



# NEWS

## PAT BARNES MISSOURI RIVER CHAPTER

FREE to  
PBMR Members

November 2006  
Vol. 26 No. 4

The mission of the Pat Barnes Missouri River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is to conserve, protect, and restore cold-water fisheries in the Missouri, Little Blackfoot, and Smith River watersheds in Montana.

# Gearing up for Winter

*PBMR kicks off the winter  
speaker series, conservation  
planning, and more!*

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*Cutthroat trout photo by Garrett Munson*

### **PAT BARNES MISSOURI RIVER CHAPTER**

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PAT BARNES.MISSOURI RIVER CHAPTER

Chapter: 055

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To reach board members by email, send messages to patbarnestu@hotmail.com with the board member's name in the subject line.

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- Publications—Melissa Brown
- Trout-in-the-Classroom—Geof Ferguson
- Banquet—Tom Burgess/Rob Creel
- Monthly Program—Nola Freestone

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PBMR News is a quarterly publication of the Pat Barnes Missouri River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Chapter 055. It is published by and for the members of the Chapter. © 1980-2006

Articles, letters, and artwork related to conservation, restoration, and preservation of Montana's cold water fisheries are welcome. The editor reserves the right to reject or edit any material submitted. Guidelines for submission format, methods, and deadlines are available upon request by emailing patbarnestu@hotmail.com, or calling newsletter editor Melissa Brown 406/431 7962.

*Board of Director Meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of each month from September through April. Non-board members are invited and encouraged to attend.*

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope your summer and fall fishing was rewarding. July and August were again very hot and even though we had good flows around the state, (save for a few over-appropriated rivers and streams such as the Big Hole and the Jefferson), flows were normal or near normal. Water temperatures, however, were above average and the stress to browns and rainbows in our cold water fisheries was certainly detrimental. That said, casting a dry fly baetis pattern on the Missouri has been a rewarding and mostly solitary fall experience.

Our spring banquet was a success and this chapter has shown that it will come out and support Trout Unlimited's CPR mission (to Conserve, Protect, and Restore Montana's cold water fishery). After the banquet the Pat Barnes Missouri River TU Chapter board of directors installed a conservation committee. This group will identify tributaries and reaches of the rivers we oversee to improve spawning habitat and water flows during critical times. This is a formalization of an informal process. We want the next leaders to be able to step in and make a seamless transition of our mission.

We have been meeting with FWP's fisheries biologists for



*Jay Erickson (left) is an avid angler who grew up on the Kootenai River near Libby. He is one of the managing directors at the Montana Land Reliance, a private lands conservation group headquartered in Helena since 1978.*

the Smith and Missouri Rivers (currently there is no fisheries biologist for Little Blackfoot River) and Future Fisheries personnel. These meetings have been productive and we are creating a long-term plan to address problems when the opportunity arises. Chapter members have also inspected areas of the Smith, Missouri and Little Blackfoot River drainages and are compiling a database in an effort to identify stream rehabilitation projects. Tony Herbert is the Conservation Committee Chair and we applaud his and the committee's efforts.

We are assisting with a Smith River noxious weed abatement plan. Our chapter supports Mike Geary's annual Smith River float which provides combat-wounded Afghanistan and Iraq veterans a Montana fly fishing experience. We are also a sponsor for the FWP's Sun River "Adopt a trout" program

which is simply a study of trout movement in a great cold water fishery. The study is needed as the Sun has a great amount of its flow diverted for agricultural purposes. Area schools along the Sun River take part in the study which inherently creates a group of young conservationists similar to our Trout-in-the-Classroom program. We hope to have a similar program on the Missouri River to better understand the fishery.

We have a good group of speakers lined up this winter and spring to inform us on subjects such as salt water fishing, coldwater fly fishing around Montana, the state of the Missouri fishery and various coldwater conservation efforts. I urge you to join for these meetings. A schedule is provided on the next page.

