

# COLVILLE TRIBES FISH & WILDLIFE NEWS



## RUFUS WOODS FISHING DERBY A SUCCESS

The first annual Trippin' With the Triploids fishing derby that took place on Saturday, May 12, 2012 on Rufus Woods Lake Reservoir was a successful event with approximately 250 derby participants and over a dozen sponsors.

In the adult division, the first place award went to Gary Erickson who also won the heaviest limit category and went home with a Scotty Electric Downrigger, fishing pole and \$400 in cash. There were a total of 18 prizes awarded in the adult category. For the youth division, Conner Jenkins took first place and all 10 youth entrants took home a prize. A random drawing was held for derby participants with another 76 prizes given away in all. Contestants received a T-shirt and enjoyed a barbecue at the awards ceremony which was held at the Corps of Engineers Willow Flats Recreation area near Bridgeport, Washington.

"The event received a lot of local community support," said Nancine Lorz, derby coordinator. "This derby is our way of saying, 'See what we've got here? Isn't it beautiful? Aren't you glad you fished here? Now come on back with your friends and families for an outstanding time!'"

Major sponsors of this year's event were Grizzly's Bait and Tackle, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, US Army Corps of Engineers, Bridgeport State

Park, Bob Feil Boats & Motors, Pepsi, PCL Construction, Port of Douglas County, Pacific Seafood and Chief Joseph Fish Farm.

"When folks from the Tribe, Grizzly's & Nell's, the State Park, and the Corps partnered up for this event, our goal was to get people to visit Rufus Woods Lake for its outstanding recreational opportunities," said AJ Jensen, derby coordinator. "Many anglers who had never heard of Rufus before the tournament, found themselves catching their biggest fish ever. It is truly rewarding to see. We welcome everyone year-round, not just at derby time."

The net proceeds raised from the event will go to buy more fish to stock Rufus Woods Lake. The Derby Committee would like to thank all the sponsors for their support. Next year's event has been scheduled for May 18, 2013.



### SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PROJECT PARTNERS



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*Fish ladder and broodstock "fish elevator" is nearing completion.*

## HATCHERY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

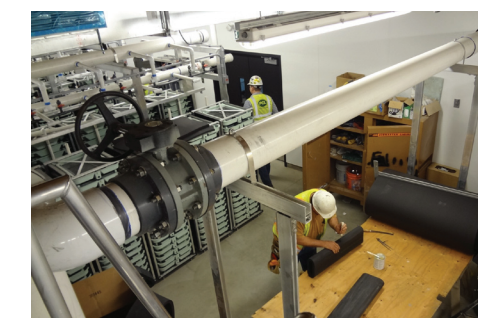
Recent work at the main hatchery site has focused on finishing the piping, electrical, controls and process equipment in the hatchery building and headbox. Work on the fish ladder is complete and the coffer dam structure that was required to do the in-water construction has been removed. Work continues on the water supply systems from the wellfield at the state park and from Rufus Woods Reservoir.

Inside the hatchery building, the northwest quarter of the building is devoted to the fish culture processes. Fertilized eggs are brought up from the broodstock/spawning facilities that are adjacent to the fish ladder. Here the eggs are incubated for approximately 120 days with water from the wellfield in one of the 1,152 trays. As the newly hatched fish emerge from the incubation trays, they are moved into tanks prior to being transported to the raceways.

Construction of the fish ladder has been difficult due to challenging soil conditions but even more so from above normal precipitation in the drainage basin. River elevations have fluctuated as much as 8-10 feet in a short time as the Corps and other agencies balance the operation of the dams for flood control, power generation and fish needs. Even under these conditions the ladder, inlet structure and fish lift shaft are ready for completion of the water supply pipeline and adult holding raceways.

