

“Keeping in Touch”

Quarterly Newsletter by/for Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game Retirees/Families & Interested Former Employees

January 2007, Vol. 3. No. 1

Dates to Remember:

Dates for the Retiree Luncheons, Golden Corral on Emerald in Boise, 11:30 a.m.

2007: March 8, May 10, July 12, September 13, November 8

“Mark Your Calendars”

IDFG Retiree Committee:

Ralph Pehrson, tiffy@aol.com

Jack Fisher, jfish@msn.com

Joe Greenley, joegreenley@msn.com

Bill Goodnight, idaholc@aol.com

Jo Toomey, josephine@mailbug.com

Jerry Mallet, mallet36@netzero.net

Roger Williams

Phil Jeppson

Corinne Barlow, rogcor22@cablone.net

Judy Fisher, fisherjj@interplus.net

Write or Send News Items to:

IDF&G Retirees

PMB 401

3313 W. Cherry Lane

Meridian, ID 83642

or E-mail: fisherjj@interplus.net

Thank You Again!

We really do have a generous bunch of people out there. Thank you **Phyllis Kochert, Bill Goodnight, and Kate Bethke** for your generous donations which will go a long way in keeping this newsletter afloat!

And a big thanks to **Kent Ball**. He has donated two boxes of his wonderful wood creations for the Retiree auction. Also, to **Gary Will** who has donated some of his beautiful artistry made from antlers. And, as always, Gary can still use any deer and elk antlers, etc., that you have laying around gathering dust. So, be prepared people! Start saving your “extra change” so you can bid on these and other items at the Retiree Reunion Silent Auction.

And a special thanks to the **HQ Christmas Wild Game Feed Committee** for another wonderful luncheon. I think there were more retirees in attendance than there were current employees! (*Oh, well, you know how we are – whenever there's free food . . .!*)

And a special thank you to **Sharon Clark and Mick Hoover** for their interest in preserving IDFG history. Sharon put together a booklet of stories that retirees sent in for the Wild Game Feed and if you would like to receive one, just let her know and she will get it to you. Contact Sharon at HQ: 365-1578 or e-mail: sclark@idfg.idaho.gov.

And remember, Mick and Sharon are always looking for historical mementos so if you have anything you would like to donate, they will gladly accept them; and you can rest assured, they will be part of the display once a permanent home is established.

If you were unable to make it to Idaho Falls to view the museum display of Fish and Game history put together by Mick and Sharon, don't despair. The display will be featured at the Idaho Historical Museum in Boise coming this May. We'll keep you posted.

Don't Forget Camo Day
January 16, 2007, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Statehouse Steps
Sponsored by: Idaho Sportsmen's Caucus Advisory Council

This day is for the Sportsmen and Women of Idaho to show the Legislature their concerns and that they VOTE! Please make a concerted effort to attend to show your support for Idaho's Sportsmen! Please do not let this day go unnoticed. Plan to attend now!

Contacts:

Bob Minter (208) 382-0010
Mark Bell (208) 250-9495
Richard Beesley (208) 317-3678
Jerry Bullock (208) 403-7009

Retiree Updates

Kent Ball has returned to the "South" for the winter; he is located at Overton Beach (on Lake Mead) and will be there until mid-March. So far, he is the only retiree there. Kent said Bob Stenerson's mother-in-law isn't well and he didn't know if he would make it down this year. Also, Al and Lynn Nicholson are staying home this year to plan their trip to Alaska next summer. And Bob and Sharon Moore were to arrive shortly. (Of course, Kent had to let me know it was in the 80's while we were going through our cold spell.) Kent also made a trip to Round Mountain, Nevada, to spend a few days with his grandchildren.

Jack McNeel is still busy writing for the Idaho Senior Independent newspaper. He had a feature on the front page of the October/November 2006 issue about **Professor Don Johnson** (U of I). (*I also noticed photo credits for Wayne Melquist.*)

The December 2006/January 2007 edition will feature **Don McPherson**. Jack says, "a photo of him feeding a horse takes up fully half the front page and with the story it's the entire front page plus more on a later page. The paper always features someone doing something particularly noteworthy in their "senior years" and Don certainly exemplifies that with all his horseback/ backcountry activities."

