

STEPPIN' OUT

Florence Salmon & Trout Enhancement Program Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2016

Wednesday, November 2

Membership Meeting
US Coast Guard, Siuslaw Station
Senior Chief Tim Tregoning
and
Steve Godin,
OCA Representative
BOARD ELECTIONS!
7 p.m. Public is invited
Elks Lodge, 12th st., Florence

Wednesday, November 16

Board of Director's meeting
4 p.m. Port of Siuslaw Offices

Friday, November 18

Turkey Bingo
with the
Mapleton Lions Club
6:15 p.m. doors open
7 p.m. games begin
\$10 for 6 chances per game
\$5 for 3 chances per game, for 12 and
under youth
Pie Auction too!
Mapleton Lions' Club
Riverview Ave., Mapleton

Saturday, November 19

Turkey Bingo with
Ada Grange #570
5 p.m. kitchen opens
BINGO at 6 p.m!
10 miles out Canary rd.
Nancy, 541-997-2380

Work Parties

Watch your emails for special work party notifications. There may be activities at the Munsel Creek trap and at the Hatchery, as coho are spawned and eggs are fertilized and raised at the Hatchery.

At the Nov. 2 meeting

Two Speakers Share the Stage

Senior Chief Tim Tregoning, of the US Coast Guard Station, Siuslaw River and Steve Godin, president of the Oregon Coast Anglers (OCA) will be the featured speakers at the Wednesday, November 2 meeting of the Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Elks' Lodge on 12th st. in Florence. The public is invited to attend and learn more about STEP and the work it does in the Siuslaw Basin.

Tregoning has been the officer at the Coast Guard station, Siuslaw River since June, 2015. Prior to coming to Florence, he was stationed in Guam. Tregoning will be discussing the Coast Guard operations on the Oregon Coast, including the decisions around opening and closing the bar and safety on the river and in the ocean.

The Coast Guard's area of operations runs 16 miles north to Cape Perpetua and extends nine miles south to the Siltcoos River. Its primary mission is search and rescue for commercial mariners, recreational boaters and surfers. Other responsibilities include escorting fishing vessels across the bar, marine environment protection, fisheries conservation enforcement, towing and enforcing boating safety regulations.

The second speaker is Steve Godin, president of the newly formed Oregon Coastal Anglers (OCA) organization. Godin, who lives in Reedsport, will share with STEP the mission and objective of the group, which formed out of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) of Oregon.

The group is a non-profit made up of anglers from Brookings to Florence uniting to preserve and increase angling opportunities along the coast.

Prior to the speakers, STEP will hold its annual election for the board of directors. There are seven seats open for the nine member board of directors. Rick Samuelson, the current vice-president, is coordinating the election during the middle of his two-year term and Terry Barrett, hatchery manager, is on the board in a permanent position.

See article on Page two for the list of candidates and their comments.



Meet The Candidates for the 2017 Board

Elections for the 2017 Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Board of Directors will be held at the November membership meeting with results announced at the end of the meeting.

The group will meet on Wednesday, November 2 at 7 p.m. Votes will be accepted from members who attend the meeting. There are no absentee ballots.

There are seven open positions on the nine member board. Rick Samuelson, vice president, is in the midst of his two-year term and is running the election. Terry Barrett, who was recently named Hatchery Manager by the board, takes the ninth spot as the hatchery manager is a permanent position on the STEP board.

As of Friday, October 28, six members of the STEP organization have entered their names into the election for the 2017 board of directors. If the slate is not filled, nominations from the floor will be taken at the start of the meeting.

The names currently on the slate for election include Ron Caputo, Roger Emigh, Mike Gomez, Tim Hanson, Bill Hennig and Skip Rosenbalm. Below are candidate statements from each man:

Ron Caputo: I suppose I should tell you that I am running because I have not finished doing things for STEP. Actually I am running for the board because I care about our fish runs. I want them to be great again. I will do what I can to protect and increase our area fisheries.

Roger Emigh: Originally from Washington, my wife and I landed here in Florence about 5 years ago so that we could enjoy the numerous outdoor activities- fishing, crabbing, clam digging... My love of fishing and a desire to help strengthen the resource and educate others is what got me into the STEP group a few years ago, my plan is to continue increasing my involvement over the coming years.

Mike Gomez: Hello my name is Mike Gomez. I joined STEP soon after retiring and moving to Oregon last November. This past year I have enjoyed working at the Whitaker Creek trap, the hatchery and with local students during Outdoor Summer programs. I would like to increase my involvement with STEP by serving on the Board of Directors this upcoming year and look forward to getting to know more of our members and assist with additional STEP projects.

Bill Hennig: I have been on the board for eight years and an active member and team leader for STEP projects, including work party assignments, and overseeing the placement, improvement and installation of the traps. I run the annual fundraising raffle. I am running for reelection so that we can continue on our course with education for the children and improvement of fishing in the Siuslaw Region.

Tim Hanson: I've been a member board member for over a year now. I am in charge of the merchandise for the club and help with its programs, including the traps, the fundraising raffle and the fishing education program for youth. I want to be a board member so I can stay in touch with all that needs to be taken care of in the club. You guys all know who I am and what I'm about so please vote for me.

Skip Rosenbalm: I am a native Oregonian and have been an angler from 3 days old as my father took me from the hospital to a coastal river for fly fishing. I've been attending ODFW meetings and fighting for my fishing rights for years and years. I was told years ago by an old guide that if you don't fight for your fishing rights you can't complain when you lose them. Over the years I have seen many errors by the fish commission; they flop back to correct the problem but in the meantime we have lost and given up so much. I worked together with Chuck Hoaks and Bob Occhi to design and build the trap for Green Creek. We also built one other trap that was to go to Turner Creek but it was never installed, as ODFW flip-flopped again. ENOUGH! Thank you for your vote.