The major source of water for the raceways and ponds is the reservoir behind Chief Joseph Dam. The 36-inch pipeline that will receive this water through a screened intake is currently being placed on the downstream dam face. This pipeline connects to another section of steel pipe that is already in place, encased in concrete and running west along the right bank of the

river. This water will be the primary source for rearing salmon fry. As long as temperatures in the river remain low enough, disease pathogens will not be an issue and gravity will bring the water to the hatchery, thereby saving energy. During the summer construction season, we will see lots of activity finishing up the water supply connections, completing the main buildings and testing the major equipment and control systems.



*Inside main hatchery building, incubation area.*



## MEET THE DEPARTMENT'S NEWEST GRADUATES!



*Jim Andrews & Brian Stanger*

Colville tribal members Jim Andrews and Brian Stanger recently graduated with an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) Degree in Fisheries Technology from Mount Hood Community College, Gresham, Oregon.

Both graduates are participants in the Colville Tribes' Fish and Wildlife (CTFW) Salmon Culturist Program and spent the last two years completing a comprehensive course of study.

"Overall going to school was a good experience," said Jim Andrews, intern. "The first year was a lot of book work but the second year was more hands on working with fish. While I attended school; I came back each summer to work and this is my third summer working in the program. I've done creel work at Icicle, worked on the purse seine fishing boat and at Wells Dam and I enjoy it."

CTFW developed a Salmon Culturist Training Program to provide opportunities for Colville tribal members to gain work experience and earn a two-year degree in Fisheries Technology. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates may be placed in positions as fish culturists at the Chief Joseph Hatchery (CJH) or other hatcheries where positions may be available.

Jim and Brian are currently participating in a summer work program to further prepare

themselves for future roles as salmon culturists at CJH. They will soon be joining Lincoln Fedderson (Colville tribal member who graduated last year) in commissioning the new hatchery and putting it into production.

A fish culturist handles the collection, care, and maintenance of brood fish, fish eggs and all phases of fish rearing and distribution. And will monitor fish health, inventory live fish, manipulate feed and environmental conditions, to encourage optimum growth and development, and administer prescribed treatments. Fish culturists may also handle fin marking, PIT tagging and biological data collection and operate and maintain a variety of hatchery equipment.

"We're all proud of their hard work and sacrifice and wish them well in their new roles," said Mike Sanders, CTFW training and organizational development manager. For more information regarding this program, go to [www.mhcc.edu/Fisheries.aspx](http://www.mhcc.edu/Fisheries.aspx) or contact Mike at 509-389-3709.

## FIRST SALMON CEREMONY

The Colville Tribes Fish and Wildlife department hosted this year's First Salmon Ceremony in Omak, Wash. on Friday, June 15th. The celebration began at Omak Creek with a Sunrise gathering at 5:30 a.m. and lunch was served at the Omak Longhouse to approximately 150 people.

Tribal member John Sirois was the master of ceremonies. Tribal elders Mary Marchand and Randy Lewis began the afternoon session with a prayer and table song. Mary discussed the different ways tribal members celebrated the first salmon ceremony. "Here I am 85 years old and I hope we can bring back the ways we use to celebrate this ceremony," she said. "I remember my great grandmother and the dinners we had, the most meaningful one to me was in Malott. I'm hoping we can celebrate that one next year. There was an encampment, singers, and people told stories about welcoming the salmon."

Tribal elder Barbara Aripa discussed what she experienced as a young child at Kettle Falls and Celilo. Her father would bring back fish in big tubs for everyone to share. "I remember camping with my dad at Kettle

Falls when we celebrated the return of the salmon. Stickgame was always a part of it and women would sing along the shore, the younger women were not allowed near the river; that was the old way then."



Several chiefs from the Okanogan Nation Alliance (ONA) and tribal members from the Muckleshoot Tribe were also in attendance. "It is good to hear words from our elders, said Penticton Indian Band Chief Jonathan Kruger. "We've been collaborating with your

tribes' Fish and Wildlife for years because we haven't had salmon and we are finally getting salmon. We are losing techniques such as gaffing, we're having some challenges and everything that was said at the Creek today is exactly what's been happening at home," said Kruger. "We're not so different, it makes me feel good to be here honoring the salmon and see all the young ones here."

