

"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."

www.flyfishersofthebitterroot.org

FLY FISHERS OF THE BITTERROOT

MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER

Meeting is Tuesday May 7th, at BJ's.

5:30-6:30-Social hour; meeting starts at 6:30 pm; Program at 7 PM

I would like to personally thank Walt McCrumb for stepping up to join our board of directions and especially thank him for volunteering to be our raffle chairman for the coming year. Walt will work with Phil Romans for the remainder of the year to learn how Phil does things and we look forward to having some great raffle items in our future. Walt has had experience working in raffles with other organizations and will be a great addition to the clubs leadership.

We are still in need of some people who will join with us on the board and provide leadership for the next couple of years. We need someone who will become vice-president with the intention of becoming president when my tenure is finished. We also need someone to coordinate and plan people who would like to make presentations to our regular meetings on Tuesdays. If you can help please let us know so you can join our board and help out.

High water is on the way. May will provide us with the beginning of high water and will probably last through late June or the first couple of weeks in July. For those who didn't see the latest DNRC report here it is:

Spring appears to be here, the weather is slowly warming, and the ice is starting to break up on Painted Rocks Reservoir.

It appears that the rains we had last week and the warmer weather has melted the bulk of the 5000 ft. and below snow. While there are still some snows in the shadows, most of it is gone around the reservoir.

The reservoir is starting to fill, and we have taken on about 4000 AF of storage in the last week. The reservoir storage is currently at 11286 acre-feet of water, which is about 1/3 of the total capacity. The basin snow pack is still hovering around 100% so we do not anticipate any problems filling the reservoir.

The current outflows are 200 cfs, and the inflows are 268 cfs. We are expecting the inflows to start increasing in the next few days (and coming weeks) as we start to get the 60-degree days and the warmer nights.

We anticipate making a few small outflow adjustments in the 50-75 cfs range over the coming weeks in an effort to regulate the rate at which the reservoir fills.

We will also be starting to send out regular updates on the reservoir status.

Good Fishing! President Bill

MAY 2019 PROGRAM



SPEAKER: KELSEY HELFRICH

PROGRAM:
**EXPERIENCE THE WILD AND
SCENIC RIVERS OF IDAHO
AND OREGON**

Helfrich Outfitters is a fourth generation family owned and operated business in Oregon and Idaho. Getting started on the McKenzie River in 1925 and expanding out to explore other rivers from there, the family was among the first river outfitters in the west.

Helfrich covers the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, the Main Salmon in Idaho, the Wild and Scenic Rogue River in Oregon and the Owyhee River Canyon lands. Known for rowing classic wooden boats on the rivers, Helfrich also makes use of rafts during low water to enable great fishing adventures. <https://www.helfrichoutfitter.com/helfrich-history/>

Fourth generation partner in the business, Kelsey Helfrich, will be with us at the May meeting. Kelsey grew up along the banks of the McKenzie River in Oregon and has been in a boat since before she could walk. As she grew, so did her love of the river and the outdoor lifestyle. When Kelsey was 2 years old she went on her first trip on the Middle Fork of the Salmon and at 5 went along on her first big commercial over-night trip on the Main Salmon. Growing up, Kelsey spent most of her summers, tagging along on McKenzie trips with her dad as a swamper on the pontoon. At the age of 12 she graduated to running her own raft down the Wild and Scenic Section of the Rogue River followed soon after by the Main Salmon Canyon and the Middle Fork of the Salmon. Kelsey got her first Oregon guide's license at the age of 16 and started guiding paddle rafting trips on the Upper McKenzie. Being an outfitters kid, she was raised learning the whole business, both on the river and working in the office.

Following in the footsteps of her Granddad Dave, Kelsey studied at the College of Forestry at Oregon State University, graduating from in 2007 with degrees in Forestry Recreation and Resource Management.

In 2009 Kelsey met Kidd Youren and soon knew that he was the man she wanted to spend the rest of her life with. Kidd started working on the Middle Fork with the Helfrich crew in 2011 and quickly proved himself as a great boatman, guide and leader on all of the rivers that they run. Kelsey and Kidd were married in September of 2013. In January of 2017 they welcomed a beautiful baby girl into the world. Little Miss Fallon Elery Helfrich-Youren who has already been on the river! Kelsey, husband Kidd and daughter Fallon live in Salmon Idaho near family and friends.



Upcoming Programs

June 4th, 2019 George Kesel-Fishing Rock creek and the Blackfoot

July, August, September—no meetings-go fishing!

October 1st, Brendan Bannigan [*Grizzly Hackle*] Fishing for Pike

November—Pending

December- Annual meeting & Elections

Recap of April Meeting Fly Fishing Legend Bob Jacklin Talks Yellowstone Rivers

Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot were treated to a true legend in April. Bob Jacklin's credentials are impressive:

- ** Inducted into the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame in 2004;
- ** One of first certified master fly casters;
- ** Casting instructor since 1969;
- ** World class fly fisherman, caster and tier;
- ** Owns Jacklin's Fly Shop, a full service fly shop in West Yellowstone, MT;
- ** Guides (and has been for 50 years);
- ** Has 3 other guides working out of his shop;
- ** Inventor of many popular flies, all for sale at his shop, 406-646-7336; jacklinflyshop.com.

Club members were also impressed with his knowledge of rivers in and around West Yellowstone. He shared his decades of familiarity with these waters in a colorful slide presentation. He broke down the Yellowstone-area waters with how-to tactics, flies to use, and much more. It seemed as if each different river was his favorite, and stories flowed with the current.

Firehole River: His favorite section is the Midway Geyser. The Park Rangers are clamping down on where anglers may walk. "Stay on the trails," he said. Most trout are 8 to 10 inches, but with lots of fish. He takes beginners here. White caddis in sizes 14 and 16 work well, as does a short-lived hatch of pale morning duns. The rock worm caddis is another favorite.

When in the Firehole Canyon, he fishes size four flies for big browns. Walking is rough with big rocks and boulders. At Madison Junction campground, he fishes big salmon flies the first week of June. This is fast water.

Madison River: He labels this river "Hoppertunity." This is a spring creek, and he fishes between the weed clumps with a blue damselfly in size 10 for big browns. Or, he fishes a Jacklin's Hopper. At Ninemile Hole, he fishes against the bank in six inches of water.

