

Madison River Ranch Newsletter

Madison River Ranch Association

June 2020



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We hope you enjoy this issue!

From the desk of MRR Board President John Graifemberg

As stated in the notice of this year's annual members meeting, the format of the meeting will be modified due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The board is asking for members that attend the meeting to practice distancing, wear masks, bring hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes. Bring your own chair as rental chairs will not be provided. There will be no portapotty provided. Lunch will not be served. Vulnerable individuals including those 65 and older should stay at home. The only proposed business will be to approve last year's minutes, last year's budget and this year's proposed budget. Note that this year's budget is similar to last year's budget and the dues remain at \$285 per lot. The board strongly recommends that all members sign and return their proxy forms to Dana Dawson prior to the June 27th meeting in order to limit crowd size and thereby safeguard the health of your fellow members. As a reminder, members must have submitted a copy of their deeds to Dana Dawson in order to be eligible to vote.

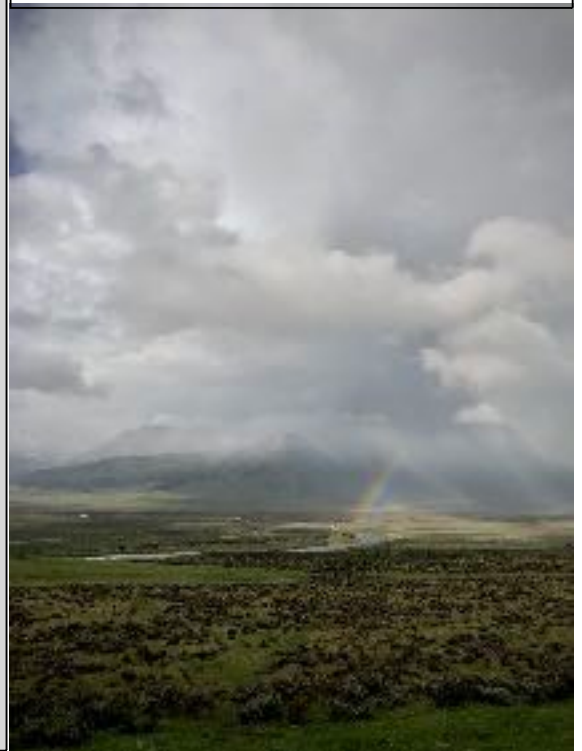
The state of Montana will be moving into Phase 2 requirements as of June 1, 2020. Information can be obtained at covid.mt.gov. Montana entrances to Yellowstone Park are scheduled to be open as of June 1, 2020.

Road grading, road easement mowing and weed spraying will continue this year similar to last year. Jonathon Ashcroft has agreed to spray individual lots again this summer. Owners that want their lots sprayed are to contact Jonathon directly. His contact information can be found under FAQ in the MRR website.

**The Annual MRR Association Meeting
will be held on Saturday, June 27
at 10:00 a.m.**

Cliff Lake Village Schoolhouse

**Please sign your proxy and send it to
Dana Dawson
192 Madison Trail
Cameron, MT 59720**



Has Catch and Release Gone Overboard?

by Gene Welch

This spring issue of *Montana Outdoors* is about fishing and more than trout, but the article that would interest MRR anglers most is, "Has catch-and-release gone overboard?" by Tom Dickson. He argues that killing a trout now and again may even improve the health of a fishery by allowing increased growth in the population, given that food supply is finite. However, he considers some catch/release essential for sustaining "renowned trout fisheries" (read Madison River).

Dickson did not mention the effect of catch and keep on the average size in the populations. Removing a 20 some inch 5 or 6-year-old trout takes a while to replace, keeping the big ones can lower the average size of a population, and a big one is the goal of most anglers. Slot limits and limits on larger fish existing on the lower river tend to compensate for that problem. However, Dickson points out that large trout may be reaching their end of life, so removing them may ultimately have little effect on population average size.

Then there is the issue of survival of released fish that were played too long, especially in water reaching mid-day temperatures in the high 60s, or deeply hooked. My observation is that mangled jaw bones are not that unusual in Madison fish. Dickson points out that each Madison rainbow trout is caught on average 4.5 times, and 8% of released fish die amounting to 32,000 fish per year.

Nevertheless, population estimates from FW&P's electrofishing at the three-mile stretch upstream from Lyon's Bridge, has shown population estimates from 2000 to 2015 (after recovery from whirling disease) of rainbows 14 inches and larger and browns 15 inches and larger averaging 400 and 550 per mile of stream length, respectively. To me, that's not enough good-size fish to withstand the large and increasing number of anglers without showing significant reduction in average size and/or population abundance even if the limit were even one or two fish per day. (I do not have more recent population estimates, because the fisheries biologist at Ennis who sent me annual reports has retired.)

