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Heartfelt Thank You to CCA Friendly Fishing Guides

I recently spent two days in Laguna Heights, Texas where 10 of the 12 CCA Executive Directors met for a workshop. We discussed a lot of topics like insurance claims, legal responsibilities, and chapter development to name a few. We also had a roundtable discussion on fundraising ideas. A lot of that discussion involved what works best for each state.

For example, there are chapters in the south that have crab races. Much like the jumbo screen boat races at a professional sporting event, people will buy a colored ticket that represents one of five crabs. They turn them loose in a man-made racing track with walls to keep the individual crabs from walking into another lane. Say the red crab wins. Everyone who purchased a red ticket gets put into a random drawing for a prize. It's a glorified lottery but with better odds. Get this. They raise about $4,000 on a single crab race. That's a meaningful amount of money. I'm not suggesting you'll start to see crab races at our banquets in Oregon, but I point this out to illustrate there are many ways to raise money. And while we all have our own unique ways to raise funds in our states, there was one common thread that every state relies on: licensed fishing guides donating fishing trips.

As of this writing over 30 fishing guides have donated trips to our 10 banquets in Oregon. The value of those trips is just shy of $30,000. As of this writing the number of people who benefitted from those

donated fishing trips at our auctions is 114. Think about that. Over 100 CCA Oregon members got to experience some of the best fishing in the state thanks to the guides who gave up a considerable chunk of their income for CCA. And our organization raised close to $25,000 on those donated trips alone.

At our Columbia County chapter banquet Megan Glass, the emcee, made a poignant plea during the event that was not lost on those in attendance. Megan is married to Brandon Glass, a third-generation fishing guide. In effect she said that without CCA Oregon fighting for the fish, her husband would not be able to earn a living at his chosen profession. A bold statement to be sure, but her point was made. And it is not a stretch to say that without CCA you and I would not have the opportunities to fish for salmon and steelhead in our state. That goes whether we're fishing with a guide or on our own.

The point is the guides who donate fishing trips help immensely in our mission. The money raised at our banquets is the single most important way for us to keep the lights on. By that I mean we maintain a staff, a full-time lobbyist and a Pacific Northwest Fisheries Director. The fundraising affords us the ability to run a highly efficient non-profit organization. It also allows us to spend money on meaningful habitat projects, promote hatcheries, recruit new members and continue with our outreach programs.

Not only is that something worth recognizing, but those who step up deserve our heartfelt thanks. So on behalf of our membership I want to thank any fishing guide who's ever donated a fishing trip to CCA. Your donation is not taken for granted, nor is it taken lightly.

Please do the same the next time you're at a banquet, or you run into a guide who donates to CCA. Because as William Arthur Ward once said, "Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."

Habitat Projects

In the last newsletter, our habitat restoration project on Joe Creek was just beginning to take shape. Now, after terrific planning and execution, it has come to fruition. Tillamook Bay Watershed Council Coordinator Mike Wendel spoke of the successful 0.4 mile project implementation and how the project will impact the area in the ensuing months and years.



Joe Creek Project

“This is definitely playing the long game, but it is something you can see the benefits of depending on the type of year we get right away. We will see impacts to the hydrology of the stream right away,” Wendel says. “This will affect not only the complexity of the stream channel, but also the amount of substrate coming down.”

The project ended up utilizing 12 wooden structures donated from Stimson Lumber. These pieces were added along a 0.4 mile stretch of the stream. Because of the relatively small area of the project and an exhaustive pre-staging process, the actual implementation took only three days. The project will increase gravel retention capacity in these areas of the stream by a large amount. Wendel also described the hopes for fish passing through this stretch.

“This is a great coldwater source for the Tillamook River, so we want the fish to be in there and to be looking for it. We hope to create a good spawning and rearing habitat. The most apparent effect that we will see soon will be the pool creation, scour and complexity change. We hope to see this impact by next Summer,” Wendel says. “It will no longer be a straight, meandering channel that floods totally out. It will have more soft spots and more backwater creating more refuge for the juvenile fish.”

