

# DRIFTERS DRIFT

NEWSLETTER OF THE HIGH PLAINS DRIFTERS

FEBRUARY 2011



## HPD AT THE FLYFISHING SHOW

The High Plains Drifters staffed the FFF booth at the Flyfishing Show on Jan 7,8 &9. An estimated 70 kid's participated in fly tying and many that I saw were really into it.

Just as many men, women and children signed up for the casting instruction.

21 people joined the FFF over the weekend with some of them also joining the HPD as well.

The Flyfishing Show donates the space for the FFF booth under the condition that the local members provide fly fishing education for participants.



HPD members (clockwise L to R) Virgil Kelleigh, Warren Dennis, just the top of Brett Edwards head and Bob Sexton at the tying table with students early saturday morning at the show.

# HPD--20 years & Counting. . .!

By Don Gibbs, HPD member/ERMC membership VP

Can you believe it?-- March marks our club's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It began with an idea; an idea that got tossed about, talked about, met about, and ultimately, decided to do something about.

The club originated with the idea that, among other things, it was to be a strong Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) proponent: A club that stood for something! That idea resulted in HPD deciding to be a 100% FFF membership club—meaning all HPD members would be FFF members. Today that has evolved to where HPD is a Charter FFF club. Charter clubs are 100% clubs that are also recognized corporations in their state.

HPD's early beginning is a humble story in itself. A group of 5–8 began meeting in each other's living rooms to discuss becoming a club. The FFF was contacted. One of the first hurdles was that, in those days, 15 members were required to form an FFF club. Problem; there were less than 10 people involved at the time. After some active recruiting and drafting" a couple of willing wives, the 15 member requirement was satisfied & the application for FFF club membership was submitted. The original By-Laws were signed on March 26th, 1991.

Article II of the original Charter states the Aims and Purposes of the club are:

- To promote friendliness and fellowship among fellow fishers.
- To increase the sport of fly fishing in the state of Colorado
- To educate the public in the benefits of "catch & release".
- To encourage and assist non-fly fishers to the benefits and pleasures of fly fishing.
- To educate and promote the sport of fly fishing.
- To support the goals and ideals of the Federation of Fly Fishers

In March of 1991 things were coming together quickly for the new HPD. There was a meeting on March 12, 1991 where the first 16 people, the "originals, applied for HPD membership in the "forming" new club.

Those 16 were; John Swenson, Marie Bell, Tim Beer, Frank Miller, Greg Lyons, Jack Cooper, Jim & Mary Mora, Mikki Miller, Jerry & Roberta Taylor, Richard Schley, Willis Wilcoxon, David Wampler, Randy Urlik, and Dan Turner. And HPD was born!

There are none of the originals in the club today. Some have passed on to the "big river in the sky", others have moved away, some have moved on to other interests.

Doug Geerdes & John Ehrhardt, both current members, are—oh so close—to being originals. Doug was involved with the original "living room group" but actually joined HPD on May 14, 1991.

John Ehrhardt, sensing that something big was going on, joined June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1991. For most intents & purposes, they're originals.

# High Plains Drifters

## 2011 Trips & Events

**THIS WEEKEND!! February 5<sup>th</sup> – Fishing the Arkansas River** tail waters below Pueblo Reservoir. To date 15 members have signed up. Larry Lester is trip captain. 303-793-0056.

**March 19<sup>th</sup>** – Breakfast at Mike Owen's cabin and fishing around Deckers area.

**May 14<sup>th</sup> – Clear Creek Challenge.** Fishing Clear Creek above Idaho Springs. A little friendly competition among HPD members. Meeting place in Idaho Springs TBD.

**April 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> – Fishing the Green River** with lodging at the Flaming Gorge Resort near Dutch John, Utah. This will be a Saturday arrival with departure on the 12<sup>th</sup>; however, as always anyone can stay longer or arrive earlier. This will allow us to fish when the crowds are fewer and the hatches are most plentiful.

*Important details regarding accommodations:* Just up the hill and a few miles from Dutch John at the Flaming Gorge Resort (435-889-3773) the following motel rooms (#307, 308 and 309) and condos (#102 and 104) have been set aside for HPD members. The motel rooms sleep 2 and the condos w/kitchens sleep 3 or 4. Motel rooms are \$119 + tax per night and the condos are \$179 + tax for 2 with an \$8 per night charge for each additional person. Condo #103 has been booked by club members Don Butt and Von Fransen.

