



The **STEELHEADER**

Official Newsletter of Tri-State Steelheaders Salmon Enhancement Group

SUNSHINE BRINGS ANGLERS & SWIMMERS

We saw many happy families and excited kids at this year's Kids' Fishing Day at Bennington Lake. There was a great morning turnout on the Sunday of the state's free fishing weekend. By mid-day, with the temperature climbing into the mid-nineties, the number of swimmers also rose. In all, 55 kids registered for the event and received bags with hooks, weights, bobbers, and other free goodies. Hot dogs and Pepsi products were handed out to those needing a break. Great prizes were given for casting contest participants.

Three lucky anglers caught marked fish, winning each of them a \$15 gift card to Cascade Farm and Outdoor store. Several kids came out to try fishing for the first time and Steelheaders volunteers were able to loan rods to 17 kids so they could try their hand at fishing. The loaner rods are courtesy of Mr. William

Selby, who refurbishes used fishing rods to provide to those without their own at Steelheaders events



Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife stocked the lake with 2,000 trout prior to the event. These young ladies caught two, and one was a prize-winning marked fish!



Twenty tagged fish were stocked at Bennington Lake before Kids' Fishing Day. Here's one of the lucky winners!

Our thanks to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for co-sponsoring the event and to Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife for stocking the lake. Thanks also to volunteers Rob Kofler and Jim Parrish for expertly dispensing hot dogs and soda and to board members Scott Landwehr and Dave Crabtree for help with the casting contest and the registration table. And thanks to Steelheaders' staff Steve Gwinn and Amber Larsen for a great job organizing the event.

STRONG COMMUNITY SUPPORT AT THE CRAB FEED FUNDRAISER

This year's Crab Feed Fundraiser was attended by 500 people ready to enjoy good food and a good time. With over 50 lots, the Dollar Raffle included merchandise and gift certificates from local businesses. The Live Auction featured original art by Jeff Hill, wines from L'Ecole and Leonetti, accommodations



With 500 in attendance, it was a full house.

at the Ocean Lodge in Cannon Beach, custom patio furniture, and a 70 inch TV. Silent auction items included paintings, carvings, wine, and fishing gear. In all, 95 business and individual donors contributed to the event. And let's not forget the volunteers. It took



A portion of this year's live auction, made possible by generous support from local businesses and artists.

nearly 100 hours of volunteer help to set up, conduct the event and clean up after everyone went home.

Proceeds this year were just over \$23,300 and will be used to support several Steelheaders' activities:

Salmon in the Classroom provides kids the opportunity to watch fish grow from egg to fry, while learning about salmon and their lifecycle. Kids' Fishing Days at Bennington Lake and Jubilee Lake are co-sponsored by the Steelheaders, giving an opportunity for kids to learn a new hobby, and for families to spend a day together fishing. The Jumbo Trout program buys fish food for fish raised in WDFW hatcheries, which are then stocked in 15 local and regional fishing lakes and ponds.

Congratulations to Charlene Krumbah of Milton-Freewater! She was our Door Prize winner, and will receive two tickets to next year's Crab Feed.

BOB CARSON RECEIVES WIB WAGONER AWARD

This year's Wib Wagoner Conservation Award was presented to Bob Carson at the Crab Feed Fundraiser in May. Carson, who recently retired from a 40 year career as Professor of Geology at Whitman College, was recognized for his dedication to conservation and habitat restoration as well as his contributions to Tri-State Steelheaders' mission and values through volunteerism and professional efforts.

Bob served on the Steelheaders' Board of Directors from 2000-2008. He and his Whitman students



Larry Zalaznik presents Bob Carson with the award.

contributed hundreds of volunteer hours to Steelheaders' projects over the years. It is worth noting that Bob often worked as hard as his students when volunteering at our projects, and wasn't afraid to get dirty. Bob plans to continue supporting regional conservation efforts in retirement and looks forward to continued involvement with the Tri-State Steelheaders.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR CRAB FEED DONORS!!!

