

"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



SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER

"Destiny is not a matter of chance. It is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved."
(William Jennings Bryan, 1899)

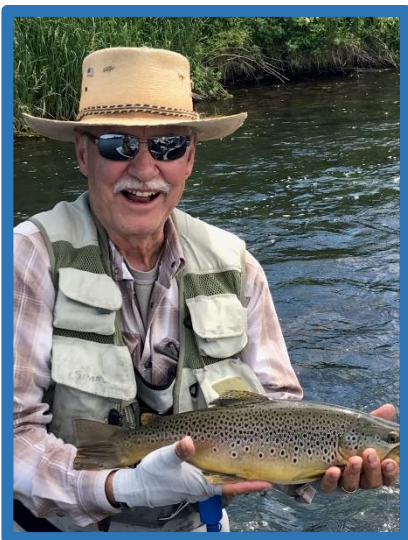
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hope you are all safe and healthy during this Covid 19 crisis. Dorreen & I have been hunkering down at home. Just got back from Island Park, Idaho where we had a wonderful time with old friends. I even managed to catch some nice browns on the salmon fly hatch at Henry's Fork of the Snake. It was exciting watching those big fish take those big flies. Thanks to Wayne Kaim for tying one of my favorite salmon fly patterns, they were a big success. I even shared a couple with my friends.

That said we are looking forward to our next adventure with Winston & Tucker at Phillipsburg Bay Campground! So far, we have managed to keep ourselves healthy & safe by wearing masks & physical distancing 🙏.

With that in mind, as we look forward to our next camping trip, we would appreciate if everyone would hand sanitize and wear a mask when going through the Friday night potluck. I think we would all feel safer if we follow the guidelines. Finally, I'm really looking forward to the "skittering Caddis" hatch! Looking forward to seeing you there.

Stay safe & healthy, Phil



At the Henry's Fork & caught on Wayne's salmon fly!

LOOK Everyone!

**Club hats, visors
& beanies---**

**They will be
available for
purchase at the
Georgetown
outing!**



FISH REPORTS AND KODAK MOMENTS



Just returned from a couple of days fishing with my granddaughter. Fished with Chronimids in 5 - 7 ft.

Nice bright rainbows from 12 to 20 inches-
Leon Powell



NOXON OUTINGS REPORT

"The fishing was good; it was the catching that was bad." A. K. Best

It was a complete "180" from last year.....

The weather on our Noxon outing was magnificent.....the fishingnot so much.....it was bad....

With the Highway 200 bridge *completely* closed for repairs for 6 weeks, one of our favorite spots was much harder to reach. I suspect Montana DOT checked our FFB website to correlate the dates of this fiasco with our Noxon outing.

🤔 Despite this, and a Bass tournament which had 39 professional anglers with boat engines that could have been recycled from leftover Saturn 5 boosters, 13 intrepid Clubbers soothed our fishing woes with great food, great fun, and great weather.

About the only thing biting consistently were the Perch, and Gary K and I rustled up enough to supply the group with a good old-fashioned Perch fry appetizer. Those who arrived early enough rated it as fantastic, and the fillets disappeared quicker than Jeffrey Epstein's witness list.... 😁



Large fish, and large Smallmouth Bass were hooked repeatedly and lost, which caused one jovial Bass angler to remark with a giggle...."that's what you get for fishing with a single hook"... 😊 They were really nice guys though, and it was fun watching them land monster Bass that did NOT get away....

The beauty of the area, the always-fantastic Pot-Luck gathering, along with the Prime Rib at a local restaurant, eased our sorrows sufficiently.... and the place turned into "Camelot" for the last two evenings....it only rained at night... It was another enjoyable FFB outing.....NOW.....On to Georgetown!!!!—Ed Gannon 🥰



On Thursday afternoon, on the stretch of the East Fork river in under 2 hours, I caught 11 fish...Some so big they wouldn't fit in my net. Never got wet above my wading socks. Fish were in the soft water, behind rocks, under foam lines. I had stopped at Bitterroot Fly Co. I asked the big fellow who works there what was happening on the East Fork...yellow sallies. And he showed me the fly: size 14, jig tied, tungsten bead, nymph/soft hackle. Deadly.



