



Can YOUR home survive a wildfire?

As we watch the snow recede and the streams and rivers rise in the Clearwater Valley, fire season may seem far in the future. Projections are that as our wildfire seasons become drier, longer and hotter, we'll see more extreme, high intensity forest fires. Last year's Liberty and Rice Ridge fires taught us that it's never too early to prepare.

"Your home can survive a wildfire", is the message from Jack Cohen, retired research physical scientist from the Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory. Cohen will share in full detail the results of his years of research at CRC's Clearwater Partners Workshop on Thursday,

June 21, 7 pm at the Seeley Lake Community Hall. Cohen demonstrates through video segments and years of fire lab research that it's not the wall of fire roaring down the mountain that will ignite your home – it's what reaches the area around your home – your defensible space. Nobody knows more than Dr. Jack Cohen about why and how structures burn. He also knows what homeowners can do to make their homes fire resistant.

Cohen stated "What we need to worry about most are the embers that can be carried a mile or more ahead of a fire. These can ignite pine needles in gutters and roof valleys tree limbs

near the ground, and dry leaves collected near wooden steps or decks. Homeowners can easily remedy these most obvious ignition points for a wildfire." Cohen was a co-developer of the U.S. National Fire Danger Rating System and has contributed to the development of U.S. fire behavior prediction systems

Cohen's presentation will include photos and video clips from fires where homes remained unscathed while the forest surrounding burned to the ground. Cohen's videos are remarkably graphic. His research laid the groundwork for nearly all of today's work on wildland urban interface risk reduction.

The Ice is Going, Will Mussels be Coming?

Snowbirds of the human variety are starting to return from warmer climates and are bringing their boats back with them. Will the boats be carrying invasive mussels? As long as our waters remain free of zebra and quagga mussels, we have to be on the alert.

To that end, in 2017, Montana FWP placed 35 watercraft inspection stations around the state, including a firewall along the Continental Divide. These stations inspected 86,000 boats and intercepted 17 mussel-fouled boats. Monitors collected 1500 water samples from 240 waterbodies. The good news is that no new aquatic invasive species infestations of any kind were detected anywhere in Montana. Also good

news is that all samples collected from Tiber Reservoir and Canyon Ferry Reservoir were negative for the mussels. Divers searched for adult mussels and didn't find any. The bad news is that over 100 boats left Tiber or Canyon Ferry without being inspected. The 'honor system' didn't work.

What's happening in 2018? At the state level, check stations will be operating again. Many are opening earlier in the season and running longer days. The station in Ronan opened in mid-March and will be

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RICE RIDGE RECAP



A full house of Seeley residents joined 16 panelists from 10 different organizations to hear full details on the 2017 Rice Ridge Fire. This two hour forum is available on Missoula Community Television (MCAT) at this link: <https://bit.ly/2qW0Wcf> A summary of the evening was reported on KPAX at this link: <https://bit.ly/2vrws7i> and in the Pathfinder. The presentations lasted one hour, with the audience Q&A going for another 60 minutes. The full Q&A is within the Pathfinder's coverage of the event at: <https://bit.ly/2InyDv3>. The evening was facilitated by Jessica Stewart-Kuntz and Jenifer Gursky from the Montana Community Foundation and was co-sponsored by CRC, the Seeley Lake Community Foundation, Swan Valley Connections and the Seeley Lake Ranger Station.

Save these dates

Thursday, June 14, 7 pm,
Seeley Lake Historical Barn

Pure Montana Tales: Inside Wildfire: Learn about the impact of wildfire on fish, streams, wildlife and the forest with Scott Tomson, Wildlife Biologist, USFS and Shane Hendrickson, Fisheries Biologist, USFS. What are the short term impacts of wildfire being displaced or killed by wildfire? What is the effect on fish if streams burn hot? What was the impact of the

Rice Ridge Fire on our habitat, fisheries and wildlife?

Thursday, June 21, 7 pm,
Seeley Lake Community Hall

Clearwater Partners Workshop presents: How Your Home Can Survive a Wildfire: w/Jack Cohen, retired research scientist from Missoula USFS Fire Laboratory. Jack Cohen presents home owners with the evidence and the tools to greatly improve the odds that your home will survive a wildfire. It's never too early to get ready for this year's fire season!

Sunday, July 15, 3PM - 5 pm, Double Arrow Homestead Cabin, Seeley Lake

Celebrate the Clearwater Picnic with Kate Davis, Raptors of the Rockies,

Live raptors, free barbecue, everyone welcome. Family event. Did you know that a golden eagle can spot a rabbit from two miles away? Or that the broad face of an owl works like a satellite dish to gather sounds? Speaker Kate Davis founded Raptors of the Rockies in 1988 to educate school children and the public about raptors and resource

conservation. Since then, Kate and birds have appeared in more than 1670 programs for 132,000 audience members, young and old alike. She will bring four of her raptors to Seeley Lake for this fun, outdoor event. Kate is author of Raptors of the Rockies, Falcons of North American and many other books.

Fall, 2018: Walking Bear Comes Home a 60-minute documentary about Chuck Jonkel, the 'father of bear biology'. Date and Location TBD.

Mussels, CONTINUED

going to 24/7 operations soon. In addition to boats entering the state, or crossing the divide in western Montana, all boats entering the Flathead Basin must now be inspected before launching. CRC is working on a similar program for our lakes. Access to/from Tiber is being restricted to two boat launches.

CRC will be continuing our AIS monitoring program on our major lakes. We will also be active in the community giving presentations to increase public awareness of the threats of AIS to our lakes and what we can each do to help prevent them. The key is for every boater to Clean, Drain, Dry everything that got wet before heading to another location. For more great tips check out cleandraindry.mt.gov.

Lake and Stream Monitoring Volunteers Wanted

If you like to fish, camp, canoe, kayak, or bird watch at Rainy, Clearwater or Salmon Lake, we could use your help. The **Adopt-A-Lake** program measures water clarity with a Secchi Disk and measures water temperature twice a month between May and September. It's easy and we could use your help.

The **Adopt-A-Stream** program volunteers collect water samples weekly through run-off (through June) at assigned stream sites around the valley. Once you reach the stream by car, biking or hiking, getting the samples is easy—just fill a bottle with water, label the bottle, and bring it back to Roveros where we have refrigerated storage. If you are interested in helping out please contact **Joann Wallenburn, joann@crmt.org, 210-8453.**