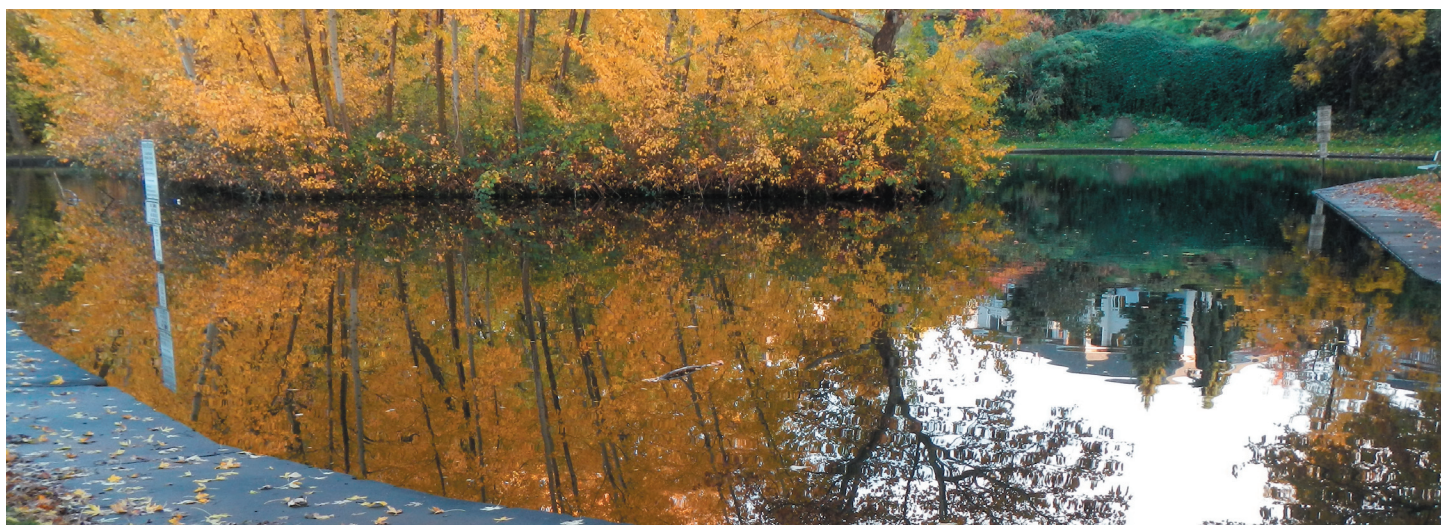




# *The* **STEELHEADER**

Official Newsletter of Tri-State Steelheaders Salmon Enhancement Group

## LION'S PARK POND NEEDS YOUR HELP



Lion's Park in College Place provides many community amenities, including a youth fishing pond. For years, the pond has regularly been stocked with fish by WA Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW). The pond is created by a small dam which impounds a short section of Garrison Creek, which runs through the park.

This year, WDFW stocked the pond with 200 rainbow trout ahead of the May 1<sup>st</sup> Youth Fishing Derby hosted by the Lion's Club. Each year, about 100 kids under 14 come with their families to fish at the event. Outside of the derby, the pond is open to youth fishing throughout the year. For those who do not fish, the pond is a recreational attraction, with a walking path that loops the pond.

Unfortunately, the design of the pond leads to water quality problems and contributes to the pond filling with sediment derived from Garrison Creek. The pond has become very shallow in the last few years due to sedimentation. As the pond's volume decreases, it heats up quickly in the warmer months, and eventually becomes too warm for the stocked fish to survive. Due to the current conditions, WDFW has advised that they will no longer stock the pond with fish until conditions are improved.

This has led members of the Lion's Club, City of College Place, WDFW, Tri-State Steelheaders, and interested citizens to seek a remedy to the water quality issues in Lion's Park Pond that will lead to



*Families enjoy the Lion's Park Fishing Derby in 2014.*

*Continued, next page*



*Lion's Park Pond, continued*

the continued stocking of fish by WDFW for youth fishing.

