

# DRIFTERS DRIFT

NEWSLETTER OF THE HIGH PLAINS DRIFTERS

WINTER 2013



[www.hpd-fff.com](http://www.hpd-fff.com)



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*At Large;  
Geoffery Bostic  
Paul Boals*

## REFLECTIONS ON 2013

I was out in the garage this morning looking for some tools that I needed for a couple honey do chores. I had to look under the drift boat; behind fishing gear bags and rod tubes. This made the honey do list seem secondary to what I would rather be doing. Reason (or maybe guilt) took hold, I remembered the days that my bride got up in the early morning to see me off to a fishing trip, and the list quickly got elevated to the status it deserved. While I was raking up leaves in the yard, my thoughts turned to the High Plains Drifters and the events of this past year. There were the HPD trips, Christmas party, two Kid's days, fly tying and casting classes, club meetings with great programs, raffles and fellowship, club picnic, newsletters, new member orientations, a new web site, participation in fly fishing shows, photo contest and contributions by members to other organizations.. All of these events and activities were, successful and rewarding because of the dedication and enthusiasm of the organizers, volunteers, and club member participation. Thank you all for your efforts.

A big thank you to our retiring board members Steve Hall, George Brown and James Baird. George was responsible for directing club trips and James was responsible for membership, FFF liaison and the Fly Fishing show. Steve has been your newsletter editor for the last 3 years. Thank you all for what you have accomplished during your terms.

Please welcome these new board members. These people are already leading the charge in their respective areas of responsibility in what promises to be another great year for HPD: I

Geoffrey Bostic, education and memorials director

Paul Boals, trip director

Michael Vella, Kid's day and outreach director

Bruce Brown, IFFF liaison

A special thank you and job well done to this year's HPD board and officers for all your hard work and accomplishments this year.

Now, what have I done with the leaf bags? Oh, here they are under my float tube. Hmmm, it's 52 deg. and overcast. I wonder if the blue wings are coming off on the Arkansas?

Respectfully and Gratefully

Brett Edwards

President

# HPD Christmas Party and Auction

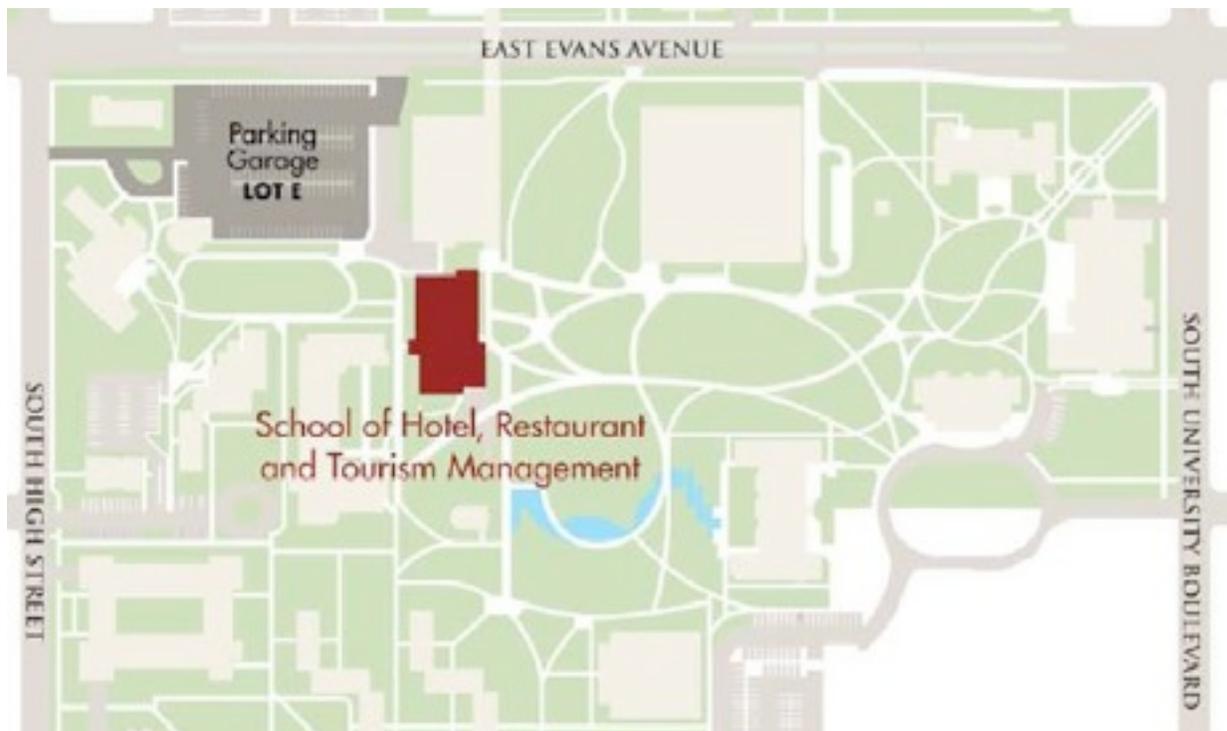
December 7th 6 to 9 PM

Location: University of Denver  
Fritz Knoebel School of Hospitality Management Events Center

