



BCWF News



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BC Family Fishing Weekend

The Four Fs on Father's Day Weekend!

Article Submitted by

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Courtenay & District Fish & Game Protective Association



Happy kids with their catch in Courtenay

Forget school days and learning the A, B, C's! The entire Comox Valley community was invited to spend Father's Day weekend in June learning the "Four Fs" out at the Courtenay and District Fish and Game Protective Association. In and around the freshly stocked trout pond we found fish, fathers, friends and fun for everyone! One special highlight was meeting four generations in one family who came out to spend time together.

An estimated 900 people took advantage of the BC Family Fishing weekend and came out to fish in the stocked trout pond over Saturday and Sunday. Fish and Game members were kept busy supplying bait, untangling gear, netting and cleaning fish and offering advice. Thrifty Foods manager, Rick Giaga, his staff and their families, were hooked when they heard of the upcoming family community event. They not only provided initial financial support, but also waded in deep by providing and serving free hotdogs, pop and water to all the anglers. They even brought a delicious cake to celebrate Father's Day!

This was the weekend to spend time outdoors with family or friends and discover a great pastime. You did not have to buy a license to fish in most of BC's lakes and streams compliments of the BC provincial government. There were various events held province wide, similar to the one at Courtenay and District Fish and Game, where volunteers were available to offer assistance or fishing gear and bait to those who had none. The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC provided the healthy sized trout for visitors catching pleasure plus many rods and reels for loan to visitors who had no gear. At the end of each day, a number of lucky young anglers were randomly offered to keep their "loaner" rod and reel. Judging by the look on their faces, they are now hooked on fishing! Mission accomplished!

The Association appreciates the tremendous support received from the community

Using the E Newsletter

All subheadings in the left column and blue words in the body of the newsletter are hyperlinked.

When your mouse pointer is on them a hand will appear. This will allow you to click once when the hand appears and will automatically direct you to a website or email address.

Unbelievable results in Victoria

Victoria Fish and Game Protective Association

Peachland Family Fishing Evenings

*Each Wednesday night in August
6:00-9:00 PM*

All tackle and bait supplied by the club

Heritage Park Peachland

Contact Al Springer (250) 767-2287

Peachland Sportsmen's Association

for making this weekend a success and perhaps sparking or resurrecting an interest in a great family pastime. Not everyone caught a fish; but it wasn't about reeling in a fish. It was about savoring time spent with family, listening to a child's curious questions and laughter, helping a fellow fisherman untangle a line, and just being in the great outdoors!

Unbelievable Results in Victoria!



Boy with his catch at Outdoor Discovery Day in Victoria

The Victoria Fish and Game Protective Association is doing things right; in one word success comes from AWARENESS.

The club has gone from a low of 650 members in 2005 all the way to more than 1000 in 2006 and by July 15th of this year, 1100 memberships had already been sold – all this despite a significant increase in membership fees. With almost 6 months left to go before year end they could double their membership in very two short years. The results are extraordinary, the plan is simple.

According to President Chris Bos, “in 2006 we decided we needed to increase membership so we decided to let our members and the community know that we were open for business.” Here's how they do it:

Get to know your local sporting goods stores

Go down and introduce yourself and your club to the employees at the store and ask them if they've been up to check out your premises. If they haven't invite them up, give them free day passes and make sure they have a great time. Give them a tour, a try and a taste and they'll help you sell memberships. Don't forget about them; make sure you're in constant communication and ensure they're invited to all club events.

Open Yourself up to the Public

The club does this in several ways. They have their Family Fishing Weekend on Father's Day long weekend. They open the club right up to the public and usually have about 60 volunteers ready and waiting. The public gets to try everything at the property if they want. Just a few of the things included are: all shooting sports, air soft, knife throwing, archery, and the fishing pond. Firearms and ammunition are supplied by the club and its members. Each guest is registered for a free day and kids get a free lunch. The club usually gets a turnout of just under 400 folks from the community.

**Lake Windermere District
Rod & Gun Club East
Kootenay Fun Shoot**

Sat & Sun, Aug 18-19
Starts 9:00 AM
Rauch Homestead Range
5.5 KMS on Horsethief Creek
FSR
West of Radium Hot Springs
Springer

5 Person Team Format
Winning team takes home
\$600
Camping available on site

Contact Vic or Darlene
(250) 341-3254
Cell (403) 815-8120
vthomas@cyberlink.bc.ca

Taking out the Trash!

