



# *The* **STEELHEADER**

Official Newsletter of Tri-State Steelheaders Salmon Enhancement Group

## KIDS' FISHING DAYS HAVE NEVER BEEN BETTER

Kids Fishing Days for 2018 were once again a smashing success. Hundreds of youth and their families spent the day on the lake, enjoying the outdoors and trying to catch some fish. Over 120 kids registered for the Bennington Lake event on June 10<sup>th</sup>, while 115 youth came out to Jubilee Lake on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

To say the weather was a bit breezy is an understatement, but the wind and cool weather certainly didn't affect the young Bennington Lake anglers. Kids and their families spent the morning trying their luck with the fish, participating in our Casting Contest, and keeping energy levels up with hot dogs and Pepsi served by our Board President Scott Landwehr and his daughter, Ashley.

Board members Dave Crabtree and Mike Mahan, and AmeriCorps volunteer Alex Coak ran the registration table and helped with rigging poles up to catch the big one. Justin Jones, 11, won the casting contest for the 10 and over age group, while Reid Swanson, 8, took home the honors for the 9

and under age group. Thanks to the Corps of Engineers for co-hosting the event, and to their staff for helping us put together another amazing Kids Fishing Day at Bennington Lake.

Jubilee Lake was the site of the second and last Kid's Fishing Day this year. Sunny and warm conditions made it a great day to enjoy the scenery and catch some fish.

Dave and Prisca Crabtree and Larry Zalaznik were busy serving hot dogs and Pepsi while Education Coordinator Andrew Bassler and Alex Coak were busy measuring fish for the Biggest Fish Contest and judging the Casting Competition.

The largest fish landed on the day was caught by Ross Davison, a nice 16-inch rainbow trout to win the 8 and under age group. Mason Stallings caught a 15-incher to take top prize for the 9-11 age group. Many thanks to the U.S. Forest Service for partnering to create such a wonderful event!

Prizes were made possible by donors at the 2017 Alternative Gift Fair and proceeds from our Crab Feed Fundraiser. Thanks go to Dean Woolery, who donated bait for both events. And special thanks to Pepsi Cola of Walla Walla, for their continuing support of Kids' Fishing Days.



*Charlotte Hodgson was a happy casting contest winner at the Jubilee Lake Kids' Fishing Day*



*Kyle Borgman won this new fishing pole for catching the biggest fish at Bennington Lake. It was a 15&1/8 inch rainbow trout.*

## SUCCESS AT THE CRAB FEED LOOKS A LITTLE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR

If you were at this year's Crab Feed Fundraiser, you may have noticed some changes.

This was the first Crab Feed in a long time without Steve Gwinn. After years of leading the organization's effort, Steve retired from the event this year. "Each year, Steve would spend over one hundred hours in securing donations and organizing the event," said executive director Brian Burns. "We can't thank Steve enough for his work in making the Crab Feed what it has become."

We'll admit that we were a little intimidated at hosting such a big event without our expert, and by the challenge of providing a worthwhile event.

Maybe fear is a good motivator. Our board of directors and staff really went to work on finding donations from supporters in the community for the raffle and auctions. They were able to bring in original art, an Alaska salmon fishing trip, a trail bike, lodging at Cannon Beach, patio furniture, local wine, WSU football game tickets, and a handmade quilted blanket among other live and silent auction items.

A second change, in response to Steve's departure, was to make the event smaller this year by selling



*Steve Gwinn at the 2011 Crab Feed, after being presented the Wib Wagonner Conservationist of the Year Award.*

fewer tickets. The typical attendance in recent years was around 500 people. This year's attendance was a comfortable 242.

There was widespread agreement that the upside to having fewer people was more elbow room, and being able to carry on conversations without shouting.

Even with nearly half of the usual attendance, the



*Live auction bidding at this year's Crab Feed Fundraiser.*

### Tri-State Steelheaders

is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation

#### Our Mission

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

### Our Board of Directors

Scott Landwehr, President  
Monty Buell, Vice President  
Dan Vernon, Treasurer  
Mike Bireley, Secretary  
Dave Cowles  
Dave Crabtree  
Mike Mahan  
Peggy Willcuts  
Tom Whitaker  
Larry Zalaznik

### Our Staff

Brian Burns, Executive Director  
Andrew Bassler, Education Coordinator  
Donna Jones, Administrative Assistant

Tri-State Steelheaders is supported by funding from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's *Partners for Fish and Wildlife*, and by funds administered by Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife





net proceeds of \$16,800 was about 70% of last year's event. That's a strong sign of support from the community and from event attendees.

Proceeds will support Kids' Fishing Days at Bennington Lake and Jubilee Lake, another year of the Jumbo Trout program, Fishing 101 with the YMCA, our Fly Fishing 101 class, and other Steelheaders' work.

If you attended this year's Crab Feed, thank you! We hope you had fun supporting our mission!



