



Fall 2002

H E N R Y ' S F O R K F O U N D A T I O N

N E W S L E T T E R

An Introduction to HFF's New Executive Director

by himself, Steve Trafton

I have met some of you already, but I know that there are many more HFF supporters who are doubtless wondering who I am and where I came from. Here, then, is a brief description of my background, and my initial impressions of the Henry's Fork watershed, our Foundation, and the opportunities that lie in our future.

I am a New England native, but by the time I went to college my father's job as a college professor had taken us from New Hampshire to Illinois and to three different countries in Europe. I went to college at Harvard, where I majored in English and rowed on the crew team. I joined the Marine Corps when I graduated, and was trained as an infantry officer and assigned to a light armored reconnaissance battalion in Twenty-nine Palms, California. I served as a platoon commander and as a company executive officer, training in Korea and Japan as well as in California, before leaving active duty in 1997. I subsequently spent an additional two years with a reserve infantry company in San Bruno, California.

I have been an avid trout fisherman since I was seven years old, and that coupled with my lifelong love of the outdoors inspired a strong interest in conservation. Shortly after I left the Marines I was offered the opportunity to start and run Trout Unlimited's new California office. I spent the better part of the past five years based in the San Francisco Bay area, working on projects all over California. Much of that work provided me with experience that should prove to be invaluable as I tackle the challenges that await the Foundation.

I developed a watershed-scale cooperative restoration project with industrial timber companies, state and federal agencies, and local stakeholders aimed at returning coho salmon and strengthening steelhead

continued on page 2

Summer Research

Another field season has come and gone and with it the summer crew who left in their wake a few sore-lipped fish, a slightly worse for wear sampling vehicle, and a pile of raw data—and who took only irreplaceable memories (fisheries technicians typically spend all the earnings they should have "taken" on fishing gear).

This is the third summer of data collection for the long-term monitoring project, which was instituted as directed by the strategic plan to facilitate "an understanding of the dynamic processes and relationships within the river system and their influences on plant and animal populations." The data from this summer are currently being analyzed and will be available in hard copy at the Henry's Fork Watershed Center in January.

Although it may take many years before trends in the data are evident, the data collected both this summer and in past summers at the Flat Rock (on Big Springs) and Flat Ranch (on Henry's Lake Outlet) sites are already being used by consultant Jock Cunningham as he assesses the dynamics of the upper river to suggest measures for recovery and rehabilitation. Thanks again to the summer crew for all their hard work.

—Jim Gregory



Trafton... continued from previous page

runs in famous Mendocino County rivers like the Garcia, the Navarro, and the South Fork of the Eel. In the Sierra Nevada I focused on two popular but beleaguered native trout, the California golden trout and the Lahontan cutthroat trout, and in the capitol and at public meetings all over the state I argued for healthy watersheds and wild trout fisheries — not always a simple task. My work ran the gamut from collaborative restoration projects with multiple partners to contentious endangered species processes.

Here at the HFF I've already had a good dose of the challenges that we will all face in the coming months and years. In my first two months on the job the Foundation has successfully challenged a proposal to place an RV park in Harriman State Park while simultaneously offering to work with the state to find alternative solutions that will allow the Department of Parks and Recreation to achieve its mission. We have persisted, and made real progress, in our efforts to make drought management planning an integral part of water transactions like the Chester Dam title transfer, and we continue to work towards a solution to the problem of dangerously low winter flows below Island Park Dam. The Foundation is working with state and federal agencies and the licensee to ensure that the Buffalo River hydro relicensing will provide the adequate flows and fish passage that may well be the key to restoring this major Henry's Fork tributary to its proper position as key spawning, rearing, and winter habitat. Finally, we have already started the long but vital business of assessing the upper river, laying the foundation for future restoration efforts. It has been a full eight weeks.

By the time you read this my family and I should be settled into the Henry's Fork watershed. My wife, Melissa, is finishing up her Ph.D. in art history, and we have an eighteen month old daughter, Mary. They are as excited as I am to be here. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the coming months. ♦

Computer Gift

Shade and Ann Murray, Nashville, TN, and John and Rebecca Champion, Park City, UT, donated a Toshiba Tecra 9000 laptop computer to HFF in October.

