INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION: WHERE'S THE CHALLENGE? 1
by Dan Edge

This year marked the twentieth anniversary of Earth Day, an historical period for natural resource conservation and environmental consciousness in North America. Despite the international implications of the name "Earth Day," the activities and celebrations largely remain a North American phenomenon. Jack Ward Thomas at the North American and Natural Resource Conference in 1982 characterized the late 1960's and early 1970's as a period of conceptual revolution resulting in some of the most important environmental legislation the world has seen. Based upon recent developments in the international arena, I believe the late 1980's and articles in scientific journals, popular magazines, newspapers, documentary films, and radio programs. Global warming has become a major issue discussed at all levels of society in developed and developing countries. Maintenance of biological diversity has become a major concern of our land management agencies, as well as a primary issue for professional societies, congress, and development agencies. Financial institutions that aid third world countries have recently developed an environmental consciousness that should moderate unconstrained development projects. The U.S. ban on trade in ivory is another example of increasing involvement of the U.S. Congress in international resource conservation. Debt swaps represent one of the most far-reaching conservation and development-oriented programs going.

Thus, in the past few years we have seen significant changes in how the world views resource conservation. Despite these developments, I am not overly optimistic that 20 years from now we won't be saying that this was too little, too late. A look back at our conceptual revolution might help guide us into this new era of environmental awareness. We have seen a marked improvement in air quality throughout much of the U.S. However, acid rain, a dark cloud visible on the first Earth Day, is no longer on the horizon, but directly overhead. Water quality as well has improved remarkably, but again this improvement is balanced by water pollution problems as the result of toxic waste and runoff from our agricultural production. Didn't Rachel Carson warn us about this? Throughout this period of environmental awareness in the U.S. our wetlands have continued to be drained. Now we have a policy statement from our president calling for "no net loss of wetlands" at the same time we see changing definitions of wetlands—and the draining continues.

I could go on, but there is no reason to belabor the point. We have done a lot in respect to environmental quality and resource conservation in this country. However, we still have much to do, and the large scale problems have proven to be especially difficult for us to deal with. These lessons do not bode well for our international conservation prospects, nor for our own long-range sustainability of a strong, diverse and viable natural resource base. Therefore, I believe, the real challenge in international resource conservation is not doing something, but doing enough. We must insure that in the

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future we are not faced with ecological disaster relief on a scale that we can neither afford nor have the technological ability to address.

I believe we face three major problems in confronting international resource issues: 1) coordination and teamwork; 2) integrating our efforts in the socio-political framework within which these issues must be addressed, and 3) reducing provincialism. These issues are somewhat related. Working together for a combined effort is a difficult challenge for the many scientific professions concerned about resource conservation. However, until we coalesce into a

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body of professionals working toward a common goal of wise resource sustainability and use, we will lack the intellectual, economic, social, and political mass required to effect meaningful change. The recent debate among wildlifers about our relationship with, and divergence from, the newly formed Society for Conservation Biology is a disturbing indication that our efforts toward international resource conservation will be diluted because of intersocietal competition. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of international resource issues, we will need all the help we can get. Therefore, not only the Wildlife Society and the Society for Conservation Biology, but the Society for Range Management, the Society of American Foresters, the Ecological Society, and other professional societies as well as nonmember professionals, must desegregate and work together toward common goals.

Another problem with provincialism lies in our emphasis as a profession on solving local issues. Many people argue that we must take care of the problems in our own backyard before we address those in other areas. There is some validity to this argument. We set a poor example of preserving tropical rainforests as long as we are hell-bent on shortterm economic benefits and continue to eliminate ancient forests in our own country. With respect to these forests, our export of un-milled logs is strikingly similar to resource exploitation in developing countries. A country that produces over 25% of the world’s hydrocarbons has little right to point its ecologically-conscious finger. We do have serious environmental problems here, but solving these problems must be concurrent with, not a prerequisite to, attacking issues globally. Many of us have jobs that are local or regional in scope, but that does not preclude us from practicing the concept "think globally, act locally." We are all aware of the immense effort required to motivate the American public sufficiently to cause even an environmentally-aware Congress and administration to act responsibly within our own borders. I can only surmise that a much greater effort will be needed to jump-start and sustain a global conservation effort. Local, regional, and national natural resource agencies and organizations have important roles to play in motivating the public. Most of these agencies and organizations have well-organized public education programs, yet little emphasis is placed on global issues. I believe that agencies such as state fish and game departments or the Cooperative Extension System could and should play a major role in notifying and helping the American public understand the consequences. There are very few local resource issues

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these days where it would not be appropriate to integrate global concerns with public education efforts.