Fall fishing means fewer tourists on the Madison, and he showcased his mouse fly, and said an old favorite, the Mickey Finn streamer are good bets this time of year. The October Caddis, a soft hackle fly in size 8 or 10 is also worth time on the end of the line. His Platte River Special, also referred to as the Big Horn Special, is another consideration.

Upper Yellowstone: The cutthroats are coming back (several year-classes) after many years of the Park attempting to control Lake Trout. Cutts up to 24 inches with a fair amount of 20 to 24 inchers caught make this a destination for serious anglers.

Gallatin River: He fishes near Logan, MT, because the pressure is not as intense. It is tough wading. He did say a few grayling are being caught on the Upper Gallatin near Big Sky. He likes to cast a Spruce Moth in size 14 or 16. This is not an aquatic bug, but is attracted to water, tempting fish to rise. At the 51 Mile Marker Pool, he fishes tight to the bank.

Lamar River: Usually flooded in spring, this is a late-summer dry fly (green drake) hotspot. In the fall, it's also good with a slate wing olive fly.

Bob talked about each river as if talking about a best friend. After listening to his knowledge-filled chat, the sections he described were indeed “best friends.”

In closing, he demonstrated several casts, including the “Reach Out.” With this technique, the fly floats over the trout, not the line. The “Bounce” cast is done by checking the cast and allowing the leader to fall (pile up). “The fish don’t care,” he said. The “Roll” cast is familiar to most, but he advised this is not a wrist cast, rather better performed with the shoulder. He said the roll cast coupled with a pick-up cast gives an angler great versatility.


Tactics and lessons learned over the years spilled from a skull filled with fishing tips. As time wound down, he showed how he became an accurate caster by placing his index finger on the top of the rod. He points with the finger and the fly follows.

He closed by saying, “Catch and release is the only way to go.” Actually, he did not close, but was talking, answering questions and sharing stories until the last straggler departed for home.



Casting for Conservation

*Beginning Women's Fly Fishing Clinic
with Jenny West of Go West Outfitters*






Sunday, May 5th, 2019
9:30 am - 4:00 pm at the Teller Slack Barn

Registration \$80
includes catered lunch & prize giveaways

To register or for more information contact Jenny at
gowestoutfitters@gmail.com or
406-360-2644

Proceeds benefit conservation work in the Bitterroot through





May 2019 FOTM

Salmon Fly

by
Jay Melzer



Materials

- Hook: #6 4X long
Thread: Orange 140 denier or 3/0
Egg Sack: Black Elk Hair or Deer Hair
Abdomen: Salmon Fly dubbing - a mix of black and orange
Thorax: Peacock Herl
Under Wing: Natural Deer hair
Over Wing: Tan Poly fibers
Legs: Black or variegated Black and Orange, Silicone legs are best.
Rubber rots.
Thorax: Black 2mm foam



Feel free to substitute your favorite materials, this isn't rocket science.

Tying

Wrap the hook shank with thread.

Tie in a clump of black hair all along the shank, clip to form a short egg sack.

Dub the body from the bend to two thirds up the shank.

Tie in the deer hair under wing and the add the poly over wing. Cement.

Tie the Peacock Herl in but don't wrap yet.

Wrap a couple turns of Peacock.

Tie in the rear of the foam over the Peacock and tie in the rear legs.

Wind more of the Peacock and tie off behind the eye.

Tie down the front of the foam and add the front legs / antenna.

Tie off under the foam to form a small head.

Cement the head.



Salmon flies appear in good numbers on the East Fork and the West Fork in mid June. It is easy to tell when the hatch is on, just count the boats going up 93. The river is likely to be running fast at this time of year so please be careful.

It's About the Flies- Chuck Stranahan©2018 all rights reserved

Tweaking and fly design

Every fly tyer I know is a fly designer.

Think about it: We tie only so many old reliables like the Parachute Adams and then have to try a different dubbing, an Antron shuck tail, or something.

Or we play around with a new material, just to see what we might come up with. Or we get into a tying session with friends where the ideas flow freely until a new fly is born.

A big part of the fun in fly tying comes in the experimentation, however derived, that lets us depart from the ready-made in search of something better. Sticking to the ready-made is tedious by comparison.

As a commercial fly tyer I learned early on to put up with the seemingly boring part a bit, although the mind learned to put tying on autopilot and wander where it would as the tying schedule pressed against delivery deadlines for Orvis.

Today there are no deadlines, just bins to fill at the shop, and I allow myself the freedom to explore, invent, and create.

Several years ago I tied a nemoura, or early gray stone fly pattern, that fished fairly well, although I thought the rises it brought weren't frequent enough. There weren't many dedicated nemoura patterns, then.

Last year I did some reading, and found that nemoura females have orange egg sacs. By then I had seen plenty of home-made nemouras that had black foam egg sacs.

My all-gray pattern seemed to work at least as well as the gray-and-black jobs; what was missing from all of them I might be an orange egg sac. So I tied some with orange egg sacs.

The tweaking paid off. The color contrast and the orange hot spot added something. But still, something was missing.

This year my friend Jerry Baron sent me a photo of a female nemoura, with the egg sac attached. The egg sac was orange, but a pale and more muted shade of orange than the orange I guessed at from my reading. My earlier fly is to the right of the nemoura in Jerry's photo.

This year's nemoura has a paler egg sac, more the color of the natural that Jerry captured, and a more olive-ish shade of gray in a skinnier body.

These minor tweaks made a major difference. When the new fly hit the water, it's as if somebody hit the switch. I heard reports of solid takes from big fish, and plenty of them, on that fly when nemouras were on the water. This year's nemoura, tweaked several times over, can now officially be called a winner.

Sometimes a fly seems to come together all at once. The Brindle 'Chute was like that. Whether genius or pure dumb luck, that's the exception.

At other times, it takes several variations to get it right. Most flies are like that. And for this fly designer, that's where much of the ongoing fascination and fun lies – it's in the tweaking. So we tweak away, and delight when we see the results.



NEWS & NOTES

East Fork fish screen project and Trout Unlimited's Christine Brissette.

For all of you interested in fish screens, it looks like some progress is soon to be made. FFB's Board was introduced to TU's Christine Brissette and some of the projects in development here in the Bitterroot. This article is from BRTU's recent newsletter. The Bitterroot Star has a more detailed article & a diagram of the proposed fish screens. If they turn out to be as efficient as proposed with less maintenance, it would be a win-win situation. Welcome, Christine!