In addition I had their Group Suite #409 placed on hold for us. This suite has 4 bedrooms (2 with one queen bed and 2 rooms with two single beds per room) + kitchen and one bathroom. For \$179 + tax for 2 people and the extra \$8 per night for each additional person this might be a way to save some cash, but remember only one bathroom and you will need to pick straws to see who gets the larger beds.

**The Lodge will not hold these rooms under HPD's name after the 15<sup>th</sup> of February; therefore, all members planning to go to the Green should make their reservations now to insure the rooms once released are not taken by others.** There is a nice restaurant at the lodge or the members going may decide to split up cooking duties and share meals on several nights.

**April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup> – Fishing the caddis hatch on the Arkansas** with lodging in Salida. Saturday night dinner to swap stories.

**Mid May – Date TBD** Look for details to be released regarding overnight trip to the Steamboat area. Target will be fishing Stagecoach Reservoir for Pike and Trout; however, there is the Yampa River to explore as well. Doug Geerdes – Trip Captain.

**June 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> – North Park/Delaney Buttes Lakes.** Fishing the area streams/rivers or the lakes. Saturday night get together.

**June 18<sup>th</sup> – Kid's Day.** Volunteers are needed. Robin Knox will be overseeing this event.

For specific trip information contact Larry Lester at 303-793-0056 or via email at [larry.lester@hotmail.com](mailto:larry.lester@hotmail.com)

## Introduction to the Green River

The Green River below Flaming Gorge Dam is located in northeast Utah, it holds over 30 miles of water that can be floated and fished from shore. The river passes through a beautiful red canyon, and this topography makes for impressive pools. Self-reproducing browns averaging over 16 inches dominate, but are accompanied by stocked rainbows and some cutthroats.

## Green River Fly Fishing

### *Character*

The Green River below Flaming Gorge Dam is classic tailwater, with stable water temperatures that promote dense insect life and thus prime trout habitat. The river can be divided into three sections:

### Upper Section ("A Section" or "Red Canyon Stretch")

This 7-mile stretch from the dam to Little Hole is the most popular owing to the water clarity and abundance of fish. The first half of the stretch is generally flat and deep (ideal for floating) but there are several big Class II and Class III rapids. The second half is more rapid and contains some nice pocket water, with shallow areas that are well-suited for wading. Conveniently for boaters, a boat launch exists 1/4 mile below the dam and take-out area is located at Little Hole. If you wish to wade, trails line most of this section (all the way down to Little Hole).

### Middle Section ("B Section" or "Devil's Hole")

This 8-mile section from Little Hole to Indian Crossing in Brown's Park is much less crowded, but also holds a considerable amount of fish. Three miles downstream, Red Creek can turn the water murky or

even unfishable after rainfall. The Red Creek area also introduces some Class III rapids, so take care if floating. The canyon widens in this area but does not completely disappear. The result is some flatter terrain and improved wading conditions. The foot trail ends about 3 miles below Little Hole.

### Lower Stretch ("C Section" or "Browns Park")

This final 17-mile zone holds perhaps the largest fish, but the quality of fishing is not as consistent. It is also the least crowded of the three stretches. The water and surrounding terrain is flatter than the upper stretches, but this can mean stronger winds. The flat water makes for easy floating, but much of this section is also open to wading. The stretch ends at the Utah/Colorado border.

**Accessibility & Directions.** The easiest access points are the boat ramp 1/4 mile below the dam and the Little Hole area, both of which have paved roads. The road to Brown's Park is 26 miles from the highway and most of it is dirt. Otherwise, a maintained foot trail lines all of the A section and terminates nearly 3 miles into the B section. Closest facilities (lodging, restaurants) are at Flaming Gorge Lodge and in Dutch John, both several miles from Flaming Gorge Dam. Vernal, 35 miles away, is the nearest sizable town.

### **When & How to Fish**

The Green River can either be waded or floated, and fished year-round. Blue-Winged Olives appear from late March to late May, and are the first major hatch of the season (and probably the most important). Scuds can work year-round. .



