

THE VOICE OF THE RIVER



Henry's Fork Foundation

FALL 2012

Combining Science and Experience

Caldera Symposium explores science and angling in the Caldera

The 28-mile stretch of the Henry's Fork of the Snake River between Island Park Dam and Mesa Falls contains some of the most renowned rainbow trout fisheries in the nation. It is one of the reasons that Fremont County ranks first out of 44 Idaho counties for angler spending and why the Henry's Fork supports 851 jobs. Some anglers have said, however, that fishing is not what it used to be—with fewer fish, diminished aquatic insect hatches, and degraded habitat.

The first Caldera Symposium brought together leading scientific and angling experts to explore the available research and what it says about how the Caldera ecosystem has changed over the years. HFF, The Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and the Caribou-Targhee National Forest co-organized the event, which drew over 80 people for the entire day.



Members of the Caldera Project team install a fish weir on Thurmon Creek to study how juvenile trout use the tributary stream during the winter. Results of the ongoing study will help determine whether a fish passage project would benefit the Caldera trout fisheries.

The Caldera Symposium was a summary of the information gathered so far from the Henry's Fork Foundation's comprehensive Caldera Project. The Caldera Project began in 2008 to better understand and improve the Henry's Fork fisheries. For the past four years, a technical team of scientific experts have made significant advancements in our understanding of the Henry's Fork.

"If I were to die and be lucky enough to go to heaven, if it were half as good as the Ranch, I'd be just fine."

Mick Mickelson, HFF Founding Member
Quote from Symposium presentation

The Symposium included 12 scientific/technical presentations and five angler presentations. Experts discussed fisheries management, geology, geomorphology, aquatic plants, and other topics. Renowned anglers who have fished the Henry's Fork for several decades provided a river-level view of how the fishing has evolved. These anglers—René Harrop, Nelson Ishiyama, Mike Lawson, John McDaniel, and Mick Mickelson—have met the technical challenges of fishing the Henry's Fork with innovations in techniques that have been applied throughout the world of fly fishing, and three have written books about fishing in the Caldera.

A reoccurring theme emerged throughout the day: the Caldera fisheries have changed in response to man-made changes in the river. From fish stocking since the late 1800s until the 1970s, sediment spills and inadvertent trout stocking from Island Park Dam, narrowly focused water management, damming of tributary streams, and over-grazing by cattle.

Continued on page 5.

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From the Board

Robert Dotson, board chair

Fellow HFF Members,

As we slip into the last few weeks of summer on the Henry's Fork, I find myself lovingly caught between seasons. There yet remains swarming tricos, persistent mahogany duns, and the occasional honey ant outburst, bringing up big healthy wild rainbows on the Ranch. However, I can't help but eagerly anticipate stalking wily browns on the lower river, screams of rutting bull elk below Sawtell Peak, and hiking alongside lodgepole pines and golden aspens in upper Harriman to see Bonefish Flats covered with BWO's and big rainbow noses pushing into the surface film.



My anticipation, however, extends far beyond the pending seasonal changes and what I will get from the river. It is not only a result of serving on the Henry's Fork Board of Directors, but a result of my interaction with the people that call the Henry's Fork home, that reminds me that what we "give to this river" is much more important than what we will ever "get from this river." Our "give versus get" ratio speaks to who we are as caretakers and what we value.

Your volunteer time, field skills, and money allow a small team of passionate Henry's Fork Foundation professionals in Ashton, Idaho to do more than their resources would indicate is possible. They tirelessly work to ensure reliable water flow is maintained for healthy trout, quality river access is available for all users, restoration of habitat and fencing is in place, and that the reconnection of historical river corridors through fish passage projects will bring thousands upon thousands of trout back into the Henry's Fork watershed.

In short, the HFF team does the work all day, every day that not one of us can do on our own. The legendary fly fishing author Ernie Schwiebert proclaimed the Henry's Fork the "Greatest Dry Fly Fishing in America" in a Sports Afield issue in 1975. Thanks to the efforts of HFF over the past 28 years, working in close cooperation with HFF members, agency partners, outfitters, dedicated landowners, and the local agricultural community, the Henry's Fork is again gaining its legendary stature as the greatest trout river in America.