Tight lines,  
Jay

**SIGN UP  
FOR  
E-ALERTS**

Periodically, news and events come up between quarterly newsletter issues that require immediate distribution. Help us save postage and printing costs by signing up for **PBMR E-Alerts**. Just send an email to **patbarnestu@hotmail.com** with "E-Alert Subscribe" in the subject line, and we will add you to our email list for meeting announcements, action alerts, and other important chapter information.

## 2006-2007 WINTER SPEAKER SERIES

PBMR hosts monthly public meetings with the purpose of educating the public and raising awareness about issues, efforts, and information related to the conservation, protection, and restoration of our local coldwater fisheries.

Come enjoy refreshments, door prizes, and our feature guest presentation.

If you would like to sponsor or volunteer to help with the monthly chapter meeting and speaker series, please contact Nola Freestone at [nolafreestone@yahoo.com](mailto:nolafreestone@yahoo.com) or 406/461 8116

CHAPTER MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 2<sup>nd</sup> WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE RED LION COLONIAL HOTEL, 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

# CALENDAR



## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

*Tony Herbert, Conservation Chair*

PBMRTU Conservation Committee held its initial meeting with Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) Region 4 managers, whose responsibilities include the Missouri and Smith Rivers. The Region 4 team of Steve Leathe, Travis Horton, and George Liknes discussed many of the obstacles that they regularly see to making significant improvements to these fisheries, and to other fisheries in their region such as the Sun River.

Of course adequate in-stream flow is a priority issue, and FWP managers have defined specific projects to improve the fisheries. FWP provided the committee with a list of 14 Missouri River projects that are in various stages of completion or planning, and our committee in turn provided the FWP team with ideas for additional projects on the Missouri and Smith Rivers.

Future meetings with the FWP team are being scheduled with the intention of reaching agreement on priorities for these projects. Once

these priorities are agreed upon, the team of FWP personnel and PBMRTU members will then lay plans to move forward with the most appropriate projects.

Committee members remain committed to working closely with FWP in the development of appropriate projects for these and other fisheries. By working with these biologists and managers the PBMRTU Chapter stands the best chance at having a positive and lasting impact on these fisheries. PBMRTU members interested in working on these issues, or those with ideas about specific conservation projects should contact Tony Herbert, 449-7252, [therbert@bresnan.net](mailto:therbert@bresnan.net).

### CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS :

Tony Herbert, Chair  
Dennis Cates  
Rob Creel  
Dan Ellison  
Brooks Morin  
Chris Strainer  
John Wilson

**THANK YOU MIKE GEARY** for a great presentation at the Chapter's October meeting!

**THANK YOU SHERRY MEADOR and DAN GARD** for a great presentation at the Chapter's November meeting!

**[Dec. 13]** Chapter meeting, featuring author Dave Ames, Red Lion Colonial Hotel, 7 PM.

**[Jan. 10]** Chapter meeting featuring FWP'S Fisheries Biologist, Red Lion Colonial Hotel, 7 PM.

**[Apr. 14]** 26th Annual PBMRTU Banquet & Auction

**Visit [www.patbarnestu.org](http://www.patbarnestu.org) for details on upcoming presentations.**



If you have a fish photo you'd like to share, e-mail it to [patbarnestu@hotmail.com](mailto:patbarnestu@hotmail.com), or mail to PBMR News, PO Box 4404, Helena, MT 59604. Please include a caption and photo credits!