Those local and regional resource professionals who still believe that they have no business discussing international problems would do well to consider the effectiveness of their programs as our local resources erode because of international environmental degradation. A couple of brief examples should be sufficient to demonstrate our peril.

Nongame programs have become increasingly important both locally and nationally as our public becomes more involved in natural resource issues. Deforestation in Latin America threatens the winter habitats of many of our migratory bird species with the potential for large-scale population declines. Because of the proximity rule of public complaint, local natural resource agencies will most likely catch the flack as the public recognizes these declines.

Global climate change offers an even more insidious potential for disrupting business as usual. What (continued)
is likely to be the impact on our big-game and furbearer management programs in the northern tier of the United States as the boreal forests retreat because of global warming? Imagine the few habitat models we have been able to validate becoming obsolete over time because of changing plant communities. Those of us who refuse to heed these warnings would do well to study rats—they may be the big-game of the future! Scientists will not be enough; successful resource conservation on an international scale will require creative multidisciplinary solutions. These solutions must involve economists, sociologists, biologists, land managers and a host of other professionals, as well as politicians at all levels. Successful international resource conservation will require careful weaving of technology and scientific knowledge through a complex matrix of cultural, social, economic and political forces. Trained as scientists, managers, or administrators in our natural resource colleges, we are poorly prepared to meet this challenge.


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**COOPERATIVE UNIT SECRETARY WILL BE MISSED**

After a decade of handling a massive flow of paper across her desk, keeping the books and paying attention to administrative details, Adrian Hunter has set sail into the new adventure of retirement. Adrian was the secretary/administrative assistant for the Cooperative Fishery and Wildlife Units in the Department since 1980. In addition to her dedication to the Unit program, Adrian’s personal touch on the lives of 38 Fisheries Unit and 39 Wildlife Unit students will fondly be remembered. Also not to be forgotten, either in a gustatory sense or with regard to watching one’s weight “mature” (we certainly wouldn’t want to associate working with Adrian as being fattening), was the fact that she was a chocoalteer par excellence. Her glucosoidal treats often helped us start the day as well as create an excuse to chat and initiate new friendships.

Adrian began her career as a secretary with the California Department of Mental Health. Tiring of the California scene, she served as the administrative assistant for the Church of the Nazarene Day Care Center in Albany for two years before joining the Department as the Unit Secretary in 1980. Now, amongst her many plans is a trip to Italy, a token of affection from many people who were associated with her. You all must have your own opinions about what it was or would be like working with us (no need to go into that!), but for this, for her caring, patience and friendship, we offer Adrian our thanks.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Walking across the campus on a spring day is one of the special benefits enjoyed by all of us at OSU. The brilliant colors of azaleas and rhododendrons blend old and new buildings together and give a special luster to each vista. The raucous chorus of evening grosbeaks in the elm trees announces the arrival of the growing season and the last term for graduating seniors. All activity seems to quicken as students and faculty rush to finish projects before the end of the school year. Despite the activity outside, is there anything going on inside those ivy covered walls? Is the academic community really concerned about the problems of our society? Is any change taking place? Are the faculty and students actually concerned about meeting the demands of a new century? Does anything come out of those endless committee meetings? Are professors trying to cooperate across departmental and college lines? After a series of committee meetings and discussions with the administration, alumni, students and faculty, I can respond positively to these questions. We are facing real issues and making changes that are long overdue.

The force for change comes from a shifting of resources that has been going on for a decade. The number of students in all areas of Agriculture and Natural resources has declined over the past 10 years. Students have been attracted to Business and Engineering and the University has allocated more faculty positions to those areas and decreased the teaching faculty in natural resources. Fisheries and Wildlife enrollments have been growing over the past year, but will remain at levels lower than anytime since World War II. Currently we have about 165 undergraduates in Fisheries and Wildlife, down from the historic high of 400 in 1976. The actual number of high school graduates will reach a low point in 1992 and will not increase significantly until after 1997. The admission requirements have also increased and high school graduates will need to have a GPA of 2.75 to enroll as freshman at OSU. Not all trends are downward. Job opportunities are better now than at anytime over the last 20 years, but resource management agencies are asking for graduates with different skills.

