Henry's Fork Foundation: 30 and going strong

FALL 2014

Celebration Marks 30th Anniversary

Passion, time, and funding are keys to good times on the Henry's Fork

By Brandon Hoffner HFF Executive Director

The 30th Anniversary at the Henry's Fork Foundation has thus far been a blast!

Not because all of our events in Salt Lake City, Boise, and Austin and HF Days have been well attended by generous donors.

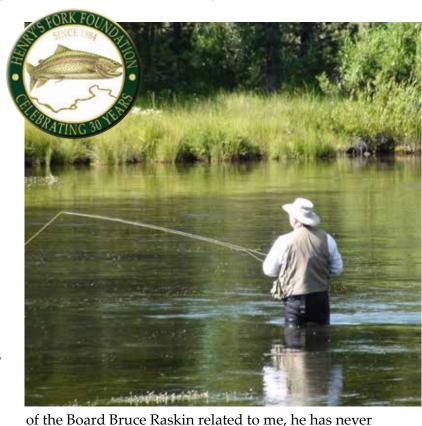
Not because we sold all 30 of our 30th Anniversary Scott Radian rods with Hatch reels, Airflo lines and Trouthunter leader (thanks again to those companies for their support!).

Not because we have quietly kicked off our Campaign for Wild Trout and seen a rapid increase in estate gifts that will ensure that the Foundation is here to stay for the next 30, 60, and 90 years.

Not because we have a dedicated staff and supportive Board of Directors that ensure the Foundation is moving in the right direction and has the resources it needs to be successful.

All of these are just icing on the cake for the Henry's Fork Foundation's 30th Anniversary.

The fishing has been fantastic, and I think everyone would agree a healthy river and fishery is the best situation to have, whatever anniversary it happens to be. Even a little low water early in the season could not dampen things too much. As former Vice Chairman



had better fishing for large, strong fish in his time on the Henry's Fork. I spent a recent morning fishing with former Board Chairman Bob Rosenberg at the log jam. Not only did he also feel the fishing was the best in his

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HFF Research Addresses Needs of Wild Trout and Anglers

By Rob Van Kirk Senior Scientist

Past newsletters have presented detailed results from individual research projects, but it has been a while since we gave you the "big picture." Here, we provide a broad overview of HFF's research program and how it leads to better wild trout fisheries.

Three important aspects of HFF's work shape our research activities:

First, HFF does not own water or land, nor do we have legal authority to manage or regulate water, land use, or the fishery. We rely heavily on partner organizations, landowners, and agencies to help us accomplish our mission, and this requires us to work where we

Continued on page 3



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Celebrating 30 Years

Thank you to donors from the HFF board chair

By Jim Carter **Board Chair**

As we enter our fourth decade, the Henry's Fork Foundation finds itself in the enviable position of meeting or exceeding our goals for fundraising, membership, collaboration, and advancing the science of our river. This is a great time to step

in as chair of the Henry's Fork Foundation Board, and I'm thrilled to be a part of the team that continues to advance the HFF's standing as the Voice of the River.

We're coming off a record-setting Henry's Fork Day and are beginning the implementation of our updated Strategic Plan. We've spent the past year re-focusing the plan on our core mission, sustaining the health and future of the river. With a staff and membership as talented and dedicated as the HFF, it is easy to take on new challenges and see opportunities to broaden the influence of the Foundation in the interests of the river we love.

The new Strategic Plan, however, returns to the core mission that animated the HFF at the beginning, 30 years ago. Our energies and resources will be focused on developing a better understanding of the physical and biological systems that make the Henry's Fork the spectacular fishery it is. Too, we will be concentrating on projects that enhance the proper function of the river and improve the habitat for its residents. The emphasis on science-based advocacy that initially brought many of us to the HFF is our strongest suit, and we plan to play that hand aggressively.

We are welcoming new Board members who include one of the original founders of the HFF as well as one who caught her first Henry's Fork fish just a few months ago. The breadth and depth of the love of the river and support for the work the Foundation amazes and humbles me. I'm honored to be associated with the champions of our river, and I ask you to continue to support our collective efforts.

New Website, Staff Assignments Aim at Communications

The Henry's Fork Foundation has an exciting, freshly designed website as well as some new staff assignments.

The new website, launched in mid-July, is designed to be more mobile devicefriendly. It is part of HFF's ongoing efforts to keep everyone up to date on what we are doing in our quest to protect, conserve, and restore the Henry's Fork. We are also focusing more on social media through Facebook and Twitter.