There is more to be done. Threats to the fishery and its wildlife are ongoing: sediment below Ashton Dam, boat access, riparian development, degraded tributaries, the effect of persistent hot and dry summers on water storage and winter flows, and more.

Your generosity directly allows the Henry's Fork Foundation to tackle these challenges. Please "give to the river" generously, however possible, so that as "givers" we can safeguard this legendary Henry's Fork experience for generations upon generations to come.

Robert P. Dotson
Chairman
Henry's Fork Foundation Board

Support the Caldera Project

Restoring the fisheries in the Caldera section of the Henry's Fork

When you need to get away from it all, you turn to the Henry's Fork of the Snake River—and for good reason. There is no other place with such memorable fly fishing, such a diversity of wildlife, and so many recreational opportunities as the Caldera section from Island Park Dam to Mesa Falls. **The Henry's Fork is there for you whenever you need it, but it needs you too.**

The Caldera is an incredible reach of river, but one affected by narrowly focused water management, past cattle over-grazing, and damming of tributary streams. You can make a difference by supporting the Caldera Project.

Started by the Henry's Fork Foundation four years ago, the Caldera Project includes research and restoration work to better understand and improve the Caldera fisheries. We have assembled a team of scientific and angling experts focused on adding more wild trout to these fisheries and improving fish habitat in Harriman State Park.

As a thank you for your gift of \$100 or more, we will send you a Morning Star lanyard, a terrific alternative or compliment to a fishing vest.

Help the Caldera section remain a legendary fishery by making a donation to the Caldera Project online at www.henrysfork.org, over the phone by calling 208-652-3567, or by returning your gift in the envelope provided.

Learn more about the Caldera Project on HFF's website: www.henrysfork.org.



Rob Van Kirk Joins HFF Staff

HFF welcomes new Senior Scientist

The Foundation welcomes Rob Van Kirk as the Foundation's new Senior Scientist. Rob has fished the river since 1977 and worked for Mike Lawson at Henry's Fork Anglers from 1981 to 1987, where he became an expert tier of hair-winged dry flies.

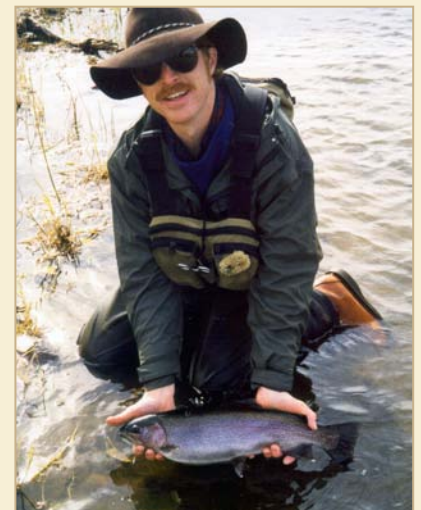
Rob grew up in Arcata, California and received a B.A. and M.S. from Humboldt University. He holds a Ph.D in Mathematics from the University of Utah, where he focused on mathematical modeling of fish and wildlife populations. His impressive career includes publishing dozens of research reports (many about the Henry's Fork), mentoring undergraduate and graduate student scientists, and directing an interdisciplinary team to investigate groundwater-surface water relationships in the Henry's Fork watershed. The results of this study have enlightened the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's current Henry's Fork Basin Study.

Rob helped define HFF's work as the Foundation's first research director from 1994 to 1998 before pursuing an academic career, first at Idaho State University, and currently at Humboldt State University.

Rob is a recipient of HFF's Conservation Award and the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society's Native Fish Conservationist of the Year Award.

Regarding his new position with HFF, Rob said, "Although I've enjoyed the challenges and experiences offered by the academic environment, the most rewarding aspect of my career has been working collaboratively on water and fisheries management in eastern Idaho. My wife, Sheryl, and I are very excited to return full-time to our home in Ashton."

Rob joins HFF part-time in January and full-time in June.



