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APPLEGATE OUTBACK: MY OPINION

Preparing your wife for the salmon season opener

BY BOB FISCHER

Every year during salmon season, hundreds of us get up before dawn, prowling around the water in old clothes with cups of steaming coffee and talking about the years when the salmon practically dragged you off the shoreline. To an unpracticed eye, all of this will appear like some instinctual response from primordial man, akin to the march of the lemmings to their doom. But such is not the case.

Salmon season opener is neither our primitive need to self destruct nor some haphazard rebellion against organized society. Lines of cars with boats on trailers wait to get to the launching ramp, shadowy figures round their shoulders against the morning

chill and a forest of fishing rods bristles from boats leaving the harbor are all a part of a carefully orchestrated scheme that has taken weeks of previous planning.

For this reason it is vital that neophytes realize the planning for opening day salmon fishing must necessarily begin with cleaning and oiling of fishing rods and reels or repairing of last season's tackle. The wise fishermen will start with the most important phase of the preparations which is—softening up his wife.

Before an ounce of oil or one drop of cleaner is applied to fishing tackle, take your wife out to dinner. Lavish her with praise. Notice her incredible youthfulness, how she barely changes year to year, while you, by comparison feel less and less worthy. And, for heavens sake, do not laugh.

If you blow phase one, buddy-

buddy, there is little reason to oil your reels. For instance, at this very moment start telling your wife how important she has been to your success. Bring home a bouquet of flowers every night or so and show her such consideration she (hopefully) will be so dazzled that by opening day that she will not realize that you

are pulling the boat out of the yard at three a.m. Past seasons show that fishermen who "soften" up their wives for opening day have a higher rate of success and pleasure than those who

tend to stonewall the occasion and thus spend the day worrying about facing the music when they get home. Trial and error show that wise fishermen keep records on "softening measures" that have had a greater success than others. Remember too, that wives are not naive, the same flowers on the same date each year tend to show a pattern of behavior.

So, mix up your tactics, flowers one day, candy the next. A dinner date and an evening show are not too much. Beginners should watch the papers for notices on salmon fishing classes. Instructors might not list, "Wife Softening," in their index of classroom subjects, but the better classes will provide for this need. In the event you get an instructor who lacks experience, any veteran salmon fisherman can help. Because wife "softening" is as important as sharp hooks and fresh bait.

Bob Fischer • 541-846.6218



Bob Fischer



Fall Family Festival at Pacifica Garden

**Saturday and Sunday
October 23-24
10:00 am to 4:00 pm each day**

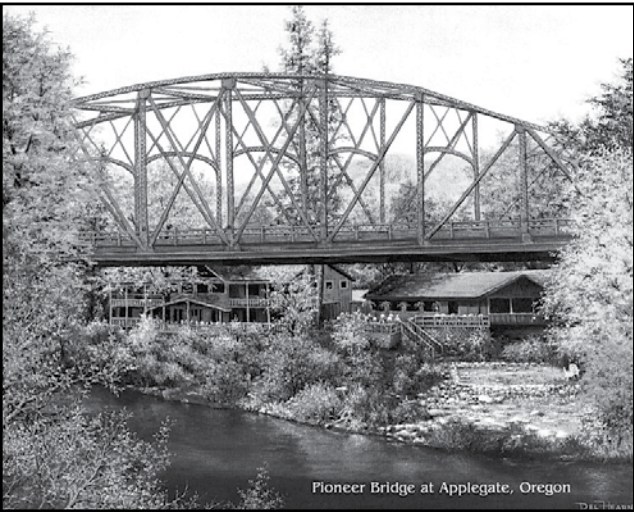


Bekah Healy Photography

Yes, we'll have a corn maze and pumpkins! But, we'll have so much more, as well. For the young-at-heart there will be a zip line, live music, GOOD food, an art show, a fall plant sale, AND a beer garden! For the young-uns there will be hay-rides, the "Caterpillar" Science Trailer, a trick-or-treating route, arts and crafts, pony rides, spooky-storytelling, petting zoo, a real tipi, nature treasure hunts, and fishing (rods available). This is fall and Halloween at their finest!

DON'T MISS IT: Saturday and Sunday, October 23-24, 10:00 to 4:00 each day. With an entrance fee of \$10.00 per car, many activities (corn maze, Caterpillar, tipi, arts and crafts, petting zoo) are free. Others (pumpkins, zip line, pony rides, food, etc.) will have an additional nominal fee. Pacifica is located at 14615 Water Gap (2 miles south of Highway 238, between Applegate and Murphy). You can call 541-846-1100 for more information.

ALL profits will go to benefit Pacifica and "The Caterpillar," Pacifica's mobile science and nature center which takes fun, hands-on science to thousands of local children each year.



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