

A New Vision for Fisheries

Conference joins traditional partners and new vision

By Amy Gaskill

Meeting rooms buzzed with activity. Meals were filled with animated chatter. For the first time in the program's 132-year history, people from across the nation met together during a week-long conference in Washington D.C. focused exclusively on fisheries.

Almost 550 people registered on the first day of the conference, including more than 110 partners from tribes, state, local, federal, and private organizations. Everyone came with the same hopes: to learn more about the Fisheries Program's "Vision for the Future," and their part in it.

Director Steve Williams set the tone for the gathering by reminding us of fisheries' long history. The U.S. Fish Commission was established in 1871 in response to the crash of the New England fisheries. That agency was the forerunner of today's Fish and Wildlife Service. The fisheries program is the oldest government conservation effort in history, and Williams reminded us



Ryan Hegarty/USFWS

FWS Director Steve Williams sets an upbeat tone for the fisheries conference.

that it began with a simple premise: to keep fish in our rivers and streams. The conference served as an opportunity to rededicate and refocus our efforts.

See **NEW VISION...** Page 12

OUT & About



The Pacific Region Outreach Newsletter

Volume 9, Number 2 Spring 2003



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Upcoming Themes

- Summer — Friends Groups
- Fall — Migratory Birds
- Winter — Endangered Species
- Spring — Managing to Minimize Wildlife Disturbance



Tell Us What You Think

Complete Out & About reader survey and enter drawing for book

By Susan Saul

The initial issue of *Out & About* was published in Spring 1995, the first regional publication devoted to outreach and the only one in the Service until recently. Outreach challenges have grown and changed since the newsletter's inception. We invite you to take a reader survey via email to tell us what you think about the Pacific Region's outreach newsletter. Those who participate will be entered in a drawing and five will be selected to receive hardbound copies of the soon-to-be-released coffee table book about refuges, *America's Wildlife Refuges: Lands of Promise*, by Jeanne Clark, with

photography by Tom and Pat Leeson. You can learn more about this book, which features dozens of wildlife success stories throughout the vast Refuge System, at <http://pacific.fws.gov/ea/outreach>.

Out & About is an outgrowth of the Pacific Region's first Regional Conference in 1992, fulfilling recommendations made to produce a quarterly outreach newsletter to encourage and support cross-program information exchange, partnerships, information sharing, and recognize quality outreach efforts and ideas.

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OUT & About

Out & About is published quarterly for Region 1 Fish and Wildlife Service employees.

STAFF

Editor
Jeanne Clark, Stone Lakes NWR
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SUBMISSIONS

We welcome your submissions to **Out & About**. Regular sections in the newsletter are:

- Feature Articles
- Case Studies
- Outreach Accomplishments
- Trainings & Workshops
- Announcements
- Q & A
- Letters to the Editor
- Outreach Resources

Articles should be submitted by E-mail or 3-1/2 inch floppy and run 150 to 500 words. Gear writing to newsletter style; avoid technical jargon. Photos welcome. Publication is not guaranteed, though every effort will be made to use submissions.

Submit articles to Jeanne Clark:
Stone Lakes NWR
1624 Hood Franklin Road
Elk Grove, CA 95758
Phone: 916/775-4421
Fax: 916/775-4407
E-mail: jeanne_clark@fws.gov

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Spring	April 1
Summer	May 15
Fall	August 15
Winter	November 15

Out & About has received U.S. Department of the Interior and Fish and Wildlife Service DI-550 approval.

It is the policy of the U.S. Department of the Interior to ensure that individuals are not denied employment opportunities or program delivery because of their race, color, age (40+), sex (gender), national origin, religion, physical or mental disability. Unlawful discrimination in any form is strictly prohibited by agency policies and should be reported to the Fish and Wildlife Service Region 1 Equal Employment Opportunity Counselor, Office for Diversity and Civil Rights, 503/231-2081, 911 NE 11th Ave., Portland, OR 97232-4181.

FIELD NOTABLE

Meet "Field Notable" Bryan Kenworthy

New Out & About feature spotlights employees committed to outreach

By Jeanne Clark

To learn how you can nominate people to be featured in Field Notable, please see page 9.

Most people go to the corner market to buy milk, bread, or beverages. Bryan Kenworthy, hatchery manager at Hagerman National Fish Hatchery in rural Idaho, was waiting in line but he didn't have any groceries. He came to talk with the checker, fitting in conversation as bags were loaded with sodas and cheese. Kenworthy had driven into town to meet with the checker, also a full-time school teacher who had been unable to get to the hatchery to finalize arrangements for his fifth grade class visit. Sometimes outreach is just a simple act of kindness.

Kenworthy's job is to oversee programs at Hagerman, located in an area known for its high quality water. Originally built in 1933 to produce rainbow trout, it was reconstructed in 1984 for steelhead to help mitigate fishery losses related to construction of four dams on the Lower Snake River in Washington. Kenworthy and his eight person staff raise 1.3 million steelhead and 130,000 rainbow trout annually. Dams prevent Snake River spawners from reaching the hatchery, so Hagerman raises eggs from other hatcheries and transports them to release sites for their 600 to 900 mile journey to the Pacific Ocean.