OMG. It was such fun. I almost never carry a net...or my waterproof camera. Juggling that, my net, attempting to get the fish close enough to net AND NOT TIP OVER AND FALL in the river.... I managed to take photos of a couple of the smaller fish in the net. And then figured just netting them and not taking photos made more sense. And of course, the biggest ones wouldn't fit in the net or stay there long enough to photograph. What a blast. - Sally Roberts

Phil R on the Coeur D'Alene River a few weeks back



Angling is simply the best excuse I have stumbled onto for investing as much time as possible in the mountains, along mountain rivers casting for trout, throwing my hook into pools of light and shadow. Actually, as a trout angler, I am something of a rather seedy charlatan, a confessed trickster trying, most often in vain, to tempt a trout to gobble down some fraudulent yet alluring fly, not to catch him, but so that he might haul me, if even for one blemished moment, into its and the river's vital wildness, rough-edged, and undiluted ."

Harry Middleton, On the Spine of Time

Last week Thursday and Friday the 18th and 19th of June the plan was to float somewhere in the Bitterroot taking advantage of declining river flows. Not to be as the rain gods brought a dumping and the rivers popped up. Greg Bohnet, Steve Hollowell and John Whitaker and I called an audible and headed to the Beaverhead to fish up near the dam. The four of us worked for our fish and we all have a story or 2 of the toad that we farmed. As an aside as we drove thru the Big Hole Thursday morning it was spectacular w/ snow almost down to the valley floor and the Vets campground at Wisdom under 4 inches of water.

Looks like we don't have much snow pack but we sure as hell have some saturated ground. -Bob Miller



*"Then too, sometimes the only way to fight post-fishing trip depression is to go fishing again."
John Gierach, [Standing in a River Waving a Stick](#)*



Georgetown Sunset

"With the direct sunlight gone, I felt the air mix around me, breezes cooled by the stream swirling through the day's remnant warmth. Overhead the sky had deepened into royal blue, and the bone-white wispy clouds had their bottoms burned hot orange. Quickly enough the orange would spend, the white on top would fade, and the clouds would bleed rose into the evening sky. But at the moment that I noticed, the colors of the sky and autumn cottonwoods flickered on the stream's surface like the history of flame. I had just enough time." Jeff Hull, [Streams of Consciousness](#), 2007

THE WAY IT WAS SUMMER 2020..... MARY ORVIS MARBURY

Favorite Flies and Their Histories was an effort to standardize fly patterns and included responses to a questionnaire that the Orvis family sent to fisherman in the U.S. and Canada. The response below came from William DeWitt of Helena, Montana. DeWitt served as U.S. Attorney for the Territory of Montana from 1883-1885, and when Montana became a state in 1889, he was elected to the state Supreme Court and served until 1897. Llewellyn Calloway described him as "one of the most brilliant jurists who have adorned the bench of the Supreme Court of Montana" in an article in the *Montana Law Review*.

It is a pleasure to reply to your letter, and give you some information upon fly-fishing in Montana waters, - information gleaned from a considerable experience in that most charming sport vouch- safed to office-tired mortals.

As to the favorite or effective flies, I have always held that there is a thousand per cent. more in the manipulation than in the construction. Make a long cast, drop the flies gently, do not let the trout know that you are in the same county, and your success is nine tenths secured. I will agree to give a "chump" every fly in the market, and I will beat him all day, casting, without change, a gang of three Brown Hackles, or Coachman, sixty or seventy feet, at any season or in any water. It is infinitely more important that the flies drop upon the water, "Softer than petals from blown roses on the grass," than that colors or styles be observed.

