



## The Smith River

The Smith River is still one of the most unique floats in the lower United States. I understand that floating for five days and camping out for four nights isn't for everyone. But for those of us that still have a little Huck Finn left in us or a curious nature to know what is around the bend, the Smith offers a special opportunity. We have openings this year and are starting to book for 2009. We will make every effort under the sun to give you the best trip possible.

### 2008 Smith Dates

May 8 - Disabled Veterans trip	June 22 - booked
May 16 - six spaces open	June 23 - booked
May 23 - open	June 25 - booked
May 31 - open	June 28 - booked
June 4 - booked	June 29 - booked
June 7 - open	July 2 - open
June 11 - booked	July 3 - open
June 14 - booked	July 4 - seven spaces available
June 16 - booked	July 7 - open
June 17 - booked	July 10 - open
June 21 - booked	

### 2009 Smith Dates

May 7 - Disabled Veterans trip	June 16 - open
May 15, 22 and 30 - open	June 20 - National Trout Unlimited trip booked
June 3, 6, 7, 10, 13 - open	June 21, 22, 24, 27 and 28 - open
June 15 - booked	July 2, 3, 6 and 9 - open

Lewis & Clark  
Expeditions

P.O. Box 970  
Helena, MT 59624

Presort Std.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Helena, MT  
Permit No. 243

## Guides, Disabled Veterans and 2008

The guides we hire are easily the best thing about my business. They are my friends, my allies and my betters. If it wasn't for the guides at Lewis & Clark Expeditions, we would not be able to do our annual trip with the Disabled Veterans down the Smith River. Every year they quietly volunteer their services without pay to help America's Wounded Warriors. All of our trips on the Smith would be one dysfunctional mess without these tremendous professionals who work tirelessly and with good cheer to create the best floating, fishing and camping trips in the lower United States. There is more to guiding on the Smith River than rowing downstream and tying on a fly. Guiding on the Smith River means being prepared for every weather event imaginable in Montana—snow, high winds, heavy rains, extreme heat—some real Old Testament stuff. Guides also put up tents, create cuisine, tie flies, build fires, secure boats, row with ease into head winds, double as raconteurs, play guitars, work indefatigably for the environment, seek world peace, build strong fishing leaders, land trout, do dishes, take confessions—in short—they are indispensable.

**Geof Ferguson:** Geof has been guiding and leading trips on the Smith, Missouri and Blackfoot Rivers for over 13 years. One of the intangibles about guiding is some guides have some mojo in catching fish. Mojo can be putting on the right fly at the right time, or fishing over water that is ignored by others; but it is really about spending time inside of a trout's head. This year Geof will be armed with nicotine patches (no more chewing), a panoply of flies and plenty of Mojo.

**Mark Elliott:** A natural leader that brings out the best in everyone around him, Mark also leads trips down the Smith River and is constantly in demand to guide rivers throughout the state. He takes enormous pride in guiding as well as running the Smith River trips. He will row you upstream for half a mile while quoting the movie "The Big Lebowski." Mark is a fan of articulated flies, big screen TVs, his wife Sarah, big fish and delicate presentations to rising fish. "The Dude Abides."

**Frank Steele:** If you ever find yourself in a hurricane, nuclear attack or a five day float trip you might want to seek out Frank Steele. There isn't anything Frank can't fix or improve as well as spot rising fish a half mile away. Frank is the reason we have hot showers on the river (powered by batteries), tents that function, boats that float, trucks and trailers that run, stoves that heat—there is a theme I am creating here—with Frank along, Lewis and Clark Expeditions is safer and more efficient.



Geof Ferguson



Mark Elliott

# Lewis & Clark Expeditions

# Lewis & Clark Expeditions



**Mike Reitz:** Ah, the life and times of Mike Reitz. Adventurer, scientist, river guide, pedagogue, father, husband, fly fisherman—Mike possesses an acumen particular to fishing guides, academics and card sharks. He can unravel the mysteries of “matching the hatch” as well as determine where trout live without the aid of radio telemetry. The angler whether novice or expert is greatly aided with Mike in their boat.



Jeff Rawlings

**Jeff Rawlings:** “A good fishing guide should have an unbridled joy in catching fish.” Jeff’s passionate pursuit of trout comes forth with good humor, natural warmth and unbounded enthusiasm. There is a real state of ecstasy with Jeff when you are hooking trout that verges on a religious state of rapture. Jeff also taught us how to condense five days of garbage into a shoe box which is almost the equivalent of discovering cold fusion.

**Brian Scott:** Our 19th century man, Brian was born and raised in the Big Hole Valley where he and his wife are currently building their new home. Brian has a degree in biology that he puts to good use when interpreting water, insects, weather, stream beds and everything else that flies, swims or moves through Montana’s landscape. Brian lives on a diet of wild meat, sees a river through the eyes of a trout and rows with abandonment in piscatorial pursuits.