CCA Oregon’s funds were combined with OWEB funds to pay for the overhead costs of the project. Leftover CCA Oregon funds will be used for project monitoring throughout the ensuing months. There is also hope that any additional funds will be used for future Tillamook Watershed Council Projects. One project being discussed involves Simmons Creek.

This project is one of many CCA Oregon has been involved in recently. Others include restoration projects on the East Fork of the Hood River, the Siletz River, and soon the North Clackamas Kellogg Creek. CCA Oregon is always looking for new habitat projects to be involved with.



From defending hatcheries, to addressing sea lion predation, to reforming unsustainable commercial harvest practices, CCA Oregon continues fighting for the conservation of our fisheries and recreational fishing opportunity. Get the latest updates in our latest "From the Trenches" report:

- SAFE funding restored – for now
- Sea Lion legislation advances in Congress
- Advocating for federal hatchery funding
- Record low for Columbia River steelhead, business as usual for gillnets
- CCA North Carolina secures big legal win

SAFE funding restored – for now. On September 4, Oregon Governor Tina Kotek announced that the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) had agreed to fully fund the SAFE hatchery program for the rest of the year, including broodstock collection this fall.

This is positive news and wouldn't have happened without the hundreds of CCA members and anglers that have emailed BPA Administrator Travis Kavulla, including those who did so following CCA Oregon's Bruce Polley's call to action on Outdoor GPS!

However, BPA's letter to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) claims that this will be the last year BPA will fund the program. We clearly have more work to do!

CCA will continue working to hold BPA accountable for its mitigation obligations, including the SAFE program. We are grateful to ODFW Director Debbie Colbert and her team, our partners, many of our federal and state elected officials, including Governor Kotek, and those of you who took the time to contact BPA.

Sea Lion legislation advances in Congress. On September 15, HR 9621, bipartisan pinniped predation legislation introduced by Washington U.S. Reps. Michael Baumgartner (R-Spokane) and Emily Randall (D-Bremerton), was approved by voice vote in the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 9621, the "Northwest Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act of 2026," builds on the existing federal authority available for states and tribes to remove sea lions in the Columbia River basin, which CCA helped pass in 2019. As passed by Committee, HR 9621, would:

● Expand removal authority to the entire Columbia River basin, including the lower river beginning at Rice Island, and add harbor seals.
● Make this same expanded removal authority available to WDFW and Washington treaty tribes in the Puget Sound and along Washington's coast.
● Provide additional flexibility for allowable lethal removal measures, hopefully helping to reduce current program costs.
● Mandate a report to quantify impacts of pinniped predation along the Oregon coast and in Oregon coastal rivers and direct the establishment of an Oregon Coast Committee to make recommendations to Congress on appropriate lethal removal measures along the Oregon coast.

The bill now heads to the full House of Representatives, which is on recess until after the November midterm elections. There will be little time for the bill to pass the House and advance through the Senate before the end of this Congress in January, but this is an important step forward and a key priority for CCA.

Advocating for federal hatchery funding. Many federal, state, and tribal hatcheries across the Northwest rely on federal funding. Unfortunately, federal funding levels haven't kept up with rising costs due to inflation or growing hatchery maintenance backlogs, threatening production cuts and hatchery closures.

CCA Oregon and CCA Washington recently sent a letter to Congressional budget leaders in support of $34.5 million in full funding for the Mitchell Act, a federal program that helps mitigate the impact of the Columbia River dams through hatchery production at hatcheries operated by ODFW and WDFW.

CCA Oregon is also supporting ODFW's efforts to ensure the US Army Corps of Engineers is fully funding hatchery mitigation obligations in the Willamette River basin, including the production of salmon, steelhead, and trout. The Leaburg and McKenzie hatcheries also face uncertainty due to the proposed removal of the Leaburg Dam.

Hatcheries operated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service also face rising costs and deferred maintenance backlogs, further threatening salmon hatchery production.

CCA will continue working with the federal administration and Oregon's Congressional delegation to advocate for fully funding our hatcheries!