.....The effort is being led by Special Projects Manager for Trout Unlimited in Missoula, Christine Brissette. Christine joined Trout Unlimited in 2017 as a project manager to develop projects supporting native trout in the Bitterroot and Lower Clark Fork. She came to us with a background in hydrology and plant ecology, and 10 years of experience restoring streams in Western Montana. One of Christine's first TU projects was leading an inventory and prioritization of irrigation diversions in the Upper Bitterroot. The goal of this project was to find opportunities to improve fish passage and keep fish from being entrained in ditches, while making it easier for irrigators to access their water rights.

Christine and two field techs knocked on doors throughout the upper basin, and then prioritized potential projects with FWP and Bitterroot National Forest biologists. This effort has turned into two projects to install fish screens in some of our most important Bull Trout and Cutthroat streams in the basin, one of which will go in the ground this summer. Christine is also involved in habitat restoration, mine reclamation and monitoring efforts throughout the Clark Fork basin.

As Spring arrives, Christine is gearing up for a summer of fieldwork, and weekends on the river and in the mountains. She'll be keeping us in the loop as her projects come along. The Bitterroot chapter has been a huge supporter and partner in the fish screen projects, and all of Christine's efforts. This is a great partnership that allows our members to learn about and support on-the-ground restoration work.



Rumors on the Wind.....

Board Member Dick Ellis attended a meeting with some leaders of the Ravalli Co. Fish and Wildlife Assoc. by invitation to learn about a proposed youth fly fishing camp for Ravalli County young people. The Assoc. has an active Youth Expo program and sent 166 kids to their camps in 2018. In this endeavor they work with other organizations such as DU, TU, Back Country Horseman, etc. In the past they have had camps focused on archery, packing, hunting, etc. and now wish to have one on fly fishing in 2019. In so doing they seek assistance from other organizations in the form of people and money.

At this time the Assoc. is considering a camp for 12 young people (male and female) between the ages of 13 and 15 to be held on Assoc. property on the Bitterroot River downstream of Bell Crossing. Starting date would be July 28. The various Assoc. camps focus on teaching a conservation ethic as well as skills associated with the focus of the camp, in this case fly fishing. The Assoc. is seeking individuals that would be willing to give talks on topics relating to fly fishing and individuals that would be willing to work with young people on the river. Among the topics under consideration are river ethics, invasive species, boat safety, how to land and release fish, insect identification, fly tying, etc.. The plan is to guide the youth as they wade fish but also to provide each attendee with a half day float. This seems to be a program that would appeal to FFB and to individual FFB members.

LAKE TROUT REMOVAL IN YELLOWSTONE LAKE

FFB members are well aware of the issue of foreign and invasive species, especially as they concern water and native fish. We have heard reports or seen photos of the nationwide invasion of zebra mussels and other such species, and we stop at check stations to have water craft inspected when returning to the Bitterroot. We are aware, too, of the disappearance of species and that Americans exterminated the passenger pigeon and came very close to exterminating the bison. Montanans Michel Pablo and Charles Allard of the Salish-Kootenai Reservation, it should be noted, played a

major role in the preservation of the later species. But relatively few 19th century Americans gave any thought to preservation of species or the introduction of species into new areas.

Stocking of fish began in Yellowstone National Park in 1889 with the introduction of eastern brook trout. Stocking of other non-natives soon followed--rainbow trout, lake trout, landlocked salmon, etc. In 1893 largemouth bass were introduced into the Gibbon River. "Bucket biologists" also got involved in stocking because yellow perch were found in Goose Lake in the Firehole drainage in 1919, and the introduction was traced to a Montana citizen, and the park ultimately eliminated the perch and restored the west slope cutthroat fishery. Lake trout were stocked in Shoshone and Lewis Lake in 1890 and later in Heart Lake. It took decades for park officials to comprehend that the stocking of non-native species impacted the ecosystem, but by the 1930s they realized that non-native fish had caused a marked decline in native cutthroats and grayling. In the 1950s the park stopped stocking non-native fish. The National Park Service (NPS) also recognized the popularity of fishing in the park; some 50,000 people fish in the park annually. However, the real wakeup call came in 1994 when Lake Trout were discovered in Yellowstone Lake, which was the greatest cutthroat trout fishery in the country. NPS now believes that lake trout were illegally introduced into Yellowstone Lake in the 1980s. It was believed that a bucket biologist intentionally introduced lake trout, and that still is the assumption although some suggest that it occurred by accident during water drops during the 1988 fires, and the possibility that lake trout may have migrated up Pacific Creek and down into Atlantic Creek is being investigated. But think bucket biologist and be aware that walleyes have been illegally introduced into the Swan drainage and that Walleyes Unlimited of Montana is lobbying Fish, Wildlife and Parks to legally introduce walleyes into waters on the western slope.

The introduction of lake trout into Yellowstone Lake created a huge problem, perhaps the greatest in the history of Yellowstone National Park. Lake trout live 25 to 40 or more years and have no natural predators because they live at such great depths. Moreover, native cutthroats provide the bulk of the diet of mature lake trout. NPS scientists estimate that in the late 1970s some 3.5 to 4 million cutts inhabited Yellowstone Lake. They also estimate that the cutthroat population declined to 5 to 10 percent of that number by the end of the first decade of the 21st century. So within the space of some twenty years, lake trout have virtually destroyed the cutthroats in Yellowstone Lake and its tributaries. NPS quickly realized that the impact could be seen throughout the ecosystem as some 42 species of birds and mammals depended upon the native cutts for food..

The most recent study by University of Wyoming scientists supports that conclusion and argues that the introduction of lake trout in Yellowstone Lake has impacted organisms from the microscopic levels to large animals--from zooplankton to trout, otters, eagles, osprey, bears and perhaps even elk. The size of zooplankton increased because of the decline of cutthroats, causing an increase in water clarity and an increase in surface temperatures. There was a decline in river otters and osprey because of the decline of prey (cutthroats). The bald eagle population declined in numbers and in nesting success, and eagles began to prey upon swans, loons and young pelicans, causing them to decline in numbers. Grizzly bears lost a major food source during cutthroat spawning runs and now consume more elk and bison calves, reducing those populations.

