



# The Montana Conservationist

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**The Montana Conservationist:** MACD's outreach efforts have a new look. With this first issue of *The Montana Conservationist* or "TMC", MACD is moving its outreach efforts in a new direction. As with any new endeavor, we are in the experimental stage and open to comments and discussion from those receiving the publication.

*TMC* replaces the weekly e-newsletters – *CD Events* and *Notes and News* and will be published bi-monthly the first and third Monday. Many of the standard articles published in the e-newsletters will still be included in *TMC*, along with articles that highlight Montana's Conservation Districts, activities, administrators, supervisors, etc., providing an overview of conservation efforts in Montana. The publication will also feature articles of national, state and local interest; taking a look at how other communities, or states are handling and resolving conservation concerns or issues.

MACD extends an invitation to submit articles for *TMC* to anyone interested in doing so and will make every effort to include them. Articles may be submitted via email to [vjwoodrow@bresnan.net](mailto:vjwoodrow@bresnan.net). MACD thanks everyone for their patience during this period of change and hope that the final outcome will better serve Montana's Conservation Districts and our MACD partners.

## Local News:

**YRDC Meeting:** The next meeting for the Yellowstone River Conservation District Council will be held on August 21, 2008, at the Haugo Center, Riverview Villa, 1 Rosebud Drive, Forsyth, MT. The meeting hours are 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. We hope to see you there.

**Montana Watercourse Offering "The Guide To Montana Ponds":** A number of the CDs are spending an increasing amount of time on pond questions. Our friends at MSU's Montana Watercourse offered MACD a supply of the recently revised booklet entitled "[The Guide to Montana Ponds](#)". Click on the link above to download a copy, or contact [Jan Fontaine](#) in the MACD office (406-443-5711) to ask for a supply. This 20 page booklet tries to answer most questions about ponds.

## 32nd Annual Montana Range Days Very Successful:

Nearly 300 people from every corner of the state attended the [32nd Annual Montana Range Days](#). Local and state sponsors awarded more than 90 honors to Buckaroos, Super Starters, Wranglers, youth and adults at the end of the three-day celebration of Montana's largest, most enduring natural resource.

"We appreciate all the local sponsors and all the different ways Conrad helped to make Range Days a success. Everyone stepped up to the plate," said Paul Jones, a supervisor on the Pondera County Conservation District, which co-hosted Range Days.

Montana Wool Growers Association provided a lamb bar-b-que, and Conrad's city pool open for attendees to swim after a delicious banquet at Utterback Middle School. The dance held the last day was enjoyed by all, especially the teens.

**MACD at Work:** Jeff Tiberi, working with MACD's Board of Directors identified work priorities for the next 2 years, much of which is in the Work Plan that will be distributed to the CD's in the near future. Tiberi drafted a letter to Senator Tester expressing support of the Cooperative Watershed Management Act of 2008 and identifying a few concerns. Please contact [Jan Fontaine](#) if you'd like a copy of the bill. Tiberi will meet with state and federal officials to get their perspectives about MACD followed by meetings with MACD Board committee chairs to find out their concerns and ask their advice. Tiberi intends to work with the Executive Director of the Montana Inn Keepers Association about CDs participating in the "Save our Planet" literature that is left in hotel rooms asking hotel guests to conserve by re-using sheets and towels. Buzz Mattelin and Vicki Marquis are leading this project.

Please send your thoughts as to how to improve *The Montana Conservationist* to [jtiberi@macdnet.org](mailto:jtiberi@macdnet.org)  
Unless specifically requested, *The Montana Conservationist* is not sent to CD Supervisors. MACD relies on District Administrators to forward *The Montana Conservationist* to the Board Chair, Supervisors, Associate Supervisors and CD Staff. Thank you.

## **Calendar: July & August**

July 1 ~ CD's – Start thinking about resolutions from your CD

July 12 ~ Organic Farm Tour, Oilmont, contact Lise Rousseau, 406-887-2869 or Ginny Harrington, 406-444-2402 or email [info@montanaorganicassociation.org](mailto:info@montanaorganicassociation.org)

July 14 ~ MACD Board Conference Call

July 14 thru 15 ~ last meetings of the interim for the full EOC and Agency Oversight Subcommittee, Room 102 of the Capitol, contact [Todd Everts](#), 406-444-3747

July 16 ~ [Energy & Telecommunications Interim Committee](#) meeting, Room 102 of the Capitol, contact [Sonja Nowakowski](#), 406-444-3078

July 18 thru 23 ~ [NACD Summer Board Meeting and Legislative Conference](#), Washington, D.C.

