



NEWS

Members meeting Thursday April 17th at Oak Tree Restaurant in Woodland, WA April 2008 Issue

Fish First Banquet Two Weeks Away!

Expecting Sellout Crowd Again So Get Tickets Now

By Karen Dodds, Banquet Chairperson



On May 3rd, get up at the crack of dawn, down a gallon of coffee and go catch that fish! Just be sure to be back in time to attend our **13th Annual Fish First Banquet and Auction**.

Hundreds of items are rolling in and the seats are filling up as the event draws quickly near. Trips, sporting equipment, firearms, artwork, and furnishings are an example of what we have for this year's auction. Gary Loomis will be offering some unique items as well this year.

Support for this year's auction comes from businesses and individuals that recognize the value of **Fish First** and are eager to support its projects. **Fish First** is such a well recognized and respected program, it has been easy to gather support this year.

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The Importance of the Banquet

By John DiVittorio
FF Executive Director



Banquet Funds Fish First Programs

Recently, Gary Loomis totaled up all the dollars and volunteer hours that Fish First has spent in recovering fish through a variety of programs over the years. He assigned a dollar value to the hours and came up with a total of \$1,700,000. Fish First is funded through grants, donations, membership fees and the annual banquet.

Grant funding varies wildly from year to year depending on the size and number of habitat restoration programs that we do. Most of the funds for these programs come from grants but there is usually a 15% match that Fish First needs to come up with. The match is typically met with "in-kind" contributions which usually consist of donated materials and volunteer labor. Labor includes project management, project design, construction management, permit application preparation and physical labor. If the "in-kind contribution" does not cover the match, funds from the banquet make up the difference. This funding model for habitat restoration projects uses grant leverage to accomplish restoration work that could never be funded with banquet income alone.

(DiVittorio continued on page 3)



GARY'S COLUMN FOR APRIL 2008

In the past two weeks the fish have had a couple of setbacks at the hands of the courts. We intend to appeal both adverse legal rulings. The salmon picture is so bad it would be criminal not to do so.

Locally we saw Store Dahl Co. with a win as Clark County Commissioners, who tried to do the right thing, were overruled by an appeals court and told they had to follow a hearings examiner's findings that would allow the Daybreak Gravel Mining operation on the East Fork of the Lewis River.

Up in Seattle, the ruling by the Federal District Court went NOAA's way instead of going for the fish. We are very concerned that NOAA will continue to set seasons and catch limits to allow harvest until the salmon disappear entirely because their numbers will be too low to sustain themselves.

I believe an appeal will win in the NOAA case. They seem to consider themselves above the law and are willing to harvest until salmon disappear entirely. Harvest reductions have to happen quickly or they will disappear. The closure of ocean fishing off Oregon and California is because those runs in California have virtually disappeared. Not just gone down some, but virtually disappeared.

But what is the government doing in the big picture? It's crazy in my opinion because hundreds of millions in tax dollars have been spent propping up a salmon fishing industry whose total Pacific Northwest sales are maybe as high as ten million dollars a year. There are dozens of small businesses in the NW that do this much in sales, do no damage to endangered species and get nothing in the form of subsidies.

Just this week Bonneville Power agreed to spend over 900 million dollars in the next decade to help recover salmon and other species important to Native Americans. How much sense does it make to do that on one hand and spend money to subsidize a fishing industry that is 1/4 of 1% of the population and goes out and with non-selective harvest continues to kill fish on the endangered species list?

(Gary continued from column one)

Commercial Harvest with non-selective methods has to stop. Nothing less will do. It might be necessary to halt all commercial fishing of salmon in order to protect the endangered fish.

All of the environmental and sportsmen's groups that are not united need to unite around harvest as the key issue. It is solvable but not unless we all unite and keep going in the courts and in the legislatures and in Congress until we win. Losing is not an option.

REWARD PROGRAM FOR LOWER COLUMBIA

A new reward program designed to encourage people to report violations of salmon, steelhead and Sturgeon regulations on the lower Columbia has been initiated in cooperation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). According to Ed Wickersham of Ridgefield, The Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) in SW Washington was looking for an opportunity to partner with the Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife that would help the agency with their job of managing the listed species of salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River and would demonstrate CCA's commitment to our native and wild fish in a positive way. "We had discussions with first line supervisory personnel and one of the things that was suggested was a reward program that focused on endangered fish" he said. According to Wickersham the program is limited to SW Washington and the Lower Columbia River for now.

In explaining the reward program Wickersham said there would be three levels of rewards. The highest is a \$5000 reward for information that leads to a conviction of buying, selling of any steelhead or sturgeon of the felony provisions of Washington State Law. The second level is \$1,000 and is provided for information that leads to a conviction for buying or selling of any salmon, steelhead or sturgeon in violation of the misdemeanor provisions of Washington State Law. The third level, \$500, was described by Wickersham as "a sort of catch all" and applies to those who report information that leads to convictions for other more serious kinds of violations related to salmon, steelhead or sturgeon and not included in the two higher categories.

"This program helps WDFW in its enforcement effort, particularly for those more serious violations which are hard to detect but can have a significant impact on our wild and native fish. "We want to reward those citizens who make the effort to come forward and help our law enforcement officers. All information will be handled with complete confidentiality," he said.

