

The Adipose

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WILD STEELHEAD COALITION

January, 2006

The President's Run

Perseverance

"The road ahead will offer defeats as well as victories, and defeat often brings despair. But this organization cannot afford the luxury of despair, because there is only one way the battle to preserve wild steelhead will ever end--and that is if you surrender."

"Wild Steelhead Coalition Presentation, November 19, 2005" Steve Raymond

At this year's WSC Award Dinner and Auction we were treated with an eloquent reading written especially for the WSC by respected author Steve Raymond. Steve's reading is available on the WSC website at www.wildsteelheadcoalition.com, and I invite you to read his articulate composition regarding why we, as anglers, place such an importance on wild steelhead and their conservation. Among his inspiring words, this small quote provided a strong relevance to me personally and offered an honest truth about one certain quality our organization must heed- *Perseverance*.

At the dinner we also awarded the second WSC Conservation Award to Bill Bakke in recognition of his 40 years of native fish advocacy and protection. Thanks to Bill McMillan for accepting the award on Bill's behalf and his gracious words shared in honor of this award. I would also

like to recognize author and photographer Jeff Bright who provided a beautiful slide show in tribute to wild steelhead. Special thanks also go out to the individuals, shops and companies who donated to our fundraiser. And a big thanks to Jim Schmitz who provided leadership to make the event happen and to Jack & Elaine Berryman, John Case, Bob Young and Brian Simonseth who participated on the committee.

The WSC Board continues to move forward with various projects, Nate Mantua, Dick Burge and Jack Berryman are in process of the final edits and print our second white paper titled *"The Status of Wild Steelhead and Their Management in Western Washington"* which includes the WSC Steelhead Management Plan and the most recent data available about the condition of wild steelhead. Much of this information from our white paper has been reviewed and is already successfully included in the development of the Washington Department of Fish Wildlife Steelhead Management Plan.

The WSC also just completed participating in Steelhead Summit Alliance 7 on December 2nd in Portland, Oregon. The WSC sponsored and hosted the first SSA and has hosted up to Summit 6. This fall's Summit was hosted by Trout Unlimited, American Rivers and Native Fish Society and continues to build in attendance and content. I

would like to thank Kaitlin Lovell, David Moryc, Richard Kennon, David Bailey, and Dick Burge for their work to make this Summit an even bigger success. SSA 8 will be in May in either in Seattle or Olympia, more details to come.

We are also planning for and have procured a booth for the Sportsman's Show in Monroe, WA on February 22-26. The board feels this is a real opportunity for the WSC to gain a more inclusive audience and deliver the message about the plight of wild steelhead in the Northwest. Our display will include large color charts with most recent run color as well as facts and information about our organization. If interested in lending a hand, please contact Brian Simonseth at bsimonseth@verizon.net

The WSC Board also voted unanimously to make a \$3,000 donation to participate in a study of acoustic tagging of steelhead smolts in Puget Sound. Wild steelhead stocks in Puget Sound and Georgia Basin continue in a downward trend. This study may be able to shed some light on what is happening to steelhead once they enter the saltwater environment. Dr. Quinn of University of Washington, our January speaker, is providing oversight to the project with participation and funding by the Wild Steelhead Coalition, Steelhead Trout Club, WDFW, University of Washington,

(Continued on page 3)

WSC 2005 Benefit/Auction Recap

On November 19, 2005 the Wild Steelhead Coalition held its annual fundraiser at the Bellevue Sheraton. Over 90 individuals were in attendance which helped make it an evening to remember. The event was a huge success and raised funds in excess of \$10,000.00. The evening started out with a beautiful steelhead slide show created by California photographer and author Jeff Bright. The audience was then captivated with a heart felt reading by author Steve Raymond. As the evening moved ahead, the WSC awarded Bill Bakke with our annual Conservation Award. The award was accepted by Bill McMillen who read an exceptional piece about his close friend and mentor. Next, auctioneer Keith Robbins produced an entertaining auction which was filled with many must have items. Overall, the evening set the stage for an action packed year ahead and we hope to see you again at next year's event. Thanks to all of you who helped support such a great evening.

Special Thanks To:

Precept Brands Wine Company,

Steve Raymond,

Thomas McGuane,

Bellevue Sheraton Hotel, Andrea Larson,

Silver Creek Outfitters,

Bellevue Kaufmann's,

Bob Ball,

John Howie's Sea Star Restaurant,

Pat Graham & Gordon Gracey,

Rob Endsley,

Robert Triggs,

Brian Simonseth,

Dave Carlson & Dan Callaghan,

The Avid Angler,

Sherwood Forest Farms,

Les Johnson & Carol Ferrera,

Big Sky Carvers,

Ross Andrew Winery,

Repair Technology Inc.,

Bank of America Investment Services.

