

DRIFTERS DRIFT

NEWSLETTER OF THE HIGH PLAINS DRIFTERS

June 2015



WWW.HPD-FFF.COM



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INSIDE

- Virgil Kelleigh
- Kids Day
- Club Picnic
- Salida Report
- BUG GUY Clinic

UPCOMING

Trips

- Copper Ponds - Jun 20
- High Mt Lake - Aug 22
- Lake City - Aug 27 - 30
- Almont - Sept 10 - 13

Classes

- Nymph Clinic - Jun 17
- Spey Casting - Jun 17
- Bug Guy - Jun 27

Meetings

- Jun 17
- Aug 19
- Sep 16
- Oct 21

Events

- Cabela's Event - Jun 13*
- Club Picnic - Jul 18

*Drifters, We need volunteers to help out at the Cabela's and US Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation event.

[DETAILS](#)

UPCOMING TRIPS

Copper Ponds - Jun 20

High Mt Lake - Aug 22

Lake City- Aug 27 - 30

UPCOMING CLASSES

Nymphing Clinic w/ Tom Caprio - Jun 17

Spey Casting Clinic - Jun 17

Buy Guy On-Stream Class - Jun 27

UPCOMING EVENTS

Club Picnic - Jul 18

The annual HPD Picnic. Good food, good water, good friends.

A TEACHER, A GOOD FRIEND AND I WISH I HAD ONE MORE LESSON...

It is with great sadness to announce the passing of Virgil Kelleigh on Tuesday, May 5, 2015. Virgil was a life-time HPD member, husband, father, good friend, champion club member and an outstanding fly tier.

Club Members close to Virgil would say he enjoyed tying flies more than actually fishing. Maybe his love of fly tying is because of his broken heart from losing one of his sons when he was Virgil's fishing buddy during his college days at Western State in Gunnison, CO. His son tragically passed away in his early 20's from a heart aneurism.

Fly tying was Virgil's passion. He would research books, discuss techniques and materials with the professionals, and then state, *"well I can do better than that and save few hundred bucks that he is charging for his class!"* Tim Papich and I received a deer spinning advanced 401 class from the "professor-Virgil" this past December (just before Virgil became too weak to head downstairs to his favorite table and vise).

Tim and I were extremely impressed with the ease and skill that Virgil possessed, teaching techniques that he mastered over the years, personal style and flair for using the variety of deer hairs and just plain patience for a rookie (me) with the clumsy fingers handling a clump of deer hair perfectly placed on a size 12 hook. Larry Lester and I also enjoyed a hopper pattern class last October. After spending 3 hours tying hoppers, Virgil said, "okay let's tie some more just so you really get the technique down - remember, practice makes perfect~!"

The professor, as Tim & I nick-named Virgil enjoyed many friends in the club, Stan Martin, Brett Edwards, Larry Lester, Geoff Bostic, Paul Scherner, Von Fransen, Dale Anderson and the list goes on...

I met Virgil 4 years ago at the January Fly Fishing Show. I wanted to learn how to tie flies, but wasn't sure about joining a club. Virgil showed me how quickly I could learn and it would only cost the membership fee of \$25. And he said he would help me at class. That's a deal I couldn't say no to. So, the mouse pattern, hopper pattern, Copper John, and few other flies I either tied with Virgil or collected from Virgil will become precious mementos of my friend.

Lessons on tying flies become lessons on life, that you cherish, friendship and the joy of fly fishing, and moments of time spent in front of table with fur, thread, foam, hooks, books, the list goes on.... I just wish I had one more lesson from the professor.... miss you Virgil - and may you always have tight lines in heaven~!



Saturday fly tying session; a successful club program That Virgil started in 2014.



Virgil selecting the right deer hair while teaching Tim and Mike how to spin deer hair. December 2014

KIDS DAY

Hello HPD Team~!

I am happy to report our first Kid's Day Fly Fishing Clinic (Sunday, May 17th) was another fun and successful event at Lake Lehow thanks to all the volunteers helping out~! This was our first time hosting the kids from the Tennyson Center (home for children needing a safe environment and helping them overcome their family challenges). The Tennyson staff indicated they never seen the kids quickly become so comfortable with new adults in a trusting scenario as in tying flies and casting and knot tying. The kids had a great time at every clinic station; tying a unique tube-fly, learning new knots, bug ID, casting an 8' fly rod, eating grilled cheese burgers and catching a few trout. It was a big day for them to explore and forget about some of their troubles.

I was told on Monday morning, the kids couldn't stop talking about their fishing trip on Sunday! They all had such a great time. You all deserve a job well done!