"I've worked at a half dozen hatcheries and became interested in outreach at Lahontan, after the Nevada Department of Wildlife education coordinator asked to use the hatchery for Project Wild and Aquatic Wild training. I was so impressed, I became a facilitator and helped with their teacher-workshop program," says Kenworthy.

Kenworthy also opened the hatchery doors to scout groups, even training eagle scouts to give guided tours during hatchery open houses. He encouraged interested employees to give school presentations. He urged the hatchery to work with the community on free fishing days at a local park.

He brought his ideas and skills to Hagerman, where everyone on the crew makes outreach a success. They chat with visitors while they're working. They give hatchery tours and talks in local schools.



Bryan Kenworthy, right, arranged and presented an award to a citizen who helped to rescue two drowning people.

When the news media can't make the trip to cover a hatchery event, the staff takes pictures and submits an article. They partner with the state hatchery to offer free fishing days and when the local Memorial Day parade weaves through town, a hatchery tanker is in the procession. He also asks for help when needed. "I never hesitate to contact our Service information and education specialists," he says, "and they are always willing to help."

Big successes can grow from small efforts. Following the National Fisheries Conference, the Regional Office asked Kenworthy to visit the Salmon River Chamber of Commerce, to tell them about the new national fisheries vision. "Frankly, I was dreading the presentation. Many Idahoans are suspicious of government. I thought I'd get peppered with questions about wolves, bull trout, and other issues. Instead, they were extremely gracious, keenly interested, and aware of the importance of fisheries as their resource-based economy shifts toward recreation."

This May, a school teacher and part-time grocery checker will bring his class for a two-day hatchery visit, thanks to Kenworthy's trip to the corner store. For Bryan Kenworthy, outreach is not an extra job; it's an effective way of getting things done.

Jeanne Clark is editor of Out & About and assists with outreach at Stone Lakes NWR.

Life after Death

Communities learn how spawned-out salmon renew stream life

By Susan Sawyer

Hatcheries in the Pacific Northwest give Mother Nature a helping hand when it comes to nurturing young steelhead and salmon through their first year of life, but what happens after the young fish are released into the wild? Several hatcheries incorporate a program designed to enrich the stream ecosystem and aid the growth of young salmon by providing vital nutrients from decomposing adult fish carcasses spawned at the hatchery.

Most Pacific salmon have a short life, spawn, and then die. In a natural stream, the decaying parent fish provide essential elements to the aquatic food chain during late summer. Even eagles, bears, and other scavengers play a role by leaving picked carcasses on the ground, where the decomposing salmon enrich the soil with nutrients acquired during their ocean stay. In the aquatic web of life, microscopic organisms feed on the nutrients, and they, in turn, are consumed by the tiny salmon fry. However, with the sharp decline in naturally spawning salmon populations, these nutrients aren't as readily available to aid juvenile fish in their growth.

Salmon carcasses from Dworshak, Kooskia (Idaho), Leavenworth, Winthrop and Entiat (Washington) national fish hatcheries are first sampled for general health and condition after spawning at the hatchery, then frozen whole. Partner groups, such as the Nez Perce

Tribe (Idaho), U.S. Forest Service, and Trout Unlimited (Washington) are consulted to determine outplant sites and schedules then transport and place the frozen fish in Columbia River Basin tributaries in early fall.

Hatchery volunteers, student interns, and service clubs assist in the outplanting effort, tossing frozen fish into the water from the back of a truck driving close to the stream. Visitors to Idaho's backcountry are occasionally amazed to see fish flying through the trees. Once they discover the source, many hikers lend a hand with the project. School groups visiting the hatcheries during spawning season learn about hatchery and wild fish and the salmon recycling program. Local communities hear about the project through newspaper stories, photos, and staff interviews, with opportunities for the public to volunteer for the program.

While there are no studies yet to determine the success of the program, Matt Cooper, fishery biologist at the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Resource Office (Washington), observed that "Most species in or near these carcass-supplemented streams will benefit, including wildlife, birds, insects, vegetation, and juvenile salmon." For salmon, at least, there is life after death.

Susan Sawyer is the information and education coordinator at Dworshak Fisheries Complex.

"Visitors to Idaho's backcountry are occasionally amazed to see fish flying through the trees."



Matt Cooper/USFWS

Left: Volunteers help plant frozen salmon carcasses from back of truck. Right: Collecting data from wild salmon found while planting frozen fish.

