

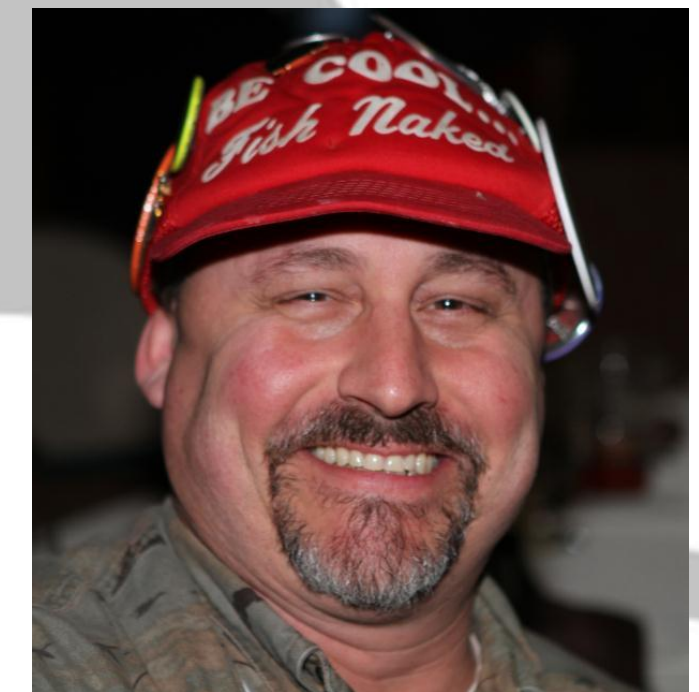
## History of the “Be Cool – Fish Naked” Hat

At the auction held in conjunction with the annual ORAFS meeting banquet, a now faded, but originally bright red baseball cap with “Be Cool, Fish Naked” written across the front, has been a winner. This silly hat continues to be a source of entertainment at the auction, and raises funds to the Chapter annually. The person that buys its’ use for a year, brings it back, and it is sold again, and again, and again. Here is the story behind it....



Wayne Bowers, Auctioneer

Wayne Bowers, a major contributor to the Chapter, and ODFW District Biologist in S.E. Oregon when he retired in 2002, was fishing with three friends on Alexander Creek, a tributary of the Susitna River in Alaska in about 1985. With four guys in the wilderness, clothing was optional (and apparently the bugs were not bad). Wayne looked out of the cabin one afternoon to see his three friends busy fishing....wearing only boots, fishing vests, and hats. He took a photo we are still looking to find. But that image started Wayne thinking, and when he returned, had the now famous hat custom made.



At the 1985 annual meeting that winter at Kah-nee-ta, Wayne was auctioneer and wore that hat. At that time, the chapter was transitioning from just having a raffle to a combination auction and raffle. Dave Nichols was acting as a spotter for the auction that night. After the last raffle item was given away, Dave spontaneously pulled the new hat from Wayne’s head, took over the auction, and auctioned it off. As at many Chapter Auctions, the membership was into party mode by this time, and the bidding was fierce on the hat. We can’t remember who bought it the first year, but they paid a good sum. It was decided after it was sold that first year, that the person buying the hat could put a button of their choice on it to personalize it, but would have to return it for auction the next year. As an incentive, if the buyer did not return it, they would owe the chapter the cumulative worth from all auction years. Wayne remembers that several times it went down to the wire to get the hat back to the meeting in time for the auction, but the tradition has never been broken and it has been auctioned off at every meeting since.