The computer has lots of bells and whistles and will be used primarily by Executive Director Steve Trafton to make presentations and keep him in touch with the office as he travels. Many thanks to the Champions and the Murrays for their generous gift. ♦



Upcoming Events

- November 19: HF Watershed Council Annual Conference
- February 28: Reception for HFF members and friends Salt Lake City.
- February 28-March 1: Board meeting Salt Lake City
- March: "Fall on the Fork" raffle begins
- June 21: Henry's Fork Day, Island Park

The Monthly Hatch

HFF has an on-line monthly newsletter — "The Hatch"—to keep you abreast of issues and news. If you would like to receive "The Hatch" automatically, please send us your e-mail address to membership@henrysfork.org. "The Hatch" can also be accessed through our website.

CONTRIBUTION FORM

Yes, I support the work of the Henry's Fork Foundation. Accept my contribution for your efforts to understand, restore, and protect the outstanding aesthetic, fishery, and wildlife qualities of the Henry's Fork River basin.

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A note from the Chair —

As I write these comments we are experiencing our first snowfall of the winter season. To date October has been unusually dry—let's hope that this will signal a change in our recent weather patterns.

The coming winter brings to mind the continued drought being experienced in our area. Streamflows on the Henry's Fork are near expected low levels in anticipation of yet another dry winter. At HFF we continue to place emphasis on these issues. Steve, along with board members and Trout Unlimited, is working closely with Fremont Madison Irrigation District and the Bureau of Reclamation in an effort to begin the process of establishing minimum streamflows. To this end we can announce a small victory. In early October we were able to negotiate language into title transfer legislation currently before the U.S. Senate that calls for the development of a drought management plan for the Henry's Fork watershed. While this is a long-term project it underlines the fact that we are making progress in our efforts to protect the river and its fishery.

With the help of a local grassroots effort we were able to defeat plans for a proposed RV Park to be located near Fish Pond in Harriman East. The groundswell of support from local anglers, outfitters, business owners and concerned citizens was very encouraging as we joined in a collaborative effort to see that this project, proposed by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, was scrapped. Further, HFF's executive director was asked to serve as a consultant to the department in looking at alternative plans for low impact use of the resource.

Our Upper River project is underway. Steve spent a few days earlier this month with consultant Jock Cunningham doing an "on-the-river" assessment—gathering information that will be compiled shortly and utilized in the development of a plan for moving forward. This project, which is being underwritten by the Flat Rock Club as well as a generous bequest from the Pugh Estate, has the potential of becoming a flagship project for the foundation.

As you can see, we have a lot going on at HFF. However, to be successful we need your support. Please consider HFF in your year-end giving plans. And, don't forget HFF membership as a possible gift—a great stocking stuffer!

May you have a wonderful holiday season and a safe New Year...

Marty McLellan

The *Henry's Fork Foundation Newsletter* is published quarterly by the Henry's Fork Foundation. Articles, letters, opinions and photographs from the membership are welcomed. All correspondence should be directed to P.O. Box 550, Ashton, ID 83420,

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A Summer on the Henry's Fork by Heidi Butterworth

Heidi Butterworth was a Henry's Fork Foundation intern in 2001. She graduated in 2002 from Colgate University. She wrote this article for her environmental studies department newsletter last fall and sent it to us a few weeks ago. Heidi received one of the internship scholarships established at Colgate by HFF member Jeffrey Timmons. Heidi is now working for the Americorps program in Maryland.

When I was first considering what to do for the summer, I knew that I could not go back home and work as a nanny like last summer. Since I was in Arizona at the Biosphere for the semester, I thought I would like something environmental. I had signed up to be on the distribution list for internships at Colgate and one day I got an e-mail about an internship that sounded exactly like what I was looking for—working for a conservation organization in a long-term monitoring project. A Colgate alumnus had recently established the internship, which was ten weeks long in Ashton, Idaho. I knew nothing about Idaho, but I thought that it would be interesting to go somewhere different. I was awarded the internship, and arrived in June in the small town of Ashton.



