

September, 2006

Madison-Gallatin Chapter of Trout Unlimited On The Line



A newsletter for and by the members.

The President's Message

Welcome to a new season of activities and programs for the Madison-Gallatin Chapter of Trout Unlimited. We hope your summer was fun and productive

Our Chapter was busy this past summer with several projects. Some required your volunteer help and some only needed a monetary donation. See the MGTU Board Meeting Minutes for a listing of these activities.

The local fly shops have always been an important contributor to the Chapter. Donations for your General Meetings and the Annual Banquet have been appreciated. Since one hand washes the other, we will now start list the special activities at your local shop. Please patronize these stores, enjoy the events and help promote fly fishing and your Chapter.

The General Meetings are starting this month on Wednesday, September 6th, at the Gran Tree Hotel on North 7th. Starting times are 7 PM, but come early and swap stories about

your fishing experience. This month hear a presentation from Yellow Dog Adventures. They are always fun and will introduce you to some exciting fishing opportunities.



And finally, if you have a flair for writing, or have an interesting story about the one that got away, or if you have a special go-to fly and would like to share this information with us, please send your story or recipe to your newsletter editor at greymidge@earthlink.net. We'll publish it, give your credit and make you famous. Maybe.

Volunteers Needed

This Saturday, September 9th, we will again be joining Chris Riley of the US Forest Service and members of the Madison River Foundation for more restoration work on Wig Wam Creek.

This time, our primary job will be planting. Sedge grass and willows need to be added to help reduce erosion. If you are interested, you can email Mark Fuchs at greymidge@earthlink.net or call him at 581-2369. Either way, you'll be notified of where and what time to meet for carpooling to Ennis. And as always, food and refreshments are supplied for the lunch break.

Then, later on, we will be doing a fish rescue on the Valley Garden Irrigation Ditch. Every year the gates are opened and fish migrate into the ditch. When the gates are closed, the fish become trapped. With the help of the Madison River Foundation, we will be hand netting these fish and returning them to the river. If you are interested and can participate on a days notice, please notify Mark Fuchs.

The Wigwam Creek Restoration



On Saturday, August 26th, MGTU members, along with volunteers from the Madison River Foundation, meet with Chris Riley of the U. S. Forest Service, to continue with the restoration work on Wigwam Creek to create a more fish-friendly stream for Westslope Cutthroat trout.

A total of 10 volunteers spent the day working together and came away with a feeling of accomplishment and pride in a job well done.

The day started with a few hardy souls moving a few small boulders into the stream to create a dam to raise the water level in the stream.

Others pounded stakes, gathered rocks and weaved some willow limbs to create stream diversions to help form pools and riffles, perfect habitat for breeding and fry habitat.

Lunch was provided for the hard working crew. Sandwiches and drinks were downed for that burst of energy required for the second phase of the work. More rocks were gathered to shore-up the areas that had been trampled by the cattle that graze there. Though more work needs to be done, including rebuilding some fencing, the day end with success.

Many thanks to Mark Campanelli, Volney Steele and Mark Fuchs of MGTU for their services. And a big thanks you to Dave Bricker and his crew from the Madison River Foundation, which included Bob, Jim, Heather, Nelson, Bob, Clete and Ed.

MGTU BOARD MEETING MINUTES

On August 30th, this season's first Board meeting was held. Old and new business was discussed.

President Rick Arnold called last year a success for the projects and programs in which we participated. Project Coordinator Tom Ehlert listed these activities as Camp Braveheart, the Georgetown Lake Kids Camp; the Duck Creek willow planting, the Three Dollar Bridge dedication, the South Fork of the Madison River Restoration, the Wigwam Creek Restoration and the Reel Recovery Program. Some of these programs were funded by donations from MGTU as well as some volunteer work provided by the membership.

Another project will be starting this month due to a generous donation of \$5000 to rebuild the handicap ramps on Hyalite Creek. Ours was the first money received and spearheaded the effort to collect from other parties, the balance required for the three ramps. The USFS will be posting a plaque with our name on it in appreciation.

