



March 2010 Issue

Fish First NEWS

Memo: Member Meetings at Oak Tree In Woodland!!!

Be there Thursday March 18th at 7 p.m.

Guide Eric Linde will be the speaker. A great prize will be given away to the lucky ticket holder

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MEETING DATES 2009-2010

ALL MEMBER MEETINGS AT THE OAK TREE RESTAURANT IN WOODLAND

March 18th, 2010

April 15th, 2010

May 20th, 2010 (last mtg. Before summer break)

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thurs. March 18th, 7 p.m

At The OAK TREE, Woodland.

Bring a few bucks for raffle tickets for a fishing equipment prize. Somebody's going to win. It may as well be you.

BRING YOUR AUCTION DONATION TO THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING. A BOTTLE OF WINE FOR A WINE BARREL PRIZE WOULD BE GREAT. SO WOULD SOMETHING NICE YOU DON'T USE THAT WOULD BE ATTRACTIVE TO OTHERS.

Jerry Sauer, Membership Chairman, 360-607-1646
Harry Bresnahan, Membership meetings 360-225-9836
Jerry F. Brown, Newsletter Editor 360-600-8559
Cindy Moss, Banquet Chair, 360-225-8476

Fish First Banquet May 1

By Cindy Moss, Banquet Chair

Mark your calendar for May 1, 2010. It is going to be a great evening with good dining, an exciting auction and raffles and a chance to visit with other Fish First members. It's at the Oak Tree in Woodland.

Watch for your dinner ticket and membership forms, they'll be mailed soon. Dinner tickets will be \$40.00 again, and membership is \$35.00, sponsorships are \$250.00, and lifetime memberships are still \$1,000.00.

Fish First members are encouraged to help with all facets of the fund raising efforts. You do not have to attend meetings to help, simply donate something or solicit a donation from some one. Contact me, Cindy Moss at (360) 225-8476 or (cont. next page)

(BANQUET NEWS CONTINUED)

(mikemoss1045@comcast.net for any questions, suggestions, or to pick up a donation.

Auction donations are filtering in, new software has been purchased, the banquet committee is in high gear. We need your help to step it up a notch. This doesn't happen without lots of volunteer help. Be an auction insider.

The fifteenth annual banquet committee is Arlene and Ron Andreason, Karen Dodds, Barry Estes, Glen Johnston, Gary and Susan Loomis, Daina McLean, Camee and Mike Moss, Jerry Sauer, Walter Stokman, Jerry Thorp, and Lisa Smith.

**NET PENS, NUTRIENTS & EGG BOXES
DAN BALCH
Net Pen Chairman**



**DAN RETIRES AS CHAIRMAN OF NET PENS,
NUTRIENTS AND EGG BOXES.**

After 11 years on the job, in good weather and in horrible weather and using his own boat and pump and ladder and a variety of tools, Dan says he is getting too old and it is time for someone else after he finishes the net pen season. What can we say? No one else except Gary Loomis has likely put in the volunteer time that Dan has and worn out his own equipment. No one but no one keeps records like Dan. Not only does he record and report every volunteer that helps on these programs but he also can tell you how many hours they all put in. Dan has built a fantastic crew of regulars who know the job and show up dependably. He has maintained super relations with the management and crew of the hatcheries who are vital to getting the fish, feeding and transporting them.

Greg Glass who volunteers with Dan's Net Pen efforts has stepped up and said he would be willing to take

over Dan's work – minus the Board membership that typically goes with a Chairman's duties. Thanks Greg for stepping up.

ECHO NET PENS

On March 6th we turned loose the second batch and on March 9th we had a crew at Speelyai to load Steelhead at the boat launch to take to the Echo net pens.

I'm hoping for a good response for volunteer feeders to feed the fish for March since Spring Chinook will start arriving in the Lewis River about March 15th and we'll have some FF members fishing near the net pens. I can be reached at 360-225-7388.

**FF FREEZERS ARE RUNNING AGAIN
BUT NEED PAINT**

Kudos to Fish First member Pete Barbur who was able to line up air conditioning service people to keep the fish freezers for the Nutrient Program running.

Despite the improved mechanical performance the Freezers reportedly look, well, gungy and are in need of a coat of paint. If someone has 5 gallons of white exterior or could donate it, we could get the job done. WDFW has recently spiffed up the Lewis River Hatchery and we don't want our equipment which is at their site to be the outstanding eye sore.

With repair and paint we might be able to put off purchase of a newer freezer and that would save a lot of money that could go to other programs.

