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# HEADWATERS HEADLINES

The Quarterly Newsletter of the George Grant Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Volume 13, Number 2 • March 2010

*Protecting and restoring wild trout, watersheds, and fishing opportunities in Southwest Montana*

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## President's Message

by Josh Vincent



A belated Happy New Year to all of our faithful membership in Southwest Montana! 2010 has started fast and looks to be picking up speed every day, so I wanted to keep you in the loop on all the issues and activities that are on the GGTU docket for the first part of the year.

### Outreach Events

Our Outreach Committee has worked hard to expand our efforts to reach out to the GGTU membership and the Southwest Montana community. Read more about our specific Outreach Committee activities and events in this newsletter, and we hope to see you at one soon. If you have any questions suggestions related to chapter outreach, please contact Bob Olson at 560-3791.

### Big Hole-Beaverhead River Recreation Plan 5-Year Review

This spring FWP is conducting public outreach on the Big Hole/Beaverhead River recreation rules. These rules establish the 7 day river rotation on the Big Hole and

preserve the "citizens reach" on weekends. The GGTU Board of Directors feel these rules have been a success and should be continued unchanged. Please voice your opinion to FWP.

### State of the Fisheries

Our annual chapter meeting and State of the Fisheries presentation is scheduled for Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, location to be determined. Come listen to area biologists present their data on the status of our area fisheries. Stay tuned for more information.

### Chapter Website and Electronic Conversion

GGTU is in the process of creating a new chapter website for our membership. Although we were one of the first TU chapters in Montana, we are one of the last to join the electronic age. Our directors feel we can better communicate with our membership and make it easier for you to communicate with us. Along with our website, GGTU plans to start electronic distribution of our newsletter and other important chapter information. As a result, this will be the last mailed hard copy of Headwaters Headlines. In order for us to keep you in the loop, we need all of our membership to get us updated email addresses, as our records are missing many contacts. Please send your current email address to me at [jvincent@wet-llc.com](mailto:jvincent@wet-llc.com) so we can update our records and make sure you stay in the loop.

### GGTU Annual Banquet

Our annual banquet and fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Star Lanes Event Center, 4600 Harrison Avenue. We hope you will come join us for a fun-filled evening of food, fun, and fish!

Lastly, I want to thank all of our membership for their contributions and continued support of our organization. Please call me at 490-2916 or send me an email if you have any questions, comments, or concerns on issue. Until then, get the fly box organized and pray for some snow and I hope to see all of you on March 20<sup>th</sup>!

Best Regards,

Josh Vincent

### **Banquet 2010** By Gary Chatriand

The 2010 GGTU Fundraising Banquet will be held Saturday March 20, 2010 at the Star Lanes Event Center in Butte. The doors open at 5:30 p.m. with no host cocktails and dinner at 7:00. The buffet dinner includes Baron of Beef and Chicken Marsala along with all the complimentary side dishes.

Activities include live and silent auctions, bucket raffles, a variety of new games, cut the cards and more. We have a fine selection of donated prizes, and rods. Live Auction items include fishing trips, fishing equipment and a selection of ladies items.

We are currently selling 100 chances to win Sweetgrass "Montra" Series Bamboo Rod. This is a fine rod handcrafted by the BooBoys in Twin Bridges Montana. We are also selling 100 chances to win an 47" Vizio High Definition LCD flatscreen television. This item was a donation to us so please support our efforts by purchasing a ticket or two. Tickets are available from any GGTU Director.

This is the only fund raising event we have. All proceeds stay right here in southwest Montana to help us execute our mission to conserve, protect and restore our local fisheries. So please come out and support our efforts.

The banquet is open to the public and you don't have to be a member to attend; bring a friend along and children are also welcome! If you can't attend the banquet you can still help out and support our efforts by purchasing raffle tickets or mailing us a donation. If you haven't received your invitation, you can purchase your tickets at local sporting good shops or by calling Jill at 494-6216. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. If you have any questions or would like to help with the banquet please contact me at 406-490-7598 or email me at [chatriand@laverlamintl.com](mailto:chatriand@laverlamintl.com).



### **GGTU Outreach Projects Slated for 2010** By Bob Olson, Chair GGTU Outreach Committee

The Outreach Program of the George Grant Chapter Trout Unlimited (GGTU) got off to a great start in 2009 with GGTU directors and local Trout Unlimited members taking on many projects. The program offers even more for 2010!