As a result of the Yellowstone Lake situation and because of broader issues of climate change, invasive species and disease that caused an overall decline in native in native fish populations throughout the park and a general decline in native species, NPS worked to restore west slope cutts in the northwest corner of the park and native grayling in the upper Gibbon. The plan also called for extensive netting of lake trout in Yellowstone Lake. In addition to netting, the park required that fishers keep all lake trout, eliminated limits on lake trout, and allowed fishing over lake trout spawning areas. It is expected that these policies will be maintained forever.

Netting is the most important method for reducing lake trout numbers to a manageable level. Netting began in 1995, but the intensive removal effort dates to 2012. The park now spends \$2,000,000 annually on netting. Transmitters have been implanted in some fish to identify fish movements and spawning beds. Netting is done at depths of 150-200 feet deep, and some 30 to 40 miles of nets are in the lake from May to October. Some sense of the scope of this work can be seen from the number of lake trout removed: 366,000 in 2016, 400,000 in 2017 and 297,000 in 2018. The park also has used suction dredging to remove eggs, has experimented with salting eggs, and has used electrified mats to try to kill the eggs. Another experimental method is to dump lake trout carcasses on the spawning beds to kill the eggs. Most netting is done by a private contractor using four large boats that work six days a week. The nets extend six to eight feet

off the bottom and extend for miles. During the past five years Yellowstone Forever has donated \$1,000,000 annually to this work. The name of this charitable organization is appropriate because this is a "forever" task. Other organizations such as TU also support the program.

The National Park Service believed that lake trout almost destroyed the lake's ecosystem. NPS also believes that there are signs that the lake trout reduction program is working. Cutthroats have begun to return to some of the tributaries to spawn.



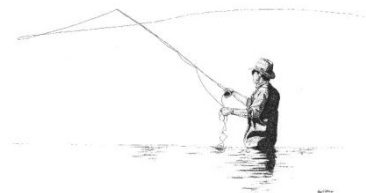
RAFFLE NEWS! MAY BASKET "EVERYTHING GOAT"

This month's basket is themed around goats—so it is packed with goat products- goat cheese, goat lotion, goat soaps, a book on our local mountain goats. Add some fly line coasters, a bottle of wine and some moose munch (sorry they don't make goat munch) and some special "Goat Hair Caddis flies" and have a good time!

RAFFLE TICKETS ARE 6/\$5; 13/\$10; 30/\$20

Hey everyone-- the club's supply of flies for the raffle could use some help! We have relied heavily on Greg Chester as a source of flies, but it is time you other fly tiers start thinking of contributing....

Don't tie?--- there is plenty of other things....- get creative, or you can ask what we need—Please everyone time to step up to the plate & contribute.- contact me, Estelle if you have some ideas for baskets..... our raffle brings in 50 % of the club's monies- it allows us to do things for the community & our members.



"With the exceptions of painting, nothing in this life has held my interest as much as fishing.... Fishing, in my estimation, is not a hobby, a diversion, a pastime, a sport, an interest, a challenge, or an escape. Like painting, it is a necessary passion." Russell Chatham, Dark Waters, 1989

PHOTOS, GRINS AND FISH REPORTS

FFB Member Peg Miskin with a beautiful Bitterroot Rainbow! The weather was a bit cold & unrelenting- but worth it.

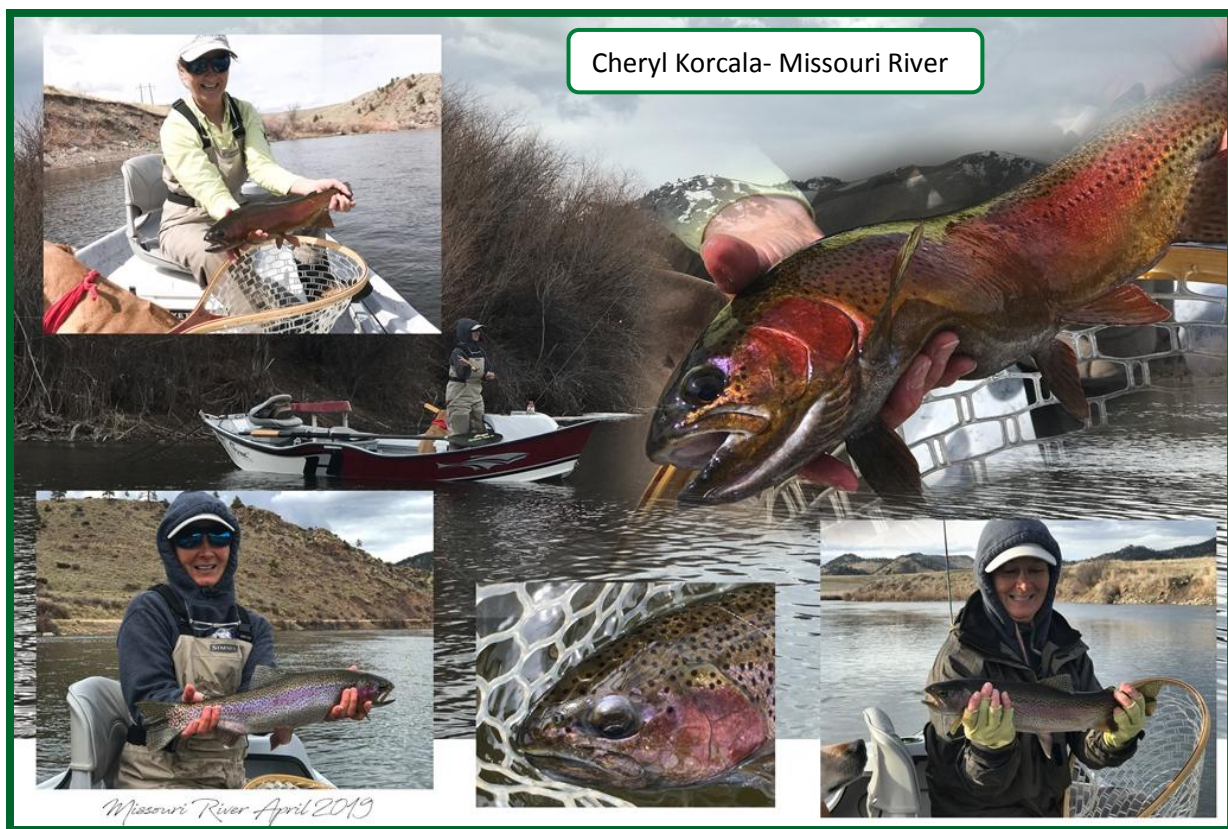
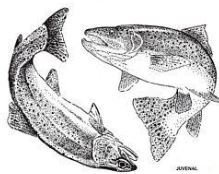


Below: This photo of FFB member Les Korcala was taken near his home on the river north of Florence. Les says he caught this pike on a size 14 pheasant tail soft hackle fly. Considering the toothy grin on *Esox lucius*, that is quite a feat, but Les is an amazingly skilled angler, tier and photographer.