Office Manager Cathy Koon is now the website administrator and newsletter coordinator. Paige Cahoon, development coordinator, has the added responsibility of designing and directing the printing of other materials and online fundraising campaigns. Anne Marie Emery, conservation education biologist, will manage social media as part of her education and outreach duties. And Julie Mauer, membership and systems manager, will administer membership and merchandise sales online.

The changes came in response to the departure in June of HFF communications specialist Amanda DeRito, who left to work at Utah State University. "Amanda is a tough act to follow. She did a tremendous job with the newsletter and other facets of her job," Koon said. "We wish her well in her new job."

Water-quality recording instruments being installed at strategic sites throughout the watershed are a key component of the Foundation's ongoing habitat work. Staff Photo.



can influence management. Second, we focus on wild trout, which need specific types of habitat for reproduction, growth, and survival. Third, a fishery is not just the fish; it includes the anglers, too.

Accordingly, our research activities fall into four general categories: 1) water management, 2) trout habitat, 3) fish passage, and 4) socio-economic assessment.

Water and habitat are musts

First and foremost, wild trout need water. Thus, hydrologic research has been an important component of HFF's research program for the past 20 years. This research translates into improved stream flow through HFF's participation in the Henry's Fork Watershed Council and related processes, including Island Park Drought Management Planning. HFF's hydrologic research and water management activities will only increase in the coming years, as demand for water increases throughout the region.

Trout also need habitat. Following decades of research on habitat needs of juvenile trout, we are now studying the habitat preferences of adult rainbow trout, specifically in the Harriman State Park ("Ranch") reach of the river. This project, scheduled for completion in December 2015, will provide information needed to ensure optimal summer habitat for adult trout in the Ranch. Preliminary results suggest that trout habitat on the Ranch is affected by management of Island Park Reservoir, relating trout habitat back to HFF's involvement in water management.

A second major component of our habitat work is monitoring of key water-quality parameters, including dissolved oxygen, sediment, phosphorus, and temperature. During the spring of 2014, we installed waterquality recording instruments above and below Island Park Reservoir and at Pinehaven. Over the next few years, we will install instruments in the lower watershed and in major tributaries. The water-quality data will allow us to identify and mitigate potential risks to

wild trout growth and survival for decades to come.

Good trout habitat benefits the population only if the fish have access to that habitat. HFF has been instrumental in improving fish passage at the Buffalo River hydroelectric project and at Chester Dam. In addition to documenting species, sizes, numbers, and timing of fish migrating past the Buffalo hydroelectric dam, we are using genetic analysis and tagging to identify individual fish so we can quantify the contribution of the Buffalo River to the Henry's Fork wild trout population and target habitat restoration and enhancement actions accordingly.

We will continue the genetic analysis and tagging for at least two more years. As construction on the Chester hydroelectric project wraps up in 2014, we will begin monitoring fish passage there as well.

Because we work to maintain and enhance wild trout fisheries for the benefit of people, we complement bio-

logical and physical science with socio-economic research. This season, we are conducting a survey of angler attitudes on the Ranch and will compare results with those from an identical study conducted in 2008. Biological research can relate fish numbers to stream flow and fish passage, but only a survey of the anglers themselves can tell us whether their fishing has improved.

Fishing provides economic benefits

A study conducted by Dr. John Loomis from Colorado State University a decade ago showed that better fishing on the Henry's Fork leads to greater economic benefit to the regional economy. In 2015, we will contract with Dr. Loomis to repeat that study.

Documenting the economic value of the Henry's Fork wild trout fishery is critical to gaining support for our work from elected officials and watershed residents. Our success in maintaining wild trout fisheries depends on this support.

memory, but the general attitude on the river was positive, with only an occasional naysayer (the curmudgeons on the river know who they are, and we would be concerned if they gave up on being curmudgeons too easily) about the good ol' days or the low water.

The flows have now come up, and the fishing is still really good by all accounts. Fishing in the Box with newbies, who were also interested regional water-resource stakeholders, during a lovely July day was outstanding. Even the most novice of anglers caught multiple fish, large and small.

This situation did not happen by chance. Thirty years of contributions of passion, time, and funding have made the current good times on the Henry's Fork possible. Thirty years provided the time necessary for our organization to mature and lay the foundation of research and collaboration vital to the current health of the river. Thirty years allowed the actual projects and processes to age to the point where the fruits of those who labored to bring them about could be harvested.

