

VOICE OF THE RIVER

2016 FALL NEWSLETTER

Looking at the Past Season
Anticipating What's Ahead [pg. 3](#)

Youth on the Fly
Celebrates
5th Year
[pg. 4](#)

Trout Habitat
Study Makes
International
Journal [pg. 5](#)



Board of Directors

Chair Jim Carter <i>Salt Lake City, UT</i>	John Gaynor <i>Ashton, ID</i>
Vice Chair Gary Gross <i>Leander, TX</i>	Jon Hodge <i>Salt Lake City, UT</i>
Secretary Chris Brand <i>Mill Valley, CA</i>	Pamela Johnson <i>Kentfield, CA</i>
Treasurer Patrick Gibbons <i>Salt Lake City, UT</i>	Amelie Kappes <i>Piedmont, CA</i>
Governance Chair Larry Myers <i>Enumclaw, WA</i>	Mike Langford <i>Salt Lake City, UT</i>
Eric Adema <i>San Francisco, CA</i>	Mike Lawson <i>St. Anthony, ID</i>
Tom Brown <i>Atherton, CA</i>	Jerry Nielsen <i>Ashton, ID</i>
Will Connelly <i>Salt Lake City, UT</i>	Jack Roberts <i>Austin, TX</i>
Bruce Elliston <i>Asheville, NC</i>	Doug Siddoway <i>Spokane, WA</i>
	Jonathan Stiehl <i>Last Chance, ID</i>

Staff Members

Brandon Hoffner <i>Executive Director</i>	Rob Van Kirk <i>Senior Scientist</i>
Brady Taylor <i>Conservation Fund Director</i>	Julie Maurer <i>Membership and Systems Coordinator</i>
Tim Maurer <i>Finance and Human Resources Manager</i>	Melissa Muradian <i>Research Associate II</i>
Kristen Widdison <i>Development Coordinator</i>	Bryce Oldemeyer <i>Research Associate I</i>
Jamie Laatsch <i>Conservation and Outreach Coordinator</i>	Paige Cahoon <i>Graphic Design and Marketing Coordinator</i>

HFF Welcomes New Member to the Team

Bryce Oldemeyer, HFF Research Associate



In August, Bryce Oldemeyer joined our HFF staff to assist in the collection and analysis of water quality and quantity data. Bryce was born and raised in Boise, Idaho and grew up roaming the mountains and rivers of the West. Though he enjoys most recreational activity that takes place outdoors, his true passion requires rods, reels, and big fish. Over the years he has turned his childhood passion for fishing into a career centered on fisheries and fisheries related research.

In 2010 Bryce earned a B.S. in environmental science from the University of Idaho, and in 2016 he completed an M.S. in fisheries science, along with an academic certificate of statistics, from his undergraduate alma mater. Intertwined with his academics, Bryce has worked extensively with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game conducting research on anadromous (sea-going) fish species in Idaho. He began his IDFG career as a bio-aide snorkeling headwater tributaries looking for juvenile salmonids, transitioned to a technician operating rotary screw traps and weirs for juvenile and adult salmonid data collection, and ended as a biologist creating statistical packages and models for IDFG fisheries biologists.

We look forward to utilizing Bryce's knowledge and expertise in fisheries, water quality, and statistics to help achieve the goals of the Foundation. 🐟

Member Leaves HFF a Generous Gift

John Schneider's Henry's Fork Legacy

We are sad to report that long-time member and supporter, John Schneider, recently passed away at the age of 90. John first started fishing the Henry's Fork in the 1930's with his father and spoke of fishing in Island Park before the dam was built. He attended college at UCLA and the University of California, Berkeley where he earned an engineering degree. He was also a WWII Navy Veteran. John fished across the world and lived in New Zealand, Italy, and Japan as part of a career in the oil business. He began visiting the Henry's Fork regularly with his wife Betty in the 1970's and would spend a month or so in the Rexburg area every summer.

The Foundation received a generous legacy gift from his estate this summer. We appreciate his many years of support and generosity.