One is amply supplied in these waters if his book contains three Hackles, Black Gnat, Professor, Coachman, Royal Coachman, and Cow Dung; also the Jungle Cock attachment. I find that the shank of the hook covered with red or green wound with gilt thread is very effective. There are many flies brought out every season similar to the above, with slight variations and new names. They are good, and good because they resemble those mentioned.

Sometime in February the streams break up; the snow in the valleys runs off and carries out the ice. The water soon falling, there is fine fly-fishing from the middle of March to the middle of May. At that date, or from then to the first of June, commences the "June rise." The warmer suns attack the heavy accumulations of snow in the mountains and in deep canyons and shaded gulches, and the country is flooded for a month or six weeks, and fly-fishing is a suspended art. By the first of July the conditions are favorable, and remain so until ice closes the streams. The dates are, of course, approximate. Seasons vary. But the fisherman cannot miss it if he comes in April, or any time after July 1st. The law does not limit the season. You may cast your flies in January or July.

I speak of these conditions, times, and seasons as to the mountain trout of Montana only. The requirements are quite different, I believe, with the speckled brook trout, *the Salmo fontinalis* of the Eastern waters.

And, in passing, I would thank someone to refer me to a classification of the Montana trout. I have never seen one. The *Salmo fontinalis*, found east of the Mississippi River, I do not believe lives in this State. I have landed thousands of trout, and have fished the waters of every county of Montana, and have never found the brook trout of the East. Nor does our trout answer the description given in the United States Fish Commissioner's reports of the *Salmo pupuratus* or the *Salmo irideus*. That is popularly and locally called the mountain trout, and to be ichthyological and Latin we will call him *Salmo montanus*. Even with this classification and name there are a half dozen varieties of the species, differing in proportions and markings. For instance, I have seen a trout as long as my forearm outweigh one the length of my whole arm. Last season I saw Hon. J. B. Clayberg, Attorney-General, land a salmon trout thirty inches long, weighing three and a half pounds. It was as thin as the fat woman's husband in a dime museum.

The mountain trout has not the brilliant carmine and blue spots of the brook trout. His spots are all black: sometimes irregular in shape, like sprinkled pepper, in large sizes; sometimes perfectly round. They are found on the fins and tail as well as on the body, and are generally distributed from gill to tail. Occasionally the sides are clear, and nearly all the spots are crowded into the space from anal fin to tip of tail. In the latter variety the meat is inclined to the salmon-pink color. Ordinarily it is white. Such are the general characteristics of, and variations in, the mountain trout. Both as a game fish and a table delicacy he is not the equal of his Adirondack brother.

Mary Orvis Marbury, *Favorite Flies and Their Histories*, 1892, 1995, which is available through libraries in the valley.

2020 FFB CLUB OUTINGS SCHEDULE

July 15- 18 Georgetown Lake: This is the “Big One” Big Trout, Big Bugs (Sedges), Big Fun at a beautiful lake... Dries and Nymphs, Moose and Mayhem....! **PHILLIPSBURG BAY CAMPGROUND.**

August 16 ANNUAL PICNIC * This is the scheduled date..... not sure if will happen Stay tuned to FFB-notice for an announcement soon!**

September 9- 13 Hebgen Lake and the Madison River Legendary “Gulper” fishing at a legendary location, at the gates of Yellowstone. Quake Lake, Wade Lake, and other area locales as well, wherever they’re biting! –“Headquarters- Electric loop C” at Rainbow Point campground.

October 6th- club meeting—Denver Holt- Owl talk—stay tuned

November 3rd – club meeting- Fishing Photography- Jessica Richardson—stay tuned

December 1st- Annual club Meeting & elections & holiday party----stay tuned.....