Our Annual Christmas Party is being held at The Knoebel School of Hospitality Events Center, which is a new building on the DU campus and a great venue for our party. There will be room for 120 people, cash bar, Tuscan themed menu, which includes coffee, tea and dessert. As usual we will have auction items and trips from local fly shops and guides. Please plan on attending and socializing with other HPD members and their spouses.

The easiest parking is in covered parking garage lot E, corner of Evans and High St.. access from either Evans or High, The parking is \$1.50 per hour. Leave the parking garage head south, follow the signage to the party.

The cost is \$15/each (\$30/couple), to purchase tickets go to [www.hpd-fff.com](http://www.hpd-fff.com) and follow the links.



**PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO DECEMBER MEETING AT  
RED & JERRY'S. SEE YOU AT THE PARTY & AUCTION!**

## Conservation Corner:

Allow me to introduce/re-introduce myself to the membership of the HPD. My name is Bruce Brown. I am a Life Member of the IFFF and have been a member of HPD for 8 years, though my participation at meetings and outings have been very limited. Prior to moving to Denver in December of 1999, I was a member of the Desert Fly Casters IFFF Club in Phoenix. For those who have been around longer might remember me as being the Program Coordinator for the Hooked on Tahosa Fly Fishing Merit Badge Program which I started along with Don Gibbs and was assisted by the late Gary Hort, for the Denver Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. I have also been involved in the IFFF Fly Fishing Fair Youth Camp for 6 years, the last 3, I was the Chairperson for that program as well. I am realigning my volunteer efforts from education to the conservation area. Earlier this year, I accepted a position as Vice-President of Conservation for the Eastern Rocky Mountain Conference of the IFFF. A position my father held for about 20 years. There are 16 regional geographical conferences within the IFFF. The ERM C comprises clubs in the states of Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico. As the VP of Conservation, I am a member of the IFFF Conservation Committee, which is comprised of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and VP's of all conferences. Our main function is to oversee a small grant program for conservation projects, but we are also responsible for the documentation and reporting of local conservation projects. I presented a short discussion with the HPD Board of Directors at their last meeting. Being new to this position, my short term goal is to make contact with all IFFF clubs in my conference and in that effort, hoping to open the lines of communication with our conference clubs. Communication issues have always been a challenge, not only with the IFFF, the conferences, but with local clubs as well. I would also like to see if any of our club members would have an interest in attending a conservation project of another Colorado IFFF club? We share a lot of common waters and a couple clubs have active conservation programs. Typically, conservation projects conclude with fishing. This would provide an opportunity, not only for our club to be more involved in giving back to the waters and sport we all love, but to connect with other area clubs and maybe pick up a few special fishing spots? As part of this process, my plan is to have an article in each of our newsletters, so stay tuned as things progress. Please feel free to see me at one of our functions or call me at (303) 981-1243 if anyone has any questions or comments.

Tight lines,  
Bruce Brown  
VP Conservation ERM C

# TRIPS FOR 2014

The trips for 2014 have been set, and this year we are trying something new. In an attempt to encourage new member participation we will be focusing more on local trips this year instead of multiple night trips to destinations outside of our state waters. Each month beginning in February and going through November, we will have a day trip held on the Saturday following our Wednesday meeting. Members will have a chance to car pool, meet up on the stream, and get a chance to know one another. We are also working with the education committee to make some of these trips beneficial to new anglers who are just learning the ropes of this wonderful sport. As the updated website develops, we will be sending reminder about all of our trips with signup opportunities available on the website and at the meetings. In addition to the day trips we will also have three multi-night trips going to the Gunnison River at pleasure park, the Arkansas River at Salida, and the North Park area. Also, there are opportunities for any one of the day trips to become over night trips if you like. As the year progresses there will be other trips that will form through the "Open Trips" page of the website. If you have a trip you would like to put together please contact me at [paulw.boals@gmail.com](mailto:paulw.boals@gmail.com) or call me at [\(662\) 312-1919](tel:662-312-1919). Below is the fill list of trip locations and dates.