OCEOLA Fish and Game
Club on BCWF Website

100 turn out for creek
clean up

Fall Fishing Fair

The community is encouraged to come out and let the kids try the stocked trout pond free. Family and kids get to see the property, talk with the club's volunteers and the kids get a free lunch. The volunteers are friendly and want to see membership increase, and more participation in shooting sports, hunting, fishing and conservation. This event alone brings out around 400 people from the community. Clearly, the club is actively publicized in the local sporting goods stores and newspapers.

It's all About Awareness

The success Victoria has achieved is all about awareness; they're friendly and out in the community talking about hunting, fishing and conservation. They believe in the future of the outdoors and they know that future comes from the future of their club.

Memberships at Victoria don't come cheap, but to all 1000+ members it's worth it. To the membership the club is an area they can shoot, fish, camp, and use the club equipment 365 days per year.

Taking Out the Trash!



Photo by Nina Armitage

After months of preparation Rick Simpson, Director OCEOLA F&G, was able to put people on the ground to cleanup Middle Vernon Creek. On Saturday July 28th over 100 people assembled for a couple hours of stewardship followed by a fantastic lunch.

Participation from several different groups was apparent and demonstrated what people with a passion for the outdoors can do. Groups involved with the cleanup included: OCEOLA Fish and Game Club, Peachland Sportsmen's Association, Vernon Army Cadets, Okanagan Indian Band, Okanagan Nation Alliance, District of Lake Country and Lake Country Environmental Society, Interior Savings, Fire Department, Lions Club, Rotary Club and local residents.

The cleanup lasted 3 hours with volunteers and team leaders distributed throughout their respective zones in and around the creek. The volunteers were

Wes Swain, new Hunter Safety and CORE Manager

CORE

Malaspina Resource Management Officer Program

Vancouver Island Marmot Recovery Foundation

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hunting for garbage and garbage they found. The usual suspects included: tires, bikes, shopping carts, 45 gallon drums, tractor and truck parts, mattresses, rebar, wood, nails, solvent cans and even a lawnmower amongst a myriad of other things. Probably enough garbage to build a couple trucks and a new house complete with a wagon for the kids.

The last time the club did a clean up was the late 90s and there's certainly been a build up of junk over the past decade. Rick says it was "quite an education" for all of those involved as this kind of garbage dumped into the creek is more of an "out of sight out of mind" problem. Rick believes the cleanup was successful and that two primary objectives were achieved: 1) To remove some of the junk out of the creek and 2) to give the district and residents of Lake Country a good example of what we can change. The club is already planning their cleanup for next year. Well done Rick!

Announcing Wes Swain, BCWF's new Program Manager, Hunter Safety and CORE

Wes Swain is our new Program Manager of Hunter Safety and CORE. Wes is an outdoor enthusiast; a camper, hunter, angler and conservationist throughout the Province. Wes currently resides in Duncan and has lived on the Island since moving from the Prairies as a child. He has been active at the club level and the provincial level and has served as President of the Valley Fish and Game Club and as a Director and Wildlife Chair in Region 1.

Wes graduated from the Malaspina University-College Resource Management Officer Technology program and has worked as a contract Wildlife Technician for the BC Conservation Foundation. He was instrumental in designing and delivering an education program for the Vancouver Island Marmot Recovery Program. During two years of program delivery he visited over 250 schools and talked to over 50,000 children!

Wes' goals are simple: he's looking to get more qualified examiners. He wants to know who's interested and where they're from as soon as possible. Wes can be reached at wes@bcwf.bc.ca or toll free at 1-888-881-BCWF (2293) EXT. 231.

We want to hear from you



Send us your news, stories and items of interest. If your article is selected for an upcoming newsletter we will send you a T-Shirt:

The purpose of the BCWF Newsletter is to provide your club with news and information that you want to see. This is your Newsletter containing your news. If you have any comments or questions regarding the newsletter, allocations policy, Bill C-45, obtaining HCTF funding, Exotic Species or the BOW course please contact Jesse at Jesse@bcwf.bc.ca or 1-888-881-2293 EXT. 224 or feel free to contact any BCWF staff member.

