

Date: July 24, 2025



Reel Women

Fly Fishing Adventures



Long Tall Sally

By Lori-Ann Murphy

“I believe I’m going to catch a fish with every drift.”

—Anni Shores

We were gathered at the Gravel Bar in Ennis, Montana—drinks in hand, waders still damp, eyes shining from days on the water. Rachel and I had just wrapped up our **RWFFA Back 2 Basics School**. Nine amazing women, from

all across the country, came together on the world-famous Madison River to grow in their fly fishing. And that's exactly what happened.

They didn't leave as beginners.

They left as anglers—confident, clear-eyed, and casting with purpose.

Anni Shores, our RWFFA guide school lead and longtime anchor on the Madison, has been guiding these waters for 35 years. She and her husband Eric—our Montana Outfitter—are the heart and soul of our time in Ennis. Having Eric with us on guided days is always a gift. His calm, “smooth operator” style puts everyone at ease. Whether you're on the oars or on the sticks, with these two, you feel like you belong here.

As I was guiding during our walk-wade session, I picked up on the different inner voices our anglers were having conversations with:

- *“Well, I made a perfect cast and no fish.”*
- *“I know there are fish here—Kitty just landed one!”*
- And then, from Anni, like a steady drumbeat of belief:
“I believe I'm going to catch a fish with every drift.”

That shift—**from doubt to belief**—is everything.

When you begin to expect something good from the water, your posture changes. Your cast relaxes. Your senses expand.

You notice the way the current pushes under the cut bank.

You see the shadow of a trout tucked behind a submerged rock.

You feel when it's time to move upstream.

There's something holy in that mindset. Something that feels like grace.

I hold close a definition I once read from Pope Francis:

“Hope is a virtue of the heart that never gives up.”

Hope on the river doesn't mean ignoring the hard moments—the tangles, missed sets, fish that spook. It means staying connected to the possibility in every drift. That mindset is something our Back 2 Basics anglers carried home with them. Not just better casters, but more present ones.

Because fly fishing, after all, isn't just about fish.

It's about the **moments that teach us how to see differently**, how to pay attention, how to stay open to what's next.

If you feel that tug—if something in you stirs reading this—you might be ready to join us. The 2026 season will be here before you know it. The Madison will still be flowing. And we'll be there, ready to welcome you.

Until then, keep casting.

Cast to your dreams,

Flow forward,

L-A



It's time to start planning for Patagonia 2026 with SET! What an amazing time we had last year and I'm super excited to be returning with Rachel Finn and Rick Ruoff as world class guides and hosts for your experience. Yep, it's special. And you deserve it!

[Find Out About Argentina 2026!](#)



🎣 **Reel Belize Bonefish School 2026** is already filling up—**Lori-Ann Murphy** will be instructing along with **Reel Belize Guide Team**. Become an independent saltwater flats angler! OPEN TO ALL ANGLERS.

We keep it small so we can go deep: quality instruction, world-class flats, and a community of anglers who want more than just a trip—they want to belong.

Limited spots. Early birds always get the flats.

Reel Belize Bonefish School 2026

Trips



[RWFFA Women's Madison
River Trip
July 11-17, 2026](#)

[RWFFA Women's
Yellowstone River Trip
September 8-12, 2026](#)

[We are happy to help you
make this happen. Please
contact Lori-Ann.](#)



***Lori-Ann Murphy
hosting/teaching all
Montana Trips 2026!***

*That's right! The Madison
and Yellowstone River Trips
have space for you.*

*Up your game. Fill your fly
fishing soul. **Join Lori-Ann
next summer with the
RWFFA guide crew.***

Find out more!

Schools



Rachel Finn assisting angler on the Madison River for our RWFFA Back 2 Basics. Anni Shores with her crew this week for our RWFFA Women's Guide School. [Find out more about Back 2 Basics or Guide School!](#)



When Lori-Ann isn't in Montana - she lives full time in San Pedro, Belize.
Reel Belize is a Fly Shop and Guide Service in San Pedro - fly fishing the flats
of Ambergris Caye is not difficult - it's fun!
Our RWFFA Saltwater Trips are based in San Pedro and of course we use Reel
Belize Guide Service.
Join us on a trip, or let us know if you are coming with family or friends - we
have your fly fishing fun covered.
"Just show up and cast!"
www.reelbelize.com

Find out about fly fishing in Belize!