Junior Fish Biologists

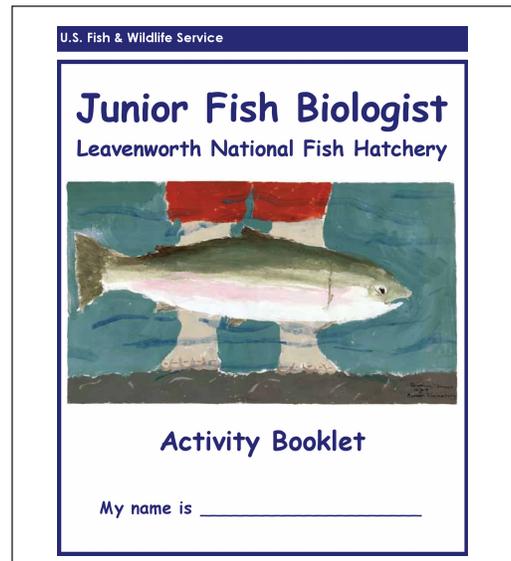
Program engages children visiting hatcheries in a learning adventure

By Susan Faw Faw

Whether you want to introduce children visiting your facility to fish, wildlife, or plants, a new program at Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery might be just the model to emulate. The hatchery is offering youngsters an opportunity to join the National Fish Hatchery System Family as a Junior Fish Biologist.

Those who wish to participate pick up a free activity booklet at the visitor center. Then they complete a series of activities and answer questions during their visit, share their responses with a staff member, and receive an award for completing the program — all on the same day. The activities and puzzles include fish observation, fish anatomy, salmon identification, and hatchery bingo, each allowing the kids to have fun as they learn. Everyone in the family can get in on the action and enjoy watching the kids become Junior Fish Biologists.

The program, modeled after the National Park Service's Junior Ranger Program, is open to children ages six to eleven. Its goal is to introduce children to the hatchery's natural and cultural resources and its role in preserving these resources for the future.



It's my hope that the Junior Fish Biologist Program becomes part of our fisheries program nationwide. I'd be glad to send a template to anyone interested in starting one at their hatchery or modifying it to cover fish, wildlife, or other topics. Please feel free to email me or call at 509/548-6662. **O**

Susan Faw Faw is an information and education specialist at Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery.

Tell Us...

Continued from Page 1



Over the years, the newsletter has evolved. We have added photographs, adopted a central theme to give focus to each issue, posted the newsletter on the web, and more.

Our efforts have been

recognized nationally six years in a row, as the first or second place winner of the Association for Conservation Information's annual contest for

internal publications. Now we want to be sure that we're a winner with you!

You will be receiving an email requesting that you take just a few minutes to fill out an attached reader survey. We are very interested in knowing how the newsletter can better respond to your interests and needs.

When you submit your reader survey, it will be confidentially processed. External Affairs will receive the results and also, a separate list of names of people for the drawing. You will be notified if you've won and will receive the book upon publication, during late summer.

Please watch for the email survey and share your perspective with us. **O**

Susan Saul is an outreach specialist in External Affairs in the Regional Office.

Upcoming Events

American Wetlands Month

When: May
Where: Nationwide
Contact: 800/832-7828

National Fishing and Boating Week

When: June 1-8
Where: Nationwide
Contact: www.nationalfishingandboatingweek.org

California Amphibian & Reptile Celebration

When: June 14 -15
Where: Weldon, CA
Contact: www.valleywild.org

Carson NFH Open House

When: June 22
Where: Carson, WA
Contact: Cheri Anderson 509/493-2934

Kern River Valley Hummingbird Celebration

When: July 26-27
Where: Weldon, CA
Contact: www.valleywild.org

Investing in Landowner Relationships

It is better to ask for permission than beg for forgiveness

By Jen Stone and Donna Allard

Biological field studies share a common challenge: they are all conducted on land that someone owns. Often this land is privately-owned. In fact, seventy percent of the land in the lower 48 states is owned by private parties.

Our goal was to study the population dynamics and habitat use of Pacific lamprey in a small western Washington creek. To make the necessary observations and take samples, we needed to cross privately-owned land. Gaining the property owner's consent was essential — but first we needed to locate them.

USING TECHNOLOGY

Finding the owners of property is a time-consuming task, whether you knock on doors or spend hours at the county tax assessor's office. Instead, we tapped our Geographical Information System (GIS) capabilities, using the computer to assemble, manipulate, store, and display data about the survey locations.

We contacted our county's GIS department and purchased the necessary GIS-based property owner and stream databases. These databases contain spatial data, such as maps, as well as information about the parcel size, owner name and address, land use, and more.

MAKING CONTACT

After selecting the properties that bordered our sampling sites, we drafted a letter to the property owners explaining our research goals, and methods, the times that we would be sampling, and where the results of our study would be posted. We believe that this initial outreach was vital in establishing credibility and support in the community.

The property owners' responses were added to our database, along with phone numbers, special requests, such as "please call when you need access," and suggestions, such as "the best access to the stream is through back gate."

ON THE GROUND

While conducting habitat and population assessments of the survey sites, we tried to include the property owner whenever

possible. Sincere communication allowed us to glean information that the stream, alone, could not offer. Many families have owned their property for several generations and were able to give valuable historical insights about the stream conditions and its inhabitants. Several wanted their children to participate as volunteers on the spawning ground surveys. Some requested a follow-up report to satisfy their own curiosity.