Carl Schreck and Bob Hughes

# The Tale of the Red Dress

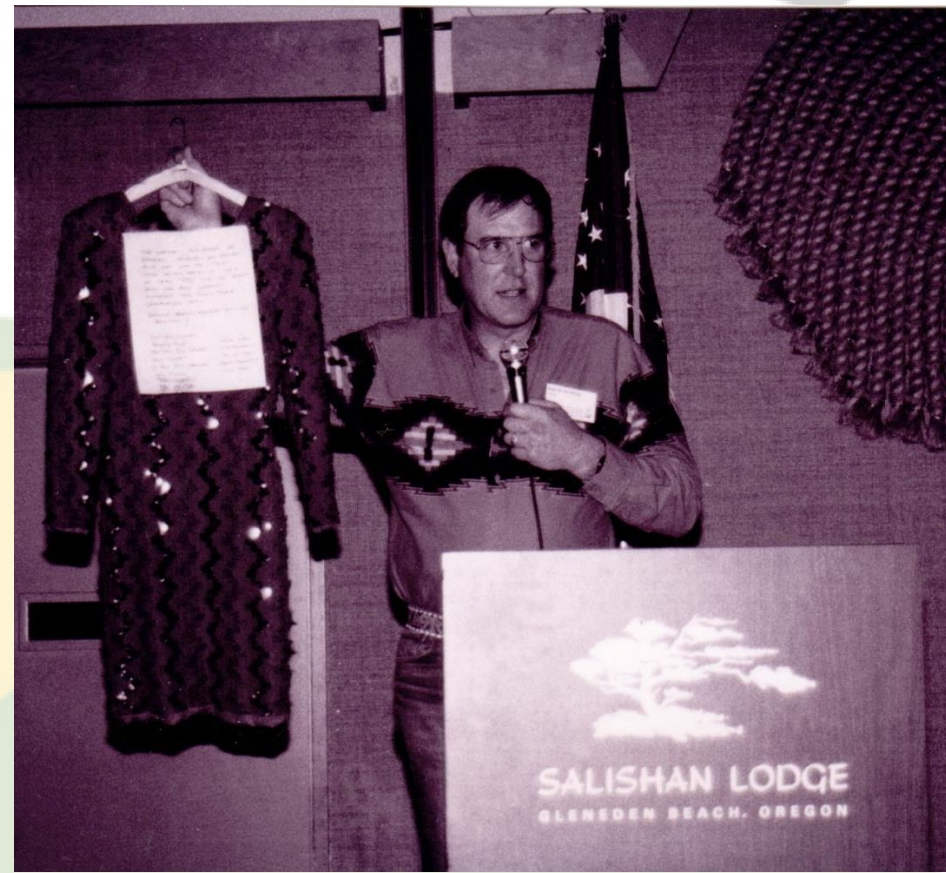
Once upon a time (as most fairy tales go) there was a tireless fisheries professional named Kay Brown. Kay joined Oregon AFS at tender age and soon became one of ORAFS' first female officers. Kay was known far and wide for her no-nonsense approach and efficiency. She also had a terrific record for selling the all-important raffle tickets.

One day Kay saw a dress – the dress. It was fire-engine-red, form fitting, and covered with sequins. A stunning, one-in-a million dress. A statement! She just couldn't forget it, so she described it to her husband, Mike, and let him know how much she wanted the dress. Mike, dutiful spouse that he was, purchased the dress and brought it home... the WRONG dress! Undaunted, he tried again and this time he got it right.

