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Cover photo: Charlie Lansche

Honoring the 2024 Award Recipients

Volunteer Award

Dave Hall

Dave has fished the Henry's Fork for over 40 years, and his art and book donations have raised more than \$100,000 for river conservation organizations, including the Henry's Fork Foundation.



Conservation Award Tony Olenichak

As Water District 1 Watermaster, Tony contributed significantly to HFF's understanding of water rights, facilitating the unprecedented water conservation that benefits Henry's Fork winter flows and fisheries.

Manlove Award George Borkow

George and his wife Marilyn sponsored HFF's Science and Technology Laboratory, supported the Farms and Fish Program, and became the first River Guardians, significantly increasing the Foundation's reach and capacity.





Founders Award Dr. Mick Mickelson

Mick was a founder and served as President of HFF from 1985–1992, ran the organization out of his orthopedic office, and played significant roles in all of HFF's major accomplishments in the early days. Mick's leadership and vision continue to influence HFF's work today.

Photo credit: Brian O'Keefe



This year is the 35th Anniversary of the Henry's Fork Foundation Internship Program. Starting with the Washington & Lee University intern Chris Brand in 1989, HFF has expanded its internship program over the years. Students have continued to make a difference through research, data analysis, field work, and participation in other on-the-ground projects. Learn more about the 2024 intern projects here.



Washington and Lee University Water Quality & Ecology Intern

Lily's work this summer focused on water temperatures in the

Ranch reach. Her work builds on the project that was launched in collaboration with anglers last year to monitor temperature using data-loggers in Harriman State Park. Lily visited each of the 17 sites every week to download data, which is added to the HFF website. The project helps HFF learn more about temperature variability on the Ranch, and find ways to reduce the effects of temperature on our fisheries.



N. Fremont High School graduate
Don C. Byers Intern

Hunter spent the summer monitoring, repairing, and

maintaining HFF's riparian fence along Last Chance and Wood Road 16. Our riparian fencing program began in 1984 to protect the banks of the river from degradation. Hunter also worked with HFF's Aquatic Resource Coordinator, Matt Hively, to investigate the feasibility of e-fencing through funds received through an Idaho Fish and Wildlife grant.



John Ceryanek
Colgate University
Communications & Outreach Intern

Whether taking drone footage, planning and executing outreach

events such as river cleanups and Youth on the Fly, assisting with field work, or creating content for social media, John spent his summer working with the communications team to ensure that we continue to find new ways to connect with the community.



Jackie Heitmann St. Lawrence University Outreach and Fundraising Intern

2024 is year 2 of our summer outreach program, Morning

Bites! Jackie managed this program throughout the summer, sharing coffee, donuts, and bite-sized bits of information with anglers at sites such as Osborne Bridge, Stone Bridge, Chester, and Box Canyon. Additionally, Jackie helped with the Fleming Barn Party and tabling at the Island Park Festival.

Madison Leeman

University of Idaho College of Law Law Extern

Did you know that HFF works with the University of Idaho College of

Law to host a law extern each year? This year's law extern, Madison, spent the summer compiling and analyzing regulations that relate to recreational river users in the Henry's Fork watershed.



At HFF, we recognize that we stand on the shoulders of giants. The foundation for our current achievements was built 40 years ago by the foresight and dedication of the founders, board, and staff who came before us. Every project, every success, has been decades in the making.

That is part of what makes our work now so crucial. Every step we take today will set up the Henry's Fork and future stewards to face the challenges the next 40 years will bring.

UNIQUE CHALLENGES

Climate, drought, water quality, and changes in hatches are giving us a preview of what's ahead. That's why anglers, partners, and HFF are coming together to launch efforts that can investigate and address the most critical issues the river faces.

Here are a few of the projects and programs aiming to tackle the next generation of challenges.

DIRTT: Developing Infrastructure to Reduce Temperature and Turbidity

The DIRTT Plan might be the most comprehensive of all the work coming down the pipeline. This umbrella plan investigates a whole host of potential solutions to some of the river's biggest challenges. From "high tech" fixes such as engineering and infrastructure to pull cool water from the depths of Island Park Reservoir, or to prevent West End sediment from reaching Island Park Dam, or to pump oxygen into trout habitat, to "nature-based" solutions like tributary restoration and aquifer recharge to ensure that cooler water enters the Ranch, this plan is looking at it all.



VOICE OF THE RIVER

While not a "new" program, HFF's role as Voice of the River will be as vital as ever in the face of increasing development pressure on wastewater facilities, water supply and already increasing phosphorus levels in the river itself. These issues could pose some of the greatest risks to the fishery's health in recent memory, and will require a coordinated effort by all who care for this river and its watershed.

RANCH WATER TEMPERATURE MONITORING

Launched in 2023 in coordination with anglers, extensive monitoring of water temperatures throughout the Ranch will not only pinpoint areas of concern, but will inform where strategies developed in the DIRTT Plan can be most effective in actively cooling Ranch temperatures for trout and insects.

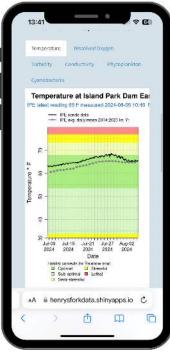
RIVER CONDITIONS WEBSITE

HFF's suite of online data empower angler decisionmaking. From home and from the river, anglers can pull up



current water temperatures, streamflows, hatch timing, and more. Is there off-color water coming out of the reservoir and making the Box Canyon water shades of brown? Now you can check in real-time.