For more information about the Legacy Society, contact Brady Taylor brady@henrysfork.org or 208-652-3567. 🐟



Looking at the Past Season and Anticipating What's Ahead for the Henry's Fork

HFF Staff and Board Examine Strategies for Sustainability

By Brandon Hoffner, HFF Executive Director

A decent snowpack in late January ushered in high hopes for a good water year on the Henry's Fork in 2016. Unfortunately, the weather turned warm and dry in February, and a once-promising winter was reduced to the hope that a single, late, epic storm could pull the snowpack back to 100 percent. That storm never materialized and instead, consistent near-record high temps kicked off the month of April. The snowpack dwindled early and, once again, the process of filling Island Park Reservoir became a challenge for Upper Snake Basin water managers.

Recent History

Over the past few years, after winters of weak snowfall, spring and summer rain provided needed relief and prevented excessive drawdown of the Upper Snake Basin storage system. This year, instead of summer rain, the upper Snake River watershed experienced record heat in June, and the need for irrigation water increased rapidly, resulting in high delivery of reservoir storage beginning in mid-June. The combination of higher than average flows, incessant wind, and warm temperatures made for very tough fishing conditions during the Green Drake hatch.

July did not bring any improvements to the Henry's Fork below Island Park Dam. The Henry's Fork Foundation, in conjunction with Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), began a gill lice study. Warm water temperatures caused anglers to notice more of this indigenous pest as they studied their catch, and HFF wanted to respond quickly. Early returns suggest that the problem was mostly limited to the Ranch, and very few fish were heavily infested. It is always good to get feedback from our members and work quickly to assess problems as they arise. Additionally, a cyanobacteria ("blue-green algae") bloom, fueled by high reservoir temperatures and copious amounts of phosphorus, introduced turbid water into Box Canyon, Harriman Ranch, Pinehaven, and beyond. The decaying cyanobacteria cells added a grey color to the water far downstream of the reservoir. While not dangerous to the

fish, anglers looking for dry-fly fishing opportunities were hard pressed to find what they were looking for. To make matters worse, summer precipitation was nonexistent.

Fish Populations and River Health

Most anglers come to the Henry's Fork in search of large wild trout. In lower reaches of the river (below the Ashton Hill), trout populations are stable, and large fish are definitely present. On the Ranch, anglers are looking for large, surface-feeding rainbows. These wild rainbow trout are still present on the Ranch and adjoining stretches, but as confirmed by IDFG population estimates, fewer large fish are present overall when compared to 2013, 2014, and 2015, a direct result of low winter flows in 2014 and 2015.

The HFF has heard from a few anglers that the Henry's Fork is "dead". While the lower river continues to hold steady, it is true that the reaches below Island Park Reservoir have seen declines in both wild trout and aquatic insect numbers. However, invertebrate sampling completed by the Henry's Fork Foundation this spring documented over 20,000 individual macroinvertebrates—important food sources for trout—per square meter of stream bottom at Last Chance and Osborne Bridge, and the annual IDFG population survey estimated over 2,000 wild rainbow trout per mile. By no definition is the Henry's Fork "dead". Not as good as it was over the past 3 years? Trending in a direction that causes great concern to HFF staff and the HFF Board of Directors? Yes to each of these questions.

Water Management and Quality

Four years of low water yields and early runoff from the Henry's Fork Basin have put a strain on fish, insects, and the water storage system. Strategically, the HFF has invested heavily in water quality monitoring across the watershed and is utilizing that data to actively work with other stakeholders to look for new answers to persistent Henry's Fork fishery issues. A recent legal settlement between surface-water users and groundwater pumpers

continued on page 6

Celebrating 5th Anniversary of Youth on the Fly

By Jamie Laatsch, HFF Conservation and Outreach Coordinator



In 2016, “Youth on the Fly” celebrates five years of connecting students to their local river. Students write a one-page essay about why they’d like to participate and are paired with local, professional guides for a day of fishing on the Henry’s Fork. Guides donate a full day of guided fishing to make this program possible and this year five guides donated their time to make sure each student who applied was accepted. These guides included Ryan Loftice (Trout Hunter), Carlos Chavez (Three Rivers Ranch), Tom Cleary (Teton Valley Lodge), Paul Hoelscher and Jay Hurt (Henry’s Fork Anglers).

On August 11th, the group floated from Stone Bridge to Ashton Reservoir catching as many as 10-20 fish per boat. Despite the warm, sunny conditions and reports of

tough fishing on the Henry’s Fork, by the end of the day there were stories of as many as 21 fish for one boat of 5th graders and a rainbow trout in the 14-16” range being pulled in by a first-time fisherman in another. This might just sound like a fish tale, but these Henry’s Fork guides are the best in the business, so I’m inclined to believe it.