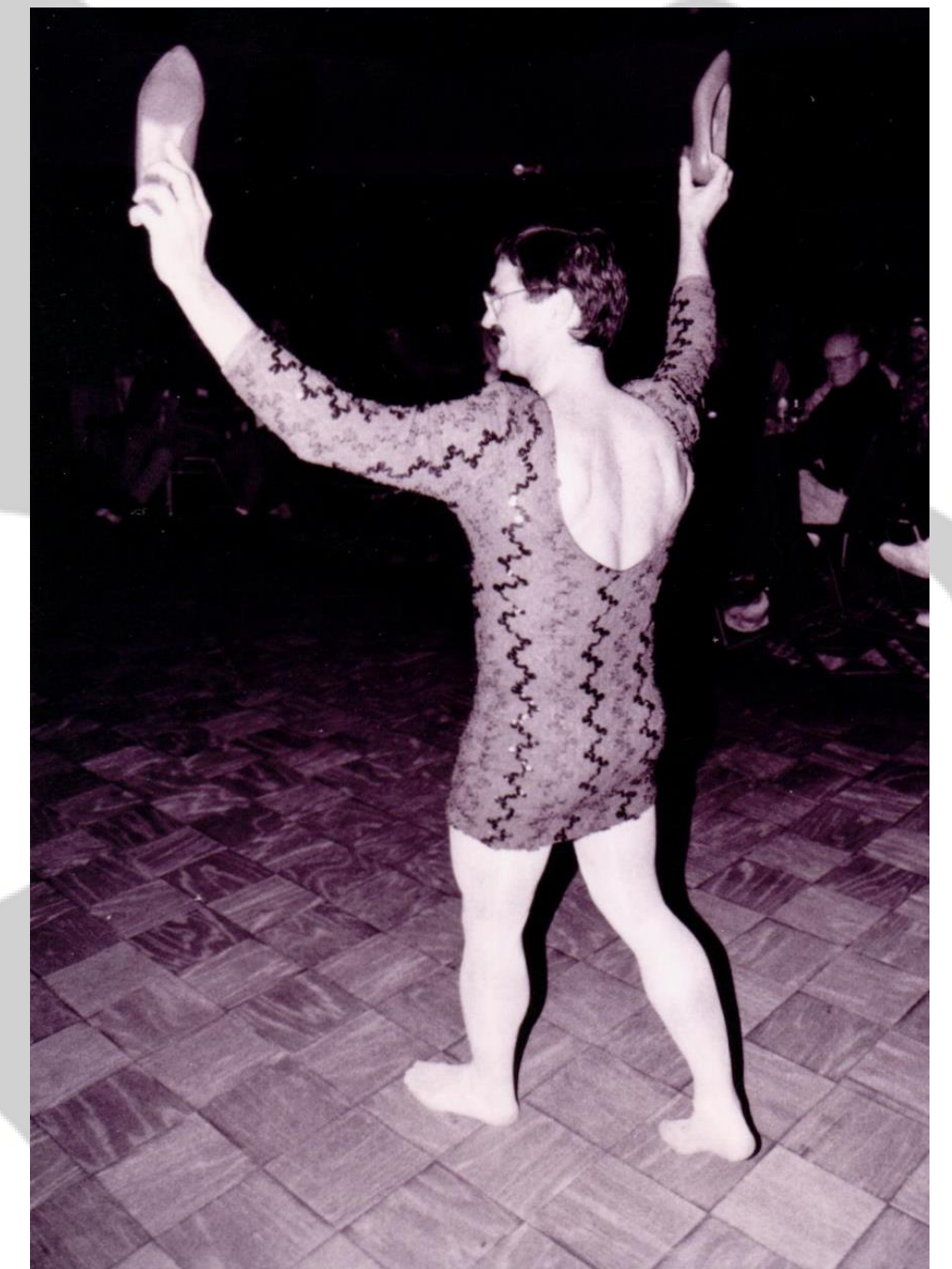
Imagine everyone's surprise when Kay showed up at the banquet (was it 1992?) all fire-engine-red, sleek, and sequined! She and the dress illuminated the room and together they sold countless raffle tickets. On that magic night, Kay and her dress were catapulted to everlasting fame.



Kay Brown wearing her famous Red Dress



Above: Wayne Bowers auctioning off the dress at the 1997 banquet  
Below: Rich Carmichael modeling it at the buyers request.



Eventually, Kay felt the time was right to donate the dress to Oregon Chapter AFS. It was auctioned off, but returned year after year to make more and more money for the chapter. It was auctioned to go home with someone for a year, or it was auctioned to adorn a person chosen by the crowd... and the red dress never failed in its mission; it remained beautiful; it was always the object of someone's desire. Who can say how many of us slipped it on over the years, just once, to admire it- sleek and sequined and RED!

Sadly, in 1998 the dress was retired. Maybe it isn't politically correct, but there are a lot of us who feel "the dress" is a member of this chapter. It's having a good retirement, just hanging around....and it's still beautiful.

# History of the Preserved Wolf Eel (*Anarrhichthys ocellatus*)- Official Gavel for the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society



This wolf eel (*Anarrhichthys ocellatus*) was first used by President Carl Bond to gavel the 1966 annual meeting of the Chapter to order. This was 2 years after the first organizational meeting of the Chapter in 1964.

Throughout the 60's and 70's the eel is always on the podium as it was "the gavel". Pictures indicate the wolf eel was passed from the chapter officers to the newly elected officers. Newly elected presidents would have their picture taken with the eel.