Can't say thank you, thank you, thank you enough for your generous time and support to all the HPD volunteers: Ralph Rhoades, Von Fransen, Jon and Janelle Peterson, David Saunders, Dan Hogan, Jeff McClung, Tim Sutton, Jim Donaldson, Mike Hreno, Larry Lester, George and Judy Kress, Geoff Bostic, Mike Sutton, Tim Papich, Doug Borer, Richard LaDue, Brett Edwards, Jerry Eubanks, Paul Boals, Paul Scherner, Bill Cronin, and Alex Gray (Butterfly Pavilion Staff)

GET READY FOR CLINIC #2 ON SUNDAY

JUNE 14TH AT LAKE LEHOW PAVILION.

One of our key Club goals is to introduce people of all ages, and especially children, to the wonderful sport of Fly Fishing. Working with kids, teaching them how to tie flies, tie knots, know what gear to use, identifying bugs, practice casting a fly rod, using the fly they just tied, and then watching them catch their first fish is such a thrill you won't forget. Creating smiles and an enjoyable experience are what the clinics are all about~!

- Lake Lehow Pavilion (4 miles south on Wadsworth exit at C470)
- Volunteers Arrive between 7:30am and 8:00am
- Guest Arrive: 8:30am
- Program Starts at 8:45am

- Estimated 25 kids registered at the January Fly Fishing Show, Denver Children's Diabetes Foundation and our HPD club member kids, relatives and friends.

For more information check out the web site under HPD Events tab:

<http://www.hpd-fff.com/events/categories/events/>

Kid's Day coordinators: Mike Vella and Cyndy Scholz

Mike (720) 346-5601 or mike.vella1@gmail.com

Cyndy (303) 507-3068 or cyndyscholz@msn.com

NYMPH CLINIC – LONG MEADOW RANCH

JUNE 17 – TOM CAPRIO

Invest in your techniques and skills, shortcut the learning curve, and improve your fishing success and enjoyment. Plus fish for big fish (up to 25 inches) at Long Meadow Ranch, located near Shawnee, CO on the North Fork of the South Platte. Long Meadow's stream improvements last year have vastly increased the fish holding structure and it has fished very well thus far this season.

<http://www.hpd-fff.com/events/long-meadow-ranch-nymphing-clinic-and-fishing-tom-caprio/>

THE BUG GUY – JUNE 17

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 sometimes humorous) knowledge of Aquatic Entomology kept our attention and enthusiasm going all night! He guides, authored several books, and has close to 20 years in the Fly Fishing Industry! Unfortunately the water conditions didn't allow for the class to remain on his schedule and the ½ day class had to be postponed – that was the bad news...

The GOOD NEWS is we have the pleasure scheduling “The Buy Guy” for his on-stream class on how to match-the-hatch.

Saturday, June 27th, Robert will conduct an introduction lecture at streamside and then into the water for the bug ID demo.

Deckers / South Platte River – we will meet at the Flies & Lies Fly Shop parking lot (behind the shop) and determine the class water location.

Meet at 8:00am – class starts at 8:30 runs through 10:30am. And then put your bug knowledge to work!

Please pay through our club PayPal or bring a check to the event.

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

You need to have a landing net seine.

I am planning on bring lunch for everyone – meal is TBD at this time.

Contact Mike Vella to register for class at 720-346-5601. or mike.vella1@gmail.com

<http://www.hpd-fff.com/events/the-buy-guy-on-stream-bug-identification-class/>

Registered Students: Mike Vella, Geoff Bostic, Cyndy & Steve Scholz, Kenneth Worley, Richard LaDue, Jerry Eubanks, Joe Eubanks, Don Butts, Joe Russum, Michael Keithley and Bill Cronin.

CLUB PICNIC

JULY 18 - RED FEATHERS

The club is changing locations of the picnic this year to Beaver Meadows Resort, near Red Feathers Lake Website. Beaver Meadows has 3 large ponds, several miles of stream and beaver ponds throughout the property. We will have the on-site covered pavilion from 12PM until sunset, which is where the dinner will be served and it contains a bar. The pavilion is 10 yards from one pond about 20yds from the 2nd pond.

For anyone who is not fishing, the pavilion will have tables and chairs set up to play games, read, etc. There is also on-site volleyball courts, hiking trails and a stable. There is golfing nearby as well.

The dinner will consist of brats & burgers with condiments, baked beans, potato salad and watermelon. Ice tea, lemonade, tea & coffee are included. The cash bar has all types of drinks and they cost from \$3 to \$6. The dinner will cost \$10/head for members and guests, with HPD paying an additional \$10/head. There is also an full service restaurant for anyone who would prefer to eat there.

