

THE VOICE OF THE RIVER

Henry's Fork Foundation

SUMMER 2012

HENRY'S FORK DAY XXVIII

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2012
FISHERMAN'S ACCESS · LAST CHANCE, IDAHO



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 8:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m. | Best of the Henry's Fork Casting Competition |
| 9:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m. | HFF Member Meeting / Silent Auction Opens |
| 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. | Henry's Fork Day Expo (new this year)
<i>Featuring Mike Lawson, Jeff Currier, Bob Jacklin,
Leslie Harrop, Kelly Galloup, and Bruce Staples</i> |
| 4:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. | Host Bar and Reception / Silent Auction Continues |
| 6:00 p.m. | Prime Rib or Grilled Chicken Dinner
<i>\$50/ticket or \$400/table of eight</i> |
| 6:30 p.m. | Silent Auction Closes / Live Auction Begins |

Buy a Ticket, Win a Drift Boat

\$100/ticket • Only 125 raffle tickets sold • Buy online at www.henrysfork.org or at Henry's Fork Day

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Ashton, Idaho 83420
208-652-3567
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www.henrysfork.org

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Each fall when we pack up to leave the Henry's Fork, even before reaching the bottom of Ashton Hill, I begin the countdown for the start of the next season. No matter where I am during the year, the river is never far from my mind. And come March or April, when the days begin turning from grey to blue and opening day on the Ranch approaches, the river leapfrogs to front and center in my thoughts.

With the Ranch opener comes Henry's Fork Day, this year on June 16th. The Henry's Fork Foundation Staff and Board have been working at a frenetic pace to make this the biggest and brightest celebration ever, including some surprising new events you're sure to enjoy. We hope to see many of you under the tent—as well as on the water. Staff and Board will be on hand to answer your questions and to fill you in on everything the Foundation is doing to conserve, protect, and restore the river and watershed that's so near and dear to all of us.

If you're wondering what to expect of the fishing this season, everyone anticipates yet another year of blue ribbon results. That prognostication is based in part on this winter's outstanding water flows, which matched or exceeded those of the past two-to-three years.

This Henry's Fork Day also marks the end of Layne Hepworth's tenure as the Foundation's Chairman of the Board. During the past two years, I've had the good fortune to serve both as Vice Chair and Secretary under Layne, and I've watched him go above and beyond on behalf of HFF. Layne has given more than generously of his time and resources during his seven years on the Board, and the river and watershed are the fortunate beneficiaries.

That's equally true of HFF's stellar staff. Please be sure to say thanks to Brandon, Brady, Jim, Kim, Annie, Laverne, Amanda, and Joan when you see them at Henry's Fork Day—or in HFF's bright new offices at 512 Main Street in Ashton. The Staff's enthusiastic commitment and incredibly hard work are ultimately responsible for HFF's success.

Here's to a great season and a terrific Henry's Fork Day.

Bruce Raskin
HFF Board Secretary

HFF at a New Location

HFF is now the proud owner of a new office building at 512 Main Street in Ashton, which was generously donated by Layne Hepworth and Tad Sweet, with additional donations from Bruce Raskin, Yvonne Ferrell, and Dirk Reinhardt. Thanks also to architect Keith Kennedy.

Owning its own building makes HFF more financially secure over the long-run, and helps ensure we can continue to fulfill our mission of protecting the watershed. **Next time you are on the Henry's Fork, stop by and visit!**

First Caldera Symposium

A scientific and angling exploration of the Henry's Fork

The Henry's Fork between Island Park Dam and Mesa Falls contains some of the most renowned trout fisheries in the country. Some anglers have said, however, that fishing is not what it used to be—with fewer fish, diminished aquatic insect hatches, and degraded habitat.

To address these concerns, HFF will bring together leading scientific and angling experts for the first Caldera Symposium on July 12, 2012 at Pond's Lodge in Island Park. The full-day Symposium will feature the latest scientific research about the river, trout ecology, stream restoration, angling, and many other relevant topics.

The Caldera Symposium is a culmination of the comprehensive Caldera Project, created by HFF in 2008 to better understand and improve the upper river fisheries. For the past four years, HFF has coordinated a technical team of scientific experts who have made significant advancements in our understanding of the Henry's Fork.

This work particularly focused on The Ranch stretch of Harriman State Park, in addition to several tributary streams.

Research results are being used to develop restoration projects that will begin this year.

The Symposium will also include presentations about fly fishing in the Caldera from renowned anglers, including René Harrop and Mike Lawson, who have fished the Henry's Fork for several decades. These anglers 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.

The day will conclude with a panel discussion about Harriman State Park—what do anglers want and where do we go from here? If you want to learn more about this revered stretch of river and what is being done to improve it, then you should attend.

The Caldera Symposium is co-organized by the Henry's Fork Foundation, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. Special thanks to Pond's Lodge for providing lodging for event speakers.

There is no charge to attend, but RSVP's are required because seating is limited. For more information see www.henrysfork.org.



Photo by Susan E. Quinn

Riffles: Notes From the Field

College of Idaho Field Day

Ichthyology students from the College of Idaho spent a weekend in April working in the field with HFF Education Coordinator and College of Idaho alumnus Anne Marie Emery. The class of 12 students was led by Professor Chris Walser, PhD, an advocate of getting students out of the classroom and learning by doing on-the-ground work.

After spending the morning at the Henry's Lake fish hatchery, the class skied into the Buffalo River where the students helped mark hundreds of rainbow trout younger than one year old collected in the out-migration (downstream) fish trap (photo below). These trout were released upstream, and the percentage of them recaptured on their way back downstream will help HFF determine the trap's effectiveness.