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Having the strongest possible background in Fisheries or Wildlife is not sufficient to meet all of the management needs of these agencies.

New graduates must have a diverse background and understand the viewpoints and philosophies of other agencies, environmental groups, and landowners, and be able to work out disputes to reach solutions to natural resource problems. More and more the new graduate with a B.S. degree is expected to be a primary participant in public hearings, or chair a meeting when emotions as well as expectations are at a peak. The new graduate will be put under fire in a hurry. Gone are the days when the new graduate might spend a year on the job before being a integral part of a public hearing or resource dispute. Dispute resolution and the ability to get both parties to the table, attacking the problem rather than each other, are skills in great demand. Arbitration and court cases are far too costly and time consuming and the results are seldom pleasing for anyone. No one wants to see the judges managing the air, land, water and living resources.

The need for a new, more objective means of problem solving is not only the concern of the agencies and the faculty. Students in traditional fields of agriculture are asking for the general background necessary to understand environmental concerns and enter into constructive dialogues with resource management agencies. As an example, the increase of nitrates in groundwater from fertilizers is a concern of farmers, and many farmers have found that a decrease in fertilizer does not necessarily mean a decrease in production. Farmers are also becoming concerned about their own safety when using large amounts of pesticides over long periods. Consumers, producers, and the general health of the community could benefit from mutual problem solving. How is the College of Agricultural Sciences (CAS) going to improve undergraduate education to meet these demands in a period of diminished resources?

The CAS has entered into Operation Change, a cooperative program across departmental lines that will allow undergraduates to prepare for tomorrow. The undergraduate programs in Fisheries and Wildlife were changed two years ago to meet some of these needs, but students wishing to major in natural resources with broader interests will be given opportunities for options in land management, water resources management, agroforestry, and other fields. The proposed program can be broken down into four areas: a baccalaureate core program of about 100 hours, a natural resource core program providing background in
Meek Your Faculty

Doug Markle Describes Himself. . . .

Schizophrenic! When our new editor of News and Views asked me to write about what I am doing and what I would like to do, it occurred to me that the resulting article would seem schizoid at best. Like my predecessor, Carl Bond, I am interested in fishes; beyond that simple statement, it is hard for me to be specific. I received a B.S. from Cornell where an interest in fresh water fishes was stimulated by Ed Raney and Bob Jenkins (that interest built upon an earlier childhood desire to watch guppies proliferate). With my interest fired for fresh water fishes, I went off to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science to work on taxonomy and ecology of deep-sea fishes and ecology of striped bass. Once I had finished my Ph.D., a “world expert” on an obscure family of deep-sea salmon-like beasts, I got a job in Canada working on larval codfishes off Nova Scotia. While in Canada, I began work with a colleague on systematics of pearlfishes of the world. Pearlfishes, of course, don’t

"a world expert on an obscure family of deep-sea salmon-like beasts"

live in Canada; they live inside sea cucumbers and oysters on tropical coral reefs. Although eclectic, there is a pattern here; I just won’t bore you by trying to explain it.

When I came to Oregon five years ago, I thought the madness might end and I could devote myself to the wonderfully esoteric world of reconstructing the evolutionary history of fishes. Although I haven’t been totally disappointed in that regard, the present reality is a bit like my past.

In my view, the purpose of my job is to provide educational opportunities for students and to maintain quality in the profession, especially at the graduate level. Again there is schizophrenia: do you make opportunities for marginal students? for minority students? for international students? It is not always easy to do both things at once. There are additional conflicts. A University Professor has many opportunities for research money; we actively seek grants and contracts for support of what we want to do and we frequently are offered support for things we can do. The more support that comes in the former category, the more schizoid the research program. On the other hand, the latter type of support creates more opportunities for student research and employment, albeit with some costs in my time. My research program logically follows these (illlogical?) premises.