[July 20 thru 25](#) ~ 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp, Lubrecht State Forest (east of Missoula)

July 21 thru 25 ~ NRCS Range Health Training, Miles City Area

July 26 thru 30 ~ [2008 SWCS Annual Conference](#) in Tucson, Arizona

July 28 thru August 3 ~ National Envirothon Competition, Flagstaff, AZ

August ~ CD Resolutions due to Area Meeting Hosts

August date TBD ~ RCAC Meeting (223 Grant Review)

[August 4 thru 8](#) ~ Montana Youth Range Camp, Hysham

[August 7, 8 & 15](#) ~ Forest Stewardship Workshop, Yellow Bay on Flathead Lake, contact 243-2773

August 11 ~ MACD Board Conference Call

August 13 & 14 ~ Montana Chapter SWCS summer meeting & tour, Flathead Indian Reservation, registration form and details available at <http://www.mtswcs.org>

August 15 thru 17 ~ Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Lewistown

## **News From Our Partners:**

**EPA Rolls-out Latest Version of "Manure Management Planner":** EPA rolled out the latest version for Montana of the Manure Management Planner (MMP) July 10, and again July 11 at the USDA-NRCS offices in Bozeman.

NRCS developed the MMP model to assist staff and customers prepare and evaluate Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs). The model automates preparing crop nutrient and manure application budgets and integrates the function with other tools such as the Phosphorus Index. The model will also help NRCS staff and others to develop the needed forms and records to assist Montana General CAFO Discharge Permittees with preparing required Nutrient Management Plan forms and record keeping tasks. The first day was spent discussing the program features, demonstrating functions and the second morning will include examples using actual, but anonymous operators.

Those not familiar with MMP can [read more about it or download the current version of the tool from EPA's website](#)

**Conserve with DEQ:** Conservation efforts in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century have expanded into many other areas to help preserve our water, land and air. Phrases like "climate change" and "energy savings" are becoming the buzz words of this new area of conservation. Questions that keep coming to the forefront are, "Is there anything to this?" and "Can one person make a difference?" The Montana Department of Environmental Quality offers [10 Easy Ways to Lead by Example](#) – things each of us can do in and around our homes to help preserve our nation's natural resource.

**Three Funding Opportunities Available to CD's:** CD's have two new funding opportunities available through the Tribal Wildlife Grants and the Fish America Foundation.

The Tribal Wildlife Grants offered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, provides technical and financial assistance for programs that preserve and enhance fish and wildlife resources and habitat. Applications can be downloaded at <http://www.fws.gov/nativeamerican/grants.html> and must be postmarked by September 2, 2008.

The Fish America Foundation is accepting Conservation Grant Program applications for locally led water improvement efforts. Projects that directly enhance water quality, habitat or sportfish populations are eligible to receive funding, with the average award being \$7,500. Applications and guidelines can be downloaded at <http://www.fishamerica.org/grants> and are accepted year-round.

**Montana SWCS Chapter Holds 2008 Summer Meeting and Tour:** The [Montana SWCS Chapter](#) summer meeting & tour will be held at the Flathead Indian Reservation on **Wednesday and Thursday, August 13 and 14, 2008**. This tour is a follow-up to the February 2007 Chapter Newsletter article entitled, "Jocko Watershed Restoration at the Flathead Reservation" that addressed watershed restoration and bull trout recovery work the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes are doing at the Jocko River. The meeting and tour are open to the public. The [agenda and registration form](#) are available online and **due by July 31, 2008**.

## Education Opportunities

**2008 Montana Youth Range Camp:** The deadline for applications for the [2008 Montana Youth Range Camp](#) is extended through July 25.

This year's camp is the week of **August 4 - 8 at the Hysham School, in Hysham**, and is open to all students ages 12 -18. The cost of the camp is \$110 and includes all meals and activities.

Scholarships are available by contacting your local conservation district for more information. Additional assistance and help is being provided by Montana DNRC, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Montana State University Extension.

For more information, contact [Heidi Olbert](#) (406-444-6619), or Tina Bonnell (406-342-5466, x102).

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**EPA Watershed Academy Offering Webcast Seminar:** EPA's [Watershed Academy](#) is pleased to sponsor a free webcast seminar on **Wednesday, July 16, 2008**, entitled "[Clean Water State Revolving Fund: What's in it for Watersheds?](#)" by Stephanie VonFeck, Environmental Protection Specialist, beginning at 11:00 am Mountain time.