Jack Brock,

Frank Moore,

Lamson/Waterworks,

Frank Amato,

Sam & Lindsey Tucker,

Jeff Bright,

Jim Schmitz,

William Joseph Co.,

Mike Mathis ,

Chris Grieve,

Steve Worley,

Chris Carlson,

Ted's Sports Center,

Orvis Bellevue,

Doug Rose & Marianne Mitchell,

SAGE Manuf. Co.,

Wheatley Fly Co.,

Tacoma Steel Company,

Dave Hunt,

(Continued from page 1)

Corps of Engineers, City of Seattle, and the Puyallup, Squaxin and Nisqually tribes.

The WSC has also provided important input to the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission and WDFW in crafting the 2006-2007 Major Cycle Regulations. We have also provided input and sent representation to the Grays Harbor steelhead season meeting in Montesano, WA. We continue to monitor the Columbia River steelhead commercial by-catch, monitor and oppose the Stohredahl Mine expansion proposal on the EF Lewis River and have signed various letters by partner organizations that support the WSC Mission.

Please be sure to join us for the first WSC general membership meeting of the year at the Center for Urban Horticulture at the University of Washington. The program is Tom Quinn, noted professor at the University of Washington, who will be providing a presentation on the spawning success of wild and hatchery steelhead. Tom is also providing oversight on the steelhead acoustical tagging study about to begin in Puget Sound.

With the overwhelming plethora of issues regarding steelhead and time constraints we all face it would be very easy to surrender and just go fishing. But if we continue to focus, volunteer to lead a small issue, become a board member or simply take the time to write a letter, our organization will persevere by continuing to grow in influence, create change and bring attention to steelhead issues and achieve our mission *"...of increasing the return of wild steelhead..."*

Happy New Year,

*Rich Simms
President
Wild Steelhead Coalition*

Support

Wild

Steelhead



Bob Young, Publisher 206-323-2189
Email: fishbum@seanet.com

Board of Directors
President: Rich Simms
425-880-4254
rks57@yahoo.com

1st VP Membership: Jeff Johnson
425-702-1991
jjohnson@microsoft.com

VP Fundraising:
VP_of_Fundraising@wildsteelheadcoalition.com

VP Conservation: Dick Burge
360-765-3815
fskibum@olympen.com

VP Communications: John Case
206-329-9009
johncase@microsoft.com

VP Science: Nate Mantua
206-706-8592
nate@xsat.com

VP Political affairs : Todd Ripley
425-281-0571
c_n_r_nates@hotmail.com

Secretary: Jim Schmitz
253-606-0477
lostriver99@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Bob Young
206-323-2189
fishbum@seanet.com

Past President: Jack Berryman
425-821-1774
cohojack@hotmail.com

Trustees

Jim Tuggle John McGlenn
Jim Lichatowich Bill Bakke
Frank Amato Duggan Harman
Rob Masonis

Regional Reps

Region 1 & Western Idaho: Mike Mathis
509-927-6733 michaelmjmathis@aol.com

Region 3: Steve Worley
509-962-2033 worleybugger@elltel.net

Region 4: Rob Endsley
360-676-1321 rendsley@earthlink.net

Region 6: Bob Ball
360-374-2019 rball@olympen.com

Region 5&6 South: Ron Nanney
360-484-3406 nanney3@willapabay.com

NW Oregon: Shane Stewart
503-640-8346 sstew54@earthlink.net

Bill Bakke Receives WSC Conservation Award

Mr. Bakke was unable attend so his award was received on his behalf by Bill McMillan. McMillan had this to say about Bill Bakke: "Not since the writings of Roderick Haig-Brown had a Northwest writer emerged with such in-depth, intelligent, and readable writings on fishing and fish conservation issues than those by a 24 year old Bill Bakke with his first magazine articles in the late 1960s. Moreover, the volume of his conservation writings quickly surpassed those of Haig-Brown's and set the bar that much higher for those of us who tried to follow as best we could. By the mid 1980s his influence was so pervasively recognized that the Portland Oregonian featured him as "Savior of the Salmon."