I was not totally sure what to expect but I figured that I would have a good time anyway. I worked at the Henry's Fork Foundation, which is concerned with the watershed in that area. It is a small organization, and the fulltime workers were appreciative of the work that the seasonal employees did. Our job was to establish baseline data for a long-term monitoring project.

We took data at seven different sites along several different rivers in the area. At each site the collection area was a two hundred meter distance along the river. Within that two hundred meters there were ten transects, two of which were considered permanent transects—one at a riffle and the other at a pool. We collected data on water quality, substrate, depths, macrophytes, invertebrate sampling and surveying.

Water quality sampling consisted of using a device

called a Hydrolab that was placed in the water to measure dissolved oxygen, pH and other properties. We took the water temperature on the left bank, mid channel and right bank as well as the air temperature and turbidity.

Data collected on the substrate consisted of a pebble count where one or two people would be in the water and every three steps they would lean down, pick up the rock that was closest to their foot and measure the intermediate axis. This was done one hundred times in the riffle and one hundred times for the whole stream. The depths were taken at each of the ten transects with an average of fifteen measurements from one bank to the other. At the two permanent transects, the substrate was noted for

each depth taken. Macrophytes were measured at the two permanent transects using a frame and looking at the percentage in the area along with measuring the depth.

For the invertebrate sampling we used a device that involved catching the bugs in a sock in three different places along the riffle

permanent transect and putting the sample in alcohol. We took them back to the office and at a later date went through the samples and separated the bugs into vials to be sent out for further identification (that was not the best job).

Our final job was a survey of the permanent transects, comparing our data to that collected last summer. I also did some of the data entry for all the data collected—that was an easy job that could be done when I had some extra time.

Overall, I thought the job was fun because we tried to mix it up as much as possible and there were a couple of other projects that we helped out with. I think the best part for me was that I got to be outside all day everyday. Internships are a good way to see what you would like to do when you get out of school. ♦

Deadline Extended for HFF Writing/Photography Contest

Contest committee chair Gene Quinn announced that the deadline for entries in the inaugural HFF writing and photography contest has been changed from January 31 to March 31, 2003 in order to provide more time for

publicity and making everyone aware of the opportunity.

Contest rules are reprinted below and information is also available on the HFF Web site www.henrysfork.org.



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HENRY'S FORK FOUNDATION 2003 Writing and Photography Contest — Entry Rules

1. The contest is open to members of the public who are asked to submit previously unpublished work in fiction, non-fiction, poetry and black-and-white photography. The theme of the contest is broadly defined as personal reflection and storytelling about angling, conservation, nature and other topics that relate to the Henry's Fork of the Snake River and the surrounding ecosystem in eastern Idaho.
2. Each contestant may enter one work per category and may enter work in multiple categories.
3. The deadline for submissions is Monday, March 31, 2003.
4. Fiction and non-fiction writing should be 10 pages or less in length. (As a guideline, one page is measured as 11-point text in Courier font in a word-processing program of one-inch left, right, top and bottom margins.) Judges will not consider work longer than 10 pages. Contestants are encouraged to submit rewritten adaptations of their longer work, such as chapters from books in progress; however, no entry may exceed 10 pages.
5. Poetry will be limited to one poem per contestant. Length of work is at the discretion of the author, however the judges will favor submissions that demonstrate an understanding of the structure of the genre. Contestants should present work in 11-point text in Courier font in a word-processing program. Care should be given to presenting line breaks, punctuation and other features in a manner that best communicates the writer's intention.
6. Photography submissions must be in black-and-white and printed on a single sheet of 8-inch by 10-inch photo paper. Contestants may submit single images, multiple images, time exposures and other creative images. However, a submission must appear on a single, 8-by-10 sheet.
7. Writing submissions must be made by e-mail, with the entry attached as document in a word-processing format (eg., Microsoft Word). The e-mail and the attachment must contain the contestant's name, address, telephone number and e-mail address. (NOTE: For those who do not have access to a computer or e-mail, submissions may be mailed to the Henry's Fork Foundation office.) The e-mail address for all writing submissions is: contest@henrysfork.org. Confirmation of entries will be sent to contestants by e-mail. Photography submissions must be mailed to: Henry's Fork Foundation, Writing and Photography Contest, P.O. Box 550, 606 Main St., Ashton, ID 83420. The submission must include a brief cover letter describing the work and must include the contestant's name, address, telephone number and e-mail address (if applicable). Confirmation of entries will be sent to contestants.
8. Writing and photo submissions will not be returned to contestants.
9. Information about the contest will appear as part of the HFF Web site. All questions about the contest must be submitted by e-mail to contest@henrysfork.org. The staff of HFF will not answer telephone inquiries about the contest.
10. Decisions of the judges are final.
11. IMPORTANT NOTE: Henry's Fork Foundation intends to publish the winning writing and photo entries in a book and selected entries on the HFF Web site for the enrichment of its members and the public. By entering the contest, a contestant gives HFF the right to reproduce the work as part of any future print or electronic publishing or promotional campaign. Contestants will hold the copyright to their own work and, as owners, may pursue any use of their own work.

