

DRIFTERS DRIFT

NEWSLETTER OF THE HIGH PLAINS DRIFTERS

APRIL 2014



WWW.HPD-FFF.COM



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Inside

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- Fly of the Month -
Marshall's Golden Stone Fly
- Arkansas River Trip Details
- Bug Guy Class - Streamside

Announcements

- Pancake breakfast
moved to 3/29
- New classes
- Casting Clinics start
with the next meeting

Upcoming

Trips

- Arkansas River (Salida) -
April 3-6
- Clear Creek - April 19
- Williams Fork - May 24
- Gunnison - June 1
- Charlie Myers - June 21
- Rainbow Falls - July 19

Meetings

- April 16 - Tim
Patterson
- May 21 - Howard
Horton/DOW
- June 18 - Robert
Younghanz
- August 20

Classes

- Beg. Tying - April 12
- Furled Leaders - April 12
- Open Session - April 12
- Casting - April 16
- Getting Started - April 19

Events

- HPD Kids' Day - May
31 & June 28
- HPD Summer Picnic -
July 19
- Club Picnic - July 19

Active HPD Products

- 2014 HPD Calendars - \$10
 - Mugs (Four Fish Options) - \$20
 - Shirts (Four Fish Options) - \$20/\$25 (sleeves)
- See last page for availability information*

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

April Speaker: Tim Patterson with RIGS Fly Shop

Explore the Gold Medal waters of Western Colorado with this informative presentation by Western Colorado's premier fly shop and guide service Owner: Tim Patterson. This One hour interactive slide show presentation features vivid imagery of some of the best fly fishing waters Colorado has to offer. From the high alpine wilderness of the Cimarron River, year-round tailwaters of the Uncompahge River, the beautiful freestone San Miguel River and remote reaches of the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area - prepare to be amazed by the incredible access and diversity of this fly fishing paradise!

UPCOMING TRIPS

March 29th - Pancake breakfast, new date. The pancake breakfast was moved due to weather and will be at the same location on March 29th, next weekend.

April 3rd - April 6th we will visit Salida. One hundred and two miles of the Arkansas River have just been designated as a Gold Water fishery. This clearly proves that those of us who love fishing the Arkansas River both above and below the town of Salida know this trip as have past trips will be a good way to get the year started with a bang. The trip captain will be Larry Lester.

April 19th we will fish Clear Creek. The fish should be hungry from a long winter and this will be a fun trip for everyone no mater your experience level.

UPCOMING CLASSES

Starting Soon

Join us at the Broken Tee golf course for the High Plains Drifters' casting clinic starting April 16th preceding the club meeting (4pm). Please bring your own rod and reel and we will meet at the west end of the parking lot, near the river.

Come join us during the monthly fly tying session on April 12th and learn how to make your own furled leader. You can build your own leader in 30 minutes or less and for a fraction of the cost of one from a store, you can make them in any color you like.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

High Plains Drifters,

We are only three months into the year and already it seems like we have accomplished a lot as a club. We had a successful Fly Fishing Show, we have had three fly tying sessions and two classes, we participated at Bass Pro's Spring Spectacular and we have had two club trips – one to Pueblo Reservoir and the pancake breakfast is coming up. Plus we have had some terrific speakers, Landon Mayer was like going to a college course on fly fishing and Pat Dorsey, as usual, put on a good presentation.

We couldn't do any of these things without the hard working volunteers and the board members helping out and selflessly donating their time. Geoff Bostic, our education chairman, has gone above and beyond to make sure everything is ready for the classes, the instructors are lined up and making sure the Holy Cross Lutheran Church is set up for our classes and fly tying sessions. Geoff is always the first one there and the last one to leave, and makes sure the coffee and doughnuts are on hand.

Paul Boals has been working overtime to make sure all of the trips are planned and the various tasks covered, from ensuring that all of the HPD members know where to meet, who is available for car pools and that we all get to the right spot. Paul is also our program chairman and has to make the speakers are ready for the meeting and is always looking for speakers for future meetings.

For the Pueblo trip Bruce Brown was our chief cook and bottle washer and grilled up hot dogs for everyone, plus Brett Edwards brought his world famous chili. Although the fishing wasn't the best down at Pueblo, I know everyone who showed up had a good time and as a bonus we got to meet a few of the members of the Pueblo IFFF chapter.

I hope all of the members are checking out the website and seeing all of the upcoming speakers, classes, events and trips. The more of these that you participate in, the more you will get out of the club, and get to meet more members. With any question you have on any topic in fly fishing, there is someone around who can help you out and will gladly answer your questions. The best thing about this club is how generous and willing to share the members are with one another, I know I learn something at every event and on every trip, whether it is a new technique for fly tying, a new piece of equipment or a new secret spot to fish. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at future events and on the upcoming trips.

