



Volunteers Raising Salmon
Curry Anadromous Fishermen

Gold Beach, Oregon

THE RIFFLE

A Monthly Publication of Curry Anadromous Fishermen
P.O. Box 903
Gold Beach, Oregon 97444



March, 2014

Issue #82

**INDIAN CREEK HATCHERY IS RUN BY
CURRY ANADROMOUS FISHERMEN,
AN ALL-VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION.**

www.rogueriversalmon.org

**Next GENERAL MEETING Thursday,
Mar. 13, 2014 – 10:00 AM
JOT'S Resort (West Conf. Rm.)
Gold Beach, Oregon
(Come; join us for an interesting and
informative meeting)**

**Next BOARD MEETING Thursday,
Mar. 6, 2014 – 10:00 AM
ODFW BUILDING**

DUES \$20.00
RENEW NOW!

CHECK OUT OUR UPDATED WEBSITE

Upcoming Events

April 16-17th - Arizona Beach (teaching 3rd graders to fish) Call Chris and sign up to participate.

April 23-24th – Arizona Beach

"News and Events" - Keep up to date on the latest happenings at the hatchery. Go to www.rogueriversalmon.org

President's Corner

By David Sophusson

Finally, we have some rain! For three days during the week of 2/10 we experienced a little storm that brought high winds and also a total of over seven inches of rainfall here at my house. Just in time as we are releasing the new babies from the incubators into the raceways. As far as the hatchery goes, we are looking pretty good. Gary Underhill has all the raceways ready to take fish and he feels pretty confident that his repairs to the head screens will keep the fish from getting past and into the head boxes which has been a problem over the last couple of years. I would also like to thank Gary, Tom Tostenson, and Jock Headlee who got called to the hatchery to remove part of a dead Myrtle tree that had fallen across the road going to the hatchery this past week. As you may have noticed my name is still at the top of this column. So since I couldn't coerce, bribe, twist arms, etc. to pass off this honorable position, it looks like, for better or worse, you all are stuck with me for another year. Actually, it is an honor. Speaking of board members, I would like to thank Gary Underhill who is stepping down from his position as VP, for all his help and dedication to the hatchery over the past years. Gary will still retain a position on the board and will be replaced by long time board member John Epps as new VP, thanks John for assuming this position; I'm looking forward to working more closely with you. So with all of that said it's time for everyone to dig out their rain gear, we got fish to feed!

General Meeting

February 13, 2014

David Sophusson, president, called the meeting to order at 10:07am. The minutes from the Dec., 2013, general meeting were approved as printed in the Jan. issue of *The Riffle*. The water flow was so low there wasn't enough pressure to operate the egg counter without an assist from a pressure pump. The board approved the purchase of water pressure pump (\$180) to have available for emergency and other uses. David presented a spreadsheet (prepared by bookkeeper Becky Sophusson) showing 11 years' actual annual operating expenses net of grant monies. The average for the last 5 years has been \$23,647. Approximately \$12,000 is a prudent amount of reserve necessary to repair/replace one (or several) vital operating system(s) in an emergency. The board has been fiscally conservative in passing annual budgets that include fundraising efforts that may not always be successful. The board will have a Strategic Planning Meeting before approving the 2014 budget at the March 6 board meeting.

Treasurer's report- Barbara Jorge reported a Dec. monthly loss of \$1,232 and a gain in Jan. of \$974.

Hatchery- Gary Underhill reported: 6,000 lbs. of food were delivered and stacked in food locker; the high school students are working on the replacement sign; the water pressure has been extremely low without the spring line; raceways 1 & 2 are cleaned and ready for fish; the side channels in the raceways have been tightened to eliminate fish escapes; the storm has brought a lot of debris down the creek.

Middle Rogue Steelheaders (MRS)- MRS sent a generous donation of \$950 to put a non-slip coating on the raceway decking.

Fundraisers- Becky Sophusson is still contacting the BiMart Country Musical Festival organizers to requirements for CAF participation and hopefully all will be determined by the end of March. CAF will, also, sell Fireworks (Becky S.), hold a salmon derby (Mike K.) and staff a pizza dinner sponsored by Sunset Family Pizza (Hassie T.).

Curry County Commissioner, David Brock Smith- Commissioner Smith distributed and

explained the position letter from the Curry County Board of Commissioners to the Public Review Draft of the "Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan". **Contact Commissioner Smith at 247-3296** with comments. The full Public Review Draft can be viewed at

www.dfw.or.us/fish/CRP/coastal_multispecies.asp

Volunteer Coordinator- Chris Underhill had no report for the first time in 7 years.

The Riffle- Hassie Taylor will remain the editor and Philip Dickson will be backup.

Board Officers- Pres., David Sophusson; Vice Pres., John Epps; Treas., Barbara Jorge; Sec., Glenn Kral

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15am
Submitted by Glenn Kral, CAF Secretary

Hatchery Happenings

Submitted by:

Chris Underhill, Volunteer Coordinator 247-0396

The rains have finally hit our Oregon Coast. It was getting a little scary; the hatchery was down to 3 lbs of water pressure, but all the babies did just fine. Gary's been grabbing a few of the guys and they have been preparing the raceways. We should have fish in the raceways by the end of February. It would have been Feb. 18th, but with the colder water temperatures, the eggs have matured slower.