Thirty years has demonstrated what good ideas (Caldera Project, Chester Hydropower Project, etc.) combined with open dialogue (Drought Management Planning, Ashton Dam Remediation, etc) can bring about. We are seeing the results every day on the Henry's Fork.

I mentioned the Campaign for Wild Trout earlier. You will be hearing a lot about this in the next five years. This campaign will be the vehicle for the Foundation to maintain the current momentum and ensure we have another strong and successful 30 years. The core of the Campaign for Wild Trout is HFF's desire to intertwine cutting-edge technology, peer-reviewed science, and multiple collaborative efforts into the best possible results for the health of the Henry's Fork.

If you have the desire to make a direct impact on the river that you love, please contact us. We would love to have all 3,000 of our members pulling hard in the same direction to build on the success of the first 30 years. Thanks again for all you have done and will do for this wonderful river.



Fishing the Ranch



Brandon,

I thought you might like to see a few of the fish we caught on the ranch the week of July 6.

There were eleven of us who fished only the Ranch for seven days. We estimate we caught between 150-200 fish above 17" between us.

All of the fish in the photos are 20" plus. There were several monsters that did not have their picture taken because they flipped away while posing for their photo.

The Foundation is doing a great job. There seem to be more and bigger fish.

Regards, Ralph Conner Life Member Salt Lake City, Utah



Member Profile

Jack and Janet Roberts Just Keep Coming Back

Jack and Janet Roberts Austin, Texas

Jack and Janet Roberts have enjoyed the Henry's Fork since their first trip to the area in 1989 and have returned many times each year since. In fact, they like it so much they bought a home in Warm River, Idaho, in 1992.

"There was just something unique about the Henry's Fork that kept bringing us back year after year . . . and we have loved every minute we've been fortunate enough to spend on the river," Jack observes.

The couple live in Austin, Texas, where Jack spends most of this time tending to his governmental affairs consulting firm and private investments. When he doesn't have a fly rod in his hand, Jack can often be found spending his leisure time rummaging around some of the 5,500-plus bottles in his wine cellar.

And if you are looking for Janet, well, head for the horse training stables. An accomplished rider, she and her prized Arabian horse Magalad have won 19 National Championships in the United States and Canada.

Having joined the Board of the Henry's Fork Foundation in June 2014, "Jack is now in a great position to directly contribute to the care, nurturing and preservation of the Henry's Fork," Janet emphasizes. It is



an endeavor that will complement their interests in conservation, wildlife, and environmental preservation in general.

Jack and Janet have lived in Austin since their marriage 32 years ago, and Jack has never lived anywhere else. Janet, on the other hand, was born in Lima, Peru, and lived there until 1966 when she moved with her parents to San Antonio, Texas, which was their hometown.

Both believe very strongly that "if those of us who enjoy the river the most don't step us to protect it, then most likely nobody will."

Thanks to the Idaho Master Naturalists



The Henry's Fork Chapter of Idaho Master Naturalists volunteers countless hours to HFF at the Extension Office at Last Chance, conducting angler surveys, maintaining monofilament stations, counting fish, working at Henry's Fork Days and doing roadside cleanup, to name a few. They pitched in to recycle all the glass from Henry's Fork Days and are always available to help out when asked. Among the IMN group at Henry's Fork Day were, from left, front, Lee King, Bill Ruppel, Phyllis King, Dannye Hanrahan, Sue Ruppel, Val Zupsan, and Kathleen Stevens; and back, Dennis Hanrahan, Bill Vroman, and Candace Vroman.

Eagle Scout Project Helps Keep the Fork 'Tangle-Free'

Discarded fishing line can last as long as 600 years in the environment, and if disposed of improperly, it threatens the lives of any animals that may consume it or become entangled in it.

Last year, the Henry's Fork Chapter of the Idaho Master Naturalist Program worked with the HFF to install monofilament recycling stations along upper river access sites to reduce the risks that discarded fishing line pose to wildlife and the Henry's Fork.

This year, Boy Scout Spencer T. Mullen extended this work by introducing recycling sites to the Lower Henry's Fork for his Eagle Scout Service Project. Spencer constructed and installed five monofilament recycling stations at five angler access locations from Ora Bridge down through Fun Farm, hoping to decrease negative encounters between littered flyline and birds of prey.