At the conclusion of the study we sent each property owner a thank you letter expressing our gratitude for their support. We planted the seed for continued sampling in the future, and made the annual project report available via our website.

SUCCESS

Overall, the study has been a huge success, providing us with valuable baseline information for Pacific lamprey. Modern technology helped turn an arduous task into a pleasurable experience. We knew that we needed the property owners' assistance to make the study a reality. We found they were glad to help and appreciated our outreach and up front involvement. Remember, it's easier to ask permission than to beg for forgiveness! **O**

Jen Stone and Donna Allard are fishery biologists with the Columbia River Fisheries Program Office.

"Sincere communication allowed us to glean information that the stream, alone, could not offer."



Travis Collier/USFWS

Researchers electroshock Pacific lamprey within sampling grids on privately-owned survey sites.

Fisheries Display

This is the year to emphasize the “fish” in Fish and Wildlife Service. One way is to use the new floor display highlighting fisheries history now available from the Regional Office. In addition to fisheries offices, the display is available to refuges and field offices, offering a nice way to educate visitors regarding fisheries programs and successes.

The display is easy to assemble and comes with a supply of brochures describing the Service’s history of fisheries conservation. To reserve it, contact Jane Chorazy at 503/231-6120. Take a look at the brochures and learn about the display by visiting <http://fisheries.fws.gov>.



New Logo

The Fisheries Program is embarking on a new and challenging era that builds on a very proud past. As part of an outreach effort to bring greater visibility to its recently revitalized programs and accomplishments, the division has adopted a new signature that will appear on a variety of products. It will accompany products and publications as a fisheries symbol of truth and quality.



In some cases the logo will appear with the tag line “A Proud Past, A Bright Future.” Watch for it on publications and other fisheries products.

Centennial Video

Fresh from our D.C. office is “America’s Best Kept Secret: The National Wildlife Refuge System,” a six-minute primer offering a quick visual tour and narrative history of the refuge system as it enters its 100th year. Every field station should have received a copy.

Students Bound for Japan

The Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery outreach staff have been invited to the International Salmon Student Summit in Kanose and Murakami, Japan. This exciting venture follows the creation of the first Summit held in Leavenworth, Washington, during the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival in September 2002.

Students from Leavenworth, Seattle, the Yakama Indian Nation, Alaska, British Columbia, Japan, Russia, South Korea, and China will gather this October in Japan.

The summit’s goal is to increase students’ awareness of their own local culture and natural environment, while they ponder the challenges of achieving a harmonious balance between humans and nature.

Students from around the Pacific Rim will gather together in a camp setting to explore Japanese watersheds, hatcheries, and experience Murakami’s ancient salmon culture.

Service Wins Tourism Award

The Tourism Industry Council of Oregon (TICO) is a statewide association of the leading entities in the state’s hospitality industry.

One of TICO’s activities is coordination of the awards luncheon at the annual Oregon Governor’s Conference on Tourism. This year, TICO added to two standing awards presentations and inaugurated a new award, recognizing a significant Tourism Industry Partner. The Fish and Wildlife Service was selected as the first recipient of this award because of the contribution that national wildlife refuges make to the state’s tourism.

Contributions include visitor facilities on refuges, including interpretive exhibits, trails, viewing areas; visitor services and wildlife recreation opportunities; special events, such as wildlife festivals; support and sponsorship of scenic byways designations; participation in Lewis and Clark Bicentennial in Oregon planning and coordination; and using TEA-21 funds for roads and associated facilities improvements on refuges.

Regional Refuge Chief Carolyn Bohan was on hand to accept the April 14 award.

Partnerships Pave the Way

Cooperation prevents wildfires, teaches scouts, and saves salmon

LEAVENWORTH FIRE PROJECT

The Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery in Washington has been selected as one of ten sites in the nation to plan and implement a wildfire hazard reduction project on a portion of its 160 acres of land. Located just two miles from Leavenworth's downtown area, it is bordered by undeveloped private land, rural homes, and a resort/business retreat center. Large, catastrophic fires threatened the city and the hatchery in the summers of 1994 and 2001. The hatchery also served as the base fire camp during these events.

This aspect of the President's Healthy Forests Initiative has required coordination between the regional office fire management and hatchery outreach staffs, and several neighboring landowners. To stoke the fires of cooperation, the hatchery developed landowner letters and arranged for media coverage describing the projected benefits on more than 3,000 acres of forest land to get buy in from this close-knit community. Contact Corky Broaddus at 509/548-6662.

GIRL SCOUTS JOIN THE FWS

Where can you find over 500 girls learning about the plants, animals, salmon, and wetlands of Pacific Northwest forests? At Camp Arrowhead, a residential Girl Scout Camp near Stevenson, Washington. The Columbia Gorge Information and Education Office partnered with Girl Scouts of America to provide hands-on learning to nearly 700 girls last summer. Two full days a week the girls enjoyed an up close look at macro-invertebrates, created beautiful fish and leaf prints on camp T-shirts, and went on wildlife scavenger hunts.