Tim Papich - President, High Plains Drifters

FLY OF THE MONTH

April 2014 Fly of the Month is Marshall's Golden Stone Fly. Next Month: Ralph Rhoades

<http://www.hpd-fff.com/2014/03/april-2014-marshalls-golden-stone-fly/>

HOW TO RELEASE FISH WITH THE BEST CHANCE OF SURVIVAL

This article first appeared on Fish with Bish in New Zealand

(link <http://www.bishfish.co.nz/articles/general/releaserules.htm>), written by Tony Bishop, and is copyright.

5 Rules (plus bonus rule) for safely releasing fish with the maximum chance of survival

Rule 1: Speed Does Not Kill

The faster you can get a fish to the boat or shore the better its chances of survival. The longer the fight the less chance the fish has of surviving.

It is likely that the survival rates decrease exponentially as fight time increases. That is as fight-time goes up, survival chances decrease at an ever increasing rate.

If you fish on a catch-and-release basis you should use gear that will minimize the fight time.

Rule 2: Get Wet

Lifting a fish out of the water, dramatically decreases its survival chances. The longer a fish is out of the water its chances of survival decrease exponentially. Try and remove the hook while the fish is in the water.

If it is not possible to remove the hook while the fish is still in the water use a landing-net with a wide mesh, and a mesh made out of soft material.

Rough, hard netting will remove slime and scales from the fish, which is its natural protection against parasites and infection.

On bigger saltwater fish, it may be necessary to use a gaff. If so, **try and gaff the fish from inside the mouth and out the lower jaw.**

Lay the fish on a wet towel or cloth while the hook is removed - covering the fish's eyes often helps to calm it down.

If you must touch the fish make sure your hands are wet or use a wet cloth or wet gloves between you and the fish.

Never touch a fish's gills, they are extremely delicate and just touching them can damage them.

If you must lift a fish in your hands, hold the fish under the gill latch in one hand, and just in front of the tail with the other.



The Death Grip - almost guaranteed to injure or kill the fish

Never, ever, not even once, lift a fish out of the water by holding the belly area. You will almost certainly damage internal organs. It reduces survival chances dramatically.

Never lay a trout on dry ground it will remove slime and allow the fish to be attacked by fungi and bacteria that can kill it.

Rule 3: Unhook Quickly

The longer you take over hook removal, the

less the chances of the fishes survival. The less care you take over removing the hook, the less chance of the fish surviving.

Use a pair of forceps, long-nosed pliers, or a purpose made hook-out to quickly and efficiently remove the hook. If the fish is deeply hooked back in the throat or stomach cut the line as close to the hook as possible and leave the hook in the fish - it will probably do more damage trying to remove a deep hook than leaving it where it is.

Never, ever, not even once try to remove a hook through the gills.



Barbless hooks are also much easier to remove and do far less damage. You can flatten a barb with parallel jawed pliers.

Do not use treble or double hooks - these can really damage a fish, and can be very hard to remove.

If you are saltwater fishing try using circle hooks, which hook up most often in the corner of the jaw, and are much easier to remove.

Rule 4: No Throwing

Throwing a fish back into the water is likely to greatly decrease the fish's chances of survival.

The major problem with tossing a fish back into the water is that the fish can go into shock, and float belly-up. In the sea this is an open invitation to predators to attack. In a river the current will take the fish downstream and away from any chance of re-catching it and of reviving it.

It is always better to gently cradle the fish in the water, until it moves off of its own accord.

In a boat have the boat move slowly ahead while the fish is held, in a river hold the fish into the current.

In both situations the fish will indicate it is OK by swimming out of your hands.

Rule 5: Avoid Photo Folly

If you must take a photo do it very quickly - remember every second the fish is out of water is reducing the chances of its survival.

Make sure the 'happy angler' has wet hands and holds the fish just in front of the tail and under the gill latch - never, ever, not even once, put a hand under the gill covers. Do not hold a hand under the stomach area, this will damage internal organs.

Don't pose and shoot - taking one shot, then reposing the shot and taking another, and so on will add to the time the fish is out of the water. Instead, just get the photographer to fire off a rapid series of ten or twelve shots in very quick succession - this is what the professionals do, and it is the reason they get better shots.

In these days of digital cameras there really is no excuse for taking one shot, re-posing...etc. Do the fish a favor and run off a 'bracket' of shots.

To repeat: never lay a trout on dry ground it will remove slime and allow the fish to be attacked by fungi and bacteria that can kill it.