Idaho Master Naturalists are maintaining and emptying the bins throughout the summer months at the 20 monofilament recycling bins throughout the Henry's Fork Watershed.



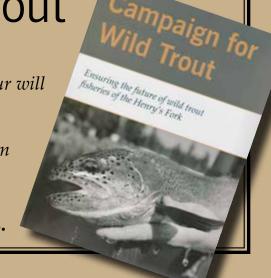
Campaign for Wild Trout

Is HFF in Your Will?

Please let us know if you've included the Foundation in your will so we can recognize you in our Legacy Society as part of the Wild Trout Club.

If you need the specific language to include the Foundation in your will, please contact Brady Taylor brady@henrysfork.org or 208-652-3567.

For another strong and successful 30 years.







Moms and Youth Learn Fly Fishing Basics

Earlier this summer HFF teamed with Patagonia Fly-Fishing Ambassador Millie Jo Paini to host two introductory fly-fishing classes on the Henry's Fork: One for youth and one for their mothers. The clinics introduced all participants to the basics of fly-casting, knots, and aquatic insects, with the women's clinic focusing also on encouraging and helping kids on the water.

Inspiration for the clinics came

from an invitation for Paini and HFF's Anne Marie Emery to participate in an exclusive Patagonia women's fly-fishing clinic hosted by Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard and Mark Harbaugh last year.

"Through this clinic, we realized how much the sport of fly-fishing is inspired through the participation of mothers, which inspired us to lead local clinics on the Henry's Fork," says Emery. The youth clinic involved kids who got hooked on fly-fishing after participating in HFF's "Youth on the Fly" program. "Youth on the Fly is about catching trout," says Emery. "It is the essential hook-set to getting them into the sport. Now that kids are excited about fishing, they are ready to learn the more the technical side to the sport from Patagonia's Millie Paini." Thanks to assistance from Rich Paini, Jasmine Ence, and Todd Martindale, kids demonstrated the skills they learned by each catching large rainbow trout on a private pond on Sheridan Creek. Each youth got to go home with his or her own box of "Trout-Hunter" flies.

The women's clinic was held the following week for the mothers of the previous clinic participants.

"It's important to realize that moms need to learn this stuff, so we can be a resource to our children on the water," says local Ashton mom Daedre Orme. "This clinic not only introduced me to other local moms who like to fish, but taught me what I needed to know to help foster my child's interest in the sport."



Interns Help Make It All Happen



Interns, from left, Taylor Burdge, Jeff Clemente, Thacia Schmidt, Sara Reese, Blair Tynes, Trevor Gordon and graduate student Zach Kuzniar.

Interns from U.S. universities spend several weeks in the summer working on projects for the Henry's Fork Foundation throughout the Watershed. Among their impromptu projects this year was construction of stairs for access to the river below Ashton Dam (right top and middle photos).

They counted and measured fish, interviewed anglers (bottom right), repaired fences, installed waterquality monitoring equipment, collected water-quality samples, and assisted in genetic analysis and tagging (bottom middle).

They put up signs, watered flowers, watched out for cows, and

very nearly tripped over a bear.

Our summer 2014 interns:

Jeff Clemente, St. Lawrence University

Taylor Burdge, Stanford University Blair Tynes, Washington and Lee University

Trevor Gordon, Washington and Lee University

Sara Reese, Colgate University

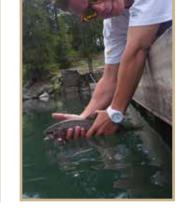
Thacia Schmidt, Byer's Memorial Scholarship

Completing his second of three years of a graduate study of genetic analysis is Zach Kuzniar from Grand Valley State University.











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Water Year Highlights Increasing Uncertainty in H₂O Management

By Rob Van Kirk HFF Senior Scientist

Management of natural resources requires predictions from quantitative models. I have developed such models to predict emergence timing of salmonflies in the Henry's Fork, the number of campers in the Yosemite wilderness, and fish abundance in the South Fork of the Snake River. If the predictions were imperfect, the effect on resource users was small. Few anglers can tell the difference between 2,800 fish per mile and 3,000 fish per mile.

Not so with water. If predictions of water supply are incorrect, the effects are immediate and noticeable. Irrigators, hydroelectric power companies, and anglers can all tell the difference between 950 cubic feet per second (cfs) in the Henry's Fork and 440 cfs. This is what happened below Island Park Reservoir during the spring of 2014, providing an excellent example of how water supply is becoming increasingly unpredictable in the western U.S.

