

PAT BARNES MISSOURI RIVER CHAPTER August 2006 Vol. 26 No. 3

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.

Invaders on the Smith

Smith River Habitat Project brings landowners and recreational users together to tackle the noxious weed issue... page 4

IN THIS ISSUE..

President's message... page 2

Calendar...page 2

Conservation Committee Gets Underway ... page 3

From Iraq to Eden (Bridge) ... page 4

Montana TU Flyfishing Camp ... page 6

Learn and Lend a Hand: Invasive Species ... page 7

Member Classifieds ... page 8

Advertisement Guidelines ... page

Welcome New Members ... page 8

PAT BARNES MISSOURI RIVER CHAPTER

Chapter No. 055 PO Box 4404 Helena, MT 59604 patbarnestu@hotmail.com Non-Profit Org U.S. Postage PAID Permit #043 Helena, MT

PAT BARNES.MISSOURI RIVER CHAPTER

Chapter: 055

P.O. Box 4404 - Helena MT 59604

patbarnestu@hotmail.com www.spaces.msn.com/pbmrtu

Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Jay Erickson, President / 443 7027 Rob Creel, Vice President / 461 8713 Thad Waples, Secretary / 449 7885 Rena Grimes, Treasurer / 447 2028

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

DIRECTORS

Dennis Cates
Frank Cooper
Todd Damrow
Earl Dorsey
Dan Ellison
Tom Likens
Scott Orser
Jim Stevens
Chris Strainer
Ed Tinsley
Iim Utterback

John Wilson

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 406/43 1 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

During our high water a short time back I had the unfortunate experience of launching a boat at Craig along with many other gridlocked anglers. I was convinced, along with nearly everyone else, that the Mo was unfishable below the Dearborn River. The Yellowstone. Madison, and Blackfoot were all blown out and the greater Montana angling community was concentrated on the Missouri River between Holter Dam and the Dearborn River. The day was good but painfully crowded.

When I spoke to a friend who fished the reach below the Dearborn and heard that there were no boats and fish feeding on top, I decided to think a little differently.

A few days afterward, I floated the Big Hole on a gorgeous day on a reach just upriver from where a salmon fly hatch was in full swing. We chose to stay away from the crowds and had an enjoyable float. Browns and rainbows were taking mayflies and caddis on the surface. When they stopped, we fished underneath and had a productive day. All this on a beautiful river surrounded by the snow capped



Pintlar Mountains.

My point is that I like the quiet sport of angling not the crowded one and if I plan and research it, sometimes it can be done. Enjoy your solitude and I hope you too have an enjoyable and quiet angling experience, even if the water is a bit off color or the hatch is not at its peak.

The Pat Barnes Missouri River Chapter of Trout Unlimited takes our mission to Conserve, Protect and Restore (CPR) the outstanding fishery values of the Missouri, Smith and the Little Blackfoot seriously. Our Conservation Committee, chaired by Tony Herbert and staffed by several qualified and interested PBMR TU members and board members, continues to Jay Erickson (pictured left with daughter Zoe) 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.

gather data consisting of project needs and strengths in these important local drainages.

We look forward to another year of coldwater habitat improvement in and around Lewis and Clark, Cascade, Broadwater, Meagher, and Powell Counties. PBMR also looks forward to continuing outreach to our young anglers in the Helena School system with our Trout in the Classroom Program, headed by Geoff Ferguson, in nine Helena area public schools.

Tight lines—the summer blockbuster movies are here—first PMDs and caddis; the trico show is scheduled for August.

Tight Lines-Jay

CALENDAR ——

September 27, 2006: Board meetings resume.

October 11, 2006: Chapter membership meetings and speakers series resume.

April 14, 2007: SAVE THE DATE! For the 26th Annual PBMR TU Banquet & Auction.



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.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE GETS UNDERWAY

Tony Herbert, Conservation Chair

ne of the primary missions of the Pat Barnes Missouri River Chapter is to engage in conservation related measures that can help ensure a lasting legacy of good trout habitat in our region of Montana. But conservation of our favorite streams doesn't happen on its own. Time and attention needs to be focused on the opportunities available to assist in conserving habitat on the Missouri, Little Blackfoot, and Smith River drainages. Consequently, Chapter President Jay Erickson smartly created the first PBMRTU Conservation Committee to bring focus to these issues and help the Chapter become more active and effective in local conservation issues.