Brian Scott

**Derrick Hurt:** Coming to us through our involvement with Disabled Sports USA, Sergeant Hurt was a scout and sniper with the 101st Army in Iraq. We asked Derick to join us in the summer of 2005 as a gear boater. This will be Derick’s fourth season where he excels at every level in creating a successful Smith River trip. Derick leads and inspires all of us with his commitment, service dedication.



Derrick Hurt and



## All the Way Back Home

This year, documentary filmmaker **Ed Nachtrieb** came with his camera crew on our trips with the Disabled Veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. The resulting high definition film uses the remote landscape of the Smith River as a backdrop as the soldiers quietly tell their personal stories of coming home. Each soldier has his own truth, his own experience along with his own nightmare. As the camera poetically moves with the soldiers downstream for five days and four nights, illumination comes with a whisper, not a bang.

This was our third year taking Wounded Warriors down the Smith in conjunction with Disabled Sports USA ([www.dsusa.org](http://www.dsusa.org)). Last year, we added soldiers to our trips in June when we had empty seats. This year we will be doing another trip down the Smith on May 8. We will also be taking soldiers bass fishing in Texas in April and hopefully to the Rio Grande in Colorado in late August or September.

What we are doing couldn’t be done without the help from our clients, the fishing community, our guides and the city of Helena. I would like to extend everyone thanks, but more than thanks I would like to ensure them that what we are doing is absolutely the right thing. Our involvement with the Vets transcends political boundaries and arguments. They allow us first and foremost to become Americans in reaching out to assist the best our nation has to give.

If you are interested in a DVD of our trip down the Smith River with the Wounded Warriors please contact Ed Nachtrieb at [nachtrieb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nachtrieb@sbcglobal.net)



*Where to send the money for the Disabled Veterans.*

Please make your checks payable to:

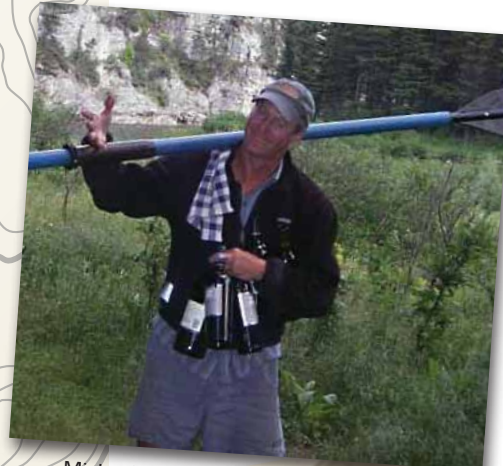
Disabled Sports USA  
451 Hungerford Dr. Suite 100  
Rockville, MD. 20850



Please earmark checks Smith River / Soldier Fund

# Lewis & Clark Expeditions

# Lewis & Clark Expeditions



Michael Blakely

**Michael Blakely:** If there is someone on the planet who is more eager to please than Michael, I wish they would show me. Mr. Blakely is the best customer service person we have on our trips. Michael has an incredible fishing resume working in New Zealand, Russia, Argentina, British Columbia and Montana. We feel enormously lucky to have him and his natural affability around us.

**Trevor Madden:** Trevor spends over 100 days a year guiding on the Missouri River. In a river filled with nuance, Trevor is able to dissect every riffle, hatch and eddy on the river. His fly box is filled with midges and blue winged olives for spring; caddis flies, PMD's, tricos and hoppers for summer; and more blue-winged olives and streamers for fall. Every once in awhile he will go X-generation

hat askew (gangster style), some fishing bling and plugged in with some 50 cent on his I-pod. Kind of makes Robert Travers take a hard turn in his grave. But he does catch fish.

**Mark Sauvageau:** Mark is a proven leader. A few years ago he left with the Montana National Guard for Iraq as a Lieutenant and is now a Captain. Mark's experiences dwarf anything I can say about him. I am personally so honored that he still helps us on the river.

Mark is an accomplished guide, hard worker and wonderful spirit who elevates everyone around him. We salute his sacrifice and are so happy he is home.

**George Walker:** George is graduating from Washington & Lee this year and we are extremely excited that he will be coming back again this summer. Last year was George's first year handling a gear boat on the Smith. George met every challenge on the river with good humor and a great attitude. An avid fisherman, George quickly learned that running a gear boat on the Smith has nothing to do with fly fishing. It has everything to do with customer service, putting up tents, cooking, assembling cots, and rowing through gale winds all in the name of fun.



George Walker

**Bob Brent:** While Trevor and his posse tune into a different universe, Bob liberally quotes Robert Traver, Robert Haig-Brown and Izaak Walton. Mr. Brent ties about 30,000 flies a year and has an encyclopedic memory when it comes to flies, trout and rivers. Years on every major river in the state of Montana has turned Bob into a part-time poet and full time guide.