NEWS AND NOTES

STREAM ACCESS IN NEW MEXICO

New Mexico is an arid state. Annual precipitation in Albuquerque is eight inches a year. However, there are trout streams in the Gila Mountains in the southwest part of the state, in the Sacramento Mountains in the south-central part of the state and in the Jemez Range and the Sangre de Cristos in the north. The major rivers are the Chama, San Juan and Rio Grande above Espanola, all of which have their headwaters in Colorado. When I first saw the Clark Fork during runoff, I thought that it probably equaled the water in all the streams in New Mexico. That may be an exaggeration, but you get the idea. So, when a stream holds trout, Land of Enchantment fly fishers want to protect it and also to preserve access. When I lived in New Mexico, the rule was that the water and the streambed belonged to the people, so access was comparable to that in Montana. In 1907 the territorial legislature stated that all waters "belong to the public and are subject to appropriation for beneficial use." The state constitution (1912) boldly states "every natural stream, perennial or torrential, within the state of New Mexico, is hereby declared to belong to the public...."

That seems pretty clear and has been reinforced by a number of opinions from state attorney generals. It also was upheld by the New Mexico Supreme Court in 1945 when the Red River Valley Company attempted to exclude fishers from Conchas Reservoir because the company owned the surrounding property. The N.M. Game and Fish Commission sought legal redress and a N.M. district court ruled that the waters were public waters and that fishers and boaters could not be excluded. In 1945 the N.M. Supreme Court upheld that finding and ruled that the streambed leading into Conchas Lake also was open to the public even though the landowner had title to both sides of the stream. "The small streams of the state are fishing streams to which the public have a right to resort so long as they do not trespass on the private property along the banks," the court stated. Incidentally, Conchas Lake is now a state park.

The New Mexico story is a typically western story. In the late 20th and early 21st centuries wealthy out-of-staters (in New Mexico mainly Texans) began to move in and sought to restrict public access. With the support of the New Mexico Council of Outfitters and Guides, they lobbied the legislature and Governor Susana Martinez (R) and secured favorable legislation. Immediately thereafter in early 2018 the Game and Fish Commission (appointed by Martinez) issued a ruling that defined a process whereby a landowner could certify

the streambed as private property and deny access to public waterways that flow through their land. To date five wealthy landowners, all from out of state, have used that process and some have blocked access to streams with cables, razor wire and concertina wire.

Reaction to the 2018 rule was swift. In 2019 the chair of the game and Fish Commission urged that the rule should be evaluated for constitutionality only to be quickly replaced by the governor. In July 2019 the Game and Fish Commission declared a 90-day moratorium on the process and sought an opinion from the state attorney general about the constitutionality of the 2018 rule, which the attorney general found to be unconstitutional. Martinez left office. Then in March 2020 the New Mexico Wildlife Federation, Adobe Whitewater Club and the New Mexico chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers filed a petition with the state Supreme Court to invalidate the 2018 rule. Stay tuned for future developments.

"For some reason, cold, windy nights in tents are when I'm most likely to have one of those luminous dreams where everything suddenly fits together. I wake up with the fleeting sense that I've been given the answer to an important question I don't remember asking and lay there in the first light trying to remember what it was." John Gierach, All Fisherman are Liars

Remember. Rapunzel was quarantined and met her future husband. Let's think positive here.

Silly You!

You thought dogs were hard to train. Just look at all the humans who can't sit and stay.

When Does Season TWO of 2020 Start? I Do Not Like Season ONE.

Day 7 of SOCIAL Distancing: Struck up a conversation with a spider today. Seems nice. He's a web designer.

I think I'm finally being grounded for everything I didn't get caught for when I was a teenager.

Having some states lock down and some states not lock down is like having a peeing section in a swimming pool.

I'm stuck between a rock and someone I would like to hit with it.

