



# PBMR NEWS

Spring 2008  
Vol. 28 No. 2

*Conserving, protecting, and restoring coldwater fisheries in Montana's Missouri, Little Blackfoot, and Smith River watersheds.*

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**PAT BARNES MISSOURI RIVER CHAPTER**

Chapter No. 055

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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.

## Welcome, 42 New Members!

As of June 2, 2008 PBMRTU has 412 members representing 35 different zip codes

Gayle Allen  
Richard Armstrong  
Bruce Baumgart  
Paul Braden  
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Travis Bronson  
Kevin T. Brown  
Tom Byrne  
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## Pat Barnes Missouri River Chapter

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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. © 1980-2008.

Articles, letters, and artwork related to conservation, restoration, and preservation of Montana's coldwater 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 [info@patbarnestu.org](mailto:info@patbarnestu.org), or calling newsletter editor, Melissa Brown 406/431 7962.

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

## PAT BARNES MISSOURI RIVER CHAPTER

### (#055)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Day): \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening): \_\_\_\_\_

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Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Remember Our Conservation Roots

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—by *Tony Herbert*



*Tony Herbert is a long time Helena resident and conservation-minded fisherman.*

As we prepare to hit the streams after run-off, let's keep in mind how important these resources are to us all. Were it not for our Montana waters, why would any of us be here? It's not just about the fishing (though I know that could be argued); it's about the overall environment and about the legacy of Montana.

I am reading *Saving Homewaters, the Story of Montana's Streams and Rivers*, by Gordon Sullivan, a book partly about this point. Hired in 1901, William F. Scott was Montana's first Fish and Game Warden. Scott made the connection of angling and hunting to the overall health and meaning of the environment in his second report to the legislature when he stated:

*"No one can be a sportsman without close communion with nature; this joy indescribably purifies both body and mind; and from so happy a combination only good can follow."*

In some ways this was the beginning of the conservation movement in Montana. This was a difficult time to be sure, when mining and timber industries were thriving and the effects of their practices were becoming more and more evident. The people of Montana understood the importance of fish and wildlife to our state and began protecting both.

Conservation of these resources is a never-ending process. As a part of this process, the Pat Barnes Missouri River Chapter of Trout Unlimited participated in the following projects and activities during this past year:

- Catch and release regulations for cutthroat trout were instituted on the Little Blackfoot River at the urging of the Chapter.
- The Chapter successfully concluded the stream flow study on the Little Blackfoot River, performed by GeoSciences Services. This was funded by the Natural

Resources Damages Program, Montana Trout Unlimited, and our Chapter.

- Ten Helena area schools participated in *Trout in the Classroom*, the largest such program in Montana, fully funded by the Chapter.
- A fisheries biologist was hired to work on issues in the Smith River basin, at the urging of the Chapter. Similarly, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) has instituted a program budgeted at over \$200,000 to assess barriers to improve habitat in the Smith and to track spawning activities within the river and its tributaries.
- The Chapter worked with locals and FWP on habitat improvement efforts on Little Prickly Pear Creek.
- The Chapter provided financial support for the Wounded Warriors Program, a program that provides a Smith River floating/fishing experience to wounded veterans.

Additionally we held monthly presentations throughout the year and our annual banquet on March 15. My special thanks to **Nola Freestone, Dan Ellison, Lisa Verzani, Art Keeler, John Wilson, Jim Stevens, Jay Erickson, Ed Tinsley**, and everyone else who assisted in this year's banquet. I think Warden William F. Scott would agree that the Chapter is helping to carry the legacy forward.

Have a great summer and happy fishing. See you on the rivers!

# MTU State Council Spring Meeting Report



—by Dan Ellison

The Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU) State Council met at the Flyway Ranch in Craig, Montana on May 17, 2008. Lisa Verzani represented the Pat Barnes Missouri River TU (PBMRTU) Chapter. Representatives were present from nine of the 13 chapters of Trout Unlimited in Montana along with several guests who presented programs on a wide variety of coldwater conservation issues.

Following routine administrative activities was a mid-year review of the FY2008 budget. MTU Executive Director, Bruce Farling, reported that income and expenses were tracking very close to the budget projections and there were no major concerns or red flags at the midpoint of the year. He did express concern that a few of MTU's most consistent large donors had thus far been unable to commit to their historic donation levels and he assured the council that all MTU staff would be attentive to fundraising for the remainder of the budget year. He also noted that MTU staff needs new computer equipment and that the escalating cost of fuel could cause the travel line item to show higher expense than forecast. Concluding the budget discussion he provided handouts showing that the restricted funds are being expended as planned and that the investment accounts have performed well during the recent period of economic uncertainty.

