

Between the Bookends

By Charlene Bechen
Volunteer, Banks Library

The annual meeting of the Friends of the Banks Library will be held Saturday, January 10, 1998, at 10:00 a.m. in the library. Election of officers will take place. The fund raising efforts of the Friends have made it possible for our community to have a library. Anyone who is interested in the workings of this group is welcome to attend.

The Friends have provided a large selection of new books for our shelves this month. They include John Berendt's *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, *Angel of Darkness* by Caleb Carr, *The Man Who Listens to Horses* by Monty Roberts, *Cat and Mouse* by James Patterson and two of Oprah's Book Club picks by Kaye Gibbons, *Ellen Foster* and *A Virtuous Woman*.

Thanks to the efforts of Ann Fulton, the Friends of the Library have received a grant from the Oregon Council of the Humanities to present four lectures beginning in early 1998.

Ike Says

By David M. Jones
Izaak Walton League, Nehalem Valley Chapter

Anglers in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest are facing a bleak future, but not as bleak as the future of our cold water-loving native species...the salmon and trout of our once pristine streams. The agencies on all levels of government that should be working to protect our fisheries are, all too often, subject to the "political realities" of our times, i.e., the pressures of a political system strongly biased by a legalized bribe system built into the election process with campaign money. Both parties are guilty of this process and hopefully there will be progress made in the future to right these wrongs in the government of one of the greatest countries on Earth.

The use of the initiative process by citizens is one of the few remaining methods of direct democracy left to the common man and there is a move to make that the resource of special or corporate interests in the future. I will have more on that at a later date. [Anyone who has pertinent information on this can contact me, care of The Independent]

It occurred to me as I walked around trying to find my glasses, that those of us who are concerned and want to do something about the problems facing our fish and fisheries, too often are walking around blind or at least sight impaired. This doesn't have to be the case. There is a way to work on the problems and present a unified front to often uncaring or politically correct agencies, and that is to join a conservation organization and work within it to improve habitat and our fisheries.

It is also possible to work with different agencies while not agreeing with all of their policies. For example, I have worked with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for years on different projects, but I opposed the introduction of largemouth bass into the Tenmile Lake system in Coos County, where I grew up. I also opposed the subsequent introduction of the hybrid bass into that system. It is notable that, following the introduction of largemouth bass into the Tenmile system, the numbers of native coho salmon declined from a high of 70,000 to below 10,000 and they have never gotten above 10,000 since that time. The decline occurred within a few years of the introduction of the non-native largemouth bass. During that low population period ODF&W also allowed harvest of coho within the Tenmile system and it was one of the last areas statewide where harvest was curtailed. The problem with this harvest mentality, that I think is brought on by this agency getting such a large part of their budget from license and tag sales, is that it makes it quite difficult for ODF&W to be a conservation organization and work to help our native species of fish.

Sometimes a species of fish is introduced illegally, then ODF&W rewards that introduction with legal status by opening seasons on the species. Many of these species are major predators like the smallmouth bass, largemouth

Sponsors include the Friends of the Library, Banks Area Merchants Association and several other community groups. Topics will include Steam Whistle Logging, an expanded history of the City of Banks and surrounding area, the history of the Japanese-American community, and the social history of quilting. Details of dates and times will be released soon.

Save your non-foil holiday gift wrap to include with other recyclables for Recycle Saturday, January 10. The recycling center is located at the SWATCO service yard, 15945 NW Sellers Road, just south of the Sunset Highway. The Friends are always looking for volunteers to help staff this monthly event. If you can donate an hour or two of your time once a month, or even once a year, please call Donna at 324-3404.

Banks Library 111 Market Street.
Hours: Tues. and Thurs., 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.;
Wed., Fri. and Sat. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Phone: (503) 324-1382

bass and walleye, and they take a heavy toll on our juvenile native salmon and trout. Instead of having legal seasons on these species, perhaps they need to be fished out, if that is possible. Further introductions of exotic and non-native species certainly need to be stopped in all waters that hold sea-run cutthroat trout, Pacific salmon and steelhead.

Here are some of fish conservation organizations you may be interested in joining:

The Izaak Walton League of America, Nehalem Valley Chapter, care of Ralph Bergeron treasurer, 54375 Timber Road, Vernonia, 97064. The dues are \$30 to become a "defender of soil, air, woods, waters and wildlife."

Oregon Trout, a non-profit organization with a mission to protect and restore native wild fish and their ecosystems, can be reached at 117 SW Naito Pkwy., Portland, 97204. Call for dues amount (503) 222-9091. After you join, I would encourage you to participate in the Riverkeeper program run by Steve Hinton. This is a program of citizen involvement in fish-positive projects throughout the state. Hinton has been working with our local watershed council, too.

Anyone familiar with Oregon Trout knows that Bill Bakke was a force in that organization. Now Bill has formed the Native Fish Society, P.O. Box 19570, Portland, 97280. (503) 977-0287. Dues are \$50; \$25 for students and seniors. In this new organization, Bakke is continuing the work he began at Oregon Trout.

