

PROJECT
HEALING WATERS
 FLY FISHING

2012 In Review in Colorado Springs

We continued our tradition of opening the year with our booth in the Fly Fishing Show in Denver where we met many wonderful supporters and made great new contacts. We began our 13th beginner fly tying class (the first of three for 2012) and our first intermediate class.

Five soldiers built rods. They were very painstaking in their work and justifiably proud of their finished rods. One won first prize nationally & a trip to Alaska for his rod!

Our soldiers enjoyed:

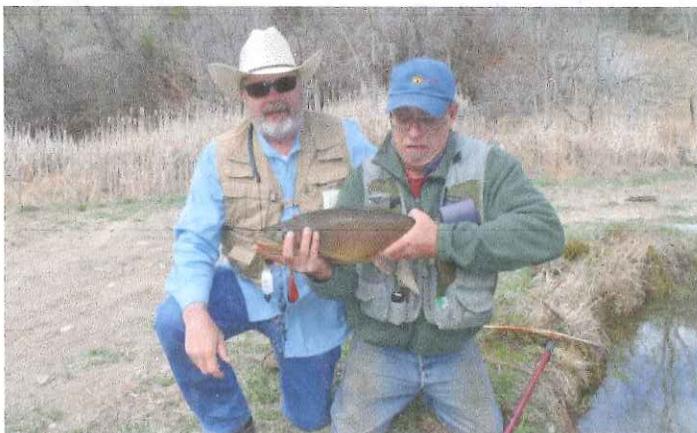
- ◆ 3 fly tying classes of 7 weeks each, beginner and intermediate
- ◆ 669 days fishing
- ◆ 17 multi-day trips
- ◆ 10 day trips
- ◆ building 5 fly rods

For our "Spring Fling" trip we toured Gold Medal Nets, Whiting Farms, Ross Reels, and Scott Rods; attended the Western Fly Tying Exposition in Grand Junction; and fished Sunshine Springs Angling Club near Hotchkiss. Jeff Hatton gave us a personal tour of his collection of antique bamboo rods - some over 150 years old. We concluded our second and final fly tying session of the spring.

May means caddis on the Arkansas River and we returned to the Hillegas Ranch near Salida. Next up were visits to Camp Alexander BSA, Shadow Creek Ranch, Blue Valley Ranch, and a new venue at Ruby Springs Lodge, MT.



In February, for the fourth year, Angler's Covey hosted the Fly Fishing Film Tour as a benefit for our program. We concluded our 13th fly tying class and began our 14th in March. We also took advantage of the weather for our first fishing trip of the year to Maria Lake near Walsenberg. We hosted a group of Ft. Carson Case Managers for a day of fishing at Rainbow Falls so they could evaluate our program first hand.



June contained trips to the + D - Ranch in the Wet Mountains; Leadville as guests of Colorado Mountain College, Home Stake Trout Club, and Mt. Massive Lakes; Wilder Ranch on the Taylor River; and two trips to Silver Tip Ranch, near Yellowstone National Park.

In July we floated Gray's Reef on the North Platte River in Wyoming for two days and fished one day at Sportsman's Paradise near Lake George.





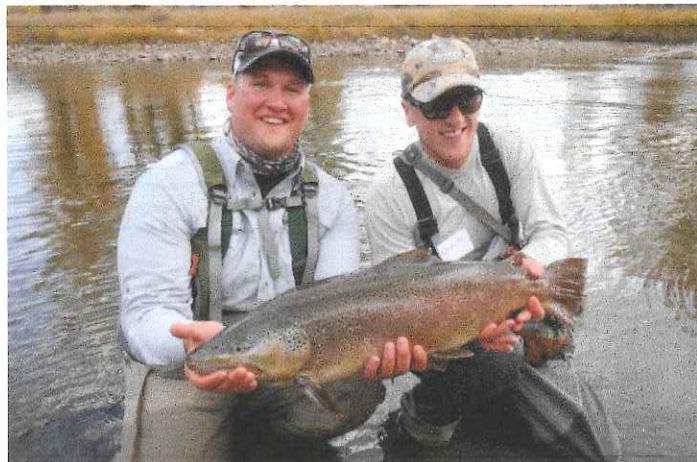
August had return visits to the Perfect Drift on the North Fork of the South Platte. The Gore Range Chapter of Trout Unlimited hosted us on the Blue River and Red Draw Ranch near Edwards. Forty soldiers participated in the second "Battle at Boxwood" which paired hockey players, mentors, soldiers, and fly fishers in a regional event. One of our soldiers enjoyed a six day float trip through the Frank Church Wilderness on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, ID, with Solitude River Outfitters as part of a national trip.



In September, we were guests of Wason Ranch on the Rio Grande near Creede for the fifth year. The America Cup Fly Fishing Tournament hosted us for a day of instruction by their international competitors. Next was our annual joint trip to Durango with soldiers from Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Programs in Arizona where we fished small headwaters, rode the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad to fish the Animas River, and floated the San Juan River below Navajo Dam. We returned to the Blue River near Kremmling, where one of our soldiers caught a tape-measured 30 ½ inch brown!

Sherryl Walck 1948 - 2012

We were saddened in September when our fly tying leader and long time supporter Sherryl Walck lost her second battle with cancer. She had been with us since the start and will be missed.



In October we fished the Big Thompson River for two days hosted by the Laffertys and Sylvan Dale Ranch. We began our beginner and intermediate fall fly tying classes.

November concluded our year as we were blown off Maria Lake and graduated our 15th fly tying class.

