

Free Flows

A Quarterly Publication of the BIG HOLE RIVER FOUNDATION Summer 2011

Dear Friends of the Foundation

The Big Hole River Foundation cordially invites you to our Sixth Annual Fundraising Dinner on Saturday, July 16th at the firemen's hall in Melrose, Montana.

The evening will begin at 5 PM with music by Mountain Moongrass Band followed by dinner and a live auction.

Dinner includes BBQ roast pork with all the trimmings by the Hitchin' Post Restaurant.

Tickets are \$30 each

Call 866-533-2473

Email bhrf@bhrf.org

BHRF, PO Box 3894, Butte, MT 59702

On-line at www.bhrf.org
by July 12, 2011

Your support of our mission is deeply appreciated.

Inside this issue: Invitation ~What Does That Mean? ~ Trips for Donations ~ Memberships & Donations ~ Merchandise ~ Species Spotlight ~ Big Hole River Day ~ Raft Raffle ~ Board Member News ~ Donor Challenges & Grant ~ Birding Along the Big Hole



Our Board of Directors

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pres@bhrf.org

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Chuck Bulen

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Black Jack Top by
George Grant
Photo by Colin Pittendrigh

BIG HOLE

JULY 16th, 9A

VENDORS - CRAFTS - CASTING

BIG HOLE RIVER FOUNDATION

President's Corner

Big Hole River Day, July 16 in Melrose, MT! This is what it is all about right now for the Big Hole River Foundation. This is the first time for this event which includes an evening banquet with a live band in lieu of our annual dinner in September. There will be vendors during the day, activities, casting, fly tying and rowing demonstrations, tours of the newly constructed diversion dam at Divide and our new river fencing project, and many other fun things going on. Please join us in Melrose for the day and evening and be part of this great family event. You will be helping to support the Big Hole River Foundation and the town of Melrose, and raise money and awareness in support of the Big Hole. Additionally, make sure you buy tickets for the 13' Otter raft we are raffling during the banquet. You can buy tickets from any board member, by calling (866-533-BHRF) or by going to our website (www.bhrf.org). Drawing for the raft winner as well as other items will take place during the banquet. The winner of the raft raffle need not be present to win.

In other news, Mike Bias gave a presentation at the last Big Hole Watershed Committee meeting on the Benthic Macroinvertebrate (BMI) project that the Foundation has been involved in since 2002. BMI's are "bugs" that live on the bottom of the river and are an important food source for fish as well as a good indicator of aquatic health. Watch for a summary of the current analysis of the data in the next newsletter and on our website. Tag returns from fish tagged by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks continue to come in. The fish tagging project was financed in part by the Foundation. As soon as FWP releases the data to us we will publish a summary in our newsletter.

I would also like to thank Craig Fellin who left the Board of Directors after several years of productive and tireless service—thanks Craig!! Please help me welcome new Board members Chuck Bulen, Wade Fellin and Joe McBride. These new members add fresh perspective and energy to help shape the future direction of the Foundation.

The Foundation has recently received two challenge funding sources, one for \$1000 (Cinnabar Foundation) and the other for \$7500 (private donor). Please consider making a contribution to help us match these funds. New resources such as these will help us add new projects and activities in the Big Hole watershed. As well as your contributions we always want to hear from you with ideas, comments and suggestions. Again, join us for Big Hole River Day on July 16th in Melrose, MT.

Steve

conserve

BIG HOLE RIVER DAY

10AM - 5PM MELROSE

ANGLING - TYING - RAFFLES - AUCTIONS - BBQ

REGISTRATION 866-533-2473, www.bhrf.org



THE RESIDENCE CLUB
AT MERIWETHER RANCH

HITCHIN' POST BAR &
RESTAURANT - MELROSE

Executive Director's Corner

Snow through the first week of June – come on! Here it is nearly July and people around the watershed are still looking at snowpack data. Wow, what a year. Second week of June and flows at Melrose topped 11,300 cfs. Predictions are that another peak is on the way.

Project-wise we are doing well as we head into summer. All the fence contracts are signed for the Carpenter Ranch *Stewardship Fence Project*. We are waiting for the contractor to fit the project into his busy schedule. Also remaining on the fence project is to draft a grazing management plan that will be suitable for the landowner and satisfies requirements of the funding sources.

The *Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring and Evaluation Project* was on hold through most of the winter waiting for approval of the final sampling plan from the state. That plan was recently approved and analysis resumed quickly. I recently presented preliminary results at the Big Hole River Watershed Committee meeting. From the bug data we can derive indices of river health that range from unimpaired to moderately impaired to severely impaired. Based on these indices, the Big Hole is in good shape, mostly unimpaired. However, some locations showed decline in indices from 2002 to 2008. I suspect this decline was from the many low water years the river experienced between 2002 and 2007.