Another article in this same publication features **Stacy Gebhards**. It highlights much of Stacy's "wild" background in horse packing and his early career with Fish and Game. Seems Stacy is also an author. He has written "Cold Survival," a practical handbook on survival in winter's worst conditions; "When Mules Wear Diamonds," a book on safely handling and packing horses and mules and the skills needed in camping, hunting, hiking, backcountry skiing and snowshoeing. He also has an autobiography out called "Wild Thing." *And just think, people, you can say you "knew him when . . ."*

If you are interested in getting copies of the Idaho Senior Independent, you can contact them toll free: 1-866-360-5683 or e-mail: idahoseniorind@bresnan.net. A mail subscription is \$10.00 per year. It is a newspaper dedicated to the senior and contains lots of good information. They are also available at many of the Senior Centers around the state.

Diane and Dale Baird have sold their place in Cascade and are back in Arizona for the winter. They have no idea what next summer will bring but they will show up in Idaho around the first of August. (*Just in time for the Reunion, huh?*) They are both well "although it's a little harder to reach down to get my golf ball out of the cup and even harder to stand up afterwards but am still playing almost every day and get out to shoot a quail or two every now and then so things could be worse."

Rod Parker just bought 98 acres of CRP and hay ground that he is putting into as many food plots as NRCS and Region HIP folks will allow. "My oldest daughter also has 80 acres next to us, so we have about 235 acres devoted to wildlife habitat. I figured that it's one way I can be retired and still do some good for wildlife." (*Boy, some people sure know how to stay busy!*)

Merry Dell Morris spent some time in King Hill during the holidays visiting her daughter Heidi and family. She says, "I'm getting the New Year off to a good start tho . . . attended the Eagle Seniors "watch party" on December 31 and played pinochle until the NEW YEAR! (*Way to go, Merry Dell!*)

Phyllis Kochert reports "our summer started out really well. Mike and I attended **Al Van Vooren's** retirement dinner, which was a wonderful tribute to a great guy. Then came a new grandchild, Peyton Elizabeth, born the end of June. Just as Indiana relatives showed up August 2, I started feeling puny. On August 7 we stopped at the hospital to get me a West Nile virus blood test on our way to Coeur d'Alene via Ennis, Montana. In Ennis, we visited an old friend, Tom Pruitt, who is the manager of the Ennis National Fish Hatchery.

"Next stop was Missoula to spend time with **Jeff and Cheryl Copeland**. By the time we arrived in Coeur d'Alene for an Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation board meeting, I was worthless. Mike drove every mile with me sleeping most of the time. When we returned to Gooding, I had four messages from the doctor's office that I needed to come in immediately because I had West Nile virus. They must have thought I died, because they were shocked when I finally called a week later.

"Of course, there's not a thing they can do for it, but I survived, after a couple of months of fatigue, headaches, body aches, etc. Just after I thought I was healthy again, I flunked my mammogram which resulted in an immediate lumpectomy September 27. Thank God it was benign. Things could be a lot worse and we are thankful for all our many blessings." (*Ye Gods, Phyllis, hope you are doing well now! Sounds as if you had been put through the wringer!*)

Darlene Pollard writes, "just to let you know, **Herb** is retiring on January 20th. Our plans are to spend the Spring getting his brother's property ready to sell. (He died in August.) Then spend the summer in Lakeview, Oregon, our home town where my parents still live in the house I grew up in. Then in September head east and travel the country, hopefully for a year. Visit our daughter Aimee in North Carolina (Fort Bragg) and our son Brian who has been deployed to Fort Bliss, Texas. Aimee's husband is in Iraq and Brian is in the reserves."

For those of you who have been asking about **Bernice Howell**, I am sorry to say she has been having some serious health problems. She has had both hips replaced. And she had to have a bone scan to make sure she hadn't fractured any bones when she took a fall in her garage during the Thanksgiving holiday. *Hey, Bernice, please take it easy! And make sure you keep in touch!*

And I read in the December 11 Statesman that **Geoff Williams** spent another Christmas away from home – he was in Oaxaca, Mexico where he will perform free surgeries for the needy. As you will recall from a previous newsletter, Geoff is a plastic surgeon who travels to third world countries at his own expense to perform surgeries for those who cannot afford to pay. He cuts his expenses by staying with his parents, **Beverly and Milt Williams**, in between trips abroad. As Beverly said, "He has put himself into God's hands, so we have done the same."