Youth on the Fly

Participation matters in conservation

by Anne Marie Emery, Conservation Education Biologist

This summer, HFF incorporated recreation into its growing youth education program with Youth on the Fly, an initiative focused on getting local kids hooked on fly fishing by introducing them to the sport under the instruction of local guides. The program acts as an extension to the curriculum-based HFF Trout in the Classroom program, with a summer focus on fly fishing as a form of local, positive recreation.

Six students from Ashton Elementary were chosen for Youth on the Fly by writing an essay that expressed why they would like the opportunity to fish with licensed guides for a day. While many kids referenced lack of opportunity and cost as barriers to their participation in fly-fishing, they also expressed a yearning to fish after learning about the watershed and trout through Trout in the Classroom. Overall, all kids wanted the opportunity to learn.

Recent sports studies on youth participation show a national decrease and interest in youth fishing, a concern that was recently addressed at the state Wildlife Summit this past August. This decline is tied to a struggling economy, the high cost of fishing, time constraints of adults, and low catch success rates.



Photo by Heather Williams

Mike Lawson instructs Trout in the Classroom graduate Macy Rankin in fly fishing as part of HFF's new Youth on the Fly program, which brings youth and expert fishing guides together for a day on the Henry's Fork.

At the Foundation, we understand that sustained conservation of the Henry's Fork is dependent on youth participation within it and developed a program that would not just get kids out fishing for one day but create and nourish a continued passion for the sport that can be encouraged locally and collaboratively with guides, businesses, and community members.

Guides such as famed author and Henry's Fork legend Mike Lawson and Andy Jenkins of Henry's Fork Anglers, and Marty Reed and Zach Wheeler of TroutHunter, introduced each kid to fly fishing without the frustration, discouragement, or boredom that often occurs when starting a new sport. For those who have been on a guided trip, you share the appreciation and awe for how fast these guides get you out on the water, switch up flies, detangle knots, and get you into fish. Imagine the difference to a fifth grader.

Youth on the Fly kids walked away from a day on the river each catching at least seven Henry's Fork trout. They also walked away with a new perspective and passion for the river, shaped initially from the Trout in the Classroom curriculum and further strengthened through fly-fishing. These young perspectives are what will sustain conservation of the Henry's Fork. As Briceton Fischer stated in his student essay, "If you pick me for Youth on the Fly, I will learn and pass on to my brother and friends what I have learned and try to keep fly fishing going in our area."

The HFF thanks the following individuals and businesses whose donations made Youth on the Fly a success: Reddington, Patagonia, Montana Fly Company, Mike Lawson and Andy Jenkins of Henry's Fork Anglers, Marty Reed and Zach Wheeler of TroutHunter, Three Rivers Ranch, Upper Snake River Fly Fishers, Henry's Fork Chapter of the IMN program, Heather Williams, Paige Cahoon, Bill Ruppel, Kate Reed, Ryan Franke, and Matt Lyon.


Youth on the Fly

(Caldera Symposium continued from cover)

Restoring the river's habitat from these impacts has taken the form of restoring streamflows through winter flow management planning and reconnecting habitat through fish passage projects such as the Buffalo River fish ladder. Planned restoration will also include physically restoring tributary habitat and removing fish barriers.

"I challenge you to find a more scenic place than the view from the Ranch cabins looking across Millionaire's Pool to the Tetons."

John McDaniel

Quote from Symposium presentation

The event concluded with a panel discussion about the fishery of Harriman State Park and its famous Ranch section. Everyone who attended learned something about the Henry's Fork, whether a scientist, newcomer to the river, or long-time angler on the Ranch.

The event reaffirmed the importance of the Caldera and its fisheries to people who live, work, or recreate in the watershed, as well as helped further define the next steps for research and restoration work. For more information about the Caldera Symposium or the Caldera Project, visit www.henrysfork.org.

The Henry's Fork Foundation and its partners are continuing to work in the Caldera. See page three for more information about how you can help too.



Former interns electrofish a small tributary stream to the Henry's Fork as part of fisheries research involved in the Caldera Project.

The Symposium was sponsored by the Henry's Fork Foundation, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Caribou-Targhee National Forest. Special thanks for additional funding and support from Pond's Lodge and the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.



