Gearing up for spring 2013, it's a good time to share some of the various program's highlights. In this newsletter we highlight: events with a new twist, updates on the trailer program, an instructor profile, loss of significant individuals, volunteer awards/contributions and places to volunteer through the summer. Be sure to watch your emails for the AE list serve to share new teaching opportunities!

Tight lines and happy fishing,
Shahab Farzanegan, Program Coordinator and Darlene Sprecher, Program Assistant

2013 STEP Conference is April 6th in Canyonville

The biennial STEP Conference is intended to provide a forum for STEP/AAE volunteers from around the state to get together and discuss activities and share ideas. The conference also fosters awareness of STEP and volunteerism for the resource, and provides an information and educational opportunity for the local community. Please join us for the 2013 STEP conference to be held at the beautiful facilities of Seven Feathers Convention Center in Canyonville, OR.

The goal of this conference is to provide conversations, experiences, and information that highlight the opportunities to improve or expand the integration of restoration into all aspects of STEP programs. This will include showcasing the opportunities, information, and resources that are available to, and provided by, our STEP volunteers and partners. On Saturday night we will have a silent auction and awards dinner where STEP volunteers and partners will be recognized for their outstanding service. Stick around for Sunday and enjoy one of the optional workshops.

Registration is open through March 23, 2013:
http://www.regonline.com/2013STEPConference

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

For additional information go to the conference webpage: http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/STEP/2013stepconference.asp
or contact
Kevin Herkamp at 503-947-6232
kevin.herkamp@state.or.us
Our Mission and Funding

The Angler and Aquatic Education Program strive to both introduce new participants to the joy of fishing and make it easier for anglers of all experience levels to enjoy angling in Oregon. This is accomplished through angler and aquatic education classes, Youth and Family Fishing Events and Free Fishing Weekend and other youth and family centered fishing events, and various public outreach efforts.

Adopted in 2009 by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, the 25-Year Recreational Angling Enhancement Plan outlines goals for recreational fisheries management, identifies angling enhancement strategies, and describes actions and pilot programs to accomplish the goals. It will be implemented in cooperation with citizens of Oregon and public and private partners.

One of the goals from the plan (Goal 2) is to increase angling participation.

A. Developing education programs that connect people to fishing and the outdoors.

C. Reducing barriers to participation.

The ODFW Aquatic and Angling Education program is entirely funded from Federal Aid through the Sport Fish Restoration Fund. This Federal excise tax on fishing equipment and motor boat fuels is returned back to the states to support sport fishing restoration and education programs. 100% of the program’s matching funds come from the volunteer efforts of our instructors. Thank you!

When and what does it mean?

Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950:

* Captured 10% manufacturer’s excise tax on sport fishing equipment.
* Permanent/indefinite appropriation
* Matching Funds Required (max. 75% federal share)

1984 Wallop/Breaux Amendment:

* Broadened list of taxed items
* Captured motorboat fuels tax
* Authorized Aquatic Education

ODFW Angler Education Staff Contacts:

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In Memoriam:

Bill Hastie and Bob Mullong

On May 3rd, 2012 we lost Bill Hastie, a good friend and a fierce fighter for natural resource education. Bill was a co-author of Stream Scene, which stands today as one of the nation's unique watershed curriculums. Helped start the ODFW Angler Education program and wrote many of the lessons in the Instructor Manual. One of his most treasured times was teaching and mentoring at Creeks and Kids. His contagious smile, his expert analysis of situations and his many contributions to the natural resource community were more measureable than words can define.

In April, Central Oregon, STEP and Angler Education lost a longtime advocate for fish, fishing, and especially youth with the sudden passing of Bob Mullong, of Bend.

Affectionately known to his friends as "Captain Caddis", Bob was a fixture on the Central Oregon fishing scene for decades, and was especially active in the Fish Eggs to Fry program and the Kokanee Karnival. Contributing almost 2,000 hours of volunteer service for Angler Education alone, Bob was also a former member of STAC and the R&E Board. His contributions to fishing in Oregon were considerable and he will be greatly missed.
**Aquatic and Angler Education Instructor Highlight—Mike Crickmer**

*How long have you been with ODFW AEP program and what got you interested?*

My wife saw an article in a Sunday edition of the *Corvallis Gazette-Times* newspaper requesting volunteers to teach youth about fish and fishing. She knew my interest in fishing and thought I might be interested in the program as something to do, since I was retired. I applied for the program and attended a full-day orientation and instruction session at ODFW's office in Salem February 17, 2007.