Many thanks to the guides who donated a day of guided fishing, to the Idaho Master Naturalists and Yellow Sally for volunteering to run shuttles, to Patagonia for donating hats, and to the Voigt Foundation, Jack Roberts, and Bill Hurst for making sure each student went home with the Redington rod and reel they had been learning with all day. 🐟

New Partners and an Internship for HFF’s Fencing Program

By Jamie Laatsch, HFF Conservation and Outreach Coordinator



As many may know, fencing has been part of HFF’s history from the very beginning. Fencing efforts in the 80s gave the banks of the Henry’s Fork time to recover, but a recent increase in reports of cattle in the river has led HFF to revisit our fencing plan. On a snowy day in December

2015, HFF sat down with Harriman State Park (HSP) and a half dozen grazing permittees to form a partnership committed to rebuilding fencing in Harriman State Park. This meeting also cemented the idea to recruit an HFF intern who can focus on fence maintenance and respond to

calls of cattle in the river. By the spring of 2016, an internship description had been posted and, through the Caribou-Targhee National Forest Resource Advisory Committee (RAC), HFF had \$13,000 of funding in place for fencing. As the manpower and resources were coming together, HFF met with HSP and local permittees again to finalize a plan. The group set the date, and from June 28-30th and again on August 3rd, nearly 30 volunteers met on the banks of the Henry's Fork to pound posts, run wire, and swing hammers until six miles of new fence line was built.

By late July, Hunter Hill had arrived to start his internship and begin walking fence line. Hunter has responded to a handful of calls about cattle in the river near Last Chance, but most of his time has been spent putting fence back

up at Wood Road 16 in preparation for cattle to arrive in mid-September. Thanks to the many partners, volunteers, and interns who have worked on fencing so far this year, a great deal of progress has been made. We look forward to continuing to build on that progress in coming years. 🐟



Fence construction along the Henry's Fork in 1985.



Trout Habitat Use Study Published in International Journal

By Rob Van Kirk, HFF Senior Scientist

The international journal *Ecology of Freshwater Fish* recently published HFF's study of habitat use by adult rainbow trout in Harriman State Park. The peer-reviewed paper is entitled "Seasonal effects of macrophyte growth on rainbow trout habitat availability and selection in a low-gradient, groundwater-dominated river" and is co-authored by Zach Kuzniar, Rob Van Kirk, and Eric Snyder. The paper is available online at the journal's web site and constitutes Zach's master's thesis at Grand Valley State University.

The primary theme of the paper is that in low-gradient streams such as the Henry's Fork, rooted aquatic vegetation ("macrophytes") is the primary determinant of trout habitat conditions. Heavy macrophyte growth during the summer keeps dissolved oxygen levels high, increases physical

habitat cover, slows water velocities, and increases depth at a given river flow. This latter function turns out to be very important to trout, as detailed observations of radio-tagged trout showed that they strongly prefer deeper water.

When macrophytes are extremely dense, trout also tend to seek localized areas where the macrophytes are less dense; those of you who fish the Ranch late in the summer know that trout often feed in open feeding channels between macrophyte beds, and Zach's research documented this. Macrophyte abundance depends on weather, streamflow, and availability of sediment and nutrients, and HFF has continued to monitor these variables to determine optimal conditions for macrophyte growth, and hence trout habitat. 🐟

continued from page 3

on the Snake River Plain has opened up possibilities for new water-management methods to provide consistency and sustainability to the Henry's Fork, but it will require HFF and its partners all pulling in the same direction to achieve the new levels of investment necessary for positive outcomes. Fortunately, the Henry's Fork has enough dedicated anglers to make this work possible.

The Henry's Fork is not alone with its struggles this summer. Cyanobacteria blooms have plagued lakes and reservoirs throughout the West. The American Fork River near Provo experienced a sediment dump from a defunct reservoir that killed the fish for two miles downriver. Rivers across southwestern Montana were again placed on "hoot owl" restrictions that shut fishing down completely in the afternoon and evening. And by now, most of you have seen or read about the PKD-induced fish die-off on the Yellowstone River. The same issue occurred on the South Fork of the Snake River in 2012. The Yellowstone is a free-flowing river with no upstream reservoirs to affect water quality, so this PKD outbreak is especially perplexing to anglers and the conservation community.