Spring on the Bitterroot.....

Peg Miskin & Jessica Richardson enjoyed a productive day on the river



APRIL FISH REPORT

Someday you just live for days like this one. Yesterday I headed with my dry rod for the side channels since our rivers are in flood stage and starting to run super high (run off time in Montana). I was checking the water surface for any bug action and saw no Skwala stones, only a few midges and BWO Blue wing Olives here and there. I sat, lit my pipe and just enjoyed watching nature and water flowing. I soon noticed a small rise across the channel by the bank, so I studied it and let him get in a comfort zone.

Problem was, in front of me there was a steady current and he was right in a back eddy, swiping all the food coming to him. The second problem was there was small stick sticking out of the water about 4" and sometimes it would just get pulled down under by the current. Casting was tricky but doable.

So I got my rod loaded with a long section of 5 feet of 5X tippet. I had brought my 5 weight 9 foot Thomas & Thomas Paradigm- love that rod ! It is like poetry in motion casting- an amazing casting tool from great T&T makers. I waded way up stream and across towards slower water practiced casting, short at first, just to see what my BWO dry#18 would do. It looked good and promising but I needed a way longer cast with a mend or turn of downstream slack to the leader.

Since BWO olives were on the surface I tied on an emerger cast to him 3 times, but he never even looked at it, but was still feeding consistently. I waited 5 minutes, tied on a dry BWO pattern with Pugglisi ep hair as the wing post. On the 3rd cast he ate it- lovely hook set and he went for run. At first he felt light but later I could easily feel his weight.

What great day to spend on the water. It is not about how many or how big the fish will be, but for me it is the whole challenge- given a situation and figuring out to catch difficult wary fish. By this point I had totally forgotten I was fishing in the rain for a good 2 hours. Later as a bonus I was swinging soft hackles and hooked a beautiful wild rainbow. A day to remember for me for sure! Two days ago we had fished out of the boat with streamers and spay rods and nymphs. Yesterday, different water and different gear choice with light dry fly and big powerful fish. Life is good !

Tight lines everyone! Les Korcala 406-540-2559



Hey everyone- There is a woman in town that will sew our patches on to just about anything for \$2.00/each.

Contact info: Susan at MONTANA SASSY SEWING CO. 329 Main Street, Hamilton. 406-961-9012



Patches
are \$4.00 each
or
3 for \$10.00

Ed Zern was a much loved humorist, writer, fisherman and environmentalist perhaps best known for the "Exit Laughing" column that appeared on the last page of each issue of Field & Stream for thirty years. Among his books were To Hell with Fishing, Are Fishermen People? and How to Catch a Fisherman. In his writings Zern railed against game hogs on the stream and in the field and against bigotry in sporting clubs and would have applauded the growing number of female fly fishers. He often was irreverent and once did the following "book review" of D. H. Lawrence's then infamous Lady Chatterley's Lover: "Although written many years ago, Lady Chatterley's Lover has just been reissued by Grove Press, and this fictional account of the day-to-day life of an English gamekeeper is still of considerable interest to outdoor minded readers, as it contains many passages on pheasant raising, the apprehending of poachers, ways of controlling vermin, and other chores and duties of the professional gamekeeper. Unfortunately one is obliged to wade through many images of extraneous material in order to discover and savor these sidelights on the management of a Midland shooting estate, and in this reviewer's opinion this book cannot take the place of J. R. Miller's Practical Game Keeping."

Zern once compared Bach's music to fishing with a dry fly, but also was famous for his one liners:

"Fishermen are born honest, but they get over it."

"The best time to go fishing is when you can."

He told the tale of a fisherman who struck so hard that "the fish was turned completely inside out," and he once famously said, "I make it a rule never to weigh or measure a fish I've caught, but simply to estimate its dimensions as accurately as possible, and then, when telling about it, to improve these figures by roughly a fifth, or twenty percent. I do this mainly because most people believe all fishermen exaggerate by at least twenty percent, and so I allow for the discounting my audience is almost certain to apply". When Parkinson's disease began to severely affect his health, he noted, "I don't mind my hand shaking so much; it improves my S cast".

LAND SAKES ALIVE! Ed Zern How to Catch A Fisherman 1951

In a railroad dining car one time I sat next to an elderly Episcopal clergyman; since we were both alone, and because I was struck by the almost saintly gentleness of his face, I engaged him in conversation, and for a while we talked about the state of the world and such matters, until I was even more impressed by the kindness of his mind than I had been by his countenance.

Then he inquired what I did for recreation, and I said I spent considerable time fishing for trout; he said he rather disapproved of trout, as they were ill-tempered when vexed, and profane.

"Profane?" I said. "Trout?"

"Oh, but they are!" he said. "Terribly profane, and even blasphemous! Although, I must admit, not without provocation."

"I'm afraid I don't understand," I said; and so he told me that a famous trout stream flowed not far from his Pennsylvania parish, and that one of the most devout women of his congregation-indeed, the head of the Altar Society-fished there often. She was, he had been told, a skillful angler, who tied her own flies and cast them cunningly, and had caught larger trout than most of the men in that town.