The first spawn produced 45,049 eggs averaging 3,003 eggs per tray. The second spawn had 53,341 eggs averaging 3,333 per tray and 33,967 eggs in the final spawn, averaging 2,830 eggs per tray. We have a total of 132,357 eggs at the hatchery maturing into buttoned up fry as we speak. We will put approximately 30,000 in each raceway. The cub scouts will release 10,000 fry by the new hatchboxes on Cedar Fork Creek, and then the excess will be put into Libby Pond.

Boy Scout Joey Mazza rebuilt the Cedar Forks Hatchboxes which were destroyed by high water last year for his Eagle Scout Project. The Cub Scouts had planned to put 10,000 eyed eggs into the hatchboxes Jan. 25th, but that was an abnormally warm weekend. The pond water source had dropped so drastically that we

decided the eggs best chance of survival was to stay at the hatchery. With the help of the cub scouts we will release the 10,000 fry into the creek by the hatchboxes when the fry are buttoned up and their egg sacs are totally gone. Thank you, Joey Mazza, for making the time to rebuild the hatchboxes and set up the new water system. The cub scouts are excited to help with the releases.

I'll be calling volunteers to help put the fry into the raceways and to help with the hand feeding. Daily feeders remember your days, check water flow and temperature in Incubator Room and temp. in the raceway. I'll have food weighed out in the closet for hand feeders. Please make sure closet is closed tight; we don't need any critters to get in the food.

Mark your calendars! We will be teaching 3rd graders how to fish at Arizona Beach April 16 & 17 and 23 & 24th. We can use as much help as possible; the more the merrier. If anyone is interested or needs more information, please call Chris at 541 247-0396 or Weber at ODFW 247-7605.

The last thing I'd like to bring to your attention, please check out www.hatcheryandwild.com. There are a few big money organizations trying to close down some Oregon hatcheries, saying that hatchery fish are the reason the wild fish population is so bad. This website has a video on the subject of hatchery fish & wild fish and a petition for which we need to get as many signatures as possible on. They have already closed down the Sandy River Hatchery. We need to have our voices heard before any damage is done. Please check out the website and sign the petition if this is something you believe in.

I also want to thank Tom Tostenson, Jock Headlee and Gary Underhill for clearing away the tree that blocked the road to the hatchery and of course it was during a serious downpour. Thanks guys!!

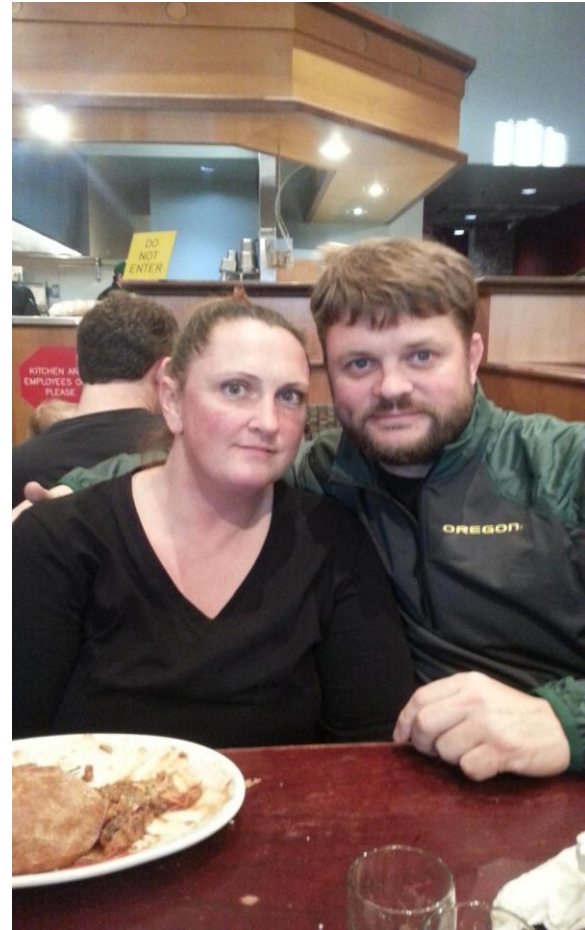
CAF Welcomes New Member

Nancy Howe, Gold Beach

Volunteer of the Month Profile

John Weber

Submitted by John & Teri Weber



Picture submitted by Jon Weber

John was born at Seaside Hospital in Crescent City, California in 1967. Back then most kids from Southern Curry and Del Norte County were born at Seaside Hospital. He grew up the son of a commercial fisherman and lived in Crescent City until he graduated high school. John spent many summers traveling between San Francisco and Coos Bay with his dad. He was what some might call a "dock rat". "If there was trouble to be found...I found it". Nonetheless, he observed the commercial fishermen and learned a lot about that life.

