

Safety tips to keep you afloat this boating season

Spring is here, and summer will be here before we know it and in the coming weeks more people will be pulling out their boats from winter storage in preparation for launch in the waters of this state.

Here are suggestions which can contribute to your safety and add to your boating pleasure.

- Know the legal requirements for your size vessel. Safety equipment must be accessible and in working condition.

- Wear your life jackets. Eighty-five percent of the boating fatalities could be avoided by wearing a personal floatation device. Remember: It can't save your life if you don't wear it.

• Have children and non-swimmers wear a personal floatation device. Each device should be of suitable size for the intended wearer and fit securely. Ninety percent of those who die in boating accidents drown.

- Be prepared and carry extra equipment such as a bailer (bucket), anchor, first-aid kit, visual distress signal, tool kit, flashlight with extra batteries, and a cell phone.
- Don't over load your boat. Follow the recommendations on the capacity plate of your

boat.

- Capsizing, sinking, and falling overboard account for 70 percent of boating fatalities.

- If your boat should capsize, your best chance for survival and rescue is to stay with the boat. Pull as much of your body out of the water as possible to preserve body warmth.

- Hypothermia can be a killer; keep your body dry and warm as possible.

- It is illegal to operate any boat while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Use the designated driver concept; a sober skipper is a must.

- Stressors such as exposure to sun, wind, cold water, vibra-

tion, noise and alcohol all affect your ability to react.

- Don't run out of fuel. Practice the 1/3 rule: 1/3 for trip, 1/3 for return and 1/3 for spare.

- Fuel vapors are heavier than air and collect in the bilge. Never fill gasoline cans in the boat.

- When anchoring, use a line that is several times longer than the depth of the water and never anchor by the stern.

- File a float plan. Let someone know where you're boating and when you'll be back.

- You're responsible for damage or injury caused by your wake. Exercise caution

around other boaters and docks.

- All persons operating a motor boat greater than 10 horsepower are required to carry a Boater Education Card.

The card shows that the operator has passed an approved boater education course or equivalency exam.

For more information on Boating in Oregon, people are encouraged to pick up the Oregon Boaters Handbook available at your county sheriff's office, or online at the Oregon State Marine Board website at www.boatoregon.com

— Lincoln County Sheriff's Office



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STEP group to discuss clamming history, techniques Wednesday

Clamming, one of the long-standing recreational activities on the Oregon coast, will be explored at the Wednesday, April 1, meeting of the Florence Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP).

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Elks' Lodge on 12th Street, and the public is invited to attend.

Mike Bones, a Florence native and retired state park

ranger, will share his knowledge and experience in all things clams at the meeting. Bones learned the fine art of clamming at his father's side while growing up in Florence. He will share his techniques, experiences and recipes for clams.

Bones will also be teaching a clamming course this spring at Lane Community College, with two sessions: May 19 and 20.

The popular class fills up quickly and students must register with LCC.

Oregon mud clams, also known as soft shell clams, originally came from the East coast. They allegedly were hand planted in the Siuslaw estuary in the late 1800s, having been dug up in Coos Bay, where they had taken root after hitching rides with ships that anchored in that area.

Using a small, straight shovel and a bucket, a day digging clams during low tides is a fun and almost always successful outing.

Prior to Bones' talk, the STEP group will hold a short business meeting. Information about the steelhead broodstock program at Whittaker Creek and at the club's hatchery will be shared.

There will also be updates on

the fish egg to fry aquarium program, which is underway in 23 area classrooms.

The status of the coho that the club is raising from egg to fry will also be shared. The fry are currently in the outside rearing pens at the hatchery.

For more information about STEP, come to a meeting or contact club president Ron Caputo at 541-997-4961.

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from 1B

he played well enough in the minors, he became an easy mark for the other players who knew how to toy with his delicate emotions.

His other nickname was "Fish," because he never knew when to walk away from the table.

He had a history of walking away from the team, however. He had quit his high-school teams, his Mexican-league and Class A teams. At AAA

Spokane, he was hitting a steady .318, but he was emotionally erratic, quitting the team after a failed steal attempt of home.

He was fined \$750.

He came back, but walked off two weeks later. For that, he was demoted to Class A San Jose. It was there that he said he lost his ego and concentrated on the game.

That September he made his rookie debut, the first Mariners prospect to make it to the show, and he played lights out. He hit safely, often multiple

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state in roping as well.

When not competing, the Geddes brothers are working to pay for their trip to state competition. They are available for yard work or assorted projects to earn money. They will also be hosting a soda can drive to help with the cost of gas, hotel and horse-stall fees for state.

For more information, or to help sponsor their trip to state, call 541-999-4957.

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