Doug Haacke of the Magic City Fly Fishers based in Billings gave a presentation on the status of the Bighorn River and the ongoing disagreement between Montana and Wyoming on water releases from Yellowtail Dam. The Wyoming

position is that Bighorn Lake needs to be maintained at or near full pool levels year-round, while the Montana position articulated by MTU, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP), anglers and commercial interests is that river flows should be maintained at levels that will not adversely impact trout spawning in the few remaining side channels of the Bighorn River. His well illustrated charts showed a disturbing trend of sufficient flows during spawning periods followed by lowered flows that caused many of the spawning areas to de-water to the point of becoming completely dry and thus the river losing most of one year's age class of fish. Efforts are ongoing between many Montana interests to encourage the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to change its policy on flow levels in the Bighorn River.

Farling updated the group with a passionate description of the breaching of Milltown Dam in Bonner. Shortly after water began flowing freely through the former impoundment a radio tagged westslope cutthroat was tracked going upstream through the temporary channel and into the Blackfoot River. This was an historic transit as no fish had made that passage in more than 100 years. During the past few weeks the same fish was tracked much further up river and it eventually moved into the North Fork of the Blackfoot River. As a consequence there are major, positive implications for improved habitat and range for native species such as westslope cutthroat and bull trout. Farling also discussed the continuation of water adjudication in the Big Hole basin

and a disagreement over whether or not MTU has legal standing to object to water right claims. As this process continues MTU staff may seek TU members who have historically fished the Big Hole River to become involved in challenging some of the more inflated or exaggerated water right claims coming before the Montana Water Court.

MTU Outreach Director, Michael Gibson, reported that the state council recently approved four applications for mini grants and that the funds were already in the hands of the requesting chapters and project work was beginning. He continued with an outline of oil and gas development activities, which are ramping up in Southwest Montana. Concern with the process includes potential impacts on the Red Rocks and Beaverhead drainages, along with the fact that in some cases the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has chosen to dismiss appeals filed by MTU for specific parcel leases.

Gibson also outlined an upcoming fundraising effort by MTU that will incorporate a new approach and one where chapters can offer assistance. His proposal is for MTU staff to conduct a 100-mile float while seeking sponsors at the rate of \$1 per mile. Donors to the effort would have raffle opportunities for items such as a drift boat, a complete fishing package, and guided days on blue ribbon water. A full scale public relations effort is planned and chapters were encouraged to help out with communications, logistics, and donor outreach.

—“Council meeting” continued on page 5

# PBMRTU Sponsors Two Helena Youths for the 2008 Montana Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp

Twenty students from around the state of Montana and beyond will spend July 6-10 learning about fly fishing, stream restoration, and other topics on the banks of Georgetown Lake as part of the 2008 Montana Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp. The PBMRTU Chapter will proudly sponsor two 12-year-olds from Helena; Sean Kiely and Hans Harris.

Students attending the camp are between 12 and 16 years of age. The fee to attend is \$200, which includes all meals and lodging. The PBMRTU Board agreed to contribute \$200 and Sean and Hans' dads each chipped in \$100 to cover the cost.

Participants are selected from TU chapter nominations. The camp looks for motivated individuals who are excited about listening to presentations from experts on water quality, watershed management, trout habitat, insect life, and other interesting topics. Participants do not need to know how to fly fish, and need to be willing to learn. Have fun Sean and Hans!



Former fly fishing camp scholarship recipient

# PBMRTU Board Welcomes Wick and Fawaz

**Arne Wick** is a Missoula native and happy Helena resident. A life-long fish fan, Arne has a background as a fisheries technician and as a water rights specialist.



Arne on a recent Smith River trip.

After a 20 year career in the US Army, **Garrett Fawaz** and his family have begun establishing roots in Helena. Garrett divides his time between working as an independent consultant, fishing, hunting and hiking. He brings over 15 years of conservation volunteer experience and looks forward to being a part of the chapter.



Garrett (far right), with his children (left to right) Michael, Chauntel, Conner, and wife Carmae.

—“Council meeting” (cont. from page 4)

MTU Conservation Director, Mark Agenes, provided a written report and highlighted an item of significant interest to PBMRTU chapter members. With higher than average snow pack in most drainages this year the BOR is planning for a slightly different release of water in the Missouri during the spring runoff period. MTU believes “flushing flows” should be a part of the BOR’s normal operating procedures. MTU is arguing that

this would be an exceptional time for flushing flows since, for the first time in about 10 years, Canyon Ferry reservoir will hold sufficient water to make this procedure possible. While the details are not finalized, those who spend time on the Missouri can hope for the river to experience significant increases in flow levels during mid to late June. Interested TU members may contact Agenes for more specifics, which he will be able to share as these plans are finalized.