To report a violation, please call: 877-WDFW-TIP (877-933-9847).

Calendar of Events for Fish First

**13th Annual Banquet Sat. May 3rd
At the Oak Tree Restaurant
Woodland WA.
Doors open at 4:30 p.m.
Get your tickets ahead of time!
See story on page one of this issue**

**Members meeting Thursday April 17th,
Oak Tree Restaurant
Woodland, WA 7pm**

Meeting Program: WDFW Biologist Josh Holowatz will speak on Cedar Creek, a major FF focus. There will be a drawing for a prize.

**Member Meetings
Always on 3rd Thursday 7 p.m.,
Oak Tree Restaurant, Woodland, WA**

Oak Tree is at Exit 21 off I-5

North bound I-5 take Exit 21 and it's straight ahead when you hit the stoplight

Southbound I-5 Woodland Exit and follow frontage road to stoplight, left and under the overpass

Future Meeting Dates:

April 17, 2008

May 15, 2008

Summer Break

September 18, 2008

October 16, 2008

On the Internet: www.fishfirst.org

Contacts: John DiVittorio, Executive Director
360-713-7460

Jerry Sauer, Membership Chairman, 360-607-1646

Harry Bresnahan, Membership meetings 360-225-9836

Jerry Brown, Newsletter Editor 360-600-8559

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FISHING DERBY

Jerry Sauer, Membership Chairman is also heading up the Kids Fishing Derby June 7th at Merwin. He needs a few volunteers who love to have fun to help the kids with things like baiting hooks, landing, removing fish from hooks, untangling the occasional birds nest etc. 360-607-1646

(DiVittorio continued from page one)

Fish First currently has about 300 active members. Membership revenue in 2007 was approximately \$22,000. Most members join for \$35 but there were a large number of \$250 Sponsor memberships and even a few \$1000 lifetime memberships. Unsolicited donations outside the banquet were about \$2500. Banquet net income was about \$72,000. As you can see, revenue generated by the banquet the dominant source of funding.

The expense budget for 2008 is about \$63,000 which will fund all operating expenses except habitat restoration projects which are mostly funded by grants as mentioned above. Here's a short list of expense items in this budget:

Project Monitoring	\$ 2,500
Promotional Materials	\$ 7,000
Pre-Grant Habitat	\$15,000
Project Design	
Non-project Consulting	\$ 5,000
Nutrient Enhancement	\$ 3,000
Egg Boxes	\$ 500
Net Pen Replacement	\$ 7,000
Fish Rescue Operating	\$ 3,000
Expense	
Insurance	\$ 3,600
Admin Services	\$ 5,000
Accounting & Tax Prep	\$ 2,300
Office Supplies & Printing	\$ 3,500

The rest of the budget goes to miscellaneous expenses like postage, phone charges, website management and vehicle licensing.

Funding from the banquet is critical to keep our fish recovery efforts moving forward. It's also great fun to participate in the auction activities. Please join us and have a great time sponsoring important work to recover our fish.

Karen's Report on Banquet Continued from page 1

This auction is important, and we need everyone's support of attendance and/or membership renewal. These proceeds provide major support for the 2008 new and ongoing **Fish First** projects. Additionally, it is an opportunity to come, make some new friends, reinvest in some old friendships, and have enormous fun with those who share the same passion for **Fish First**.

NET PEN NEWS
Dan Balch, Chairman



March 14th I started helping hatchery worker Toni Harm with feeding fish at the Echo pens as their four wheel drive rig had broken down and their dual wheel rig was getting stuck due to low water at the golf course ramp. We also fed on March 17th, 19th, 21st and 24th. Then the water came back up and DFW has been feeding since.

On April 15th we released the 60,000 plus Steelhead that had been put in the Echo Net Pens at 9 a.m. and washed down nets to get ready for the Steelhead on the 17th.

On April 17th we will be refilling Echo Net Pens at 7:30 a.m. starting time to set up pipe. Fifty thousand Steelhead will be coming from Skamania Hatchery. It's a long haul but we should be done about 2:30 if all goes well.

Fish First
PO Box 1505
Woodland WA 98674

NUTRIENT ENHANCEMENT
Dan Balch, Chairman

On March 11th I got a call from Jim Burns that our freezer where we keep the salmon for the nutrient program wasn't working right. The temperature was up to 28 degrees. I went to the hatchery to look and it appeared the unit was low on Ester oil. I called the repair man and met him there the next morning and oil was added and fixed the problem.

On March 19th Alan Fulcer, Roy Pickner, Greg Glass and myself loaded the big truck with 400 frozen carcasses and two totes of 150 fish for my truck. Alan and Roy took ½ load to Amboy by Nick's Tavern and the other half to Wright Road. Greg and I took our 150 fish to Malinowski's pond site. After that we met at Loomis' and washed the truck and put it away. It took about six hours for the job.

March 28th Les Greaar and two Ridgefield high school students picked up 20 carcasses to two egg box sites. April 13th the two students, Ryan Jahn and Craig Shubin took two hundred carcasses to the Shimano project.