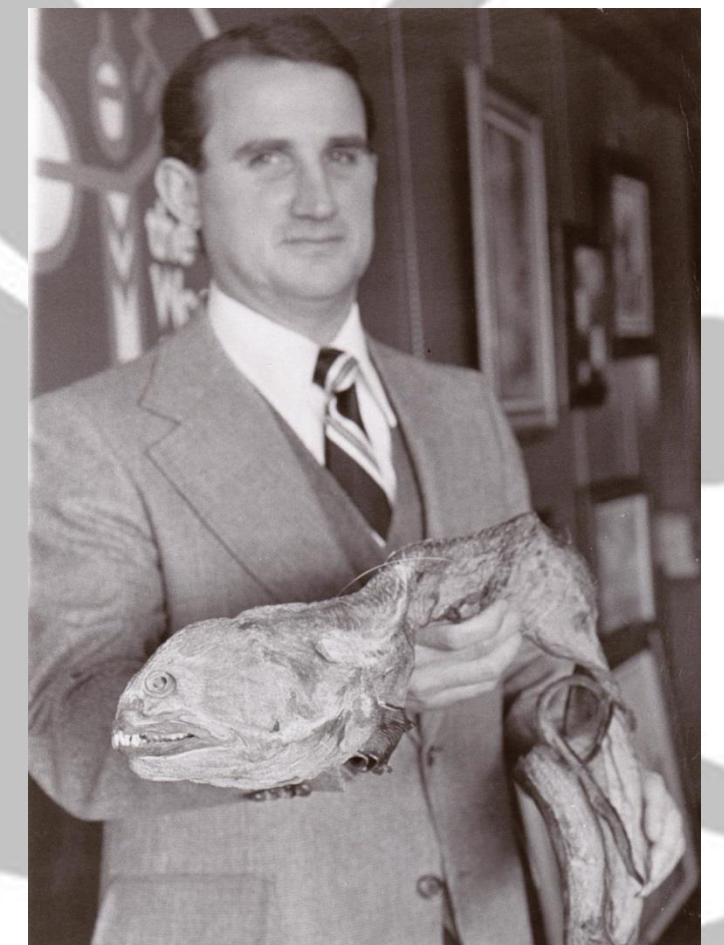
1966 Bob Borovicka



1968 Bob Phillips hands  
wolf eel to Monty  
Montgomery



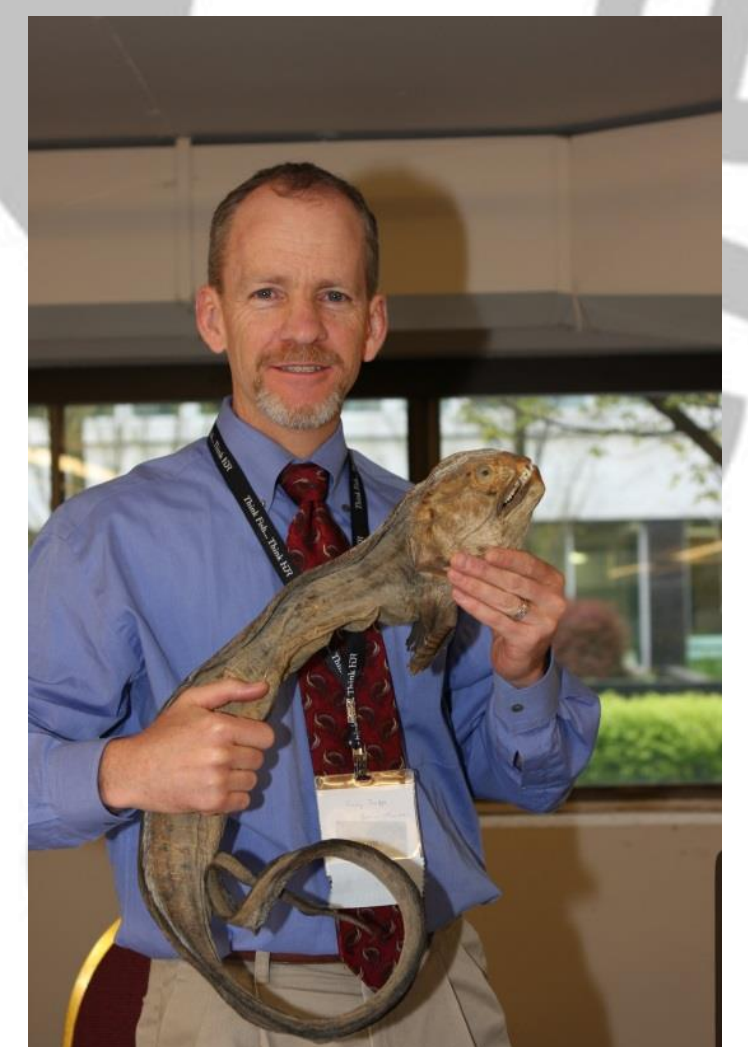
1973 Al Mills



1979 Don Clark



1986 John Anderson and  
Nancy MacHugh



2008 Doug Young



2010 Rich Grost

Thanks to ODFW retiree Mario Solazzi, a beautiful display case was made for the wolf eel gavel in February 2007, using nicely weathered fence boards from Mary Buckman, Chapter President in 2002. The wolf eel in its new case is still being passed down to newly elected presidents today.

