



**Conference highlights...**

On October 4 and 5, the 16th annual meeting of Montana's Section of AWRA, cosponsored by the University Water Center will be meeting in Great Falls at the Lewis and Clark Interpretative Center. The meeting will feature over 25 presentations on a variety of Montana's water issues. So pack your canoes and spend time meeting friends, learning what's new in water research, and drinking beer on the Lewis and Clark trail.

Registration begins at 11:00am on October 4 and the conference starts at noon. We will wine and dine Monday evening in the spirit of our forefathers at the Interpretative Center. The banquet will feature Native American cuisine. Although Lewis and Clark are long gone, we will honor another legend--Jane Holzer.

I would like to thank the AWRA board members who have contributed a lot of hard work to coordinate the conference this year. Join us for the FUN!

*Ginette Abdo, President*

**Our 4th Annual Water Legend is...**

**Jane Holzer** at the Montana Salinity Control Association. Jane has worked with MSCA for 20 years, 16 of those years as Program Director. While Jane hasn't got her gold watch from MSCA (she says she'll probably have to buy it herself), her contributions to Montana's water resources will be recognized at the Montana AWRA banquet on Monday, October 4th, 1999.

Past Water Legends include Phil Farnes, Marvin Miller and Ron Shields. The Water Legends are culled from AWRA membership nominations and AWRA officers make the final decision for the appropriate legend of the year. There is no age requirement; some folks achieve legendary status well before others. So, AWRA members, don't forget to consider nominations for our 5th Annual Water Legend in October 2000!

*Joanna Thamke, Vice-President*

**Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center...**

When Lewis and Clark arrived at the site of the Great Falls of the Missouri and discovered Giant Springs, they were at a loss for words in describing the magnificent natural phenomenon. The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center at Great Falls was constructed to help us comprehend this spectacular event along their journey. If you haven't visited the Center, then the Montana AWRA annual meeting will be extra special for you this year. Make sure to allot some time to take in the exhibits and stroll along the river to Giant Springs. Another highlight of this year's meeting

is the banquet on Monday evening. The Little Shell Band of the Chippewa Tribe is preparing a dinner featuring Native American foods such as salmon, buffalo stew, berry soup, and of course, fry bread. The banquet will give us a taste of the good food and warm hospitality that the Native Americans shared with the Lewis and Clark expedition 200 years ago.

*Carole Mackin, Sec/Treas.*

**An annual meeting we all look forward to..**

The Water Center is very proud of what AWRA has become, and very grateful for the energy and commitment of its dedicated leaders. (THANKS Ginette Abdo, Joanna Thamke, Carole Mackin and Kathy Stephens!) This annual meeting has truly become a meeting of minds--Montana's best and brightest water minds--and a stimulating occasion where everyone gets to learn what everyone else is doing. You can count on great conversation, fun events, and worthwhile exchanges among diverse sectors of Montana (government, academians, and watershed citizens, for example). A special highlight is paying homage to our worthy leaders who have selflessly paved the way for the rest of us. So, we hope to see you there. Bring friends and your water gear!

*Dorothy Bradley, Director  
Montana Water Center*

**WHAT'S NEW?**  
  
Pre-register now and avoid late fees at the door!! Your registration form and payment are due September 24th!  
  
Did you notice that the conference is on a MONDAY and TUESDAY this year?

