



Summer Newsletter 2011

President's Message

Summer here at the lake is passing by quickly. With a great snow year the runoff was strong all the way through mid-July. It was amazing to see sections of Duck Creek and Rock Creek overflowing onto Red Rock Road, making passage somewhat precarious. Bicyclists, motorcycles, cars and trucks all had to wade through it and in some spots the water was more than just a couple of inches deep.

The annual dinner was a big success. I want to extend a special thanks to HLF Director Velora Ferris and her team in making the event such a success. Once again we held it in the Historic Dining Hall in West Yellowstone and a fun time was had by all. Please see her article for the details.

This year at the dinner we replaced the project board with a video. Although considerable effort went into making it, it now gives us a more easily maintained and portable format for discussing our projects. Thanks goes out to my daughter Kristina for her hard work in creating it. You can read her perspective in making the video in her article. You can also view the video on our website <http://www.henryslakefoundation.com>.

This year is a big project year for us as you will see in the report from our HLF Projects Director, Ron Zega. In 2009, prior to the fishing regulation changes, the HLF Board approved the replacement of diversion screens for Duck Creek on the Parkinson properties (3 screens) and for Targhee Creek on the Stockton and Salisbury properties (1 screen each). All of this work should be completed this summer, when creek flows are lowest.

US Forest Service Fisheries Biologist, Lee Mabey, and his team are scheduled to complete the re-routing of Red Rock Rd and the final culvert work on Duck Creek this summer. Please read his report for further details.

As all of you know, Damon Keen successfully transitioned his responsibilities here at the lake to our new IDFG Fisheries Biologist Jessica Beulow. She brings a strong background of experience along with a great passion for the outdoors. If you haven't already met her please stop by the fish trap and introduce yourself. You can read about the results of this year's gill net study in her article.

As you may have already heard, the Fremont County Commissioners approved the construction of boat houses on Ashton Reservoir, Island Park Reservoir and Henry's Lake. Our letters of opposition were essentially ignored along with the recommendations of the Fremont County Planning and Zoning Commission to disallow them. Although permits are still required from the Army Corp of Engineers, the HLF Board believes that boat houses should not be allowed and can now only hope that the Army Corp of Engineers is overly prudent with their permit approvals.

Enclosed are election ballots, please fill them out and return them. Remember, officers are up for re-election every year since their term is only 1 year. Directors have staggered 3 year terms with only a portion of them expiring each year.

The fishing season has been good so far. A reasonable number of large fish are being caught, with many of them being brookies. It looks as though the additional planting of 50,000 brookies a few years ago has really paid off. There have been some 10 lb hybrids and many good cutthroats. Another thing that has been consistent this year is the wind. It has just been relentless from the south and southwest. It also looks as though the damsel hatch is making a comeback with more damsels this year than the last couple.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Hope you are having a great summer.
Phil Barker

Projects Report

By Ron Zega, Director

This year the foundation committed over \$35,000 to fish passage improvement projects. This constitutes the largest single year financial commitment in the foundation's history. Committed projects for 2011 include the installation of two new modular diversion screens on Targhee Creek and three new modular diversion screens on Duck Creek. All of these screens were originally planned for installation in 2010, but postponed to 2011 due to redesign at the screen shop in Salmon Idaho in order to incorporate improved engineering for more effective maintenance free screening.

The first of the two screens for Targhee Creek was installed on the Salisbury property August 22 under the direction of Jim Hardy from the IDFG. The second and largest of the Targhee screens is planned for the Stockton property. With an HLF commitment of \$17,500, it is the largest and most complex screen funded by the Foundation to date. With these new screens, all of the diversions on Targhee Creek, the major tributary to Henrys Lake, will be screened, maximizing downstream fry passage from Highway 87 to the lake.

The first of the three Duck Creek screens planned for the Parkinson property was installed on August 23. The final two will be installed this fall. This will complete the screening of all diversions on Duck Creek from Red Rock Road to the lake.

The final HLF sponsored project for 2011 will be the removal of the double barrel culvert on Duck Creek on the Pearson property commensurate with the rerouting of Red Rock Road. This will return this section of the stream to its natural pathway. This will be the last of the four culverts replaced or removed at Red Rock Road over the past two years. Led by Lee Mabey of the U.S. Forest Service, this work on Red Rock road will eventually provide unobstructed passage for spawning fish to six miles of Duck Creek and its tributaries.

As with all HLF projects, the foundation is continually seeking to fund those efforts which provide the greatest benefit to the fishery and preservation of Henrys Lake and the Yellowstone Cutthroat trout. If you are aware of any opportunities that would enhance the natural reproduction of the Yellowstone Cutthroat trout, advance the Henrys Lake fishery, improve riparian habitat or otherwise protect the unique environment of Henrys Lake please contact the foundation at web@henryslakefoundation.com with your ideas.



Installation on August 22 of new modular diversion screen on Salisbury property on Targhee Creek.



Installation on August 23 of new modular diversion screen on Parkinson property on Duck Creek.



Rock Creek overflowed on Red Rock Rd in June.