Since 2013, the interested parties have been meeting to develop solutions to the pond's problems. This has included tours of the site with WA Department of Ecology staff and an engineer from WDFW to provide technical assistance in plan development. As a result, a conceptual plan has been developed, which includes separating Garrison Creek from the pond to eliminate the sedimentation problem.

Blue Mountain Community Foundation Grant Kicks-Off

## Lion's Park Pond Campaign

Tri-State Steelheaders received a Discretionary Grant of \$1,600 from the Blue Mountain Community Foundation for the Lion's Park Pond Preliminary Design.

Thanks to the initial gift from the Donald C. & Ruth F. Roff Fund, our fundraising campaign for this project has raised \$4000 toward **our goal** of:

**\$10,000**

Your donation will help us take the first step toward the return of youth fishing to Lion's Park Pond in College Place.

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**Please contact us at (509) 529-3543 or  
tssfsh@tristatesteelheaders.com  
for more information.**

Please indicate that your donation is for Lion's Park.

Our effort is now at a point where professional engineering and design services are needed in order to move the design process forward. Anderson-Perry has provided us with a short report outlining the problems with the pond, with options for remedies to the problems. In addition to the sedimentation problem that is already apparent, the report also notes that the concrete walkway around the pond is subsiding in some areas (sinking toward the water), creating a

safety hazard, and that there are stormwater discharges directly into the pond which add to the sedimentation and water quality concerns.



*Young angler shows his catch at the 2014 Lion's Park Fishing Derby.*

One of the challenges for this project has been to find funding opportunities suitable to the project. Garrison Creek is a low priority for salmon recovery grants, due largely to its impaired water quality. Grants to improve water quality require cost sharing, often at 25-50% of the project cost.

Another challenge is that our conceptual plan is in narrative form only. And, because this is a unique problem, it is difficult to estimate the total project costs. We feel it is a prudent approach to first complete the preliminary design, then assess the costs and project options. It also allows us to solicit and incorporate stakeholder input at the preliminary stage.



*Failing sidewalks at Lion's Pond create safety hazards.*

Our fundraising goal of \$10,000 would result in a preliminary plan (30% design level) completed by Anderson-Perry. This level of design will provide estimates of construction quantities, a construction

budget, and plan drawings. The preliminary plan will facilitate our future fundraising efforts for the project because we will be able to show funders what we intend to complete, with reliable cost estimates.

A grant of \$1,600 from the Blue Mountain Community Foundation, and a pledge of \$2,400 by Tri-State Steelheaders brings us nearly half way to our fundraising goal.

When preliminary plans are completed, the next step will be to secure funding to complete the final designs and apply for permits. With your help, we could be at that point as early as this time next year!

## THE RFEG PROGRAM 25 YEARS IN SALMON RECOVERY

In 1990, the Washington State Legislature created the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group Program to involve local communities, citizen volunteers, and landowners in the state's salmon recovery efforts. Fourteen Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEGs) work within their own communities across the state, with a common goal of restoring salmon and steelhead populations and habitat, relying on support in local communities.

The RFEGs create partnerships with local, state and federal agencies, Native American tribes, local businesses, community members, and landowners. Through these collaborative efforts, RFEGs help lead their communities in restoration, education and monitoring projects. Each RFEG is a separate, nonprofit organization led by its own board of directors and supported by its members.

The RFEG program is administered by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and is supported by state and federal funds. State funds are derived from sales of commercial and recreational fishing license fees, and from the sale of surplus fish carcasses and eggs at state funded hatchery facilities. Federal funds come to the RFEG program through a grant from US Fish & Wildlife Service. The RFEGs are effective and efficient, leveraging \$10 from each RFEG dollar through additional project grants, donations, and volunteer hours.