Some of the talk surrounding the Yellowstone has focused on effects of small-scale irrigation occurring in the Paradise Valley and how it has affected the river (when you work daily in one of the largest irrigation systems in the world, what occurs in Paradise Valley is small scale). Irrigation from tributary streams definitely severs the surface-water connection between the small streams and the Yellowstone River, but it does not prevent the Yellowstone from receiving portions of that tributary water. Hydrologic models show that around 35 percent of that water still makes its way into the Yellowstone through sub-surface flow. Yet, recent letters to the editor of a popular fly fishing magazine website misstate this and other facts about the situation on the Yellowstone.

Continuing to Conserve, Protect, and Restore the Henry's Fork

HFF has worked for 32 years to gather the facts on the Henry's Fork, and step-by-step we have turned that data into positive outcomes for this river. Is it a linear progression to a Henry's Fork utopia? Alas, no. Rather, it is ebb-and-flow progress within a complex water-management system. Overall, we have had major successes in conserving this fishery, and we will continue to have success in the future with the support of our members. The HFF will be working diligently to gather additional scientific and legal facts and turn that information into meaningful outcomes

to provide for the long-term sustainability of the Henry's Fork fishery.

Given the inconsistent conditions on the Henry's Fork this summer, we had numerous robust conversations with many of our members, which often led to discussions about the manner in which our members can become more involved. The HFF really appreciates this show of support for the Henry's Fork and our work. Significant issues potentially affect the long-term sustainability of the fishery below Island Park Dam, and the HFF can envision many different ways to tap into the expertise of our members for assistance in the future.



September 1, 2016 Despite the rough summer conditions, Henry's Fork Angler guide, Colton Schofield, and his client are still successful on the Ranch.

Currently, the HFF is in the process of setting a course that will allow us to continue the work that has been accomplished over the past thirty-two years while simultaneously building a framework to proceed forward into the next thirty years.

To that end, there are ways you can help, and we'd like to hear from you. The October Monthly Hatch will contain a link that directs you to a short survey and a request for open-ended feedback. It would help us immensely if the HFF membership participated in the survey. When you take the time to complete the survey, please block out a little additional time and read a few of the HFF blog postings from the past year. HFF has a tremendously qualified staff and stable of interns that have provided top notch information. Share it with your friends if you find the material interesting, and call or email the office if you have questions. Ultimately, we need your continued support to be an advocate for the wild trout fishery of the Henry's Fork. 🐟

Contributions: April 1, 2016 - June 30, 2016

\$5,000+

Eric Adema
Kevin and Nicole Despain
Robert and Kelli Dotson
Gary and Cathy Gross
Don and Sally Henderson
C.J. Lorio
Jerry Nielsen
Rob and Pam Pannier
Jack and Janet Roberts
Mark Rockefeller
Rocky Mountain Appraisals
Steven Simper
James W. Spiller

\$2,500+

JP Hayes
John and Carol Hepworth
Layne and Mary Hepworth
John and Vicky Hoagland
Matt Knickrehm
Kent and Stefi Kuster
Jim and Maureen Larkin
Larry and Sue Myers
Wesley and Janet Nelson
Bob and Susan Rosenberg
Grant Schettler
Douglas and Lauri Siddoway
Tom and Doris Squeri
Stan Fried Private Foundation
Liam and Felicia Thornton
Gary and Susan Thurmond
Lana Varney
Stephen E. Denkers
Rick and Shauna Williams
Charles and Janet Woods

\$1,000+

Di Allison
John and Marsha Anderson
Bank of Idaho
Roff Barnett
Garth Blanchard
Thomas and Joan Brown
Amy E. Byers Holm
Lyman and Carol Casey
Phil and Cynthia Cohen
William and Melissa Connelly
Daniel and Amanda Conner
Joseph and Sarah Denig
Clinton and Anna Dille
Tom and Karen Duncan

