



HENRY'S LAKE FOUNDATION

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Spring 1992

Notice to All Readers from Fred Grimes, Newsletter Coordinator.

From time to time we may have articles of a controversial nature in this newsletter. It will be our policy not to censor or edit the content of the articles without the consent of the authors. However, the opinions and statements made are those of the authors and are not necessarily the views and opinions of the Henry's Lake Foundation and its Board of Directors.

President's Message

Spring is fast approaching in Henry's Lake country. Winter was short and sweet this year. The lake froze up early with cold weather and a bunch of snow in late October. Then things seemed to mellow out and coast along. We have a pretty good snowpack in the mountains and the lake is almost full. We got through without a fish kill this winter, so things are looking much better than last year at this time.

The Idaho Division of Environmental Quality, also known as DEQ, is conducting a water quality study on Henry's Lake. Sampling has been done through the ice this winter and will continue throughout the year. The Foundation has pledged some funds to help with this study. We have also been asked to help through the summer by taking flow readings on tributaries into Henry's Lake. The contractor will place gauges on the tributaries at various locations. These will need to be read on a regular basis and the figures jotted down. Anyone who would like to help and will be at Henry's Lake this summer please let me know. You would not have to be present all summer long, because we can set up a schedule of volunteers and when they could assist.

We will be conducting our annual willow plant again this year, it is scheduled for May 9. Stan Horton, owner of Staley Springs Lodge, has agreed to let anyone helping, stay at his lodge for a \$10.00/night fee. Stan will have his cafe open this year so you will be able to get your meals there. We want to thank everyone in advance for their help and cooperation with this event.

We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at Staley Springs Lodge for an organizational and how to briefing before moving to the stream. We will try to finish the willow plant we attempted last year on Duck Creek. If you recall, the stream was still so full of snow that we couldn't get to a lot of the areas, but we had a good time anyway. The weather looks like it will be much kinder to us this year, so we should have no trouble making good progress on this project. Bring waterproof footwear, foul weather gear, and tools such as bars, spuds, pruners, loppers.

This is a great way to spend an early May weekend. Bring your family friends, and any volunteers you can find and have a fun day. Remember, the more people we have, the more area we can cover. The faster we can get done, the quicker we can go fish the Madison River. Hebgen Lake may also be iced out by that date this year.

Our annual membership meeting, potluck and auction will be held this year on July 4th and 5th. We will hold a board of directors meeting at 8:00 p.m. the evening of the 4th, in the lounge at Staley Springs Lodge. The following day, Sunday, July 5th, we will have our regular membership meeting and potluck. We will meet at Wild Rose Ranch at 11:00 a.m. The meeting will consist of a potluck dinner, business meeting, Fish & Game discussion, DEQ discussion and silent auction. Jim Wood has volunteered to solicit donations for the raffle. You can contact Jim at 2295 North Yellowstone Highway, Space 5, Idaho Falls, Idaho, 83401. Jim's phone is (208) 523-1598. The bidding on the silent auction will begin at 11:00 a.m. We are going to do the potluck dinner a little different this year. The Foundation will provide barbecue beef and rolls. Plates, utensils and beverages will be provided, as before, Mary Ann, my wife, has volunteered to provide the dessert for the meal. Please bring a salad or vegetable dish to share. Following the activities the Board of Directors will meet to finish up business. Hope to see all of you there as we will have a good time and raise some funds to help Henry's Lake.

Tom Herron, the Hatchery manager at Henry's Lake, has been busy since arriving in December. Tom is a very nice fellow, we have talked several times. Tom has kept me updated on hatchery activities, as well as dissolved oxygen sampling on the lake. Tom has some ideas for sampling at the lake that are very interesting. Some of these ideas include scuba sampling of both fish and plant life and mapping of the lake. Tom would like to use a Global Positioning System to map the lake. In a letter to me dated March 2, 1992 Tom states the following, "The Global Positioning System (GPS) navigation system that we discussed earlier in February would also be an important tool to enhance lake sampling, fisheries investigation and production of an accurate bathymetric map of Henry's Lake. The most cost effective unit currently available is produced by Lowrance/Eagle marine electronics and is based on Rockwell International's five channel NavCore V GPS receiver. The UltraNav GPS is a combination GPS/plotter/depth finder, available to us at a promotional discount of \$883.00. The cost of this unit could be off-set by selling bathymetric maps through local merchants with proceeds going to the Henry's Lake

Foundation. This has the potential to be a long term fund raising tool as there are many uses for the maps and there are no accurate bathymetric maps available that I am aware of." What do you think of this idea? Would you like to see this done? Let me know what you think about this. If there is positive interest in this, we will pursue funding for the unit. We would donate the unit to the Hatchery for use on Henry's Lake. Tom plans to be at the summer meeting and would like to talk to anyone with an interest in Henry's Lake.