Summer camp gave kids from largely urban settings exciting outdoor experiences, while learning about stewardship and conservation. Campers ranged from second grade through high school seniors. We developed special activities and lessons for each age group, carefully crafted so the girls can look forward to different activities each year they return to camp. Contact Cheri Anderson at 509/493-2934.

SAVING SALMON

The Hood Canal and Strait of Juan de Fuca represent the southern extreme of the summer chum salmon range. The current spawning levels are only three percent of the estimated population levels of 1960s to mid 1970s.

To help this ailing species, the Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Point No Point Treaty Council began a working partnership. Their efforts on Big Beef Creek have increased returns from none over the past 12 years to about 1,000 in 2001. Hatchery planting has helped the Big Quilcene River population quickly rebound, with an average return today of up to 6000. The hatchery and partners have helped to improve returns by getting the word out about harvest regulation changes and closures.

These successes have attracted attention. Quilcene National Fish Hatchery has opened its gates to increasing numbers of visitors along heavily tourist-traveled U.S. 101. A new visitor center is being planned, with completion slated for summer 2004. Contact Amy Gaskill at 503/221-6874. **O**

Corky Broaddus is a supervisory information and education specialist at Leavenworth NFH, Cheri Anderson is an information and education manager at the Columbia Gorge Office; and Amy Gaskill is an outreach specialist in External Affairs.

"Quilcene National Fish Hatchery has opened its gates to increasing numbers of visitors along heavily tourist-traveled U.S. 101."



Cheri Anderson/USFWS

Girl Scouts paint a model fish and learn about conservation at summer camp.

Know Your Audience

Create interpretation based on who they are and what they know

By Kim Strassburg

*“We were careful
not to draw
any conclusions,
keeping in mind
that visitors do
not like to be told
what to think.”*

As the caretakers of spectacular places and species, we need to find ways to connect visitors with our irreplaceable resources and make fish and wildlife relevant to them. The art of interpretation can help us to achieve this, but it is a process that is dynamic and complex. The foundation for effective interpretation is to know your audience.

The Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery raises 1.6 million spring Chinook salmon. Annual visitation has grown to more than 100,000 people, so we are developing a new visitor center. When planning the new exhibits, we closely listened to our visitors’ questions. Though everyone is always interested in seeing “the big fish,” their inquiries probed much deeper levels. Almost daily there are newspaper or television stories that address tough issues and controversies surrounding Pacific salmon populations. Our visitors often bring copies of these articles and ask hard questions, sometimes with concern for the salmon, but often focused on how these issues might affect people. We quickly realized that our audience is well-informed and has an abundance of knowledge about fishery resources. Even elementary and high schools are teaching more than the basics of salmon life cycles.

With this new understanding of our audiences, we decided to develop an exhibit that would address hard topics. We had to put these topics in context, so we designed a mural conveying the vast and varied habitats

of Pacific salmon and how the salmon’s life cycle fits in with this environment. The eight-foot tall by 100-foot long mural wraps around the entire room, allowing the visitor to enter “A Salmon’s World.”

The mural reaches a variety of ages and learning styles. Youngsters love to find the smallest fish and bugs, and they are always excited to see the salmon, sturgeon, orcas, beavers, and sea lions. Older children and adults comment about the complexity of our rivers and oceans.

To aid in understanding the salmon’s habitat, we developed interpretive panels that would overlay the mural. Each panel is designed to address the issues and concerns in each life stage and habitat that make salmon recovery complex, far-reaching, and sometimes contentious. The panels cover topics such as habitat degradation, wild versus hatchery fish, dams, endangered species, ocean conditions, water rights, and fishing rights. Each panel takes a balanced look at these issues and is designed to be thought-provoking. We were careful not to draw any conclusions, keeping in mind that visitors do not like to be told what to think.

The result of the exhibit has been very positive. Our visitors are thinking more about salmon, habitats, and how they personally fit into this complex web of life. They are connecting to their environment.

Make time to examine the makeup of your audiences. Find out who they are and what they are seeking. Once you begin to know them, don’t be afraid to address tough and controversial issues, and be sure to provide multiple points of view. Be honest and accurate in a non-manipulative way. All of these qualities of good interpretation build a climate of respect, encourage dialogue, provide a greater opportunity to provoke thinking, speak to more personalities, and help our audiences make connections to the resource. If the public comes to care *about* wild things, our hope is they will come to care *for* them, as well. **O**

Kim Strassburg is an interpretive specialist at Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery.

Robert Guarino/USFWS



Wrap-around mural with interpretive insets conveys “big picture” messages to Leavenworth NFH visitors.

Announcing “Field Notable”

Make nominations for this new *Out & About* feature

By Jeanne Clark

If you read about Bryan Kenworthy’s accomplishments on page 2, you’ve enjoyed our new feature, “Field Notable.” Every issue of the newsletter will spotlight one of your peers, known for his or her commitment to outreach. How do they get selected? You do the nominating and External Affairs will assemble a team to make each issue’s selection. This is grassroots recognition at its best!