Save the Date!

San Francisco Reception

November 15, 2012
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2012 Summer Interns

They tell their intern story in their own words

Charlie Ryland, Byers Family Memorial Scholarship

"Having grown up in the Ashton area, I have long known how unique and important the Henry's Fork is to the surrounding area. Working out in the field with the foundation this summer proved this to me to an even greater extent. We saw firsthand the incredible ecological diversity to be found in the area, and the countless different plants and animals associated with each site. We also met with all the different manner of people, from farmers to sportsmen, whose lives were tied up in the health of the rivers. Unfortunately, we also saw crumbling banks, fishless streams, and land overrun and overused by humans and animals.

"I can only hope that the work the Foundation continues to do with the surrounding community will help to raise awareness and preserve the incredible resource that so many of us have come to love and rely on."

Spencer Duran, Washington and Lee University A. Paul Knight Memorial Scholarship

"I would like to begin by saying thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Albert Knight and to the Henry's Fork Foundation for making this opportunity possible. I am so lucky to have worked as a summer intern for HFF.

"I'll never forget all of the amazing memories that I made during my summer out West. I truly enjoyed getting to further my knowledge about this vast and important watershed through daily field experience in this beautiful part of the country. Electrofishing the tributaries of the Henry's Fork was always an exciting experience. We hope that our work this summer will one day help to improve the status of the native Yellowstone cutthroat trout within this watershed. It was a pleasure to get to work with everyone involved at the Foundation and see their passion that they have for their work. I'm already looking forward to returning to Idaho and visiting everyone at HFF as soon as I can."



The 2012 summer interns included (from top left to bottom left): Spencer Duran, Chase Douglas, Charlie Ryland, Nessarose Schear, Kendra Sultzer, and Lindsay Martin (not pictured). Internships are typically funded through the generosity of HFF members and universities. Visit www.henrysfork.org/available-scholarships to learn more about the interns and the internship program and available scholarships.

Chase Douglas, Washington and Lee University
A. Paul Knight Memorial Scholarship

"The summer I spent working with the Henry's Fork Foundation was like nothing I have ever done before. It was a summer of many firsts for me. I had never lived alone before, never had a job in my field of study, and had never been in eastern Idaho. This is what made this summer so special and memorable. I felt like I was getting a glimpse into my adult life, and it felt good. This summer has definitely reinforced my passion for environmental studies as well as instilling a new appreciation and respect for places as wild and natural as eastern Idaho."

Kendra Sultzer, St. Lawrence University

"I had an amazing summer interning for the Henry's Fork Foundation. I'd never gotten a chance to learn so much about fish, and now I can identify different species. On my first day here, I helped release trout into the stream with the Trout in the Classroom kids, and I loved working with them at various points throughout the summer. It was rewarding to see how interested they were in learning about the trout because they're the next ones in line for future conservation."

"Working with the other interns directly in the field was so much fun, and it was such a thrill to see that there are still the native Yellowstone cutthroat trout populating the streams!"

Lindsay Martin, Colgate University
Rear Admiral James Greene Scholarship

"Although my time as an intern at HFF has been short, it has been a unique experience. Having never been out west, I consider myself lucky to spend time in this gorgeous part of the country. I had a blast electrofishing the remote creeks in Targhee National Forest. Some highlights of my time here include seeing a moose (and calf!) for the first time, the 4th of July parade down Main Street, and exploring the countryside with the other interns. I wish all those at HFF the best of luck and thank them for making my time here so special."

Nessarose Schear, Stanford University

"This summer has been an unforgettable adventure and learning experience. From electrofishing remote creeks to checking the fish traps on the buffalo dam, we have explored almost every part of the upper Henry's Fork Watershed. Highlights included floating trips along the Fall River, the Warm River, and of course the Fork itself with the awesome intern crew. Our main project was electrofishing sites that were fished around 10 years ago in order to check in on the native Yellowstone cutthroat populations and to see if their numbers and range have changed. Living in Idaho was amazing. I loved being so close to Yellowstone and the Tetons and getting to explore and hike in this exceptional region."