Actually, there is something of a pattern: most of the research my students and I conducted has an underlying theme of ontogeny, the development from larvae to adults. Because there are no rules about evolutionary changes

(Dick Tubb)
in ontogeny, two sister species are as likely to differ in adult characters or adult habitat requirements as in larval characters or larval habitat requirements. Larvae and juveniles have been largely ignored in both fish taxonomy and fish ecology, and, consequently, there are many opportunities for both fresh water and marine research. In addition, population sizes are frequently set at the end of the larval or early juvenile stages, thus endearing them to managers seeking information on future population trends.

Most of my work on marine fish has been on Dover sole. The early life history of Dover sole is remarkable for the dramatic change in shape that occurs at metamorphosis, and for the duration of the early stages. Larvae appear to be planktonic for at least 18 months (four months would be "normal" for a flatfish) and metamorphosis alone takes about six months. Phil Harris is finishing a Master's thesis on morphological changes in Dover sole and Chris Toole is beginning a Doctoral study of otolith microstructure and microcomposition, juvenile mortality, and nursery ground requirements. Additional student marine fish work has been conducted on systematics of Dover sole and its relatives, systematics of a deep-sea cod-like fish by a Chilean Doctoral student (R. Melendez), and a new student (J. Mee) plans to study Persian Gulf butterfly-fishes. Additionally, the marine component of the Fish Collection (which I curate) is growing due to an amalgamation with the collection from the School of Oceanography.

The fresh water fish work has mostly concerned Oregon's ignored species. One student, Fred Goetz, has been studying habitat requirements and means of sampling juvenile bull trout, a species long confused with Dolly Varden and one that appears to be in danger of extinction in some Oregon drainages. Todd Pearson and D. Bills worked on the ecology and taxonomy of Oregon chub for their Master's theses. That work led to the recognition of two species, one in the Willamette River and one in the Umpqua River. The Willamette River fish, the true Oregon chub, now occupies less than 2% of its historical range, and in April 1990, I filed a petition with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the Oregon chub as endangered. A spin-off from the Oregon chub work is a project I am trying to initiate on the Tambaqui, a relative of the piranha, that invades the flooded rainforest to feed on fruits and nuts falling from trees. Schizoid again? Yes and no; there are always connections. In July 1988 the local news media made a big fuss about two piranha caught in the Willamette River. In fact, the fish were Tambaqui, busily filling their stomachs with wheat from Portland's grain elevators.

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Other Umpqua and coastal (Siuslaw/Coos) drainage fishes. There are reasons to believe that some of these fishes (sawuufish, largescale sucker, redside shiner and daces) are not the same as their more wide-ranging relatives. The Umpqua area endemism, though under-appreciated, probably will never match the Klamath Basin, where two new projects on: 1) larval identification and hybridization; and 2) distribution of endemic Klamath suckers are giving three students full time experience and pay checks. The Klamath work concerns the endangered shortnose sucker and the threatened Lost River sucker, both of which may be lost as larvae to irrigation systems from Upper Klamath Lake.

Finally, I should mention a new doctoral student, a Brazilian named Paulo Petry who wants to work on taxonomy and ecology of larval characids in the Amazon River. His interests center on a major food fish, the Tambaqui, a relative of the piranha, that invades the flooded rainforest to feed on fruits and nuts falling from trees. Schizoid again? Yes and no; there are always connections. In July 1988 the local news media made a big fuss about two piranha caught in the Willamette River. In fact, the fish were Tambaqui, busily filling their stomachs with wheat from Portland's grain elevators.

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CONGRATULATIONS!!

Congratulations are in order following the announcement of the 1990 College of Agriculture Outstanding Student Awards: Daniel Rosenberg, FW, for the John T. Babcock Master's Student of Excellence; Alec Maule (M.S. '83, Ph.D '89), FW, for the Savary Outstanding Graduate Student Award and the E.R. Jackman Excellence in Graduate Research Award. Nominated for undergraduate awards were Michelle Day and Scott Hoefer. These are the most prestigious awards given to students in the College of Agriculture. Fish & Wildlife can still compete with the best of 'em!

While on the subject of honors and awards, how about Dr. John Fryer, Chairman of the Department of Microbiology? In February the OSU Staff Newsletter announced that John had been named one of OSU's 1990 "Distinguished Professors"...the highest honor the University can bestow upon its faculty "...awarded to professors recognized internationally for their pathbreaking work...and truly outstanding teaching." John also received the 1990 Nippon Award of Excellence from the Japanese

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FROM THE MAILBAG......

by Lee Kuhn

Although no department reunion is scheduled for 1990, we did get several more returns following the January issue of News & Views. While most thought it was a great idea, the response was too late for the necessary planning to put on another ‘great show’ like the 50th reunion in July, 1985...maybe later?