The committee has just begun this process and has created a dual approach to advise the board on these matters. First is to develop a current and accurate data base of existing programs that the Chapter should consider as potential partners. Our Chapter resources alone are not going to be sufficient to accomplish many

of the projects that may be defined as priorities. National, state, and local conservation programs are prepared to assist with good conservation initiatives in our area. A good data base of these programs which defines primary focus, funding schedules, and primary contacts will be helpful, and the committee has agreed to develop this data base for use by the Chapter in the future.

The second approach is to define those conservation projects that are needed in these watersheds. In this regard, the committee agreed that the first step in this process is to contact the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) biologists and learn the current priorities for projects that have already been defined. The committee hopes that many of these identified projects will align with the Chapter's priorities to improve trout habitat in the region. The committee intends to hold meetings with FWP to discuss the department's priorities, and make appropriate recommendations to the board. We will also invite the Missouri River Fly Fishers TU Chapter from Great Falls to join us in this dialogue with the department.

PBMRTU Chapter members interested in joining the committee, or with ideas on poten-

tial conservation partners or potential projects, should contact Tony Herbert at 449-7252 or at therbert@bresnan.net.



Tony Herbert (left) chairs the newly formed PBMRTU Conservation Committee. The Committee currently consists of seven members; Dennis Cates, Rob Creel, Dan Ellison, Brooks Morin, Chris Strainer, and John Wilson.

"Montana's Premier Fly Fishing and Orvis Stores"

Boat Rentals • Shuttles • Guides • Lodging • Ice Cream!

NEW store & motel in Craig!



NEW Fly Fishing School in Helena!

12th year in business and 12th year supporting TU!

WWW.CROSSCURRENTS.COM

Downtown Helena • 326 N. Jackson St. • Helena, MT 59601 • (406) 449-2292 Missouri River Store & The Fish Inn • 311 Bridge St. • Craig, MT 59648 • (406) 235-3433





Board member Ed Tinsley with a fat Father's Day brown trout on the Missouri River. Photo and expert rowing by Rob Creel.

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

View Fish-Pic archives at www.spaces.msn.com/pbmrtu

BUILDING BRIDGES

by Christine Mandiloff, PBMR TU Member and Volunteer

Local nonprofit brings landowners and recreational users together to tackle invasive plants on the Smith River

HE PLANT DOESN'T LOOK SO
BAD IF YOU SEE IT ON A SUMMER
EVENING WHEN THE DAY'S LAST
GOLDEN SUNLIGHT FLOATS DOWN FROM THE
CLIFF-TOPS AND LANDS SOFTLY IN THE RIVER
CANYON. Yellow-green blooms alongside the

river—you might even think that it's pretty. So why is the Smith River Habitat Project intent on destroying it? Because the plant is a noxious weed, leafy spurge, and it is threatening the Smith River corridor and the fish that reside in the river.

SRHP Coordinator Sherry Meador
(right) is working to bring private
landowners like board member
Ken McKamey (left) together with
other private and public landowners
on the Smith River to address the
complex invasive plants issue within
the river corridor.

Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula* L.) spreads like wildfire; it infests over 1,600 acres along a 60-mile stretch of the Smith River corridor. The weed reduces plant diversity, causes loss of wildlife habitat, and reduces grazing land for cattle. It threatens fish as it pushes out vegetation that stabilizes river banks, potentially causing increased silt and sediment in the river water. It has a significant economic impact; the cost to wild and grazing lands in the Upper Great Plains, including Montana, North and South Dakota, and Wyoming, is estimated at \$129.5 million per year.

Efforts to control leafy spurge in the Smith River corridor have helped prevent further widespread infestation, but ongoing and coordinated efforts are necessary. Such efforts are being made by the Smith River Habitat Project (SRHP), a non-profit charitable corporation formed in 2003 to facilitate cooperative weed management practices among private and public land

FROM IRAQ TO EDEN (BRIDGE)

n May 7, 2006 with the help of the Pat Barnes Missouri River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Lewis & Clark Expeditions took seven veterans from Walter Reed Hospital fishing down the Smith River. This was the second year Lewis & Clark Expeditions has taken disabled veterans down the Smith River paying for their airfare, lodging, guides, food, flies, fishing licenses and any expenses that happen along the way.