*Where and when were you trained?*

I attended a full-day orientation and instruction session at ODFW's office in Salem February 17, 2007.

*Are you affiliated with any sportsman's groups or clubs?*

I'm a member (and past-President) of Linn-Benton Family Flyfishers based in Albany.

*What have been some of the most satisfying moments working with the Angler Education program?*

I've enjoyed sharing my passion for fishing with a younger generation and watching their excitement when they catch their first fish. Youth I've taught in schools and at events have seen me years later and reminded me that I inspired them to fish. Some of them still have the fly I helped them tie; others have told me of their fishing experiences since our classes.

*What have been some of the biggest challenges teaching youth about fish and fishing?*

Many of today's youth are very attached to their electronic devices and spend the vast majority of their time indoors; they have little experience with outdoor activities and manual activities, such as tying knots or flies, casting, or fishing. I seek ways to make the lessons so interesting that the students will be intrigued and enthusiastic to learn.

*Do you have a favorite topic to teach during an Angler Education program?*

I've learned a lot about fish anatomy through the Angler Education program and enjoy sharing that with youth. I also enjoy field trips when the youth release fish they've raised from eggs in the "Egg to Fry" program or apply their classroom instructions to an actual fishing experience.

*What do you do in your free time?*

I enjoy tying flies; some are my own creative designs -- whatever colors or features inspire me at the moment. Some of those designs catch more fish than the standard designs.

*What is your favorite snack when you are fishing?*

I enjoy Granny Smith apples and my wife's oatmeal chocolate chip cookies.

*Any fishing "nicknames"?*

None

*Since 2007 Mike has volunteered over 2,000 hours for the AAE and STEP. The most volunteer hours in the programs history.*

**Thank you Mike!**
ODFW Family Fishing Events: A great place to volunteer!

THE FUTURE—

The emphasis of ODFW Family Fishing Events (FFE) is about getting the youth fishing, but with a secondary emphasis on giving the “caregiver” present the essential skills that would allow the participants to be able to go angling on their own, after the event.

Some of the essential skills include, but are not limited to:

* Knot Tying
* Fish ID
* Casting practice

Family Fishing Events strives to overcome the drawbacks of the “one-hit wonder” type of fishing derby (commonly believed to be ineffective at recruiting new anglers) by offering multiple events throughout the spring and summer that provide families with an angling experience. The multiple “touches” provided by these FFE, in addition to Free Fishing Weekend events and outreach materials such as Easy Angling Oregon, which are designed to show families how easy it is to have an outdoors experience.

A continued effort on registering participants who come to the ODFW booth is in place. These contacts are essential to understand the program’s effectiveness and ensuring the events can take place in the future.

The Angler Education Instructors serve a valuable role in providing education and assistance at these events. Look at the Calendar of Events (included with this newsletter) for the location closest to you!!!
Phase 2: Six More Angler Education Trailers are ready to hit the road!

Based on the success of the first phase of trailers funding was secured in the summer of 2012 to develop 6 more education trailers. Freshly skinned and being stocked, these trailers will be ready for use by March 2013.

Housed at region offices and managed by regional Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) biologist (see map below), each trailer is outfitted to support the ODFW Family Fishing Events with the necessary components to conduct a number of successful events. Also included in the trailers are aquatic sampling equipment, waders and materials for different angling education stations.

The trailers will be used by both the Angling and Aquatic Education (AAE) and STEP programs. Besides decentralizing supplies, saving on shipping, the trailers will give our AAE/STEP public programs a unified professional appearance, giving our public fishing events a unified look and increased opportunities to share the joy of angling with participants of all ages.

The AAE program will re-stock the consumable materials as needed.

The Trailers are housed at the following regional offices:

- Bend
- Clackamas
- Corvallis
- Central Point
- La Grande
- Roseburg
- Tillamook
- New for 2013
- Springfield
- Newport
- Coos Bay
- Gold Beach
- Lakeview
- John Day

Included in the trailer:
- Knot tying kit
- Fish ID flash cards
- Back Yard Bass
- Water safety kit (includes throw rope & 3 different types of life jackets)
- River of Knowledge
- Stuffed anatomical fish
- Tackle box with terminal tackle and bait for 6 events
- Fishing rods (60)
- Aquatic Ecology Education Kit
- Waders
- Event signs
- Volunteer Vests
- Table /Chairs/Canopy

This project was funded with grants from the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation and the ODFW Restoration and Enhancement program.
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We get a number of requests for assistance through the summer. These are great opportunities to volunteer reaching both youth and families. These opportunities are normally posted on the AAE list serve, but here are a few that have been locked in early in the year.