A draft of our *River Map* was recently presented to the board. It will be a watershed map depicting fishing access sites, campgrounds, roads, tributaries, etc. We will sell it for retail at local sporting goods stores and shops. The board liked the draft and we are going full steam ahead. First edition should be available mid-summer.

This year's River Ambassadors are receiving new hats. Our *River Ambassador Program* uses the local community of guides and outfitters as outreach personnel to educate and promote conservation management practices to the angling public. These guides and outfitters are also instrumental in our trout movement and growth study. Many of the tag returns thus far have been tagged fish caught by clients. If you are interested in our *River Ambassador Program*, please contact me and we will get you signed up.

I want to thank Mr. Gary Bechtel of the Bechtel Foundation and Ruby Springs Lodge for their extremely generous donations to the Big Hole River Foundation. Thank you! Hope to see you all at Big Hole River Day.

Mike

Birding Along the Big Hole By Steve Parker



The 2011 Birding Along the Big Hole started out with rain again (surprise). Our group of birders started at Salmon Fly and took our time moving to Glen and then along the Burma Road. This year because of high water across the road we couldn't travel to Notch Bottom. The sun came out for a while in the afternoon between showers and some very good bird watching opportunities took place. From the Burma Road we headed north to Maiden Rock to find the White throated swift and finally to Divide Bridge for a couple of additional new birds for the day. After 12 hours of birding we recorded 73 species which is slightly down from last year's 76. New species added to the list (not seen in previous years) were the Ring-necked pheasant, American dipper, Clarks nutcracker and American Widgeon.



A full list of birds identified can be found on our website at www.bhrf.org. Please consider joining us next year for all or part of this day along the Big Hole.

Also, please consider making a pledge/donation to the Big Hole River Foundation to support all of our activities in the watershed.

Christopher Robin came down from the Forest to the Bridge, feeling all sunny and careless, and just as if twice nineteen didn't matter a bit, as it didn't on such a happy afternoon, and he thought that if he stood on the bottom rail of the bridge, and leant over, and watched the river slipping slowly away beneath him, then he would suddenly know everything that there was to be known.

- From Winnie-the-Pooh, by A.A. Milne

Fund-Raising Challenge Grants and Major Donations By Mike Bias

Mr. Gary Bechtel of the Bechtel Foundation challenged us to raise \$30,000 with a \$30,000 challenge of his own. The Bechtel Foundation will commit \$7,500 for our operations. As we raise our own funds and reach \$15,000, the Bechtel Foundation will provide an additional \$7,500. In addition, the Bechtel Foundation will commit to a 1:1 match up to an additional \$15,000 for any dollars the Big Hole River Foundation raises above \$15,000. The end result is that the Bechtel Foundation is providing a 1:1 challenge match to us up to \$30,000. Mr. Bechtel said, "Although I haven't spent much time in or around the Big Hole River, I strongly believe in the type of work you are doing and want to support it."

Recently we received a generous \$10,000 donation from Ruby Springs Lodge near Sheridan, Montana. Their donation is slated to help with our work to restore westslope cutthroat trout in the Big Hole River watershed. Westslope cutthroat trout are the only native trout to the Big Hole drainage and persist in less than 5% of their historic habitat. In the Big Hole, only

four non-hybridized populations of westslope cutthroat trout occupying fewer than 15 miles of stream are considered secure (i.e., free from the threats of non-native species). Ruby Springs funding also helps us offset startup costs for Big Hole River Day. They also provided the initial challenge funding for our River Ambassador Program, Trout Movement Study, and the Stewardship Fence Program.

Also, the Cinnabar Foundation recently challenged us to raise \$1,000 to match their challenge grant to us of \$1,000. The Big Hole River Foundation last received a grant from the Cinnabar Foundation in 2003. This year's proposal was successful from a field of over 80 applicants.

It goes without saying that we will continue our work and look for opportunities to match the Ruby Springs donation, the Bechtel Foundation's generous challenge, and the Cinnabar Foundation's challenge. Right now is a great time to support the Foundation as every dollar will be matched at least once.

protect

Big Hole River Foundation

and the

Town of Melrose

present

Big Hole River Day

Melrose, MT

July 16, 2011

Pancake breakfast	8 AM	Workshops and seminars	11 AM	
Vendors, arts and crafts	9 AM	Tours of diversion dam & fence project	12 PM	
Fly tying, casting and rowing demos	10 AM	Music by Mountain Moongrass band	5 PM	
BBQ dinner, auction & raffle drawing				6 PM

Raffle

13' NRS self bailing raft with frame, 3 seats and oars. Tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100

BBQ

Annual fundraising banquet BBQ dinner by Hitchin' Post. Roast pork and all the trimmings.