2011 Foundation Dinner and Dance July 1, 2011

By Velora Ferris, Director

On July 1 over 100 members, friends and supporters of the Henry's Lake Foundation gathered at the historic West Yellowstone Railway Dining Hall to celebrate the Foundation's annual event. The goal of the Foundation this year was to thank and show appreciation to all patrons and members for their continuing support. This was achieved through an excellent dinner provided by High Altitude Catering, numerous door prizes, raffle opportunities and a square dance with Rab Cummings and Weatherwood.

In attendance were representatives of Idaho Fish and Game who came to enjoy the evening and respond to any questions concerning current issues at Henry's Lake. President Phil Barker also presented a new video chronicling and detailing the accomplishments of the HLF to date. This video is now available on the web at henryslakefoundation.com.

Everyone went home with good memories and prize winnings and many brave folks went home tapping their toes after dancing to the great music and western dance ! It was a wonderful opportunity to learn the basics of contra dancing and enjoy some post dinner exercise while having fun!

The Henry's Lake Foundation wishes to thank all who participated and especially all the volunteers who made the event possible. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at next year's event! It will be held at the same location on Thursday July 5th, 2012. Save the date!



HLF 2011 Dinner and Dance at Historic Dining Hall West Yellowstone MT. Center pieces of wild flowers contributed by Ron and Christina Slocum.



Wonderful evening with good food, friendship and music. A great time for members to meet other members and learn about the foundation's project activities. Photos by Abbie Ferris.

Note: The foundation is always looking for fund raiser donations. Items such as fishing memorabilia, art work, books, flies, fly fishing supplies, vintage rods, reels and fly tying materials are always welcome. Please contact web@henryslakefoundation.com to arrange a convenient time for us to pick up or receive your items for donation. Your contributions are greatly appreciated! Remember—all project monies go directly to our projects as we are a completely volunteer organization.

IDFG Report

Jessica Beulow, IDFG Regional Fisheries Biologist

First Impressions:

I have now been in my new position as Henrys Lake habit biologist for several months and since my arrival I have made several favorable observations about the lake and the community. My first observation when I arrived at the hatchery during the tail end of the spawning run was how big and healthy our fish are. The next thing that really stood out was how much these fish and the lake meant to everyone in the community. This includes the many people who volunteer to help spawn fish providing much needed help in getting the egg collection completed and support from the Henrys Lake Foundation to help improve water quality and natural fish production. The first time I saw Henrys Lake, I recognized that it is a beautiful and special place. After the short time I have lived here, I have become very attached to the lake and the people. In the coming years, I hope to build on the good work that has been done and develop new projects that continue to improve the habitat and fishery.

Gill Netting:

The ice came off the lake just before Memorial Day this year and allowed us to achieve five nights of netting before the opener with 6 nets each night. The total 30 net nights we achieved is short of our goal of 50 net nights, but still gave us a good indication of the quality, abundance, and composition of fish in the lake. We saw strong year class presence for all species and ages of Yellowstone cutthroat, cutthroat x rainbow hybrid, and brook trout. I must say, coming from Wisconsin, I was amazed by the size and quality of some of the largest brook trout I have ever seen! Preliminary results show a strong population of all trout species. The number of trout per net night was up from the year before and higher than the 20-year average.

Natural production appears to be a contributing factor to the Yellowstone cutthroat population. The number of marked hatchery fish was around 6% this year. Since 10% of the hatchery fingerlings stocked into the lake were marked, an observation of 6% marked fish in our gill net catch indicates there are fish naturally produced in the tributaries and adding to the lake population. The Utah Chub population appears to be similar to what was observed last year.

In addition to the yearly spring gill netting survey, we are conducting an additional two night gill netting survey at the end of each month this summer. We are quantifying the stomach contents of trout to document predation rates of Utah chub and what portion of trout diets is composed of chub. Utah chub spawned this year at the end of June and we anticipate finding young-of-the-year in trout stomach contents in the coming months.

Habitat Projects:

In August, five new fish screens will be installed on Targhee Creek and Duck Creek. These new screens are replacing old structures that are currently in place and will improve the migration of fry down to the lake and aid in the natural fish production. Thank you Henrys Lake Foundation for your support in these projects.

Fremont County Weed Control

Bryce Fowler

This year the changes of putting the Boat Washes/Inspection Stations on the highways entering the state has been a great asset to our area. We also have had an inspector at the docks on Henrys Lake so we are well armed. Statewide we have stopped 23 boats with mussels on them as of the first of August. Last year we had 9 total for the year. This year for our stations we have had 6 boats that were last in Lake Havassu or Lake Mead, and we even had some with ocean barnacles on them. Luckily we have not had any boat with mussels given that each of these lakes are known to have quagga mussels. But after this year we see the threat is near, especially considering that we have had almost 4000 boats through the stations.

Thanks for everyone's help with trying to help keep Island Park the way it is.



Your Help Needed on Duck Creek

Lee Mabey, Fisheries Biologist, US Forest Service

The last culvert is to be removed this fall on Duck Creek. This time instead of replacing it with a bridge a new road alignment will be constructed around the Pearson property bypassing the need for a stream crossing, the existing double barrel culverts will be removed and the stream restored. Approximately 1500 feet of new road will be built. This project will also help reduce to some degree the flood damage that is experienced in the spring as Rock Creek Floods.