The Audubon Society of Portland – Fishing Event and Camp Schedule 2013

June 1 – Explorador Family Day
Location: Hagg Lake Times: 10:00am – 2:30pm Ages: 0-99

This is scheduled as a family day with our grant-funded Explorador Program partner, Bienestar. We would like to provide a family day for these communities during which they can fish and get some fishing education. We will be providing some activities and a BBQ lunch. Last year we were able to fish with the kids but wonder if we can get some ODFW volunteers, so that unlicensed adults can try out fishing and get info about getting fishing licenses. English will be the second language for all people from the community and many parents do not speak English. We would love to utilize your educators and possibly your trailer for this program! We are expecting 30-40 people.

June 24 – 28 – Audubon’s Fish and Feast Summer Camp
Locations: TBA (possibilities include Rainbow Lake, Rainbow Trout Farm, Promontory Park, Mt Hood Pond) Times: 10:00am – 2:30pm Ages: 4th and 5th grade Instructor: Andrea Constance

I would love to have 1-3 Angler Ed Volunteers for the 24th and 25th and maybe even the 26th to join us with equipment and expertise at some of the above locations (I am also open to other local suggestions!) Last year on of the educators came and taught kids how to tie flies, which was awesome and a big hit! We should have 24 kids and 5-6 program staff.

July 29 – Aug 2 – Audubon’s Rod, Reel and Sea Summer Camp
Locations: TBA Times: 10:00am – 2:30pm
Ages: 6th – 8th grade

This camp could definitely benefit from an Angler Educator on the July 29th and 30th. Details for this one are in the works. There should be about 20 kids and 5-6 staff.

Contact for the Audubon Camp Program:
Andrea Constance - Cell: 303-726-1796—Work: 971-222-6127

Camp Angelos Fishing Camp July 7-12, 2013

The Camp Angelos Youth Fish Camp is an overnight camp designed for boys and girls age 9-14.

Stocked trout ponds, hiking trails, campfire areas, playing fields, archery range and private Sandy River access for fly fishing classes make Camp Angelos the perfect setting.

Contact Rod Brobeck, 503-819-1561 for information on volunteering.
VOLUNTEER AWARDS & CONTRIBUTIONS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>BRONZE AWARD</th>
<th>75 HOURS</th>
<th>BRONZE AWARD (CONTINUED)</th>
<th>SILVER AWARD</th>
<th>250 HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Andrew</td>
<td>78 hours</td>
<td>Butch Minich</td>
<td>103 hours</td>
<td>Bob Griffin 254 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Devin</td>
<td>85 hours</td>
<td>Ronald Portinga</td>
<td>133 hours</td>
<td>Brian Hudson 314 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Fowler</td>
<td>103 hours</td>
<td>Walter Roberts</td>
<td>85 hours</td>
<td>Robby Fult 260 hours</td>
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<td>Harry Gattey</td>
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<td>Don Sarver</td>
<td>178 hours</td>
<td>Henry Nussbaum 305 hours</td>
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<td>William Kelley</td>
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<td>Don Lyke</td>
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<td>Victoria Wilhite</td>
<td>96 hours</td>
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</table>

GOLD AWARDS 500 HOURS
- Thomas Cronin 598 hours
- Chris Foster 527 hours

PLATINUM AWARD 1000+ HOURS
- Jeff Wood 1204 hours

Total Events/Classes 116
Total Participants 25,031
Total Volunteers 792
Total Volunteer Hours 9,957

In all, 9,957 volunteer hours valued at $345,507.90 were logged on behalf of the Aquatic and Angler Education Program between October 1, 2011 and September 30, 2012. Thanks to every one of you who help make this program possible!

ODFW UPDATES

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is moving its headquarters

ODFW's headquarters is moving in the Summer of 2013. The new address will be: 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem, Oregon 97302. This is near the Kuebler exit off Interstate 5 in south Salem. All telephone numbers for headquarters offices will remain the same.

FREE FISHING WEEKEND has been moved to the first full weekend in June so it aligns with Oregon State Parks Day, National Fishing and Boating Week and National Trails Day.

2013 Free Fishing Weekend: June 1 & 2