So, you have landed the fish as quickly as possible to limit capture stress and you are about to pick up the fish and get a few 'grip and grin' shots before release.

But, grip and grin, can all too often turn into grip and kill, and it is all down to where you grip, and how you grip, the trout that can determine its survival. Read the full story [here](#).

Don't grip and kill

How long should you hold a fish out of the water? A fish has no lungs - the moment it comes out of the water it stops 'breathing'. You should allow only 5 seconds holding a fish out of the water.

Article written by Tony Bishop

ARKANSAS (GOLD WATER) RIVER TRIP

APRIL 3rd to 6th

TRIP CAPTAIN - LARRY LESTER

303-793-0056 or larry.lester@hotmail.com

One hundred and two miles of the Arkansas River have just been designated as a Gold Water fishery. This clearly proves that those of us who love fishing the Arkansas River both above and below the town of Salida know this trip will be a good way to get the year started with a bang.

Room Accommodations: Aspen Leaf Lodge (www.aspenleafodge.com) or 719-539-6733. Price for single is \$52.38 or two persons \$63.07 both include tax. The motel is about a half block from Ark Anglers right on Hwy 50. Trip captain will be staying here. No frills just the basic room. Everyone is responsible for making their own reservation, but I will help.

Camping/Trailer Option: A very short drive down river from Salida is the Four Seasons RV Park www.fourseasonsrvresort.com or 719-539-3084 where several HPD members will be staying. Sits on the banks of the Arkansas River. Take Hwy 50 out of town.

Food: Friday thru Sunday starts at the Patio Pancake Place located on Hwy 50 a few blocks from the Aspen Leaf Lodge. Meeting time is 7:30 a.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Lunch is usually on the river and dinner meeting spots will be decided each day.

On-River-Clinic hosted by Ark Anglers: (SOLD OUT) Friday the 4th, meet at 10:30 am. What to expect: Meet at Ark Anglers and Stuart Andrews will then make fly suggestions (you do not have to buy flies) and then we head to the river. Stuart will be there to give advice, answer questions, watch your casting and basically be as helpful as he can. Many a time I have been fishing and doing zilch and said "I wish I had a guide here so I could ask..." Now's your chance. Contact Larry to make arrangements and to pay or visit the website. **Cutoff date is March 14th for clinic signup.**

Fishing: If a four day outing doesn't fit your schedule as long as we know you are coming up (even for a day) we will make sure you hook up with those of us who will be there ahead of you. This river has a great Caddis hatch, but often overlooked are the BWO hatches that happen in the earlier part of April so the action will be good.

Please visit the club web page <http://www.hpd-fff.com/events/arkansas-river-salida/> and post a note showing your interest. **We already have 20 members on board for this trip.** I am planning to leave Denver early Thursday the 3rd and I will be glad to help you find a ride or a person to share a room with. If you have never fished the area please let me know and for sure those of us on the trip will be glad to share our knowledge of the river and the area. HPD is all about camaraderie on and off the river.

By the way if you should ask "What are **Gold Medal** waters?" These fishing areas have been designated by the Colorado Wildlife Commission as providing great spots to catch those large trout. These waters are defined as being able to produce 60 pounds of trout per acre, and at least twelve 14" or larger trout per acre. Only 322 miles of Colorado's 9000 miles of trout streams, and three lakes, carry the "Gold Medal" signature.

THE BUG GUY: ROBERT YOUNGHANZ

Bug Identification ½ Day Stream-side Class

Last year, our May HPD Club Meeting invited Robert Younghanz, The Bug Guy, as our guest speaker. We had approximately 40 members attend his 1 ½ hour presentation. Robert was very engaging and his tremendous (and very humorous) knowledge of Aquatic Entomology kept our attention and enthusiasm going all night! He guides, has authored several books and has close to 20 years in the Fly Fishing Industry!

Robert Younghanz, a.k.a The Bug Guy, has been involved in the Fly Fishing industry for close to 20 years. Having traveled to over 60 countries, he is an accomplished angler, teacher and guide for fresh, salt, tropical and warm water species. His passion and expertise in the field of Aquatic Entomology has enabled him to travel the world collecting Insects, as well as studying, researching, curating and teaching at Colorado State University, and Front Range Community College. In addition, Robert is a published researcher and has described several new species of aquatic insects. Robert has been a guest lecturer across the Western United States on the topic of Aquatic Entomology. As a contributing writer to Field and Stream's blog, "Fly Talk", "The Bug Guy" offers helpful advice on entomology and fly selection to fly fishers all over the globe. Robert is a featured presenter at the International Sportsman's Expo in Denver, CO, a Simms Ambassador Guide and has conducted entomology classes for both Simms and Orvis guides at their national gatherings, as well as for Trout Unlimited and other local organizations in the Rocky Mountain West. Robert teaches monthly lecture and streamside classes at The Angler's Covey Fly Shop in Colorado Springs. Look for Robert on WFN (The World Fishing Network) and on-line where he discusses insects, and well as fly fishing on Southern Colorado numerous rivers, lakes and reservoirs.