The meeting wrapped up with Chapter reports. Lisa Verzani thanked the state council for holding the winter meeting in Helena and filling two tables at the annual banquet. She alerted the council that the chapter would be changing venues next year with a banquet date of March 21, 2009. She concluded with a report that the spawning habitat improvement project on Little Prickly Pear Creek is showing good progress in removing impediments to trout movement up the stream.

# Conservation Committee Report



— By John Wilson

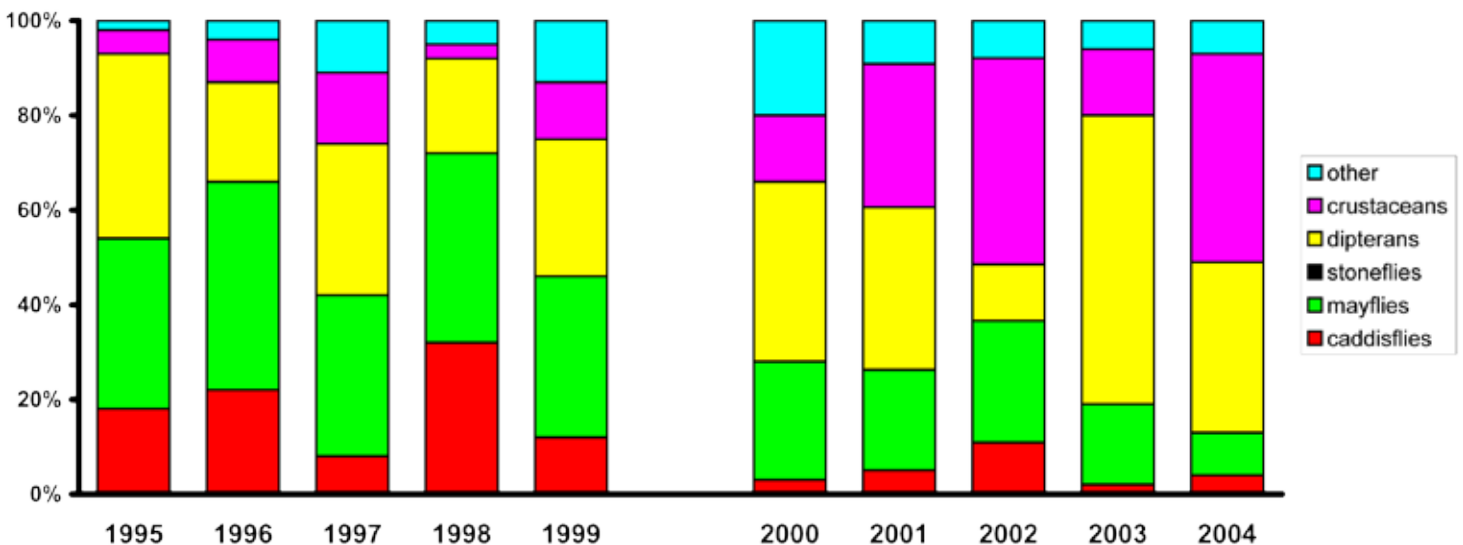
## TU Advocates Flushing Flows for Missouri

The PBMRTU Conservation Committee has been keeping a watchful eye on Missouri River flows/dam releases, and together with MTU Conservation

Director, Mark Aagenes, advocating for a much needed flushing flow. Drought induced low flows have meant a lack of flushing flows below Canyon Ferry over the last eight years. As a consequence there has been considerable siltation and weed growth and evidence of fairly dramatic changes in the aquatic

insect abundance and composition (see chart below) in the prime trout water stretch of the river below Holter Dam. For example, caddis and mayflies represented 70% of the sampled aquatic insect abundance in the test area in 1998 and only 15% six years later in 2004.

ORDINAL RELATIVE ABUNDANCE - MISSOURI RIVER BELOW HOLTER DAM



## TU Steps Up for Smith River Instream Flows

At the request of PBMRTU the Montana Council of Trout Unlimited (MTU) has agreed to become an objector as needed in the Smith River Water Right adjudication process. What this means is that MTU staff will keep a watchful eye on submitted water right claims and challenge those that are not substantiated or properly documented. This is a very important decision in a

historic process that will set the bar for instream flows in the Smith River for the future.

In the adjudication process it is the responsibility of other water interests to challenge unsubstantiated or inflated water right claims. Typically these claims have been flagged with "issue remarks" in the review process. Failure to challenge such claims allows them to become legitimate water rights. The challenge process is called "filing and objection." MTU has agreed to become

an objector on questionable claims on both the Big Hole and Smith Rivers. Once an objection is filed the claimant has the responsibility to prove the validity of their water claim.