Win a Turkey For Your Thanksgiving Table!

Two evenings of fun and chances to win a turkey await bingo enthusiasts one big weekend in November.

The Mapleton Lions Club kicks off the bingo bonanzas on Friday, November 18. The club has changed over to paper sheets and daubers this year, retiring the old Bingo cards.

Doors open at 6:15 p.m. and play begins at 7 p.m. at the Mapleton Lions Club building on Riverview ave. in Mapleton. There will be 20 games and six chances to win per game for \$10. Youth 12 and under can play three "cards" per game for \$5. Twenty turkeys will be given away and there will be a pie auction as well.

The follow night, Saturday, November 19, Ada Grange will hold its annual Turkey Bingo Night. The kitchen opens at 5 p.m. and Bingo play begins at 6 p.m. Ada Grange #570 is located 10 miles out Canary rd. For questions or information, contact Nancy Flatley, 541-997-2380.

Both nights are fundraising efforts by the organizations to support the work they do with scholarships and other community benefits.

From Our President Ron Caputo

Now that salmon season is just about over, how did you do this year? I went out with Fred Peterson in his wooden boat three times. We never had a bump. His wood boat is beautiful work of art but it seems to scare the fish away. We had a great boat ride on the mighty Siuslaw River dodging all the other boats and anglers who were trying to catch a salmon.

I think this year will go down as a good Chinook fishing season. There were days when 40 to 50 fish were caught. The problem was there were 300 boats out with 600 fishermen. Not enough fish to go around. There are several good local guides and even more visiting guides working out of the port boat launch site. Most of them were able to catch enough fish to please their clients. Don't give up yet. There should be a great fishery for Coho in Tahkenitch and Siltcoos lakes. Good luck!

It is once again time for STEP elections. I don't know how many years I have been president. Each year I get a little older and a little slower. Health issues keep popping up as I get older. Diabetic neuropathy, memory loss, skin cancer, bronchitis, blood disease. It seems like something new every week. I keep trying to fight through each issue as they come along. I feel the club needs a new president.

Each year, I also track our volunteer hours. Each year we have less volunteer hours. We need some new projects so we can keep our members busy. We need to get out and do some sort of enhancement project. I would like to raise more fish at our hatchery, but ODFW will not allow it to happen.

"I have a dream" though. The city of Florence is planning to move its public works department to the airport area. The old facilities on Spruce street are scheduled to be removed and the area will become part of Gallagher Park. My dream is to build a Salmon Interpretive Center at that site. If we did this, we could keep our STEP shed area. I envision class room space, demonstration areas, fish tanks, a gift shop. It could be both a school field trip and a tourist destination. We could hold our meetings there.

My dream will cost \$100,000.00 or more. It could be financed by grants. It's a big dream, I don't know if I can put it together. If you want to be part of this project let me know. I could use your input.

I once again want to thank each of you for what you do for STEP. I want to thank Becky for writing the newsletter and Paul for taking care of our website, www.florencestep.com. I want to thank Bill Hennig and his crew for taking care of the traps and the Steelhead spawning program. Thanks to Terry Barrett and the hatchery crew, Craig Brandt for being treasurer, Mike Frankhauser for the Angler Ed programs, Terry Talbot for organizing and coordinating the equipment for the Egg to Fry program and Tim Hanson, our raffle and STEP merchandise master.

Finally, a thanks to our board members: Bill Hennig, Skip Rosenbalm, Jerry Barnes, Rick Samuelson, Don Jordan, Tim Hanson and Terry Talbot.

I could not be President without your help.

See you on the river!

Help OSP By Reporting Infractions

Although salmon season on the Siuslaw River is winding down, many anglers are still at work on Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes, trying to land the two coho for the season as allowed by ODFW regulations. While most anglers respect and follow the regulations, there are some who disregard those.

Recently, a STEP member gave a heads up to the OSP troopers regarding an angler who was fishing below the Hwy. 101 bridge on the Siltcoos River outlet. Another tip sent the troopers to investigate anglers on another area lake that is not open to coho fishing at all.

Those heads up help the troopers and, in turn, help keep our coho runs healthy and strong. Call the OSP dispatch number, 541-997-2211, and the message will be delivered to the troopers.

Looking Ahead

Work Parties Gearing Up

With rains bringing in water to the creeks, work parties will be getting underway this month, according to Bill Hennig.

The Munsel Creek trap has been opened and is flushing out debris but will be activated to begin counting coho sometime this month.

Four to six pair of coho will be spawned at the Munsel Creek trap site and the eggs will be raised in the new incubator box system at the STEP Hatchery in Florence.

Repairs will be made to Little Woahink during the first week of November as it is readied for its run of coho as well.

The installation of the steelhead trap at Whittaker Creek will happen toward the end of December.

Watch for emails announcing work party dates and times.

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Ada Grange #570

Siuslaw Watershed Council

The Shipping Shack

Jason Emerson, Barber

Coast Insurance Services

Laurel Bay Gardens

River Cities Taxi

Thrivent Financial Services

AND THESE INDIVIDUALS:

Terry and Pat Talbot

Craig and Kathi Brandt

Mike and Nancy Hoffman

Florence STEP
PO BOX 1322
Florence, OR 97439