



HENRYS LAKE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

November, 2008

President's Message

What an amazing year for Henrys Lake and the Foundation. The fishing was probably some of the best at the lake in the last 20 years and the foundation completed five key projects and already approved another four for next year. It is reassuring to know that our project efforts are paying off. The hard work of our directors and volunteers is commendable and I am proud to be a part of such a great organization.

We changed a few things around this year. We dedicated a lot more time and resources to our fund-raisers in an effort to drive more attendance, increase funds raised and expand our membership. It worked nicely and we more than doubled the monies raised over last year and added more members than ever before.

Our members should know that it is with the heart felt participation of our directors that we are able to have such successful fund-raising efforts. It is no small feat to pull together the picnic and patron's dinner events. The work of our volunteers is also integral to the process; without them the work effort would be even more difficult.

Our visibility as an organization reached a pinnacle this year when the Director of IDFG, Cal Groen and his wife attended our patron's dinner. Cal acknowledged how great of a working relationship we have with IDFG and how lucky we are in having such a great fisheries biologist, Damon Keen. I couldn't agree more. Damon has always been great to work with. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without his willingness and dedication to protecting the fishery of Henrys Lake.

I want to personally thank the husband-wife team of Elizabeth Laden and John Losch at the Island Park News newspaper along with reporter Nancy Stratford. They were very generous in publishing some great excerpts of our history and project accomplishments. I want to also personally thank Joyce Edlefsen at the Rexburg Standard Journal for publishing an article describing our project accomplishments. Getting the word out and raising community awareness of what we do is critical to our efforts.

For all those that were able to enjoy the lake this year, I am sure you have plenty of fish stories to tell. It is not uncommon at the start of each of our board meetings to hear about the most recent 'big ones' and there were plenty of them. The overall mood of anglers seemed greatly improved over last year, when you heard the general consensus of 'tough fishing'. All indications predict that next year could be even better given the size and number of our 3 and 4 year old fish.

I wish everyone a wonderful and safe winter season and look forward to a great summer season next year. We have much to be thankful for and you should be confident in knowing that you are part of a great organization, serving a great cause, the preservation of the Henrys Lake fishery.

Phil Barker, President, Henrys Lake Foundation



Picnic 2008

For the first time ever, our fund raiser and annual meeting was held at the Henrys Lake State Park with over 200 in attendance. The photo (left) shows incoming President Phil Barker(left) receiving the reigns from outgoing President Ron Slocum(right). The latter also received the HLF Louis Trager Conservation Award.

Guest speakers from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, US Forest Service, and Fremont County Weed Control gave short informative presentations and we had over 200 silent auction items along with locally baked goods; cookies, pies, cakes and candies. We hope to re-establish our tradition of local supporters contributing baked goods. Next year's picnic will be held at the same location; Henrys Lake State Park on Saturday the 4th of July. Please plan on attending.

Patron's Dinner 2008: Huge Success!

Authentic chuck wagon camp grub, great wine and music were the order of the evening for the patron's dinner August 22nd. It was a classic Island Park sunset and a tad nippy later. Nonetheless, it was a wonderful time. We had over 100 people in attendance, our largest turn-out ever. The food was catered by Barry and Victoria Strait from Tumbleweed Camp Grub out of Three Forks, Mt. They brought their authentic 1860's chuck wagon and all the food was prepared using cast iron cook pots. The menu included beef short ribs, country style pork, grilled garlic vegies and potato salad along with some blueberry and apple cobbler desserts. Everyone loved the food so much that we asked Barry and Victoria to do it again next year. The featured wines were Peterson's Traditiozale Zinfindel and Logan's Sleepy Hollow Chardonnay. Along with the cowboy genre music of the Fall River Boys, everyone had a great time. There were even some folks dancing in the grass as the evening came to an end. We plan an encore next year so mark your calendars for Saturday, August 8th. We're learning as we go so next year expect a dance floor and lights and heaters in the tent! Hope to se you there!

