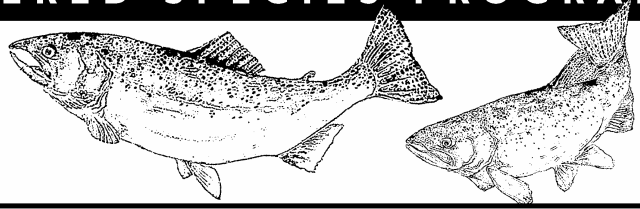


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August 2008

Program Update

A lot has happened since our last newsletter in January of this year. In April, the Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution detailing the salmon recovery actions that have been taken to date and directing county departments under their control to implement the actions listed in the Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery Plan and the Water Resource Inventory Area Plan. This resolution, along with the plan actions may be viewed at the ESA Program Web site, www.saveoursalmon.com. Implementation of both plans is underway.

Training of volunteers who will help farmers design Agricultural Habitat Protection Plans under the county's Habitat Conservation Ordinance has been completed. Fourteen Ag-Techs have now been certified through the program and several plans have been developed. If you are interested in protecting habitat on your farm, while still conducting agricultural practices, please contact the Clark Conservation District at (360) 883-1987 for more information.

In other areas, education and outreach efforts were centered on the Sammy Awards and the Clark County Fair. Both are featured in articles elsewhere in this newsletter. The Regional Road Maintenance program has been submitted for re-certification by the National Marine Fisheries Service as compliant with the federal Endangered Species Act. And finally, the program is working to make off-site mitigation an effective and meaningful alternative when unavoidable impacts to fish habitat result from development activities. While still requiring avoidance and minimization of impacts at the development site, additional offsite restoration projects will concentrate mitigation efforts in areas that are likely to do the most good for fish.

With the development of the next two year budget underway, and recognizing the belt-tightening necessitated by the slowed economy, the future holds many questions for salmon recovery and the ESA Program. However, we will continue to work

on the positive outcomes for salmon that are necessary for their recovery within these constraints. We look forward to a productive fall and winter.

Joel Rupley, ESA Program Coordinator

Salmonpeople Presentation

The ESA Program has agreed to co-sponsor a presentation by The Salmon Creek Watershed Council called *Salmonpeople*. Here's what the event organizers have to say about the performance:

"Playwright-performer, Peter Donaldson, brings his stunning, hilarious one-man show, *Salmonpeople*, to Clark County appearing at the Skyview High School Auditorium for two performances, October 10 and 11 at 7:30 p.m. *Salmonpeople* is an exquisite theatrical experience and a masterfully woven work of art. Funny, poignant and razor sharp, it's like going out to dinner with Robin Williams, Garrison Keillor and Johnny Appleseed, everybody laughing, telling stories, and talking with their mouths full.



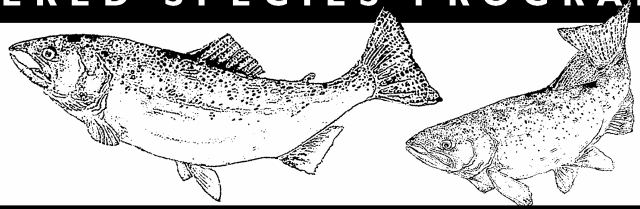
Known as the Bioregional Bard of Salmon nation, Peter Donaldson has performed *Salmonpeople* 31 times in 19 cities before 4,435 citizens, from Victoria to the Oregon coast. Every time *Salmonpeople* is received with a spontaneous standing ovation. The *Salmonpeople* story is so sly it might not even be about salmon."

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for those under 18 or over 65. Get more information and purchase tickets by going to the Salmon Creek Watershed Council's Web site:

www.salmoncreekwatershed.org.

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Sustainability

Clark County is committed to the practice and pursuit of sustainability. In October of 2007 the Clark County Commissioners adopted a Sustainability Policy that states "Clark County is committed to fostering a safe, secure future that conserves natural resources while meeting basic human needs, including clean water, air, and food along with shelter, education and employment." Some of the goals of this policy are to 'lead by example' and to 'encourage innovation in both public and private pursuits'.