**TILTING WASTE BINS PURCHASED FOR
NUTRIENTS PROGRAM**

Jerry Sauer owner of Excavator Rental Services in Camas WA and Fish First Board Member came up with two used tilting waste bins for the nutrient crew. Both are the type that can be operated from a forklift without the operator dismounting. Jerry got Fish First a price we couldn't turn down as the two bins in good shape were less than one new one. Two bins will enhance productivity as one can be loaded while the other is dumped into the truck.

**Fish First Members Tour
Dave Brown's Fingerling Rescue Operation**



Dave Brown (in waders) and volunteers (file photo)

Six stalwart Fish First Members showed up at Daybreak Park on the EFL at 10 a.m. Saturday Feb. 27th and caravanned to Dave Brown's Fingerling Rescue site on Mill Creek just above the East Fork of the Lewis River.

Dave was on hand personally to give the tour which took about an hour. Dave has a series of concrete ponds and the good fortune to have several springs coming out of the hillside in the Mill Creek gulch that runs through his property. He has all the necessary permits and with volunteers he rescues fingerlings from creeks that would run dry in warm weather. They are maintained in the concrete ponds until water flows and timing are right in Feb. or so and released into Mill Creek.

Fish First has provided finances for equipment and fish food for Dave's operation. If the opportunity for a guided tour comes up again you should attend and see what is possible with dedication and hard work by one person and some volunteers that believe in the mission. Those attending were Jerry F. Brown, Leon Stevenson, Dan Brown, Don Stephens, Bob Krueger and Harry Bresnahan.

FEB. MEMBER MEETING NOTES

By Harry Bresnahan, Meeting Chairman

Jerry Sauer, mentioned elsewhere as the member who located the dump bins for the nutrient crew, was the lucky winner of both a Lamiglas fly rod and a bag full of special lures donated by Guide Jerry A. Brown. Always a generous guy, Sauer donated the lures back to FF and they were auctioned off for an additional \$50.

Just under \$200 was raised by sale of the raffle tickets at the beginning of the meeting. Thanks to both Jerrys. Jerry A. Brown, the fishing guide and a new Board member on Fish First, was also the guest speaker and gave a great presentation on Fishing for Springers. There was also a request to have Gary Loomis, FF founder speak at a membership meeting on the 'big picture of what was happening nationally and regionally on the very broad subject of salmon recovery.

It was announced that guide Eric Linde would be the speaker at the March 18th Membership Meeting at the Oak Tree.

GUIDES CORNER



Jerry A. Brown, JBKingfisher Guide Service

Spring Chinook Update:

There seems to be good burst's of Springers coming up the Columbia, and Willamette. I have had a few good days already, fishing in the Columbia and the Multnomah Channel.

We have been doing the best trolling green label herring and pink or red prawns. We even got a nice 8 pound steelhead on a herring. You want to use 3 to 5 oz. weights on a 2 foot dropper, main line to swivel, 2 foot leader to a red or chartreuse flasher, and 5 foot leader to a Mack's Lure herring or prawn spinner. Keep your rig one to two cranks off of the bottom and fish 12 to 20 feet of water.

The visibility is 1 to 2 feet in there last couple weeks, the water temperature is 48 degrees. Troll with the current just fast enough to get a good spin on your bait. The Columbia is running 3 to 5 foot visibility and 44 degrees last week. Use the same rigs in the Columbia, only try no flasher, or silver, green, or chartreuse flashers.

I am seeing a few fish caught on anchor but most of the action has been trolling. (cont. next page)

Remember when a fish bites your bait, let them chew until the rod is bent over and line is stripping off the reel before you grab the rod.

There are a few sea lions out there so keep an eye out for them and beware!! If there is a sea lion in the area you are fishing and you hook a fish try keeping everyone in the boat sitting down to keep from attracting more attention, and get the fish in ASAP. These beasts can see fisherman standing up in the boat and they have learned that means a free lunch!!

Good luck, dress warm and dry, and be safe and patient. I still have a few dates open, if you want to go after some of these tasty fish let me know ASAP. thanks, Jerry-KFA

360-518-1803 www.jbkingfisher.com

SEDIMENT STUDY AUTHORIZED BY BOARD

At its March Meeting the Fish First Board authorized a sediment study to be done on the East Fork of the Lewis River. The study will be done under contract with the contractor yet to be selected. Dick Dyrland Habitat Improvement Manager for FF said the sediment study would be a major factor in improving habitat project plans. Funds are on hand and have been set aside for this study.

THOSE EGG BOXES WORK JUST FINE

Mike Moss, Egg Box Manager says a recent count shows that FF has a 99.75% hatch rate out of its egg boxes, otherwise known as remote site incubators. These are plastic barrel-like devices planted in remote sites that are fed clear cold water from upstream. When the eggs hatch out the alevin are washed into the stream. The hatch rate is calculated by counting eggs that did not hatch.

**FISH FIRST
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