It was in high school his sophomore year that he met his wife Teri. They have been a solid team ever since. Out of high school John attended a Northern California community college and became a partner in a commercial fishing boat out of Charleston, Oregon. It wasn't long before Teri and John were married and moved to Coos Bay to work on the boat and attend school there. At that time, Coos Bay was feeling a

serious depression both in logging and commercial fishing. As a result, they sold the boat and John accepted a job with a private salmon farm. He gained a lot of perspective on raising fish for private market. A year later, John was recruited for two job openings at private salmon ranches (Pistol River and Newport). He accepted the best offer and moved to Gold Beach with Teri and his newly born daughter Ashley. Weber worked at the Southern Oregon Salmon Ranch at Burnt Hill Creek until it went out of business a year and a half later, being one of the last employees on the books. "This is where I came to realize that it is not just about fish/fishing/fish habitat/fish hatchery/native fish; it also turns into politics and money, and there are a lot of people that see different purposes for these fish".



Picture by Hassie Taylor

John would spend his days off learning the Rogue River and fishing for whatever each season produced in the waterways of Curry County. Some of his best memories are fishing the banks of Huntley Park with Teri, Ashley and newly born daughter Amanda in tow. John met

many old timers from CAF working on projects in those early fishing adventures in Gold Beach. Fishing the Pistol River he met Bob Stansell, Earl Hockema, Terry Timeus and Milt Walker. In Hunter Creek he met Jack Leith and Clay Fox. At Indian Creek Hatchery he met Gene Rizzi, Les Richy, and Walt Schroeder. Weber states that these guys were the passionate CAF forefathers that volunteered so that more fish would return to the streams in their backyards.

After a few months of being out of work, Weber was ready to move his family north to attend more school in another field. Luck would have it that he spoke to an ODFW employee that mentioned there would be seasonal work in Gold Beach with ODFW. He applied for the seasonal position and 3 months turned into 10 months and well, the rest is history. Teri and John have spent their adult years here in Gold Beach raising their beautiful girls. They have enjoyed watching Ashley play sports for Riley Creek and Gold Beach High School. Ashley graduated valedictorian of her senior class. She has since graduated Cum Laude from University of Oregon and is now 2 years from completing her Nurse Practitioner program at Pacific Lutheran University in Washington. Her goal is to come home and take care of her community, friends, volunteers and those who have supported her throughout the years, but most of all her sister, Amanda, who has Rett Syndrome. Amanda keeps Teri and John very busy at home with her complex needs. They are happy to report that she still enjoys those trips to Huntley Park to watch mom and dad fish on the river banks! Teri has since become a registered nurse and has worked at Curry General Hospital for 8 years. John and Teri will be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary this year.

John has been with ODFW 21 years now, working in the same field he inherited as a child. Being involved in all facets of fisheries, he has developed multiple opinions based on his life experience. In closing, John says, "I sincerely respect the opinions of all folks that play a hand in fisheries from sport-commercial fishermen, fishery science, and fishery conservation to the good old boys fishing in their back yards. I feel strongly that all of these people should work together to meet common goals."

Thank You Letters

Submitted by Mrs. Hoffman's 3rd graders at
Riley Creek School
12/5/2013 – Hatchery field trip

"You guys are very nice people. Thank you for letting us see the eggs. The fish are awesome. Thanks for letting us watch you spawn the fish. Thank you for teaching us about the cycle of salmon. Thank you for letting us watch how you get the eggs out." From Victor

Sponsor's Corner

Submitted by Hassie Taylor

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"Thank you for letting us go to the hatchery. It was very nice to know how to take care of the eggs and look at the fish. The cookies were really good. Knowing how to fertilize the fish is cool." From Bram

"Thank you for letting us look at the eggs. Thank you for teaching us how to fertilize the eggs. Thank you for letting us see you net the fish. Thank you for the cookies." From Gage

"Thank you for the field trip and letting us look at the fish. I liked when you showed us how to get the eggs out of the fish. Why do you have to cut the tails off the fish? Thank you for letting us have a cookie." From Harley

Fishing Quote of the Month

"Carpe Diem" does not mean "fish of the day."
~Author Unknown

Support those who support the Indian Creek Hatchery.

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Vice President	John Epps
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Treasurer	Barbara Jorge
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	Randy Waters
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Volunteer Coordinator	Gene Trinkler
Meeting Raffle	Hassie Taylor
Raffle Editor	541-247-0733

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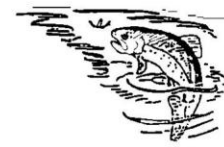
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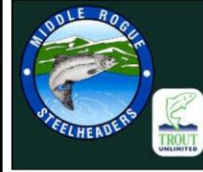
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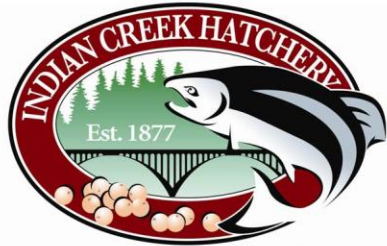
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