The nomination criteria are simple. The person must be a permanent employee who:

- developed key outreach projects, programs or activities; used innovative or creative approaches; reached new audiences; produced lasting results;
- demonstrated a commitment to outreach through vision, skill, mentoring, or leadership;
- served diverse audiences using outreach;
- pursued outreach that supports his or her program, and the FWS mission; and
- fits into an upcoming newsletter theme.

Submit your nomination to *Out & About* editor Jeanne Clark (Jeanne_Clark@fws.gov)

or outreach specialist Susan Saul (Susan_Saul@fws.gov). Think ahead.

Nominations for upcoming issues are due as follows: Summer/Friends Groups (May 30); Fall/Migratory Birds (June 1); Winter/Endangered Species (October 1); Spring/Managing Disturbance (January 2).

Jeanne Clark is editor of *Out & About* and assists with outreach at Stone Lakes NWR.

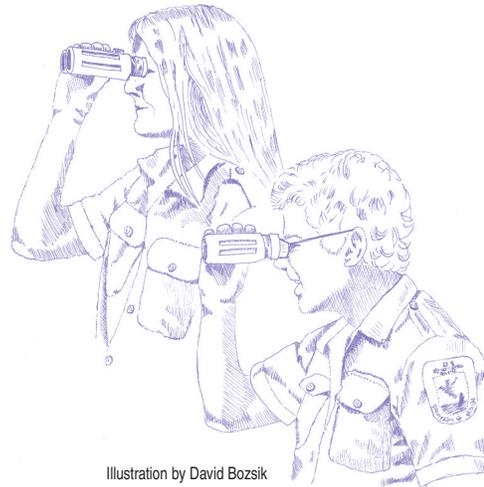


Illustration by David Bozisk

Return of the Terns

When: June 29
Where: Alameda, CA
Contact:
 East Bay Regional Park
 510/521-6887
www.ebparks.org

Oregon Shorebird Festival

When: September 5-7
Where: North Bend, OR
Contact: Cape Arago
 Audubon Society
 541/267-7208

Carson NFH Kid’s Fishing Day

When: September 6
Where: Carson, WA
Contact:
 Cheri Anderson
 509/493-2934

Modoc Wildlife Festival

When:
 September 13 -14
Where: Alturas, CA
Contact: 530/233-3572
<http://modoc.fws.gov>

Nisqually Watershed Festival

When:
 September 27
Where: Olympia, WA
Contact:
 Sheila McCartan
 360/753-9467

Fisheries History Comes Alive!

Hatchery program aimed at Lewis and Clark Bivennial visitors

Lucy Meriwether Lewis Marks settles into her lace covered chair, a beeswax candle burning nearby. She opens a worn, leather-bound journal, and slowly reads aloud. Her voice is strong and clear for a 250-year old woman, thanks to an innovative first-person living history program at Dworshak National Fish Hatchery in Idaho.

Connie Grant, information and education assistant, portrays the mother of Captain Meriwether Lewis, reading of her son’s

experiences in the Clearwater River country near the present day hatchery. Grant uses authentic costumes and props from the early 19th century to set the scene in Lucy’s 1807 Virginia plantation home. The program was developed to enhance the visitor experience during the Lewis and Clark bicentennial, and focus on the importance of fish and waterways to the Corps of Discovery while in Idaho. For information contact Susan Sawyer at 208 / 476-4591.



National Park Service

The Wild Fish Health Survey

Students can learn about fish disease partnership

By Ray Brunson

How do fisheries managers in the Pacific Region know if certain diseases are present in local fish populations? By taking samples. But how can small, busy offices find the resources to accomplish this on their own? The good news is they don't have to!

The Olympia Fish Health Center is one of four fish health centers located in the Pacific Region, each providing a variety of fish health and disease control services. Each office is participating in the National Wild Fish Health Survey, to monitor fish pathogens in wild fish populations across the nation.

This 1997 program relies heavily on the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, NOAA-Fisheries, FWS fisheries offices, state fisheries departments, tribal entities, and many other partners.

Each collaborates on collection activities to maximize and leverage funds and labor. What might take millions of dollars and thousands of hours to accomplish can be piggy-backed onto each team member's routine collection activities. As a result, we receive more information about fish populations and are able to directly share it with those managing the fisheries resources.

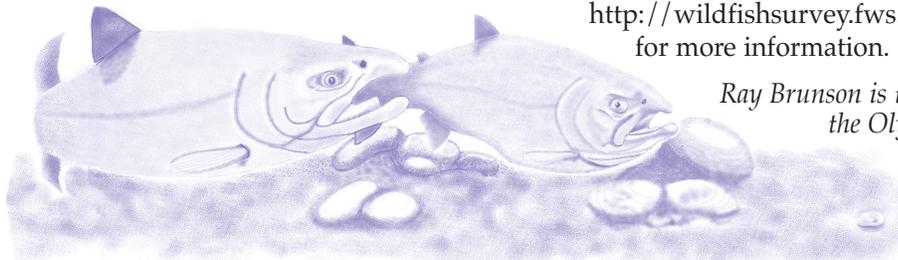
The survey also serves as an educational tool. Science classrooms often visit the Fish Health Centers, where the surveys are used to illustrate how pathogens affect watersheds and show children what they can do locally to help.

