

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

January 2012

Directors

PRESIDENT

Clyde Haga 267-3563

VICE PRESIDENT

Harold Brown 756-6958

SECRETARY

Ray Lee 267-4176

TREASURER

Mickey McCreedy 888-5906

S.T.E.P. BIOLOGIST

Gary Vonderohe 888-5515

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JOHN O'NEILL 267-7874

MARJORIE BROWN 756-6958

GLYNN MCCREEDY SR. 888-5906

JAMES DAVISON 756-3142

Shorty Burcher 888-5369

Charlie Gross 267-7979

Paul Merz 888-4425

Dorothy Haga 267-3563

NEWSLETTER

Ray Lee 267-4176

Clyde Haga 267-3563

DONATIONS

N. W. Natural	Gas
Robert & Vickie	Fleming
Reese	Bender
Stacey	Patton
Norm Lydy & Kathryn	Jacobson
John & Dianne	Bender
Aquatic Resources	Inc.
Ray & Jan	Lee
James & Betty	Davison

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Donald	Wright
Stacey	Patton
Jeff & Janet	Allen
Jack & Kim	Banta

WELCOME and (THANKS) for your SUPPORT, from the Noble Creek Hatchery.

HATCHERY NEWS

On Wednesday December 22 we repaired one of the 4 inch water lines that supply gravity water to the hatchery. It was freezing cold with ice on the grass where we were working. The Elk had jumped the creek there so many times that some big gobs of grass sod had pushed the line down and caused it to come unglued at a sleeve, and was leaking bad. It was lucky that the water was low so we could find where the problem leak was. We could see the water going into the pipe at the settling pond, but weren't getting any water out of it at the hatchery.

Greg Brown, Jack Banta, Harold Brown, Jeff Allen and Clyde Haga all took some pipe and glue to fix the leak. This pipe is laying in the drain ditch, so Greg, Jack and Harold, all were standing in this water and mud trying to keep from freezing while cutting out the failed sleeve and gluing in the new pipe. We had to hold everything above water so the glue would hold, plus trying to get everything together, all at the same time. I'm sure we got a really good job done, it's working good now.

ELECTIONS JANUARY MEETING

You will need to pay your 2012 dues to vote in this election for officers and directors, that we will hold during our annual January membership meeting.

On Tuesday the 3rd Harold and Clyde were cleaning the salmon eggs, and Harold spotted a few eggs that had hatched of the first group of 200,000+. The next group was 219,974 eggs and we didn't see any hatching yet. Both groups of eggs are looking really good and clean this year.

We are expecting probably 3 more groups of eggs to get a total number of just over 600,000 total. Our fish release is 600,000, so it takes enough to cover any loss of fry or pre smolts that we may have before release.

It was amazing how a couple big rainstorms can take our river levels from summer flows to almost flood stage a couple days later. I drove around to look at a few of the rivers last week after the rain stopped and what I found was rivers running bank full looking like the color of chocolate milk with lots of logs and other debris floating downstream. I know we were all hoping for some rain but this was maybe a little too much in a short amount of time. The good news is that the coho that have been sitting in the river pools waiting patiently for the rain finally got their chance to move into the smaller streams to spawn. More good news is that steelhead have started to move up the rivers (I guess better a little late than never).

Last week we finished our fall Chinook surveys for our Mark Recapture Study to estimate the number of fall Chinook spawning in the South Coos River. Our crew sampled over 2,400 Chinook carcasses this year. In the next few weeks I will be crunching the numbers to come up with a population estimate.

Other news, we have over half the fall Chinook eggs for the Hatchery. I'm just waiting for the phone call from Bandon Hatchery to let me know that the next couple batches of eggs are ready to be transferred.

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

MORE HATCHERY NEWS

With the recent rains we now have lots of gravity water here at the hatchery. Before these rains we were using every drop of gravity water that we had. We did put fittings on the ends of a piece of flexible pipe so we could use one of our pumps to pump from the creek if we needed to, directly to the hatchboxes. Thankfully we never needed to use this pump, at this time of low water. This last rain brought the creek water up over our sidewalks and left lots of mud everywhere. Harold came out after the water went down off the walks and used the power pump to clean up the mess so we wouldn't be walking in it.

On Tuesday 3ed we took all the rest of the dam boards out of the holding pond side, and let the water start washing out some of the debris that was left in there by this high water. Later we will put the creek flow over into the trap side to wash it out clean also. We try to let the creek help us clean up as much as possible whenever we can. Since we won't need this holding pond until we need to start feeding the baby Chinook, there is lots of time to get it ready for them.

We are still looking for someone with an R.V. that would like to camp here, and be a host at the Noble Creek Hatchery, and help out on our work projects for compensation. It would be a great opportunity to learn what it takes to operate a hatchery and get involved. We spawn the Chinook salmon here and hatch their eggs into swim up fry, then we start feeding them. We feed these 600,000 babies until they reach the 75 fish per pound size, this usually happens about the first of June. They then are ready for release into Noble Creek to start their journey down Isthmus slough to Coos Bay. Then in September some will be about to the ocean, with all expected to be in the ocean by the end of October, or early November. Call the president or any officer if you, or you know anyone that would be interested in helping out.

Coos River STEP Annual Elections January 10th, 2012

Nominees for Officers and Board Members

Write in

President	Harold Brown	_____	_____
Vice President	Dorothy Haga	_____	_____
Treasurer	Mickey McCready	_____	_____
Secretary	Ray Lee	_____	_____
Board Members			
John O'Neill		_____	
Marjorie Brown		_____	
Glynn McCready		_____	
James Davison		_____	
Shorty Burcher		_____	
Charlie Gross		_____	
Paul Merz		_____	

Write-ins need to have the agreement of the person whose name is being written in. Any write-ins for Board Members should be written below.

**POTLUCK 6:00 MEETING 7:00 TUE. JANUARY 10th
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
www.noblecreekfish.net

Coos River S.T.E.P.

**P.O.Box 5907
Charleston, Oregon 97420**