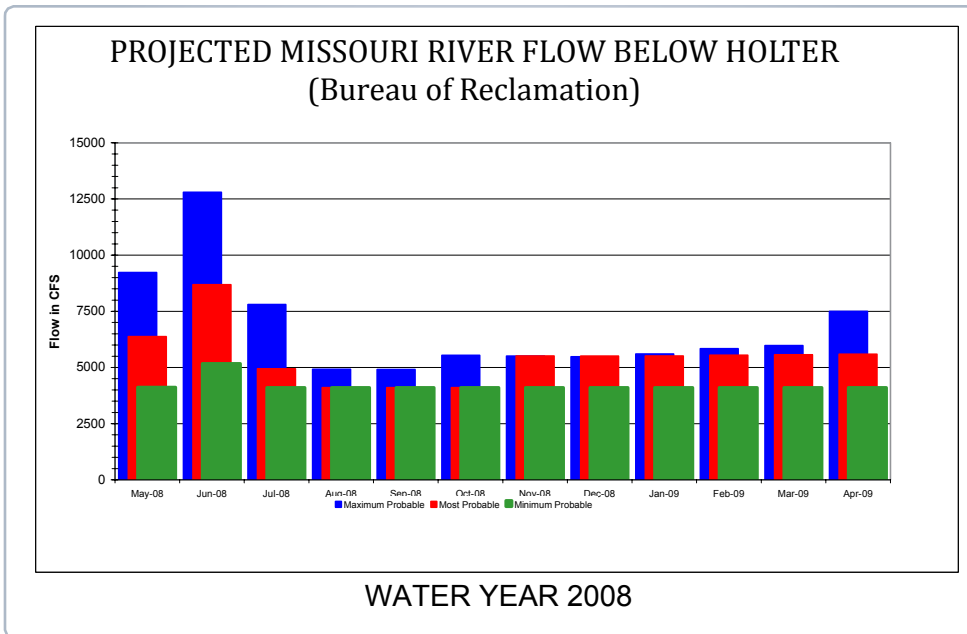
Water right adjudication is simply a fancy name for validating and quantifying water right claims that have been made for Montana's water. Validating means that indeed the water is being used and its use is a beneficial use. Quantifying means that the amount

— "Smith River" continued on page 7

Further, this siltation and weed proliferation has led to reduced in-river spawning habitat. In-river spawning recently has been revealed as potentially of great importance in the fishery's ability to overcome and adapt to whirling disease and perhaps the reason populations have not dropped dramatically despite high infection levels in Missouri tributaries. These are fundamental changes in the river's ecosystem created by lack of flushing flows and are potentially serious issues for the health of the fisheries.

**15,000 CFS FOR TWO WEEKS REQUESTED**

At the March meeting of the Upper Missouri Advisory Committee, attended by dam managers, a strong case for the need for flushing flows below Canyon Ferry Dam was made by TU, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) fishery managers, and pallid sturgeon advocates from the lower Missouri River. Specifically, the request was made for a flushing flow of 15,000 cfs (cubic feet per second) over a two week period. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Canyon Ferry Manager, Tim Fiechle, said that he would take our request seriously and attempt to accommodate it. However he cautioned that there were many variables that have to be factored into the dam operation and many users that need to be accommodated.



Dam managers have many masters—drought being among the most powerful. However 2008 has evolved to become a relatively normal snow pack year yielding potentially enough water in the system to consider a flushing flow for the Missouri River below Canyon Ferry and Holter Dams for the first time in nearly a decade.

Canyon Ferry Dam, operated by the BOR, essentially dictates how the whole system operates. Hauser and

Holter Dams operated by Pennsylvania Power and Light (PPL) are “run of the river” dams, meaning they simply mimic whatever Canyon Ferry releases above them.

The graph above forecasts the “most probable” along with the “maximum and minimum possible” BOR projections for flows below Holter from April 2008 through March 2009.

**LATE BREAKING NEWS!**  
**Missouri River flows hit 15,000 cfs on June 4, 2008!**

—“Smith River” (cont. from page 6)

being claimed is a reasonable amount for the stated beneficial use (not inflated).

Once all of the claims have been examined by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and disputes have been resolved the Montana Water Court issues a water right decree for the basin. The Smith River water claims review has just been completed. Many water right claims received “issue remarks” in the review

process. Issue remarks mean that the claim may be unsubstantiated in one way or another, including the amount of water claimed. If issue remarks are not objected by other parties, it is probable that the Water Court will simply allow the claim to be decreed and become permanent.

