AUGUST 2004 Newsletter

Helena’s the Place on October 4 and 5 for the 2004 Montana Section AWRA Conference

Once again, it’s time to mark your calendar for the annual meeting of the Montana section of the American Water Resources Association. This year, the Montana AWRA conference will take place in our fair city of Helena. Join us for what promises to be yet another outstanding agenda of presentations: a chance to network with colleagues, friends and associates; a festive happy hour; and a scrumptious banquet. It’s all taking place at the Red Lion Inn on October 4 and 5.

To start things off, a field trip to the Canyon Ferry Reservoir area south of Helena will offer a superb chance to view the area and interact with specialists involved with fire-induced watershed effects (see related article). Bus seating is limited, so assure yourself a place by sending your conference registration in early.

The plenary session will introduce this year’s theme, “Montana’s Water Outlook – Current and Future Challenges.” We’re excited to welcome Jane Jelinski to the podium. She is Director of the Montana Local Government Center and will address challenges faced by policymakers in decisions involving urban growth and water resources planning. After her presentation, we’ll keep you... Our Happy Hour features poster presentations but, of course, includes complimentary beer from a local brewery in addition to wine, soft drinks and munchies. Entertainment will feature local musicians “Irish Stew” playing Celtic music. After the happy hour festivities, the banquet begins, with a great Western buffet and slide show afterwards. Plan on taking it all in!

We thank May Mace, our AWRA Montana section secretary, for all of her hard work to manage membership and registration. And, once again the Montana Water Center has been instrumental in its support of the Montana Chapter of AWRA and the annual conference. Sue Higgins and Sue Faber deserve special recognition. I’m especially pleased with the officers serving this year as well. It’s a rewarding experience to work with a great bunch of folks. Looking forward to seeing you in Helena!

Dave Salo, 2004 President

Monday’s Pre-Meeting Field Trip: Wildfire-Related Floods and Debris Flows in the Canyon Ferry Area near Helena, Montana

Wildfire consumed thousands of acres south of Helena during the extreme fire season of 2000. In response to thunderstorms during the summers of 2001 and 2002, mountainous watersheds adjacent to Canyon Ferry Reservoir have been hit by impressive flooding and debris flows. Please join us as we tour the Canyon Ferry area and view the impacts of the fires, floods and debris flows. Tour guides Chuck Parrett (U.S. Geological Survey), Bo Stuart (U.S. Forest Service) and others will lead stimulating discussions of the post-fire flood hydrology, hydraulics of debris flows, values-at-risk, post-fire treatments and local management implications. As this promises to be a popular field trip, we encourage you to register as early as possible so we can ensure sufficient accommodations. Vans (or busses) will leave the Red Lion Colonial Inn parking lot promptly at 8:00 am and return by noon.

David Salo, President

Monday Evening: Happy Hour... Posters... Banquet... Photos...

The fun begins Monday evening at 5:30 p.m. with the social hour and poster session. Come and enjoy the unique and accomplished music of “Irish Stew,” a local Celtic group lead by AWRA member Jane Horton and Doug Holly. Take this opportunity to join your friends and associates, discuss the past years’ activities, and visit one-on-one with poster presenters. We will provide keg(s) of free beer, wine, pop and snacks. A cash bar will also be available at reduced prices. Following Happy Hour, a Western buffet dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. Don’t forget about the post-banquet photo contest presentation!

Kate McDonald, Treasurer
Photo Contest . . .