*The Silent Auction included original art, tickets to a WSU football game, and a Columbia River dinner cruise.*

## 2018 CRAB FEED FUNDRAISER PROCEEDS PROVIDE

**New  
Salmon  
in School  
Tanks**

**3**

**Hot Dogs  
Served at  
Kids' Fishing  
Days**

**200**

**Jumbo  
Trout  
in Local  
Lakes**

**4,000**

### WITH THANKS TO OUR DONORS:

2nd Street Distilling Company	Foundry Vineyards	Public House 124
Bacon & Eggs	Green Valley Gardens	Ranch & Home
Banner Bank	Hot Mama's Espresso	Red Monkey Downtown Lounge
Barkwell Nursery	Jeff Hill	River King Outfitters
Best Pest Control	Jim Schuster	Rotie Cellars
Big Cheese Pizza	John Geidl	Royse Hydroseeding & Excavating
Blue Mountain Marble	Kelly Myers Adirondak Chairs	Sally Erb
Border Town Feed & Supply	Kelly's Restaurant & Lounge	Seattle Mariners
Doug Borth	Klickers Store	Sherry Orchard
Brian Burns & Cindy Boen	Kwik Kill	Sportsman's Warehouse
Burwood Brewing Co.	L'Ecole No. 41	Steve's Archery & Fishing Shop
Cadaretta Winery	Leonetti Cellar	Stewart's French Dry Cleaners
Clay in Motion	Les Schwab	Stone Hut Bar & Grill
Coffee Cravings	Leslie Jausoro	Superior Lube LLC
Colville Street Patisserie	Light & Line Stained Glass Studio	The Brik Bar & Grill
Cost Less Carpet	Luttrell's Auto Center	Three Rivers Winery
Courtyard Marriott	Mani-Pedi	Tom & Sydnee Watson
Cugini Italian Imports & Deli	Marcus Whitman Hotel	UNIBEST
Dave Cowles	Mike Bireley	Wags to Whiskers
Deb Bassler	Mill Creek Brew Pub	Walla Walla Roastery
Doubleback Winery	Monty Buell	Wal-Mart
Elsom Cellars	Nixon's Marine, Inc.	Wenzel Nursery
Escape Lodging/Christy Drumheller	Ol' Timer's Asparagus	Widner Electric
Falkenberg's Jewelers	Orchidaceae	Wingman Birdz & Brewz
	Peggy Willcuts	WSU Marketing & Promotions
	Pepsi Cola of Walla Walla	
	Plumb Cellars	

## SALMON IN SCHOOL IS OUT FOR SUMMER

The arrival of hot June days signaled the end of the school year and a bounty of salmon releases throughout our area. Nine schools with over 200 students and staff released 820 spring chinook salmon into Columbia and Snake River tributaries.

About 100 of these were electronically tagged with help from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, allowing us to track their movement and mortality on their journey to the ocean.

Walla Walla High School released their salmon into Yellowhawk Creek at the Walla Walla High School campus, while Nueva Esperanza Leadership Academy, Prescott, and Touchet schools all released their salmon into the Touchet River.

Mill Creek was our most popular release location, with Davis, Rogers Adventist, John Sager, and Walla Walla High School Opportunity program all releasing salmon near the community college campus.

Pomeroy 4<sup>th</sup> grade, which finished their very first year raising salmon, made the release an all-day field trip along the Tucannon River, with a visit to Tucannon Hatchery and then enjoying lunch near Camp Wooten.

Each salmon was given words of encouragement and good wishes for the long, arduous journey ahead of them. Many students didn't want to see them go, as the salmon had become important members of the classroom community, requiring daily feedings and monitoring.



*Pomeroy 4th grade students compare hatchery salmon to the salmon they raised and released earlier that day.*

As summer now winds down, we are gearing up for the new school year ahead. A new batch of salmon eggs will arrive this fall from the Umatilla and South Fork Walla Walla hatchery facilities, ready to start the process over again.

We will be welcoming three new classrooms to the program this fall: Waitsburg, Dixie-Starbuck, and a second tank in Touchet for their 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. With a little luck and diligent monitoring, we should be releasing over 1,000 salmon next spring!

With the growth of the program, we are looking for volunteers to help out with Salmon in School - a few hours a week to assist with lessons or to help monitor and clean tanks in the spring. If you are interested, please call or email Education Coordinator Andrew Bassler: [andrew@tristateteelheaders.com](mailto:andrew@tristateteelheaders.com).



*Watershed Field Day at Harris Park in May. Organized by the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council, the day provided games and activities for 160 kids from Milton-Freewater Elementary. Our staff ran Hooks and Ladders, a salmon migration game.*



## VOLUNTEER!

Do you live in Pomeroy, Waitsburg, or Touchet?  
Want to spend a few hours per week assisting  
with salmon education?

**Salmon in School  
is looking for volunteers!**  
Call Andrew at (509) 529-3543



*This youngster is conducting a macroinvertebrate investigation during Our Aquatic Backyard: A Fish Tale. The class, taught by Education Coordinator Andrew Bassler, was part of Walla Walla Community College's Kid's College summer program.*

## Fall Internships

Do you know a local college student looking for internship opportunities?

The **Marketing and Outreach Intern** will assist with developing photo and video content for our website, social media, and general outreach.

The **Environmental Education Intern** will assist with Salmon in School and Family Science Night programs.

Internships begin in September

For position descriptions see our website:  
[www.tristatesteelheaders.com](http://www.tristatesteelheaders.com)

## Support the Tri-State Steelheaders!!

Do you like seeing happy kids with new fishing poles? You can make it happen!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Send your payment with this form to:

Tri-State Steelheaders

P. O. Box 1375

Walla Walla, WA 99362

\_\_\_ Individual Membership (\$15)

\_\_\_ Family Membership (\$25)

\_\_\_ Business Membership (\$35)

\_\_\_ Donation (\_\_\_\_\_)  
amount

Or, you can give online:

[www.tristatesteelheaders.com/take-action/](http://www.tristatesteelheaders.com/take-action/)



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In this issue of the **Steelheader**:  
Kids Catch Fish and Win Prizes



*Ten-year-old Jace Heckman happily displays the new fishing pole he won at Bennington Lake Kids' Fishing Day.*

Salmon in School Grows



*Pomeroy Elementary students visited the Tucannon Hatchery in June as part of their Salmon in School release festivities. The kids are pointing at jumbo trout sponsored by Tri-State Steelheaders.*