Another fish-friendly organization is the Federation of Fly Fishers. The local chapter is the Oregon Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 40276, Eugene, 97404. The group's mission is to "improve fly fishing in Oregon by providing information to fly fishers to improve their skills, by preserving and expanding flyfishing opportunities and by improving fish habitats." Membership dues are \$29 per year for individuals, \$35 for families, \$22 for senior citizens.

Any other fishing, hunting, or conservation organizations that would like to be included in future articles may contact me through this newspaper.

Get involved and join a fishing organization...or look for your fishing to go down the tube.

Tip for this month: It is possible to use shrimp scent or other attractants on your K-16 Kwifish instead of a wrap of herring. On a recent trip on the Sixes River I hooked two nice chinook flatlining a K-16. Subsequent trips using a wrap did not produce a fish or a hook up. I'm going to tie up some Comets and shrimp patterns and try them on Southern Oregon chinook and steelhead. I recently read in one of Roderick Haig-Brown's books that he brought king salmon to a silver brown fly on a number of occasions. So we will see.....

Happy New Year to all of our readers and here's hoping there are salmonids in our future.

Izaak Walton League meetings are on the third Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
The public is welcome. For meeting location, call (503) 429-7193.

Letters to the Editor

Bond issue triggered by safety concerns

To the Editor:

The volunteers, the chief, and the board of Vernonia Rural Fire are asking the voters to approve, on the mail ballot of March 10, 1998, a bond measure of approximately \$320,000 to fund the purchase of a new fire engine, and remodeling another.

Our primary reason for this is safety. The leading cause of injury to volunteer firefighters is riding the "tailboard," the area at the back of the fire truck where they stand while riding to a fire. (Professional firefighters don't get hurt this way because they don't use tailboards. They're illegal and have been for at least a dozen years.) The proposed new engine, and a new chassis for our existing rescue vehicle, would both be crew cabs.

Support your volunteers! Vote for the bond issue!

Cordially,
Frazier Rohm
Vernonia

Breakfast fundraiser typifies community

To the Editor:

My wife and I celebrated the first day of winter by treating ourselves to breakfast at Leonetti's restaurant. Mr. and Mrs. Leonetti donated 100 percent of all the proceeds to help in the restoration of the Scout Cabin. Delicious pancakes and eggs were served in generous proportions from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The service was excellent, none of the customers had to make eye contact nor rattle their cup to attract their waitress' attention. The young ladies who served us were constantly filling our coffee cups, water or juice glass. We could not have received more, nor better, service had we gone to breakfast at one of Portland's finest hotels.

In addition to Mr. and Mrs. Leonetti, all of the following donated their resources, time and effort to make the breakfast a great success for a worth-while cause:

Shirlee Daughtry, Deborah Brown, Christie Brown, Synda Allen, Kortni Hyde, Malorie Baker, Megan Baker, Mary Kunkel, Katy Taylor, Katelyn McWhirter and Doreen Richards.

This was a classic example of people working together for a stake in the future.

This is Vernonia, did you really expect any thing less?

Respectfully,
Larry Doppke
Vernonia

Thanks for help with Christmas decor

To the Editor:

Vernonia Pride would like to thank Terry Schaumburg, Randy Anderson, Butch Scott and Jim Brunsman for getting

and putting up the lighted community Christmas tree. It is a beautiful tree.

Thanks to Mike Pihl for the space and the electricity

We would also like to thank Meyer's Tree Farm for the donation of the tree that was lighted at Shay Park.

People like all of you help make Vernonia the special place that it is.

Your contributions are appreciated.

Shirlee Daughtry
Vernonia Pride

Dislikes publicizing bad hunter behavior

To the Editor:

I've been a fan of sportsman's outdoor mags for years. Always anxiously awaiting next month's edition. Only to find out that none of the feature articles are on our species, or our area. So when our local little paper found room for local citizens to read about our own neck of the woods, I was elated. You see, I've been here for the better part of 25 years so I'm going to boldly step forward as a Vernowhere local.

We are all, as sportsmen, aware of the Hunters Rights Activists and the Animal Rights Activists. What a can of worms.

I won't name all of my favorite outdoor authors, but every single one has stressed that, as sportsmen, we should not do anything to add fuel to our opponents' already too brightly burning fires!

So, to get to the point, every time (almost) that I read our local sportsman's article I end up throwing it on the floor in disgust.

You see it's always full of fuel for Animal Rights Activists.

Enough is enough.

I'm talking about lecturing us fellow hunters about ethics, while in the same breath slinging buckets of gas on those brightly burning fires. To me, when someone prints things like everyone aim, on the count of three we'll all shoot, guaranteeing the boy fills his antelope tag so we can be proud of a three generation success! And just another trip to the woods for meat! And like 400 yard running head shots, and like Jerkowski families, and like blowin' off tails, legs, and like snot slingers, and compare themselves to our best outdoor writers. Come on clean it up.

So please, if you can't put out a more positive article, give it up. I'm ashamed when I think of outsiders reading these articles. I most certainly hope they don't think all Vernonians are this way.

Patrick McManus created Rancid Crabtree with class, however backwoods class none the same.

I find this like stacking cases of 50 caliber hollowpoints, handed to our enemies on a silver platter.

Robert Keller
Vernonia

More Letters on page 16