Let's start on October 1, 2013, the beginning of water year 2014. Following two consecutive dry summers, the upper Snake Reservoir system was drained to only 10 percent of capacity. Island Park Reservoir was at 25 percent. Because winter inflow to Island Park Reservoir consists of groundwater, which is more predictable than surface runoff, statistical models did a great job of predicting inflow, and winter management of Island Park went as planned. Outflow was reduced to around 95 cfs during October and November to store as much water as possible before the weather turned cold and then increased to about 200 cfs for the remainder of the winter to benefit trout survival and allow the hydroelectric plant to operate.

However, snow accumulation was highly variable in time and space. Most of the Snake River basin received almost no snow early in the winter, with the exception of areas along the Continental Divide. February 1, later supply forecasts were dismal. We were facing a third consecutive dry year, with little reservoir carryover or soil moisture to maintain stream flows. Thankfully, well above-average precipitation during February and March delivered a healthy snowpack throughout most of the basin. Suddenly, water-supply forecasts predicted above-average runoff, more than enough to fill reservoirs.

At the end of April, Island Park Reservoir content was at average for the date (as predicted from our winterflow models), the amount of water in the snowpack on Mt. Sawtelle was at average, and inflow to the reservoir was only slightly below average. The data suggested that subsequent management based on

long-term averages would fill the reservoir by the end of May and yield an outflow of around 950 cfs in mid-June, very close to the river's natural flow. Accordingly, outflow from Island Park Reservoir was increased to 950 cfs on May 2. But instead of filling, reservoir storage actually decreased, prompting reduction of outflow to 640 cfs on May 15 and to 440 cfs a week later. Despite these outflow reductions, the reservoir never filled. It peaked at 98 percent of average on June 30, before delivery of irrigation water began. Under-prediction of inflow cost 2 percent of Island Park's storage capacity and resulted in suboptimal flows for early-season floating and fishing downstream.

What happened?

Historically, the amount of water in the snowpack at the White Elephant snow survey site on Mt. Sawtelle has been a reliable predictor of spring runoff into Island Park Reservoir. However, inflow during May and June of 2014 averaged 675 cfs, compared with a long-term mean of 1,010 cfs, despite average snowpack at White Elephant. Closer analysis revealed that the amount of water in the snowpack decreased very quickly with distance west of Mt. Sawtelle, reaching values of only around 60 percent of average at the west end of the Centennial Range. Thus, runoff from Sheridan Creek and other tributaries to the west end of Island Park Reservoir was much lower than we had predicted based on the snowpack at the eastern end of the Centennials. Meanwhile, for reasons related to timing of runoff relative to irrigation demand, the upper Snake reservoir system filled to only 80 percent of capacity, despite above-average runoff in Fall River, Teton River, and the Snake River headwaters.

The overwhelming message from water year 2014 is that climate in the western U.S. is becoming more variable, making it increasingly difficult to predict and manage water supplies. Many hydrologists and water managers from around the west have made this point throughout the spring and summer in scientific communications, at meetings, and in the popular media.

For HFF, this message means that we must invest even more heavily in our own hydrologic research to develop predictive models that incorporate the uncertainties of our modern climate. Furthermore, we must continue to work with water users, agencies, and other stakeholders to develop basin-wide water management strategies that stabilize water availability for all users. As demand for water increases and predictability in supply decreases, we will have to work even harder—and smarter—to meet the stream-flow needs of wild trout.

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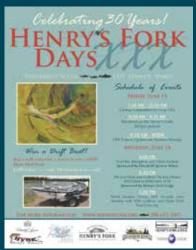
Cliff Zeike Steve Zerza

HFF Gives Awards at Annual Henry's Fork Days









Steve Trafton

Nelson Ishiyama

Bruce Raskin

Each year, the Henry's Fork Foundation honors three individuals or organizations for their service to or support of the HFF mission. At its 30th anniversary celebration at Henry's Fork Day in June 2014, the Foundation honored former executive director Steve Trafton of Hapkinton, N.J., and former board members Bruce Raskin and Nelson Ishiyama, both of Palo Alto, Calif.