But most are not aware of the sacrifices that advocacy required from the 1960s through the early 1980s when funding for real fish conservation work simply did not exist. Bill lived in a tiny 2-room house of late 19th century construction near Reed College. Few knew the house was even there. Hidden by a laurel hedge gone wild and a tiny yard of shoulder high weeds, its nickname was Bleak House. It had no heat, and those of us who visited held our hands at the burners of the old range as the winter winds blew through the cracks in the walls. Bill lived there for nearly ten years, on annual income \$3,000, mooching meals, drinks, fishing trips, and pipe tobacco from a growing list of believers in his conservation vision. His meager \$35-\$100 checks for magazine articles paid his way to perpetual fishery meetings from California to British Columbia, and inland to Idaho.

Bakke became the Northwest's Pied Piper of fish conservation. He taught fish interest groups the complexities of genetics and biology from which to argue the lack of science being applied to fishery management. No one has ever led his followers so nobly or so well, patiently teaching fishermen to argue the issues rather than curse and point fingers at each other.

The Wild Steelhead Coalition exemplifies the teachings of Bill Bakke, and at no time have wild steelhead been more threatened, or more in need of your dedication, self-sacrifice, and activism. It is no longer just the usual 4 "H"s, habitat, hydro, harvest, and hatcheries. There is now a fifth "H" - heat - in the form of global warming which may ultimately reduce the range of coldwater fishes to latitudes closest to the poles and

elsewhere to the high elevations of mountains. Just as the retreat of the last Ice Age disconnected southern steelhead populations from the sea, leaving behind Mexico's isolated mountain trout, steelhead range is again retreating northward. Mexico exemplifies our steelhead future if we do not act with the necessary sacrifices of dramatically reducing America's consumptive life styles with global leadership rather than being dragged kicking and screaming by the rest of the world. Global warming pales anything Northwest steelhead have yet faced since the last Ice Age pushed anadromous fish populations south.

The example of Bill Bakke's life is one whose emulation provides a last hope for slowing the climatic change modern human numbers and life styles have sped into fast forward. What he has taught us through lessons in biology, he has similarly taught with the example of his life lived as a material minimalist: his ancient pipe perpetually repaired with a band of white adhesive tape; his homes small and cold; his fishing rods few and inexpensive; his dress, thrift store tweeds; his spirit that of Sparta's ancient Greeks in the disdain for mere comfort; a life in no fear of living at poverty's edge to accommodate his love of wild rivers and steelhead.

This is the man who has been my mentor for 35 years, and the man whose award I am honored to accept in his absence this evening with his apologies and gratitude for your recognition."



Bill McMillan receiving Conservation Award on behalf of Bill Bakke. Shown with WSC President Rich Simms.

News Blurbs- Quick info what's going on in & around the WSC

WSC Website

The WSC has added the Steve Raymond's composition that he presented to the WSC Awards Dinner and Auction, be sure to read this great piece addressed to the WSC www.wildsteelheadcoalition.com.

Guide Raffle Big Success

Bob Ball, WSC Regional Rep and popular Olympic Peninsula guide donated and raffled a guide trip for two on his website. Bob's donated trip through the raffle netted \$1,200 for the WSC. Thanks Bob for your support!

Previous VP of Fundraising has Set Back

Peter Dorn, WSC's previous VP of Fundraising last year suffered a stroke and is recovering. Our hopes and prayers are with Peter that he has a full recovery and we see on the river chasing steelhead with us all!

SSA at Work

Just thought I would share something that shows the relevance and importance of the Steelhead Summit Alliance gatherings. The presentation on steelhead kelts at the meeting on Saturday enabled us to raise the issue of kelt mortality in a brief just filed in federal district court regarding 2006 federal dam operations on the Columbia and Snake rivers. Focusing exclusively on juvenile salmon and steelhead, the feds are proposing eliminating all spill (the only way kelts make it safely past the dams) at the three Snake River collector dams after April 20th. Kelt migration typically takes place into June, so that would effectively be a death sentence for Snake River kelts.

Robert J. Mason

American Rivers

Northwest Regional Office

Steelhead Summit 9

The next Steelhead Summit Alliance is tentatively scheduled for May. If your organization would like to participate or you are interested in volunteering for one of the committees please phone Dave Bailey @ 360-681-7043, email: captain@olympen.com

WSC Sends Donation to BC Group

WSC BOD voted to provide a \$500 donation to British Columbia's Friends of Wild Salmon. Friends of Wild Salmon is an organization currently working to block expansion of proposed salmon farms in the Skeena River estuary.