Dave Edmark
Billye Elg
Henry and Flory Ellis
Rex W. Force
Ronald and Laura Forsberg
Kelly Gallagher and
Christine Connor
Gordon Hanson
Joe and Harriet Harris
Scott and Mimi Hayes
Chad Hill
Jon and Karyn Hodge
Brandon and Rochelle Hoffner
Doug and Cathy Houser
Jack Thomas
Lee and Phyllis King
Don and Joy Knickrehm
Jon Knoll
Larry Lauck
Mike and Sheralee Lawson
Tom and Cathy Loeb
Ron Malone
Clayton McDaniel
Susan McDowell and Paul Beckley
Rob and Joie McGarvin
George McGee
Charlie and Barb Messina
Lew and Jill Mithun
Kim and Jeff Montag
Peter K. Noone
Ron and Dawn Obendorf
Jerry and Robin Pulley
Gene and Susan Quinn
Randall Danskin, P.S.
Tim Reynolds and Patty Isaef
Jon Riche
Henry Rogers
Phil Sgamma
George and Leanne Sidney
John and Nancy Slatosky
John and Leslie Soderquist
Bailey Sory
Terry Thomas
Les and Jeanie Thurmond
Parmer and Mary Van Fleet
R. Duncan Wallace, M.D.
David and Susan Wishney
Randy Wolsey
James A. Yarrow M.D.

\$500+

Ed and Teri Ahrens

Ben and Heidi Albano
William A. Arnold
Clen and Emma Atchley
Dean Park
Steve Born
Tom and Shelley Botts
Craig Brewerton
Paul and Irene Buehner
Daniel and Jennifer Doherty
Hans and Marcie Ellis
Spencer Ewert
Richard Farman
Dennis and Tracy
Fitzpatrick, PhD
Gary and Linda Franke
Gary Grigg
Bill and Debby Hackett
John Hanousek
Dennis and Danyne Hanrahan
Hank and Pat Hemingway
Henry's Fork Anglers
Scott and Tiffany Hortin
Forrest and Susan Hunter
William B. Hurst
Albert and Gail Knight
Roger and Sue Lang
Tim and Alma Mansell
Scott A. McPherson
M.R. and Ruth Mickelson, M.D.
Jane and John Nelson
John Okada
Katie Pierce
Mark and Janet Rohman
Bill and Sue Ruppel
Paul and Martha Schmidt
Richard and Anne Senelick
Ken and Mei-ling Shiroishi
Simms Fishing Products
Jonathan and Jodi Stiehl
K.C. Walsh
Val Zupsan and Steve Whisler

\$250+

David Adema
Steven and Bonnie Altshuld
Steve Bainbridge
Gary Barnes
Mark and Mary Bollish
David and Sylvia Borgonova
Joe and Chris Callanan
Cris Carpenter
Bill Crabtree

Beth Fleming
Mark and Lisa Fraga
Phillip Friesen
Ben H. Godfrey, M.D.
Steve and Susan Guest
Dave Hall
Steve and Brenda Hardle
Robert Herbruck
Tim Hogan
Cecilia Holmes
Bill Kauth
Craig and Deborah Kvamme
Tim and Jan Lawson
Bill & Heidi Layer
Ron Lowry
Rod MacKinnon
Magic Valley Fly Fishers
Rita Manlove
Duane D. Marler
Tom and Elizabeth McRae
Mark and Dana Menlove
Michael and Michelle Menzia
Rev. Peter and Wanda
Michaelson
Robert Murdoch
Cliff Nowell and
Laura Anderson
Michell Patrick
Brandt Peterson
Ron Pfeiffer
Clay and Laura Pickard
Dr. Jim and Bonnie Pohl
John and Kris Poloski
Lynn and Diana Richardson
Noah Robertson
Joshua Ross
Tom and Becky Schell
Jacob F. Schutt
Rick and DeAnn Stoolman
Ed and Elizabeth Strickland
Chuck Sundry and
Gloria Beattie
Scott Swanson
Dan and Jill Thompson
Dan and Barbara Todd
Elizabeth Todd
Leonard Vanscoy
Idaho Power Company
Blake Wesley



PO Box 550
Ashton, ID 83420
www.henrysfork.org

<Smart Addressee>
<Address Line 1>
<Address Line 2>
<City>, <State>, <Postal Code>



SPECIAL GUESTS
Nelson Ishiyama and
Yvon Chouinard

SAN FRANCISCO RECEPTION

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3
6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

OBSERVATION POST
at the Presidio

EVENING EVENTS
Silent Auction, Dinner, Legendary
Speakers, and a Live Auction

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Call HFF at 208-652-3567 or
Email kristen@henrysfork.org

512 Main Street
PO Box 550
Ashton, Idaho 83420
208.652.3567
hff@henrysfork.org

Connect with us online . . .



www.henrysfork.org



facebook.com/henrysfork



twitter.com/henrysfork



youtube.com/hffoundation