

American Water Resources Association
Montana Section
c/o The Water Center
101 Huffman Bldg.
Montana State University
Bozeman, Montana 59717



August 2003 Newsletter

Join us in Butte for the 2003 Montana AWRA Conference!

Butte America, is host to this year's Montana AWRA conference—join us at the Red Lion Hotel for the annual gathering of Montana's water community.

A pre-meeting field trip to the Montana Resources Inc. mine and the new Horseshoe Bend water treatment plant will start things off this year (registration is limited, see below). Then we stretch our two-day format to the limit as a result of a record number of abstract submittals. A plenary session highlighting Superfund issues in the Butte area will open the conference followed by concurrent sessions dealing with ground water, surface water, watershed management, and floodplain issues. We will also be breaking new ground with "web-talks" in a session devoted to internet-based water information. The pool-side and adjoining patio will be the scene for the

Thursday afternoon Social Hour/Poster Session. And... you talked, we listened. The Pig is back! (and so is dessert); roast pork tops the menu for Thursday's banquet. The conference will wrap up Friday at noon with a special presentation from AWRA Water Legend Phil Farnes concerning climate change in Montana. It's a full slate, don't miss it!

I'd like to sign off by thanking the Montana Water Center and Gretchen Rupp for their unfailing support of AWRA and acknowledge the efforts of May Mace, Susan Higgins, and Sue Faber who make this conference work. Finally, I'd encourage anyone interested to get involved—it is a fun and rewarding experience to work with such a dynamic and diverse organization. See you in Butte!

John LaFave, President

Field Trip Planned at Horseshoe Bend Treatment Plant

This year's field trip will provide a unique opportunity to tour the new Horseshoe Bend Treatment Plant. Montana Resources and ARCO have contracted to build this state-of-the-art facility to treat Horseshoe Bend water (flows into the Berkeley Pit), water from the Continental Pit, and eventually, the Berkeley Pit water. The plant should be in the final stages of construction or on-line at the time of the trip. After the plant tour we will view other points of interest at the mine including: the Horse Bend Springs, the Yankee Doodle tailings impoundment and the Continental Pit. Representatives from Montana Resources, Montana Tech and the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology will lead the trip. This is a chance to see the mine like

you've never seen it before. Vans will depart from the Red Lion Hotel at 8:30 am and return by noon.

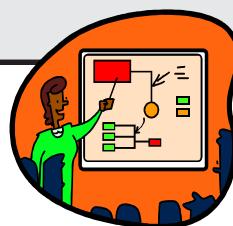
NOTE #1: Montana Resources is furnishing the bus and driver for the mine tour, therefore space is limited; sign-ups for the field trip will be accepted on a "first come" basis.

NOTE #2: To tour the Horseshoe Bend Treatment Plant **you must have a hardhat, safety glasses and steel-toed shoes.** These items will not be provided -- you must provide them yourself.

John LaFave, President

Thursday Evening Activities

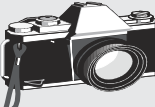
- * Happy Hour and Poster Presentations
- * Banquet featuring "The Return of the Pig"
- * Photo Contest Awards



After the field trip and an afternoon of stimulating presentations, relax and unwind during our pool-side social hour and poster session which starts at 5:30 pm. To initiate the discourse, we will provide a keg of free beer and wine, along with pop and snacks. A cash bar will also be available. Visit with friends and associates and view the many excellent posters describing Montana water resource activities and investigations of 2003. A buffet dinner, featuring roast pig and cobbetts, follows at 7:00 pm.

Chuck Dalby, Secretary-Treasurer

Find agenda, hotel and registration information at <http://www.awra.org/state/montana>

Photo

Contest

Attention all shutterbugs! The 2003 conference will feature a photo contest, with winning photos displayed during the Thursday evening banquet activities. Like last year, biased and subjective judges make up the selection panel just to keep things interesting. The high-quality prizes the contest is known for will be awarded to the first, second and third place winners. Digital, print or slide formats are all acceptable. Typical subjects in past contests include the following topics, but use your imagination, too:

- * Scenic Montana water resources
- * Colleagues, mentors, students engaged in serious or not so serious field data collection postures
- * Elder or legendary dignitaries caught in a candid moment
- * Hydrologic extremes -- storms, floods, drought, and the like
- * Noteworthy water-related engineering victories or defeats

The contest is free of course, and prints and slides will be scanned with originals returned. Mail entries to: David Salo, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, 1820 Meadowlark Lane, Butte, MT 59701, or send digitals to: dsalo@fs.fed.us. *David Salo, Vice President*



ABOUT BUTTE

Butte sits over a mile high at the very headwaters of the Clark Fork River, making this mining city a prime location for those wishing to explore recreational, historic, and geologic wonders. Butte holds claim as one of the largest National Historic Landmark Districts in the U.S. It is nearly encapsulated by the Continental Divide, with the Highland Mountains making a presence to the south. National Forest, BLM and other public lands provide many opportunities for outdoor adventure in any direction. Within Butte, the historic section of town includes Montana Tech and the Mineral Museum; the World Museum of Mining; tours of such elegant places like the Copper King Mansion and the Arts Chateau; and performances at the Mother Lode Theatre. Of course, the Berkeley Pit and its viewing stand should not be missed either, where a gift shop offers copper keepsakes. Just south across the creek from the Red Lion is the paved Blacktail walking trail. Those interested in a historic collection of flies and memorabilia on George Grant (famous Butte flyfisher) could walk the 1½ miles west on the trail to the Visitor Center, open 9-5 M-F during October (1000 George St., www.butteinfo.org). Between the fall colors and its colorful past, October is a great time to visit Butte and the surrounding country.

2002 Conference Highlights

“The Future of the Yellowstone River” made up last year’s conference theme, a huge success with a record number of water professionals and students gathering in Livingston. Cool weather greeted participants on the field trip on the Upper Yellowstone River Valley, but the snow didn’t dampen the interest and enthusiasm in topics such as glacial and fluvial geomorphology led by Ken Pierce. Thursday evening activities included a well-attended poster session that just happened to coincide with happy hour. The free keg of beer didn’t last long, but the stimulating conversations carried over into the poolside banquet that featured excellent food. Bob Ross concluded the evening festivities with his unique blend of outhouse “photo humor” and cowboy poetry. The remaining conference hosted many quality presentations on various subjects related to the Yellowstone River, water management, ground and surface water quality, and environmental remediation. The attendance was overwhelming, making the 2002 conference another big success!

David Salo, Vice-President

~ Officers ~

The officers of MT-AWRA, who will serve through the 2003 conference, are:
 John LaFave, MT Bureau of Mines and Geology, President
 David Salo, Beaverhead-Deer Lodge National Forest, Vice-President
 Chuck Dalby, Montana DNRC, Secretary/Treasurer
 May Mace, Executive Secretary

The first three offices are elective, and we’ll be choosing a new Secretary/Treasurer at the Butte meeting (John LaFave will be leaving as president and David Salo and Chuck Dalby have indicated their willingness to move to the the next-highest office). **Who would you like to nominate for the incoming Secretary/Treasurer?** Are YOU interested? Feel free to call any of the AWRA Montana Section officers to find what’s involved. The responsibilities are modest and it’s fun!

We look forward to seeing you in Butte, America!