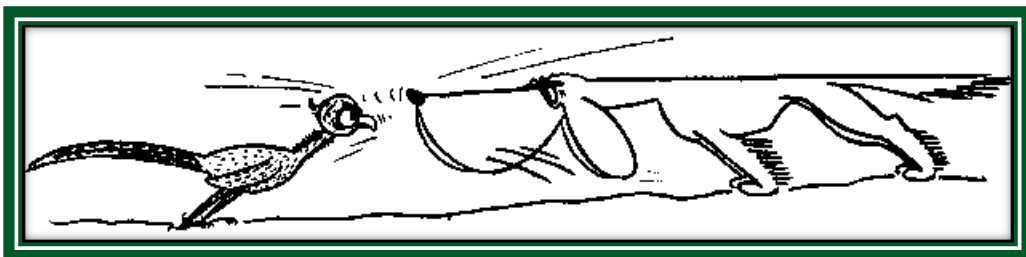
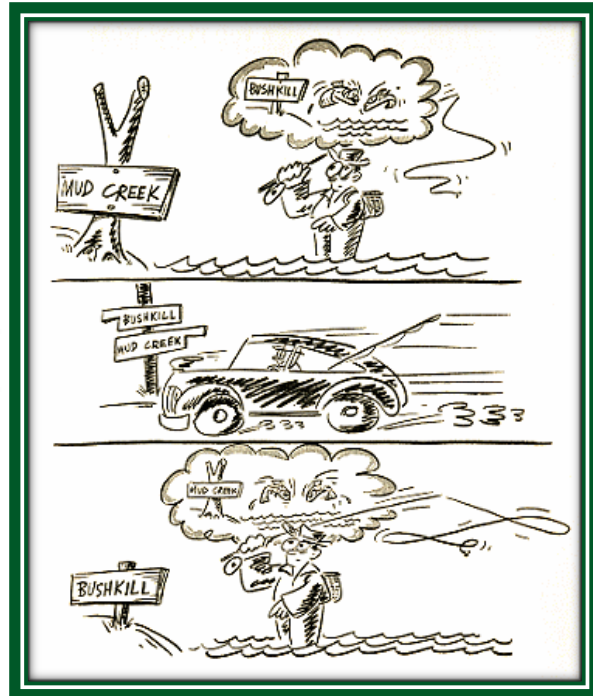
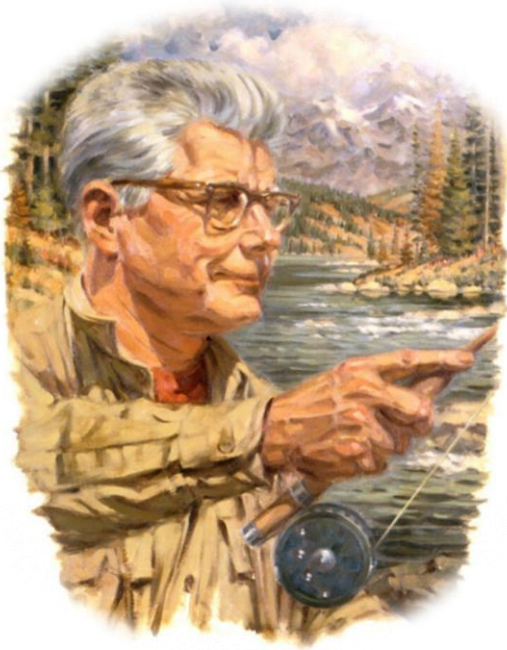
One sunny June day, he said, he had driven out to the country and walked beside the stream, meditating on the coming Sunday's sermon; while walking, he had seen this same lady about a hundred yards downstream. By the bend in her rod, he could tell she was fast in a large fish; and although she was then a grandmother, she was running along the bank pell-mell in an effort to gain back some line. He had therefore hurried downstream, thinking to be of some assistance, and to save time he cut straight across the field instead of following the bend of the river. On nearing the stream through a grove of pine trees his ears were suddenly assailed by a torrent of vulgarity and blasphemy such as he had never before heard; it was, he assured me, quite hair'-raising, and spiked with certain Anglo-Saxon words that even the most depraved teamster would hesitate to employ.

He said that when he emerged from the grove onto the bank of the stream, the lady was standing, net in hand, contemplating the broken leader that dangled from the tip of her rod; naturally she was surprised to see him, and asked

if he had heard someone swearing. When he said that he had, she explained that she had been playing a brown trout of about twenty inches in length, and that just as she had begun to slip the net under him the fish had suddenly burst out with a string of oaths, which the clergyman must have heard; and that the intemperance of the trout's cursing had so shocked and upset her that she had mishandled the net and the trout had broken off and escaped.

She then explained that brown trout were notoriously given to the use of strong language-she was surprised that he had not known this, living so near to good water-but she requested that he mention the incident to nobody, as some of her fishing companions might tease her for being unnerved by so common an occurrence as a trout's swearing. The clergyman said he had kept her secret in his own community, but felt free to tell me of it, since I had best be forewarned and might even wish to find some other avocation.

I said I would certainly give it serious thought, and as we were then coming into Harrisburg, where he had to change trains, he bade me good evening and left.



"As age slows my pace, I will become more like the heron."



*What would the world be, once bereft
Of wet and wildness? Let them be left,
Let them be left, wildness and wet;
Long live the weeds and wildness yet.
Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889)*

©ELS

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Study to be quiet." - Izaak Walton 1653

"These limestone lochs contain some of the finest and most elusive wild brown trout in Scotland, if not the world. The shores were covered with emerald green grass and a riot of wild flowers. Milkwort, bugle, purple orchid, buttercup and speedwell all vied for space. The haunting cry of the curlew in the hazy summer skies echoed above the gentle lapping of water. In the mountains lying to the east, golden eagles sought out their prey in the vast wilderness. Our days on the machair lochs were pure magic."

Lewis-Ann Garner in Holly Morris (editor), Uncommon Waters: Women Write about Fishing, 1991. Ms. Garner, who lives in rural England, is a life-long fly fisher.

"Surely our people do not understand even yet the rich heritage that is theirs. There can be nothing in the world more beautiful than the Yosemite, the groves of giant sequoias and redwoods, the Canyon of the Colorado, the Canyon of the Yellowstone, the Three Tetons; and our people should see to it that they are preserved for their children and their children's children forever, with their majestic beauty all unmarred." Theodore Roosevelt, Outdoor Pastimes of an American Hunter, 1908

JUST FOR FUN

TECH JOKE

The young woman who submitted the tech support message below (about her relationship to her husband) presumably did it as a joke. Then she got a reply that was way too good to keep to herself. The tech support people's love advice was hilarious and genius!