Lt. Eivind Forseth was one of seven veterans on the trip in May. Mike Geary, owner of Lewis and Clark Expeditions, shared the following letter from Eivand Forseth's mother after the trip.

You provided a fabulous experience for my son and everyone else from "Project Healing Waters". Eivind appreciated everything you did for them, and I could tell he had a life affirming experience which is what all these guys so desperately need. Adapting to a disabled life style is pretty difficult for men who have chosen the physical job of infantryman and in my son's case, Airborne Ranger. All he ever wanted to do was lead his men into combat and bring them back safe and sound. It's all he talked about. He's grateful that he was the one seriously injured instead of the rest of his platoon. At first, it's the physical blow to deal with, but soon after that, it's the emotional side, and as a mother, I see that as being the more difficult challenge. I am very proud of how hard he is trying to rebuild his life. He really

wants to see "Project Healing Waters" succeed so that it will help other like him. It's nice to see he has a new mission. And mission it is! He is very single minded about getting his guys out on the water thrashing about. He thinks he can do them more good at "Project Healing Waters" than he could as a Vet's Administration Rep. He's probably right; not so much red tape.

So, I sincerely thank you and your crew for being so generous in all regards. Thank you again so much. For everything.

Judith Forseth

Lt. Eivind Forseth is currently at Walter Reed Hospital awaiting his 20th operation on his right arm which is partial paralyzed. Eivand survived a roadside

managers. SRHP has recently received grant funding from the Noxious Weed Trust Fund through Montana Department of Agriculture to continue its battle against leafy spurge and other noxious weeds. The grant provides \$26,000 of funding that will be matched by participating landowners in the Smith River corridor to treat over 1,000 acres.

SRHP—whose volunteer board of directors represents agricultural and recreational landowners, and commercial and private floaters—will use the grant funding to continue work as a member of the Smith River Corridor Coordinated Weed Management Area (SRWMA). The organization's activities include facilitating coordinated weed control efforts, evaluating the effectiveness of current and future weed management practices, and developing weed-related educational materials.

SRHP has been successful in bringing individuals with different interests together to help control leafy spurge. Brandon Boedecker of PRO Outfitters, who is a SRHP board director, said "Sherry Meador (SRHP's Coordinator) has done a great job of bringing everybody to the table. The Smith River Habitat Project is about teamwork, cooperation and persistence. It is about all parties involved putting their heads together and finding common

ground for the solution. I am proud to be part of it." Meador praised the efforts of all of those involved with weed control in the corridor, including landowners who donate their own money and time. "The majority of the landowners in the river corridor are very dedicated to this cause," she said. She also expressed SRHP's gratitude to the public land agencies and commercial and private river floaters who have joined in the efforts to control noxious weeds.

A major task of SRHP has been to provide education about noxious weeds and the steps people can take to help with weed management. SRHP created a brochure about the weed problem in the Smith River corridor which has been distributed by Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) to each float permit holder. In the summer of 2005, SRHP, along with the White Sulphur and Townsend Forest Service Ranger Districts and FWP, established a weed education kiosk at Camp Baker and hired two Montana State University interns to hand out educational materials and talk to floaters about weeds and ways they could help in weed control efforts. The kiosk and materials were available again this year. Further, SRHP has developed a Web site to provide information about weed issues.

Because recent cuts in resources have left weed control in the Smith River corridor a lower priority in public land management than it has been in the past, SRHP is currently seeking funding to expand and sustain its weed control efforts. With 3,700 people from across the country floating the Smith River every year, it is very important that a coordinated and effective weed management effort be continued to protect the corridor from drastic spread of leafy spurge and introduction of new invasive weed species.

For more information about SRHP and ways you can help, please visit the Web site at www.smithriverhabitatproject.org, send an e-mail to the project at info@smithriverhabitatproject.org, or call (406) 431-7638.

The Pat Barnes Missouri River Chapter of TU proudly supports the Smith River Habitat Project's mission of "improving wildlife habitat and rangeland along the Smith River through application of education and research."