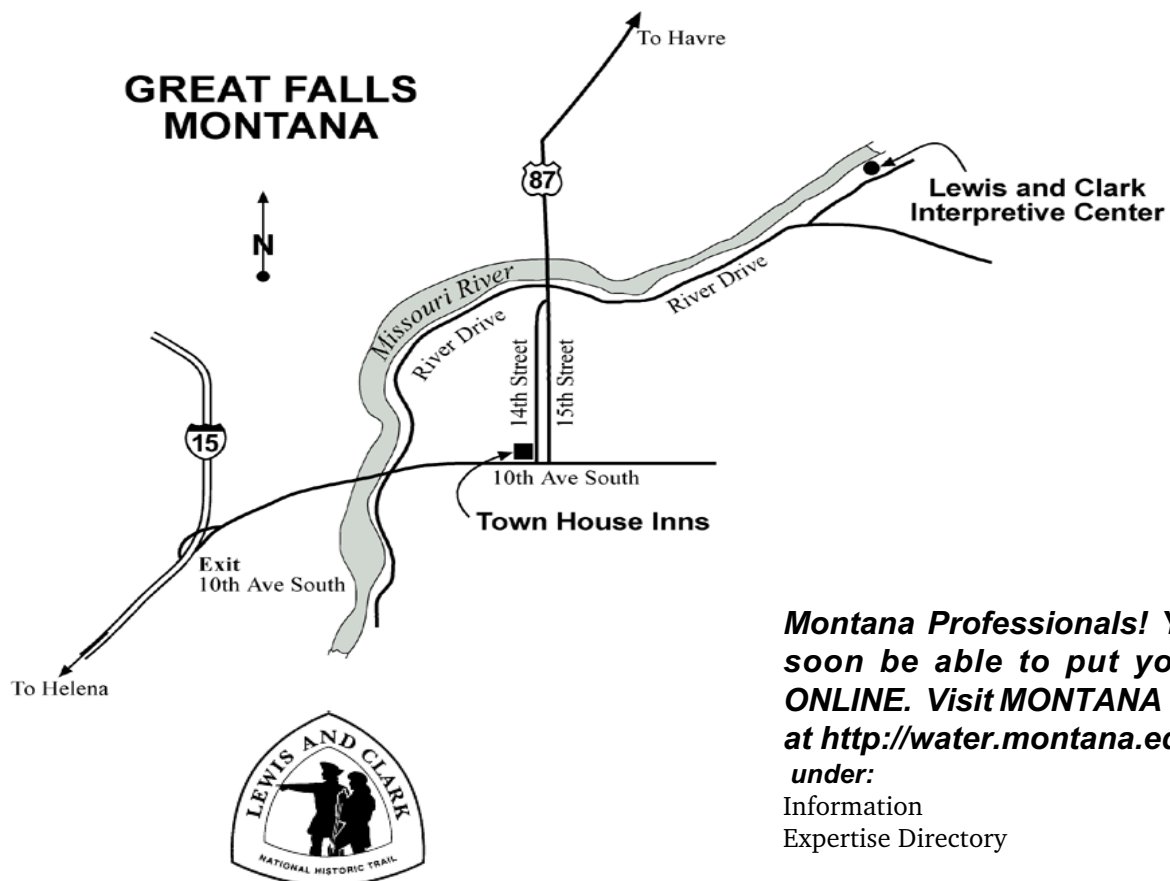
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## Water Sites Worth Visiting around Great Falls

If you are visiting the Great Falls area there is always plenty to do in town and around the immediate vicinity, but if you have the time, please get out and visit our beautiful sites. Some of these sites close enough for day trips include:

- Giant Springs Heritage State Park - Just down the road from the Interpretive Center, it has a fish hatchery and millions of gallons of fresh water bubbling out of the ground. Great picnic area.
- The "Great Falls" are located just one mile beyond Giant Springs.
- The Missouri River flows along Interstate 15 with several places to pull over and enjoy the scenery.
- Benton Lake Wildlife Refuge - 14 miles north of Great Falls US Highway 87. Great birdwatching.
- Freezeout Lake Wildlife Refuge - 30 miles northwest of Great Falls and 2 mile north of Fairfield on US Highway 89, another great bird sanctuary.
- The Sun River - west of Great Falls on US Highway 200. An excellent float trip with access sites near Fort Shaw.
- The Belt Creek Recreational area southeast of Great Falls along US Highway 89. Excellent hiking near the Little Belt Mountains, but bring shoes you can get wet in.
- Augusta is a longer trip 100 miles west of Great Falls and on to several reservoirs including Bean Lake, Nilan Reservoir and Gibson Reservoir.
- Don't forget bike trails along the Missouri!

Thanks to Alan Rollo Water for Site info!



**Montana Professionals! You will soon be able to put your info ONLINE. Visit MONTANA WATER at <http://water.montana.edu/> under:**

Information  
Expertise Directory

**Want to know more about Great Falls? Check out [www.city-of-great-falls.com/](http://www.city-of-great-falls.com/)**

**AWRA Montana Newsletter**

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### **WANTED:**

News items for the next AWRA - Montana Newsletter &/or WEB page. Send your best and brightest ideas, projects, stories, guest editorials, and photos to Ginette Abdo.



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