--SUCH AS- salads, appetizers, dessert, etc. Albert & Mike have done the cooking along with helpers.



On warm summer afternoons and evening, starting about mid to late June and lasting until about early September, a large Georgetown Lake Caddis, the **Traveling Sedge**, makes an appearance. This particular caddis species are so large that they are unable to take off from the water and must skitter, like mini motorboats, to the shore, making them an enticing target for large cruising rainbows. The planned club trip dates of July 20-23 should put us right in the middle of their time! If you are unable to buy or tie something similar to the Traveling Sedge, imitations include large goddard caddis, elk hair caddis and orange and yellow stimulators all in a size 4 to 10. Fishing is best toward afternoons when there is a light chop on the surface. The fishing can continue until after dark.

One method is to cast the fly into the wind and use a fast retrieve back with the wind. Some people even put the rod under their arm and use two hands to get a faster retrieve. Another is to just cast and wait....10 seconds....20....30....twitching occasionally...the Trout will eventually find it, and when they do, hang on!! For caddis pupas try a sparkle pupa, soft hackle, zug bug or a Z wing caddis. This is truly a signature Georgetown Lake "happening" and if the fishing Gods are kind.....it will be memorable... **Ed Gannon**



Dave Hughes

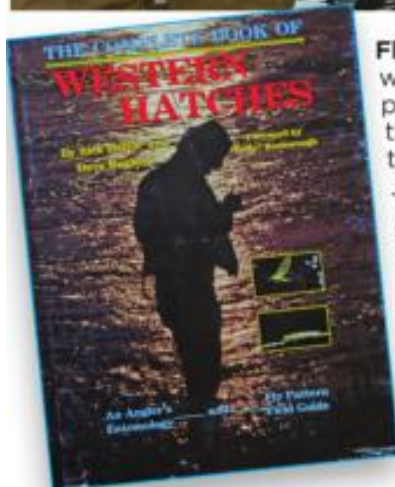
Learn from the Best!

Fly Fishing Workshop

WORKSHOP IS FULL!!

**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

JUNE 24TH 6 PM BBQ DINNER TICKETS AVAILABLE

(FOLLOWS THE RD/RH WORKSHOP)

PRICE \$20.00/PER TICKET ;

Less than 10 tickets remain!

CONTACT ESTELLE SHUTTLEWORTH FOR TICKET SALES

je@shuttleworthje.com or 406-381-0473

Special Needs day: DATE is Sunday, July 9th, 2017. 9-1PM. We need people to commit to helping to be able to have this event. Please contact Estelle Shuttleworth - je@shuttleworthje.com or Chris Andersen - chrisandersen@hotmail.com.

Annual Picnic: DATE is Sunday August 20th at Steve Lilburn's rolling estate. Details to follow.

NEWS AND NOTES

LOST & FOUND

Lost: North Face grey rain jacket. East Fork or Angler's Roost area. Contact Ken Quinn @ 361-0118

Mending: Upstream or Down?

by Philip Monahan

Have a question you want answered? Email it to us at ask@midcurrent.com.

Question: *I am just learning to fly fish, and I don't understand mending. How do I know when to mend upstream or downstream?* Connor, Manchester, NH

Answer: Mending is an aspect of fly-line control that many anglers have trouble with. Here's a very simple definition: mending is the process by which you counteract the effects of current on the fly line, thus enabling a longer dead drift.

The surface of a river is made up of many different currents. There's fast water in the main channel; slower water flats, seams, or buffers; and even dead water behind midstream boulders. If you cast a fly line across a current and do nothing, the various currents push on your line at different rates. You can tell this is happening because the line "bellies" or gets all squiggly.

If you cast across a fast current, for example, the middle of the line gets pushed downstream faster than the fly, until the line is actually pulling the fly downstream through the water. Not only does this ruin your dead drift, but it pulls the fly out of the line you were trying to fish. If your line is being pushed downstream faster than the fly, you need to counteract that by moving that section of line upstream of the fly. This is an *upstream* mend.

A *downstream* mend is for the opposite situation, in which you cast across slow current into faster water. In this case, the slow water is holding the line back, so your fly can't move as fast as the current lane it's in. This causes the fly to drag like it's at the end of a leash.

Sometimes you may cast across several different currents, which may require an upstream and a downstream mend on the same drift.