The adjudication process ends with court mandated water right decrees, which protect Montana users and assist in settling disputes among users. The

ability to stop future over appropriations detrimental to instream flows, precluding water right use abuse and enforcing water rights is only possible with a water right decree in place.

PBMRTU extends its appreciation to the MTU State Council and staff for stepping up to this important and landmark challenge on behalf of the Smith River fisheries resource.

# Conservation Committee Report (cont.)

## Little Blackfoot River Trout Population Census Results

For the first time in nearly twenty years the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks put a crew on the Little Blackfoot River in the summer of 2007 to collect data on fish populations and distributions. Partially funded by the Upper Clark Fork Natural Resources Damage settlement, this important work was led by Jason Lindstrom, the area fishery biologist based in Deer Lodge. We thank Jason and his crew for sharing this information with PBMRTU.

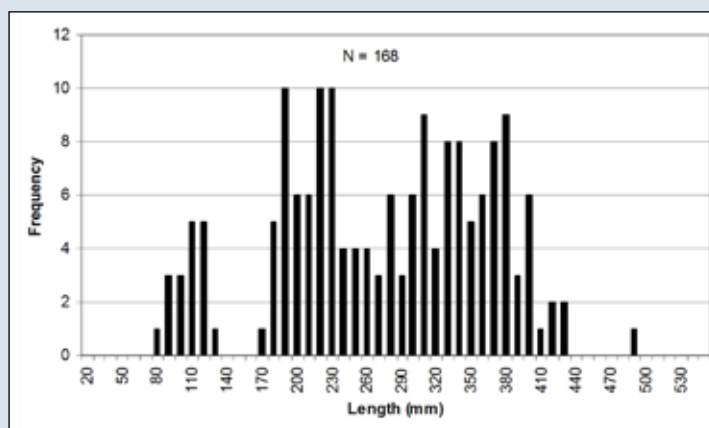
The sampling on the Little Blackfoot was completed at seven different sites over 40 miles of the river starting at the headwaters above Kading Campground proceeding downstream to four miles above the river confluence with the Clark Fork River at Garrison (See table on the next page for summary data). All fish were sampled using electrofishing. A backpack electroshocker was used at sites upstream of Elliston, while a more powerful barge-mounted generator electrofisher was used at downstream reaches. Of the seven sites sampled, five were only single pass surveys, while two were mark and recapture estimates. The mark and recapture estimates, which required two electrofishing passes approximately one week apart, gave a more accurate measure of population abundance.

Jason cautions readers as they review the data to recognize that this is a single snapshot in time, and comparable data is not available. Consequently since there is no existing trend information, it is difficult and potentially risky to make too many inferences from one season's worth of data. All data is provisional at this point.

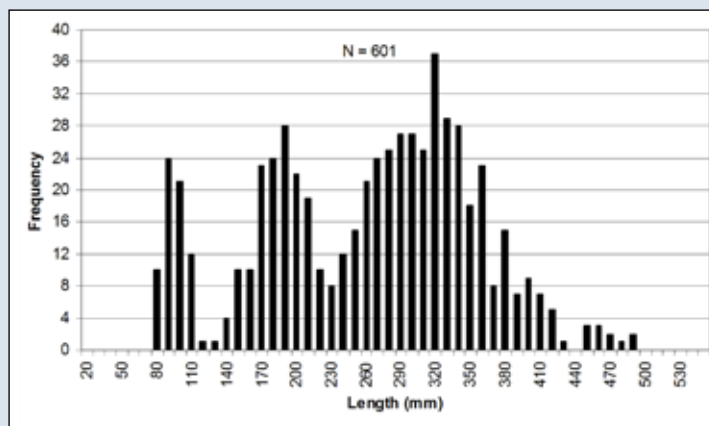
Overall the fishery survey revealed a good population of trout throughout much of the river. Downstream from Elliston, brown trout were the predominant species, and fish greater than six inches were fairly abundant (over 1,000 per mile) at the two sampled sections where population estimates were made (see charts at right). Westslope cutthroat however, were rare or absent in the Little Blackfoot River downstream of Elliston. Upstream from Elliston to the headwaters, westslopes became the predominant species (50%+) followed by brown trout and a sprinkling of brook trout. Brook trout became more numerous in the upper headwaters of the river replacing brown trout.

And yes, there are brown trout approaching 20 inches in length found in the Little Blackfoot River.