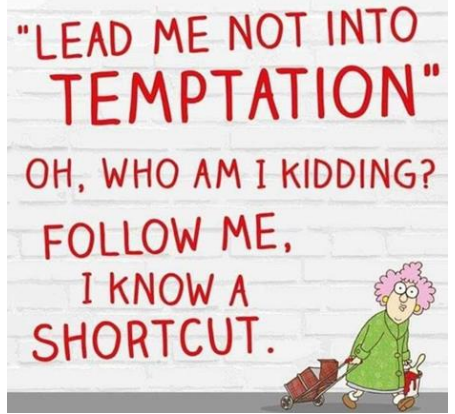
Another Saturday night in the house and I just realized, even the trash goes out more than me.

I am done with my 90-Day Trial of 2020. How Do I Cancel My Membership?

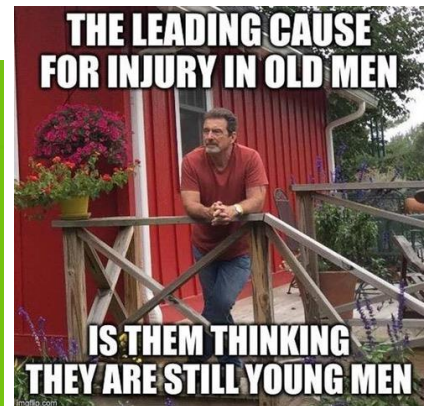
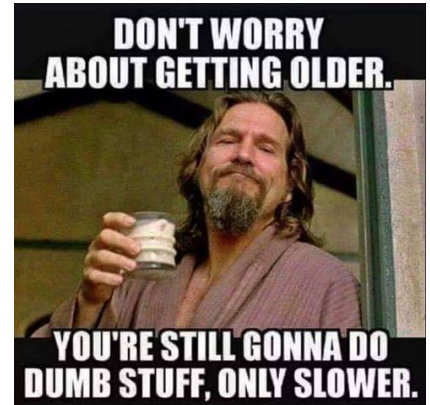
A police recruit was asked during an exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" The reply, " Call for backup".



I'm on my second guardian angel. My first one quit and is now in therapy.



"Saw my neighbor Tammy out early this morning scraping the 'My Kid is a Terrific Student' sticker off her minivan. Guess that first week of homeschooling didn't go so well."



Do you know how lucky we are this virus won't spread at grocery stores, big retailers and hardware stores? It's crazy how it only spreads at small businesses?



**IRISH
POST**

Every few days it would be smart to put your jeans on to make sure they still fit

Pajamas and sweats will have you believe all is well

PEOPLE KEEP ASKING "IS COVID 19 REALLY THAT SERIOUS?"

LISTEN UP

CASINOS AND CHURCHES ARE CLOSED

WHEN HEAVEN AND HELL AGREE ON THE SAME THING

IT'S PROBABLY PRETTY SERIOUS

A home schooling mom posted that her kid called her on the phone from his room and told her he missed the bus and won't be in today!!

FEELING GUILTY ABOUT YOUR KIDS WATCHING TOO MUCH TV?

JUST MUTE IT & PUT THE SUBTITLES ON.

BOOM.

NOW THEY'RE READING.

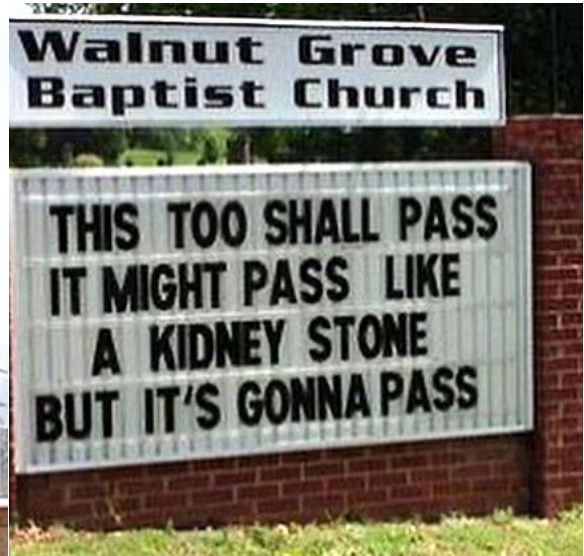
Yesterday my husband thought he saw a cockroach in the kitchen. He sprayed everything down and cleaned thoroughly. Today I'm putting the cockroach in the bathroom.