Manlove Award

Trafton was executive director at HFF from 2002 to 2011. In his nine years, he guided the Foundation through a tough drought, provided leadership on the Henry's Fork Watershed Council, utilized the relicensing of Island Park Dam to usher in the Drought Management Planning process necessary to shape flows



Raffle Winner

Twinkle Chisholm of Salt Lake, a member since 1998, won the Hyde Drift Boat raffled off during Henry's Fork Day. She and her nephew, HFF Board Member Mike Langford, posed proudly for a photo with her prize. for wild trout below Island Park Dam, built a new fish ladder on the Buffalo River that allows all age classes of fish to move up and down the river system, utilized the Chester Dam Hydropower Project process to build and fund a fish ladder and fish screens where none previously existed, initiated the Caldera Project, and generally rebuilt the Foundation's capability to deliver its mission through increased budget and staffing. The Manlove Award, named after founder Bill Manlove, is given to a person who has served HFF over the long term.

Conservation Award

Ishiyama is a past board member and has been part of the HFF Advisory Committee since 2008. He was instrumental in launching the Caldera Project through his work on that committee. He started fishing the Henrys' Fork in 1965 and opened the Henry's Fork Lodge in 1991. He actively participates in conservation organizations throughout the region. The Conservation Award is presented to someone who consistently promotes or participates in service projects for the Foundation.

Volunteer of the Year

Raskin has been a member since 2000 and served on the board of directors, 2006-2013, four years as secretary and one as vice chairman. He has edited many board publications, including the massive Strategic Plan in 2007 and website content in 2010. He has organized fund-raisers and served on committees. With Bob Rosenberg, he organized a fundraiser in Island Park during the summers called Art for the River, that raised money for HFF via an art-and-fine-rug sale held in his garage and later moved to TroutHunter. Together they launched the San Francisco reception in 2007, which has become a major fundraiser for HFF.

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Saving Memories

By Brady Taylor Conservation Fund Director

When I started working for the Foundation seven years ago, I was quickly impressed by the passion of the many members who make the work we do possible. I've met many of you and have been blessed to get to know some of you really well. The Foundation has matured since I joined the staff in 2007, and it has been rewarding to grow right along with it.

As I talk with members, I usually ask why they continue to support our mission. The responses vary, but they eventually all end up in the same place. We begin by talking about the work of the Foundation, our collaborative approach, and the incredible staff that makes it all possible, but it always ends with a personal story.

I've heard many big fish tales and awesome stories, but it's the overall experience and collected memories that keep members giving. While "big fish and more of 'em" certainly enhance the experience, it is just a part of what makes our Henry's Fork memories so remarkable. A remarkable hatch, a breathtaking sunset, the laugh of your friend, the smell of the air, the sound of a fish rising, the feel of your rod when you make that perfect cast, and landing a fish after a long fight, all combine to create a memory that becomes as important as any of your most cherished possessions.

I've learned that saving these memories keeps the work of the Foundation going. Let me explain. In addition to sharing our memories, the other way we pay tribute to them is by trying to repeat them. If we know it is possible to repeat an experience, it keeps that memory alive. This is why so many of you continue to support the Foundation; it's personal. Our pledge is to protect and preserve not just the Henry's Fork but your memories as well. With your continued support, we can and will save your memories. Thank you for your inspired generosity!

New Board Members:

Knickrehm of Eagle, ID; John Gaynor of Las Vegas, NV; Mike Lawson of St. Anthony, ID and Pamela Johnson of San Francisco, CA.

Continuing Board Members:

Eric Adema of San Francisco, CA; Chris Brand of Mill Valley, CA; Tom Brown of Atherton, CA; Jim Carter of Salt Lake City, UT; William Connelly of Salt Lake City, UT; Mike Engel of Park Gary Gross of Leander, TX; John Hoagland of Salt Lake City, UT; Kay Jones of Wilson, WY; Michael Langford of Salt Lake City, UT; Martin McLellan of Idaho Falls, ID; Larry Myers of Enumclaw, WA; Jonathon Stiehl of Island Park, ID; and Peter Valenti of Chicago, II.

A Very Special Thank You to Our **Outgoing Board Members:**

Robert Dotson of Bountiful, Utah; John Harrington of Mack's Inn, ID; Margaret Kruke of Park City, UT and Ann Murray of Nashville,

Upcoming Events

Extension Office Closing BBQ September 24, 2014

Extension Office, Last Chance, Idaho

Green Drake Society Dinner September 26, 2014 Pond's Lodge, Island Park, Idaho

San Francisco Reception Friday, November 7, 2014 San Francisco, California