Dickson's main point though is killing a trout, or a walleye especially, should not be taboo, so long as the population is not overfished. He suggests that MT FWP's regulations take those aspects into account when they set the fishing regulations.

This magazine is published bimonthly by Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks and is generally split between fishing and hunting articles written by biologist and managers. The winter issue is especially great being completely of wildlife pictures. I certainly recommend it.

Gene



Cooking with Martha

By Martha Crawley

Hi Neighbors. This recipe is super easy, and an old family favorite. Good enough for company too! The recipe was originally from my dear mother-in-law, Bernadine Fearon Crawley, a wonderful cook and beloved mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother. Enjoy it, and see you on the ranch!

Spaghetti with Clam Sauce

2 cloves garlic, crushed

2/3 c. olive oil

1 c. bottled clam juice

¼ t. salt

Fresh cracked pepper

½ t. oregano

2 cans minced clams

½ c. chopped parsley

½ c. minced green onion tops

1 lb spaghetti or vermicelli, cooked according to pkg. directions

Parmesan cheese

Saute garlic in oil. Add clam juice, salt, pepper and oregano. Simmer 5 minutes.

Add clams with their own juice. Cook uncovered, about 10 minutes, so liquid will reduce.

Mix in parsley and onion. Toss half of sauce with pasta and top with rest of sauce and Parmesan.

Introducing...Scott and Sue McMahan



Hello, we have been asked to give a brief introduction to the McMahan family, and our history here in the Madison Valley and on the Madison River Ranch.

Our family consists of Brian, now 28, Michael, now 33, and Sue and Scott their proud parents. Scott was a dentist and Sue was the office manager of their dental practice in San Diego, California from 1984 to 2016. We were married in 1986 and lived and raised our family in the beautiful Sunset Cliffs area of Ocean Beach. We lived near the ocean for 34 years. The family loved to surf and enjoyed many wonderful days on the beach.



We sold our dental practice in 2016 when Scott semi-retired. We both fully retired in 2018 and sold our home in San Diego. We built a new home in Mesquite Nevada . We live there in the fall and winter, but come to Montana in the spring and summer to avoid the heat. We do occasionally snowmobile in to enjoy the solitude and beautiful white landscape.

Our son Brian, graduated from Northern Arizona University, in Flagstaff, with a BS degree in electronic media and film, with an emphasis in documentaries. He still lives and works in San Diego. Our son Michael, graduated from Cal Poly University, San Luis Obispo with a BS degree in earth science. He lives and works for an environmental engineering company in San Antonio Texas. He will be a professional geologist this Fall. He will be receiving his Masters degree from University of Texas, San Antonio this Fall in Geology and Hydrology.

As a family we began coming to Montana and Wyoming in the early 90's to pursue various char and salmonids and to enjoy the outdoor wonders of the "last best place on earth"!! We took several vacations at dude ranches all over Southwest Montana and Wyoming. We all enjoyed hiking, fishing, rafting, camping, boating and horseback riding. We fell in love with the Madison valley. So, it came to pass, we

decided to purchase lot 68 on the Madison River Ranch in the fall of 2000. We started to build our cabin in June of 2004 with our sons, nephews and other family help. We built it in 2 weeks! Well it was shelled in! Over the next many years we have added a garage and guest space and recently a greenhouse. We have so enjoyed our garden this year.



Continued on page 4

Scott and Sue McMahan, continued from page 3

Sue has served on the Madison River Ranch board for two terms as the treasurer. Scott loves to fish and work on construction projects, in that order, while here. We both love the outdoors and like to travel and have new adventures. We are happy here with our small place and all our nice neighbors. We hope to expand our cabin soon- since we are spending more time here. We have enclosed some photos for your enjoyment. This is a beautiful place to be.

We hope you and your families are all well and healthy. Take care, happy trails, and we look forward to seeing all of you on the ranch.

Scott and Sue



Many thanks to all the helpers that make MRR such a special place to be: Board Members, weed sprayers, trash collectors, photographers, web designers, road crews, trash collectors, gate keepers, delivery trucks and mail delivery people, newsletter contributors, and YOU.



Link to Madison River Ranch website:
<http://www.madisonriverranch.org>

**MRR
Board of Directors**

John Graifemberg, President
Lot 61

Dana Dawson, Secretary
Lots 64A, 64B, 95

Sue McMahan, Treasurer
Lot 68

**Mike Carpenter,
Vice President**
Lot 40

Marv Gibbs, Webmaster
<http://www.madisonriverranch.org>

Ann Costello, Newsletter Editor
noniann@gmail.com



Don't forget:
The gate combination is #1004
Fed Ex and UPS box combination is 5971



We need your help!
It's your turn to write about your family and MRR Property! People are interested to know what drew you to the Madison River Valley and to Madison River Ranch. Please contact Ann Costello, newsletter editor if you are willing to contribute, noniann@gmail.com Thanks!