The Tri-State Steelheaders became an RFEG in 2000, with a service region encompassing the lower Snake River in Washington. This includes Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, and Asotin counties. Within the Walla Walla watershed, the fish species of focus are

summer steelhead, bull trout, and spring chinook. Though we focus on these three species, our work provides benefits for all aquatic species, for watershed health, and for water quality.

Since 2000, Tri-State Steelheaders has completed more than 25 projects, including assessment and design, fish passage barrier removal, and riparian habitat enhancement. These projects have been funded by grants from the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Washington Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bonneville Power Administration, and by matching funds provided by Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Tri-State Steelheaders' RFEG funds, and by in-kind contributions by volunteers and professionals.

## Mark Your Calendar

### STEELHEADERS' ANNUAL MEETING

WWCC Water & Environmental Center  
7:00 p.m. | Monday, December 7, 2015

The event is FREE and open to the public.  
Light refreshments will be provided.

#### Lower Snake River -

Efforts to Increase Juvenile Fish Passage and Survival

**S P E A K E R S**  
Ann Setter - Corps of Engineers,  
Operations Division, Lead Fishery Biologist  
Topic: Juvenile Bypass and Transport Systems

Kevin Crum R.A. - Corps of Engineers,  
Engineering Division, Project Manager  
Topic: Surface Bypass Improvements

## STEELHEADERS AWARDED SHERWOOD TRUST GRANT

Earlier this year, the Steelheaders received a Sherwood Trust grant to assist with organizational planning. The \$10,000 grant will support the development of a business plan and a fundraising plan, and revisions of our strategic plan.

Around 2010, we were advised that reductions were likely in the RFEG program which supports our



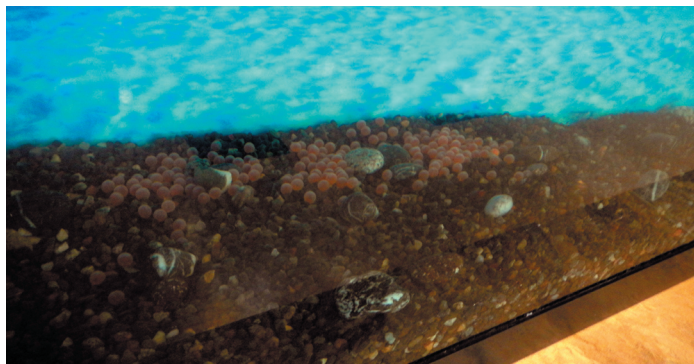
organization. At about that time, and in response to the news, we conducted an organizational assessment and began updating our strategic plan. These planning efforts and the pending funding reduction both point to the need for the organization to diversify sources of revenue and improve fundraising efforts. Though we have a current strategic plan, we now recognize our need for a business plan and fundraising plan.

Reductions and further uncertainty in programs that fund the Steelheaders made it clear that we need to develop alternative, sustainable funding. Reliance on project-specific grants has led to a lack of diverse funding which limits our ability to provide higher levels of mission-oriented community service.

As a result of these identified needs, we applied for an Organization Grant from the Sherwood Trust early in the year. The grant award was received in June, and soon after we began working with Lawson Knight of Intermountain Impact Investments. As a result of the grant, we will have a new business plan, fundraising plan, and strategic plan completed in early 2016. We are grateful to the Sherwood Trust for this opportunity to improve and strengthen our organization.

## SALMON GO TO SCHOOL

Tri-State Steelheaders partnered with the Umatilla Hatchery to provide Spring Chinook Salmon eggs to five local schools: Davis Elementary, John Sager Middle School, Rogers Adventist School, Sharpstein Elementary and the Opportunity Program at Walla Walla High School. Eggs were also provided for a display tank at the Walla Walla Community College's Water and Environmental Center. Teachers will be managing the tanks to raise salmon from eggs until they are old enough to be released into Mill Creek in the spring.



*Green Spring Chinook Salmon eggs were obtained from the South Fork Walla Walla Adult Holding and Spawning Facility.*

Two batches of eggs were distributed to classrooms this school year. The first were “green eggs” (an early stage of development), delivered on September 8th. The second batch of eggs were “eyed” (a later stage of development). The eyed eggs were picked up from the Umatilla Hatchery on October 27th and introduced to two tanks managed by new teachers to the program this year.