Fishing will cost \$20 rod fee. The rod fee is good from sunrise to sunset and includes all areas of the resort. Anyone who wishes can come up early and fish all day, and even grab breakfast at the restaurant. The number of rods will be limited to 50 total for the day. Belly boats are allowed.

There are 50 on-site camping spots, no hookups. Currently we have 4 sites set aside for us, but can set aside more to keep everyone together. The cost for camping is \$25 night. Tents are welcome.

ON THE ARKANSAS RIVER AT SALIDA

If you missed the Arkansas River multi-day fishing outing sponsored by High Plains Drifters, you missed beautiful weather, brown trout and rainbows.

That's just for starters. Twenty-plus members gathered to fish in and around the welcoming town of Salida. Some members who are veterans of this stretch of Gold Medal water shared their favorite holes with new members who were there for the first time.

We packed the tables at Patio Pancake Restaurant each morning to tell fish stories and share favorite flies that seemed to be producing results. The friendly boys at Ark Angler suggested black foam caddis for a dry fly and a green soft hackle nymph for a dropper. Other flies that breakfast chatter suggested were bringing hookups were purple juju baetis, red prince nymph, gray RS2 and a stone fly with all the bling.

After great breakfast food and plenty of coffee, members grouped up and headed out for the day. A big help to many was the map of in-town fishing holes created by Larry Lester, last year's Salida trip captain.



Some members trekked downstream of Salida in search of the caddis hatch that the folks at Ark Anglers said had hit the East end of town on Thursday, which was arrival day for many. You might guess that a guy who would draw a map of in-town fishin' holes would be eager to fish those holes. As a rookie trip captain, I paired with Larry and his Aspen Leaf Lodge roommate, Ivan Calhoun. It was a great opportunity for me to learn from both men.

One of Larry's favorite stretches of the Arkansas is "between the bridges" near the hospital.



Larry is a relentless angler. He will cover every inch of water with every bug mentioned at breakfast and he'll fish until dark. And he gets his share of fish!

Ivan never waded a hole that didn't produce beautiful brown trout. He even caught a rainbow! If you go next year, pair up with Ivan. He'll put you on some fish!

For anglers who needed an ego boost, an evening trip to "the ponds," did the trick. Both small ponds are stocked with fish that will nail any dry fly, bug and even a finger. (I'm making up that last part). Truly, if we could transport those ponds to the Denver Metro area, not a kid attending Kid's Day would go home without a fish!

There were at least two firsts on the ponds:

Larry took his kick boat and happily cruised the small pond, catching and releasing all the way.

Tim Papich, after finding out that I had never caught a fish on a dry fly, provided an orange-post klinkhamer fly that did the trick for me. I caught my first, second, third ... and more fish on a dry fly!

Others who I saw get their fix at the ponds were Mike Vella, Ron Williams, Jim Frazee, Bill Bastian and Ivan. Jim said he loved fishing at the ponds because it gave him ample opportunity to knock the rust off setting dry flies versus setting nymphs. And by the way, a tip from Ivan when setting dry flies: Take time to say, "God save the Queen!"

before gently setting the hook upward, not downstream as in nymphing. Talking about the Queen gives the fish time to head nose down. Thus, the upward motion set.

Quite a number of HPD members brought their campers. On Saturday evening, they hosted an impromptu cookout. Von Fransen's beautiful rig was ground zero. He grilled the thickest steaks you ever saw and some tasty skewered shrimp. Good times and stories flowed.

Here's a hint for next year: if Ron Williams shows up with elk and deer dogs, beg him for a taste! Those elk dogs were beautifully seasoned and a meal in themselves.

Sunday dawned bright and beautiful. Folks took their own way home. For me, travelling with Larry Lester, I experienced one more first: a trip to Tomahawk Creek between Fairplay and Hartsel off Hwy 9. I caught one brown and Larry caught several.

A stop in Bailey at Hog Heaven Barbecue was the perfect end to a wonderful four days.

When this trip comes around next year, don't miss it. Get tips and tricks from the boys at Ark Angler. Start each day with a hearty breakfast. Mix and match fishing partners. Catch plenty of fish. You'll enjoy every minute.

Dan Hogan
2015 Salida/Arkansas River Trip Captain

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.



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Tom Caprio
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D'Boer Rods

Finely Crafted Bamboo Rods

The following members are thanked for their donations to the High Plains Drifters.

Shelley Wallchak	Larry Lester	Jon Nash	George Brown	Von Franzen
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