

FLY FISHERS OF THE BITTERROOT

NEWSLETTER FOR May, 2008

MEMBER



THE MEETING

Our May meeting will be held Tuesday, May 6, 2008, (There's an outside chance it may be warmer by then.) upstairs at the Exchange Club on Main Street in Hamilton (unless we get bumped downstairs again). Cocktails and general fish tales start at 6:00 pm and the program starts at 7:00 pm. As a rule, the Club meets the first Tuesday of every month except for the months of July and August, when there will not be any meetings. (Only two more meetings until summer vacation!) Please remember to sign up with FFF if you haven't already done so. Membership applications are available at all meetings. See Dorreen Romans, our Membership Chair. This can also be accomplished on line with FFF, <http://www.fedflyfishers.org>. Guests are always welcome but you must be a member of FFF to attend regularly our monthly meetings and programs. The Club has no membership fee other than the cost of being an FFF member.

Don't forget to make reservations (Dorreen Romans, 363-0744) only if you are coming for dinner. If we have enough folks coming, The Exchange will hire extra help. Otherwise, the service will be slow, so please make reservations. Thanks for your help in this. There is no charge for attending the meetings or any requirement

to have dinner.

THE PROGRAM

Laurie Lane learned to draw early on from her father who was also a fine artist. She received a BFA from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design with an emphasis in photography. For many years Laurie shot commercially for Target, ad agencies and other corporations garnering her a keen eye and proficiency within the medium. Fourteen years ago Laurie and her family moved to Missoula, Montana to pursue her love of photography and fly fishing. This effort has cumulated in very original and fresh art of the beautiful trout and its habitat. Because the elusive trout is difficult to photograph at best, most people mistake her photographs as paintings making her art even more engaging. Laurie attributes her many years photographing fashion and children to giving her the patience to capture wild trout. Collectors of Laurie's aesthetically unusual art encompass a wide variety of people, corporation and businesses. Most recently Laurie won another award for a book proposal on her "Trout Series" from the IPA (International Photography Awards). Her work can be seen in many publications including a photo feature in Delta's SkyWest July/August issue. A portion of all trout art sold goes towards protecting our wild fisheries and precious water for future generations of artists and fishing addicts to enjoy. As an advocate for clean water and trout habitat, Laurie donates to many charities including TU and Montana Trout, to name a few.

THOSE WHO SPOKE

Joe Sowerby presented a slideshow on Montana's most remote and treasured stretches of river including the Smith River, South Fork of the Flathead, and a few "notellum" creeks. Over the last 16 years Joe has guided fly fishing on every major river in Montana as well and many "notellum creeks". During this time he also guided hunters into the wilds of Montana, Wyoming, and Tanzania, East Africa. His business, Montana Flyfishing Connection, focuses on guiding fly fishing anglers down Montana's 60 mile-5 day Smith River canyon trip as well as many other quiet, out of the way rivers around Western Montana. Joe is on the Pro-Staff for Scott Fly Rod Co. and Boulder Boat Works.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From The President's Raft:

(The editor must report that El Hefei is touring Tuscany and unavailable to write the "Raft" this month. We will have to do without his sage advice and keen insights until he carts his wine and food sotted carcass back.)

Bitterroot Dunking

The Rules Committee has no reported Bitterroot Dunks this past month. That doesn't mean they did not occur. The editor thinks mere modesty is preventing more reports, or perhaps the more competitive of us are dunking in secrecy to perfect technique. Clever (but wet) devils!

Wading Advice

For those not practicing the Bitterroot Dunk, we have several tips on wading, now that the Bitterroot River is coming up. First, if the water looks too high and fast, it probably is. Trust your instincts. Second, use a wading staff. The fly shops all sell great folding staffs or simply pick up a stout stick on the bank (making absolutely clear it is a stick and not a snake). Third, slide your feet instead of picking them up to step. High stepping is for Saturday night, not river wading. Stay dry when you cast the fly.

FREEBIE TABLE ESTABLISHED

The Club has accumulated a few items that can and should be shared with all members, such as a box of turkey feathers, a large roll of wing material, fishing magazines, etc. We will set up a table at each meeting and set these items out for any member to help themselves. Any member may bring in items for the table subject to two caveats: they must be for free distribution (no sales of old gear) and if they are not taken, "he who brung 'em, must take 'em home."

The Club owns two tools that may be of periodic use to members. We have a motorized rod drying machine and a dubbing machine. Both these handcrafted tools are available for use by any member free of charge. They are maintained at Bill Bean's Fishaus in Hamilton.