There are some serious work projects on tap for this summer. We still anticipate building a large amount of fence along lower Duck and Kelly Springs Creek and on shore frontage, all on the previous Webster Ranch, now owned by John Taft and Bud Hartman. Barbara Schofield, land owner in the same area, has already given approval to fence her lake frontage. These projects will improve stream fish spawning habitat, plus reduce water pollution from direct livestock contact.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Lee Garland and his family for their generous donation of \$500.00 to the Henry's Lake Foundation this winter. The foundation will make every effort to put this money to good use.

This has been a busy winter. One thing I have realized during my short tenure as President of the Foundation is that there is more to Henry's Lake than grabbing a float tube, fly rod, waders, and fins and heading off to catch a fish. I have enjoyed my involvement with the Foundation and hope that my efforts will not only benefit Henry's Lake but the surrounding area as well.

Doug Siepert

Bedtime Belly Laughs

John O'Neill, Director and former President of the Henry's Lake Foundation, has written a 100-page book containing forty yarns and tall tales concerning many subjects, ranging from fisherman, hunters, horse traders, possums and coon hounds to tomcats, politicians, Jersey bulls and wild boar. It is intended for fun and to bring a smile to your face after a long, hard day.

John is offering autographed copies of this book, "Graffiti on the Great Outdoors," to Foundation members and readers of the newsletter for a \$12.00 donation to the Foundation. Make your check to the Henry's Lake Foundation and mail it

to Polly Holbrook, Secretary, 15200 Northwest Burlington Court, Portland, OR 97231. Indicate you want the book and it will be mailed to you by first class postage.

Henry's Lake Foundation Auction

At the Annual Meeting and Potluck in July, the Henry's Lake Foundation holds a silent auction. Items for sale are donated by members, friends, fly shops, and tackle manufacturers. The success of the auction depends on the continued efforts of the members in contributing and soliciting items for the auction.

In 1991 the auction brought in \$2582.00. The additional sale of hats and cups (\$280.00) plus donations brought the day's total to \$3017.00. We try to keep the overhead low - total expenses were \$20.00 - not a bad profit margin!

The items donated for the auction in 1991 were of exceptional quality. Rods, reels, lines, and flies, of course, were prime items, as well as books and supplies for tying flies. Vests, nets, a float tube, and other fishing equipment sold very well. The float trip on the Madison was a hot item. Jackets, denim clothing, afghans, maple syrup, and a macrame lawn chair were popular. Art objects included hand carved birds and fish, the Henry's Lake Foundation 1991 silver and gold belt buckle, Italian art glass and collector's plates. It was a most interesting and varied collection.

Plans for the 1992 auction, Sunday, July 5, will follow the same general schedule. Mike Brickner will be contacting the fly shops for donations, and Jim Woods will be writing the corporations who manufacture fishing tackle for their donations. All auction items should be turned in before hand to Bob and Marj Roseberry on trailer row at Staley Springs.

We thank all of you who made the 1991 auction such a success. Val and Jack Forman, Chuck Politika, and Sue Yates worked the tables with us. Sandy Hayes and Pat McGuire were at the money table. Shirl Hustead and Sandy Hayes wrote notes of appreciation to all the donors.

Our special thanks go to our individual, business and corporation donors. They are listed below. We appreciate their support.

Bob and Marj Roseberry

List of Donors for 1991 Auction

Bob Roseberry	Myrle and Len Manninen	Fur, Feather & Fly, Rexburg, ID
Bob Gerding (c/o Charlie's Sporting Goods, Albuquerque, N.M.)	Sue Yates	Jimmy's All Season Angler, Idaho Falls, ID
Sandy Hayes	Don Calcaterra, Tuxedo Custom Rods	Polly Holbrook
Jane and Gordon Hunt	Valley View Grocery	Chuck Politika
Blue Ribbon Flies, West Yellowstone, MT	Jacklin's Fly Shop	Jack Forman
Don Carrier	Bud Lilly's Fly Shop	Bill Schiess, B S Flies
Adelyn and Grant Hamilton	Rex Day	John O'Neill
Tom McGuire	Bill Hayes	Tom Grimes, Henry's Fork Anglers
Larry's Wholesale Sporting Goods, Lebanon, MO	Clarence Wright	Milan Comett
Fred J. Grimes	Angler's Workshop	David Reese
Elmer Hayes	Cowboy Express, Inc., Nampa, ID	Jim Ferris
Ruby and Augie Alves	Mel Schulte	Val Forman
	Richard Prange	
	Steamside Adventures, Boise, ID	
	Stan Horton	
	Jim Wood	