Special thanks to Henry's Fork Anglers and TroutHunter for providing skis and lodging to the College of Idaho students. You can view the students' video of the day, "Ichthyology Adventures," on Youtube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=tl5GGNUgT10.



Photo by Josh Williams

Research Technician Matt Cahoon demonstrates the effectiveness of the downstream fish trap at the Buffalo River Hydroelectric Project to ichthyology students from the College of Idaho. Last year, the 100,000th fish passed through the trap.

River Access Site Improvements

Four popular Henry's Fork River Access Sites were significantly improved last year and are ready for the 2012 season. As part of the Chester Dam Hydroelectric Project, Fall River Electric Cooperative installed two new concrete boat ramps, one above and one below the dam. The Co-op also enlarged the parking area above the dam and installed two new vault toilets.

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest has nearly completed work to stabilize erosion on the Grandview Boatslide below Mesa Falls (see photo). Hard-bottom boats (drift boats) are no longer permitted at this river access site. The Fremont County Parks Department and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game are replacing the large concrete ramp, installing vault toilets, and improving the parking lot at the Ashton Reservoir boat access. The smaller concrete ramp will remain open during construction.

Ashton Reservoir remains closed to the public through 2012 during the reconstruction of Ashton Dam.

Looking ahead, the Fun Farm Access Site is scheduled for major upgrades this year. HFF continues to work in partnership with all the entities mentioned above to maintain and improve angler access to the Henry's Fork.



The Caribou-Targhee National Forest has nearly completed improvements to the Grandview Boatslide access area in order to address erosion problems on the steep hillside.

Final Salvage on Crosscut Canal

In early April, volunteers, including many from the Upper Snake River Fly Fishers, helped HFF staff salvage fish from the Crosscut Canal near Chester Dam. Volunteers used electrofishing to capture 464 fish, including 214 rainbow trout, trapped in the canal. Fish were then released into the Henry's Fork downstream of Chester Dam. Volunteers noted the average-size rainbow trout was 17 inches.

Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative has installed fish screens on both canals originating at Chester Dam as part of their hydroelectric project. These screens will be fully operational this year.

Thanks to Steve and Joette Lookabaugh for providing access to the river through their property and to all the volunteers, including the Upper Snake River Fly Fishers.



Volunteers turned out in early April to capture fish that swam into the Cross-cut Canal. Fish were caught using electrofishing and released back into the Henry's Fork below Chester Dam.

Sticker Required for Boats in Idaho

If you plan to use a boat that is 10 feet or longer on any Idaho river or lake, you must purchase an Invasive Species Sticker. Stickers for non-motorized boats are \$7.00 and are now available at the HFF office at 512 Main Street in Ashton during business hours (9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday). HFF cannot sell stickers over the phone or via mail.

You can also purchase a sticker or find a list of vendors at any time online at www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/idahoinvasivespeciesfund. Please remember to CLEAN, INSPECT, and DRY all boats and gear when done fishing for the day in order to prevent the spread of invasive species.

HFF Member Brings New Scholarship to HFF

HFF is excited to announce a new scholarship relationship with St. Lawrence University in New York. Created by HFF member and St. Lawrence University alumnus Eric Adema, this scholarship will provide HFF's research and restoration program with a student to help meet summer research goals for the next three years.

The St. Lawrence scholarship is the newest addition to HFF's growing internship program, which includes the Paul A. Knight scholarship (Washington & Lee University), Admiral James Greene scholarship (Colgate University), Bill Lane Center for the America West scholarship (Stanford University), and the Don C. Byers Memorial scholarship, which is open to students residing in the Henry's Fork watershed.

Ashton Dam Reconstruction Enters Final Phase

By the time you read this, Pacificorp will have nearly completed the spring drawdown of Ashton Reservoir. The reservoir will remain at the lower level and the entire Henry's Fork will be passing through the bypass tunnel until the project is completed and the reservoir refilled in late fall 2012.

Throughout the summer and fall, work will involve removing all of the old rock fill on the upstream side of the dam and replacing it with less permeable material.

The Ashton Dam reconstruction project was required to address dam safety concerns that could have impacted downstream properties and fisheries. HFF provides regular updates on the project at www.henrysfork.org. Look for "Ashton Dam Updates" at the bottom of the webpage.

Thank You for Your Contribution to HFF

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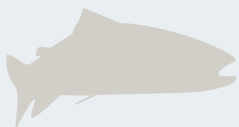
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for donating their "Award Winning Package" for all our fundraising events this year. This package includes: Fly Rod & Reel's Kudo Award Winner: Simms Guide Stockingfoot; Fly Fisherman's "Best Boot" Winner: Simms RiverTek BOA Boot; Gray's Sporting Journal "Gray's Best": HardBite Star Cleats; Midcurrent's "Best of Show" Award Winner: G4 Pro Jacket; Soon-to-be an award winner: Stone Cold Shirt

The SIMMS logo is displayed in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters within a dark rectangular border. The letters are slightly shadowed, giving the logo a three-dimensional appearance.



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Fishing Guides Rescue Osprey

Fishing guides rescued an injured female osprey in Box Canyon the last week of April. The local conservation officer gave permission to capture the raptor, which Education Coordinator Anne Marie Emery helped care for until it could be taken to the Teton Raptor Center. Under their care, the osprey will hopefully recover and successfully return to the wild. Bryan Gregson captured this photo of TroutHunter guide, Brad Miller, holding the injured bird before it was transported.



Photo by Bryan Gregson
www.bryangregsonphotography.com

HFF's Upcoming Events

Henry's Fork Day
Last Chance, ID
June 16, 2012

Caldera Symposium
Island Park, ID
July 12, 2012

San Francisco Reception
Fall 2012
Date coming soon

Online Auction
Stay tuned for more info!