Received a three-page letter from **Ted Packard** and since I cannot quote the entire letter, here are some of the highlights: Ted and Donna live in Inkom and both suffer from arthritis and Ted has had some heart problems. He really wanted to say 'Hi' to any old guys left. Ted, if you remember, worked at Eagle, American Falls, Ashton, Henrys Lake and Grace hatcheries from 1957 to 1985. He retired as Fisheries Hatchery Superintendent 1.

Ted says, "I am truly sorry about the deaths of some of the great guys I had the pleasure of working with, the last was **Leland "Bud" Batchelder** and maybe his wife Denise. Also, **Evan Parrish**. These guys were real troopers with the department . . . I will always be grateful for the chance to work with these men. My prayers are with all their families, as I knew them well. God Bless the great old guys

who have gone on. I hope and pray the department now will carry on the great tradition the old guys used to do to make this one of the greatest departments of all time." (*Ted, I'm giving your letter to Sharon Clark so she can add it to her Retiree booklet of stories she prepared for the Wild Game Feed.*)

Congratulations Are In Order!

Read in the Statesman that **Gloria and John Elliott** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary December 28. As you will remember, Gloria worked in the Director's office during the Bob Salter and Louise Snodgrass era.

And I gather from an old newspaper clipping I saved that **Claude and Marie Clapsaddle** will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on February 24.

Where Oh Where!

Does anyone know what has happened to **Howard Metzger? Jack Fisher** has an "all-points bulletin" out for him. If you know where Jack can find him, please let him know. E-mail: jackfish@msn.com; or call 884-0213.

In Memoriam

Maureen Olmstead Teeter passed away October 16 after a brief and courageous struggle with cancer. Mo worked for the Department for over 30 years, first at HQ in Engineering and of late the Southeast Region. Mo is survived by her husband, **Lon Teeter**, and three children: Kelly Edward and his wife Jamie; Katie Irene and her husband Mark; and KaLauni Marie; her mother, Jackie; her sisters Marilyn and Leanne; her brothers Steve, Brian, and Alan; her dear friend Barb; her many in-laws, nieces, and nephews; her coworkers, and all others whose life she has touched. Donations may be made to a memorial scholarship fund for her daughter KaLauni Teeter at any US Bank.

Edith Mae Anderson, 84, of Weiser, mother of **Don Anderson**, passed away November 14, 2006. Edith is survived by her children, Sharon Sprague (Chuck) of Burbank Washington, Elva Fischer (Dennis) of Nampa, and Don Anderson (Shelley) of Weiser; sister Marie Street (Dale) of Dorris, California; daughter-in-law Chris Anderson of Weiser; 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Shirley Rebecca Clark, 84, of Twin Falls passed away December 8, 2006. Shirley was employed as Secretary to the Director at Idaho Fish and Game for a year and a half before accepting a position as Secretary to the CEO and President of Idaho Power. Shirley is survived by her older brother Ray A. (Maxine) Clark of Buhl; her younger sister Laurel Coates of Nikiski, Alaska; her sister-in-law, Mable Clark of Twin Falls; her sister-in-law Susan Clark of Boise; 13 nieces and nephews and a special friend, Darlene Wilcox.

Dale Madison Dillon, 91, of Boise passed away November 18, 2006. Dale was the father of **Donna Dillon**, Administrative Assistant in Bureau of Communications. A private family graveside ceremony will be held at the Placerville cemetery this spring. Memorials may be made to the Knight's Templar Eye Foundation, Shriner's Hospital, or charitable organization of your choice.

Margaret Plummer, 85, a long-time resident of Boise passed away in Southlake, Texas. Margaret was the wife of deceased retiree **Johnny Plummer**. A memorial service will be held in Boise and a graveside service in Twin Falls in the spring of 2007.

Burt Bowlden, 89, passed away December 25 at a Boise retirement center. Services will be held in Bellevue sometime in April or May 2007.

Our deepest sympathies to all the families.

Judy J. Fisher
fisherjj@interplus.net