Background Sketch of Thomas Herron, Henry's Lake Hatchery Superintendent

I am originally from Leslie, Michigan. I served in the U.S. Navy assigned to the Marine Corps as a hospital corpsman from 1976 to 1982. From 1979 to 1983 I worked in a civilian hospital as an emergency room technician while studying biology. In 1983 I started work as a federal law enforcement officer at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. I returned to school in 1986 at Michigan State University where I completed a Bachelor's Degree in fisheries and wildlife biology.

While at Michigan State I completed graduate course work in chemical and biological limnology and fish ecology at the Kellogg Biological Station at Gull Lake. I worked as a seasonal biologist for Wyoming Game and Fish on Colorado River cutthroat restoration on the Little Snake River before starting with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in 1989. I have worked at the Niagara Springs Steelhead Hatchery, and the Sawtooth Hatchery with anadromous steelhead, chinook and sockeye before coming to Henry's Lake in December of 1991. I am excited about working here and I have some ideas about how to deal with several of the problems that exist with this fishery and the surrounding watershed. I am also anxious to meet the members of the Henry's Lake Foundation.

Thomas Herron

The Brown Bear Fly That Wasn't

During our 1982 Henry's trip, I caught the largest hybrid that I've ever caught, a nine pounder. The fly I used was given to me by Harold Husted, who always met us when we arrived with a hand full of flies that he was catching fish on. One of these flies was a new leech pattern he was using. Harold thought it was tied with brown bear fur. As we ran out of the small piece of fur Harold had, we noted that the new brown bear didn't match the old, it turned out to be *buffalo*.

Hook: Size 6-8 Mustad 3665A
Thread: Danville's Mono Cord 6/0 Tan
Body: Buffalo Fur

1. Wrap tying thread to back end of hook, coat thread with head cement. Cut buffalo fur from skin, 1/4 inch diameter, fold over in half. Pinch fur between thumb and index fingers and lay on top of the hook.
2. Wrap tying thread over the very tip of the fur, then pull back on the fur. Repeat 4-5 times.
3. Twist the fur around the hook 2-3 times, pull out any loose fur.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 as often as needed. Tie off and whip finish.
5. Please bend barb down.

Tom McGuire

A Fly Pattern from the Past: "The Coon Thunderbug"

As Newsletter Coordinator I get the opportunity to read all of the articles before they go to press. As I was reading Tom McGuire's article on the Brown Bear fly pattern, I was reminded of another pattern that was a favorite when I started

fishing Henry's Lake in 1961. I am not sure exactly who tied the first "Coon Thunderbug", but I am relatively sure that it came from one of the several innovative fishermen and fly tiers from Kansas City who regularly fished Henry's Lake many years ago. This fly was tied on large hooks and heavily weighted with lead wire. The reason for the weight was to get the fly down fast. In those days we did not have the wide choice of sinking lines that we have today. As I recall there was only one sinking line available and it had a sink rate somewhere between what is now a #1 and #2. For safety sake these flies were best used for wind drifting, because you did not have to cast them so often. Casting these large flies could be hazardous to your health, particularly on windy days. However, they took a lot of large trout. With today's sinking lines I think you could use much smaller lead wire or eliminate it all together.

The Original Coon Thunderbug:

Hook: #2 or #4 6X long
Thread: Heavy red
Weight:025-.035 lead wire
Dubbing: Raccoon fur with lots of guard hair
 (the lightest color you can find)
Wax: Thompson's dubbing wax
 (the world's stickiest material)
 or thick fly head cement

1. Cover entire hook shank with thread and cement.
2. Wrap lead wire over entire hook shank except for a small space at back and front of shank. Completely cover lead wire with the red thread and cement.
3. Cut the coon fur from the hide being sure to get a lot of guard hair and a small amount of underfur. (The idea here is that the underfur will become a thin translucent body and the guard hair will form a hackle similar to a woolie worm.)
4. Form a large dubbing loop and run thread to the front of hook.
5. Butter the dubbing loop with enough wax or cement to make it very sticky.
6. Place the fur in dubbing loop at right angle to the thread with the under fur and butts of guard hair between the two sides of the loop.
7. Close the dubbing loop and twist as tight as you can without breaking the thread. Now carefully wrap this whole mess toward the eye of the hook, being sure to stroke back the guard hair with your free hand as you wind. When you get close to the hook eye, tie off and clip excess dubbing and whip finish. Properly tied the red thread will show through the underfur body when the fly is wet.