Auctions

Silent and live auction items including float trip, artwork, angling related items and much more.

Big Hole River Foundation

PO Box 3894

Butte, MT 59702

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THE RESIDENCE CLUB
AT MERIWETHER
RANCH

Uncle Bob's Outdoors, Inc.

Annual Kid's Day



character

y on the Big Hole



What Does That Mean? Piscicide and Depauperate

In our Winter 2011 edition, Jim Olsen provided an article about the cutthroat trout and proposed restoration of westslope cutthroats in the Big Hole River drainage. Two terms that were mentioned in that article were piscicide and depauperate.

A piscicide is a chemical substance which is poisonous to fish. The primary use for piscicides is to eliminate a dominant species of fish in a body of water, as the first step in attempting to populate the body of water with a different fish. They are also used to combat parasitic and invasive species of fish.

Examples of piscicides include rotenone, saponins, TFN (3-trifluoromethyl-4-nitrophenol), niclosamide, Bayluscide (a proprietary name for the ethanolamine salt of niclosamide), and Fintrol.

Depauperate means having stunted growth (plants or fish), impoverished or having limited biodiversity.

Retiring Board Member

Craig Fellin has resigned from the Board of Directors after two years of active participation with our projects. He will support our endeavors in the future as a member of the Foundation. Craig's son Wade has agreed to serve on the Board to continue the good work and interests of his father and more. Thank you Craig for all that you have done for the Foundation.

New Board Members



Chuck Bulen

Chuck and his wife Roxie purchased the Sportsman Motel & RV in Melrose, MT five years ago. They visited southwest Montana many times and are very happy that they now live in the Big Hole Valley.

"I lived in Minnesota and worked for a large contract machining company as purchasing and materials manager. Most of my free time was spent fishing on Minnesota's many lakes and rivers and camping. Now I enjoy spending free time fishing and floating the Big Hole."

"I believe the Big Hole River is a treasure and one of the most beautiful rivers in this country. I am excited about my membership on the board of directors and helping to conserve and protect this wonderful resource."



Wade Fellin

Wade grew up in Montana, fishing in the summers and skiing in the winters, and has worked as a fishing guide with his father for the past eleven years. This will be his sixth season guiding for Big Hole Lodge.

Wade's enthusiasm, engaging personality and sincere enjoyment of teaching, along with his strong work ethic, have allowed him to make his mark as an excellent guide amidst the seasoned staff.

Wade spent the past four years fishing the limestone streams of Pennsylvania where he earned degrees in management and philosophy from Bucknell University, and will spend the next three years fishing the waters around Missoula and attending law school.



Joe McBride

Joe was born and raised in Butte and left after college. He lived in Chicago and moved to Minneapolis in 1971 to work for Dain, Kalman, and Quail which eventually became RBC Wealth Management. Joe was a Financial Consultant for 39 years and wore an additional hat as branch manager for the last 20 years in Rochester, MN. He has now retired and settled back in Butte.

"I've always felt that Montana was my home and I've returned a few times a year to fish, hunt and ski."

Joe has been married to his wife Libby for 19 years and has two sons, Joe a radiologist and Scott a patent attorney, and three grandchildren.

Help save paper and printing costs by going green

If you would prefer to receive our newsletter in digital PDF format only, please drop us a line at bhrf@bhrf.org with your email address asking to **GO GREEN**

Wish List

Would you like to be a Wish List sponsor for the Big Hole River Foundation?

We are looking for sponsors to underwrite some of our regular expenses so we can use more of our precious funds for projects on the ground. Thanks as always to our members and generous friends.

Newsletter: It costs approximately \$750 to mail each of the four editions of the newsletter. Sign up now to sponsor one or several editions.

Yearly Insurance: Our general liability insurance is \$899 per year and our D&O insurance is \$812 per year.

George Grant Display: Sponsor naming opportunity on the GG fly collection display at the Butte Chamber of Commerce is \$1,000 per year to cover cost of insuring the display. Get your name or your company's name on the display as a long term sponsor.

Planning a fishing trip to the Big Hole this year?