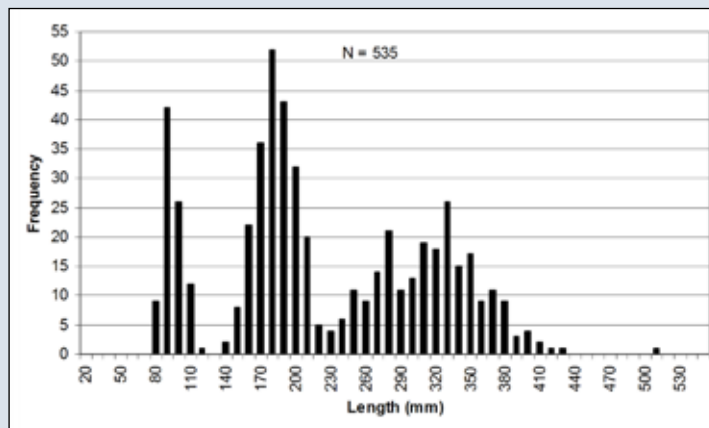
### BROWN TROUT SIZE DISTRIBUTION FROM THE LOWEST THREE SITES SAMPLED IN 2007



River Mile 4.0 – (Downstream of Beck Hill Road approximately 1 mile) Includes a single pass count



River Mile 9.6 – (At old rest area, soon to be new FAS) Includes fish from Mark and Recap



River Mile 21.3 – (Several miles downstream of Elliston) Includes fish from Mark and Recap

#### Millimeters to Inches Conversion:

100 mm = 4"                      300mm = 11.8"                      500mm = 19.6"  
 200mm = 7.8"                      400mm = 15.7"

Table. SUMMARY OF FISH SAMPLING DATA FROM LITTLE BLACKFOOT RIVER – 2007

Summary data based on single pass (or first pass) electrofishing

Section Name	Species	No. Fish Captured	No. Fish/100 m (CPUE)**	Mean Length (mm)	Length Range (mm)	% Species Composition
RM 4.0 Downstream of Beck Hill Road about 1 mile	brown	168	16.8	268	79-489	100
RM 9.6* At old rest area, soon to be new FAS	brown	379	31.6	256	73-488	100
RM 21.3* Downstream of Elliston a couple miles	cutt	7	0.07	248	122-333	2
	brown	347	34.7	225	72-510	97
	brook	2	0.02	198	132-263	1
RM 26.7 Upstream of HWY 12 crossing near Elliston	cutt	3	3.0	235	120-299	7.5
	brown	28	28.0	122	47-379	70
	brook	9	9.0	105	52-171	22.5
RM 31.1 Upstream of Sunshine Camp	cutt	31	31.0	156	70-260	53
	brown	24	24.0	138	55-376	41
	brook	3	3.0	129	55-185	5
RM 34.9 Downstream of Ontario Creek confluence	cutt	35	35.0	143	40-258	51
	brown	29	29.0	139	43-383	43
	brook	4	4.0	186	72-286	6
RM 40.1 Upstream of Kading Campground	cutt	46	46.0	130	38-214	51
	brown	5	5.0	70	50-132	5
	brook	40	40.0	98	48-187	44

**Species Key:** brown = Brown Trout; cutt = Westslope Cutthroat Trout; brook = Brook Trout

\* Indicates a mark/recapture population estimate was made.

\*\* CPUE (Catch-per-unit-effort) is not an abundance estimate and should not be viewed as such.

**Millimeters to Inches Conversion:**

100 mm = 4"                      400mm = 15.7"

200mm = 7.8"                    500mm = 19.6"

300mm = 11.8"

LITTLE BLACKFOOT RIVER  
POPULATION ESTIMATES (Provisional)  
Number of trout greater than six inches in length



RIVER MILE

BROWN TROUT

WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT

9.6

1,052/mile

0/mile

21.3

1,069/mile

16/mile

## New Trout Strain Resists Whirling Disease

The PBMRTU Conservation Committee recommends reading, "New Trout Strain is Resisting Disease," an article published Feb 10, 2008 by Coloradoan news services. View this article at the following URL.

<http://patbarnestu.org/troutstrain.aspx>

# Trout, Tarpon, and Beer: A Night Out

—Dave Ames, PBMRU Member

Almost 40 years ago a big young man was in college studying chemicals. I'm not talking about attending chemistry classes, it was more of a late-night independent study kind of a thing. In those times you were either on the bus or you were off the bus, and one morning after a particularly successful project the Duke woke up on the floor of a strange apartment and went looking for the bathroom.

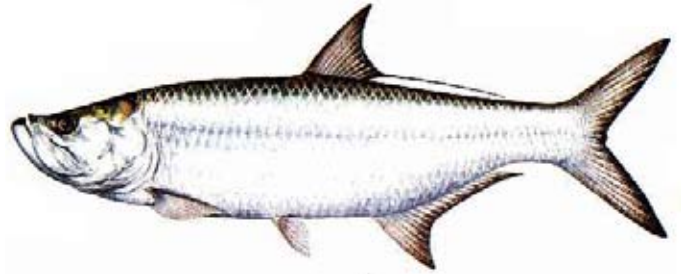
The apartment was a remodeled attic back east in the trout hills of New York, the toilet was squeezed back into a dormer. It was tight enough that the Duke was shoulder to shoulder with the walls as he backed in, and as he settled down he probably said:

"Hmmm, this might take a while."