Fred Grimes

Henry's Lake Under the Microscope

Cooperative Effort Will Lead to Management Plan

Scientists and water quality experts from government agencies and the private sector began an intensive water sampling program in January that will lead to a lake assessment and management plan for Henry's Lake by the end of 1993.

Deteriorating water quality in the reservoir west of Yellowstone Park culminated in March 1991 when more than 8,000 trout died as oxygen levels dropped below minimum levels to support the trophy trout fishery. Several immediate

measures were taken last year to prevent additional water quality degradation, including installation of aerators by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to increase oxygen levels. However, a preliminary investigation by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service said short-term measures were not enough to ensure Henry's Lake water quality in the future and recommended the extensive water quality study that is now underway.

The two-year study, administered by the Department of Health and Welfare's Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), will identify the dynamics of nutrient removal, use and dispersal, and preventative or remedial action needed to protect Henry's Lake and its tributaries. The implementation phase will begin after selection of a management plan.

Nearly a dozen local, state and federal agencies, as well as the North Fork Reservoir Company and the nonprofit Henry's Lake Foundation, are cooperating on the study. The effort is coordinated by the Henry's Lake Steering Committee, which was named by DEQ in fall 1991. The committee includes representatives of state and federal agencies as well as cabin owners, fishing organizations, irrigators, commercial interests, ranchers, environmental groups, and local health and county planning officials.

The steering committee chose James M. Montgomery Consulting Engineers of Boise to complete the lake assessment and management plan at a cost of \$163,949. The project is funded under Idaho's Nutrient Management Act and follows guidelines of the federal Clean Lakes Program. Several state and federal agencies also are contributing time and expertise to the monitoring effort.

"The goal is to cooperatively identify areas of concern and then find solutions to lake water quality problems," said George Spinner, Henry's Lake Steering Committee chairman and administrator of the DEQ's eastern Idaho field office.

Following extensive water quality monitoring and identification of pollution sources, the steering committee will hold a public workshop in March 1993 and public meetings in May 1993. The committee will select a lake management program in late 1993.

After the 1991 fish kill, immediate measures were taken to prevent additional water quality degradation, including:

- Disallowing boat basins and concrete boat ramps;
- Fencing off grazing areas along shoreline and streambanks;
- Keeping the lake at full pool and maintaining minimum flows at the Henry's Fork outlet for fisheries development;
- Proposed legislation to allow landowners to sell water rights to the state instead of passing them down to junior water right holders;
- Plans for a feasibility study by Fremont County of a community sewer system to replace septic tanks;
- A state agricultural water quality planning project approved through the Yellowstone Soil Conservation District.

All study efforts are being coordinated with the DEQ restoration project to avoid duplication.

The preliminary investigation by the Soil Conservation Service in December 1991 said the lake and its watershed are

suffering from degraded water quality from a variety of sources, including shoreline erosion; degraded riparian areas along streambanks; residential development; poorly managed pastureland; and septic tank systems used by cabin owners and commercial operations.

Henry's Lake Background

Origin:

Henry's Lake was a shallow, swampy, boggy lake with about 1,000 acre-feet of water until the North Fork Reservoir Company built a dam on Henry's Fork in 1923, creating the present 6,108-acre lake storing 90,000 acre-feet of water.

Location:

Fremont County, just west of Yellowstone Park. The lake and its tributaries make up the headwaters of the Henry's Fork of the Snake River. The 60,360-acre project area includes the lake and tributaries above Henry's Lake Dam.

Shoreline:

16.8 miles. (75% private, 15% Bureau of Land Management, 9% Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, 1% Fremont County).

Depth:

4 to 23 feet (average: 15 feet)

Shoreline Land Use:

70% livestock grazing, 25% summer homes, commercial facilities, 5% state and county parks.

History:

Names after Andrew Henry, an early fur trader who built Fort Henry near St. Anthony in 1810. Storage was completely drawn down in the 1930s drought, but has supported an outstanding fishery for more than fifty years since the Island Park Reservoir was built downstream.

Fishery:

Henry's Lake and its tributaries support a world class cutthroat, hybrid and brook trout fishery with stocked trout from a Fish and Game hatchery on the lake.