Record low for Columbia River steelhead, business as usual for gillnets. Unclipped steelhead returns at Bonneville Dam are currently the lowest on record since the dam was constructed in 1938. Steelhead returns have been trending down for years and the states have mandated restrictions and reductions for Columbia River basin recreational steelhead fisheries in the name of steelhead conservation, including the complete closure of thermal refuge areas in Oregon.

On the other hand, it is business as usual for the Zones 4-5 gillnet fishery. As of September 21, the states had authorized 120 hours of gillnetting over 13 mainstem fishing periods in Zones 4-5. During a September 23 Columbia River Compact meeting, the states authorized another 30 hours of gillnetting over three additional mainstem fishing periods.

In 2017, ODFW and WDFW secured a reduction to the steelhead release mortality rate assigned to gillnets by as much 35%, likely resulting in additional handling and mortality for steelhead in the Zones 4-5 gillnet fishery. Because this reduction was based on very limited observer data and no actual scientific study, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) outlined the following expectation in a 2018 letter: “the State of Oregon and Washington will implement observers again to verify the continued results at various times during the course of the Agreement to verify the consistency of these release mortality revisions.”

Despite this very clear direction from NMFS, after eight years the states still haven’t implemented observers again – even as Columbia River steelhead continue to decline and current estimates for steelhead mortalities in the Zones 4-5 fishery could be significantly underestimated. You can’t make this stuff up.

CCA North Carolina secures big legal win. Fantastic news out of CCA North Carolina (CCA NC). After a six-year legal battle, a superior court has ruled in favor of CCA NC and 86 private citizens in their lawsuit to hold the state accountable for failing to properly manage the state’s coastal fisheries.

The court affirmed an earlier decision in the case finding that the state has “an affirmative duty” under the public-trust doctrine and the North Carolina Constitution to “preserve the people’s right to fish and harvest fish,” which includes a “duty to preserve fisheries for the benefit of the public” and a “duty to keep fisheries safe from injury, harm, or destruction for all time.”

This has been a tremendous effort by the leadership and members of CCA NC. You can learn more HERE.

CCA Oregon Volunteer Spotlight



Julie Monroe-Falk

Volunteer Spotlight (Julie Monroe-Falk)

If you've been involved with CCA Oregon at all, chances are you have had the pleasure to meet Julie Monroe-Falk. Julie and her husband, Marty, began their time with CCA Oregon in 2009 after learning of the organization through the Pacific Northwest Sportsman Show. Slowly but surely, the two went from relatively nonvocal members to some of our most highly involved.

Julie belongs to CCA Oregon's Willamette Falls Chapter, but makes sure to attend every event she can, ensuring our members always have the best experience possible. Whether it be mingling with the crowd, selling raffle tickets, or simply pitching in wherever she's needed, she can always be found with a smile on her face.

"We attended our first banquet in 2017 or 2018, and we noticed that there was a need for help," Julie says. "The more we volunteered, the more it became obvious that we needed more volunteers."

Julie quickly found a strong sense of camaraderie among those who consistently showed up to support CCA Oregon events. That experience inspired her to become as involved as possible, regardless of which chapter was hosting.

"The first year I was really involved with a banquet, we put the word out and so many people came from other chapters to help us. I feel like every time we go to another chapter's event we are paying it forward," Julie says. "We are all in this together. With some exceptions, such as the Molalla River Acclimation Pond, our fundraising events support CCA Oregon, not just a specific chapter. We are one big group rather than ten individual groups."

Another important part of Julie's involvement is the opportunity to meet people from across Oregon who share a common interest in fishing and conservation. Different chapter events attract different crowds, generate new ideas, and offer different ways of doing things. For Julie, that provides a constant opportunity to learn what works well and bring those ideas to other CCA Oregon events.

Her involvement extends beyond fundraising banquets. In addition to being the Willamette Falls Chapter Banquet Chair, Julie is active in the Membership Committee, she is currently the CCA Oregon state secretary, and she is the chair of the newly activated Development Committee. She also helps organize non-banquet activities throughout the year, including the Willamette Falls

Chapter's annual Summer Fun for the Fish picnic. Geared toward young anglers and their families, the event provides a fun environment where kids can learn fishing and casting skills while enjoying a variety of other activities.