Associated with this work new fencing will be installed and the old road restored to native vegetation. There is approximately 1700 feet of barbwire fence that needs to be removed around the stream area that is currently fenced off. Realignment of the road makes it possible to decrease fencing in the area most used by wildlife. What will be involved is the rolling up of the barbwire from the existing fences. So a pair of pliers, gloves, and safety glasses is all that is needed. The posts will be removed using heavy equipment. The fencing will be removed in September. If you have an interest in helping on this fence removal please contact Lee Mabey at 208-557-5784 or lmabey@fs.fed.us.

This project has involved many partners including the Henry's Lake Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM, Idaho Fish and Game, Fremont County, and has been coordinated by Lee Mabey, Forest fisheries biologist for the Caribou-Targhee National Forest



The end goal of this project is to provide unobstructed passage for spawning fish to 6 miles of Duck Creek and its tributaries. In 2009 the upper most culvert was replaced and in 2010 two other culverts were replaced with 20 foot bridges. These bridges have improved passage and the function of the stream as flows are no longer restricted by small culverts. Work on the bypass will be completed this fall.

New Foundation Projects Video

Kristina Barker, Photo Journalist, Rapid City Journal South Dakota

Henry's Lake is a very special place. For me, and for my family. Every summer for as long as I can remember. Some of my earliest childhood memories are watching my dad at the edge of a river or on the bow of a boat, throwing a fly in front of a big fish. Fishing on Henry's Lake is something that I look forward to every year, putting in my hours to catch a fish bigger than the year before.

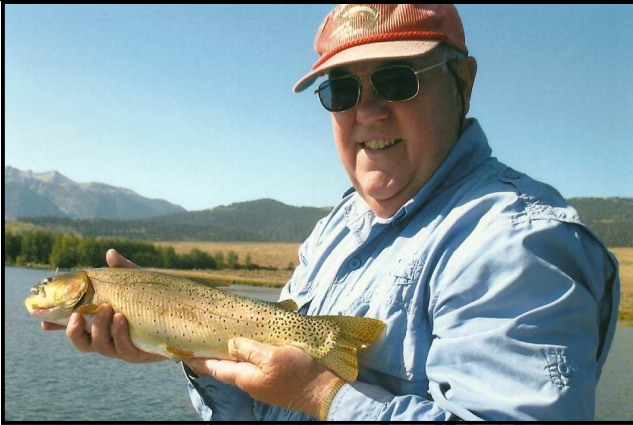
In June I had the opportunity to do some fishing, but I was also given the opportunity to put together a piece for the Henry's Lake Foundation. My background is in photojournalism, so this was something I was really excited to be a part of. Not only was this something I could do, it was also something that I am passionate about.

The piece I put together shows projects around the lake that were made possible by Foundation donations, coordinated with Idaho Department of Fish & Game and the U.S. Forest Service. I never knew the lake as well as I did until Damon Keen, Jessica Buelow, and Lee Mabey spent the day taking my dad and me around to areas where Foundation monies were at work. Diversions that I had seen dry for so many years were flush with water, their banks teeming with willows and grasses. I only get to see Henry's a few weeks out of the year, but it was easy to see that in the last few years, the tributaries were taking on new life.

I'm not sure where the lake would be without these projects being made possible. I am so thankful for the opportunity to contribute to the mission of the Foundation. I grew up here every summer with my family. And I hope that when I have a family of my own, that we are doing the very same thing. I want a healthy fishery for me and my grandkids. Groups like this make that possible.

Thank you so much for the opportunity,
Kristina Barker

Charles Elton Dimke, Jr.—Life Member Henrys Lake Foundation
April 5, 1944-June 19, 2011



Charles "Chuck" Dimke was born April 5, 1944 in Sacramento, Ca. He attended Sacramento City College and Cal State Berkely for his Bachelor of Science degree in History and the University of New Mexico for his masters degree in history. Later he attended Point Loma University for his administrative degree and served the Azusa Unified School District of southern California as a teacher and administrator for 34 years. His hobbies included photography, WWII airplane restoration, and fishing. Chuck was passionate about the beauty of Henry's Lake, loved fly fishing and was a strong advocate of catch and release fishing. After camping and fishing at Henry's Lake for many years, he finally purchased a

home overlooking the lake. He spent many enjoyable summers there and managed to see and fish Henry's Lake for the last time in July of 2010. Chuck passed away on June 19, 2011 from prostate cancer. He is survived by his wife, Mary, of 42 years, his son Jim and daughter in law, Brett. Chuck's memory can be honored by support of the Henry's Lake Foundation.

Kristina Barker with a 7 lb 4 oz hybrid, caught in mid-June, wind drifting with a large black leech. The Rapid City Journal posted the photo in one of their fishing contest blogs that other employees at the paper enter. After other participants saw this fish they thought they were going to have to add another species to the trout category because no one thought they could catch a bigger trout! To say the least, Kristina was quite happy to beat everyone else.



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Enhancing and protecting the fishery of Henrys Lake