So he looked around for something to read. He was digging for a Playboy at the bottom of the stack when a small book called "Trout Fishing in America" caught his attention; on the cover was a picture of a man in a felt hat and a woman with a beaded headband fronting a statue of Benjamin Franklin. The Duke started reading.

The first thing he did after finishing the book was pull up his pants, the second thing was to go to the registrar's office. The Duke cancelled his college subscription and headed west the next day. A week later he was a fishing guide in Montana, and forty years later almost no one has done more for the good of the trout of Montana than the Duke. The book that helped inspire that journey is as much poetry as prose, and the author, Richard Brautigan, is featured in rare personal interview footage, along with his more famous contemporaries, Tom McGuane and Jim Harrison, as they fish the Florida Keys in a newly released film called simply "Tarpon."

This fifty minute movie was filmed in the early seventies, includes aerial footage of the biggest bull tarpon I've ever seen, features a sound track by Jimmy Buffet before he was famous, gets the flavor of Hemingway's Key West, and for obscure reasons has sat semi-



forgotten in a vault in Belgium ever since. Through the efforts of Cathy and Marcy at Helena's own Book Mailer this film has recently been released and will be shown for one of the first times ever in a joint fundraiser between Pat Barnes Missouri River TU Chapter and the **MYRNA LOY CENTER** on July 31 at 7:30 PM.

Tickets are \$15 and the first beer (compliments of Helena's own **BLACKFOOT RIVER BREWING COMPANY**) is free. But wait, that's not all. This is like one of those TV offers for Ginsu knives. Wait. There's more. We are also going to show a 25 minute movie called "Why Fly Fishing," another brilliant piece of work.

It starts out with the first fly, from Mesopotamian times. Imagine Cleopatra dapping in the Nile, and then the film wanders through interviews with some of the great fishing writers of our generation including Nick Lyons and John Gierach. But wait, there's more. The producer of the film, Jeff Pill, will be in Montana at the time on a fishing expedition and will introduce the film.

You don't have to be a hard core fisherman to enjoy these films. It's a good date night, a Thursday. Over the years I've seen enough fly-fishing shows to get a little jaded but I utterly enjoyed both of these films...it's about more than just the fishing and that's what these movies nail. The beer will be cold, the summer will be hot, and the Myrna will be cool. Tarpon this big, you're going to want to see them on the big screen. This is the first time we've ever done an event like this, so July 31, please come on out and support both conservation and the arts by having a good time.

# Special “Thanks” to Our Program Presenters

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—by Jay Erickson, Program Chair

**October** - Randy Dix, Helena attorney and fly fishing expert, presented photos and stories from of his recent fly fishing adventure in New Zealand. Randy provided great stories and kept the group laughing as he repeatedly violated the age-old angling rule by giving out away details of other anglers’ favorite New Zealand fishing spots.

**November** - Dan Vermillion of Sweet Water Fly Fishing Adventures in Livingston presented Fly Fishing in Mongolia. Mongolia is home to the world’s largest surviving salmonid, the Taimen - Hucho hucho Taimen. These fish are ferocious predators feeding on ducks, prairie dogs, mice, and fish and may weigh up to 200 lbs. Dan’s presentation was great, it gave us another spot to fish!

**December** - The status of the Missouri and Smith River fisheries was presented by Grant Grisak, Fisheries Biologist with Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Grant did a great job of detailing the fisheries and how the size and number of browns and rainbows vary in

differing sections of the Missouri.

**January** - Dave Ames, author, conservationist and itinerant fishing guide for the past 30 years, gave a presentation on the Little Blackfoot watershed. PBMR TU contracted with Dave to conduct a study of water temperatures and water flows in the Little Blackfoot River. Dave did a great job with his study and presented his findings to the chapter membership. The chapter will contract with Dave to monitor the Little Blackfoot again this summer.

**February**- About 45 avid fly fishers attended a demonstration of the fly-tying techniques. Presenter, Nola Freestone and friends provided a hands-on fly tying clinic for dry, nymph, streamers, and salt water flies. Thanks to fly-tying instructors Nola Freestone, Bob Brent, Hoke Bell, Joel Silverman, Terry O’Conner, and Geof Ferguson.