One of the many highlights of this year’s meeting is the Photo Contest. You are encouraged to share with fellow AWRA members your noteworthy photographs of past and current exploits. Almost anything related to water resources is fair game. Past years’ categories have included:

- Scenic and not-so scenic water resource renditions
- Field-work related trials and tribulations
- Humans vs. nature
- Hydrologic extremes—storms, floods, fires, droughts
- Candid camera

The photo contest is free. Digital (preferred), print or slide formats are acceptable (prints and slides will be scanned and the originals returned). Photos will be presented on PowerPoint at the banquet, and there are AMAZING prizes in store for first, second and third place winners. Judging will be done by a distinguished panel of self-proclaimed experts. If participation is lacking, a brief (45 min) back-up photo essay titled “My Dog Tip” will be presented—so please submit your photos! Mail entries by September 25 to: Chuck Dalby, DNRC-WRD, 1424 9th Ave, P.O. Box 201601, Helena, MT. 59620-1601 or send digital photos to cdalby@state.mt.us. Dave Salo has also agreed to present a feature slide show on watershed management in Madagascar.

About Helena

Helena is best known as Montana’s Capital City and political center – it is the home of the Montana Legislature, Governor and state and federal government. Helena is also known for its historical roots and cultural, educational and recreational resources. Native Americans and fur trappers were early, occasional residents of the Helena Valley, but Helena’s origin stems mainly from the “Four Georgians” who “struck it rich” on Last Chance Gulch in the mid-1860’s. Once the placer was exhausted, its geography allowed various businesses to flourish, along with farming and ranching and after a hard fought battle with Anaconda, it became the state capital in 1894. Historic resources worthy of visits include the Original Governor’s Mansion, the newly remodeled State Capital, Montana Historical Society Museum and bookstore (located in the Capital complex), and the Last Chance Gulch (the Downtown Walking Mall).

Helena’s strategic location in the Rocky Mountains and proximity to the Missouri River provide for abundant and diverse recreational opportunities which include biking, hiking, camping, climbing, skiing, ice-skating, fishing, swimming, canoeing, windsurfing, and hunting. Helena is also home of the Governor’s Cup running races and the 300-mile “Race to the Sky” sled dog race. The Holter Museum, Myrna Loy Center, Grand Street Theater, Queen City Ballet, Helena Symphony and Chorale, Carroll College, Helena College of Technology, Archie Bray Foundation for Ceramic Arts, Montana Military Museum and Soldiers Park, and Feathered Pipe Ranch provide for a wide variety of cultural and educational opportunities in the Helena area. Numerous opportunities for fine food, evening entertainment, and shopping are found in the downtown and outlying areas. Chuck Dalby, Vice President

Alert!!! Important Information for You about Officers and Nominations

In keeping with yet another tradition and, yes, our by-laws, it’s time for you to nominate an incoming Section Treasurer for the 2004/2005 year. After the 2004 conference in Helena, our dedicated prez, David Salo, will pass the gavel to Chuck Dalby who will pass his VP hat to Katie McDonald, who will be hoping to fill her treasurer post for the coming year. On the meeting registration form, please nominate yourself or a trusted colleague to fill this post. Voting will take place at the October meeting, with announcements made at meeting close. Consider serving – the responsibilities are modest and it’s fun!

Highlights of the 2003 Conference

Butte was the appropriate host city for the 20th annual AWRA conference which focused on issues related to reclaiming the Clark Fork river headwaters. Attendance was at a record high as was the number of abstracts submitted. The pre-conference field trip to the Montana Resources, Inc. mine and the new Horseshoe Bend water treatment plant was followed by a full session of talks (38 in all) and a packed poster session (17 total) covering a diverse array of water issues in the Clark Fork Basin and elsewhere in Montana. Phil Farnes, the first recipient of the Montana Water Legend award, concluded the meeting with a great presentation on climate change in Montana. Certainly one of the highlights of the 2003 conference was the evening banquet which once again featured a pig roast with all the trimmings, a tradition started in Butte at the 1986 AWRA meeting. Thanks to all of the participants for making 2003 another great year for AWRA. Also, congratulations to student paper and poster winners:

- First Prize Paper: Cain Diehl, University of Montana
- Second Prize Paper: Matt Blank, Montana State University
- Third Prize Paper: Amy Groen, University of Montana
- First Prize Poster: Brian Boer, University of Montana

Katie McDonald, Treasurer