For Julie, measuring the success of fisheries advocacy isn't always as simple as declaring a win or a loss. Progress can be incremental, and she believes it's important to recognize the gains made along the way. She points to CCA Oregon's work on Columbia River gillnet issues as an example.

"A lot of people viewed the gillnet situation as being unsuccessful, but it was still successful in that it brought the issue to the forefront," Julie says. "We made progress and continue to make progress getting the gillnets out of the main stem for spring Chinook. We were able to alleviate a lot of the pain that the gillnetters would have had by creating the SAFE areas," Julie says. "We are constantly advocating for fish. We are also talking to political decision makers in order to protect the general public's right to continue fishing, while also protecting our marine life."

Julie believes anglers who value hatchery fisheries in Oregon and Washington should consider supporting a fisheries advocacy organization such as CCA Oregon. With so many competing interests surrounding fisheries management and access, she believes a strong and engaged coalition of anglers is essential. Recently, IP28, the proposed bill that would have criminalized hunting, fishing, and other agricultural activities, brought this idea to the forefront.

"We have to have as much of a voice or more than they do," Julie says. "Without the participation of local anglers, it is hard to know just how far bills like these will go."

That's why Julie also stresses the importance of responding to CCA Oregon's VoterVoice emails and Action Alerts. When CCA Oregon recently sent approximately 7,000 emails regarding IP28 and the possible loss of BPA funding, only about 200 members responded. Julie believes members can make a greater impact by responding to these alerts and making their voices heard on issues affecting fishing access and the future of Pacific Northwest fisheries.

When she's not devoting her time to CCA Oregon, Julie can often be found doing exactly what she works so hard to protect—fishing. Her favorite fish to pursue is salmon, and she hopes to spend at least 30 days a year on the water. If she could choose the perfect destination, she'd be fishing in Haida Gwaii, her bucket-list fishing spot.

For Julie, organizations like CCA Oregon help ensure that future generations have the opportunity to experience the fisheries and outdoor traditions that mean so much to anglers today.

"If you and your kids want to continue fishing, get involved with an organization like CCA Oregon to the extent that you can. Fishing is not just a hobby, it's a way of life for many. It's up to us to keep our rivers and streams healthy enough for our fish," Julie says. "It's also great for the community, being involved with other people that you may not otherwise come across."

Cascade Pacific Council Fishing Event

CCA Oregon recently donated $1,500 to the Cascade Pacific Council Fishing Committee for its third annual scouts fishing event. The funds were used to supply rainbow trout to the St. Louis Pond in Gervais, Oregon. CCA Oregon partnered with several other fishing organizations to ensure all attending the event would have a successful and fun day on the water. It was the first time that many had ever tried their hand at fishing, and it was a memorable day for all who attended. CCA Oregon is always happy to introduce the next generation to fishing whenever it can.





Assistant Director Story

Bryan Hansel

Six months and ten banquets later, I'd like to think I have found my footing. It began as a frightening prospect, knowing that there were ten different chapters and hundreds of new people to meet. However, I was quick to learn that this passionate group always loves having new people in its corner. I must confess that my fishing experience is limited. Days on the water with my grandparents and fishing in dingy ponds were always fun, but they were few and far between. Now, it is difficult to deny the intrigue and beauty of spending an entire day waiting for that line to budge as I am surrounded by so many who share this common interest and way of life.

My first banquet experience was daunting. The fear of making even a minor mistake dominated my brain and made it difficult to keep a level head. Then I spoke with Ken and Mari Chambers and a majority of this trepidation disappeared. The only thing left to be embarrassed and nervous about was my fishing knowledge, or lack thereof. However, it has become apparent to me through these last several months that any questions I have will be heartily answered. Perhaps with a sarcastic remark or two, but that comes with the territory.

It has been interesting to see just how many different methodologies can be applied to an organization made up of many parts that are all trying to reach the same goal. I thought the Tillamook chapter would look like the Salem chapter, and I thought the Salem chapter would look like the Willamette Falls chapter, and so on. Therein lies what I have enjoyed most in my time with CCA Oregon. People from different chapters coming together to assist one another in their endeavors, no matter how different these processes may be from the ones they employ when working on their home turf. There is always the sense that one can learn from those doing similar things a little differently. This organization is a community in itself. These anglers may look for different fish, but they always understand that we all have the same goal in mind.

