



Photos by DONNA CHICKERING

ABOVE LEFT: At last year's Frog O'Faire Children's Festival, the stream table brought kids in to see how water flows from place to place. The stream table will be one fun stop for kids at the new Rogue River World Fish Migration Day event April 7. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Children at last fall's Rogue River Watershed Council Kid and Creek event in Jackson County rearrange the parts of the stream table to see where water will flow.

If you go

WHAT: Rogue River World Fish Migration Day, including a fair, a 5k walk/run, a costume kids dash, a talk about lampreys
WHO: Organized by the Rogue River Watershed Council
WHERE: Fair and runs are at North Middle School grounds, 1725 N.W. Highland Ave.; Lamprey talk is at Climate City Brewing, 509 S.W. G St.
WHEN: April 7, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. with run beginning at 11 a.m., kids dash at noon; lamprey talk begins at 7 p.m.
COST: 5k run registration is \$20 for adults, \$15 for youth; all other events are free
CONTACT: 541-423-6185 or www.rogueriverwc.org; sign up for 5k run at www.getmeregistered.com

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— DONNA CHICKERING
 Rogue River Watershed Council member

JoCo celebrates World Fish Migration Day

By Edith Decker
 of the Daily Courier

World Fish Migration Day, April 7, was the perfect choice to begin a new, family-friendly event in Josephine County.

The day includes a fair with lots of activities, a 5k run, a costume kids dash, all at North Middle School on Highland Avenue, and an evening talk by an expert on lampreys, at Climate City Brewing.

“It’s important to get people exposed to the importance of fish, the importance of clean water, the things that attract people to this area,” says Donna Chickering of the Rogue River Watershed Council, which is hosting the event.

“There’s going to be a lot of hands-on activities — and a lot of information. There should be something for everyone,” Chickering says.

The council is a three-year-old conglomeration of four smaller watershed groups, including the local Stream Restoration Alliance of the Middle Rogue and three others in Jackson County.

“We really wanted to do more in Josephine County, so we thought ‘outreach,’” says Chickering, who lives in Grants Pass.

World Fish Migration Day comes around every two years, but the council wants to make this an annual event.

Considering this is the first, the menu of options is extension with four separate events.

The fair will run 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and includes 20 booths, offering information and activities. They’ll be on the North Middle School grounds, but can use the school’s covered sidewalks in case of rainy weather.

Organizations involved with watersheds, fish and related matters will have booths, including the water masters

from both Josephine and Jackson counties, who will answer questions from citizens.

In addition, kid-friendly activities include a bounce house, the Pacifica Caterpillar, the U.S. Forest Service Salmon Tent, the Department of Fish and Wildlife’s live fish tank, a booth to learn about casting and fly tying from the Rogue Flyfishers and Southern Oregon Fly Fishers. The council’s stream table allows kids to rearrange and make streams and tributaries, dams and obstacles, then see how those work.

A nature walk along Gilbert

Creek nearby and a chance to use nets to see what’s in the creek are part of the day as well.

The Grants Pass High Marching Band boosters will have food concessions available.

“That will focus on the importance of urban streams and the importance of restoration,” Chickering says, noting the council recently helped students at North Middle School with restoration work at Gilbert Creek.

The “migratory” 5k walk/run goes off at 11 a.m. following roads along Gilbert Creek

downstream and back. Ribbons will be awarded in several age groups.

It’s the only event with a charge — \$20 for adults and \$15 for those 18 and under. A T-shirt is an additional \$15 “but the T-shirts are very cool,” Chickering says.

Participants can sign up online in advance at www.getmeregistered.com, then searching “Grants Pass” for the event. Or sign-ups are taken just before the race from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.

The free Kids Dash will be at the North Middle School track and is free and open to all 12

and under.

“To participate, they have to have a costume that relates to fish and fish migration in some way,” Chickering says. Though costumes need not be complex.

“Everybody gets a ribbon,” she says of the dash.

The final event of the day takes place at 7 p.m. at Climate City Brewing, 509 S.W. G St. Fisheries biologist and lamprey expert Stewart Reid will talk about the Pacific Lamprey, one of the area’s most mysterious fishes. It also holds a place in the culture of native people of the area, Chickering says.

“He’s a dynamic speaker, very fun,” she says of Reid.

The talk is free and attendees may purchase refreshments at the restaurant.

Fourteen sponsors have made the event possible, Chickering says. In particular Grants Pass District 7, Morrison’s Lodge and Rogue Wilderness Adventures and the Rogue Flyfishers have been major sponsors.

For more on the event, call 541-423-6185 or see www.rogueriverwc.org.

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