

# Annual 'Free Family Fishing Day' at Cleawox Lake today

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will host about 30 different Family Fishing events throughout the state from April to November, including an event on June 1 at Cleawox Lake in Honeyman State Park.

The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All family fishing events are free and open to all

ages; children 11-years old and younger do not need a fishing license. However, those age 12-17 will need a youth license, which can be purchased from any ODFW license agent or online via MyODFW.com for \$10.

Adult anglers will also need an Oregon fishing license. Licenses won't be issued at the event, so those who are required to have

one should obtain their license ahead of time.

ODFW and volunteers will also hand out rods, reels, tackle and bait to participants while supplies last. Pre-registration is not required and participants are welcome to bring their own fishing equipment if they prefer.

ODFW staff and volunteer instructors will be present to assist with everything from gearing up, casting, landing and cleaning fish.

"Family fishing events are wonderful ways for new or beginner anglers to get out and experience fishing," said Amanda Boyles, ODFW Angler Education Coordinator.

"Volunteers and staff are more than willing to help with all fishing-related questions and all

you need to bring with you is your li-cense [if you're 12 or older] and a smile on your face. Good luck, have fun and say 'thank you' to all the ODFW volunteers you see out there because they make these events possible," Boyles added.

Each Family Fishing pond will be regularly stocked with trout by ODFW. Anyone unable to

participate in these fishing events can explore many other fishing, hunting or wildlife viewing opportunities at ODFW's recreation website, including classes and workshops held for all ages, at MyODFW.com.

Information about the statewide free family fishing opportunities can be found at [www.myodfw.com/articles/take-family-fishing](http://www.myodfw.com/articles/take-family-fishing).

## BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU, ODFW WARN OF PHONY ONLINE FISHING, HUNTING LICENSE SCAMS

**PORTLAND** — For Oregon consumers looking to hunt or fish this season, be careful when purchasing licenses as Better Business Bureau Northwest Pacific has learned of an ongoing online scam pushing out phony licenses.

Oregon Department Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) contacted BBB NW+P to share that its employees have been made aware of at least two people who recently purchased items from the website [www.fishinglicense.org](http://www.fishinglicense.org) after searching online for an Oregon fishing license. BBB has also confirmed two Oregonians filed a complaint and Scam Tracker report against [fishinglicense.org](http://www.fishinglicense.org) just within the last month.

This is not the first time BBB has alerted consumers to this website, but concerning, the page is still up and running. ODFW and other state fish and wildlife agencies have been hearing about customers mistakenly buying items from this website since 2017.

"While it's not a widespread problem, it's unfortunate that even one person would be misled when trying to buy an Oregon fishing license," said Linda Lytle, ODFW License Services Manager. "This is not the first time we have heard about this and it isn't just happening in Oregon."

[Fishinglicense.org](http://www.fishinglicense.org), which claims to operate out of Coeur d'Alene, ID, has no office. The compa-

ny operates under the umbrella organization, "Orange Grove LLC", which claims to help consumers with a variety of services including travel planning, registrations and drivers' licenses

Within the last year, there have been 20 complaints regarding the company mostly related to false advertising and fraudulent sales. There have also been numerous negative reviews left on the company's BBB profile, which has garnered an F-rating. It appears representatives for [fishinglicense.org](http://www.fishinglicense.org) have been responding to some of the recent complaints, though BBB cannot confirm at this time whether any refunds have been issued.

BBB cautions consumers

not to use any websites associated with Orange Grove LLC, including [fishinglicense.org](http://www.fishinglicense.org) or [driverslicenseonline.org](http://www.driverslicenseonline.org). This issue has been brought to the attention of the Federal Trade Commission.

Oregon fishing or hunting licenses can be purchased via the ODFW landing page. Consumers can also purchase a license at one of the sale agents listed on the site. On the website, Oregonians will be guided to the proper licensing processes and procedures for fishing, crabbing, bird hunting and big-game hunting.

For consumers who have purchased a fake license somewhere else, head to the ODFW website for help. For hunters,

please note the deadline to apply for a valid license is June 1.

For ODFW, combating this issue is imperative to protect consumers from losing money and to prevent them from going out with improper licenses, which can lead to further problems.

"We would just like consumers to be aware of this issue and not get tricked into buying something when what they really want is an Oregon fishing, hunting or shellfish license," said Lytle.

BBB NW+P offers the following tips for consumers to protect themselves from online scams:

- Check a site's security settings. If the site is secure, its URL should

start with "https://", and include a lock icon on the purchase or shopping cart page

- Shop with a credit card. In case of a fraudulent transaction, a credit card provides additional protections; it's easier to dispute charges. Debit cards, prepaid cards or gift cards don't have the same protections as a credit card.

- Think before you click. Be especially cautious about email solicitations and online ads on social media sites that bring you to a website. Many sketchy retailers can easily "spoof" an existing website to appear legitimate, when really, it's a fake page all together.