Examples of the County's commitment to this policy and its goals are easy to find.

- In June, Pete DuBois, a long-time employee of the Clark County Public Works Department, was named the Sustainability Coordinator for the county. In this new job, DuBois will help implement county efforts to recycle, conserve energy, and reduce the environmental impacts of county programs.
- Current county initiatives include investing \$2.4 million in solar electricity and water heating systems, creating urban gardens, providing incentives for employee commute trip reduction and offering new opportunities for recycling in county parks.
- County Administrator Bill Barron has also established a Sustainability Advisory Committee to help all county departments support sustainability objectives.

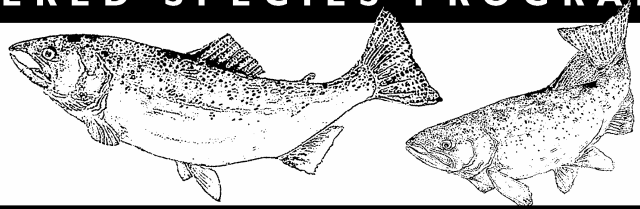
In addition to these efforts, several booths at this year's County Fair were conglomerated under the theme of 'Proud Past, Sustainable Future'. When visiting the different booths it was clear that there are many interconnections between programs and departments within the county and with other organizations such as the Clark Conservation District, Washington State Extension Watershed Stewards Program and Clark Public Utilities. By working together and sharing scarce and vital resources, the goals of sustainability will be easier to achieve and the accomplishments more long lasting.

In addition, for the past two years the county has partnered with the City of Vancouver to help raise awareness of sustainability in the community by hosting a "SW Washington Sustainability Conference and Tradeshow". This year's two-day event was a great success, with over thirty sponsors and even more exhibitors. The event drew over 280 registered participants. Approximately 670 people attended Robert Kennedy Jr.'s keynote address.

The conference and workshop focused on three main areas of Sustainability: Climate, Commerce and Community. The event was designed to challenge and inspire participants to reach for higher levels of ethical stewardship and ecological, economic and social success. The event provided thought-provoking nationally recognized speakers from across the country. The conference and workshop were designed to engage the public in learning and make their business and personal practices more sustainable.

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Routine Road Maintenance

For the past four and a half years Clark County's Routine Road Maintenance Program has been recognized by the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration (NOAA) Fisheries as being compliant with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This means when Clark County road crews perform their duties, their activities do not harm salmon, steelhead or the habitat they require. These fish are listed as threatened under the ESA and therefore have special protections provided to them. The effectiveness and success of this program hinges on the repeated use of Routine Road Maintenance Best Management Practices (BMP's) that have been reviewed and identified as not causing harm to listed fish or their habitat.



NOAA Fisheries originally granted recognition for Clark County's Routine Road Maintenance Program for five years. That coverage ends later this year. In an effort to maintain this important legal protection and operational assurance, the County has submitted an application for renewal for its program to NOAA Fisheries. Although we have not received a final decision yet, all indications from the agency are that they have been impressed with the previous program and appear to be willing to continue their ESA recognition and the legal protection that goes with it.

The revised program detailed in the renewal application is different than the original program because it covers more species than just listed salmon and steelhead. It covers species of concern that live on land as well as the fish that live in our local streams and rivers.

When our road crews conduct their necessary routine road maintenance activities, they come into contact with the habitat that these fish and wildlife species rely on. Properly applying the pre-approved set of BMP's provides the fish and wildlife species the protection they need while allowing the crews to do the work that keeps our roads and other facilities safe for the citizens of the county and anyone else who uses them. This program, in its original and now updated form is a great example of how local governments can work hand-in-hand with federal regulatory agencies to craft a win-win solution to a very difficult and complicated set of natural resource management concerns.