However all was not lost as the University hosted the “Golden Jubilee Reunion” on June 1-2 for the classes 1930, 1935 and 1940. The classes of 1950 and 1960 are invited to return to campus on October 12-13 while the 1965 and 1980 classes are invited to attend Homecoming, October 19-20. Hope a lot of you can come!

Since retiring in 1980 Bill Pitney (‘40) and wife have been bitten by the travel bug. Bill writes, “Last fall we flew to Manaus, Brazil to board the Sky Princess. We sailed down 1,000 miles of the Amazon, up the coast of South America with a stop at Devil’s Island, through the Caribbean to Martinique, St. Thomas, Puerto Rico, back to Coracao, San Blas Islands, through the Panama Canal, debarking at Acapulco, Mexico.” In April they joined an OSU Alumni Association cruise making stops in Italy, France, Spain, Morocco and ending at Lisbon, Portugal. Somewhere they also managed to work in a trip to Fairbanks, Alaska to visit their son Randy and his family. Bill attended the “Golden Jubilee Reunion,” no doubt some “tall tales” were exchanged.

Jim Blaisdell (‘48) of the Friday Harbor Blaisdells, also likes to travel. He took a trip to Northwest Territories in 1988 and one to the Queen Charlotte Islands in 1989. I really think Jim goes to these far away places so he can catch fish...not content to compete with us ordinary anglers. Jim also has fond memories of Dr. Helen Gilkey, Botany Professor. “Bob McClain (‘48) and I sat side by side and worked on the same little area for our field project. It flooded that spring and we never got back to the area after that first visit. Dr. Gilkey told Bob that ‘he hadn’t tried very hard’ and gave him a “D” in the course. During my interview, she told me she realized I had been handicapped by my partnership with McClain and that she was giving me an “A”. Bob never quite understood that and neither did I but I liked Dr. Gilkey because of her kindness to me.”

Jim also sent along an old “Fin & Antler Club” shoulder patch which he helped design when the club was formed in the ’40s. I guess the G.I.s were so used to wearing military unit shoulder patches they didn’t feel dressed without them. Jim recalled the club had a large membership and was quite active; they even attracted such notable speakers as Oregon’s Governor Tom McCall for one of their meetings. Currently about 30 students are members of the Student Chapters of The Wildlife Society and the American Fisheries Society.

How close can an election be? Dr. Jack H. Helle (Ph.D. ’80), NMFS, Auke Bay, found out in the last American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists (AIFRB) election. He was chosen to be President for the 1990-92 term by a one-vote margin...200-199! Maybe Jack could give the Beaver basketball team some pointers as once again they “shot themselves in the foot (feet?)” and dropped their opening NCAA game to Ball State. Leading the game with three seconds to go, the Beavers managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory and lose 54-53. Oh me!

A nice note from Terry Grimes (M.S. ’81) which once again confirms that not all F/W grads end up in F/W work. Terry continued on to William & Mary for a law degree and has been a trial attorney in Roanoke, Virginia for several years. Terry says, “The only field work involved is interviewing witnesses and litigants who are fighting over something that probably would be settled if we lived in a more civilized world. I am handling litigation that will have some impact upon the Orange fin madtom and the Roanoke logperch. Ask Carl Bond if these fish are worth saving. I need an excuse to return to Oregon for a visit.” (Carl assures me they are!)

David “Chip” Leslie, Jr. (Ph.D. ’83) has been promoted to Leader of the Oklahoma Cooperative F/W Research Unit at the other OSU. “...we have an aggressive graduate program in applied fisheries, aquaculture, conservation of endangered species, etc. The south central Great Plains are fascinating and far more diverse than most folks think.” Maybe we should send Chip a pair of spotted owls to keep him on his toes!

I had a brief but pleasant reunion with Marvin Noble (‘38) in Tillamook in April while helping the 4-H Extension people with a “mole safari” workshop. Marv tells me he retired in June ’89 after 44 years of wood products industry operations. He is now a small woodlands tree
farmer "...raising trees and 7 grandchildren ...." Marv was a member of Professor Dimick's first regular graduating class in '38. He also reports he was president of the Fish & Game Management Student Club...then called the "Ding Darling Wildlife Club".