Thanks,

Paul W. Boals  
HPD Trip Committee Chairman

## Day Trips

2-22-2014 Arkansas River (Pueblo)  
3-22-2014 South Platte River (Pancake Breakfast)  
4-19-2014 Clear Creek  
5-24-2014 Williams Fork  
6-21-2014 South Platte (Charlie Myers SWA)  
7-19-2014 Rainbow Falls (Club Picnic)  
8-23-2014 Blue River (Green Mtn.)  
9-20-2014 Arkansas River (Buena Vista)  
10-18-2014 Eagle River (Wolcott)  
11-22-2014 South Platte River (Below Chatfield)

## Multiple Night Trips

April 3-6 Arkansas River (Salida)  
June 5-8 Gunnison River (Pleasure Park)  
October 2-5 North Park (Walden)

## **KIDS DAY'S FOR 2014 BY MIKE VELLA**

Our Club Membership fees help off-set the costs to sponsor two days of teaching children 6 to 16 the amazing sport of Fly Fishing! We encourage our members to volunteer for activities during these events. I promise the volunteers will have as much fun as the kids!

Event #1 - Kid's Day Fly Fishing Clinic at the Butterfly Pavilion jointly hosting the HPD event on Saturday May 31, 2014.

8:30am to 3:30pm

1. This event is exclusive to the Denver Children's Diabetes Foundation and their guardians.
2. Maximum of 30 kids and their parents are invited.
3. Butterfly Pavilion will waive rental fees and will provide educators for a Butterfly Pavilion Invertebrate activity including a crawfish experience.
4. High Plains Drifters will sponsor the a "discounted" admission fee for each guest to the Butterfly Pavilion exhibits and Fly Fishing Day Clinic.
5. HPD and the Butterfly Pavilion will host a day of insect identification, knot tying, fly tying, full exhibit tour, lunch, fly-fishing demonstration, and of course fishing at the Pavilion Lake!

Event #2 - Kid's Day Fly Fishing Clinic at Lake Lehow on Saturday June 28, 2014.

8:30am to 3:30pm

1. This event is open to all Club Member children and our Denver area community children ages 6 to 16 (including their guardians).
2. Maximum of 20 kids and their parents are invited.
3. High Plains Drifters will sponsor the entire day for all our guests for a day of insect identification, knot tying, fly tying, lunch, fly-fishing demonstration, and of fishing at Lake Lehow!

We are grateful to the Colorado Division of Parks & Wildlife for supplying the fishing equipment and stocking both lakes for our two events.

*SHARON AND I TOOK A SATURDAY DRIVE TO ESTES PARK LAST WEEKEND, ABOUT AN HOUR FOR US HERE NEAR ROLLINSVILLE ON THE PEAK TO PEAK BYWAY. HAD BREAKFAST AND HUNG AROUND TOWN A LITTLE THEN DROVE HIGHWAY 36 INTO LYONS. IT WAS STUNNING TO SEE THE DAMAGE FIRST HAND FROM A FEW MILES ABOVE LYONS ALONG THE NORTH ST VRAIN THRU TOWN. WE STOPPED AT MIKE CLARKS SOUTH CREEK LIMITED AND CHATTED WITH MIKE FOR A SPELL. HE REPORTED THAT D.O.W. HAD JUST BEEN TO THE TOWN PARK TO SHOCK SURVEY AND HE WAS AMAZED TO SEE ALMOST 100 BROWNS STILL IN THE FLOOD RAVAGED STREAM AND SOME MIDGES AND MAYFLIES HATCHING. THE DOW PEOPLE WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT NO RAINBOWS WERE FOUND. HE REFERRED ME TO THIS REPORT ON THE ST VRAIN ANGLERS WEBSITE WHICH I POACHED HERE WITH THEIR PERMISSION. IF YOU CAN MAKE TIME PLEASE HEAD TO LYONS AND ESTES, STOP, EAT AND SHOP A LITTLE TO SUPPORT THESE COMMUNITIES AS THEY ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS. STEVE H*

## The 2013 Floods

The Flooding in September 2013 had a dramatic effect on our community's watersheds and fisheries. SVATU will remain diligent in its efforts to restore and sustain these damaged areas. Please stay tuned to this page for updates about our efforts and how you can become involved.

Here are two useful articles by Benjamin Swigle, a Colorado Parks and Wildlife fish biologist in Fort Collins:

An encouraging letter from Ben about specific areas affected by the flood and recently surveyed by the CPW:

During the peak of the flood, rivers inundated the flood plain with sediments, tree snags, and a variety of rock materials. Areas which held their own in the midst to the rampage were densely vegetated with mature tree stands. It was along these habitats trout and other fish species gained refuge as the brunt of flood water raged within a primary channel. As a result I do not expect entire populations of trout to be wiped clean in any of the flooded rivers and fall survey we've completed thus far have proven this assumption.

**SVSP (St Vrain State Park) Sandpiper Pond** - No holdover trout were surveyed. However, channel catfish averaging 15 inches were plentiful, solid numbers of crappie and bluegill remain. Largemouth bass numbers appeared to decline BUT electrofishing surveys which typically survey this species have yet to be completed.