# FISH PICS

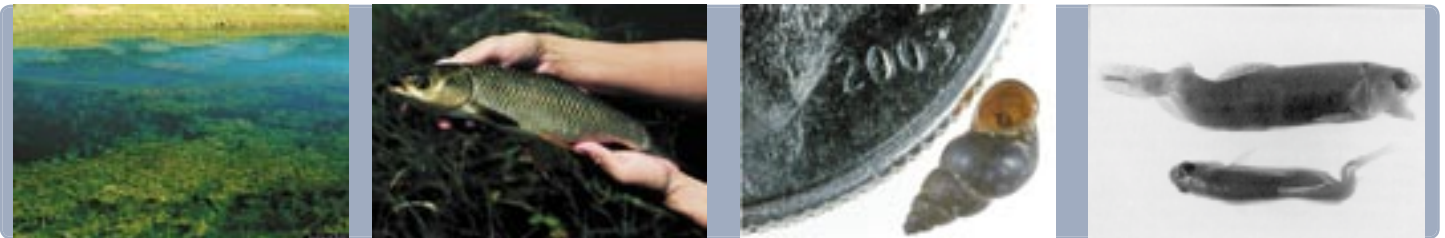


Missouri River Brown - Anonymous  
View Fish-Pic archives at [www.patbarnestu.org](http://www.patbarnestu.org)

## LEARN AND LEND A HAND

# Aquatic Nuisance Species Management in Montana

by Eileen K.N. Ryce: Montana Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks



Pictured from top to bottom: Eurasian watermilfoil (R Johnson/Cornell Univ), Asian carp (USDA APHIS), New Zealand mudsnail (M Elyash), trout infected with the whirling disease parasite.

Aquatic nuisance species (ANS) are the cause of significant ecological and socio-economic problems throughout North America. Invasive species, such as zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, Asian carp, New Zealand mudsnails and whirling disease are being introduced into new locations at an alarming rate. After introduction, populations often grow quickly and spread rapidly due to lack of natural controls. Once established, they often displace native species, clog waterways, impact municipal and industrial irrigation and power systems, degrade ecosystems, reduce or threaten recreational and commercial fishing opportunities, and can cause wildlife and public health problems.

## MONTANA'S ANS PROGRAM

The federal Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990, amended by the National Invasive Species Act of 1996, calls for the development of state and regional management plans to control aquatic nuisance species. The Montana Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan was finalized in October of 2002 and a full time Aquatic Nuisance Species Program Coordinator was hired by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks in February of 2004. The

### "THANKS" FROM THE SMITH RIVER HABITAT PROJECT

Thanks PBMR TU for your support of the Smith River Habitat Project. With your generous contribution, we are able to match grant dollars to implement effective weed control activities along the Smith River corridor. As partners, we can enhance the beauty of the area and its natural productivity for years to come.

Sherry Meador, Smith River Habitat Project Coordinator

For more information about the project, visit [www.smithriverhabitatproject.org](http://www.smithriverhabitatproject.org) or call Sherry at 406/431 7638

goal of the Montana ANS Management Plan is to minimize the harmful ecological, economic, and social impact of ANS through prevention and management of introduction, population growth, and dispersal into, within, and from Montana. The emphasis of the Montana ANS Program is on coordination, education, control and prevention of spread, monitoring and detection, and rapid response.

**The species of highest concern within Montana are zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, Asian carp, New Zealand mudsnails, and *Myxobolus cerebralis* (the whirling disease parasite). Information about the origin, status, and impacts of each species as well as tips for how you can help to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic nuisance species will be presented in the next several issues of PBMR News.**

## FEATURED AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES:

**Zebra Mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*)**

Zebra mussels are the ANS of highest concern within the state. In the Montana ANS Management Plan zebra mussels are classed as a priority class 1 species defined as not known to be present within the state, but have a high potential of invading with limited or no known management strategies available for their control. Appropriate management for species within this class is prevention of introduction and eradication of pioneering populations. Zebra mussels have caused profound ecological changes in the freshwater ecosystems of North America since their arrival in the mid-1980's, including losses of phytoplankton and microzooplankton, and local alterations of zoobenthos in and around zebra mussel beds. Another effect is the widespread mortality of native unionid clams caused by the zebra mussel invasion. In addition, this nuisance exotic has cost municipal and industrial water facilities millions of dollars to control. Most experts believe that in the absence of effective preventative measures, the spread of the zebra mussel throughout North America is inevitable. Zebra mussels if introduced into Montana are likely to survive, become established and cause significant environmental impacts.