Thanks to the following who have contributed \$100+ to HFF since our last newsletter.

\$10,000+

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\$5,000+

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3,000+

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\$2,000+

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David F. Work
David E. Yocum

In-Kind

Alan W. Bridwell
John & Rebecca Champion
Shade and Ann Murray

Passings

E. H. "Hal" Cameron, 83, died in Salt Lake City September 4. He was a Salt Lake City businessman and a long-time supporter of the HFF. Hal and his wife Rosie had a summer home on the Henry's Fork at Last Chance where he spent much of his time. He was the father of retired board member Brent Cameron and the grandfather of former HFF intern Lauren Cameron.

♦♦♦

Garth K. Voigt, 79, died in Bozeman, MT September 28. Garth was a professor of

environmental studies at Yale University more than thirty years. He and his wife Jane retired to Bozeman in 1989 where he spent much of his time fly fishing. He especially loved the Henry's Fork and served on the HFF board of directors from 1992 to 1995. He was a member of the research committee and contributed a great deal to the HFF research program. A memorial service will be held at the Pilgrim Congregational Church in Bozeman on January 17, 2003 to celebrate his life.

♦♦♦

Long-time HFF member and supporter Boyd Poulson passed

away in Palo Alto, CA on October 31. He and his wife Sharon had a summer home on the Henry's Fork near St. Anthony.

♦♦♦

Thank you to all who have made memorial contributions in their names. ♦



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HF Watershed Council Plans Annual Conference

The Henry's Fork Watershed Council will hold its annual "State of the Watershed Conference" in Rexburg on November 19.

The conference will get under way with keynote speaker Karl Wirkus of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Wirkus is deputy regional director of the Great Plains region in Billings, MT, and is currently on special assignment to the Mid-Pacific regional office in Sacramento, CA. He is a native of Idaho and has a degree in geology from Boise State University. He began work for the Bureau of Reclamation in Boise in 1981 and spent the first summer of his career working at the Jackson Lake Dam. He was involved in the watershed council's early years while he was stationed at the Bureau's Burley office.

Wirkus was serving as the area manager in Klamath Falls, OR in the spring of 2001 when the "perfect storm" struck. Despite efforts at collaborative resolution, a long simmering water use conflict came to the boiling point that spring as demand far exceeded supply. On April 6, 2001 he had to make the announcement that no irrigation water would be available for diversion from the Klamath River. He

will address the differences a watershed approach can make in such divisive circumstances.

The morning session will continue with a panel discussion, "Has the watershed council promoted change in the Henry's Fork basin?" Since this year was the tenth anniversary of the drawdown of Island Park Reservoir, panelists will speak to the changes that have taken place in resource decision-making following that event. Natural resource and environmental policy have been clearly affected by collaborative partnerships and grass-roots watershed scale management. Many watershed councils have sprung up around the country, many using an approach much like the Henry's Fork.

Following the panel discussion will be an historical perspective from a long-time participant Dave Rydalch. Dave attended the initial meetings of the council and will speak about participatory decision-making in the midst of diversity in accordance with the public interest and bureaucratic experts.

—Susan Steinman

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON
AND A
HEALTHY, PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

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