Website: www.friendsofwildsalmon.ca

WSC Sends Input on Crafting Grays Harbor Season

The following letter was sent to WDFW regarding a proposal to a limit the harvest of wild steelhead on the Chehalis, Wynooche and Humptulips Rivers:

The Wild Steelhead Coalition (WSC) understands the WDFW will be holding a public meeting in your region on the 2005/2006 Grays Harbor winter steelhead season on Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2005.

The WSC would like this opportunity to offer public input and urge the WDFW to seriously consider our rules proposal to craft the 2005/2006 Grays Harbor winter steelhead seasons:

WDFW Rule Proposal #84 Chehalis River Wild Steelhead Retention

Oppose; Instead of a limited 6 day kill fishery, if meeting escapement goals, extend the season to C&R/Selective gear rules and create extended angler opportunity.

WDFW Rule Proposal #85 Humptulips River Wild Steelhead Retention

Oppose; Instead of a limited 3 day kill fishery, if meeting escapement goals, extend the season to C&R/Selective gear rules and create extended angler opportunity.

WDFW Rule Proposal #86 Wynoochee River Wild Steelhead Retention

Oppose; Instead of a limited 6 day kill fishery, if meeting escapement goals, extend the season to C&R/Selective gear rules and create longer angler opportunity.

In 2004 the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission mandated that the WDFW reduce the harvest limit of wild steelhead and assigned the WDFW to develop a comprehensive conservation based management plan for wild steelhead and their recovery. The WSC opposes any directed or increased harvest on wild steelhead anywhere in the state until such a plan has been reviewed and adopted. It appears that only in recent years that some progress is being made in the restoration of wild steelhead runs on the Humptulips and Chehalis system, this, after a decade of depressed runs and early closures. It is our considered opinion that if the system has just started making escapement that a 'catch and release' fishery season will provide cautious approach. This approach will also extended the season, allow increased recreational fishing opportunity for anglers and will have a lessened impact on wild fish.

The WDFW should take this opportunity and stick to a commitment of conservation and demonstrate action to the angling community that long-term efforts will be sustained in all regards to the restoration of wild steelhead. We hope to continue working with the Department and

(Continued on page 7)

January 4th program Description:

This presentation will focus on two themes: (1) new and fascinating results drawn from recent student projects using DNA to determine the breeding biology and reproductive success of wild steelhead; and (2) new insights into interactions between wild and hatchery steelhead.

Biography:

Tom Quinn is a Professor of Fishery and Aquatic Sciences at the University of Washington with a general interest in fish behavior and ecology, particularly migratory behavior, habitat requirements, and spawning behavior. His research blends a variety of field techniques including tagging, telemetry and direct observations, with appropriate laboratory experiments. Most but not all of my research deals with salmon and trout. He recently published a book titled "The behavior and ecology of Pacific Salmon and Trout. For more information on Dr. Quinn's work, see his web-site at: <http://www.fish.washington.edu/people/tquinn/>

Evergreen Sportsmen's Show

The Third Annual Evergreen Sportsmen's Show is scheduled for February 22 - 26, 2006 at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe. The **Wild Steelhead Coalition** will be there in booth "907" with all the latest charts on the rivers in Washington State with WSC supporters and Board Members there to answer question.

This will be similar to the show we did last year in Puyallup last year just talking with folks and showing what has been happening with (and to) our Wild Steelhead with the information supplied by WDFW.

If you would like to help out manning the booth, I'm looking to have three people there at all times of the show. Please contact Brian Simonseth at Bsimonseth@verizon.net

I will have \$2.00 off coupons for the **Evergreen Sportsmen's Show** at the Jan.4 general WSC meeting featuring Dr Quinn.

The Evergreen Sportsmen's Show hours are:

Wednesday; February 22, 06 - noon till 8:00pm

Thursday; February 23, 06 - noon till 8:00pm

Friday; February 24, 06 - noon till 8:00pm

Saturday; February 25, 06 - 10:00am till 8:00pm

Sunday; February 26, 06 - 10:00am till 5:00pm

Admission

Adults: \$9.00

Juniors (6-16): \$5.00

Children under 6: Free

Financial Summary for the Year 2005

Financially the year 2005 has been good. We have ended the year with sufficient funds to conduct our anticipated projects. The first major undertaking will be the production and distribution of our "Steelhead Recovery Plan". Support of other steelhead programs for 2006 are in the planning stages.

Funds as of 1/1/2005: \$15,488

Funds as of 12/5/2005: \$25,562

Our income has been realized from various sources. Membership dues have provided \$4700. Generous donations, including funds from 'matching' programs, have brought in \$2742.

Our recent fund raising auction and dinner provided us with a net of about \$7,500.