**April**- Long-time fishing guide and veteran, Mike Geary of Lewis and Clark Expeditions, presented the Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project. Mike

described his Smith River trips in which disabled Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans from Walter Reed Veterans Hospital float and fish the Smith River. Mike provided a series of both funny and moving stories of his trip, including challenges faced by the veterans and their determination to succeed. PBMR TU provides financial support for the Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project.

**April Casting and Fly Fishing Clinic** - Bob Jacklin of Jacklin’s Fly Shop in West Yellowstone, presented fly casting techniques to a large crowd on a snowy Saturday morning. Bob entertained the crowd with distance and precision casting. Bob did a great job explaining casting technique in a straightforward understandable manner that kept the audience engaged. After lunch, PBMR TU volunteers and Bob Jacklin answered all questions and assisted participants with their casting technique in the Capital High School Gymnasium.

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## Volunteers Needed

*Want to help out? Want to see improvements in our streams and rivers? Want to meet dedicated individuals and seasoned fisherman (and maybe learn of a few special holes)?* Then participating on one of several Pat Barnes Missouri River Chapter of Trout Unlimited (PBMR TU) committees or activities is a great way to accomplish all of the above.

PBMR TU board members haul a major load for the Chapter, but it is not necessary to join the board to help. The following committees or activities are almost always in need of new ideas and assistance.

**Conservation Committee** – Develops needed conservation issues within our primary rivers of the Missouri, Smith, and

Little Blackfoot. Contact: **John Wilson 443-2884**

**Program Committee** – Develops thoughtful and entertaining programs throughout the year. Contact: **Jay Erickson 459-3750**

**Banquet Committee** – Develops and manages the Chapter’s annual banquet, which next year will be held at the Civic Center. Contact: **Nola Freestone 495-2675**

**Casting Clinic** – Develops and staffs the annual casting clinic for new fly fishers. Contact: **Lisa Verzani 431-2249**

**Trout in the Classroom** – Introduces local students to the life cycle of trout at 10 Helena schools through the use of donated trout eggs and fish tanks in classrooms.

Contact: **Lisa Verzani 431-2249**

**Membership** – Develops and implements methods to increase and sustain chapter membership. Contact: **Lisa Verzani 431-2249**

**Publications** – Develops and publishes the quarterly newsletter and other chapter outreach materials. Contact: **Melissa Brown 431-7962**

**Chapter Board** – Manages the overall organization and assists in committee initiatives. Contact: **Tony Herbert 449-7252**.

So if you have a mind to, call one of the contacts listed above. Your help will be greatly appreciated, and you’ll have fun in the process.

# EVENTS

WE HAVE SOME NEW AND DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER EVENTS THIS UPCOMING YEAR. INSTEAD OF SCHEDULING A MONTHLY PROGRAM OVER THE FALL AND WINTER MONTHS, OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS DECIDED TO PUT THEIR ENERGY AND FOCUS INTO A FEW SPECIAL PROGRAMS.

## Annual Banquet

The annual banquet will, of course, continue as we have in the past, except that we will now be in a new location. Holding the banquet at the Helena Civic Center will allow us to make a few changes so it will be the “new and improved” banquet in 2009.

You are welcome to join us in making banquet preparations. We will be getting together occasionally to work out the details and, as always, the more the merrier. So, please give Nola Freestone a call at 495-2675 to find out when we will be meeting.

## Fly Tying Clinic

The annual fly tying clinic will be held this winter and the casting clinic will be enjoyed again in the spring. Look for announcements in our local newspaper and your email!

Chapter meetings are open to the public. If you would like to sponsor or volunteer to help with the chapter meetings and speaker series, please contact Jay Erickson at 406/443 7027 or jay@mtlandreliance.org.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! Annual Banquet to be at Helena Civic Center on March 21, 2009

Next year’s Annual Banquet and Fund Raiser will be held on March 21 at the Helena Civic Center. The Chapter has held its banquet at the Red Lion Colonial Inn in past years, and board members believe that the new Civic Center venue will provide the Chapter with opportunities to change the look and feel of the event.

Nola Freestone has agreed to lead the effort to organize next year’s banquet. Individuals wishing to assist in the development of new ideas for the banquet can call Nola at 495-2675.

## Subscribe to PBMRTU’s E-Alerts

Send an email to **info@patbarnestu.org** 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.



## Guidelines for Submitting Advertisements

**AD SIZES AND RATES:**  
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.

**DEADLINES:**  
Apr. artwork due Mar. 1

Jul. artwork due Jun. 1  
Oct. artwork due Sep. 1  
Jan. artwork due Dec. 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

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

### MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

Classified advertisements of 50 words or less are available FREE of charge to current PBMRTU Chapter members. To take advantage of this FREE service, members must include their membership number with their ad.