Results of the Fish Telemetry Project on Henrys Lake

By Dan Garren, Regional Fisheries Manager, IDFG

Radio transmitters were placed in fish during December, 2006 and January, 2007. The fish were caught by angling techniques through the ice and anesthetized while the transmitters were surgically placed, then released at the same location. Transmitters were placed in 9 brook trout, 4 hybrids and 29 cutthroats. The twice per month monitoring was done via snowmobile until the lake ice became unsafe in March and then by vehicle driving around the lake until ice out in May. Boats were used to monitor from May through August of 2007. The radio transmitters were used to track the three species of trout through the winter of 2007 in Henrys Lake to determine important over wintering areas and broad-scale movements in relation to environmental conditions. Specifically, we wanted to address two objectives: 1) How do trout react to stressful winter conditions brought

on by low dissolved oxygen, and 2) How are trout distributed throughout the reservoir during the winter.

We located 40 transmitters a total of 346 times between December 26 and August 16. We were able to locate more trout during the winter, when it appeared trout used shallower water as opposed to spring and summer. Trout were distributed throughout the lake during the winter while the lake was ice covered, but were slightly more abundant in the northern half of the lake. Movements of trout varied, but it was apparent that the majority of fish used at least 25% of the shoreline or more during the winter. Those that remained stationary were typically found around a spring or tributary mouth. Results from our radio telemetry project show that trout were distributed throughout the lake during the winter, and most did not remain stationary in one area over the course of the winter. Two significant implications can be drawn from this – first, when environmental conditions become stressful, trout are likely to move and find areas with more favorable conditions thereby increasing their chance for survival; and second, trout do not congregate in a few discrete locations, which could make them more vulnerable to degrading environmental conditions or angler harvest.

2008 Project Report

by Ron Zega, Project Chair

In 2008 HLF embarked upon 5 fishery projects aggregating \$30,000. In cooperation with the IDFG and related agencies, HLF funded projects dealing with natural reproduction, hatchery reproduction and fishery management.

First we purchased a new egg separator which dramatically improves the speed and effectiveness of egg separation at the HL fish trap.

Next, in September was the screening of the last unscreened irrigation diversions on Targhee and Howard Creeks, the two primary spawning streams for Henrys Lake. These new screens were designed and installed under the direction of Jim Jones and Jim Hardy of the IDFG screen shop in Salmon, Idaho. With the generous cooperation of landowners, Ray Clements and partners and Tom Cole, the spawning fish and fry in these streams will not be accidentally diverted

into the pastures of neighboring ranches. Also in September, work was completed on stream restoration efforts on the Empey property on middle Duck Creek and Kelly Creek. This project consisted of four parts: the first was to fence the creek running through the property so that grazing will not erode the stream bank. This work was performed by inmates from the Idaho Department of Correction in St. Anthony and HLF wants to express its appreciation for their hard work and accomplishment of this project. The second was to raise the creek level below the head gate spillway to improve spawning fish passage; the third was to lay a section of stream hardening to provide a siltation-free cattle watering stream section; and finally to install a culvert at Kelly Creek so ranch vehicles and cattle can cross the stream in the pasture. This effort, combined with HLF's prior years stream restoration efforts on lower Duck Creek, means that the entire section of Duck Creek from the lake to Red Rock road can now support the migration of spawning fish. Over the next few years natural stream restoration will provide an ideal habitat for spawning trout. We are grateful for the support of the landowner, Debbie Empey in this valuable effort. In addition to this work on the Empey property, the IDFG screen shop also performed maintenance on seven older screens on three creeks.

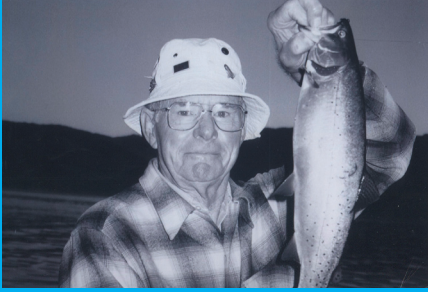
Following the completion of these stream projects, Damon Keen of IDFG said that from a fisheries perspective the tributaries are now in the best shape they have been in. For 2009, funding by HLF of \$30,000 for four major projects has already been approved and planning is underway for implementation. Three projects targeting natural reproduction include the replacement of a 20 year old screen on Lower Duck Creek on the Taft property, the installation of a new double wheel screen on Targhee Creek, and the replacement of four culverts on Red Rock Road where Duck Creek and Rock Creek pass underneath. The fourth project is to install automated water temperature and flow sensors in Targhee, Howard and Duck Creeks so that an historical baseline can be compiled to monitor these tributaries intended to monitor natural spawning conditions and possible stream restocking.