## **THIS MONTHS PROGRAM**

**FEB 16, 7PM**

PAT DORSEY AND LANDON MAYER ARE BACK.

THIS TIME THEY ARE PRESENTING A PROGRAM ON READING WATER AND STREAM STRUCTURE. THIS IS A MUST SEE FOR THOSE WHO AREN'T PROFICIENT AT THIS AND GOOD WINTERTIME REFRESHER FOR OTHERS.

PAT IS GUIDE DIRECTOR AND PARTNER IN THE BLUE QUILL ANGLER IN EVERGREEN AND HAS BEEN GUIDING FOR OVER 17 YEARS. HE IS AN EXPERT ON THE SOUTH PLATTE AND MANY OTHER COLORADO RIVERS AND HAS WRITTEN SOME VERY GOOD BOOKS.

LANDON IS A FULL TIME GUIDE FROM THE COLORADO SPRINGS AREA AND HAS BEEN GUIDING ON THE SOUTH PLATTE FOR THE LAST 11 YEARS. HE IS GREAT AT TEACHING AND DEMONSTRATING HIS ON RIVER KNOWLEDGE TO FELLOW ANGLERS, AS WE HAVE WITNESSED AT PREVIOUS CLUB PRESENTATIONS.

## **KIDS DAY 2011**

**JUNE 18th**

George Torrison and others are busy setting up this annual special day for children. It includes hands on fly fishing instruction including actual fishing in a stocked pond. Kids learn the basics of fly fishing such as fish identification, , knot tying, equipment, how to cast a fly and other related subjects. It is a significant contribution to the education of our young people to the great outdoors. Keep posted for more information on this signature HPD event.

## **FLY TYING WORKSHOP**

**FEB 12 & 26 9 AM**

Virgil has arranged a room in his church, Holy Cross Lutheran, 4500 Wadsworth in Arvada. It is just south of I-70. This is an opportunity to meet with fellow fly tiers and learn the art or share patterns and pick up new tricks.

# ACRES GREEN PROGRAM

BY WARREN DENNIS

HPD Members..this is your chance to directly help our next generation of fly fishers. Our first Generation Next Program will be held at National Jewish Hospital for students in the 6th through eighth grades. The classes start on March 2nd. Classes will be held every Mon and Wed through March 23rd. Class times are 2-3:20 PM. If you can perform a pick-up and lay-down cast and a roll cast you are very qualified to help out.

Our second Generation Next Program is one that has been supported and staffed by HPD members for the past five years. This is the Acres Green Elementary School Program for 6th graders. To date, over 500 students have "graduated from this program. Classes begin the first week in April and go for five weeks. Each group learns to tie a SJ Worm and a Woolly Bugger and they also spend three days learning the pick-up and lay-down cast and the roll cast. These classes meet daily for five weeks. Acres Green is in Highlands Ranch. Class time is 10:20-11:00AM. Even if you can only attend one class..this will really help. Outreach is an integral part of our club's mission...the Generation Next program would greatly benefit from our members experience and expertise.

If you can help..please contact HPD Member and Generation Next Program Coordinator Warren Dennis. e-mail is [gennextfly.fishing@gmail.com](mailto:gennextfly.fishing@gmail.com)  
Phone number is: 303-693-3542

## ***PIKES PEAK FLYFISHERS AUCTION***

### ***THE COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER OF THE FFF.***

On Wednesday March 2, 2011 @ 6PM, Pikes Peak Flyfishers will hold its Fly Fishing Annual Auction at The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) building on Emory DR in Colorado Springs. The money raised supports the Boy Scouts summer program at Camp Alexander in 11 Mile Canyon on the South Platte River. Also, as the sponsoring organization for Ft Carson's Project Healing Waters Program, we contribute funds and manpower to teach our wounded warriors fly tying, and fly fishing. This annual events also provides funds for the year to support our many activities for the members. A live auction plus the silent auction provide excellent fly-fishing equipment, trips, and flies for our members and guest to bid on. Over 90 fly shops, retailers, and sponsor have been contacted. Donations are starting to come in and we anticipate a wide variety of quality merchandise.

So please join us on 2 March at the TREA for an evening of fun and opportunity. Directions are available on the [pikespeakflyfishers.org](http://pikespeakflyfishers.org) web site. <http://pikespeakflyfishers.org/>