Big fun at the fair

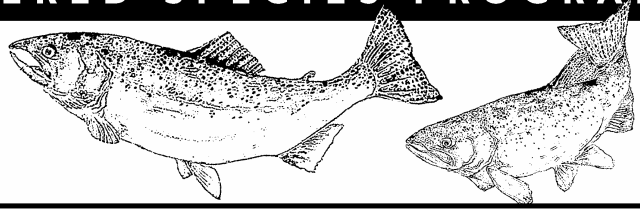
This year the ESA Program joined forces with several other county departments and agencies to create a "one-stop" shopping area for environmental and sustainability information. The *Proud Past, Sustainable Future* booths include our partners: Clark County Weed Management, Community Planning, and Public Works as well as WSU Extension Watershed Stewards, Clark Conservation District, and Clark Public Utilities.



A young fair-goer plays *The River Starts with You* game.

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Fair goers picked up free information on native planting, rain barrel classes, farm plans, and salmon recovery efforts. One popular item was the new weed control DVD that gives step-by-step instructions on controlling noxious weeds. Proving that shopping can be fashionable, the ESA reusable shopping bags with a Chinook salmon printed on them were all the rage. Kids stopping by the booths had opportunities to create crafts, play games, and win prizes.

The *Proud Past, Sustainable Future* booths combined environment, education, and fun!

2008 Sammy Awards

The 2008 Clark County Sammy Awards took place May 15 at the Vancouver Water Resource Education Center. Joining the Clark County commissioners in presenting awards were honorary guests and former Sammy recipients Rebecca Biddle Wood Hardesty and Mary Christina Wood. Rebecca and Mary are identical twins and come from a long line of conservationists. Their keynote address entitled *Saved by the Salmon* calls everyone to action in the recovery of native salmon. As Rebecca said, "We suggest that in saving the salmon, we experience the salmon also saving us by presenting a migration route back to a more meaningful life."



Sammy keynote speakers, Rebecca B.W. Hardesty and Mary Christina Wood

This year there were six Sammy Award recipients and three Certificate of Merit winners. And the winners are:

Dave Brown

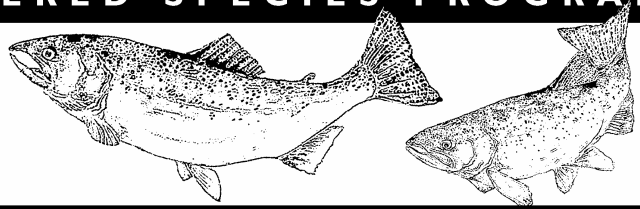
Overheated or dry streambeds are deadly conditions for salmon. Fortunately Clark County fish can rely on Dave Brown's Wild Fish Rescue Program. When listed species of native salmon are stranded in drying creeks during the summer months, Dave Brown, with the help of volunteers, gathers the juvenile fish and brings them to his property where they are reared until the streams are full of water again. Dave's property along Mill Creek is kind of like a spa for the salmon. Beginning with his own money and later receiving grants from Fish First, Clark Skamania Flyfishers and the Native Fish Society, Dave built several pens to hold and rear the salmon he rescues. He may don a cap and rubber boots instead of a cape and mask, but Dave Brown's fish rescue program has made him a superhero for Clark County salmon.

Dean Creek Culvert Replacement Project

For many years, vital spawning access for salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout was blocked on Dean Creek at 66th Avenue near Battle Ground. The fish were met with a six-foot pipe that poured stream water into a deep, creek dug pool. When it came time to replace the culvert and road the surrounding neighbors decided to do something to resolve this barrier issue. Project originator, Terry Miller, began coordinating with the many neighbors who utilize 66th Avenue as the sole access to their property. Terry and project managers Kier Gombart, Josh Soske, Jeff Miller and Albert McClure received guidance from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist Donna Bighouse regarding relocating the fish to other streams prior to construction of the culvert. Clark Conservation District sponsored and managed all aspects of the project. In addition to sharing in the financial burden, local land

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owners volunteered hundreds of hours of time coordinating the road closure, emergency road access during the closure, relocating fish, and negotiating with neighbors to see the project to fruition. The Dean Creek Culvert Replacement Project exemplifies how neighborhood coordination and watershed stewardship can have positive impacts for salmon.