TEXAS CORONAVIRUS PREVENTION

Wash your hands like you just got done slicing jalapeños for a batch of nachos and you need to take your contacts out.

(That's like 20 seconds of scrubbing, y'all.)





FISH IDENTIFICATION KEY *If you don't know, let it go!*

CUTTHROAT TROUT are frequently mistaken for Rainbow Trout (see pictures below):

1. Turn the fish over and look under the jaw. Does it have a red or orange stripe? If yes—the fish is a Cutthroat Trout. Carefully release all Cutthroat Trout that cannot be legally harvested (see page 10, releasing fish).

BULL TROUT are frequently mistaken for Brook Trout, Lake Trout or Brown Trout (see below):

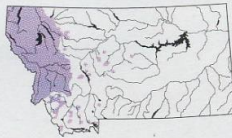
1. Look for white edges on the front of the lower fins. If yes—it may be a Bull Trout.
2. Check the shape of the tail. Bull Trout have only a slightly forked tail compared to the lake trout's deeply forked tail.
3. Is the dorsal (top) fin a clear olive color with no black spots or dark wavy lines? If yes—the fish is a Bull Trout. Carefully release Bull Trout (see page 10, releasing fish).

MONTANA LAW REQUIRES:

- All Bull Trout must be released immediately in Montana unless authorized. See Western District regulations.
- Cutthroat Trout must be released immediately in many Montana waters. Check the district standard regulations and exceptions to know where you can harvest Cutthroat Trout.

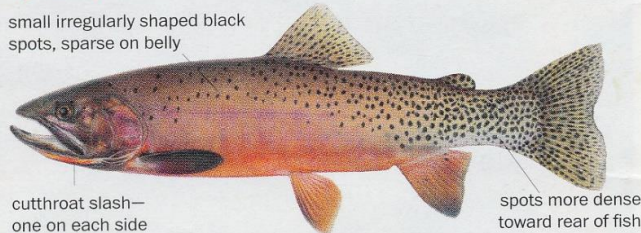
NATIVE FISH

Westslope Cutthroat Trout *Species of Concern*



Average Size: 6"–12"

small irregularly shaped black spots, sparse on belly



cutthroat slash—
one on each side

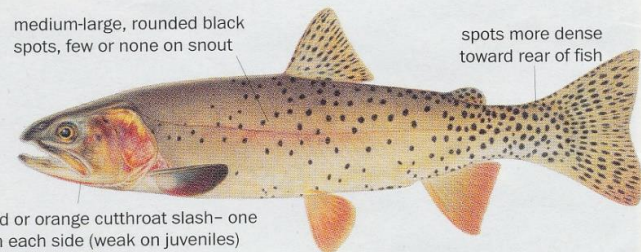
spots more dense
toward rear of fish

Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout *Species of Concern*



Average Size: 6"–12"

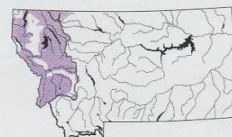
medium-large, rounded black spots, few or none on snout



red or orange cutthroat slash— one
on each side (weak on juveniles)

spots more dense
toward rear of fish

Bull Trout *A Threatened Species listed under the Endangered Species Act*



Average Size: 16"–22"



no black spots or lines on dorsal fin
red or orange spots on sides



white leading edge on fins

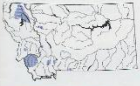
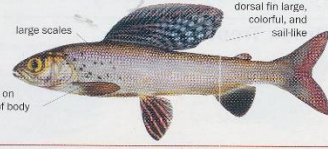
slightly forked tail