Tribal elder Spencer Martin sung a salmon ceremony song earlier that morning and spoke about the creation story and how we should be grateful for the salmon and teach our young people that it was the staple of our diet. "We need to be thankful for the salmon, we're getting to that place where we are losing our culture," he said. "We have to come to an understanding of who we are. I want to thank all of you for sharing this day with us."

Chaz Williams, Spencer Martin, Mary Marchand, Randy Lewis, Barbara Aripa and Tom Louie were honored at this year's celebration for their support as they continue to share their knowledge with the community.



## TRIBAL MEMBER HONORED AFTER MANY YEARS OF SERVICE

Colville tribal member, Dale Clark, has officially retired after working for the Colville Tribes' for 19 years. A dessert social was held in his honor on Wednesday, May 30, 2012 at the Omak Longhouse.

"It has been a pleasure working with Dale," said Joe Peone, Colville Tribes' Fish and Wildlife (CTFW) director. "We knew he was an avid salmon fisherman and a few years back we hired him as the harvest manager. It was an important position, testing different gears so that we could capture and keep these fish alive for broodstock. He's done a great job."

Clark has worked for the Colville Tribes' Fish and Wildlife Department since 2008. He also worked for Social Services, Planning, Child and Family Services, and Behavioral Health for the Colville Tribes' and served a term as a councilman.

"We are cousins and close friends," said Lionel Orr. "Dale has always been there for everyone, for friends and family, he's good like that. He's the one that got me out fishing and once I caught a big one, then that was it, I got hooked! He's a fishin' rat for sure."

"Well we've been buddies for years, told a lot of lies, went hunting together and always had a ball," said Raymond Quintasket. "Dale

## TRIBAL EMPLOYEES

John LaFountain, electrician for CEC, began working at CJH last May. He has over 12 years of experience in the field. As a lead electrician, he oversaw electrical work on the headbox which joins several water sources that will distribute water throughout the hatchery. LaFountain also worked with the crew on the raceways and installed cable throughout many of the hatchery buildings and worked extensively on the motor control centers and backup generators. "I enjoy this work and the challenges that go with it," said LaFountain. "Everyone works well together and we get things done." LaFountain was recruited right out of Lake Roosevelt High School on a football scholarship to play for Washington State University where he began taking his undergrad courses. From there his interests turned toward construction and becoming an electrician. In 2000, he attended the Northwest Washington Electrical Industry Joint Apprenticeship and Training

Program in Mt. Vernon, Wash. and earned his journeyman license. He was the first Colville tribal member to obtain his license from the program.

Christopher Wippel has over 10 years of experience in the electrical industry and is currently working as an electrician for CEC. He started working at the hatchery last June during Phase I of the project, wiring four houses that currently house hatchery staff. While working for CEC, Wippel went through an apprenticeship program in Mt. Vernon, Wash. "Once you go through the program and obtain your journeyman certification you have more responsibility on the job and you also earn more," he said. "I sure enjoy working on the job here and with this crew, they make it fun and we learn a lot from each other." For more information about this apprenticeship and training program, go to [nwejatc.org](http://nwejatc.org).

*Christopher Wippel & John LaFountain, Electricians*



sure enjoys life, but I've never gone fishing with him, I can't fish worth a darn so I didn't want to waste my time."

Friends and co-workers enjoyed stories and the many desserts as folks discussed how they enjoyed working with Clark. Mike Rayton, CTFW Selective Harvest biologist said, "I liked working with Dale; he was always the voice of reason when things seemed hectic. He kept everyone solid and on task."

"What was most enjoyable for me was sharing our salmon with other tribes and going up to Canada and fishing in the Osoyoos," said Clark. "But I'm not going to miss getting up at 2 a.m. to go fish on the boat. I enjoyed working with you all and all the guys on the boat, everyone has been super and I appreciate all of you. You know where to find me on a clear and sunny day."