Braden "Joe" Pillow ('40), another member of that great class of 50 years ago, writes "...here in Portland I have been active in the Geological Society of the Oregon Country and find physical geology and geo-morphology very interesting, with many applications to fish and wildlife and ecosystems in general. I recently discovered that Archie Strong, also a society member, attended OSC (in fish & game?) but left before I got there. I'm giving him my News & Views." Send us Archies' address—we'll add him to the mailing list.

Dick Fisher ('62, M.S. '63) not yet retired but 'counting down' reports, "I've been around some since my departure from OSU and Oregon in 1963. I started as an Okie in Tulsa with the now-defunct Division of River Basins, FWS...survived many changes in the name of that Division but the work was similar regardless of location...Tulsa, Phoenix, Boise. Following an interesting but short stint as FWS Representative on the Department of Interior's Committee responsible for input into the MX Missile Environmental Impact Statement, I spent time with the Division of Research at Ft. Collins, Colorado with the Instream Flow Group traveling and spending time on streams in nearly every state. Met and renewed acquaintances with many OSU grads...returned to the great northwest in '85 and became a 'hydro-cop' in the land of FERC. Stationed in Portland but living in Vancouver...son Jon at Colorado State and daughter Krista at Portland State, neither pursuing the F/W-life of an underpaid non-respected government bureaucrat."

A sad note from Dan Hitchcock ('60), Astoria District Manager for Pacific Power & Light, to report that classmate Jerry Swedberg ('61) died of multiple sclerosis. On a happier note, a recent issue of The Oregon Stater announced Dan's promotion to Major General in the U.S. Army Reserves. Dan is now Commanding General of the 104th Division, headquartered in Vancouver Barracks. A belated congratulations to the General!

On January 28, Special Agent Doug Morris ('70) was killed in the line of duty when the truck he was driving was hit by a train. Doug joined the FWS in 1977 after serving as Director of Wildlife Activities for the Peninsula Chapter of the Humane Society in San Mateo, California. He became a special agent in 1978 while serving with the Klamath River Special Task Force in California and later transferred to Oklahoma City. Doug joined the Houston law enforcement office in 1983 where he remained until his death. A dedicated conservationist, Morris received many awards during his service career including letters of commendation from the Secretary of the Interior.

Will Brown ('38) wrote in March that he had just returned from a month in Kenya, 16 days of it on horseback with tented camps. "It was great. My 4th trip to East Africa. I went in 1971, 1977 and two months in 1985. There have been substantial changes in animal viewing each trip. Now almost no rhinos. Plenty of elephants but no big bulls. Kenya population was 8 million in 1971...24 million now, nuff said."

"Doc" Cloyd Makinson ('40) agrees with editor Dan Edge who stated in our last issue, "You can be narrow minded no matter how many universities you attend." Doc says, "...my wife and I have attended so many universities through the elderhoistel programs since 1981 that I've quit counting them...in many states including Alaska and Hawaii and also in England and Australia." Doc claims he won a fishing trophy at the Tech-Aqua Elderoistel in Tennessee in '83 for 'The Biggest'. "No, I did not catch any fish, I just told them how we fished in Oregon."

A completed questionnaire from Jack Hemphill ('50) who says "I would definitely attend a 5th reunion as well as the 40th reunion of the class of 1950 in October. "Our son lives in Portland and we visit Oregon when an excuse arises...enjoy the News & Views on the activities of active graduates as well as news of retired classmates and former coworkers. The "Message From the Chairman" in the January issue is right on target."

Therese Armetta ('78) brings us up to date on her activities since graduation. "After graduation I worked in Kodiak Alaska as a Fishery Biologist for six years, conducting resource assessment of shell fish species (especially king and Tanner crabs) in the Bering Sea. In 1984, I entered the University of Washington to pursue a Master's degree in fishery biology. At the same time, I worked in the Pathology Subtask at NMFS, Seattle. I completed my Master's in March, 1990, and will be employed with the (continued)
SO NOW THAT YOU'RE RETIRED

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

What I plan to do with the rest of my life will have to wait until the end of this diatribe. Since editor Edge has given me license to reflect backward and forward, I'll take them in logical order.

