

Bellevue-Issaquah Chapter TU Board Meeting, 1/2/19

Attendees: Mark, Brad, Kevin, Steve M, Steve L, Denis, Shawn, Dave, Bill, Duane, and Austin

Mark reported that 35 movie tickets have already been sold online

Duane will check with the NB ACE hardware store about its ticket sales to date

Denis will check with Creekside Angling Shop in Issaquah

Shawn noted that Flycaster Brewery is good to go on providing the beer, but we need to acquire the banquet license to serve the beer

Mark noted that Sasha is coordinating with the Bellevue Orvis Store to secure a rod for the movie night auction

Mark also note that another supposed member (though Mark did not see his name on the member list) said he had about \$150,000 worth of fly fishing equipment to sell and is offering TU 20 percent of the sale price for assisting with the liquidation of it. Mark has asked for an inventory of the equipment from the donor

The “Suds & Science” project will begin with the January meeting which invites members from various conservation groups to attend the TU monthly meeting to hear speakers discussing a variety of topics. Our Jan speaker will discuss pre-spawn mortality.

Mark requested the ordering of 24 more TU logo travel mugs to offer as thank you gifts and auction items to help promote TU

Duane noted that some repair works is needed on the fish traps, particularly the steel plates that are raised to hold fish. He noted that it appears when the plates are lifted, the current creates a small gap between them to allow fish to escape. He will undertake the repair work prior to potential installations later this spring

Mark is seeking nominations from member for 2018 TU awards

Dave noted that they have not observed any recent instream spawning activity, so at present, although the stream surveys are still being done, weir trapping has been suspended. Total count so far is about 100 Kokanee. He also explained that all hatchery fish are being thermally marked – which creates band similar to tree rings in the head of a Kokanee, which can later be extracted from caught or capture fish to provide valuable information to fisheries biologists.

RSI units were installed over the past week in Idylwood and Zacuse creeks to help promote greater Kokanee survival and propagation in those streams

Dave also noted that Wally will be raising Kokanee in his private pond, in which other potentially predatory fish have been extirpated

BI-TU will be hosting two Perch Derbies in 2019 – one in the spring (proposed date: 5/18) and one in the fall (proposed date, 11/9, Veteran's Day), with the fall event gifting all proceeds to the Wounded Warrior Project

Dave also noted that he is working on a few grants to help fund his position and projects

Denis shared that he has fishermen friends concerned with the cutthroat limits on Lake Sammamish, believing that the 5 fish per day limit is too liberal. A discussion followed in which Dave suggested that due to surveys of local streams and other indicators, and the tremendous number of salmon fry released each year from the Issaquah hatchery, he believes the cutthroat population is quite robust. Mark also noted that in doing stream work he's been extremely surprised by the cutthroat populations in almost every stream, indicating they are doing well. Additionally, it was noted that unlike Kokanee, which do not migrate into the streams to escape the DO squeeze, cutthroat will move to into the streams when lake the conditions are poor, and as such, are much more resilient. The discussion concluded that, if the cutthroat population begins to show signs of decline, TU may consider recommending a less liberal limit.

Brad suggested that we need to spend more time thinking ahead, and that it may be time for TU-BI to be thinking about other projects in addition to the Kokanee Project, in case that project does not work out. He believes there are a lot of things we could do, and that it would enhance the chapter if we had more projects going. Mark suggested that may be a good idea, especially if they are service-oriented projects. Brad gave a brief summary of what some of the other state chapters are doing – Yakima, Spokane, Kitsap, Olympia. Sky Valley has re-energized, while Northshore and Tacoma are non-existent. There is also a Clearwater Chapter that is a cooperative between WA & Idaho, which is doing some good work, mostly spearheaded by its Idaho members.

Kevin noted that we have \$44,730 in our account, but that does not include a recent check for \$5,000 (from whom?), and that we will be closing the Chase account soon to work exclusively with BECU.

Steve M noted that he will be traveling to Olympia with Dick Chambers to meet with (first name?) Baker of WDFW to see if she can be a champion for TU causes/issues within the department. However, he believes not much will get done this year due to budget shortfalls within the agency.

Mark noted that there will be a DeLeo Wall property hearing later in January, and that he will forward any information he receives about it to the members. Denis said he would be attending.

Denis also reported we had four new members today, which is really good for this time of year

The TU Western Regional Meeting will be in Olympia March 14-16, and will coincide with our state's Legislative Day.