Idaho Fish and Game Report

Damon Keen, Regional Fishery Biologist
What a year! After starting out with a good spawn take, the best was yet to come. The Henrys Lake opener started out terrific with great fishing, good water conditions and ample areas of fish congregation. The rest of the year did not disappoint the anglers either. To say that Henrys came back in 2008 is the understatement of the year. Many anglers reported their best catch rates since the late 80's and my observations certainly support that. It continues to be a great year for catch rates right up to the end of the season. Anglers caught good numbers of all three trout and reported good numbers of hybrids in the 5-7 pound range. With good water conditions going into the fall, we can now set our sights on winter precipitation and hope for a repeat in 2009. On the habitat improvement side, 2008 was as good as the fishing. Several projects were completed with the help of Henrys Lake Foundation funding and membership support. The challenges in habitat protection are immense. However, I can say that in 2008 with the help of many partners including the unfettered support of the HLF board, the goals were met and fishery habitat has been improved. Maintaining good habitat is the single most important factor in fishing success at Henrys. With continued growth, new challenges will need to be addressed. However, we have assembled the team to focus on these issues and that will continue to be our priority for maintaining a healthy fishery at Henrys. A huge thank you is owed to the HLF and all the partners involved. Especially to the landowners that unselfishly commit their resources to habitat protection. The relationship between the IDFG and the HLF is a model for success and we will continue to expand on that relationship.

THANKS TO THOSE BEHIND THE SCENES!

Lastly, remember as you land that fish of a lifetime or maybe have one of those unforgettable 25 fish days that the successes that you enjoy would not be possible at Henrys without an outstanding hatchery program. The hatchery team at Mackay and Ashton work 365 days a year to provide Henrys Lake anglers with the fish that our dreams are made of. With the current financial situation, their challenges will be as great as any we face here at the lake. The next time you are shoveling snow or in the house during a blustery storm, remember that someone is bundled up, feeding fish or sweeping raceways so that we can enjoy hooking a fish.



OBITUARY

Milan R. Cornett, of Vancouver, WA, passed away on September 29, 2008 at the age of 88, with his loving family at his side. He was born on January 10, 1920 in Tilden, NE. He attended Pilger High where he held records in both track and football. It was in church where he found the love of his life, Verna Jones. They were married October 30, 1937 in Sioux City, Iowa, and they spend over 70 years together. While living in California, he was employed at and soon owned two service stations. He then invested in trailer parks. Milan and Verna traveled extensively by RV throughout Mexico, Alaska, Canada and Henrys Lake. In 1978 they moved to Redmond, WA where they were Husky fans and held season

tickets for over 30 years. Milan and Verna were members of Overlake Christian Church. They moved to Vancouver, WA in 2007 to be close to family. Milan was an avid fisherman and a master at fly tying. He fished many lakes and rivers. For the past 30 years, they spent summers at Henrys Lake, ID. They enjoyed RV'ing at Staleys and Wild Rose Ranch, where they met many friends. They are life members of the Henrys Lake Foundation. Milan was a Board member and worked on many fence repairs and culvert projects. Being a good steward of the lake, Milan recruited many new members into the Foundation. Showing by example, how to care for the lake that he loved.

Here is an entry in his fish diary: Dated Friday August 4, 1995, *Great Morning, lots of fish, 33. Half backs peacocks with overlay or green chenille with overlay and saddle hackle tied on back of hook. Fished the fence line hole with Jim, Bob and Lyn, lots of fun! It doesn't get any better than this!* Milan is survived by his loving wife of 70 years, Verna; five sons, Milan Merle, Gary, Douglas, Michael and Larry; 13 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. Donations to HLF gladly accepted in memory of Milan Cornett.

Condolences may be sent to Verna Cornett, 10011 N.E. 118th Ave., Apt. 114, Vancouver, WA 98682.

**LOST MEMBER???? PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE, CLICK ON CONTACT US
AND SEND US YOUR ADDRESS-WE'LL GET YOU ON OUR LIST!**



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