Michael Hutchins

Michael Hutchins has a strong desire to help restore the habitat for native Northwest salmon. Combining his love of construction with his Watershed Steward training Michael has provided over two thousand volunteer hours with the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group working on salmon restoration projects. This volunteer time accounts for \$28,000 of in-kind donations toward grant-funded salmon restoration projects. Michael has worked on 13 restoration projects including construction of in-stream structures for the Washougal River. Michael is also pursuing an accredited River Restoration Certificate through Portland State University and attending classes through River Restoration Northwest. Salmon in Clark County are lucky to have an advocate like Michael Hutchins on their side.

John Karpinski

As a kid growing up near Chicago, John Karpinski's childhood memories include polluted rivers that caught fire and air quality so poor it produced orange snow. These memories are what compelled him to do something about the environment. After moving west and witnessing a more pristine environment, John Karpinski was inspired to work hard to keep it that way. Using his skills as an attorney John has donated countless hours of pro bono work for environmental and salmon protection projects. His efforts include working on critical area ordinances for Clark County and the City of Vancouver, helping to establish "Best Available Science" as a substantive requirement of the state Growth Management Act, and working with many entities on the Woods Landing project protecting vital chum salmon spawning ground along the Columbia River. John Karpinski's persistence and

dedication to environmental protection in Clark County is good news for the Northwest's iconic salmon.

Edward Wickersham

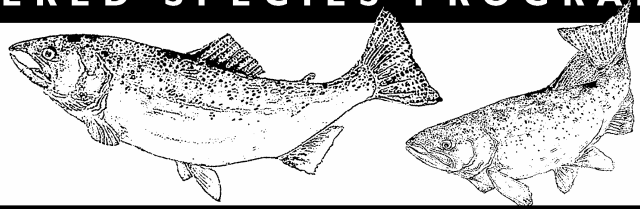
An avid angler, Ed Wickersham understands the importance of nutrient enhancement. Ed spearheads the nutrient enhancement project for the Clark-Skamania Flyfishers. He negotiates with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to obtain salmon carcasses for the project and petitions the Clark-Skamania Flyfishers Board of Directors to support the activity. Ed recruits volunteers and then organizes outings with the Clark-Skamania Flyfishers to place the carcasses in the streams. Ed's passion for fish is evident in the hard work and many volunteer hours he puts into the nutrient enhancement project. In an effort to bring native salmon home again Ed gives nature a helping hand.



Sammy Award Winner: Ed Wickersham

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York Elementary

Fifth grade teachers at York Elementary Stephanie Land, Amanda Pemberton, and Todd Graves understand the importance of hands-on education. In addition to running the salmon in the classroom program, Land, Pemberton, and Graves have students monitor water quality indicators monthly in three Clark County streams to determine which one meet criteria for the best salmon habitat. They also have the students participate in the Watershed Steward's "Dump No Waste, Drains to Stream" stenciling project. Land, Pemberton, and Graves take over eighty 5th grade students to a nearby neighborhood where they stencil storm drains to educate citizens of the hazards that pollution can pose to salmon. This hands-on approach can make a big impact on students. As one student commented, "This is something I'll remember for the rest of my life." The fifth grade teachers at York Elementary are an excellent example of community action for the protection of salmon and watersheds through education and service.

Those receiving Certificate of Merit Awards were:

- *Discovery Middle School Student Leadership Class led by April Whipple* for their efforts in launching the composting and recycling programs at the school;
- *Valerie Alexander* for her participation with various environmental organizations and her contributions serving on numerous ordinance committees; and
- *The Vancouver Hilton Hotel* for being the first LEED certified Hilton in the world and conducting a salmon and environmentally-friendly business.

You can watch videos of the winners by going to our Web site: www.saveoursalmon.com and clicking on the Sammy's icon. Congratulations to all this year's recipients!