Columbia River Redband Trout *Species of Concern*



Average Size: 6"-10"

Arctic Grayling *Species of Concern*



Average Size: 6"-12"

Northern Pikeminnow

Average Size: 7"-14"


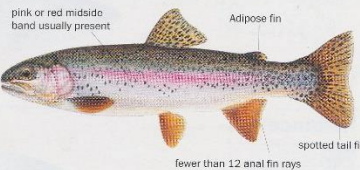
Mountain Whitefish

Average Size: 6"-12"

NON-NATIVE FISH


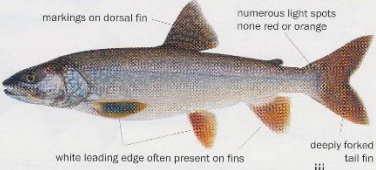
Rainbow Trout

Note: Native populations of Columbia River Redband Trout exist in localized waters of northwestern Montana.

Average Size: 8"-16"


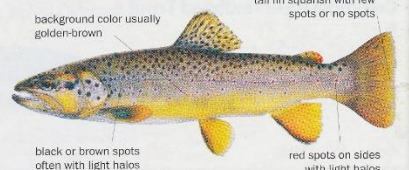
Lake Trout

Note: Native populations of Lake trout exist in a few isolated waters of southwestern Montana.


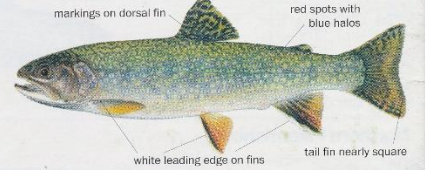
Average Size: 14"-20"

Brown Trout


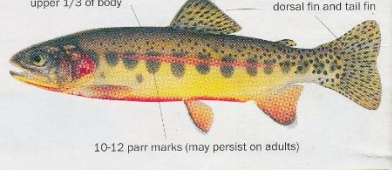
Average Size: 12"-16"

Brook Trout



Average Size: 6"-12"

Golden Trout

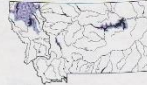
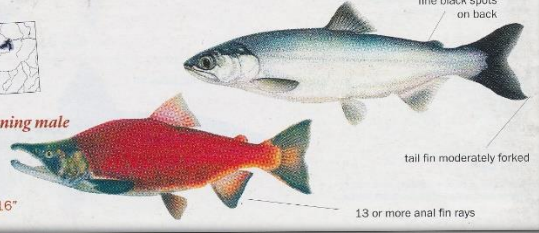
Average Size: 6"-12"

Lake Whitefish

Average Size: 19"-27"

Kokanee

Average Size: 8"-16"

I want to be sure you all know your fish species.....

How about a contest, with pictures of course, of all the fish species caught—refer to above photo plates

For a great read on Montana's native cold-water species, read My Salmonid Search, by Tom Reed in the July-August edition of Montana Outdoors.

2020 schedule

July 16 th	Board Meeting
August 16 th	Annual Picnic?????????
Sept 9 th -13 th	Hebgen Lake
Oct 6 th	club meeting
Oct 12 th	Board meeting
Nov 3 rd	club meeting
Nov 9 th	Board meeting
Dec 1 st	ANNUAL MEETING
Dec 7 th	Board meeting

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

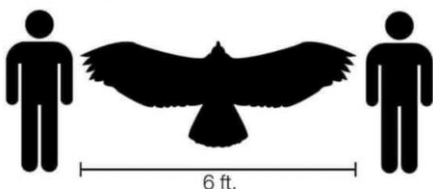
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I asked my daughter to give me the phone book. She laughed at me, called me a dinosaur and lent me her iPhone.



So the spider is dead, the iPhone is broken and my daughter is furious!

a brief guide on
PHYSICAL DISTANCING
 keep one turkey vulture of space between you and others



Our Address:

Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot
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 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.

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