

THE LEADER



Published by the Joe Brooks Chapter of Trout Unlimited
March 2007



***Our next meeting is:
Thursday, March 15
Elks Lodge, 130 South Second Street
(upstairs - next to bar)***

March Meeting: Chamber of Commerce After Hours Event and Fishing in Alaska with Jamie Anderson

This month we are doubling up the duty of our general meeting. At 5:30, we will host a Chamber of Commerce After Hours Event as a fund raiser and volunteer drive for the Annual River Clean-Up. At 6:30, Jamie Anderson will begin his presentation on fishing in the Alaska. Jamie works at George Anderson's Yellowstone Angler and hosts many of their trips to various destinations around the world. Jamie has presented to us before, and his programs are very entertaining and detailed. The meeting will be Thursday, March 15. There will be a separate raffle for Chamber members in attendance at the After Hours event. We will also have our general raffle after Jamie's presentation. Raffle tickets for the general raffle will be \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Donations for dinner would be appreciated. Livingston Elks Lodge-130 S. Second St., Livingston, MT.

Calendar of Events

- March 15 – General Meeting and Chamber of Commerce After Hours: Presentation at 6:30 p.m.; Fishing Alaska – Jamie Anderson of George Anderson's Yellowstone Angler
- March 24 – Beaver Dam Piping
- April 14 – Yellowstone River Clean-Up
- April 19 – General Meeting: TBA
- May 17 – General Meeting: History of Fly Fishing in West Yellowstone – Bob Jacklin
- Mid-June – TU Kid's Camp @ Georgetown Lake
- Mid-June – Weed Pull with Park County Board of Realtors
- July 21 – First Cast at Livingston Summerfest

President's Message

This is probably the busiest time of year for our chapter. Our fund raising efforts are at a peak and planning for all of our projects over the coming months is very intense. In addition, our participation with the state council of TU is ramped up during this current state legislative session. But at the core, fund raising is our biggest concern right now. With that in mind, every member can do their part in the next month leading up to the River Clean-Up. In this newsletter we have included documents to help members collect donations of support for the Clean-Up and other projects we do to conserve cold water fisheries. In this newsletter we also have information about some new projects we have taken on and new contacts we have made in support of future projects that may have a large impact on the river as a whole. Please read on about all of the exciting work we have been doing.

Sincerely,
Tom Mason
President
Joe Brooks Trout Unlimited Chapter 25

Chamber of Commerce After Hours

To help raise funds, the board has enrolled our chapter in the Livingston Area Chamber of Commerce. One of the services available to the chapter as a member of the Chamber is their After Hours program. Chamber members are invited to these networking events to promote their businesses. In our case, it is a chance for us to approach businesses for donations. To help the chapter with this endeavor, we hope to have members attend the event, which precedes this month's general meeting.

Yellowstone River Conservation District Council (YRCDC)

In last couple of weeks we have been in contact with the YRCDC on the possibility of working together on future projects that involve the preservation of the Yellowstone River. The group is a coalition of all conservation districts that border the Yellowstone River from the Wyoming border to the North Dakota border. In each of these conservation districts are multiple watershed groups that have an interest in preserving the Yellowstone River and its tributaries. The YRCDC is a great source for planning, funding and land owner cooperation. We really look forward to working with them in the future.

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Projects for 2007

NEW PROJECT!!! Armstrong Spring Creek Habitat Improvement Project – Currently in process:

Two months ago Justin O'Hair of Armstrong Spring Creek in Paradise Valley, approached the board about assistance in funding a planned habitat improvement project on the creek during the month of February. The board reviewed the plans and voted to donate \$1,000 to the project. Later in the spring, we may also need on the ground volunteers for revegetation of areas of the bank that may be affected by the use of a backhoe. The project entails dredging and reshaping parts of the creek to return it to a state similar to pre-flood ('96-'97 flood events). This project will clear silted in spawning areas and create new areas of fish cover. On the heels of this project, the board is also looking into participating in or assisting in funding similar projects on other spring creeks in the valley. If any member wishes to participate in revegetation or has comments on this project, please contact any board member.

Beaver Dam Piping on Fleshman Creek – March 24 and 25:

The date is set and materials are ready. We currently have three volunteers for this project and could use one or two more. This project usually takes 1 to 2 days, dependent on weather. For more information on exact time of this project, contact Tom Mason.

Annual Yellowstone River Clean-Up – April 14:

A flier and donation letter and form should be included in this newsletter. Feel free to make your own copies, or more copies can be obtained from our treasurer Jeff Welke, at Dan Bailey's. At this point it appears we should have enough volunteers for the project, but we still need to collect funds for this and many other projects. If every member is able to collect at least one donation we would be in pretty good shape, but members shouldn't stop there. Think of all of the businesses you frequent, all of those people you know who wish they could do more for the community, or even yourself. All donations should be sent to the chapter PO Box on the back of this newsletter or donations can be turned in to any board member for collection. Otherwise, the Clean-Up is set to start at 8 a.m. at Sweetwater Fishing Company on Highway 89 South just outside of Livingston (just north of the Pop Stand on the same side of the highway). Shuttles and, hopefully, lunches will be provided again this year. For those who participate, there will be a barbecue to follow at the same location at 2:30 p.m. We are looking into having a band perform and having a nice raffle prize. Expect to spend a good portion of your day on the river and enjoying the festivities planned afterwards. If you can't make it to the general meetings, you can contact Chad Yoakam or Tom Mason about participating.

First Cast Program at the Livingston Summerfest – July 21:

The chapter has reserved a spot at the Summerfest for this program. We have a booth located in an area with plenty of room to practice casting. Now we just need volunteers to man the booth. Volunteers don't need to be particularly experienced at fly casting or fly tying. Remember, you will be teaching children that have never done this before. If you are interested in participating, contact any board member.