

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

March 2011

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NEWSLETTER

Ray Lee 267-4176

Clyde Haga 267-3563

FEBRUARY DONATIONS

Paul	Merz
Rick	Haga
Donald	Borglum
Vera Mase & Ben Mahoney	
Bobbie	Erwin
Sol Const.	(Seth Lucas)
Ray & Eileen	Beaty
Doris	Hillman
Al & Sue	Harker
Reese	Bender
Daren	Williams
Lee	Hockema
Cleo & Sandra	Edwards
Phillip K.	Carlson
Del	Atkins

These members have made very generous donations to Coos River STEP. All dues & donations are tax deductible.

HATCHERY NEWS

We got a phone call from the ODFW person that works with Bird predation control. She was asked to come to our March meeting and explain to the membership what her job is all about. We've all seen those big black birds feeding on the pre-smolts in Isthmus Slough that we release from the hatchery. Maybe there is something that can be done to help these salmon on their way to the ocean.

Gary and Jen (ODFW) came out this last month with a crew of young volunteers, and planted a bunch of willows along the lower part of Fairy Creek, just above the hatchery. I tried to warn them that the Goats, Cattle and maybe the Horses would probably eat their willows. They did put some protection around them so the Beavers couldn't get to them. There's lots of Beaver activity in Noble Creek, and Fairy Creek is a tributary about 50 yards above the hatchery. They're hoping this will help to cool the water more later in the summer, experimenting to see what it might take to help.

COOS RIVER STEP NEWS

Coos River STEP appreciates the support of all its members that renew their membership each year. We also are very encouraged by the new members that support us. David L Noakes paid dues this February to Coos River STEP for the year 2011, he is from Florida.

Phillip K. was out to the hatchery when we had first started letting our salmon swim out of their hatchboxes to Nora's pond. We had not got our feed shipment yet, so he paid for a sack of starter feed for them. Gary V. also was worried about feeding these salmon. Phillip had hardly left that day when Gary showed up with one sack of feed for these fish, which was plenty to feed them until the feed shipment got here. We're still holding his money, waiting for him to visit the hatchery again, since we didn't have to use it.

2011 STEP Conference "TEACH TODAY, FISH TOMORROW".

The biennial STEP Conference which will be held Saturday, March 26th 2011 is intended to provide a forum for STEP volunteers from around the state to get together and discuss activities and share ideas. This event is held at various location around the state every other year. This year's Conference will be held in Rockaway Beach a community just a few miles from Garibaldi/Tillamook on the North coast at the beautiful facilities of Twin Rocks Friends Camp (View the facility at <http://www.twinrocks.org>).

This event is not only for STEP volunteers but educators and teachers and general public are also invited to attend to learn more about STEP. This year's workshops will highlight opportunities to improve or expand the integration of educational strategies into all aspects of STEP programs. There will also be available a STEP RESOURCE ROOM with a collection of tools and resources that are available to STEP groups. Just a few of the items will be, Fish Eggs to Fry Techniques, Portable Aquaria, Angler Education Skills and Trailer, and Stream Simulation Table.

Saturday night will include a dinner for recognition of Volunteers with special awards. Sunday enjoy one of the optional trips in the company of other STEP members with winter steelhead wild broodstock capture event (near Tillamook). This is a half-day drift boat trip with a knowledgeable local fisherman or guide on a river near Tillamook Bay. Wild steelhead will be caught by hook and line and retained live in transfer tanks for eventual hatchery spawning. All fishing gear will be provided. Or take a Kayak tour of Nehalem Estuary (Wheeler, OR) This is a half-day kayak tour of Nehalem Bay Estuary, hosted by Tillamook Estuaries Partnership and ODFW. Kayak and gear is provided.

It is recommended that you reserve your lodging soon. The dates coincide with the last weekend of spring break and there are a limited number of rooms in the local area. Lodging information is available through the local Chamber of Commerce (see the Conference flyer at the websites listed below for further details.

For additional information please go to the conference webpage <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/STEP/step-conference.asp> or contact Kevin Herkamp at 503-947-6232
kevin.herkamp@state.or.us

Registration is open through March 6, 2011 and is on-line at <http://>

STEP GARAGE SALE

The Coos River STEP garage SALE will be held on June 10- -11 at Shorty and Loretta's garage on Travis street off Bar View Drive, close to Charleston. This is where we have held this annual garage sale for several years with good weather and lots of people shopping. This is Coos River STEP'S annual fund raiser, and we need lots of good items donated to help support the Hatchery that we have. We are already starting to have some things donated and will pickup most items from around the area, just call 267-3563 or 756-6958 for pickup, thanks for your support.

Shorty and Loretta will be starting to set this garage SALE up a week before sale time. You can bring donated items to this sale then, and preview everything that will be on sale.

Fish are out of season – now what? By Ray Lee

So, fishing's over, our eggs have all turned into alevins or fry & need little help! So what do we do with spring & summer while waiting for the salmon to come again? I think all of us have gardens or yards & spring is the time when the flowers are waking up. Jan & I have talked about visiting gardens along the Oregon coast but have only gone to a few. We're always driving up or down the coast or I-5 on our way to somewhere else. Sure, we've gone to Azalea Park in Brookings for the Azalea Festival & Shore Acres here in Coos Bay. We even stopped at Hendricks Park in Eugene one day after a doctor's appointment. No flowers were blooming & we haven't been back. The showy months for rhododendron lovers are April & May so it's about time to plan this year's adventures. All we have to do is pack the trailer & set aside a couple of days around each location to see the rhododendrons & take some pictures. Here are some of the gardens on our list to visit:

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden – Portland - http://www.rhodies.org/xtal/csg_index.htm

Crystal Springs has thousands of species & hybrid rhododendrons & azaleas. The garden was established in 1950 & is about five acres mostly surrounded by water. The Portland Chapter ARS holds a two day flower show at the garden on Mother's Day weekend. The peak bloom time of flowers in the garden is during the weekend of the show.

Cecil & Mollie Smith Garden – St. Paul - <http://www.smithgarden.org/smithgarden.org/Welcome.html>

The woodland garden is about three acres and is open on Saturdays & Sundays in April & May. There are over 500 rhododendrons all tagged for easy identification.

The Oregon Garden – Silverton - <http://www.oregongarden.org/>

It's difficult to tell from the website how many rhododendrons are located in this garden. The bloom time chart shows rhodies blooming in April which is probably safe anywhere along the Oregon coast. The rest of the site shows a huge variety of plants & flowers so this should be a must visit in April.

Hendricks Park – Eugene - <http://www.eugene-or.gov/portal/server.pt?space=CommunityPage&control=SetCommunity&CommunityID=677&PageID=1569>

The park was founded in 1951 through the joint efforts of the American Rhododendron Society and the Eugene Parks Department & is Eugene's oldest city park. There are over six thousand varieties of rhododendrons and other ornamental plants in a 12 acre garden display.

Gerdemann Garden – Yachats - <http://gerdemanngarden.org/>

The garden was started in 1981 when the Gerdemanns moved to Yachats where they purchased an acre and began developing a botanical garden. Today their project is a 3.5 acre botanical garden that is protected by a permanent easement. Tours of this outstanding rhododendron garden are available by appointment only.

If you can't make it to any of these gardens at least go to Shore Acres or Mingus Park in April or May to see the flowers. We don't have as many rhodies as some of the other parks but what we have is rather nice.

**POTLUCK 6:00 MEETING 7:00 TUE. MAR. 8th
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

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