Be sure and check out Robert's newly released 2 set DVD: *The Bug Guy: Entomology For The Flyfisher*.

For more information about Robert check out his websites:

www.the-bug-guy.com www.robertyounghanzflyfishing.com www.windingriverranchflyfishing.com

We have the pleasure to bring The Bug Guy back for his second presentation during the Wed 6/18/14 HPD Club Meeting. He will continue his lecture on how to match-the-hatch. Please circle the date on your HPD Calendar!

THEN, on Saturday, June 21st, Robert will conduct an introduction lecture at streamside and then into the water for the bug ID demo. Deckers area / South Platte River - class location will be determined on Wed's Club Meeting.

Please bring your class payment to the meeting if possible, or sign up on the website.

\$25 per student / \$35 for class materials: \$60 for each person.

Please contact Mike Vella if you want to register for class at 720-346-5601. The morning session is booked and the afternoon session still has approx. 8 openings.

GUNNISON TRIP

June 1st – 8th

TRIP CAPTAINS – Dale Anderson and Paul Boals

The multiple night trip to the Gunnison River will be held June 1-8, and will be led by Dale Anderson and myself. Dale plans to leave after Kids Day and be in Pleasure Park June 1-5. I will be there June 5-8. Members are welcome to join at any time during those dates. We will be using Gunnison River Expeditions for lodging and jet boat services. We have scheduled this trip to hopefully catch some of the Stonefly hatch or the Yellow Sallie, and Pleasure Park gives us the opportunity to jet boat into the Gunnison Gorge. One can also hike up or down river for excellent wade fishing.

Jet Boat Services

Gunnison River Expeditions has jet boat services available June 2nd-4th tentatively booked under Dale for the club and also June 7th-8th under myself for the club. They will not be available June 5th-6th. They allow for a maximum of 12 people per day to take personal water craft up the river and allow you to float down , and the fee is \$100 per person.

Lodging

At Pleasure Park they have 4 Camper Cabins that have two beds, no kitchen or running water for \$59 per night. They also have 6 large campsites that are \$12 per person per night. There is room for RV's, but no hook ups. There is also a bathhouse on site.

A lodge that holds 12 people is available, but it is about 10 miles from Pleasure Park. It has 6 bedrooms that sleep two per bedroom, with kitchen, bath, etc.

Please contact Gunnison River Expeditions to book lodging or jet boat services.

970-872-3232

gre@sopris.net

www.gunnisonriverexpeditions.com

Ask to speak with Jen or Al and let them know you are with HPD

HPD GUIDES

High Plains Drifters would like to thank the following outfitters for their support of our organization. We sincerely appreciate their generous support and encourage our membership to support them whenever possible.



Chuck Prather
Fly Fishing Services, Inc.
FFSCHUCK@aol.com
flyfishingservicesinc.com



Ken Robak
Ken's Anglers
kenrobak@comcast.net
kens-anglers.com



Landon Mayer
Landon Mayer Fly Fishing
719-210-0619
landonmayer.com



Pat Dorsey
Blue Quill Angler
800 435 5353
bluequillangler.com



Tim Patterson
Rigs Adventure Co.
719-210-0619
fishrigs.com

HPD SPONSORS

High Plains Drifters receives support from many organizations and companies. We sincerely appreciate their generous support and encourage our membership to support them whenever possible.



D'Boer Rods
Finely Crafted Bamboo Rods

The following members and the late Gary Hort are thanked for their donations to the High Plains Drifters:

The Gary Hort Estate - Brett Edwards - Von Franzen - Doug Geerdes
Jeff McClung - Jon Nash - Shelley Walchak - Cathy Lester

HPD PRODUCTS

Questions? Email info@HPD-FFF.com.

To order, email info@HPD-FFF.com with your information and order. You will be contacted about payment information/options.

Orders can also be placed at our website, <http://HPD-FFF.com/HPD-Store/>.

All products are available, but might not currently be in stock. Some products are ordered when a certain number of orders are reached or after a certain time frame. You will be informed of the current stock/order status before any payment is processed.

For any questions or concerns, please contact info@HPD-FFF.com.