THE EVENTS

Club Outings:

It is with great sadness that we must cancel the proposed May opening day outing to Georgetown Lake. Two very different reasons are at cause. First, the Lake is highly likely to still be frozen over. At over 6,000 feet, they are still ice fishing that water. Second, an issue concerning Club insurance is being investigated to ensure coverage. We will not plan outings until we are sure we have sufficient insurance coverage. This issue is being worked, believe me.

Raffle:

Under the stewardship of Bob Curry and Ed Couchman, a review of our raffle items is underway. The tickets for each item are counted and the interest of members in that item are gauged. This will be a long term, ongoing effort. If you have any suggestions for future raffle items (*i.e.*, more nonfly tying items such as clothing, wine, etc.) please contact Bob or Ed. recall that the Club's principal source of income is the raffle. All attendees, whether members or honored guests, may purchase raffle tickets. Ticket sales were up considerably last meeting. Good job, guys!

Bitterroot Fly Guide:

Under the able leadership of Board member Mike Wesche, the Club is putting together information that will be incorporated into a book on noted fly tiers and choice flies for the Bitterroot.. A map of the Bitterroot, the various fly hatches, put in and take outs, guides, shuttle services and the like is being compiled. More on this exciting project will come in future editions of this critical reading venue. We anticipate this will be sold in fly shops, etc. and become a source of income for the Club.

Fly Tying:

Fly tying, Wednesday evenings at the Brewery in Hamilton, 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Be there or be square. Bring your favorite pattern or just come to observe. Greg Chester, Phil Romans, Dick Galli and a number of great Bitterroot tiers are usually there. And there's always the permitted 48 ounces of your favorite flavor. We hope to see some of you.

May Fly Fishing Workshop:

Each May, on four consecutive Wednesday evenings, the Club, in conjunction with the Bitterroot chapter of Trout Unlimited, puts on a fly fishing clinic for men and women ages 16 and up. This year, as in the past, it will be held at the Slack Barn at The Teller. (Look for posters at your favorite fly shop.) This Clinic is for beginner and intermediate fly fishers and a wonderful source of information and hands on learning about casting, stream entomology and fly tying and all the components that go into our beloved sport. It is also a great source of new members. As part of this Clinic, participants are given fly books with a few flies. Members are encouraged to tie a few flies for this event and give them to Phil Romans or Greg Chester.

Board of Directors Meeting:

Our next Board meeting will be Monday, May 12 at 7:00 pm. at the home of Leon Powell. All are welcome. Call 777-1070 for directions.

FFF Possible Move of Headquarters:

The national headquarters for FFF and the associated museum is currently located in Livingston, Montana. Access into and out of Livingston is somewhat limited and difficult both for visitors and for FFF personnel. The FFF Board of Directors is currently studying the possibility of moving FFF headquarters to a more central and accessible location, perhaps Loveland, Colorado. No decision has been reached. The museum is not well attended and there is thought about combining it with an existing institution at another location to relieve FFF of the expense of maintenance. All FFF members have been requested to weigh in on these issues. You can find materials about this at <http://www.fedflyfishers.org>.

FFF & FFF Council events:

FFF 43rd Int'l Show & Conclave 2008

2008 Conclave planning has begun. It will be our 43rd Annual FFF International Fly Fishing Show (Conclave) and the dates are set for July 22 – 26, 2008. The location for this Conclave will be Whitefish, Montana. Whitefish is a small town located on the shore of Whitefish Lake. Just a few miles from Glacier National Park and International airport. Mark your calendar !!!!

<http://www.fedflyfishers.org/conclave2008/begin.php> There is some talk about getting together an interested group from the Club to attend the Conclave.

THE ERRATA

Club Website:

Look it up! www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org. We now have a blog (that's that thing your grandkids do all the time). Use it to post comments on fishing trips, etc.

Thoughts to Ponder:

- 1.. My Wife and I divorced over religious differences. She thought she was God and I didn't.**
- 2.. I don't suffer from insanity; I enjoy every minute of it.**
- 3.. Some people are alive only because it's illegal to kill them.**
- 4.. I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.**
- 5.. Don't take life too seriously; no one gets out alive.**
- 6.. You're just jealous because the voices only talk to me.**
- 7.. Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder.**
- 8.. Earth is the insane asylum for the universe.**
- 9.. I'm not a complete idiot -- Some parts are just missing.**
- 10..The gene pool could use a little chlorine.**

THE AUTHOR

Yes, another collector's item put to bed. If you have the urge, you can reach me at 206-362-1199 with comments or items to add or rich@rkymtn.net. I encourage newsletter ideas. Also, this newsletter may still not be getting through the ether to all members. If you are not

getting this collector's item of info, call me or see me at a meeting to ensure the correctness of your e-mail address in our files. Rich Morrisey