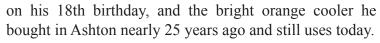
Tackling these new efforts does not take away from the Foundation's tried-and-true work. To ensure a bright future, riparian fencing, river access, fish passage, educational programs, and unprecedented water conservation through our Farms & Fish and Precision Water Management programs must all continue. The dedicated and capable staff and Board of the Henry's Fork Foundation will make sure they do.

Cheers to 40 Years! A Summer of

A Summer of Celebration

Thank you for your overwhelming kindness and support at all of our 40th Anniversary celebrations this summer. We greatly enjoyed Henry's Fork Days, where nearly 600 members, founders, partners, anglers, and community members gathered together on the banks of the Ranch to honor this iconic river, and all of the efforts to protect it these past 40 years.

Folks reconnected with old friends, swapped stories, and reminisced about favorite memories in this beloved place. For HFF's Dr. Rob Van Kirk, it was a childhood trip with his father and brother, his first day of work behind the counter at Henry's Fork Anglers



When thinking about how far the Foundation has come, founder Mick Mickelson expressed his awe while looking out over the sprawling crowd of people who care so deeply for the Henry's Fork, recalling that the first Henry's Fork Days raised a whopping \$200. While the number of members and programs has grown, the dedication to the founders' vision for a healthy Henry's Fork has never wavered.

Thank you for an incredible first 40 years, and here's to the next 40! We can't think of any better way to express our gratitude than to put our heads down and get back to work.

"A River Runs Through Us"

We're collecting stories to honor this Anniversary year! Share your Henry's Fork stories and photos with us online at henrysfork.org or via email to brady@henrysfork.org, and be entered to win great prizes!

Plus, your stories and photos will be collected into a digital flipbook for everyone to cherish.























Each year HFF seeks more and more opportunities to engage with the community so that future generations can continue to feel connected to the Henry's Fork watershed and be stewards of the river for years to come.

Dam to Farmland Watershed Tours

HFF Scientist Dr. Christina Morrisett took community members on a tour every Thursday throughout July and August. These tours covered Island Park Dam to St. Anthony farmland and were a great way for participants to learn about the local watershed and how water management works.

HFF's 40th Anniversary Celebration of Work

From June 5-August 7, HFF hosted panel discussions to highlight 40 years of projects, partners, collaboration, and science! In case you missed it, each week's session was recorded and you can watch the highlights on HFF's YouTube page.

Celebrating 40 Years of Fins and Friends

In 2009, HFF held our first ever river cleanup! Volunteers not only cleaned up trash but created a collaborative art piece that featured handprints, and children cast painted fly line onto the canvas. On June 27, volunteers from the Idaho Master Naturalists and Snake River Cutthroat

chapter of Trout Unlimited helped HFF staff clean up access sites from Last Chance to Big Springs and created a new art piece in honor of HFF's 40th anniversary. To volunteer for future events, email jasper@henrysfork.org.

Friends of Harriman Cleanup

HFF staff and interns attended the Friends of Harriman cleanup event on June 29 where debris and jack fence were removed from Harriman's Sheridan Creek Camp. Thank you to Friends of Harriman for planning and executing this event!

Ashton 4th of July Parade

Interns enjoyed throwing candy to the plethora of community members who attended the Ashton parade.

Youth on the Fly

On August 9, upcoming 6th grade students who completed Trout in the Classroom participated in HFF's annual Youth on the Fly event! Students made gyotaku (fish print) art, learned how to cast, tied flies, and practiced flyfishing.

Community Events

Throughout the summer, HFF hosted booths at the Henry's Fork Wildlife Alliance Wildlife Festival, Island Park Festival, and the Fremont County Fair.

What's New on the South Fork?

Did you know that HFF's South Fork Initiative was self-funded and launched due to the passion of a group of South Fork outfitters, anglers, and concerned citizens? Because water management decisions are made on a regional scale, and Palisades Reservoir is central to the Upper Snake River Basin storage system, it is imperative that HFF continues to consider water management from a regional perspective in order to continue to advocate for and protect the Henry's Fork. Learn more at https://www.henrysfork.org/post/faq-the-south-fork-initiative.



Education and Outreach

Each year, students from Madison High School take cuttings of riparian shrubs and trees and propagate them in their greenhouse. In the fall, these trees are planted along some of the South Fork Initiative's critical restoration areas. If you are interested in volunteering during the tree planting, please email jasper@henrysfork.org



Celebration of Work

On July 10, Justin Hays (Palisades Lodge), Shane Wootan (HFF board member and SF resident), Brandon Hoffner (HFF Executive Director), and Brett High (IDFG) participated in a panel discussion on HFF's South Fork Initiative. Watch out for the recording on HFF's YouTube page.



Fleming Barn Party

Thank you to those who attended the Fleming Barn Party in support of HFF's South Fork Initiative! Our work is made possible thanks to our amazing community of supporters.

Get to Know Our Staff

Devan Ence, South Fork Initiative Coordinator



Contributions: April 1, 2024–June 30, 2024

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