Former Intern Returns to HFF

Chris Brand, Washington and Lee University, 1989
HFF Board Member, 2012–2015

"My introduction to the Henry's Fork came in the mid-1980s while attending Washington and Lee University in Virginia. As an avid fisherman and consumer of all things fly fishing, I read at least one captivating piece on the Henry's Fork in *Fly Fisherman* magazine, only to discover that the article's author was a professor at Washington and Lee, namely Dr. John McDaniel.



In 1988, two friends and I had the opportunity to spend our summer in the Yellowstone/Jackson, WY region working and fishing. Nell and John McDaniel invited us to stay with them in Pinehaven and fish and explore the watershed from the Box Canyon to Pinehaven. Needless to say, we were enthralled by the landscape, the river, the extremely selective fish, and the strategies and tactics necessary to successfully pursue Ranch rainbows. Our first few days on the Ranch were days of "fishing", not "catching," but we felt the pull of the place, river, and quarry.

My fascination with the river was piqued enough to spur my application for the A. Paul Knight Conservation Stipend (as I believe it was then called) to spend a season on the Ranch.

In late August 1989, I joined Mick Mickelson, then President of HFF and Dr. Jack Griffith's team of PhD students in Last Chance. I would spend the next three months living in the old Ranch Manager's cabin in Harriman Park, working daily on hydrology studies, vegetation studies, de-watering analyses (and their impact on juvenile survival), diurnal feeding studies, night-snorkeling excursions, electroshock studies, radiotelemetry studies (tracking seasonal movement of large adults), and occasionally attending water-board hearings relating to the proposed hydro project on Island Park Dam.

When time permitted, I either paced the banks or rode my bike up to Bonefish Flats in search of rising heads. During this time, I had the incredible opportunity to better understand the river, its ecosystem and surroundings, enjoy the company of the seasonal and permanent residents, and perhaps add a bit of value to the river through elbow grease.

During the ensuing twenty years, my schedule and life have become busier, but I have often found the time to travel back in search of Ranch rainbows, and I oftentimes think of the incredible time I spent on the Ranch and in Last Chance...those memories are fairly indelible."

Riffles: Notes From the Field

Watershed Council Tour

Sixty people joined the Henry's Fork Watershed Council for a tour of the watershed on August 14. The group visited the Flat Ranch, a property owned and operated by The Nature Conservancy. Flowing through the center of the Flat Ranch is the Henry's Lake Outlet, a stream that was channelized for irrigation purposes after in the 1920s.

HFF and The Nature Conservancy partnered on a project that returned a straightened reach of the outlet to its historic channel in 2007. This has reduced streambank erosion and improved fish habitat in approximately one mile of the outlet.

After lunch the caravan of vehicles visited the Lucky Dog/Moose Creek restoration project, and then moved on to the proposed Moose Creek Reservoir site, which is no longer being considered in the Henry's Fork Basin Study. The tour concluded at the Buffalo River Hydroelectric Project, where the group heard from Dave Peterson of Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative. HFF's Anne Marie Emery checked the fish trap at the fish ladder with the help of volunteers from Ashton Elementary.



Anne Marie Emery tells the tour group about the success of the Buffalo River Hydroelectric Project fish ladder. Approximately 60 people joined the tour of the watershed throughout the day.

Reservoir Drawdown Averted

In early August, PacifiCorp considered an option to lower Ashton Reservoir an additional maximum of five feet in order to fix a leakage problem with the temporary earthen dam holding back the reservoir during the Ashton Dam reconstruction.

This drawdown would have been up to five feet beyond the lowest level planned during the reconstruction project and potentially release the annual amount of sediment normally flushed through the lower river over the course of only a few weeks. Fortunately, PacifiCorp discovered another option that would allow the project to proceed without the need to more drastically protect the temporary dam.

This was good news for those who fish and recreate on the Henry's Fork. The Henry's Fork Foundation and others voiced concern about the impacts such a drawdown would have on the fisheries and the fishing industry and jobs that depend on it.

