

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

September 2010

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JAMES DAVISON 756-3142

Shorty Burcher 888-5369

Charlie Gross 267-7979

Paul Merz 888-4425

Dorothy Haga 267-3563

NEWSLETTER

Clyde Haga 267-3563



DONATION

John O'Neill Won the 50-50 drawing and donated it back to STEP, (THANKS) It's donations like this that helps keep the hatchery going.

NEW MEMBER

Ray Petrie

HATCHERY NEWS

With the rain we have had on the 6th and 7th September, there was a salmon that came on up to the hatchery. This is the earliest that we can remember any salmon returning back to the hatchery. There may have been one get by before we got the gate in place. We just had the gate in on the upper end of the race way to stop any salmon from going on up the creek. There is nothing to stop them from going on back down the creek out of the hatchery, as it's too early to hold them for spawning. Our first spawning day will probably be October 26th. And the salmon don't survive that long very well in our cement ponds.

Ray, Harold and Clyde went up to Dave West's place and loaded a really nice load of heating wood on our STEP trailer. Dave had this wood already cut and split and dried, all ready for us to just haul to the hatchery. I think there may be close to enough to keep us warm for this spawning season, Shorty has brought us lots of kindling, Ray brings us the wax fire starter pieces.

CHINOOK FISHING IN COOS BAY

We have had several people report to us just how good the salmon fishing has been this year in Coos Bay. The Eastside boat ramp is on Isthmus Slough, and there have been several good bright Chinook salmon caught right out in front the Coos Bay board walk this year. There has been good success fishing from the barge shipyard by the Catching Slough bridge on up to the green bridge. It looks like the fishing will get even better for the rest of September and into October.

It sounds like the fish are biting several different kinds of Blue Fox spinners plus others and bait. If you are new to fishing in the Bay, be sure to ask someone at the tackle shop, or a helpful friend how to rig up for the best chance of getting the fish to bite.

4TH ANNUAL STEP VOLUNTEER POTLUCK

THE 4TH ANNUAL STEP POTLUCK AND PICNIC WAS A GREAT SUCCESS THIS YEAR. The Florence step group did a great job sponsoring this event this year. They had a silent auction to help offset some of the expense of the food and drinks that they furnished. They has several barbecues working at the same time to keep up with the large crowd that attended this event. There was STEP groups from all up and down the coast, from Florence to Brookings. Pena introduced all the presidents from each group that were there, and gave them time to say something about themselves. Also there were some elected officials there that Pena also got to give a little speech about what they would like to get done when elected.

Tod Jones also gave a really nice presentation on what his hatchboxes are capable of doing, and just an interesting question and answer time with the people that had some questions about these new systems he is proposing.

MONTHLY POTLUCK

Our monthly STEP meeting is a great way to meet and visit with our members, and usually our STEP biologist. Some we only get to see at these potlucks. The potluck is a big part of our group, so everyone bring your favorite dish to share, and trade stories. See you every second Tuesday night, September 12th at 6:00.

CEDAR TREE

Paul Merz came out this month and brought Wayne Edgar who has a large chainsaw, with a four foot bar, to cut a red cedar tree that I wanted to get down. It was too close to the apple trees, causing them to not have apples very good. This tree leaned some the opposite way that we wanted it to fall. Paul climbed about 60 feet up the tree and fastened a line to it, then waited for me to get done crab fishing with Harold on his boat to get home. We did cut the crabbing short after we got a phone call that Paul was ready to hook the tractor up to his line to pull this tree over where we wanted it to go. I got back home about the same time that Wayne got there too so it worked out just right. After Wayne got the tree undercut and back cut where he wanted it I tried to pull it over, but it wouldn't budge. Paul fastened his pickup to the tractor to help pull but we still couldn't get this tree to come down. We got Paul's pickup out of the way and got the Case 580 backhoe out and hooked it to the front of the tractor, this time when we pulled the tree came over right where we were wanting it to fall. Wayne had his cut just right, and got the tree exactly where it needed to be for easiest working it. We are hoping Paul can get a good portion of his heating wood for this winter. Paul is looking into selling some of the log, he has found that it's worth \$30. a ton at one place he has checked.

JOHN'S BACKHOE WORK

John O'Neill has let us have the use of his 580 Case backhoe as a donation to Coos River STEP. Clyde has been trying to learn to use it, first on one of the settling ponds for the hatchery. Harold came out and we took it up to the largest pond to clean the sediment out of it. Well the extend hoe that Jerry Miller used to build this pond and keep it cleaned out for us could reach a lot farther than I could with the Case backhoe. This pond was really filled with sediment, we got full length of the pond but couldn't reach all the way across it. We did feel that we got a pretty good job cleaning the pond out. We did find a piece of pipe that we lost in this pond a couple years ago. We think a Bear was swimming in it and tried to use the pipe to help him get out of the water. We built a platform after we lost the pipe to have something solid to tie the screen to which goes over the pipe. So far there has been no problem with the Bear causing any damage to our stuff that we have up there, although the Bear has been back a few times since.

Harold and I went over to the other settling pond that we have with the back hoe and cleaned the sediment out of it. This pond wasn't as full of stuff as the first pond that Harold helped on, so it didn't take nearly as long to get it cleaned out, all the while the backhoe was leaking a little hoist oil which turned out there was a hose that needed to be replaced.

I started to clean out an old ditch that was full so it was just flat where it used to be. I hardly got started and this Leakey hose blew right out of the fitting. We got a new hose and Lonnie Hampton came down and helped me get the old one off and put the new one on. This stopped the oil from leaking altogether, so it was a good thing this happened when it did. I'm having some trouble with the backhoe batteries staying charged up so it will start without having to use the jumper cables on it. I've got the battery charger on the batteries of the backhoe now so maybe that problem will be fixed too.

INDOOR BATHROOM

We are still discussing how to get a flush toilet and hand wash sink installed. We could build a room for it under the roof that we already have, there is plenty of room for it. I have talked to some of the porta potty providers, and they don't seem to be too sure if we could have a tank above ground that we could have pumped when needed. I do need to talk to the people that pump out septic tanks and see what they know about handling the sewerage this way for us. We just don't have the money to bury a septic tank in the ground with the required drain field so we could have a full bathroom here at the hatchery. We're not giving up hope that we can find a way, as this is a necessary addition to our hatchery. We can still keep our porta potty that we have, and use it when needed, maybe locate it in a more accessible place if we do get our bathroom with shower.

**POTLUCK 6:00 MEETING 7:00 TUE. SEPT. 14th.
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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