

## **SAMMY AWARD WINNERS FOR 2002**

### **Larry and Suzi Clement**

Concern for the health of wild salmon and other wildlife motivated Larry and Suzi Clement to contact Clark Public Utilities about restoring habitat on their property along Salmon Creek. When options were presented to them, the Clements always chose what was best for the fish. As a result, most of their livestock area has been converted back to a more natural habitat that will support a wide diversity of wildlife. In all, seventy percent of their usable property was dedicated to restoration. Alders and blackberries were replaced with 1500 native trees and shrubs. As these grow in, the Clements will lose their view of Salmon Creek. But they're happier knowing that these trees will eventually protect the bank from erosion and decrease water temperatures by shading the stream. The Clements ultimately restored 1200 feet of lower Salmon Creek, with wide buffers of streamside vegetation rarely found outside of public lands. What's more, they also helped to convince their neighbors to restore their sections of Salmon Creek as well. That's just what fish need.

### **Mike Leboki**

Mike Leboki embodies the spirit of cooperation and volunteerism that are essential to successful salmon recovery. The owner of Taylor Trucking in Camas, Mike has been instrumental to getting habitat projects implemented in the Washougal River watershed over the last four years. Taylor Trucking has hauled boulders and spawning gravel, ecology blocks, bridges, large woody debris, and other materials for free. They recently worked with the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group and the Camas-Washougal Wildlife League to replace a culvert with a bridge and excavate a 700 foot long rearing pond. Taylor Trucking found a 40-foot flatbed trailer that could be converted to a bridge to replace the culvert. They hauled it to a site. Excavation resulted in several hundred yards of spoils that needed moving off site. Taylor trucking happily provided their dump truck for a day. The enthusiasm and can-do attitude of Mike Leboki and the folks at Taylor Trucking have greatly benefited salmon habitat in the Washougal River Watershed.

### **Jennifer Sharp**

Jennifer Sharp is a Camas High School teacher who inspires her students to learn about their watershed and to care about salmon. Jennifer goes above and beyond what's expected of her as an educator. On her own time, she recently completed 120 hours of workshops in classroom technology and student mentoring techniques. Jennifer has also obtained several grants, including a \$40,000 grant to implement technology in her classroom. It's been said that the best way to learn something is to teach it to others. That's why Jennifer initiated a student mentoring program, described by a second grade teacher as the best educational experience she has had in her several years as a teacher. Jennifer's high school students teach elementary school students about water quality techniques and salmon issues. Her students share their research at the annual Watershed Congress. Students and salmon have both benefited from the off-the-charts extra time and energy Jennifer has devoted to monitoring her watershed.

### **Home Depot**

Many large corporations have strict guidelines when it comes to community relations activities. So when Clark County approached Home Depot's Vancouver store last May about partnering with their Natural Gardening Fair, the outcome was a pleasant surprise. The management at Home Depot willingly allowed Clark County's Environmental Services Department to display signage in the store that identified salmon-friendly products such as push mowers, soaker hoses, alternatives to chemicals, and plants that require few or no garden chemicals. The signs reached consumers throughout the spring gardening season. County staff were also allowed to conduct on-site natural gardening workshops and to answer customers' questions in the gardening section about composting or alternatives to chemicals. Home Depot not only demonstrated what retailers can do to inform consumers of salmon-friendly choices, they demonstrated a spirit of cooperation on environmental education unequaled by any other large retailer in the country.

### **Gary and Dana Ostenson**

When Gary and Dana Ostenson contacted The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group about enhancing their property for salmon, the couple chose the most aggressive restoration option available. The project involved restoring over 1000 feet of a creek that flows through the Ostensons' property into the Washougal River, replacing an old culvert with a bridge, excavating a 700-foot off-channel rearing pond, and placing logs on streambanks to prevent erosion. Where the creek enters the Washougal, a logjam was created to provide shelter for fish. Gary and Dana purchased their own watershed restoration guide for a better understanding of the process. They contributed to the project by removing several acres of blackberries from the stream bank and replanting with native plants. When the first rains came, adult coho and steelhead immediately colonized the creek and began spawning where there were no fish before. It was an exiting moment for the Ostensons. Gary now conducts spawning surveys at night, since this is when the fish enter the creek.