In a letter to the company, HFF asked PacifiCorp to look at other alternatives and other considerations. HFF heard from PacifiCorp a week later that the drawdown would not be necessary after all.

Awards Presented at Henry's Fork Day

Conservationists recognized for work that benefits the Henry's Fork

Each year, the Henry's Fork Foundation takes a moment of the well-attended Henry's Fork Day event to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the conservation of the Henry's Fork and to the Foundation's work in particular.

Bob Rosenberg: Bill Manlove Award

For giving freely of his time and resources as a passionate Foundation board member for two terms, including three years as the board chairman, Bob Rosenberg received the Manlove Award, named in honor of Bill Manlove, one of the Foundation's founders. Bob successfully launched a major fundraising effort, with the support of the board, to ensure the Foundation's work would continue far into the future.

Bob is a retired endodontist from Marin County, CA. In the mid-1990s, he and his wife Susan built their Pinehaven residence and he took up fly-fishing. He founded SOFFE, the Society of Fly Fishing Endodontists, and continues to help organize the Foundation's California Reception and Fundraiser.

Joyce Edlefsen: Conservation Award

Joyce Edlefsen has provided uncompromising coverage of conservation issues in the Henry's Fork watershed for over three decades. Joyce is a native of Driggs and became a reporter for the Fremont County News (now the Standard Journal) in 1981.

Joyce covered hydropower threats to the Henry's Fork in the early 1980s, the transfer of Mesa Falls into public ownership, the Island Park Dam sediment spill and the resulting formation of the Henry's Fork Watershed Council, the fight over reintroduction of the grizzly bear, and the Fremont County motorized boat controversy.

After learning about winning the award, Joyce responded "Years ago when I was a young reporter, Bill Manlove came to the Standard Journal with information about a new organization he was helping to start. I was impressed with this new idea and told him I wanted to join, but he told me no. Instead, he said, I could do more good if I wrote—in an unbiased way—about the Foundation. I hope I have done that."

Mary Carter Hepworth: Volunteer Award

Mary Carter Hepworth has contributed 800-plus hours to organizing and archiving the files and papers of the Henry's Fork Foundation. During her career at Boise State University, Mary left her mark by archiving the papers of Ted Trueblood and wrote a guide to the Ted Trueblood Collection at the University.

Mary continues to serve the Foundation by organizing the Henry's Fork Watershed Library, which has grown into thousands of items over the years.

Generous Gift Raises \$12,000 in Auction

Two HFF members will enjoy a week at the Patagonia River Ranch



A gift of a 7-day fly fishing trip for two from the Patagonia River Ranch helped HFF raise \$12,000 at Henry's Fork Day this past June. This generous live auction item was purchased by two Henry's Fork Foundation members.

The Patagonia River Ranch, nestled on the banks of the renowned Chimehuin River, is a beautiful private fly fishing ranch located in the heart of Patagonia, Argentina. Even if you missed out on this trip at Henry's Fork Day, you can still book a trip for the upcoming fishing season that begins December 1.

Visit www.flyfishargentina.com for more information.

Thank You for Your Contribution to HFF

May 1, 2012 to July 31, 2012

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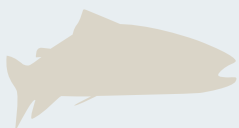
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Donors Enjoy Gourmet Dinner

The annual Green Drake Reception received a makeover by Pond's Lodge this last June. Chef Jon Good served a five course gourmet dinner paired perfectly with a selection of wines. Pond's Lodge donated the entire cost of the event for HFF's Green Drake members—an extraordinary gift to those who make so much work on the Henry's Fork possible. Thank you to RJ Cardwell, Carl Solden, Jon Good, and all the staff at Pond's Lodge who made the night an event to remember!

The Green Drake Society is composed of donors who make an annual contribution of \$1,000 or more to support the Henry's Fork Foundation.



Photo by Blake Boyd

HFF's Upcoming Events

San Francisco Reception
November 15, 2012
St. Francis Yacht Club

Salt Lake City Reception
Friday, February 22, 2013
Downtown Radisson, SLC

Henry's Fork Day
Saturday, June 15, 2012
Last Chance, Idaho