Christine Mandiloff is an attorney in Helena who recently caught the fly fishing disease. She has lived the last six years in Montana, where she also enjoys hiking, camping, and writing. Article comments and fly fishing tips are appreciated.

christinemandiloff@hotmail.com

ullet Lewis $oldsymbol{\mathcal{E}}$ Clark Expeditions provides a unique opportunity for disabled veterans

bomb in Mosul, Iraq. "Project Healing Waters", which Ms. Forseth refers to in the letter, is an organization that uses fishing as a therapeutic tool for Disabled Veterans. However, the trip on May 7 was in conjunction with **Disabled Sports USA**; the leading non-government agency for wounded warriors after they leave Walter

Reed Hospital.
Lewis and Clark
Expeditions
is currently
working to
raise funds for
another trip with
the Disabled
Veterans in

May of 2007. Thanks to everyone from PBMRTU who made this possible and gave us the opportunity to acknowledge the sacrifice, valor and patriotism of the young men and women in the armed

Disabled veterans from Walter Reed Hospital pose with Lewis & Clark Expeditions guides during a May 2006 float down the Smith River. Pictured left to right (front row) Steve Wiley, veteran; Mark Mix. veteran; Barry Yancusek, medical personal from Walter Reed Hospital; Eivand Forseth, veteran; (back row) Mark Sauvageau, guide; Brian Scott, guide; Greg Lily, guide; Jill Jolly, staff; Mark Elliott, guide; Joe Farrelly, staff; Geof Ferguson, guide; Vance Wasden, veteran; Chris Short, veteran; and Bryant Jacobs, veteran.

For more information, visit: http://www.lcexp.com

by Mike Geary, Lewis & Clark Expeditions



MTTU FLY FISHING CAMP

Dear members of the Pat Barnes Missouri River Chapter of Trout Unlimited:

I am very glad that I went to Montana Trout Unlimited Camp this summer. It was a lot of fun. I learned how to flyfish and that was my main goal. Now, I can go flyfishing with my dad and also tie flies with him. At camp, we learned how to flyfish from a boat and while wading. We also had a bunch of special speakers come in and they talked about native and non-native species of fish and where you can find them.

The place where the camp was located, Georgetown Lake, was very fun and very organized. We all stayed in cabins that were a lot of fun, even though I was only one of two girls at the camp. There was also a lodge and a kitchen—not to mention the food was delicious! Thank you all so much for giving me a scholarship and for providing me with this great opportunity. I really hope I get to go back to TU camp next year!

Ellie Tinsley

p.s. Here are some pictures of my fish and my fellow campers.

The 4th Annual Montana TU Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp was held in June at Georgetown Lake. Students learn about conservation issues and receive instruction in the sport of fly fishing. PBMR awards one \$175 scholarship each year covering the total cost of the camp. For more information, contact Michael Gibson (michael@montanatu.org) at 406/543 0054.





TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM



Warren Elementary 5th graders pose with teacher Kari Olenick before releasing rainbow trout into Spring Meadow Lake near Helena this spring. Nine Helena areas classrooms raised rainbow trout from eggs to fingerlings during their participation in the Trout In The Classroom program.

For more information, contact PBMR's TITC Coordinator Geof Ferguson. at patbarnestu@hotmail.com.

LEARN AND LEND A HAND

Help stop the spread of non-native invasive species

Increasingly, we live in a world of introduced species. From weeds to fish, we intentionally and unintentionally move species around at an amazing pace, often with disastrous results on our native species. In fact, introduction of non-native species ranks second only to loss of habitat as the primary threat facing our fish, wildlife and plants.

Ecologist David Pimental and his colleagues from Cornell University estimate that exotic species cost the nation \$137 billion every year. This includes \$32 billion in damage from exotics to agriculture, \$20 billion in damage from introduced insects, and \$41 billion in damages from new diseases that hitch rides on introduced species. The ecological costs of introduced species are seldom quantified but probably exceed economic impacts. More than 3,000 plant species have been introduced into California alone. More than 50 exotic fish species inhabit California's freshwaters. In some states, such as Arizona, there are more introduced fish species than native ones. Introduced species have caused widespread loss of fish populations across the country. Introduced brook trout displace threatened greenback cutthroat trout in Colorado's Rocky Mountains. In their native range, brook trout themselves often are displaced by brown and rainbow trout.