Airport Gallery/Roy Anderson	Jacobi's	Red Monkey Downtown
Artificer Forge/Ben Czyhold	Jeffrey Hill	Lounge
Baker Boyer Bank	John & Mary Jo Geidl	Roger & Cheryl Cockerline
Best Little Computer Store	Johnston Chiropractic	Rosita's
Best Pest Control	Kelly A. Myers	Royse Hydroseeding &
Big Cheese Pizza	Kelly's Restaurant	Excavating
Bi-Mart	Klicker's Store	Sherry Orchard
Blind Dog Knives	Kwik Kill Pest Control	Smith's Family Restaurant
Blue Mtn. Marble, Inc.	L & G Ranch Supply	Sportsman's Warehouse
Blue Mtn. Tire Pros	Larry & Debbie Zalaznik	Stan's Custom Rods
Blue Mtn. Vision Clinic	L'Ecole No. 41	Starbucks
Brian Burns & Cindy Boen	Leonetti Cellar	Steve's Archery & Fishing Shop
Burger Hut	Long Branch Café & Saloon	Stewart's French Dry Cleaners
Cadaretta Winery	Mani/Pedi	Stone Hut Bar & Grill
Charles Smith Wines	Max Hand Car Wash	Sue Skeeters
Chip Lowell Tree Service, LLC	Mike Casper	Superior Lube, L.L.C.
Clay in Motion	Mill Creek Brew Pub	Tatmandu
Coachman Body & Frame	Milton-Freewater Drive In	The Brik
Coffee Cravings	Theater	Three Rivers Winery
Colleen Reser	Milton-Freewater Golf Course	Tom Watson
Cost Less Carpet	Monty Buell	Tom Watson, Jr.
Cugini Import Italian Foods	Narum Concrete	Valley Vision Clinic
Escape Lodging/Tom	Nelson Irrigation	Veterans Memorial Golf Course
Drumheller	Nixon's Marine, Inc.	Walla Walla Farmers Co-op
Falkenberg's Jewelers	Octane Bar	Walla Walla Les Schwab
Fast Eddy's	Odom Corporation	Walla Walla Vintners
Glenn Duncan	Oil Can Henry's	Wenzel Nursery
Grantwood Winery	Orchidacea, Inc.	Whitehouse-Crawford
Green Valley Nursery	Pape Machinery	Widner Electric
Harris Steel	Pepsi Cola Bottling Co.	Wildhorse Resort Casino
Herb Clark	Public House 124	Wine Barrel Furniture Co.
Hot Mama's Espresso	R & S Ranch	Wine Valley Golf Club
Ice Burg Drive-In	Ranch & Home	Wingman Birdz & Brews

CRAB FEED FUNDRAISER AUCTION & RAFFLE RESULTS

This year's fundraiser was a great success! Thanks for coming out to support us and for all of your donations and volunteer hours.

Live Auction

\$6,015

Dollar Raffle

\$4,623

Silent Auction

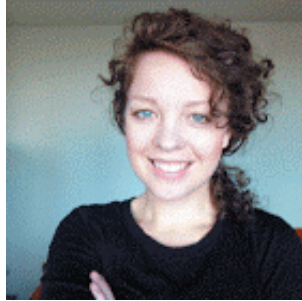
\$3,285

Proceeds from this year's Crab Feed Fundraiser will support the Jumbo Trout Program, Kids Fishing Days and the Steelheaders' Salmon in the Classroom educational program.

STAFFING CHANGES

We say a fond farewell to Carly Stuart. She has been our Stream Gaging Tech for about a year, while completing the Watershed Ecology program at Walla Walla Community College. Carly has now completed her studies, and is moving back to western Washington to be closer to home and begin her career in the field.

At the same time, we welcome Amber Larsen as our Education & Outreach Coordinator. Amber has lived in Walla Walla since 2004. She first became interested in water and fish while living in China for six months in 2008. Since then she



Amber Larsen

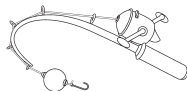
has worked and volunteered with a number of water management organizations including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council and the Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership.

She is most excited right now about expanding the Salmon in the Classroom program and building upon Steve Gwinn's education programs.

Amber's background is in communications and she plans to focus part of her time using that experience to educate and engage the community in creative ways. Look for an article the last Tuesday of each month about Steelheaders' activities in the Union Bulletin beginning in July.

Kids' Fishing Day at Jubilee Lake
Saturday, July 11, 2015
7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Fun for the whole family!
Give us a call for more information!



PROJECTS UPDATE

Mill Creek Fish Passage – Our next construction phase of passage improvement in the concrete channel will be between 9th Avenue and 6th Avenue. This work is funded by grants from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. This project was

previously planned to be completed this summer. Unfortunately, the regulatory and permitting process has caused this project to be re-scheduled for 2016.

Mill Creek Passage Design – While we look ahead to construction next year, we are already thinking beyond. The Steelheaders have submitted an application for a design grant in the current SRFB grant round. If successful, the grant would fund the design of passage improvements between Roosevelt St. and Park St., and provide construction ready plans for about a mile of channel.