*A kindergarten student at Rogers Adventist School holds up a display showing the stages of early salmon development.*

The eggs are being held in tanks at a temperature of around at 48 degrees Fahrenheit until they emerge from their egg sacks as alevin and begin swimming around the tank. The young fish will not begin feeding until they have used up all of the nutrients in their egg sacks and the sacks completely disappear - a process called zipping up. When the young fish are fully zipped up they are called fry and begin feeding and growing.

The teachers must ensure the temperature in the tanks remains cold and the water is clean and has enough dissolved oxygen for the young salmon to develop correctly. Students will have a hands-on opportunity to learn about water quality, the nitrogen cycle and will be involved in feeding the fish as they grow. Teachers and students record pH, ammonia and nitrite levels of the water in the tank throughout the salmon rearing period. The students will watch the fry develop markings and become parr, the developmental



stage following fry.

The number of fish that survive is documented before releasing the juvenile salmon into Mill Creek where they will become smolt and begin their migration out to the ocean. The exact number released is reported to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) where permits for this program are procured.



*Kindergarteners at Rogers Adventist School show off salmon life-cycle bracelets they made with Amber Larsen.*

Tri-State Steelheaders staff will make salmon life-cycle presentations in each of the schools where fish are being raised, as well as visit the classrooms for follow up activities. A volunteer program with Walla Walla Community College Watershed Ecology students is in development to assist teachers with tank maintenance.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation support this program by providing eggs, WDFW contributes resources and permits, Bio-Oregon donates fish food and the City Zoo Pet Store in Walla Walla provides supplies making it possible for hundreds of students, grades kindergarten through high school, to observe native fish in the classroom.

Tri-State Steelheaders hope to expand the program to include all local schools interested in participating, as well as provide additional educational opportunities such as field trips to healthy salmon habitat areas, adult salmon for dissecting and educational materials that can be used in the classroom. To learn more about the program details, how you can host salmon in your school or to help expand the program in future years, please contact Amber Larsen at 509.529.3543.

## ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Join us at the Alternative Gift Fair for some holiday gift shopping that supports local non-profit organizations!

The free event is hosted by the Sustainable Living Center at Walla Walla Community College, and will include light refreshments, music, a craft project, and colorful decorations. We'll be there with these and other gifts:

- **Plant Trees in Urban Walla Walla**  
(\$20 plants 5 trees for improved water quality)
- **Feed the Jumbo Trout**  
(\$30 grows 27 fish stocked in regional ponds)
- **Help Salmon in the Classroom**  
(\$60 buys a new pump and air stones for one tank)

The event will have a variety of booths where local organizations will have creative ways for you to give joy this holiday season.

Come support local causes and put something meaningful into your loved one's stocking or under the ribbon of your traditional gifts.

WALLA  
WALLA  
ALTERNATIVE  
GIFT FAIR  
2015

"WHERE ONE GIFT BENEFITS MANY"

SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 12, 2015  
12PM TO 4PM

WWCC  
WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
CENTER LOBBY  
640 WATER CENTER DRIVE  
ON WWCC CAMPUS



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## Tri-State Steelheaders

is a 501(c)3 non-profit  
corporation

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[tssfish@tristatesteelheaders.com](mailto:tssfish@tristatesteelheaders.com)

Is your membership current?

*The date by your name reflects the date through which your dues are paid.*

## Join the Tri-State Steelheaders!!

\_\_\_ Individual (\$15) \_\_\_ Family (\$25) \_\_\_ Business (\$35)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Send your check with this form to:

Tri-State Steelheaders, P. O. Box 1375, Walla Walla, WA 99362

Visit us online at [www.tristatesteelheaders.com](http://www.tristatesteelheaders.com)

## Thank you for your support!!!

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