

# Clint Packo, Owner

## *Freestone Aquatics*

In the early 90's I began riding my bike along the Waterton Canyon road on a daily basis as an early-in-life addict to the sport of fly fishing. By 1993 my daily pursuit of small stocked fish in Waterton Canyon led me to the realization that I was to strive for a life-in-the-water as a fly angler. After one year of shadowing a legendary local guide, I was given the opportunity to begin my guiding career on some of the famous Front-Range Rivers of Colorado. Cheesman Canyon, Deckers and Spinney Mountain Ranch were my home for the next five years until I moved to South Carolina to manage a saltwater outfitting and retail business. After a successful opening season for Myrtle Beach Outfitters and Bay Street Outfitters, I returned to Colorado to work for the Orvis Company in Englewood, CO. For the next two years, I worked as a guide in the summer months and for Orvis the remainder of the year. Fortunately, fly fishing did not prevent my graduation from the University of Colorado. My career has taken some interesting routes since then, but all of them have stayed within the field of fly fishing. Retail Management, Retail Consulting and Outfitting have all been aspects of my career.

Three years ago I founded Freestone Aquatics and Freestone Outfitters in Littleton, CO. Freestone Aquatics has become one of the premier freshwater habitat consulting firms in the western US with nearly 20 completed projects in a little more than three years. Freestone Aquatics works with many fly fishing retail and outfitting services to interact with landowners and guides to ensure that we are constantly in-line with and sometimes ahead of the trends of the fly fishing industry. Freestone Outfitters has had six guides on staff until the 2009 acquisition of The Anglers All Guide Service at which time our staff was significantly expanded to thirteen guides. I now operate two separate outfitting businesses, one of which is housed within the oldest fly shop in Colorado.

Since my entrance into the fly fishing industry in 1993 I have always taken pride in my continued involvement and constant drive for innovation and progression. I am a Pro Staff and Field Test member for a few of the retail manufacturers that constantly deliver high quality, innovative and revolutionary products that keep the fly fishing industry revived and evolving.

### *Current Board Positions:*

- Founder and Chairperson of the Colorado River Habitat Protection Coalition: 501c3 non-profit protecting existing habitat and implementing new and innovative habitat for public and private benefit.
- Founder and Vice President of the North Fork South Platte River Foundation: 501c3 non-profit protecting the varied environmental interests within the North-Fork drainage. The intentions and actions of this foundation are to identify those areas of ailing water and environmental quality as well as procure funding and implement requisite clean-up efforts.

It is my goal to be an AFFTAs Board Member because I am interested in taking an active role in the responsible future development and progression of an industry that my life has centered on for nearly twenty years. I am confident that my existing and expanding skill set can be beneficial to fly fishing as an active participant in the planning and implementation of new ideas, products and services.