Calendar Highlights

Here's what's happening:

Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

For meeting information, contact the LCFRB at (360) 425-1555 or visit www.LCFRB.gen.wa.us

2008 Community Share Fair

Clark Public Utilities, 8600 NE 117th Avenue
For more information contact Clark County Solid Waste Program, (360) 397-6118, 4352

Living on the Land: Stewardship for Small Acreages, WSU Clark County Extension

September 3 to November 19
Free 12-week class to help rural acreage landowners manage their properties;
Contact: Erin Harwood (360) 397-6060, ext. 7720

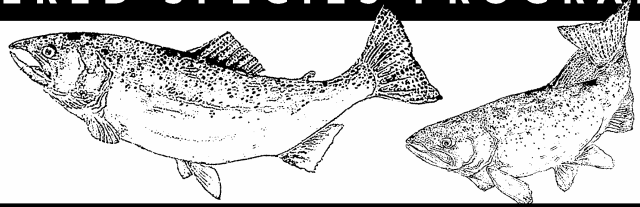
Or visit: <http://clark.wsu.edu/calendar/index.asp>



Todd Graves, Amanda Pemberton and Stephanie Land accept their Sammy Award

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Watershed Stewards Training- Watershed Stewards; 6:30-9, Wednesdays
September 10 to November 12
Learn to maintain healthy watersheds for your community, fish and wildlife and future generations;
Contact: Jen Naas, (360) 397-6060, 7703 or visit:
<http://clark.wsu.edu/volunteer/ws/training.html>

Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center
Walk-A Mile, Build-A Trail, September 13, 9:00-1:00; Education Tour, September 27, 9:00-1:00
Contact: (360) 882-0936 or visit:
<http://www.columbiasprings.org/events.html>

Education Tour, Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center
Saturday, September 27, 9-1
Contact: Gala Miller at (360) 882-0936

Clark Public Utilities Stream Team
Stream Steward Training
Saturdays, 8:30-3:30, September 30-November 8
For application visit:
<http://www.clarkpublicutilities.com/ourenvironment>

For a list of other *Stream Team* events visit:
<http://www.clarkpublicutilities.com/ourenvironment/streamTeam/calendar>
Or call: (360) 992-8585

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events
Saturday, October 11, 9-1; Clark County Public Works, 4700 NE 78th Street
Saturday, November 15, 9-1; Clark College, 1900 Ft. Vancouver Way
To see a list of accepted items visit:
<http://www.clark.wa.gov/recycle/waste/index.html>

NatureScaping of Southwest Washington
Garden Work Parties: Every Wednesday and Saturday—Contact: (360) 737-1160 or visit:
<http://www.naturescaping.org>

Salmonpeople

Peter Donaldson, brings his stunning, hilarious one-man show, *Salmonpeople*, to Clark County October 10-11, 7:30 p.m., Skyview High School
Tickets: adult-\$15; under 18/over 65-\$10
Brown Paper tickets available at:
www.salmoncreekwatershed.org

America Recycles/Fix-It Fair event

Saturday, November 15, Clark College
Contact: Sally Fisher, Clark County Solid Waste (360) 397-6118, ext. 4939 or
sally.fisher@clark.wa.gov

From the Quote Box

America is a great story,
and there is a river on every page of it.
Charles Kuralt - From The Magic of Rivers

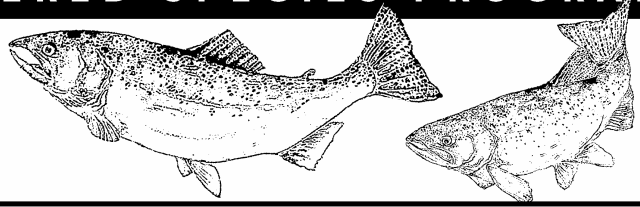


FOR ALTERNATIVE FORMATS
Clark County ADA Office V (360) 397-2322;
TTY (360) 397-2445; ADA@Clark.wa.gov

CLARK COUNTY ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM

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Clark County ESA Program
PO Box 5000
Vancouver, WA 98666-5000