

Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy News

Number 2 – Return of the Salmon Festival Special Edition

October 14, 1997

Return of the Salmon Festival

See you there Saturday, October 18!

This special edition of the News is devoted to the festival celebrating the return of fall run salmon to Coleman National Fish Hatchery (CNFH) on Battle Creek. As one of the sponsors of the festival, the Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy would like to invite you and your family to this all-day event. The CNFH will demonstrate the procedures for spawning the salmon and development of the eggs at the hatchery. They will follow the cycle of egg development through to the spring when the fry are released to continue their life cycle back in the ocean.

There will be booths at the hatchery complex with information on many related issues and fun activities for the whole family. Come play the role of a "fish," travel through the delta, find your way back home to your creek, and see what changes the salmon go through as they travel the "Journey Home." Linda Weaver, who presented and dramatized the life cycle of salmon for elementary students at schools in the watershed, will assist with the activities.

Join in the fun on Saturday, October 18, 1997, at the mouth of Battle Creek. Activities will run continuously from 9 am to 4 pm. To reach the hatchery follow the signs south from the eastern side of the Sacramento River at Balls Ferry Bridge. Call Laurie at 527-4231 for further information.

CDF&G Activities for the Return of the Salmon Festival

At the "Salmon Barn" on the south side of Battle Creek there will be more Festival activities, sponsored by the California Department of Fish & Game, with a focus on the natural breeding enhancement program of the Department. The life cycle of salmon returning to Battle Creek, their natural spawning activities, and development of the fry will be the focus of interactive displays set up by volunteers working with the CDF&G.

See if you can run as fast as a salmon can swim, watch natural spawning in progress, check out the salmon taking life easy in the pools of Battle Creek, and hear from biologists about the "natural" approach to increasing the salmon population.

The Salmon Barn is located at the bridge crossing Battle Creek on Gover/Jellys Ferry Road. Watch for the signs.

FREE DRAWING!!! Visit the BCWC booth at the Festival

It's your big chance....Win a trip to the Mendocino Coast for your family, a framed photograph of a scenic spot on the Battle Creek watershed, or another prize.

Carma Stevenson and Theresa Howard will help with a booth at the Salmon Festival. Be sure to stop by the booth to enter the drawing and learn more about the Conservancy. The drawing will be held at the close of the Salmon Festival on Saturday, October 18, 1997.

Local Students Learn About “The Journey Home”

The journey of salmon returning to the creeks and streams where they began life was the focus of presentations to schools in the Battle Creek watershed during the past month. Linda Weaver, science educator, told stories such as why fish have a light-colored underside (hint: when predators below the salmon in the ocean look up, they can't see the silver underbelly of the salmon very easily against the background of the sky, so the salmon are effectively camouflaged), and she taught the students about the role of the Battle Creek watershed in the life cycle of the salmon.

Participating schools included **Black Butte Elementary** in Shingletown, **Manton Elementary**, **Mineral Elementary**, and **Plum Valley Elementary** in Paynes Creek. Thank you to the teachers and administrators of the schools for participating in the presentations.

If your kids participated in this program in the schools they won't want to miss the chance to see wild salmon face to face at the "Return of the Salmon Festival."

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BATTLE CREEK WATERSHED CONSERVANCY

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