Let the Big Hole River Foundation be your travel agent. In conjunction with three of the finest lodges outfitting on the Big Hole River, the Big Hole River Foundation put together three amazing fly-fishing vacation packages available to you for your generous contribution to the Big Hole River Foundation. For a \$5,000 contribution you will receive a 4 night/3 day guided fishing package for two at Healing Waters Lodge and a lifetime membership to BHRF. For a \$7,000 contribution you will receive a 4 night/3 day guided fishing package for two at Ruby Springs Lodge and a lifetime membership to BHRF. And, for an \$8,000 contribution you will receive a 6 night/5 day guided fishing package for two at Craig Fellin's Big Hole Lodge and a lifetime membership to BHRF. The trip to Big Hole Lodge also includes tips, flies, wine and beer.

Guided fishing packages are good for one-year and subject to available openings at the respective lodges. Help support the important programs and projects of the Big Hole River Foundation, while doing what you planned on doing anyway – fishing the Big Hole River. For more information contact Mike Bias at mike@bhrf.org or (406) 925-2276.

Thank You

We are grateful for the following members and donors who have renewed or made recent contributions and gifts in support of our mission as of June 20 2011. Every effort has been made to maintain accuracy. If we have made any errors, please call 866.533.2473 or Email to bhrf@bhrf.org.

Donations

Paul & Jeanne Moseley - Ruby Springs Lodge
Bruce & Mary Ellen McPhee
Garth Haugland
Tom O'Laughlin
Roger Ogden
Anonymous
Troutfitters
Bill Watt
Warren Kappenberg
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Doug & Betty Barba
Marjorie Hart
Jim & Karen Giuliani
Donald Lodmell
Gil Merkel
Ray Weaver
William Lamb

Memorials

Judy Corbin in memory of Sherri Smith

River Ambassador

Justin Hartman, Michael Stack
Craig Fellin, Mike Marcum
Chris Bradley, George Goody
Chuck Bulen, Ryan Barba
Eric Thorson, Matt Bryn
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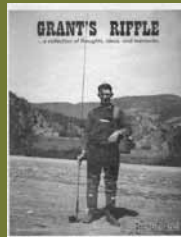
BHRF Merchandise

Books - The Big Hole River Foundation has books, tee shirts and hats for sale and all proceeds benefit the projects and programs of the Foundation. To order, please visit our website at www.bhrf.org or call us toll free at 866.533.BHRF or Email us at bhrf@bhrf.org and we will return your call.

Montana's Last Best River: The Big Hole and it's People by Pat Munday.
George Grant signed edition \$59.95
Dave Whitlock print edition \$49.95
Shipping and handling \$7.50

Books by George Grant
Grant's Riffle
Montana Trout Flies
The Art of Weaving Hair Hackles
\$20 each plus \$4.00 S&H
Ten Book Series - see website \$200

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Species Spotlight ~ Long-toed Salamander

Salamander adults are dark gray to black with an irregular (sometimes broken or rarely absent) green to yellow stripe down the middle of the back. The longest toe on the hind foot is longer than the sole.

Adult body length is 2 to 3.25 inches. Salamanders typically lay eggs in ponds in small clusters of 5 to 100 but may be laid singly. The larvae are brown, have three external gills and are less than 1.75 inches with a slender body.

Long-toed Salamanders are found in a variety of habitats from sagebrush to alpine. They typically breed in ponds or lakes, usually those without fish present.

Adults go to the breeding ponds immediately after snowmelt and in western Montana are usually the first amphibians to breed. Like all salamanders, they have internal fertilization. Following breeding, they move to adjacent uplands. Eggs hatch in 3 to 6 weeks and metamorphosis takes 2 to 14 months.



RIVER RAFT RAFFLE

Big Hole River Foundation RAFT RAFFLE



NRS 13' Otter Raft
with frame, seats & oars

No 001

Donation \$20 each or 6 for \$100
Drawing to be held at Big Hole River Day
BHRF Dinner on July 16th in Melrose, MT
Winner need not be present to win

If you would like to order tickets by mail, please fill out the form below, cut out and send to:

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PO Box 3894
Butte, MT 59702

Your tickets will be entered and a receipt will be sent to you.

We appreciate your help in making this raffle a success.

Thank you.

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Address: _____

Phone: _____ Qty: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Payment: Check Credit Card No: _____ Exp. Date: _____



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Please enroll me as a life member with a fully tax deductible gift to BHRF
Family Life \$600
Single Life \$300

Please enroll me at the following level:

- Free Flows (\$25)
- Maiden Rock (\$50)
- Wise River (\$75)
- Pintler (\$100)
- Grayling (\$250)
- Memorial Donation (include information)
- Cash Donation
- Merchandise Donation

Name:
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Phone:
Email Address:
Enclose check or credit card # & Expiration Date:

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