Land Ownership:

11,757 acres of the 60,360-acre project area are privately owned. The rest is public land managed by the Forest Service, Idaho Department of Lands, BLM, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and Fremont county.

Residential Development:

Approximately 1,000 homes are located in the watershed, normally used two to five months of the year.

Economic Impact:

Visitors from throughout the U.S. are major contributors to the local economy. Fishing days during the five-month season rose from 3,400 in 1950 to 68,840 in 1990. Anglers spent an estimated \$2.6 million on travel, food, tackle, lodging, etc. in 1990.

*Tom Menzel
Public Involvement Consultant
Henry's Lake Water Quality Study*

Creel Census Records For Henrys Lake

	Effort (hours)	Fish Harvested	Catch Rate (fish/hr)		Percent Released	Ct	Catch Composition (%)	
			Harvest	Total			Hybrid	Brook
1950	17,008	12,246	.72	.82	12	77	-	23
1951	27,947	12,302	.44	.50	12	80	-	20
1971	102,233	36,720	.36	.36	0	70	14	16
1972	83,800	27,027	.32	.32	0	69	19	12
1975	86,304	29,914	.35	.38	10	89	-	11
1976	68,109	18,650	.27	.54	49	81	.1	19
1977	66,139	16,466	.25	.44	44	71	.4	29
1978	85,304	25,510	.30	.48	37	48	20	33
1979	93,921	18,728	.20	.32	37	35	42	24
1980	68,446	9,262	.14	.21	37	31	59	10
1981	65,918	7,471	.11	.21	47	30	54	16
1982	63,273	7,071	.11	.45	75	62	25	13
1983	95,996	25,447	.23	1.23	81	84	9	7
1984	162,878	47,017	.29	1.70	83	92	5	3
1985	125,666	37,921	.30	1.28	76	92	4	4
1986	172,772	67,681	.39	.87	55	85	14	1
1987	150,234	35,712	.24	.54	56	60	34	6
1988	100,479	19,503	.20	.82	76	49	39	12
1989	339,986	103,736	.31	.77	60	50	45	5
1990	344,245	63,139	.18	.51	64	53	41	5
1991	124,376	16,127	.13	.36	68	49	49	2

May through September only.

Note: All fish under "catch composition (%)" column are in angler possession and checked during IDFG creel surveys.

Mean Size Harvest/Sport Fishery

Year	Cutthroat			Total Harvest	Hybrid		Brook	
	Mean Size Harvest	% > 20"	No. > 20"		Mean Size Harvest	% Over 20"	Mean Size Harvest	% > 18"
1979	452	10.8	701		456	7.7	378	6.1
1980	429	10.9	317		459	16.0	391	4.8
1981	445	13.2	298		450	11.3	389	19.2
1982	416	6.9	300		451	17.2	405	25.4
1983	388	2.5	534		448	13.7	392	17.3
1984	388	0.5	214		427	5.4	393	30
1985	378	0	0	34,888	416	0	364	0
1986	407	0	0	57,274	441	5	364	0
1987	436	5	1,071	21,427	447	26	371	3
1988	430	8	765	9,556	432	17	383	20
1989	404	4	2,241	56,017	435	11	387	10
1990	427	2	669	33,464	461	24	433	0
1991	460	21	67	7,902	473	35	369	20

Henrys Lake 1991 Estimated Catch by Month

	Effort	Released	Harvested	Total Catch
May	12,581	5,410	1,887	7,297
June	44,806	10,305	6,722	17,027
July	33,898	6,780	3,390	10,169
Aug.	13,929	1,672	1,254	2,926
Sept.	19,162	4,598	2,874	7,472



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NEWSLETTER

President: Doug Siepert, 2955 West 5200 South, Rexburg, ID 83440
Newsletter Coordinator: Fred Grimes, P.O. Box 223, Lebanon, MO 65536
Secretary-Treasurer: Polly Holbrook, 15200 Northwest Burlington Court, Portland, OR 97231
(send all membership dues/donations to Secretary-Treasurer)

The Henrys Lake Foundation invites you to join and support our non-profit, tax exempt corporation formed to preserve, protect, and enhance the great trout fishery of Henrys Lake. Just fill in the information below and send your tax deductible contribution or membership dues to:

Henrys Lake Foundation
c/oSecretary-Treasurer
Polly Holbrook
15200 Northwest Burlington Court
Portland, OR 97231

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ \$15 annual membership dues

_____ \$100 life membership (deposited in a trust/interest bearing account)

_____ Existing member, and my contribution is an additional donation