

THE LEADER



Published by the Joe Brooks Chapter of Trout Unlimited
December 2006



***Our next meeting is:
Christmas Party, Thursday, December 21
Elks Lodge, 130 South Second Street
(upstairs - next to bar)***

Christmas Party

Welcome back to another year of informative meetings with our annual Christmas Party kick-off. This meeting is a chance for members to meet and a chance for us to discuss this year's upcoming projects. All members are encouraged to bring half a dozen flies for a fly swap. There will be free food and a raffle for a new fly rod and other great prizes. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m.. Raffle tickets will be \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Livingston Elks Lodge-130 S. Second St., Livingston, MT.

Calendar of Events

- December 21 -- Christmas Party
- January 19 -- General Meeting
- February 16 -- First Cast at Livingston Summerfest
- March -- Cutthroat entrainment prevention project by FWP

President's Message

Welcome back to another meeting year. I hope everybody had a wonderful summer full of great fishing opportunities. I hope to hear some of your fishing experiences at the Christmas Party on December 21. I, along with the rest of the board of directors, hope to see you be as enthusiastic about what this chapter can accomplish. The health of the Yellowstone River is the responsibility of this chapter. Although the river is relatively healthy, there is always room for improvement. Take for example our proposed project to clean up the Wan-I-Gan dump site. Because the Wan-I-Gan was a major producer in our last two River Clean-Ups, the board of directors is planning a complete clean-up of the site. The project may take a few years, but it will not happen without participation from our members and the community. So join us for our meetings this year. Participate in the Clean-Up this year. Help us educate the community about what Trout Unlimited can do to improve the Yellowstone River and in turn the Greater Yellowstone Community as a whole.

Sincerely,

Tom Mason
President
Joe Brooks TU Chapter 25

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Growth of the Chapter

The board of directors is developing a focused plan for action over the coming years. Many ideas are proposed for the plan. These are a few things the board of directors has come up with: More participation from chapter members through a series of engaging projects that involve and improve the community. More interaction with the community through education programs and community related projects such as the Clean Up. An increase in membership to drive greater projects that go beyond the current means of our membership. An increase in funds to take on greater projects that go beyond our current financial means, such as the Wan-I-Gan dump site and the even larger Big Timber dump site. A more solidified budget to cut down on costs. A website and e-mail list serve to improve communication among chapter members and communication with the greater community.

These ideas are all possibilities. In many years past TU has been instrumental in projects that have vastly improved the Yellowstone River. Mayors Landing used to be the Livingston City dump site, but the Joe Brooks Chapter helped to stabilize the area from participating in backfilling and grading the site to creating a more fish friendly habitat on a reach of Fleshman Creek which borders the landing. A reach of Fleshman Creek in town, downstream of the lagoon was also improved by TU.

This plan is a work in progress and is for the chapter as a whole. Any members that have ideas about where this chapter should focus its efforts, please speak up. Contact any board member with your thoughts. Contact information for board members is on the back of this newsletter.

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Projects for 2007 (Tentative, others may be added)

Annual River Clean-Up -- Mid-April:

This is the event of the year for the chapter. In the past few years, our annual Weed Pull has been our major focus. Due to the success of the weed pull, the number of weed pulling sites has diminished. The Yellowstone River will always have garbage in it as long as there are people living along it. As the River Clean-Up progresses, the board of directors foresees a point when the only garbage collected along the river is accidental. To reach that point, we have many years of work ahead, because only so much garbage can be hauled by a drift boat. This event is also our new fund raiser. Much like the Weed Pull, chapter members will collect money from sponsors of the event. Those moneys collected will be directed toward the eventual clean up of the Wan-I-Gan dump site. To participate, please contact a board member or attend meetings for more information.

First Cast Program at the Livingston Summerfest -- Mid-July:

The First Cast Program is the TU fly fishing and conservation education program for kids. We set up a booth at the Summerfest and offer educational programs on entomology, fisheries biology, conservation, fly casting, fly tying and anything else that we can think of that is fly fishing and conservation related. This program has been growing in popularity from year to year. It is a great way for our chapter to have a more recognized face in the community. If you are interested in participating, contact any board member.

Joe Brooks Trout Unlimited Chapter 25 - Board of Directors

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