## At Play in the Field of Lilly's

For my money **Greg Lilly** is the best outfitter in the state of Montana. He has helped us over the years guiding on the Smith and Missouri Rivers. This coming year Greg, his wife Janet and partner Bill Kempf are re-opening their lodge, Healing Waters. Located in southwestern Montana just outside of Twin Bridges, Healing Waters offers easy access to some of Montana's best fishing waters; the Ruby, Beaverhead, Madison, Big Hole and Jefferson Rivers are all a short cast away. In addition, Greg, Janet, and Bill offer fishing on nearby ponds, private spring creeks and provide excellent accommodations



# Lewis & Clark Expeditions

# Lewis & Clark Expeditions



## The Missouri River

I have spent over 25 years trying to unravel the mysteries of the Missouri River from the Holter Dam to Cascade. This 45-mile stretch of water holds some of the best trout in the world and is an active riddle inside of a conundrum shrouded in mystery. When the river opens up to the angler, it is as close to an absolute state of grace as I have ever experienced. For me, the Missouri seems to come in a series of small epiphanies where you match wits with the classiest trout on the planet. It seems I have cast every fly known to man to fish on the Missouri. I started with Woolley Buggers, moved to Royal Wulffs, then on to an Adams, which morphed into Parachute patterns. I've cast PMDs, then crippled PMDs. I've tried every caddis pattern I could find: elk hair caddis, Goddard caddis, x-pattern caddis, bucktail caddis, Lafontaine caddis, emerging caddis, caddis pupa, caddis tied with polar bear, baby seal and California Condor. I've hemorrhaged brain cells with tricos trying spent patterns, compra duns, Griffith's gnats, cluster patterns, and more parachute patterns. I've felt old, inept and hopelessly awkward attempting to thread a size 28 anything.

At some point in time, when the world became more demanding, nymphs took over. I think it started when I used a hopper and put a small nymph on as a dropper. I soon discovered that 90% of the fish were taking the nymph. A visionary then got rid of the hopper and put two nymphs on discovering that trout went ballistic for the idea. So, I cast prince nymphs of various sizes, bought all the hare's ears I could, found something called a lighting bug, toyed with zug bugs, adopted pheasant tails, went pink with scuds, bombarded the river with all things bead headed and presently worship the Ray Charles (even a blind man can fish with this).

My present obsessions are articulated wet flies that have more movable parts than a Swiss watch. These are booty-shaking long flies that tease, taunt and titillate trout until they abandon reason in the singular pursuit of the sexiest thing in the water. You strip the fly quickly through the water with a touch of liquid madness waiting and waiting for a violent collision with a trout. The Missouri River is my Holy Grail and a wonderful madness it is.

## The Blackfoot River

Long, lean and muscular, the Blackfoot rushes out the Rockies spilling into the Clark Fork just north of Missoula. This is a river so tough that it was able withstand the abuses of mining and logging for over a hundred years. It is the river that is the poetic backdrop for Norman McClean's "A River Runs Through It." It is now the river that is used as a model for tributary and river restoration. A combination of landowners, outfitters, sportsmen, Trout Unlimited and the State of Montana have come together to lead the way in river restoration on the Blackfoot. I like to think this is where God goes to get away from it all. This is where your backcast intercepts the line of flight of a bald eagle; where you can put some distance between yourself and the 21st century; where you can still hear a beaver tail slap the river; where elk sip river water at sunset and anglers seek solace.

*Seek us and ye shall find - Lewis & Clark Expeditions.*



Jeff Wilson

**Jeff Wilson:** Jeff has made the transition from gear boater to guide with absolute aplomb. A guide should have certitude along with an incisive intellect, great work ethic, artistic sensibilities, throw in some panache and verve, and you have Jeff Wilson.

**Liz Steele:** Liz works behind the lines orchestrating everything that goes into a Smith River trip. She coordinates all pick-ups for flights, packs all the food, ensures that the right number of tents, rafts, and guides are at the right place at the right time. Liz also gently slips a shock collar around the owner's neck making him more amenable to those around him, which is essential to a good Smith River trip.

**Paul Burdett:** Paul is another gear boater gone guide with plenty of joie de vive. Old guides might provide guile, insight and short floats. Paul provides the raw energy, strength and enthusiasm to back row all day long in the singular obsession for trout.



Paul Burdett



John Howard

**John Howard:** With the eyes of an eagle, the temperament of a saint, the predatory instincts of a Jeannie Craig escapee and the comic awareness of Larry David, John's good humor and fishing skills have kept him in great demand for us as a guide. After a day on the river with John you will come back wiser, lighter in spirit and laden with fish knowledge.