#### **Big Brothers and Sisters**

The 2009 outreach started by helping teach 6 pair of Big Brothers and Sisters the basics of fly tying, casting and fishing. They were taught safety, knots, equipment, bugs, casting and conservation. Board members helping with the instruction were Bob and Marilyn Olson, Jim Gleason, Byron Mazurek and Rich Day along with longtime GGTU member Dr. John Jacobson. John's connection with Anne Courtney, head of Big Brothers and Sisters, helped coordinate the effort.

The Big Brothers and Sisters program will start 2010 with even more pairs this year. The goal of GGTU Outreach is to increase our attendance in this program by at least 15% each year and so far we are right on track. Montana Tech provides the space for the event and has been very supportive of our program.



### **Fly Tying Round Table**

New this year for GGTU will be a weekly fly-tying round table each Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the HPER Building at Montana Tech. The fly-tying round table is open to all that are interested and will be held on a regular basis. Directors of GGTU will demonstrate one or two flies each week. This will provide a great opportunity to learn different techniques and new patterns from some of the best tiers in Butte. Everyone is welcome to come and tie or just watch. Different flies will be featured each Wednesday. Equipment and materials will be supplied for any beginner who is interested. By sharing some tips with our fellow members and helping each other we all hope to benefit from these get-togethers and they should be very entertaining. The round table started the first week of February and will continue as long as there is an interest.

### **Ladies-Only Class**

First conducted in 2009 the Ladies-Only Class was a big success; and it looks like 2010 will be no different with classes starting on April 7<sup>th</sup>. The class is instructed by GGTU Director Marilyn Olson and covers many aspects of fly fishing. The course includes learning what's new in equipment, learning how to put a fly rod together and what knots to use and why, improving your casting skills, and learning which fly looks like which bug, and when to use it! Something new this year will be learning fly tying, so the class promises to be a great one.

There is limited space in this class and it fills up very fast so save your spot or a friend's and call Marilyn at 782-1806 (daytime) or 782-3791 (evening).

### **Spey Casting**

Later this spring GGTU Outreach will sponsor a spey casting demonstration. We have arranged to have professional instructors and vendors for rods available. So come see what all the fuss is about with these 14 ft rods, and how to toss a lot of line after those big steelhead. Details to follow soon.

### **High School Fly Fishing Club**

Last year the Outreach Committee covered a lot of totally different types of instruction including helping start a fly fishing club at Butte High. We worked with about 20 students from February to the end of the school year, finishing with a fishing trip to Warm Springs Ponds. The club was organized and advised by Chris Fisk and Dave Murto, two of the best high school teachers that you could ever find; they always give a lot of their time to help students. The club's activities this school year will be very similar to last year with the addition of a field trip to the Sweet Grass Rod Company in Twin Bridges.

### **Evil Kneivel Days**

This also proved to be very different type of instruction for the Outreach Committee. Conducted on Park Street, Bob Olson, Bill Masella and Rich Day helped more than 120 kids learn to cast a fly rod. We are sure it was the first time for most of them. They ranged in size from two feet tall to six feet tall and all ages and sizes tried their best to cast their fly in a small circle placed on the street. In 2010 this event will improve with more instructors and prizes given out to all that participate.

### **CFWEP and Kids Fly Fishing Camp**

During August 2009 the Clark Fork Watershed Education Program (CFWEP) and GGTU Outreach joined together and launched one of the largest youth projects: the River Rats Kids Fly Fishing Camp! Beginning at Montana Tech nine boys and two girls, ages 15 to 17, started their week-long adventure. The first day began with CFWEP Executive Director Matt Vincent instructing the kids on what they would be expecting in the week to come. Then GGTU 's Bob Olson took the 11 kids down to the Tech football field for 3 hours and gave them instructions on fly casting.

Some of the kids had never touched a fly rod before and some had tried it a few times. Most picked up the basics really quickly. Later in the day Matt drove the group up to Georgetown Lake, where they stayed at the Campfire Camp in the Piney Point area on the lake for 3 days and two nights and they got to experience fishing at the lake. They then spent two nights at the Kalsta Ranch on the Big Hole River and were able to fish for two days. The River Rat Camp will again be held in August of 2010. Details will be available soon.

#### **GGTU Board of Directors**

Chris Bradley	Byron Mazurek
Doug Buskirk	Dave Mckernan
Gary Chatriand	Bob Olson
Lacrecia Chatriand	Marilyn Olson
Samm Cox	Paul Olson
Rich Day	Dick Oswald
Jim Gleason	Scott Reynolds
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**George Grant Chapter  
P.O. Box 563  
Butte, MT 59703**

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