**SVSP Bald Eagle Pond** - A fair number of largemouth bass exceeding 15 inches were identified along with an extremely healthy population of channel catfish. Given the amount of gravel material that washed into Bald Eagle we expect the adult bass to produce a substantial new year class of young bass in the spring along with supplementing the population with stocked fish.

**SVSP Mallard Pond** - Solid numbers of black crappie remained in the pond despite the breach. Yellow perch, catfish, and largemouth bass were also identified in the survey.

**SVSP Coot Pond** - Three year classes of walleye and saugeye were found in good numbers. Crappie, catfish, and yellow perch also survived the flooding. No trout were identified however this pond will be heavily stocked with catchable as condition permit.

**SVSP Red Tail** - This pond likely suffered the greatest losses caused by low oxygen conditions. A few small bass and bluegill remain. Restocking will take place in 2014 while rainbow trout will be stocked this fall as conditions permit.

**SVSP Pelican Pond** - Unfortunately common carp have re-entered Pelican Pond because of river breach. This pond was previously reclaimed with nearly 8,000 adult carp removed. Nonetheless, carp numbers are manageable and predatory fish including walleye, catfish, and largemouth bass were identified in the recent survey.

**St. Vrain South Fork** - Today we surveyed the South Fork of the St. Vrain River in Bohn Park (Lyons). Within a 400 ft. section of River we caught 93 brown and rainbow trout, this equates to 1,257 trout per mile in the South Fork of the Vrain, those numbers have slightly declined but at least 5 year classes of trout were surveyed including browns that had spawned post flood.

**Middle Boulder Creek** (4 miles downstream of Barker Reservoir) - Surveyed brown, brook, and rainbow trout. We estimate 4,561 trout per mile in the Middle Boulder Creek which is substantial increase compared to 2007.

**St. Vrain River** - flows are to high to permit a survey at this time but I expect to find trout remain in the system in solid numbers.

**Union Reservoir** - No impact, we surveyed hundreds of walleye averaging 16 inches. Walleye fishing at Union this fall and especially the spring of 2014 will be incredible. 4,000 ten inch trout will be stocked this week.

**McCalls** - No impact. 3,500 10 inch trout will be stocked this week.

**Lake Estes** - The lake was recently restocked with nearly 30,000 thousand of small to medium sized rainbow trout that just might cooperate. Stocking the Big Thompson River was not on the table as the Big T is home to a wild population of rainbows that takes care of reloading naturally and high flows did not allow electrofishing crews in the river quite yet to evaluate.

Besides the rainbows the most recent fishery survey completed (Lake Estes) revealed hundreds of large brown trout, brook trout, and yellow perch remain active within the stained waters.

Benjamin Swigle  
Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
Fish Biologist - NE Aquatics (Fort Collins/Boulder)  
<http://wildlife.state.co.us/Fishing>

**THIS IS AN INFORMATIVE ARTICLE FROM THE FORT COLLINS NEWSPAPER  
ABOUT THE RIVERS IN NORTHERN COLORADO POST FLOOD;**

<http://www.coloradoan.com/article/>

# ATTENTION!!

The High Plains Drifters will again have a booth in the 2014 Denver Fly Fishing Show. This is the biggest Fly Fishing event of year and the greatest opportunity to promote our club. Club members will be ask to volunteer to work the HPD booth, if you will be available for this event a show schedule will be posted on the HPD website next month.

Location: Denver Mart

Date: January 3, 4, 5 2014

Show Hours: Fri 10 - 6; Sat 9 - 5:30; Sun 9 - 4:30

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Realizing that he was trying to bait his hook with a piece of his wife's pasta salad, it suddenly dawned on Dave why lunch had disagreed with him so much.

## A note from the HPD Treasurer – Don Butt

Well, 2013 is drawing to a close with lots of great comradery, great fishing and great friendships. As you have probably guessed it is time to pay 2014 HPD dues. The dues are \$25, either for an individual or family membership. You will be receiving an email from me, through Paypal, with an invoice requesting payment. You can pay via PayPal, send me a check at the address below, or give me a check/cash at the holiday party or at the November or January meeting. Note that you can also pay with a credit card at the holiday party or a monthly meeting.

Please remember that all members of HPD have to belong to the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF). This gives HPD several important advantages – We are covered by the IFFF umbrella liability insurance policy, we file consolidated financial reports through IFFF and do not need to file IRS reports, and we do not need to hire an independent auditor. All of these benefits save HPD funds. IFFF sends out their invoices at the anniversary of your membership, so watch for yours. Your HPD membership does not cover your IFFF dues.

You can call, 303-919-8817, or email me with questions at don.butt@q.com.

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