Fly Fishing Film Tour

Friday, February 1, 2013

Stargazer Theater & Event Center

East Pikes Peak Ave. and South Parkside Drive

Colorado Springs

Doors open 5:00 pm

Admission: \$15 at the door, \$12 prior purchase

Proceeds to benefit PHWFF - Colorado Springs

We were pleased to present Mike Oros with the Project Healing Waters' highest award - the Patriot Award. Our wonderful trips to the Blue River Valley have been a direct result of Mike's vision and hard work. Thank you, Mike!



In conclusion, **THANK YOU** to our generous donors and supporters, fishing trip hosts, fishing mentors, fly tying instructors, rod building instructors. Pikes Peak Flyfishers, and Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited. You make this program possible.

For Colorado Springs activities, contact Gary Spuhler at rockymt@projecthealingwaters.org or 719-291-3112.

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CONTRIBUTION FORM

If you would like to contribute to Project Healing Waters, please complete the form below. If sending a check, mail your check payable to Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing at:

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc.
PO Box 695 • La Plata, MD 20646

You may also donate online at
www.projecthealingwaters.org

- Enclosed is my donation of \$_____.
- I would like to volunteer and be contacted by a regional coordinator in my area.
- Please contact me about starting a program with my fly fishing club.

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Credit Cards: Card type: Visa MC Amex

Name on card _____

Card number _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____ Sec. code _____

A letter will be mailed to you acknowledging your much appreciated tax-deductible donation to Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION!

PHWFF encourages general donations, and also accepts donations with donor specified restrictions, but in these cases, we reserve the right to assess an administrative fee. Contact us for more information.



PHOTO BY MATT ROMANO

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FLY FISHING
HEALING THOSE WHO SERVE.



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Support our wounded and disabled service members and veterans.

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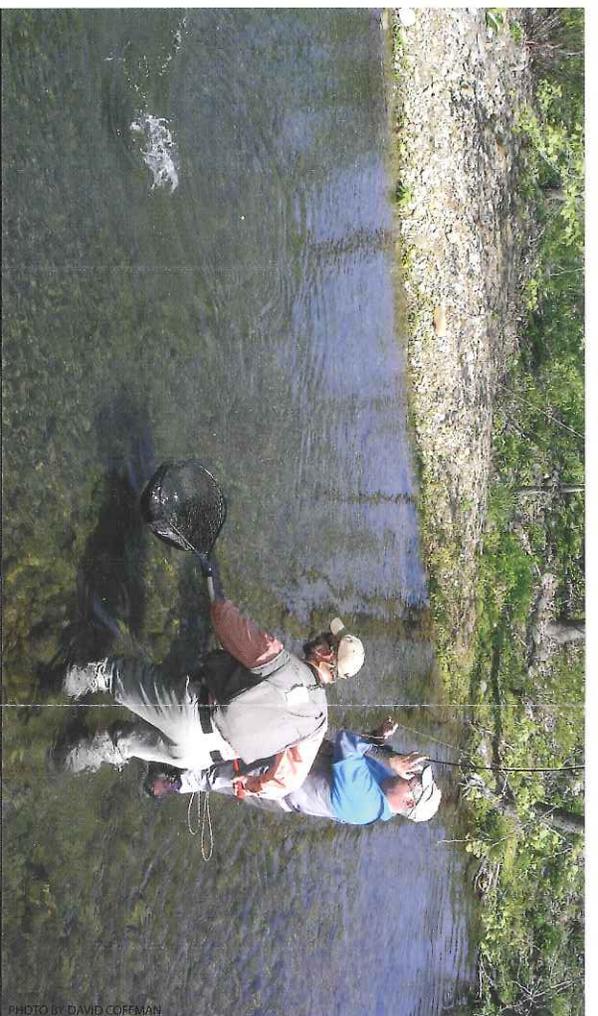


PHOTO BY DAVID COFFEMAN

as well as fly fishing trips. Our volunteers include professional educators and fishing guides as well as experienced anglers, all of whom donate their time and knowledge to support the participants.

Our activities are coordinated with military and hospital staff and all

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING, INC.

(PHWFF) is a unique, community-based not-for-profit volunteer organization dedicated to the

physical and psychological rehabilitation of active duty military personnel and veterans with disabilities through the therapeutic benefits of fly fishing. Participants include veterans and active, guard and reserve military personnel with disabilities from all conflicts, current and past. In addition to 140 programs in 46 states, there are affiliate programs in Canada and Australia.

PHWFF provides instruction in casting, fly tying, and rod building,

services are provided without cost to participants. In contrast to the traumatic experiences of warfare, fly fishing embraces the calm

“Being outdoors with nature and with the patience and understanding of my healthcare team, commander, 1SG and PHWFF volunteers somehow eased the physical pain and brought peace to my mental being. For the first time, my days were not dark, somehow there was a light at the ‘End of the Tunnel.’”

— [SFC, USA]

calming effects of sharing natural environments with companions in pursuit of elusive wild fish. The intrinsic qualities of a trout stream and the absence of competitive pressure to perform under stress yields peaceful rewards for all who participate in this activity. In addition, physical activities like this support regaining confidence in the use of one’s body and of being safe perusing a new life in the community.

Based on techniques of peer mentoring, experiential learning, outdoor education and group interactions, PHWFF strives to create a collaborative, cooperative, trusting and caring environment

pursuit of a wild fish in a natural, untrammelled environment. The fish is then carefully released, unharmed, into its watery sanctuary, and allowed to remain free.

PHWFF believes that recreational activities such as fly fishing provide a dramatic distinction between the trials of combat compared to the



PHOTO BY JAVAGE

to enhance community reintegration and quality of life changes for our veterans. ■



PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING, INC. (PHWFF) is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and veterans through fly fishing and fly tying education and outings.

Support our wounded and disabled service members and veterans. Visit www.projecthealingwaters.org