### Fishing from 1B

The Siletz River is open year-round for steelhead and we have reports of the first few summer steelhead being caught. The summer steelhead fishery will pick up in May and peak in June and July.

Summer steelhead in the Siletz River offers a great warm weather steel-heading experience. Hatchery fish are released at Twin Bridges and Moonshine Park. Many anglers fish the upper "gorge" area for these hard-fighting fish.

Bobber fishing with jigs/bait, casting lures, and drift fishing are great techniques to catch a Siletz summer steelhead.

Fishing will improve in May and peaks mid-June through July/August and then continues to produce fish until the heavy rains come in the fall.

The 4.0-mile bridge

(aka Steel Bridge) in the Siletz gorge is open to motorized vehicles but is only open to public vehicles on the weekend.

Anglers can walk/bike in the road during the weekdays. If anglers do walk in, they can park at the one-mile gate and start from there.

Trout fishing will re-open on the Siletz next week on May 22, time to get the trout gear ready for the 2019 season.

#### SILTCOOS and TAHKENITCH LAKES: Warmwater species

Warmwater fishing has been improving on Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes. The recent warm weather is warming up the water and getting the warmwater fish more active. The spawning season is in full swing and many fish will be found in the shallows creating some good fishing opportunities.



COURTESY PHOTO

**Low tides next week and the first week of July will offer great opportunities for clam digging along the coast.**

## STEP to offer tips on razor clam digging

At the next meeting of the STEP (Salmon Trout Enhancement Program), local clam digging expert Bob Nopske will demonstrate his techniques for digging razor clams.

There are razor clam beds all along the Oregon coast, including Lane County beaches. The most famous beds are found in the Clatsop County beaches.

Noske grew up in Seaside, Ore., and he dug thousands of razor clams which he sold to local restaurants.

The secret to finding these clam beds are super low tides and the ability to spot and dig the clams before they can get away.

There are some good clamming tides June 3-7 and July 1-7.

The Florence STEP meeting is Wednesday, June 5, at 7 p.m. at the Florence Elks Club, located on 12th Street, just west of Hwy 101.

All Florence STEP meetings are open to the public.

### Little from 1B

High School in the 1970s, I used a variety of ways to select teams with the goal trying to make the process more humanistic. Children chosen last were developing low self esteem which, in turn, affected their school performance.

I veered from the schoolyard-pick method and used a variety of ways to form teams. When lining up and counting off by numbers, the more competitive members of the class would try to switch places to be with a similar number to stack a team.

I solved this by counting off with large numbers and randomly selecting numbers for the teams. I used

birthday months, odd and even days, number of siblings, etc. — anything to make sure the teams were randomly formed.

"Survivor" reminds of individualized team sports where individuals can earn awards while at the same time helping the team. Even though the team may not fare as well as expected, the individual athlete is capable of attaining personal goals. Siuslaw High School coach Chris Johnson emphasizes the track athletes in comparing them to their previous times and distances to motivate them. Watching his athletes compete and reminding them of their improvements is one way to keep them working hard. The three state champions

of the recent state track meet were rewarded with a medal for their individual performances while at the same time trying to elevate the team standings.

In team and individual team-oriented sports, each player is responsible for their own level of competency; individual athletes need only rely on themselves for their success. In order for team sports to be successful, all members need to be prepared. The best players on any team sport will not have success unless they have their teammates working hard also. LeBron James missed being selected to the NBA All-Star team for the first time after 11 straight years.

Why? He is still one of the best players (just ask

him.) But he did not have the supporting players he has had for the past 11 seasons. No matter how good you are or think you are, your teammates matter.

Publicly picking teams has been around since before I was in school. Some say it builds character and leadership in the team captains. Others feel the rejection and humiliation of being constantly chosen last has an impact on that person for years to come. Ultimately, in a perfect world, the children who are the weaker players would receive help from other players to be more successful — something to think of in sports and life.

### Sports from 1B

windows with paper for privacy. The students are

moved efficiently through five stations before being seen by the provider.

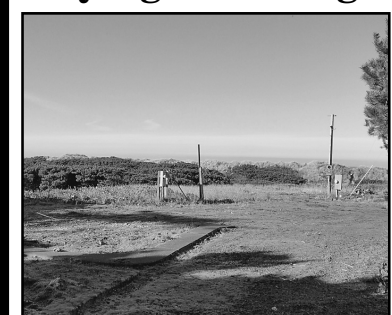
Sports physical forms are available at the local

schools and must be completed and signed by the student's parent and/or guardian to the exam.

For more information,

contact Missy Thomas at 541-902-6140 or [MeThomas@peacehealth.org](mailto:MeThomas@peacehealth.org).

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## Siuslaw News garage sale GUIDE

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**Multi-Family Garage Sale**  
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2301 16th Street  
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**Fri.-Sat. 5/31-6/1**  
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