

2001

# AWRA



## NEWSLETTER

**Come...** join us in Missoula for the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Montana section **AWRA** meeting! We have a field trip highlighting Glacial Lake Missoula planned as the conference kick-off. Then, enjoy presentations on topics ranging from drought, fires and water quality to diurnal cycling of metals to characterization and assessment of water quality for Montana water resources. Prior to the banquet mingle during the happy hour while viewing and discussing the poster presentations. This year, we'll be voting on "Best Poster Presentation and Best Photos" – see more on this from Vice President Larry Dolan. During the banquet, listen to Gary Frank and Bruce Simms highlight the federal and state approach to handling the Bitterroot Fire Complex. On Friday, after listening to more great presentations, we'll have a brief regulatory update and wrap up the conference with the announcement of our new officers. I'm looking forward to seeing you there!

– Donna Rise, President

### Glacial Lake Missoula

This year's pre-meeting field trip will explore Glacial Lake Missoula features. The story of Glacial Lake Missoula and the large floods associated with its cataclysmic draining are popular interpretative themes for western Montana – the shorelines etched into the hillsides above Missoula are among the more dramatic examples of its presence. Field trip stops will examine shoreline features, glacial lake sediments and the geologic setting of the Missoula area. Join us as we tour the legacy of the "ice-age floods!" We will leave from the front of the Holiday Inn Parkside (conference head-quarters) At 8:00 a.m. and will return by noon. – John LaFave, Secretary/Treasurer



### 2000 Conference Highlights

A picturesque setting, great food, and, as usual, excellent presentations – these I think describe the truly awesome 2000 AWRA Conference held in West Yellowstone. Led by our newest

Water Legend Steve Custer, we kicked off the conference with a field trip into the Park. The field trip was followed by a wide array of quality presentations. I think we successfully over-came the problems we encountered with Power Point in 1999, thanks to Kathy Stephens and Kim Johnson who served as audio-visual jockeys. Conference 2000 president Joanna Thamke suggested that the poster session be combined with happy hour and it turned out to be a great combination. And, we had a record turn-out for the banquet where Steve Custer was inducted as our latest Water legend.

– Donna Rise, President

# THURSDAY



# EVENING

### HAPPY HOUR

The fun will begin Thursday evening at 5:30 pm with the social hour and poster display. This will be the time to meet with your friends and associates, and to discuss the posters one-on-one with the presenters. A keg of free beer, soft drinks, and snacks will be available, and a cash bar will have wine and drinks for \$1.00 off the price.

### BANQUET

A buffet dinner will follow at 7:00 pm with the following choice of entrees: chef carved beef or baked salmon. The fires of 2000 will be the topic of our banquet speakers Gary Frank (DNRC, Sula State Forest) and Bruce Sims (USFS Regional Hydrologist). They will provide an overview of the Valley Complex Fires that burned in the Bitterroot Valley and present recovery and rehabilitation highlights from the state and federal perspective. It should be an interesting and timely presentation. – Larry Dolan, Vice President and John LaFave, Secretary/Treasurer

### & POSTER PRESENTATIONS





## Photo Contest

Have you ever taken a great water resources photo that you just wanted to share with everyone? Or maybe you've captured one of our members courageously in action on film. An added event to this years **happy hour** will be a water resources photo contest and we need your help in compiling the photos. We are looking for photos of the following categories:

- Field Work
- Historical (for example, our water legends in action early in their careers)
- Scenic water resources
- Hydrologic extremes (for example, flood and drought)
- What are they doing? (that is, our members busy with serious work that is inexplicable to anyone but them)

Send us the serious and the comical, the flattering and the embarrassing, the best and the worst, the snapshots that portray who we are and what we do! Photos will be displayed at the happy hour and awards will be given for the best photo in each category.

Please send your photos to Larry Dolan at DNRC, 48 North Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59620-1601. All photos will be returned after the conference. Or send scanned or electronic photos by e-mail to Larry at [ldolan@state.mt.us](mailto:ldolan@state.mt.us). - *Larry Dolan, Vice President*

### Missoula – The Garden City

Things to see and do around

I occasionally take on some unusual assignments. Like this one for example. I was asked to write a column on Missoula Montana knowing very little about it besides the occasional drive through to get back home or one day meetings with little time for exploring. But hey, I'm always up for a challenge. The joy of investigating the unknown, collecting an odd assortment of data and putting it all together. Or, a quicker route – contacting everyone I know that's ever lived in Missoula and compiling their suggestions. So here you have it. Notes from Missoula natives.

While **driving** around town, note the Missoula Aquifer Signs positioned around town saying how far down it is to the aquifer.



**Hike** the **Mt Sentinel Trail** (at UM) – see prairie restoration efforts.

<http://www.umt.edu/sentine>

**Visit Old Fort Missoula**, home of the Montana Natural History Center and a prairie restoration project.

<http://www.thenaturecenter.org/>

**Hike** along **Rattlesnake Creek** into the Rattlesnake Recreation area **or hike Pattee Canyon** and see USFS ecosystem management on the ground, both just a few miles from campus. **Or hike the Kim Williams trail** along the Clark Fork River (starts at the UM campus and runs to Milltown Dam).

**Tour** Missoula's award winning **waste water treatment plant**



(hear about plans to add Biological Nutrient Removal – and see pilot wetland cells being tested by a UM student).

<http://www.awra.org/state/montana>



When was the last time you took a peak at our website? Kathy is continually adding, refining and updating our site and it looks great! Take a moment to check it out. Then, let Kathy know what you think. - *Donna Rise, President*

**Visit the Hob Nob Café** in the Historic Union Club at 208 E. Main.



Take a virtual tour of Glacial Lake Missoula at <http://www.forestry.umt.edu/nts/personnel/mattj/glm/home.htm>

⇒ Check out these websites for additional ideas ⇐ about hiking, museums, art galleries, and places for dining and entertainment:

<http://www.exploremissoula.com/welcome/html>  
<http://www.missoula.com/>  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/bitterroot/>  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo/>  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead/>



Thanks to all who returned my frantic e-mails and calls with their helpful suggestions. Special thanks to Vicki Watson, Kelly (Sullivan) Livingston, Mike McLane and Velda Welch for their input on "Things to See and Do Around Missoula..." - *Kathy Stephens, Information Officer*