Currently, we have an account balance of just over \$25,000.00 for this year's projects.

All ready, the Board has approved a \$1500.00 donation to a school in Belgrade to start up a Trout in the Classroom program. This will be the third such program MGTU has funded.

New and/or replacement members were discussed for the upcoming year.

The newsletter email and mailing schedule was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned.



AROUND THE SHOPS

The Bozeman Angler

On Saturday, September 16th, a Fly Fishing 101 class will be presented by Brent Oswald at the shop. No gear will be required. Call the shop at 587-9111 for more information.

And don't forget to visit their web site at www.bozemanangler.com.

Montana Troutfitters

On Saturday, September 16th, a Spey Casting Clinic will be held by Larry Aiuppi at the shop. Cost is \$100 and lunch will be provided. Only 6 slots will be available. Call the shop at 587-4707 for more information.

And don't forget to visit their web site at www.troutfitters.com.

The Rivers Edge

There are no activities this month, but please visit their web site at www.theriversedge.com.

Greater Yellowstone Fly Fishers

On Saturday, September 30th and Sunday, October 1st, a "Chuck and Duck" will be held at the shop. Representatives from all the major manufacturers will be there plying their wares from 10 AM till 4 PM. Don't miss out on the refreshments and specials.

Also, every Thursday from 6:30PM till 8:00PM, a casting clinic will be held at the McKenzie River Roadhouse below 4 Corners.

And don't forget to visit their web site at www.gyflyfishers.com.

Fins and Feathers

There are no activities this month, but please remember to visit their web site at www.finsandfeathers.com.

On The Line is a periodic publication of the Madison-Gallatin Chapter of Trout Unlimited. It is published by and for the members of the Chapter.

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Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views and positions of the Madison-Gallatin Chapter of T.U., Trout Unlimited or their respective officers. Articles, letters and artwork related to the sport of fly fishing or the 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 the methods of submission including computer discs and e-mails are available upon request. The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month preceding the month of publication.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month (unless announced otherwise) at The Gran Tree Inn. Meetings start at 7:00 PM. Meetings will not be held during the summer months (June thru August) and will start again in the fall (September thru May). Watch for notices in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle or on our website www.MGTU.org.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 11th.

Board of Directors

President:	Rick Arnold	rar-nold@resslermotors.com
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Vice-President:	Bob Ritter	ritter345@aol.com
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Newsletter:	Mark Fuchs	greymidge@earthlink.net
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MSU Liaison:	Toby Swank	toby@mcn.net
	586-2188 (w)	570-4118 (c)
Members-at-large:	Rod Warren	
	Chuck Jones	
	Bob Mealer	

TO THE MEMBERS

This is the start of a new season for us. The general meetings are starting this month. Don't miss this month's presentation by Yellow Dog Adventures. In the future, hear and see shows from the Yellowstone Angler and Sweetwater Fishing Company and your own Toby Swank.

The Chili Feast will be held on Wednesday, November 8th. Come and share your chili recipe with the chapter and see how your's compares to the other entries.

Most importantly, the Banquet will be on February 24, 2007 at the Grand Tree. Mark your calendars and plan to attend the biggest fund raising event this chapter holds. Of course, there will be auctions, both silent and live, as well as bucket raffles and many more ways to spend your money on a good cause. Come and join your friends and enjoy the dinner.

This year, if you are interested in participating in any of our upcoming programs or projects, please contact any of your Board Members listed on this page. MGTU plans on working closely with MSU, the US Forest Service and Fish, Wildlife and Parks for both continuing and new projects. So, if you know of any projects that correspond with our mission statement to conserve, protect and restore, or any other project in which you feel we should get involved, please contact your Board. No project is too small to consider.

Also, we are still trying to convert our newsletter to an all email distribution. At the same time, we would like to reach out to the non-members. If you know of someone who would like to receive our newsletter, please email their name, email address, mail address and phone number to greymidge@earthlink.net.



Madison-Gallatin Trout Unlimited

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