Dear Tech Support,

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0 and noticed a distinct slowdown in overall system performance, particularly in the flower and jewelry applications, which operated flawlessly under Boyfriend 5.0. In addition, Husband 1.0 uninstalled many other valuable programs, such as Romance 9.5 and Personal Attention 6.5, and then installed undesirable programs such as: NBA 5.0, NFL 3.0 and Golf Clubs 4.1.

Conversation 8.0 no longer runs, and House cleaning 2.6 simply crashes the system. Please note that I have tried running Nagging 5.3 to fix these problems, but to no avail.

What can I do?

Signed, Desperate

The response (that came weeks later out of the blue):

Dear Desperate,

First keep in mind, Boyfriend 5.0 is an Entertainment Package, while Husband 1.0 is an operating system. Please enter command: I thought you loved me.html and try to download Tears 6.2. Do not forget to install the Guilt 3.0 update. If that application works as designed, Husband 1.0 should then automatically run the applications Jewelry 2.0 and Flowers 3.5.

However, remember, overuse of the above application can cause Husband 1.0 to default to Grumpy Silence 2.5, Happy Hour 7.0, or Beer 6.1. Please note that Beer 6.1 is a very bad program that will download the Farting and Snoring Loudly Beta version. Whatever you do, DO NOT, under any circumstances, install Mother-In-Law 1.0 as it runs a virus in the background that will eventually seize control of all your system resources.

In addition, please do not attempt to re-install the Boyfriend 5.0 program. These are unsupported applications and will crash Husband 1.0. In summary, Husband 1.0 is a great program, but it does have limited memory and cannot learn new applications quickly. You might consider buying additional software to improve memory and performance. We recommend Cooking 3.0.

Good Luck! Tech Support Team

What the note failed to convey was the other side of the issue.

Last year I upgraded from Girlfriend 5.0 to Wife 1.0 and noticed a distinct slowdown in overall system performance, particularly in the Kissing.... & beer delivery applications, which operated flawlessly under Girlfriend 5.0. In addition, wife 1.0 uninstalled many other valuable programs, such as race-day TV 9.5 and football 6.5, and then installed undesirable programs such as: Home shopping network 5.0, soap opera 3.0 and personal bank account 4.1.

Conversation 8.0 runs continuously, and House cleaning 2.6 subscription was not renewed. Please note that I have tried to Remove Nagging 5.3 from the system, but even my IT help line tried but to no avail.

What can I do?

The Clark Fork River: Trout Nearby, Bass & Pike Downstream *by Jim Kalkofen*

It's amazing how resilient trout are. That is especially true of the Clark Fork River. Zero is the number of trout in the river (or any fish for that matter) in an 1891 US Fish Commission study near Deer Lodge. A major flood in 1908 washed mine waste downstream to the Milltown Dam.

This waterway was named a Super Fund site due to the impact on fish and health threats to people. When the Milltown Dam was removed in 2008-2009, coupled with the clean-up efforts, trout reclaimed their old haunts.

The numbers provided by Montana fish program manager, Pat Saffel, based in Missoula, were indicative of the river's resurgence. He said approximately 300 to 400 trout swim the Clark Fork upstream of Drummond. Below the Rock River confluence, about 300 to 500 trout occupy each river mile.

However, upstream from the Rock to Drummond, the per mile count is only 50 to 100 trout, mostly browns. "These numbers are pretty low and we're trying to figure it out," Saffel said. The stretch from the Rock down to the Blackfoot is cooler and cleaner and a rainbow fishery, which holds for the river through Missoula and downstream, with similar trout numbers, he said.

"Below Missoula, anglers do well," Saffel said. There are a number of good access points, and fish from all the feeder streams enter the Clark Fork to grow. He observed that in the St. Regis area, the river sees considerable pressure from Spokane and Idaho anglers. Good populations can be found downstream to where the Flathead flows into the Clark Fork. Saffel's region ends there, but he noted that's where bass and pike seemingly take over.

He was previously stationed in Thompson Falls, and his surveys there showed lots of pike in backwater sloughs and weedy shallows. "The lower Flathead also has very good smallmouth numbers," he said.

The fisheries management biologist in Thompson Falls is Ryan Kreiner. His beat includes the lower Flathead and the Clark Fork. The Flathead water is very warm in summer and does not hold many trout. The Clark Fork resembles a river to the Thompson River, and below that turns into a reservoir. "Bass and pike occupy the slower riverine stretches and the flooded bays of Thompson Falls reservoir," Kreiner said.

Of note to fishermen, he said the department tags smallies at the Thompson Falls dam fish ladder. Some of these tags have been returned from travelling smallmouth bass that swam 100 miles upriver to Kerr Dam.

NOXON RESERVOIR

Kreiner is also on top of Noxon Reservoir fish populations. Of the three reservoirs, Thompson Falls, Noxon and Cabinet Gorge, Noxon has the most fish. It's also the largest, contains more flooded back bays and has less water level fluctuations.

Noxon was dammed in 1959. FWP tried to establish a trout and salmon fishery with no luck, and after 20 years, stocked largemouth and smallmouth bass. The state record 8.8 pound largemouth was landed in 2009. "Smallmouth can be found from Noxon dam all the way to Thompson Falls," he said. Noxon has the most bass tournaments in Montana, with about 80 percent of anglers targeting largemouth. Those looking for smallmouth go way upstream. Reports of 20-pound pike are fairly common, with a 34-pounder caught by an ice fishermen a few years ago.

"Some of the biggest bass in the past 15 years have been caught in recent years. Adult bass are in a pretty good place now," Kreiner said. "By the first week of June, your fly fishing club members will be on Noxon at the perfect time for pike and bass."

The Clark Fork run-off occurs earlier, followed by the Flathead rise. However, Hungry Horse Reservoir and Flathead Lake holds Flathead River water, and when it's sent downstream, it is usually clear.

Northern pike fishing can often be done by sight-fishing. Kreiner uses big flies like bunny leeches and flies that appear to be saltwater flies. Pike year-classes in 2014 and 2015 were excellent, and they are growing. Pike in excess of 20 pounds are what draw anglers to Noxon. If conditions do not permit sight-fishing, he works over weed beds, around shoreline downed trees and weed edges.

