



April 2022

The Association of NW Steelheaders Anglers is dedicated to enhancing and protecting fisheries and their habitats for today and the future.

Election of new Chapter board members
Held at the April 6, 2022 Monthly Chapter meeting.

Currently the following persons have been nominated for the listed Chapter Board positions:

Chapter President	–	Rob Bitney
Vice President	–	_____ Open-
Secretary	–	Terri Boughton
Treasurer	–	Greg Reed

The most current past Co-Presidents, Jeff Stoeger and Greg Reed, remain on the board for the year following them holding that office as per our Policy and Procedures. This is for them to help the new Board in the transition into their newly elected positions.



April 6, 2022, Wednesday Chapter monthly meeting at 7:00pm and doors open at 6:30pm – Our guest speaker will be JonCox, Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) Biologist, ODFW.

Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR

Face masks must be worn indoors at this meetings. We had 23 attendees at our March meeting. Hope to see you all at the March meeting.





May 4, 2022, Wednesday Chapter monthly meeting at 7:00pm and doors open at 6:30pm – Event may be modified or postponed pending on Health regulations. Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR



June 1, 2022, Wednesday Chapter monthly meeting at 7:00pm and doors open at 6:30pm – Event may be modified or postponed pending on Health regulations. Location: Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park, 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR

NOTE: Starting with the September 8, 2022 our Chapter meetings will be on the first Thursday of each month.

Sandy River Chapter Websites

We invite you to visit the Sandy River Chapter Facebook Group at “**Sandy River Chapter NW Steelheaders**” - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/451895135882897> . Or, the Chapter Website at: <http://www.sandysteelheaders.org/>

Note: There will be redundancies between the Chapter Newsletter and our Facebook Group page in our attempt to share items to followers of both. Due to limited space in our Newsletter there may also be more posts on the Facebook group page than in the Newsletter.

On the Web – educational videos

Sandy River Winter Steelhead (Jason Hambly & Steve Lynch) Hatchery Broodstock Program Tour (Ryan Queen, ODFW)-
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEfUSj1Gv10>

Spring Chinook Salmon Fishing Rigging Details (Jack Glass)-
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aleGqF3cS3A>

WILSON RIVER BROODSTOCK PROGRAM

Grant McOmie, Author

March 3, 2017 (Updated March 3, 2017)

Oregon is blessed with an abundance of rivers that offer thrilling rapids that often hide secret prizes and angling adventures.

Winter steelhead are silver-sided prizes; anglers often must endure tough outdoor conditions to catch them. Yet, steelhead fishermen love this time of year when winter's cold and wet conditions rule.

Jim Skaar and Josiah Darr agree that if there's a better time or place to get away from work they couldn't say where or when. They are volunteer anglers building a fishery future on Oregon's Wilson River.



Now, this is the kind of day you like to be on the water," offered Darr. "Sun is playing peek-a-boo but there's no rain in sight. Wow!

Each angler casts into secret spots where they've caught Wilson River winter steelhead before.

"They're just so fast," said Darr. "Especially the fresh ones that are just in from the ocean and they are chrome bright. They're my favorite fish that swims."

Both cast bobbers above bright pink beads or yarn flies with fresh steelhead eggs.

Darr is a local fishing guide and Skaar is the ODFW Trask River Hatchery Manager.

Today, they're two lucky anglers getting away from it all to support an idea that's hitting its stride: the Wilson River broodstock program.

Skaar's bobber sank without hesitation and he pulled back, thrilled when he saw a chrome steelhead shoot through the surface like a rocket. He had hooked a dandy!

"That is an absolutely beautiful wild steelhead," said the admiring angler. "And it's a wild fish — exactly what we want for the program! What a gorgeous fish!"

The ocean-going rainbow is fresh from the sea and it will tip the scales at 14 pounds.

Skaar said that more than 50 volunteer anglers participate in this sport fishery program that began in 1997. The volunteers use hook and line to catch and collect up to 53 pairs of wild adult fish that are kept alive in aerated aluminum boxes.

Skaar explained, “Each tank (bought and paid for by sport fishermen) has an aerator in it that runs off a battery. The tank will hold several steelhead for a few hours until the angler can get to the drop off point — a huge holding tank — that is located along the lower Wilson River.”