I look forward to continuously advancing the mission of CCA Oregon, and I know I am surrounded by people who will make this a readily attainable goal. I would also like to thank everyone for being so welcoming to a young man so new to all of this. Now, all I need to do is get out and start really catching some fish.

Banquet Updates

It has been another successful year of banquets! We would like to thank everyone who has attended in support of our cause. We would like to give a special shout out to Brian Miller, the winner of the Portland Chapter golf tournament with a score of 29! We would also like to mention the winners of the Joe Schwab Memorial Derby and Smoked Salmon Contest from our Columbia County banquet. Congratulations to Terry Massey for winning the Schwab grand prize, Shane Peterson for winning second prize, and Lennox White for winning third prize and the Joe Schwab Memorial Prize! Scott Sass won the smoked salmon contest with his delicious homemade offering. We can't wait to see all of you next year!

Our final banquet of the year will be our statewide banquet. This will be held on November 14 at the Wingspan Event Center. You can register for the banquet below.

State - https://ccaoregon.ejoinme.org/2026StatewideHome



Outdoor GPS Commercial Update

CCA Oregon recently completed work on a new commercial for Outdoor GPS. We would like to give special thanks to Tualatin Valley Chapter President Alex Brauer and members of KPTV for the work they put in to make this happen. The new TV spot can be found HERE

Alaska Fishing Trip

Don't miss your chance to fish the legendary waters of Sitka, Alaska with Greg Kain of Kain's Fishing Adventures. CCA Oregon is selling raffle tickets for a 4-night, 3-day fishing trip that includes 2 Round Trip Airline Tickets for two anglers from Seattle to Sitka. The trip is June 23-27, 2027. Tickets are $20 each or six for $100. The winning raffle ticket will be drawn live on Outdoor GPS on Saturday, Dec. 5th 2026.

To purchase tickets, visit https://www.ccaoregon.org/product/win-a-dream-4-night-3-day-fishing-trip/

For more information on Kain's Fishing Adventures, visit https://kainsfishingadventures.com/



Pat Hoglund's Recipe

Spicy Honey-Garlic Salmon

When the weather isn't conducive to barbecuing salmon, or when you're in the mood for a recipe that has a little heat and sweet with a touch of garlic, give this honey-garlic salmon a try. It's one of my favorite ways to cook salmon in the oven. The garlic and honey, with the added red pepper flakes, gives your fish a nice sweet and spicy flavor that will soon be one of your favorites. I know it's one of mine. This recipe can be altered with the amount of butter and honey you use. I personally like having extra sauce to baste my fish with once it's cooked. And, if you don't like spicy food, eliminate the red pepper flakes.

Ingredients

3 or 4 pieces of salmon, filleted
salt and pepper
1 teaspoon paprika
2 teaspoons red pepper flakes
1 tablespoon of water
4 tablespoons of butter
8 garlic cloves, minced or finely chopped
6 tablespoons of honey
3 teaspoons of soy sauce
2 tablespoons of freshly squeezed lemon juice
4 lemon wedges

Directions

Season salmon fillets with paprika, salt and pepper. Set aside.

In a cast iron skillet, melt the butter. Add the red pepper flakes, garlic. Sauté for a couple minutes. Add honey, lemon juice, water, and soy sauce. Simmer for several minutes making sure the sauce is consistent.

Place salmon fillets in a skillet and cook over medium heat until the bottom half of the salmon is cooked. Don't overcook.

While the salmon is cooking, use a spoon or ladle to cover the salmon with the sauce mixture. Be sure to cover the salmon thoroughly.

Add lemon wedges.

Turn oven on to broil. On the middle rack, place skillet in the oven and let cook for three or four minutes or until the fish is cooked.

Remove from oven, baste the fish with extra sauce.

Thanks to our Statewide Donors! Because of your generosity, our events are successful and fund!

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