

2006 Sammy Award Winners

Ed McMillan

Ed McMillan has spent his professional life in engineering and surveying around the Pacific Northwest. Whether working on airports in Alaska or the stormwater code in Clark County, Ed's brought his enthusiasm for environmental stewardship to the project at hand. An avid angler, Ed maintains his lifelong passion for Pacific NW salmon and steelhead recovery through volunteer opportunities. He currently serves on the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board's Technical Advisory Committee and as a board member for the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group (LCFEG). Ed has engineered several volunteer projects for LCFEG within Clark County such as large woody debris collectors on the Little Washougal River; placement of large woody debris in Lockwood Creek; Lower Washougal restoration project; and the Larson Creek Fish Passage Project where Evergreen High School students fabricated and installed two fishways Ed designed. Ed McMillan's zeal for the environment and salmon recovery can be summarized in a line from a poem he authored:

*Cause it's nature's scene
That keeps us serene
And let's us live content*



BOCC Chairman Marc Boldt congratulates Ed McMillan while Doug Sutherland looks on.

Tom and Kozue Monahan

Over 20,000 native trees and shrubs cover 16 acres of Tom and Kozue Monahan's LaCenter property where reed canary grass used to be the dominant species. The Monahans saw great potential for salmon and wildlife habitat on their 20-acre Lockwood Creek property when they purchased it over ten years ago, but restoration was desperately needed. Tom Monahan began approaching agencies to see what could be done to enhance the habitat of the large floodplain and stream channel. The Monahans partnered with Clark Public Utilities, Clark Conservation District, Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to bring this project to fruition. Tom and Kozue's commitment is significant. The project took almost ten years. It included removal of a 60 year old dike, installation of 27,000 plants, and covers 16 acres including 3000 lineal feet of stream corridor.

After just one flooding season, large numbers of juveniles have been observed using the newly scoured areas created by the installed large woody debris. Throughout it all, the



Tom Monahan

Monahan's have shown a strong dedication to make the habitat salmon-friendly. The Monahans are setting the trend for environmental stewardship in Clark County.

Phil Burgess

There's a new vision of weed control in Clark County. Weed crews stalk Japanese Knotweed along county waterways wearing holsters that hold injection guns. This is due to the innovation of Clark County Weed Management Director, Phil Burgess. Several years ago, after studying the invasive and fast growing nature of the noxious Japanese Knotweed, Phil began experimenting with a technique of injecting the canes of the plant with herbicide as opposed to the more traditional topical application process. It took several years and a lot of persistence on behalf of Phil and the weed management staff, and the result is not only a process that works but is also salmon friendly. Phil's patented herbicide injection gun multitasks by killing the plant, keeping herbicide out of waterways, and using only the small amount of herbicide that is absolutely necessary. Japanese Knotweed is not a problem unique to Clark County. Many jurisdictions in the U.S. and around the world have been interested in learning how to use this weed killing system. Phil has held lectures in London and most recently at Harvard University where he has been asked to return for future lectures. Now, Phil and his weed deputies are adapting the system to use on other weeds such as Himalayan Blackberries. Phil Burgess and his inoculation gun are good for fish—bad for weeds.



Phil Burgess accepts his Sammy Award.

Richard Dyrland

As a hydrologist for the federal government, Richard Dyrland crossed the country working on various projects. But given the choice to return to Washington D.C. or relocate to "the other Washington" Richard chose to remain where his heart is. He then began an enthusiastic and dedicated volunteer career aimed at putting native salmon back into northwest streams. A long-time volunteer for Fish First, Richard has designed side channels for spawning on Cedar Creek and several other areas. His design work has been so successful that many of these projects had fish spawning the first year after the projects were complete. Richard diligently works long hours meeting with scientists, volunteers, and property owners to design and implement optimal conditions for salmon regeneration in our local streams. Richard has also been instrumental in writing grants to obtain funding for these salmon saving projects. As chairperson for Friends of the East Fork, Richard has worked hard to halt the degradation of salmon habitat. Through his various volunteer activities, Richard credits collaboration and coordination between volunteer



Richard Dyrland

groups, government agencies, and landowners as the key to unlocking the door to salmon recovery and habitat restoration. Knowledge, hard work, and diligence make Richard Dyrland an obvious choice for a Sammy Award.

Charlotte Akin

There are several teachers in Clark County who use the Salmon in the Classroom program, but York Elementary fifth grade teacher, Charlotte Akin takes the lesson to a whole new level. While releasing their classroom-raised salmon into Rock Creek, the students work to remove Himalayan blackberries and replace them with native vegetation. The students spend time with biologists looking for signs of wildlife near the creek and learning why the native vegetation is so important for their habitat.

Charlotte designs and plans this project within a year-long theme where student's learning is integrated and relevant to the world they view on a daily basis. Through this integration, students are more actively engaged and see the relationship of their schoolwork with the world they live in. Mrs. Akin's students are often among the youngest participants to exhibit their salmon-savvy knowledge at the Watershed Congress. As an educator Mrs. Akin is making sure her students not only have a complete understanding of how salmon live, but how they connect all of us as a community.



Doug Sutherland and Chairman Boldt congratulate Sammy Winner Charlotte Akin.

2006 Commissioners Sammy Award

Dean Sutherland

One decade after Dean Sutherland began work as Environmental Manager at Clark Public Utilities his signature on salmon habitat restoration can be seen throughout the county. Dean's involvement in government and understanding of moving projects through the sometimes awkward process of obtaining funding and permits proved invaluable to the success of Clark Public Utilities environmental program. Countless acres of wildlife habitat and riparian area have been restored due to Dean Sutherland's persistence and dedication. His diplomacy and consensus-building ability have resulted in successful multi-agency projects such as The Columbia Springs Environmental Education

Center and the preservation of Wood's Landing. Dean has logged many hours on



Dean Sutherland accepting his Sammy Award

various volunteer boards and committees including as an original member of the Clark County ESA Advisory Committee and the Habitat Conservation Committee. Dean was working hard for the Clark County environmental long before he began working for Clark Public Utilities. He served almost 14 years in the Washington State legislature first in the House of Representatives and then as a Senator. While a legislator he worked on committees such as the natural resources committee, the joint select committee on marine and ocean resources, and the environmental affairs committee. As a member of the Sammy selection committee, Dean Sutherland has helped recognize many deserving volunteers over the years, now it is his turn to be honored.

2006 Certificate of Merit Winner

Clark County Public Works, Maintenance and Operations Division

For removal of Day break
Dike and restoring the
floodplain connection to the
East Fork Lewis River.



Commissioner Betty Sue Morris congratulates Ken Schwanz as Doug Sutherland Presents the Certificate of Merit to Public Works Director, Pete Capell