The Trask Hatchery crew will pick up the wild steelhead throughout each week and transport them to the hatchery.

The adult fish are live-spawned and then returned to the river so they can continue their lives. Unlike salmon, steelhead will return to the ocean and even return back to their home river again following a year or two in the ocean. The 106 wild steelhead that the volunteer anglers collect will produce 100,000 steelhead smolts that will be planted in the Wilson River next year. It’s a unique program that is in place in several other Oregon rivers like the nearby Nestucca and Alsea Rivers.

“Oh, it’s a jumper,” yelled Darr, as Jim set the hook on another silver sided steelhead. The steelhead flew out of the water several times and peeled off line from Skarr’s screeching reel.

“What have we got here,” asked Darr. “Oh, it’s a perfect hatchery fish, about 8 pounds. This is what the program is all about — a fish to take home for dinner!”

Following a 10-minute battle of back and forth, Darr smoothly slid his large net under Skarr’s gorgeous steelhead.



He held the fish and showed where the adipose fin had been removed. “That adipose fin was clipped when this fish was a baby at the hatchery. That’s how we know it’s a hatchery, not a wild, steelhead and one we can harvest.”

The program provides hatchery steelhead that anglers can keep in a season that begins in December and stretches through April.

Darr said volunteers are building a better fishing future: “I couldn’t think of a better way to give back than by putting fish in the tank. Three or four years from now, my kids will be catching the next generation of hatchery steelhead during a long five-month long season. That is terrific!”

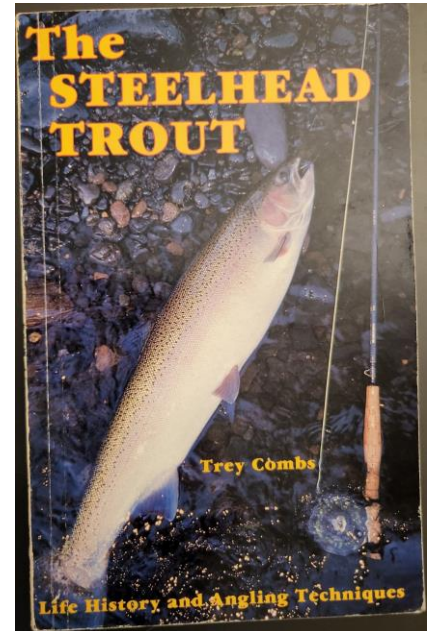
**Watch this episode of Grant's Getaways: Wilson River
Broodstock on YouTube Program at:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDNMAgcxdS4>

One Last Cast

Jim Cathcart (aka Navigator)

What is a steelhead? First off, let's just set aside the fact that the definition for those of us in the 90% that catch 10% of the fish is that a steelhead is a phantom that haunts the deep recesses of the mind. But experts and the 10% insist they exist. The treatise on the life histories of steelhead was written by Trey Combs in 1971 in *The Steelhead Trout* (Frank Amato Publications). The steelhead is indeed a trout – a true trout no less – specifically a rainbow trout that is anadromous – meaning steelhead like to travel to eat in the ocean before returning to fresh water to have sex. Not all in one weekend though. This is where life histories come into play. A steelhead's life history is the combination of how many years juvenile steelhead rear in their home rivers (or hatchery) and how many years they feast in the ocean to get big before returning to their home rivers to spawn. Based on data sourced through fish biologists – Trey estimates there are 18 or so possible steelhead life histories based on the combination of these factors – out of the 100's possible. Trey's analysis has not be updated for 50 years signifying that knowing steelhead biology and life history does not sell fishing tackle.



