



TIGHTLINES



Stanwood High Sophomore Sammi Keller has fun sampling the waters of Church Creek for benthic macroinvertebrates (bugs). Salmon restoration in the Creek (a Stilliguamish tributary) is one of the projects OFF contributed to in 2008. Read more in our lead story

— Photo by Ryan Ovenell December 2, 2008

OFF made 2008 a good year for giving. Will 2009 be just as good?

Conservation Chairman Mike Truax, who begins his second year in the post, believes our commitment to conservation can be even better in 2009. He also believes the poor economy will present us with some new challenges in the coming year.

Here's what you supported in 2008:

Western Rivers Conservancy

OFF donated \$500 to this Portland based organization. To understand what WRC is all about, you might want to visit the WRC web home page at westernrivers.org. It has a great photo of the Hoh River and a headline that reads: *"Sometimes to save a river, you have to buy it."* That's essentially what this non profit organization does. With the help of

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Auction team races to the finish.

With just hours left before Auctioneer Don Bayles raises his gavel to begin the 2008 Club Auction, the team is pressing ahead quickly to make sure everything is in place and ready to go.

Nearly 150 items will be up for auction or raffle. This year's array includes many outstanding books, some great trips, a lot of quality gear, special gifts for significant others, store discounts and more.

Nearly 100 people are expected to join in the festivities. Doors open at 6 p.m. December 10th at the Senior Center.



Phil Sacks helps decorate hall for 2007 auction.

December Calendar

12/5: Officers Retreat. Please have your budget requests ready along with your ideas about how to make 2009 another stellar year for all of our members. (There will be no regular business meeting this month.)

12/10: The Club's annual auction gets underway at 6 p.m at the Senior Center. Our yearly fund raiser is a guaranteed good time with great dinner, liberal libations and a lot of laughs.

12/10: The Olympic Fly Fishers Man of the Year honor will be presented at the Auction.



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many individuals, plus major foundations, businesses and clubs, WRC buys land to protect rivers and their watersheds from mining, logging and other perils.

The organization focuses on the Western United States. In Washington alone, WRC has bought property that benefits 13 rivers and creeks including the



Washington’s Hoh River is a major beneficiary of WRC’s efforts.

Hoh, So. Fork Stillaguamish, Skagit, Snake, Grand Ronde, Humptulips, Sauk, Little Wenatchee, Icicle Creek, Silver Creek and others.

If possible, Mike would like to see the club increase its donation to WRC in 2009.

“The amount we’ve given may not be significant compared to the Conservancy’s major donors,” he says. “But I’ve worked with these people in the past and they do very good work.”

Chopaka Lake fish stocking

OFF donated \$300 to WDFW for new fish plants in Chopaka after the Department remediated the lake. Mike believes this kind of giving could become very crucial in 2009.



Jim Trainer searches for diploids at Chopaka Lake.

—Mike Truax Photo

“The State is cutting budgets everywhere and the WDFW doesn’t have many friends in the Legislature,” says Mike. “I think the clubs around the state will have to fill some of the gaps.” Mike also likes the idea of giving to causes that have a direct effect on the

quality of fishing club members experience. That was reinforced recently when he and a few other club members had the lake to themselves and caught a whole mess of those big diploids.

Lund’s Gulch Creek



Friends of Lund’s Gulch Creek President Duane Uusitalo stands near the outlet of Lund’s Gulch Creek in Meadowdale County Park. This year, OFF contributed to restoration work on the stream.

—Dick Simmons Photo

OFF donated \$500 to help restore parts of the creek after flooding problems diminished returning coho and chum runs. Retired biology teacher Duane Uusitalo has been “stream keeper” and advocate for the creek for more than 25 years.

He began planting Coho in 1982 and today releases up to 1,000 Coho and 10,000 Chum each year. The stream has also become a field ecology project for students at Edmonds Community College.

“This is a project that’s right in our backyard,” says Mike. “It’s one we can help support financially and physically. And, again, this kind of project can benefit our fishing experience directly.”

Mike would like to work with Duane and possibly bring in a stream hydrologist to assess what more can be done to stabilize the creek in the future.

Church Creek

OFF donated \$200 to continuing remediation efforts on this Stilliguamish tributary that’s a favorite project of our Auctioneer and good friend Don Bayles. Don also gives his auction fee to the project each year. He’s justifiably proud of the results.