The easiest way to determine which mends you'll have to make is to not mend at all. Cast a couple of times and watch to see how the current affects the line. If the line races ahead of the fly, you know that you need to throw an upstream mend. If the fly races ahead of the line, you know that you need to throw a downstream mend. If the line makes an "S" shape — with part of the line nearest you racing ahead and the part closer to the fly lagging behind — you know that you need to mend first downstream, then mend just half the line upstream.

For a full discussion of how and when to mend, check out my article "[A Mending Primer](#)."

Phil Monahan is a former Alaskan guide and was the long-time editor of *American Angler* magazine. He's now a columnist for *MidCurrent* and writes and edits the fly-fishing blog at *OrvisNews.com*. You can email your fly fishing questions to us at ask@midcurrent.com.



Heavens to Murgatroyd!...

Would you believe the email spell checker did not recognize the word Murgatroyd?

Lost Words from our childhood:

Words gone as fast as the buggy whip!

Sad really!

The other day a not so elderly (65) (I say 75) lady said something to her son about driving a Jalopy and he looked at her quizzically and said "What the heck is a Jalopy?"

OMG (new phrase)!

He never heard of the word jalopy!!

She knew she was old.... but not that old.

Well, I hope you are Hunky Dory after you read this and chuckle.

About a month ago, I illuminated some old expressions that have become obsolete because of the inexorable march of technology

These phrases included

"Don't touch that dial,"

"Carbon copy,"

"You sound like a broken record"

and "Hung out to dry."

Back in the olden days we had a lot of 'moxie.'

We'd put on our best 'bib and tucker' to 'straighten up and fly right'.

Heavens to Betsy!

Gee whillikers!

Jumping Jehoshaphat!

Holy moley!

We were 'in like Flynn' and 'living the life of Riley',

and even a regular guy couldn't accuse us of

being a knucklehead, a nincompoop or a pill.

Not for all the tea in China!

Back in the olden days, life used to be swell, but when's the last time anything was swell?

Swell has gone the way of beehives, pageboys and the D.A.;

of spats, knickers, fedoras, poodle skirts, saddle shoes

and pedal pushers.

Oh, my aching back! Kilroy was here, but he isn't anymore

We wake up from what surely has been just a short nap, and before we can say,
well I'll be 'a monkey's uncle!' Or, This is a 'fine kettle of fish'!
We discover that the words we grew up with,
the words that seemed omnipresent, as oxygen, have vanished with scarcely a
notice from our tongues and our pens and our keyboards.

Poof, go the words of our youth, the words we've left behind

We blink, and they're gone. Where have all those phrases gone?

Long gone:

Pshaw,

The milkman did it.

Hey! It's your nickel.

Don't forget to pull the chain.

Knee high to a grasshopper.

Well, Fiddlesticks!

Going like sixty.

I'll see you in the funny papers.

Don't take any wooden nickels.

It turns out there are more of these lost words and expressions than Carter has liver pills.
This can be disturbing stuff! ("Carter's Little Liver Pills" are gone too!)

We of a certain age have been blessed to live in changeable times.
For a child each new word is like a shiny toy, a toy that has no age. We at the other end
of the chronological arc have the advantage of remembering there are words that once
did not exist and there were words that once strutted their hour upon the earthly stage
and now are heard no more, except in our collective memory.

It's one of the greatest advantages of aging.

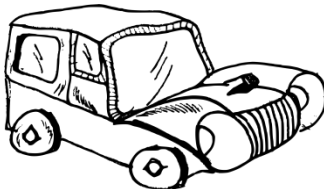
Leaves us to wonder where Superman will find a phone booth...

See ya later, alligator!

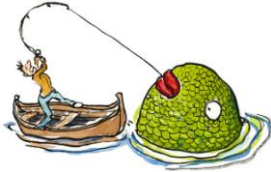
Okidoki

May you always have love to share,
health to spare,
friends that care.

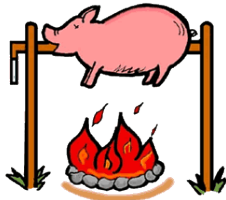
May you be so blessed!



- June 12th - Board meeting
- June 24th - DH/RH workshop
- **June 27th – June FFB club meeting**
- ***There is no club meeting in July***
- 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”
- Oct 3rd Club meeting
- Oct 9th Board meeting
- Oct 13th- TU banquet
- Nov 13th Board meeting
- **Dec 5th Annual meeting & elections**
- Dec 11th Board meeting

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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!

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. If you need a name tag please contact Gary Kosaka at hikemastergk@gmail.com