

## Dave Blackburn – Kootenai Angler - Bio



Dave Blackburn started tying flies and fly fishing at the age of 10 when his sixth grade teacher introduced him to the sport. Having grown up in Pennsylvania he was schooled on many of the classic limestone streams of the east. He graduated from West Virginia University with a BS in Forest Resource Management with an emphasis on water quality and aquatic ecology. He

traveled westward chasing *wild trout tales*; and gained employment as a wilderness ranger in the Bighorn National Forest in Wyoming. In 1981, he ended up in Montana on the banks of the Kootenai where he now resides with his wife, Tammy, and three children. He is on the board of directors of the Kootenai Valley Trout Club. He has been a past director of Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana and the Montana Council of Trout Unlimited. Dave chaired the Upper Kootenai River Preservation Society, which was instrumental in defeating the Jennings Rapids Dam project. Dave is a FFF-certified casting instructor and a past contract tyer for Umpqua Feather Merchants. He teaches fly tying and fly fishing at Flathead Community College . His photos and articles have appeared in *Flyfisherman*, *Fly Rod and Reel*, and *The Flyfisher* magazines. Dave founded the Kootenai River's first fly fishing guide service in 1982, *Kootenai Angler*. Dave is also an accomplished bluegrass musician and entertainer with the *Fly Fishing Show*. He also travels throughout the country and gives presentations combining fly fishing and bluegrass music. His bluegrass band, *Sheldon Mountain Boys*, recently released its first album, "Thirty Years on the Mountain".