Bridge to Bridge Final Design – We are about to start design work to complete habitat improvements on the Walla Walla River between McDonald Rd and Lowden-Gardena Rd. In recent years, we've completed design and construction for an area just below McDonald Rd. This design project will provide construction ready plans for the remaining mile down to Lowden-Gardena Rd.

Brewer Wetland - A new phase of wetland enhancement will be added to the project this summer and fall. During the summer, part of the site will be graded to bring the ground surface closer to the water table. Starting in the fall, plantings of willows and upland shrubs will be completed. These plantings will enhance the existing wetland by providing shade, cover, and diversity of habitat for wildlife.

REMEMBERING MEL BUTTICE

Long-time Steelheader Mel Buttice passed away at his home in Walla Walla on June 2nd. He had celebrated his 100th birthday this past February. Mel was not only a member of the Steelheaders since the late 1960's, he was one of our founding members. Mel was one of 11 directors at the time the Steelheaders were incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1989, and served as Treasurer from 1989 through 2001. After serving on the Board of Directors, Mel continued to contribute to the organization as one of the top ticket sellers each year for our Crab Feed fundraiser.

Mel was well known by our staff for his stories of his days serving our country in the Army, and about his involvement more recently in VFW events.

At our 2008 Crab Feed Fundraiser, Mel was presented with the first Wib Wagoner Conservation Award for his dedication and service to the organization.

WA HI GREEN CLUB PROJECT TO SAVE WATER

The Wa-Hi Green Club, under the supervision of science teacher Clayton Hudiberg, completed a water conservation project on campus this June.



Students replace lawn with native plants.

The Club recognized that a lawn in the Science Building courtyard required lots of water and decided to seek a low-water alternative. Organized by Kaelie Coleman, the group contacted the Tri-State Steelheaders for assistance. Together, we were able to develop a planting plan using native perennials, the lawn was removed, and the students planted the plants provided by the Steelheaders. Kaelie and club members Daniel Scott, Madeline Schaffer, Nick Cowden, and Ashley Bennett worked on a hot afternoon to install 50 plants. After they're established, the natives will require little, if any additional watering.

CATCH AND RELEASE TECHNIQUES SHOWN TO NOT ALWAYS BENEFIT FISH

From the Columbia Basin Bulletin - June 26, 2015

Globally, 60 percent of fish caught by recreational anglers are released using techniques they believe will help the fish survive. However, according to a recent study, many of those fish will live just a short period of time. The delayed mortality rate can be as high as 35 percent and, as this study determines, catch and release is deadly for female fish.

The study concludes that the techniques of releasing fish promoted by conservation and angling groups

simply does not result in a mortality benefit for fish, at least for the tens of thousands of sockeye salmon caught and released by anglers every year in British Columbia's Fraser River system.

"This was the first study to examine the extent to which different recovery techniques help fish to recover from catch and release fishing events," said coauthor Dr. Steven Cooke, Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Biology at Carlton University in Ottawa. "Given that so many anglers spend time recovering fish after capture, we expected recovery would be uniformly beneficial, but that was not the case." See the article: <http://www.cbbulletin.com/434341.aspx>

PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT FOR BULL TROUT RECOVERY PLANS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently released a series of plans for recovering threatened bull trout across five states in the Northwest.

The Service is accepting public comments through July 20, prior to developing a final recovery plan for bull trout by September 30.

The draft recovery plan, and its implementation strategies, pertain to six diverse major recovery areas: Pacific Coastal, Mid-Columbia, Upper Snake River system, Columbia headwaters, Klamath River system and the St. Mary River system, which lies to the east of the Continental Divide.

Bull trout are a cold-water salmonid of relatively pristine stream and lake habitats in western North America. Once abundant in Oregon, Washington, California, Nevada, Idaho and Montana, bull trout are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in the lower 48 states.

Each of the six draft Implementation Plans identifies recovery unit-specific conservation actions needed to address threats such as loss of habitat connectivity and passage barriers, non-native fish competition and predation, and the sometimes adverse effects of land-management practices such as road building, forest management and land conversion. The draft implementation plans were developed in collaboration with federal, tribal, state, private, and other parties. The plans are available at: <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/ecoservices/BullTroutRUIPs.htm>



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Tri-State Steelheaders' mission is to restore sustainable populations of native salmonids by enhancing habitat, providing public education, and promoting recreational angling.