

ELC releases second batch of salmon, trout

By Shelley Ball
Of The Print

Their home for the past six weeks has been half of a standard home oil tank, which was cut in two and filled with approximately 100 gallons of water.

That is, an oil tank was their home until recently. For they have since been freed, and they can now search for food on their own.

These newly-liberated creatures are a batch of Winter steelhead, and they represent the second series of fish the John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center (ELC) at Clackamas Community College has successfully incubated and released into the headwaters of Newell Creek this year.

Approximately 12,000 Winter steelhead were released into the creek, where they will feed during the summer. Just a month ago, the ELC released nearly 24,000 Coho salmon into the creek for the first time as well.

The steelhead will feed in the creek, 1,000 feet which runs through the ELC's property, and the center's pond until they are big enough to "migrate out on their own in bulk next fall," ELC Director Jerry Herrmann said. The fish are then expected to return to the ELC to spawn in three years.

Herrmann explained the ELC is raising the fish as part of the Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP). The ELC has been named a regional demonstration site by the Oregon Department of

Fish and Wildlife for the program, who also donated the fish eggs to the ELC for the project. Oregon is the only state to have a STEP at this time, Herrmann said.

STEP originated in Canada, and Herrmann said the ELC's original intent was to raise trout and other warm water fish instead of salmon. The fish and wildlife department asked the ELC to try and rear salmon in its small stream and pond, which surprised Herrmann. "It was a shock to me to find out small streams produce," he said.

"Our goal is to inject about 100,000 fish a year into Newell Creek," Herrmann added. With a one percent survival rate for this amount, 1,000 fish are expected to mature and add to Oregon's fish population. Oregon streams are currently producing less fish, due to the construction of freeways, roads and housing developments, Herrmann said.

He explained that in the case of housing developments, the vegetation shading nearby streams is often times cleared away. Eliminating this vegetation raises the temperature of the water, making it unsuitable for some fish to live in. It is for this reason Herrmann said the ELC will also "give attention to some of these small streams" by showing people how to better care for them on their regional demonstration site.

Ways the ELC is demonstrating urban stream enhancement include installing spawning beds, and rock and



SOON TO BE FREE—Jerry Herrmann, ELC director, dips a net full of fingerlings out of the oil barrel. The salmon and trout were reared into Newell Creek as a part of the Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP).
Photo by Duane Hiersche

log placements to create eddies. Herrmann stressed that "anyone can do" what the ELC is displaying for other urban streams. There is also a tax break involved in specific areas of stream development that might benefit community members.

Herrmann also said local boy scouts have been involved in installing the spawning beds, and eight boy scouts were promoted to eagle scouts

as a reward for their efforts. "It's a real community type involvement program," he said.

While the STEP is currently a success at the ELC, it is also constantly expanding. The whole program will be officially dedicated on June 23 and may be attended by Congressman Les Aucoin. Future STEP projects include the operation of a fish hatchery at the ELC and the installation of a first-ever urban stream fish ladder in the area of the old Maple Lane intersection.

The utilization of a fish hatchery will enable the ELC to raise fish to the smolt size, which is between four and six

inches, before they are released. Herrmann explained the fish were released when they had completed their incubation cycles, and therefore were not raised in an artificial facility for the remainder of their growth, like a regular hatchery does.

In regards to urban stream enhancement, Herrmann said community awareness is an important factor. "If people near the College only realized the importance of local streams; everything we do as a society affects the salmon. We're one of the few states to have resources at our back door," he said.

Cross Culture Study plans traveling college course in Spain

By Kathy Johnson
Of The Print

In 1982, Clackamas Community College became affiliated with the Cross-Cultural Study program, a program which offers traveling college courses in Spanish language and culture.

"Since this is a cross-cultural trip, the group will be comparing the way of living in every region they visit," Carlota Holley, College Spanish instructor said.

The entire trip will be spent in Spain, and the first three weeks will be in Seville, where the students will attend classes from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

From Seville, the group travels to Madrid. Students will receive instruction not only in the language but also in architecture, government, politics, economics, sociology and art.

Santander will be the group's next stop. There they will have lessons on the Spanish society and regions.


A trip to Santiago de Compostela is next on the

agenda for the group. Santiago de Compostela is the "spiritual" capital city of Spain. Here the group will visit the Cathedral of Santiago where the remains of the saints are buried.

Darren Linken, a second-year student, is the only one from the College who is involved in the trip.

To date, the Spanish Club called "Entre Amigos" has raised \$250 to help Linken.

"Two of the club's projects are to help a student study abroad, and to help Oregon and Costa Rica, the Partners of the Americas Committee on Community Education, with their projects," Holley explained.



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