All of the information is preserved in a National Wild Fish Health database accessed via the Internet. The program has a high potential for utility and offers many outreach opportunities. Visit <http://wildfishsurvey.fws.gov/>

for more information.

O

Ray Brunson is the project leader for the Olympic Fish Health Center.



Displays, Exhibits,
and Publications

RESOURCES

Fisheries Discovery Boxes

Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery Complex has assembled Discovery Boxes for educators chuck-full of great finds. Animal pelts, skulls, tracks, claws, videos, posters, books, and puppets are provided to help educators prepare and guide their students into learning about the natural environment. All boxes include a curriculum guide full of fun, hands-on activities. The Fin Bin, Wolf, Bear, Forest, Water Bug, Fire, and Water History discovery boxes are available to educators for a two-week checkout. For a complete list and description visit the Leavenworth website at <http://leavenworth.fws.gov>.

Enviroscope and Groundwater Models

Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery has put together three dimensional, interactive models that simulate a typical populated watershed. They are designed to teach students how to become part of the solution to watershed problems. The models help children learn about land management practices as they relate to point and non-point source pollution, water movement, and runoff. Contact Leavenworth for information at 509/548-6662.

The ofFISHal Festival Planner

This tackle box of ideas includes tips for creating an outdoor event. It defines aquatic interpretive educational programs which can be tailored to fit your setting. The guide offers the "how, what, when, why, and where" of developing events. It includes ideas for organization, financial planning, fundraising, promotions, media, logistics, staffing, volunteers, school involvement, samples of promotional materials, and much more. For information contact Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery Complex at 509/548-6662.

Wenatchee River Salmon Festival Curriculum

The Wenatchee River Salmon Festival is a four-day event celebrating the return of the salmon and focusing on high quality education. This educational guide for third and fourth grade students prepares them before their festival visit with interactive, hands-on classroom lessons, then provides follow-up lessons for teachers to use after the visit. For information contact Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery Complex at 509/548-6662.

Art Meets Salmon

Using art to interpret and celebrate nature's drama

By John Ivie

Willapa National Wildlife Refuge is an art gallery and a concert hall. On a mid-January day, a group of students, professors, refuge staff, and visitor services professionals have gathered to see the show and hear the music. A few months ago the performance included writhing dark ribbons of chum salmon and the staccato water-slaps of fanned tails propelling them to their spawning pools. Though the spawning cobbles are empty and quiet today, every day in this gallery is an inspiration.

Artistic inspiration is what our group is after. We walk and talk along a stream where salmon had been absent for 65 years. Following recent habitat restoration, over 300 chum salmon returned this season, up from just a dozen or so last year. Not bad for a four-foot wide stream that barely covers your shoes. The refuge has charged the students of the Public Arts Studio at University of Washington with the task of designing an interpretive art trail, from bay mud to forested hill, celebrating the refuge and its restoration efforts.

A trail that is artistic in approach, but interpretive in function, is a worthwhile challenge. For example, the refuge wants the beginning of the trail to be a boardwalk. This is at the Willapa Bay end of the stream, along a tidal mudflat. The typical layout is usually a straight line from point A to point B. It's economical and it's practical, but it doesn't invite the visitor to linger and experience this key tidal habitat. Instead of a straight, uniform boardwalk, an artful one meanders, widens, narrows, and divides. It could float, rising and falling with the tide. Inscribing thoughtful prose into the planks, or casting wildlife in bronze relief for the boardwalk railing, makes the experience of walking from points A to B more meaningful, less rushed. This design for the boardwalk is

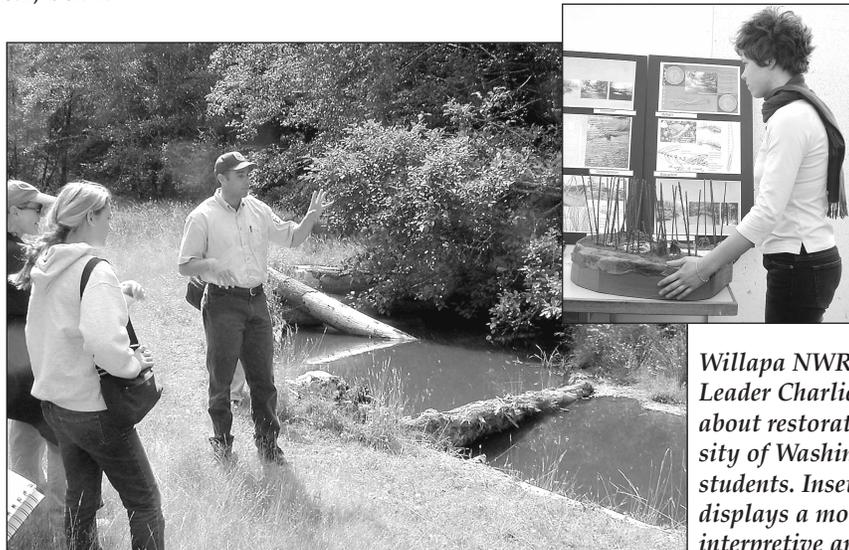
artistic, interpretive, and functional, and integrated with its natural surroundings.