I had an interesting experience with my son Peter about a month ago (February 24th) on the Yuba River – a second order tributary to California's Sacramento River -- that begged the question, what is a steelhead? On the Yuba, the regulatory definition of a steelhead is a rainbow trout over 16". California fishing regulations also require anglers to record their steelhead catches – both wild fish released and hatchery fish kept or released -- on an annual form so long it would take a 100 lifetimes to fill. This definition of a steelhead raised the hackle on the back of the neck of our fly fishing guide Mat because the reporting skewed the data toward over reporting hatchery steelhead and the under reporting of wild steelhead that did not make the 16" length threshold – which in Mat's mind helps California justify their hatchery programs As it turned out, I caught a couple of these wild steelhead in the 14-15" size class – the first on a #16 Quigley cripple and the second on one of Mat's original #18 green thing-a-ma-jig nymph patterns. I would not have believed they were steelhead had they not still had sea lice on their anal fins – meaning they were two days or less from the nearest salt – San Francisco Bay -- 150 plus river miles away. Clearly these fish – both hens – were anadromous. Clearly they were rainbows. But were they steelhead? The fact that these fish were caught actively feeding on a well presented dry fly or by dumb luck on a dead-drifted tiny nymph, were caught only on my 38th and 56th casts of the day and well – err – just the fact that they were caught by yours truly – gives considerable doubt these fish were steelhead. But they were fresh from the salt, they were rainbows and they were magic – my definition of a steelhead!

Family Fishing Day

Hello Everyone,

We have an opportunity coming up in April to volunteer our time helping others learn to fish at **Hooked on Family fishing**. It is only one day so let's take advantage of the event and team up to help. I have included the information from Gray Sorensen who is the coordinator for the event. She is energetic and reached out to our Tualatin Valley Chapter for assistance. *She has several volunteers already but needs an additional 15.* Check out the volunteer interest form to choose which area you are available for. Once you contact her maybe send me a heads up so I can do more if needed to fill the remaining positions. I look forward to seeing you there!



Thanks again,

Judy Underwood

emerald41@comcast.net



My name is Gray Sorensen and I am the new Education and Outreach Coordinator for NWF and the Steelheaders. I am emailing you to let you know that this year we will be hosting another Hooked on Family Fishing day event at Camp Angelos on April 30th 2022. Like last year this will be a one-day event designed to educate and engage families on all things fishing. Families will learn about and practice all things fishing. Participants will fish the stocked trout pond, make new friends, and participate in various session led by expert anglers. If you are interested in volunteering, Please fill out this volunteer interest form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1cN0qqGrcEW1lQd6QUjZpud7GIV9wj-ZwfHWAetr8ysU/viewform?edit_requested=true If you are unable to open the form or prefer to give me the information over the phone, please call me at 503-616-4280.

Hoping to hear from you soon,

GRAY SORESEN

orhabitat@nwf.org

Education and Outreach Coordinator,

National Wildlife Federation and Association of Northwest Steelheaders

Confluence Environmental Center AmeriCorps Member

Office: 503.616.4280

For information on last years event visit <https://nwsteelheaders.org/hooked-on-family-fishing/>

Sandy Chapter Board Members

OFFICERS

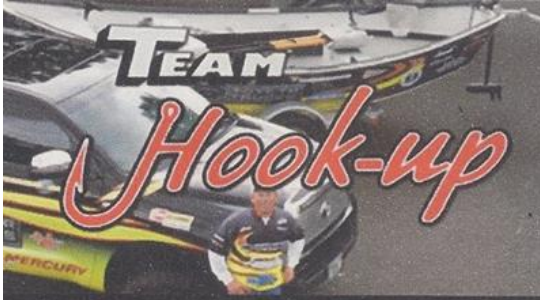
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Co-President	Jeff Stoeger	503-704-7920
Co-President	Greg Reed	503-869-1795
Vice President	Jeff Boughton	
Secretary	Terri Boughton	503-307-2546
Treasurer	<i>Vacant</i>	503-869-1795

DIRECTORS

Position	Name	Phone
Eggs to Frye	Mike Myrick	503-281-6438
<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	503-869-1795
<i>River Cleanups</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	-
Sales	Rob Bitney	503-320-9821
Angler Education	Jim Cathcart	503-287-9616

COMMITTEE HEADS

Position	Name	Phone
Special Events	Steven Rothenbucher	503-257-0039
Website, Content	<i>Vacant</i>	-



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 Brandon Glass 503.260.8585
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Check out the Sandy River NW
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 Apparel!!!
 Contact: Rob Bitney
 503-692-0180
<http://stancellgraphics.com/sandyriverchapter>

DAVE'S
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