First of all, Jeannine and I wish to express our sincere thanks for the contributions and efforts so many of you made toward our retirement gifts and celebration. Your outpourings humbled us and made us feel deeply appreciative of our good fortune in claiming you as our friends. The bighorn sheep sculpture by Dale Toweill will always have a special place in our hearts and on our fireplace mantel.

When Professor Dimick asked me to join the Departmental faculty in September, 1958, I accepted eagerly without any idea of the work, challenges, and rewards that were to come. I thought that all university professors did was come to class and regurgitate their lecture notes, give students a ton of homework to do, and give and grade final examinations. Wow, was I in for a rude awakening.

Over the years, I’ve been part of the dynamics of a Department striving to adjust to the changing needs of our society and natural resources. We’ve all watched the emphasis change from the life history and bag limit era, to the ecological renaissance (Leopold rediscovered) period, to the computer model and EIS revolution, to our ecotyping and multispecies management problems of today.

I’ve had the rare privilege of working for and with all of our past Department Heads. In retrospect, Prof. Dimick gave me opportunity and instilled in me great respect for students and enthusiasm for teaching. Dr. Scott nurtured my scientific curiosity and made it clear that good teaching and good research go hand-in-hand. Dr. Tubb supported my ventures into administration, and endured my seamy sense of humor.

And I profited from my relationships with all of our faculty members. Some associations with my original faculty colleagues were especially rewarding. From Jay Long, I learned that “A purist is a person that goes to great lengths to deny themselves a little pleasure.” From Lee Kuhn, I learned that old cigar butts and coyote scats look alike.
So Now That You're Retired (continued)

From Carl Bond, I learned that bad jokes never die. From Charles Warren, I learned that even if you’re crippled physically you can still wear a fine suit (you’ll have to ask Chuck about this one). And from Prof. Dimick I learned that new filing cabinets will never replace old apple boxes.

Some of my fondest memories stem from associations with students, both graduate and undergraduate. On Kuhn’s Big Game Field Trip, how can I ever forget Jim Yoakum loading his pants rather than missing a great close-up photo of elk on the Bridge Creek Flats. I recall marathon journeys in crowded vans to Western Students Wildlife Conclaves in Idaho, Utah, California, New Mexico, and Arizona. Some highlights of those trips were stops in Reno and Las Vegas along the way, and the sure signs of spring love in the rearview mirror. There’s a plaque on my office wall from “Hurricane Gussy” that stemmed from a Commercial Fisheries Field Trip that included a stop at the PGB meeting at Ocean Shores, Washington. Students still write about the uniqueness of Jeannine coming to our Invertebrate Fisheries class to cook and serve the results of our field trips to estuaries and rivers. Yes, she even tried to make something tasty out of freshwater mussels (naiads). Most students said they tasted like rubber bands cooked with cracker crumbs and egg batter. They had kinder things to say about the squid and octopus offerings.

A highlight of this was our 50th anniversary celebration when over 500 of us gathered to renew acquaintances and to reminisce about earlier times. Chuck Meslow witnessed my verbal fight with the Benton Kennel Club over rights to choice meeting and parking areas for our event. Normally I’m a peaceful guy who will negotiate with anyone, but they tried to lift their leg on us. We won!

So what about retirement? I’m sure you’ve grown tired of hearing retirees expound on how they’re busier now than they ever were before they retired. Well, for me it’s somewhat different. Sure, I’m still busy running the Fishery Observer Program and keeping up with my other involvements, but the tension is reduced. I drink less coffee, my lawns get mowed on a regular basis, and I’m developing a bit of a “don’t give me any crap” attitude.

Perhaps this has been a slight lull before the storm, because I’m about to become the co-owner of an 80-foot trawler. Isn’t it ironic that the first course I taught in the Department of Fish and Game Management was Commercial Fisheries. Perhaps I’ve gone through my lecture notes so many times that I feel compelled to practice that which I taught for so long. Maybe the order should have been reversed. Anyhow, I’m teaming with a Newport fisherman to fish albacore tuna in waters 45° S Latitude and 45°N Latitude. We’ll convert the trawler to a troller and practice dolphin-free fishing. For me, it’s a significant undertaking. Instead of being confronted with proposals, final reports, theses, and people problems, I’ll be contending with weather, machinery, loneliness, and fatigue. Not a bad trade. If this venture works out as well as the last one, I’ll indeed be fortunate.

