

# Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

March 2013

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### NEWSLETTER

Ray Lee 267-4176

Clyde Haga 267-3563

## FEBRUARY DONATIONS

Glynn & Roxanne McCready

Buck Buchanan

Reese Dixon

Cleo & Sandra Edwards

Alma & Walter Beaty

Al & Sue Harker

Ray Lee won the 50/50 jackpot and donated his winnings.

## THANKS TO EVERYONE

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE FOR 2013

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

DON'T FORGET day light saving, SPRING FORWARD SAT. NIGHT the 9th.

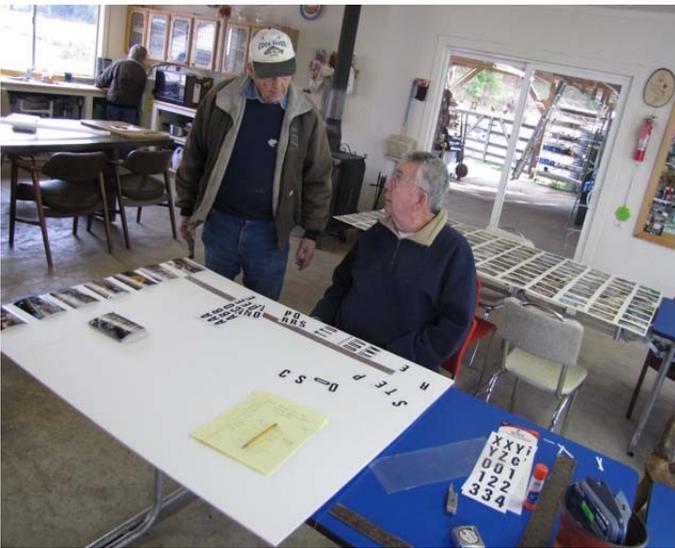
## HATCHERY NEWS

All the Chinook eggs have made it to swim-up fry at this time here at the hatchery. They are all free to swim over to their feeding ponds, most have moved out of the matrix hatchboxes on their own. A few are being stubborn and staying in the hatch box's, could be that I'm feeding them there and they feel secure there. Probably Friday we'll move the first batch out of their box to the feeding pond. We'll use nets and five gallon buckets with water to move them. But first we'll have to pick out all the Bio-rings, and clean them to be put away for next year. Then every few days we'll move another group of fry to their feeding pond. Most all of these fry have swam voluntary out of these hatch boxes since we removed the screen to let them go. Nora's pond is getting to look like it should, to have the right number of fish for this year's release of Chinook pre smolts.

We also need to clean the floor of Nora's pond. This should help us to keep the D.O. up where it should be.

## PLUGGED WATER LINE

One of the two water lines that are 2 inch that feed the settling tank over by the logging road was not working this year. The one that was working comes from Jim's place, up behind our mail box. He has taken good care to keep this line from plugging, and working good. The other 2 inch line comes from up behind our house. It was not working. We tried to pump water back up this line and it was plugged so tight we couldn't get any water to go through as a back flush. We got a water hose and pushed it down the intake until it came to a stop. We marked the hose and used it to measure above ground to find where we needed to dig to find the plug. This worked good, and when we cut the line it had about two feet of tree root that had grown it completely full. We replaced what we cut out with a new piece of pipe and it works OK now.



Harold and Clyde decided to go to the STEP Conference in April. This is a photo board to paste pictures on so they can show attendees what Coos River STEP has been doing over the last several years. They are discussing how to do the layout.



The headings and photos are all pasted in place. Now we just need a few more pictures to fill in the board. We have time as the Conference isn't until mid April. Certainly we'll have a work party worthy of a few pictures before then.



The year 2000 was a very good year for Jan and I fishing on the Coquille River. I caught this 46" and 44 pound Hawg on cut plug herring on September 30th. We gave some fillets away, froze some and canned a few batches. A very memorable fishing year!



On October 12th, 2000 Jan and I put in at Sturdivant Park and ran down to Fat Elk Creek then turned and trolled back up with the tide. This nice male I call 41 squared as it was 41" and 41 pounds took a cut plug herring in front of the middle Cedar Point bank access. More salmon to barbeque and plenty to give some away.

The majority of the fish food has been delivered to Noble Creek Hatchery a couple of weeks ago. We are still waiting for one small shipment of fish food that had to be backordered. It will probably be another month before we will need to feed this size of food so there is plenty of time for it to be delivered. Most of the juvenile Chinook have buttoned up, are out of the deep matrix hatchboxes, and have started feeding in the rearing ponds. I will be keeping a close watch on their growth throughout the spring by getting a measurement of number of fish per pound.

Because things are slower for me at the Hatchery this time of the year it gives me a chance to get out for fish sampling throughout the county. This winter I've been randomly conducting spawning surveys for coho and will soon start surveys for steelhead in Winter Arm Creek, a tributary to Eel Lake. The tributaries of Eel Lake are very limited on the amount of gravel available for coho and steelhead to use for spawning. So this past year we added spawning gravel to Winter Arm Creek. I have not seen any fish spawning on this newly placed gravel but we will keep monitoring the area.

I've also been spending a little bit of time this winter sampling for fish in the Coquille Valley. We have concentrated our sampling on flooded fields and drainage ditches/channelized streams. We are using a combination of small seines and baited minnow traps to collect fish. So far this year we have collected sticklebacks, sculpins, crayfish, newts, and a couple frogs.

Finally there is still time to sign up for the 2013 STEP Conference held in Canyonville at Seven Feathers Convention Center on April 6<sup>th</sup>, if anyone is interested. You can contact Kevin Herkamp at 503-947-6232 or go to the website at <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/STEP/2013step-conference.asp>

As always stop by our office in Charleston or give us a call at (541)-888-5515 if you have any questions.

Gary Vonderohe  
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

**POTLUCK 6:00 MEETING 7:00 TUE. MARCH. 12th  
NOBLE CREEK HATCHERY**



**Coos River S.T.E.P. Association**  
Coos River S.T.E.P. needs your help to insure that there will be rivers to fish and salmon and steelhead to fish for into the future. Sign up today as a **SUPPORTER** & volunteer! Oregon's fish need your help!

MEMBERSHIP:  \$15.00 Family

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Please make checks payable to: Coos River STEP P.O. BOX 5907 CHARLESTON, Oregon 97420*

**JOIN STEP!**

You can **SUPPORT** **Coos River STEP Association** and receive this news letter for only \$15.00 per Family! (Tax deductible!) See order form at left E-mail news items or questions about Coos River STEP to

[clyde@noblecreekfish.net](mailto:clyde@noblecreekfish.net)  
[www.noblecreekfish.net](http://www.noblecreekfish.net)

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