Consider another example. Typically interpretive trails use panels placed at key points to relay the resource story. Envision, instead, a sculpture — a ten-foot chum salmon skeleton of wood, fixed into the stream bank. "My death is life," is inscribed into its vertebrae. Etched into the ribs are a stylized bear, eagle, raven, and salmon fry. What is the benefit of this over a panel of 100-200 words plus pictures? The visitor must engage in order to come away with the message that chum salmon die when they spawn, and their remains feed other wildlife, including the next generation of chum. Because this profound tale of sacrifice isn't handed to them, the visitor is a part of the discovery equation that will, hopefully, yield deeper meaning. The visitor owns the discovery, and the extra effort should equate to a better appreciation of the resource.

This is a preview of Willapa's art trail. Because artistic inspiration did occur that mid-January morning, a marriage was forged between an open-minded refuge and the only public art program of its kind in the nation. Soon, this union will give birth to what is likely the first interpretive art trail on Fish and Wildlife Service land. **O**

John Ivie is a visual information specialist at the Division of Visitor Services and Communication.

"Because this profound tale of sacrifice isn't handed to them, the visitor is a part of the discovery equation..."



Willapa NWRC Project Leader Charlie Stenvall talks about restoration to University of Washington (UW) students. Inset: UW student displays a model for the interpretive art trail.

New Vision...

Continued from Page 1

"...the fisheries program will sometimes lead, and other times it will facilitate or follow."

Fast Facts about Fisheries

- The Pacific Region includes 19 national fish hatcheries, 9 management offices, 4 fish health centers, 1 fish technology center, and the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan Office, which manages 25 federal, state, and tribal fish facilities. Ten information and education specialists are available to help with outreach.
- The Abernathy Fish Technology Center is the scientific arm, the largest in scope and function in the nation. They work with fish feed quality control, hatchery reform, innovative technologies, and conservation genetics in a new state-of-the-art laboratory staffed by three geneticists.
- Four fish health centers monitor and control diseases, the Wild Fish Health Survey, and applied research.
- Nine fishery resource offices and fish and wildlife offices link the fisheries program to the ecological services program and oversee fisheries and harvest management, habitat restoration, hatchery evaluation, management of the Endangered Species Act, fish passage, flow studies and aquatic nuisance species coordination.
- Major focus areas include aquatic resource conservation; hatchery reform; mitigation, habitat restoration, restoration and recovery of native fish, threatened and endangered species, and other aquatic species of concern; aquatic nuisance species control; fish passage; instream flow; and water rights. All of these efforts place a renewed emphasis on partnerships, effective communication, and outreach.

Interior Secretary Gale Norton, a keynote speaker, praised the Fish and Wildlife Service's recommitment to its role as a partner in conserving America's aquatic resources. Norton commented that the fisheries program will sometimes lead, and that other times it will facilitate or follow. The fisheries program should focus its energy on what it is best positioned to contribute, recognizing the importance of sound science and partnerships to aquatic resource stewardship.

The most exciting aspect of the fisheries program is its new Vision for the Future, which encourages working with traditional partners to realize program goals. "This project began more than three years ago when the Service charged the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council to craft a vision to bring people of diverse interests and backgrounds together to speak with one voice about the value of our fisheries program," said Cathleen Short, assistant director-

Fisheries and Habitat Conservation. "Our partners' attendance enriched the experience of this historic event by providing us with the information we need to turn this Vision into success," she said.

While scoping the Vision, the Service and its partners identified seven focus areas, each with goals, objectives and actions oriented toward the future. These seven focus areas are: partnerships and accountability; aquatic species conservation and management; public use; cooperation with Native Americans; leadership in science and technology; aquatic habitat conservation and management; and workforce management. From encouraging friends groups and giving talks at public gatherings to gaining media coverage for our successes, outreach must play a significant role in all of these areas.

To build on the conference enthusiasm, Jim Martin, Conservation Director of Pure Fishing, challenged each attendee to "Go back to your unit and remember the electricity that we've felt in this conference room Let that electricity feed throughout your crew and into your communities."

Those involved with fisheries need to take Jim Martin's advice to heart. This issue of *Out & About* shares ideas or success stories from most of the seven focus areas. To learn more, visit <http://pacific.fws.gov/Fisheries/>, then choose education and public outreach. **O**

Amy Gaskill is an outreach specialist for External Affairs in the Regional Office.



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On the left Paul Hayduk, hatchery manager at Quinault NFH, participates in a breakout session.