Another benefit of stripping flies in Noxon is the chance to catch walleyes. They were introduced in the early 1990's, and have taken off. Within 10 years they were becoming part of the catch. A really strong year-class in 2015 (males are now 15 to 17 inches long; females are slightly bigger) added to the walleye population. The biologists estimate that 85 percent of walleyes caught are kept. For bass, only about 10 to 15 percent are kept.

Personal Note: A friend was drop-shotting for bass last summer and hooked and netted a walleye that pushed the scales past the 15-pound mark. Several friends were on the reservoir the week of April 6, landing walleyes from the Flat Iron access upstream to the state park and the golf course. While fishing last fall, I managed walleyes from 15 inches to 23 inches, from 30 to 60 feet deep. If I knew where to seek them the first week of June, I would share it here. I will be looking at weed edges, in weed beds, and knowing of a few rock piles/reefs, will work around these areas. The same areas should also produce pike and bass.

The state is not managing Noxon walleyes by suppressing them (removing them when congregated in spring) like in the past. This decision occurred last year. Walleyes are not recognized in the western district state regs which means any size walleyes may be kept any time of the year. As a Midwestern walleye guy, I urge releasing walleyes over 25 inches long. Walleye recruitment the past two years has been minimal due to significant flushing of the Noxon system about spawning time.

The June Noxon outing will allow club members to share information, learn about a new fishery and chase something without an adipose fin.



PS.... If anyone catches fish like these from Noxon, I want a picture for the newsletter! Last time I saw a walleye this large was Gary Kosaka's Missouri River one! - Your editor

"The good life on any river may depend on the perception of its music, and the preservation of music to perceive." Aldo Leopold

"Next to prayer, fishing is the most personal relationship of man" Herbert Hoover, Fishing for Fun-And to Wash Your Soul, 1963

2019 OUTINGS & EVENTS

Late May-June?

Brown's Lake- depends on ice-out, prevailing winds, hurricanes, tornados, etc

June 2nd 2019 –Sunday- ***SPECIAL NEEDS DAY:***

This is an annual event for us, originally organized by long time club member 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. We need a good turn out by members because it really takes about a one-to-one relationship to help these folks. Contact Estelle Shuttleworth if you are willing to help. [je@shuttleworthje.com]

June 5- 9, 2019 Noxon Reservoir

This is a new outing for the club. Follow the FFB notice for details. "Headquarters" will be Trout Creek Motel & RV Park. Contact them for reservations. Contact Ed Gannon [edandck@gmail.com] if you plan on coming, or follow the "chatter" on the FFB notice communication line. "pot-luck" night Saturday the 8th.

July 10-14th Georgetown lake

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! **"Headquarters" will be in Lodgepole Campground. Spaces can be reserved on Recreation.gov.** Pot Luck dinner Saturday the 14th.

August 18th Annual Picnic—Hannon House- Steve Lilburn's place- confirmed

Sept 10-14th Hebgen Lake

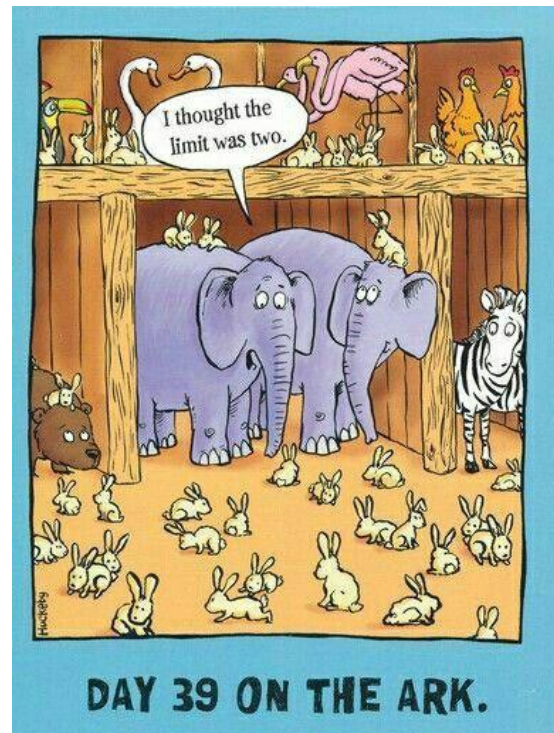
"Headquarters- Electric loop C" at Rainbow Point campground on Hebgen Lake, spaces can be reserved on **Recreation.gov**.... there are more than 10 hotels and lodges, within 10 miles of the Lake, and numerous other B&B sites. They include Best Western, Days Inn, the Madison Hotel, Stagecoach Lodge, Crosswinds, Moose Creek, Travelers, Kelly Inn, and the White Buffalo. We will have a "pot-luck" night Saturday the 14th, and warm campfires to tell lies at.....

"Learn to enjoy your own company. You are the one person you can count on living with you the rest of your life."

Ann Richards



I finally remembered—red with hunter, white with fisherman.



2019 schedule

April 29-May2	Missouri Outing
May	Adult Fly Fishing Clinic
May 7 th	club meeting
May 13 th	Board meeting
Late May	Browns Lake
June 2 nd	Special Needs Day
June 4 th	club meeting
June 5-9	Noxon Reservoir outing
June 10 th	Board meeting
July 10-14 th	Georgetown lake
August 18 th	Annual Picnic
Sept 10-15 th	Hebgen Lake
Oct 1 st	1 st fall club meeting
Oct 7 th	Board meeting
Nov 5 th	club meeting
Nov 11 th	Board Meeting
Dec 3 rd	ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS
Dec 9 th	Board meeting

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Bean- President billbean.bean75@gmail.com
 Estelle Shuttleworth-Past Pres je@shuttleworthje.com
 Pierre Satkowiak-Secretary psatkowiak@gmail.com
 Ken Quinn-Treasurer tarq46@gmail.com
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 Greg Chester- gchester55@aol.com
 Ed Gannon- edandck@gmail.com
 Dick Ellis- ellis_r@fortlewis.edu
 Warren Johns- Ichthyologist55@yahoo.com



I hate it when I'm singing a song and the artist gets the words wrong.

Our Address:

Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot

PO BOX 692

Victor, MT 59875

Name tags and lanyards are ready and are at the check in table. If you need a name tag please contact Estelle at je@shuttleworthje.com

The club's membership period is January 1st to December 31st of each year.

Individual: \$ 25.00

Family: \$35.00

A Family is 2 people in a domestic relationship and their children under 18 years of age.