Thanks for the memories and the opportunity to share a small part of your life. You are all very special, and we’ll enjoy the opportunity to keep in touch.

- Howard Horton-

HAS ANYONE SEEN THE MICRO-FISH?

Relax Drs. Bond and Markle! Carol Robertson of the EPA Library at OSU reports that someone from the Department borrowed Microfiche PB # 82-139973, "Effects of Noise on Wildlife and Other Animals," on 16 November, 1989. Please return it if you have it.

NEWS & VIEWS

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OREGON'S MOST IMPORTANT FISH

Editor's Note: A petition has been filed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the Oregon Chub or Spotted Minnow under the Endangered Species Act.

Now that the title has your attention, the photograph of the fish probably has you confused. Yes, you are right, it's not the State Fish (a Chinook), nor is it any other salmon or even a trout. In fact the world record for this fish is a mere 2 3/4 inches. The fish is the Oregon chub, a minnow that is also known by the scientific name, Oreonichthys crameri.

The scientific name tells a small story on its own. Oreonichthys simply means "Oregon fish" - this is a genus found only in Oregon. The species name, crameri, honors the discoverer of this species, Frank Cramer, a biologist from Stanford University. During a collecting trip at the turn of the century, Mr. Cramer found the Oregon chub near Oregon City, at other sites along the Willamette River, as well as in the Umpqua River.

Unfortunately, you cannot duplicate Mr. Cramer's collections today. The Oregon chub is no longer found around Oregon City and its local demise plus its uniqueness to the state are the reasons for the title of this article. "What!" you might say; where do I get off calling a minnow the most important fish in Oregon? I admit to some literary license, but in a pluralistic and ever-changing society, all of us must be prepared to accept a variety of values from our fellow citizens. In a state known for its conservation ethic, the Oregon chub is a good focal point for the hard decisions to be made. Its value is scientific and aesthetic, and can be found in what it tells us about our state, about the historical changes that have taken place and are taking place, and what it might offer to our children. Actually, there are two kinds of Oregon chub, the Willamette Oregon chub and the Umpqua Oregon chub. Umpqua Oregon chub are found throughout the Umpqua drainage, except the North Umpqua, and always near flowing water. They are usually found near rocks or clumps of vegetation on the sides of moderate to slow streams. Umpqua Oregon chub are also relatively common - if you look in the right places.

Willamette Oregon chub, on the other hand, are now restricted to no more than 15 miles of the Willamette drainage, in or near the Willamette National Forest and Dexter and Lookout Point Reservoirs. Their habitat is quite different from their Umpqua relatives; they are found in still water - sloughs, marshes, and ponds. The Willamette Oregon chub seems to be the only native backwater or warmwater fish specialist in western Oregon. Its physical and biotic environment has been altered by our attempts to control the Willamette through dams and channelization, to enhance warmwater fishing by stocking non-native bass and sunfish, and to control insects by stocking mosquito fish.

It should be obvious that we are the enemy of the Oregon chub. We want flood control, straight navigable rivers, and the same bass and crappie fishing that those lucky people in Georgia and Mississippi have naturally. We cannot push back the clock, blow up the dams or kill off the bass to save the Willamette Oregon chub. We can, however, leave something for tomorrow. We need to control our abuses; save a few spots as sanctuaries and acknowledge progress in all its forms.

A modest plan has been established by ODFW and Willamette National Forest to make progress in the rehabilitation of the Willamette Oregon chub. This plan calls for the reintroduction of the Willamette Oregon chub in suitable, selected habitats. The cost will be minimal; a few less ponds with sunfish.

The benefits of a successful Oregon chub plan are mostly for the future - in giving the next generation some options. The Governor calls for an "Oregon comeback". With only a small part of our tongue in cheek, let's call for an "Oregon chub comeback"!

-Doug Markle-
WHAT'S HAPPENING?

We enjoy hearing from alumni and Department friends. Send your autobiographical notes to Lee Kuhn and your opinions to the editor, and we will share them with "News & Views" readers.

Please make any needed address corrections below. You might also send us a buck or so to help cover costs of your newsletter, which is appearing twice yearly.

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