### **Tammy Mackey**

Tammy Mackey lives and breathes salmon recovery. As a fish biologist at Bonneville Dam, she ensures that dam passageways are as fish-friendly as possible. Sometimes this means rescuing trapped fish from different passageways that are being dewatered. Outside her day job, Tammy participates in restoration projects with the Watershed Stewards of Clark County and instructs children and adults on the importance of healthy watersheds. As president of Clark County Trout Unlimited, she has energized the group with her ideas and projects. She regularly gives salmon presentations as part of Clark County's ESA speakers bureau. She also shares her concern for fish with the League of Women Voters, The Clark County Freeholders, and Clark Public Utility's Wildlife Habitat Stewards and still finds time to mentor grade schoolers in science and salmon education. As further proof of her dedication to fish, she recently spent a week of her vacation time in Washington DC lobbying congressional leaders on fish issues. Simply stated, Tammy Mackey is a tireless messenger about the need to save our wild salmon.

**Tom and Sandra Pagel**

Efforts to make the Salmon Creek watershed healthier for fish are bolstered by the commitment of landowners like Tom and Sandra Pagel. Inspired by a neighbor's restoration work, Tom Pagel contacted Clark Public Utilities, who worked with the Pagels to restore almost seven acres of riparian area on their Mill Creek property. More than seven thousand native trees and shrubs were planted. These will eventually help shade out the reed canary grass, allowing other native plants to re-colonize the area. With more shade, water temperatures should decrease, improving conditions for salmon and other wildlife. The Pagels also fenced livestock away from the creek, which reduced their pasture by forty percent. Keeping animals off the streambanks will decrease erosion and allow trees and shrubs to stabilize the streambank during flooding. Though fish were common in the creek when Joe Pagel bought this property in the 1940s, today they are scarce. Landowners like the Pagels give us hope that the fish can come back.

**Clark-Skamania Flyfishers**

Clark-Skamania Flyfishers was formed in 1975, when seventeen fly fishermen met in the basement of a Camas bank. They wanted their group to promote the sport of fly fishing while also promoting the conservation and protection of wild fish. Thanks to persistent lobbying by CSF, wild steelhead release regulations were put into effect along the Wind River in 1982. The group initiated spawning surveys, snorkel surveys, and juvenile sampling. CSF continues to collect a variety of data to support its advocacy for an environmentally responsible wild salmonid policy for Washington State. Today, the group conducts snorkel surveys in partnership with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. They have also conducted surveys on culverts, fish passage, and fish habitat. Additionally, they have created interpretive signage, helped with salmon carcass distribution, and participated in numerous habitat restoration projects. Clark-Skamania Flyfishers are truly pioneers in the protection and restoration of native salmon.

**Bill Feddeler and the Water Resources Education Center**

Perhaps the best hope for salmon recovery lies in getting our young people to care. Bill Feddeler and the Water Resources Education Center are doing just that through the innovative Watershed Monitoring Network. Through this program, students from grades one through college monitor streams, measure temperatures and dissolved oxygen, and assess riparian habitat to see if the creek is good for salmon and other aquatic organisms. Besides getting personally involved with the health of their watersheds, students amass a valuable collection of data that is entered on the Washington Department of Ecology Naturemapping web site for anyone to use. Each spring, about 150 students present their findings at the Watershed Congress. Teachers, students, and other monitors volunteer their time, and much of Bill's time is volunteer as well. Bill trains students and teachers in equipment use and quality control. Anyone who has seen these students present their findings at the Watershed Congress knows that they are well on their way to being excellent stewards for our watersheds. This is good news for salmon in Clark County.

**John Pennington**

There's a saying that fish don't know political boundaries. That's why it's important that local and regional governments take a coordinated approach to salmon recovery. John

Pennington is someone who recognizes the value of such an approach. As a State Representative in the 18<sup>th</sup> legislative district and a member of the House Natural Resources committee, John sponsored many pieces of legislation supporting salmon recovery efforts. He dedicated time, effort and political capital to pass House Bill 2835, which established the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, on which he subsequently served as chair. John was also instrumental in securing funding for the board. The Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board is leading a collaborative regional fish recovery program with Clark County and other local governments, federal and state agencies, tribes, and the public. The board is recognized across the northwest as a model for salmon recovery. It's also evidence of John Pennington's leadership in salmon recovery in Clark County and the region.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

##### **Evergreen School District**

In recognition of the Earth Saver Pilot Project, whose curriculum includes a unit that informs students about the effects of stormwater runoff on the health of wild salmon.

##### **George Simpson**

In recognition of your lifetime commitment to the conservation of environmentally sensitive land, including areas of critical salmon habitat.

##### **Dick Dyrland**

In recognition of your dedication to salmon recovery and the leadership you have demonstrated in restoration and education efforts.

##### **Jim Stolarzyk**

In recognition of your pioneering work in restoring streams for salmon.

##### **Peter Illyn**

In recognition of your outstanding defense of endangered species and for encouraging environmental stewardship among Clark County church congregations.