Exotic species make their way into our lakes and streams by many means. Some species are intentionally introduced by state agencies as sport or forage species. Others are illegal releases by anglers or by aquarists that no longer want their prized goldfish or tropical fishes

and dump them into nearby creeks. Some species are released unintentionally or escape from aquaculture facilities. Still others stow away in ship ballast water only to be released thousands of miles from their native habitat. Exotic diseases and parasites may accompany the introduced fish and spread to native species.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT THE INTRODUC-TION AND SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Aliens are invading our streams and lakes. Exotic fish, mollusks, earthworms, plants and their diseases can be devastating to our fish, as well as the ecology of springs, wetlands, lakes and rivers. Each of us can help fight their introduction and spread by following the following simple rules.

I. Know your fish!

Every angler should be able to identify what is native and not native to your local fishing waters. If you catch a fish that is something really exotic and clearly does not belong, it should be kept on ice and shown to your state fish and wildlife agent.

2. Clean mud and plant material from waders, boots and other equipment.

All fishing equipment should be thoroughly cleaned and dried before moving to new waters. Tiny New Zealand mud snails and other harmful species can be inadvertently moved by anglers. Mud on waders has been demonstrated to transmit the vectors of whirling disease.

3. Clean boats and trailers before moving them to new lakes and rivers.

Exotic mussels and plants can cling to boat hulls and be moved

long distances.

4. Never transfer fish, bait or other organisms from one stream or lake to another.

Anglers can be their own worst enemies by playing Johnny Appleseed with live organisms.

5. Never empty aquariums into natural waterways.

Once introduced into local waterways, tropical fish and their diseases can become established and destroy natural populations.

6. Use caution when buying or relocating new plants.

Certain non-native nursery stock can escape from lawns, gardens or ornamental ponds and take over wild areas from native species.

7. Know the exotic species problems in your area.

It will help to know which exotic species and diseases are spreading in your area so you can be sure to do your part in keeping invasions to a minimum. Some areas have special regulations and warnings in effect.

If you encounter an unusual and unknown fish that may be an exotic invader, immediately contact your local state fish and

wildlife agency!

This message is brought to you by Trout Unlimited. Information compiled by Dr. Jack Williams, TU Chief Scientist (jwilliams@tu.org).

Visit Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks website to learn more about Montana's aquatic nuisance species (ANS).

www.fwp.mt.gov/fishing/fishingmontana/ans/ TENCH



NUTRIA



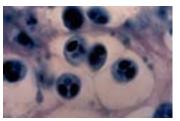
PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE



NEW ZEALAND MUDSNAIL



WHIRLING DISEASE



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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

(from 5/1/06 to 7/27/06)

Carl Arnold
James Bellar
Jim Benish
Mark Boettcher
Brian Bourgcois
Brian Bramblett
Adam Caron

Chuck & Carmie Christensen Barrie Crandall John England Jennifer Frost
Alex Gavrisheff
Eve Gerasimon
Aaron Hendricks
Jeff Key
Chad Lee
David Lemmon
Larry Lopuch
Marcus McDowell
Bill Milligan
Shawn Morgan

Dennis Murphy
Joe Potoczny
Glenn Rosenbaum
Phil Schweitzer
Julie Serstad
Paul Taylor
Lloyd Taylor
Brent Worman

UPGRADES:

Tony Herbert, Lifetime Member

MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

Classified advertisements of 50 words or less 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. To take advantage of this FREE service, members must include their membership number with their ad.

LARGE DOG
CARRIER, for
dog up to 20 lb
Like new unly used
twife. For sale \$100.
an rhad at 40624-3052 (daytime),
406-449-7885
(evenings).



AREYOU OVERDUE? CHECKYOUR MAILING LABEL.

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

PAT BARNES MISSOURI RIVER CHAPTER

(#055) Name:		Check One: [] NEW MEMBERSHIP [] MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Please check membership category*: Special Introductory Rate (\$17.50)			
		City:	State: Zip:	☐ Senior (S20)	☐ Conservator (\$250)
Telephone (Day):	(Evening):	Regular (\$35) for Business (\$200), Life (\$1,000) and Family Life (\$1,100) memberships, call 1-800-834-2419.			
E-mail address:	Fasif:				
Occupation:		Payment Method			
 Enclosed is my employer's metching gift form, plus my membership application and payment. 		Check (Meke decks psychle to TROUT UNLIMITED)			
SHID TO: PBMR TU MEMBERSHIP PO BOX 4404		Corlst	Esp. Date		
HELENA, MT 59604		Name et il eppears an card	er yest.		