“In three of the last four years we’ve had between 1,000 and 1,200 native, I repeat **native** Coho return to the creek to spawn,” says Bayles. “And this year we’ve had 40 to 50 hatchery Chum in the creek. 2006 was low but it was a bad year for Coho everywhere.”

Church Creek is also important to the Agriculture

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The Fly Fishing Life



SOME FAVORITE PHOTOS FROM 2008 — *Upper left:* Capt. Larry Roxby made this remarkable photo at Lenice Lake. His tent lodge glows warmly in the night as a nearby camp fire slowly burns to embers. And in the darkening sky, the Aurora Borealis streaks magically across the heavens. *Upper right:* Whether we're fishing together or helping the local salmon chapter make repairs at the Willow Creek fish hatchery in Edmonds, it's all about Camaraderie. *Lower left:* This shot Dan Reynolds took of Jeff Bandy on the Quilcene River with a bright Coho fresh from the salt is a perfect picture of someone holding a good fish. Nothing in your face. Just respect and admiration for a great fight won. *And finally, lower right:* This shot, taken by Steve Murray or Norm Primc on a recent bass fishing expedition, is included here as a warning to other members. Too much fishing can lead to certain odd behavioral characteristics that normally might be considered depraved or, at the best, neurotic. If you see these traits in yourself or your friends please consider seeking professional counseling as soon as possible.

Is there a special place you like to fish and want to share? Is there a lake or stream you've always wanted to explore but didn't want to go alone? Do you like to fish with a few friends and swap stories around a campfire? If all these things are right for you, make them happen with just a few words. Simply tell Mike Bunney you'd like to be the club's next Outings Chairman. The rewards are priceless.



The OFF Beat

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Program at Stanwood High School. More than 600 of Stanwood's 1,500 students are enrolled in the "ag" program including Sammi (*see cover photo*) who is a student in Ryan Ovenell's Natural Resources Program. He was on the Creek with his class this past Tuesday morning.

"We monitor different parameters of the stream," he explained. "pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, macro's, nitrates, phosphates, stream flow and we compare them with Snohomish County standards."

Ryan said he will have a website up soon to display details of the work his classes are doing. We will have a link on our own website as soon as it becomes available.

Casting Call

In 2008 OFF donated \$500 to a unique program at Northwest Hospital that helps cancer survi-



Cancer survivors practice lawn casting from a drift boat at Northwest Hospital

vors deal with a debilitating side effect of cancer called Lymphedema.

It's a swelling in the arms and legs caused by excess fluid build up in the lymphatic system.

There is no cure for the condition, but the muscles used in fly casting can help prevent or reduce the effects of Lymphedema.

Participants in Northwest Casting Call learn the fundamentals of fly casting, entomology knot tying, equipment and fly fishing etiquette. Many graduates have gone on to become lifelong fly fishers and avid advocates of the sport.

FLYING & TYING CLASSES BEGINS JANUARY 13th



Class Instructor Keith Stamm

Beginning tying classes start January 13th for both club members and people in the community who would like to learn the art of tying. To register, call the Anderson Center at 425-771-0230 or go to the Edmonds Park and Recreation website and click onto "reczone/activities".

Members are needed to assist with instruction, or to take the class (if just learning to tie).

Patterns to be tied (in order) are: wooley bugger/busy bugger; gold-ribbed hare's ear/pheasant tail nymph; Carey special/soft hackle; damsel nymph/Jeremy's leech; Catskill Adams/parachute Adams; mayfly cripple/elk hair

caddis; caddis pupa/scud; gummy worm chironomid/bloodworm.

In addition to tying skills, the class will also include information on when and how to fish the various patterns effectively. Classes will be every Tuesday night through March 3rd.

—See you on the river. DS



General Information

The General meeting is held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the South County Senior Center, 220 Railroad Ave., Edmonds, WA. Social hour: 6:00 p.m.

The Business meeting is held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Alf's 4820 196th SW, Lynnwood, WA. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Officers:

Mike Bunney, President, 425-672-3345

Dick Hedges, Vice President, 425-337-9070

Jim Gauntt, Treasurer, 425-776-1017

Keith Stamm, Secretary, 206-368-5596

Dick Simmons, Communications. & TIGHTLINES Ed. 425-778-9804

Phil Sacks, Gillie 425-741-7311

Joe Conner, Trustee, 425-744-8085

Chairs:

Outings, Dan Reynolds, 425-673-7028

Education, Eric Sauer, 425-776-3811, Doug Pendleton 206-282-5366

Conservation, Mike Truax, 425-672-6963

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