At some point, citizens involved in watershed protection face the question of how to pay for projects and quickly realize there are not enough grant funds to meet project needs. The [Clean Water State Revolving Fund](#) is a large, flexible, and largely untapped source of funding for watershed projects providing over \$5 billion each year for traditional stormwater and wastewater projects, as well as over \$200 million for nonpoint source projects, such as land conservation, agricultural best management practices, and clean-up of contaminated sites.

Those interested in tapping into the seminar should visit [EPA's Watershed Webcasts registration webpage](#) for more information or to registration. There are limited toll-free phone lines available so register early. Please contact [Peter Ismert](#) (303-312-6215) from additional information.

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**Eurasian Watermilfoil on the Lower Clark Fork, Awareness & Education:** Eurasian watermilfoil is considered one of the most troublesome aquatic weeds in the U.S., clogging water intakes, impacting fisheries, and restricting recreational activities.



Anyone that has experienced the impact of this aquatic weed or would like to information is invited to join MSU's Extension Service **August 7th at the Fire Hall in Noxon at 1:00 pm**, to learn about this new danger to Montana's waterways. Eurasian watermilfoil was discovered in Montana on the lower Clark Fork in 2007. Dr. John Madsen, Mississippi State University and Dr. Kurt Getsinger, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, MS will be keynote speakers and lead a question/answer session. For more details, please contact John Halpop, MSU Extension Service Sanders County (406-827-6934).

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### MACD's Poster Contest – and the winner's are ...:

#### **1st Place**

Amanda Baker  
Grade 12  
Rosebud CD



#### **2nd Place**

Aston Solecki  
Grade 9  
Rosebud CD



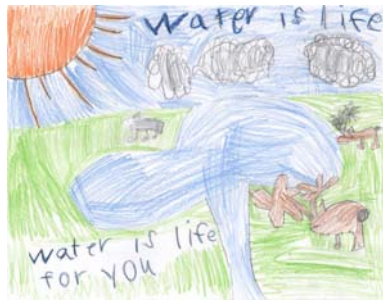
### 4th Place

Keyonna Kiedrowski  
Grade 2  
Wibaux CD



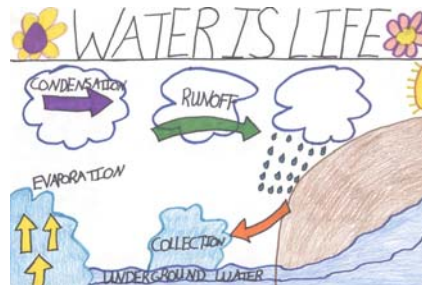
### 3rd Place

Jeremiah Laine  
Grade 1  
Deer Lodge/N. Powell CD



### 5th Place

Karlee Kent  
Grade 6  
Deer Lodge/N. Powell CD



## ***Legislative Watch***

The Interim: The July issue of [The Interim](#) is now available online. Please note the following changes to the calendar: the July 10 meeting of the SJR 31 subcommittee begins 10 a.m., rather than 9:30 a.m.; the ETIC meeting is July 17 rather than July 16. Questions or comments about the newsletter may be directed to [Jeff Martin](#) (406-444-3595).

The last meetings of the interim for the [Environmental Quality Council \(EQC\) Agency Oversight Subcommittee](#) and [the full EQC](#) will be July 14 and 15, respectively, in the State Capitol in room 102. An [agenda](#) and other meeting information is available on the [EQC meeting page](#) and the [subcommittee website](#). The [Joint EQC WPIC Subcommittee](#) is holding its meeting later that day. Questions may be

directed to [Todd Everts](#) (406-444-3747).

The [Water Policy Interim Committee](#) is seeking public comment on its [draft report](#), the first of its kind issued in more than a decade. The draft report, including [draft legislation](#), is available for comment from July 1 through July 31. Comments will be compiled and presented to the WPIC at the August 12 and 13 meeting in Helena.

The public may also comment on a [draft case study report](#) conducted by the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology. The 2007 Legislature directed the bureau to study the extent to which ground water withdrawals may result in net depletion of surface water in a closed basin or in specific areas of a closed basin.

More information about the reports is available in the

[press release](#), or by contacting [Joe Kolman](#) (406-444-9280).

The [Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee](#) meets Wednesday, July 16 in room 102 of the Capitol beginning at 9 a.m. The committee will accept public comment on two draft reports, "*Perspectives on Public Power: A review of the public power model, its history, and its potential in Montana*" and "*Carbon Sequestration Study: An analysis of geological and terrestrial carbon sequestration regulatory and policy issues*", and two pieces of draft legislation. [Meeting Materials and agendas](#) are available on ETIC's [Home Page](#). Questions may be directed to [Sonja Nowakowski](#) (406C-444-3078).