Zebra mussels can cause mortality in native clams and mussels.  
Photo by RWestbrooks



Zebra mussels are not known to occur in Montana, but have a high potential of being introduced and establishing in Montana waterways.  
Photo by USGS

**GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS**

- larvae not possible to see with naked eye
- newly settled larvae feel like sand paper on smooth surfaces
- juveniles are pepper corn size
- mussel with brown to black stripes
- adults can grow up to 2" long, typically are ¾" long
- transported overland in bilges, livewells, motors and attached to boats and trailers

**PREVENTION**

Once aquatic nuisance species become established they are very difficult if not impossible to eradicate and even control measures can be costly if at all possible. The best management strategy for all Aquatic Nuisance Species is preventing spread and introduction.

1. Know the aquatic nuisance species problems in your area and learn how to identify invasive species.
2. Clean mud and plant material from waders, boots and other equipment.
3. Clean boats and trailers before moving them to new lakes and rivers.
4. Never transfer fish, bait, or other organisms from one stream or lake to another.
5. Never empty aquariums into natural waterways.

**Learn more about what you can do to help prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic nuisance species at [www.fwp.mt.gov](http://www.fwp.mt.gov)**

**GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ADVERTISEMENTS**

**AD SIZES AND RATES:**

**LOW INTRODUCTORY RATES!**

Classifieds - Members, 50 words FREE\*+\$0.20/additional word;  
 Non-Members - \$0.20 per word  
 Business card - \$25/issue  
 1/4 page - \$50/issue  
 1/2 page - \$75/issue  
 Full page - \$100/issue  
 NOTE: Ad design services are available for an additional fee.

**AD COPY:**

Camera-ready PDF or JPG by email to patbarnestu@hotmail.com, or Scan-ready by mail to PBMR Ads, PO Box 4404, Helena, MT 59604. Electronic newsletter is in color, and print version is black and white. Please design your ads accordingly.

**DEADLINES:**

Feb. artwork due Jan.1  
 May artwork due Apr. 1  
 Aug. artwork due Jul. 1  
 Nov. artwork due Oct. 1

**PAYMENT:**

Due with ad copy/artwork. Ads will not be run without payment! Make checks payable to PBMRTU. Mail to PBMRTU Ads, c/o Treasurer, at PO Box 4404, Helena, MT 59604.  
 \*Membership number must be included for free classified listing.

**MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS**

Classified advertisements are available FREE of charge to current PBMR TU Chapter members. This is a great way to buy or sell fishing gear, announce lost or found items, or advertise your services or craft to a target market—the Trout Unlimited community.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS** as of 10/28/06

- Cameron Chambers
- Terry Chaney
- Jim Detienne
- Chuck Engren
- Tom Hughes
- Kevin Murrinan
- Jerry Meyer
- Steve Nelson
- Steve Pallister
- Michael Plume
- Ray Posel
- Wm Roberts
- Vaille Weeks
- Jamie Williams
- Steven Ziegler

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IN MEMORY

Darlene Stevens

July 11, 1943 to August 11, 2006

Pat Barnes Missouri River Chapter TU Member  
 and dedicated volunteer since 1980

**ARE YOU OVERDUE? CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL.**

– Thank you for your continued support of the Pat Barnes Missouri River Chapter of Trout Unlimited. –

**PAT BARNES MISSOURI RIVER CHAPTER**

(#055)

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Enclosed is my employer's matching gift form, plus my membership application and payment.

SEND TO: PBMR TU MEMBERSHIP  
 PO BOX 4404  
 HELENA, MT 59604

Check One:  NEW MEMBERSHIP  MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please check membership category\*:

- Special Introductory Rate (\$17.50)
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- Senior (\$20)
- Regular (\$35)
- Family/Contributor (\$50)
- Sponsor (\$100)
- Conservator (\$250)

For Business (\$200), Life (\$1,000) and Family Life (\$1,100) memberships, call 1-800-834-2419.

Payment Method

- Check (Make checks payable to TROUT UNLIMITED)
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- 

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Name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_

\* Canadian membership please add \$5 per year, all other countries, add \$20 per year. Membership contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.

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