Expenses have come in various formats. Doing the organizations business has cost about \$1210. This includes meeting facilities, postage and office materials and travel and meeting expenses. Printing and distribution of the Adipose has cost close to \$500.

We have also provided funds for support of conservation efforts of other organizations such as the FFF's Steelhead Committee's *The Osprey* and the Steelhead Summit Alliance's Steelhead Summits. We also continue to support, through a scholarship program, the work of UW graduate student studies. These conservation-oriented outlays have amounted to approximately \$3100.

The Board of Directors has also approved a contribution of \$3000 to the Department of Fish and Wildlife in support of their Acoustical Tagging program for Puget Sound Steelhead.

(Continued from page 5)

the Commission in their efforts to recover and conservatively manage wild steelhead in a manner that restores healthy wild populations to all rivers and streams.

Sincerely,

Richard K. Simms

President

Wild Steelhead Coalition

Cc: Sue Patnude, WDFW Region 6 Director

Hoh River Fails to Meet Escapement Again, WDFW & Hoh Tribe Meet

The Hoh River wild steelhead run has missed its spawning escapement by 774 spawners in 02/03, 132 spawners in 03/04, and 920 spawners last season due to high pre-run predictions. Further, the run missed escapements in 8 out of the last 14 years.

The WDFW and Hoh Tribe have met and the following is the essence of the WDFW/Hoh Tribe Hoh River 2005/06 winter wild steelhead fishing plan:

The pre-season run prediction is reduced for conservation reasons by the co-managers to 3040 fish. This compares with pre-season forecasts of 5,310 for 02/03 (actual total run was 3,568), 4710 for 03/04 (actual total run was 4,053) and 4221 for 04/05 (actual total run was 2,540). The co-managers have responded to the overestimates and low run sizes of the past three years to develop this years forecast. With an escapement goal of 2,400 fish, the amount

available for harvest based on MSH planning is about 600 fish.

The state will also be putting extra survey effort into getting a better account of the spawner escapement this season.

The agreement, now signed by both the tribe and the state, allows the following fishery for the tribes:

Tribal fishing 3 days per week in December, two days per week during the first two weeks of January and one day a week from mid January through February 20. The nets will come out February 21.

The state's sport fishery will be:

Standard sport harvest fishery to the end of February, and then catch and release season during March, closing March 31.

This scenario compares with the 3-year default agreement of everyone closing mid-February. The state gave up 4% of the run of their allocation to accomplish this agreement and gained one and a half months extra fishing time.

Hopefully this more conservative fishery planning will set a new trend of meeting and exceeding escapements and start rebuilding the run to levels we saw in the 1990's. Stay tuned.

Here is an excerpt from Steve Raymond's comments presented at the WSC's fund raising dinner.

In discussing the early writings regarding wild steelhead Steve had these comment: "In *The Western Angler*, published in 1939, Roderick Haig-Brown provided an even better description of the steelhead, but his focus, too, was mainly on its appearance and habits, not on its emotional appeal to anglers.....

".... later, in 1946, Roderick Haig-Brown returned to the scene with his marvelous book, *A River Never Sleeps*" which almost single-handedly made up for all the previous void in steelhead literature. This book gives us more quotable passages about steelhead than I think can be found in all earlier books put together. Here's one of my favorites:

"The steelhead, with the brightness of the sea still on him, is liveliest of all the river's life. When you have made your cast for him, you are no longer a careless observer. As you mend the cast and work your fly well down to him through the cold water, your whole mind is with it, picturing its drift, guiding its swing, holding it where you know he will lie. And when the shock of his take jars through you to your forearms and you lift the rod to its bend, you know that in a moment the strength of his leaping body will shatter the water to brilliance, however dark the day."

For Steve's complete presentation, visit our website at www.wildsteelheadcoalition.com

Wild Steelhead Coalition
218 Main St. Box 264
Kirkland, WA 98033

The Wild Steelhead Coalition (WSC) is an organization dedicated to increasing the return of wild steelhead to the waters and rivers of the Pacific Northwest.



Meeting Announcement

Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2006

7:30-9:30 pm

Again, this month our meeting place will be at the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture on the Union Bay Campus. In addition to the directions included herein, links to maps with driving directions (as pdfs) and the buildings are on the web at: <http://depts.washington.edu/urbhort/html/info/facilities.html>

Our speaker this month will be Tom Quinn, a Professor of Fishery and Aquatic Sciences at the University of Washington.

**Title: Reproductive success of wild and hatchery steelhead.
More on Tom and his program on page 6.**