# Broken Oar Award- awarding mishaps in fisheries since 1982

**1982: Wernald (Chris) Christianson** with ODFW received the first broken oar award for flipping the ODFW planting boat in Martin Rapids on the McKenzie River.

**1983: Dave Buchanan, Jim Lichatowich, and Jay Nicholas**- All with ODFW at the Corvallis Research Lab at the time received for flipping Dave's drift boat in the Alsea while winter steelhead fishing. They weren't even in a rapid, but excitingly celebrating catching a steelhead when they tipped and swamped the boat. They were not going to tell anyone, but who should appear when they made it to the Alsea Highway all wet and cold, but Peggy Herring who was the Alsea Creel person that winter.

**1984: Jeff Ziller** Asst. District Biologist at Klamath Falls at the time received for launching the large ODFW Research Vessel *Kokanee* (the kokanee trawl boat) onto Highway 97 south of Chemult. The boat slid off of the highway without too much damage, but was quite the spectacle. John Fortune, Jeff's boss had a nice sign made "Ziller's Landing" which adorned a nearby tree for many years.

**1985: Don Ratliff** PGE Pelton Round Butte Biologist received for tipping his raft and girlfriend Marsha over backwards in Velvet Falls on the Middle Fork Salmon River in Idaho. In doing so he lost some gear - including a new fire pan required for camping

**1986: Pat Keeley** Asst. Clackamas District Biologist for ODFW won for using his personal frame to check the depth of the brail pool in the Clackamas River, North Fork Buckley fish trap.

**1987: Jim (Hutch, Ace) Hutchison** ODFW District Biologist in Springfield at the time received a call from the OSP saying that they were at a lady's house and wanted an ID on a fish that they thought might be a live piranha – which were illegal to possess. Hutch arrived never having actually see a live piranha. It looked like it might be a piranha? Hutch placed his right index finger near the top of the aquarium, and lightning fast the fish came out of the water an bit the tip of his finger right off....yes, it is a piranha! Ace has the distinction of being the only Broken Oar Award winner to make national news with his prowess in fish ID techniques.

**1988: Jim Martin**, ODFW Portland Staff at the time, received for deciding to run the Rogue River's 10-ft Rainie Falls in the supply raft instead of the traditional lining down the fish ladder. "I can make it!" He didn't and lost nearly all the supplies for the expedition. Only this was not an ordinary splash and giggle trip - as it included two Commissioners and the ODFW Director!

**1989: Terry Luther**, Supervisory Biologist for the Warm Springs Tribes, received when putting in for a Chinook carcass recovery trip in November, launching the brand new tribal jet boat at the Warm Springs Boat Ramp. Only problem was the boat was not tied off and immediately was drifting down the middle of the Deschutes by itself. Mindful of where the boat was headed, Terry quickly disrobed and dove in the river (burr), swam out, started the boat, and brought it back up to the ramp. In a classy move, Terry wrote a poem (hilarious!) about the incident and recited it at the 1990 annual meeting after receiving the award.

**1990: Mark Wade**, Asst. Springfield District ODFW Biologist, received for putting the ODFW drift boat in at the Hendricks Bridge boat ramp on the McKenzie River, jumping in and rowing down the river for a day of sampling. The only problem was that he left the state pickup running in the middle of the boat ramp the entire day!

**1991: Dave Buchanan and Phil Howell**, both with ODFW Research working on trout research out of the Corvallis Research Lab, were returning to Klamath Falls in late November after a day of snorkeling in Spring Creek. It was cold, and began snowing and sticking as they drove south on Hwy 97 along Klamath Lake. Traffic slowed down, but one truck was just crawling. Dave speeded up slightly to pass the truck, not knowing there was black ice under the snow. After doing two 360 spins on the Hwy they went over the bank on the lake side, rolling two and a half times down the bank, the windows blowing out, and coming to rest on its roof. Luckily, both Dave and Phil were wearing their seat belts, and were not injured. A bus driver called for help, and upon climbing the bank freezing, they were invited into the back of a police car. Later Roger Smith helped them retrieve their gear. About two months later, Dave received a letter from Phil's lawyer (spoof), requesting payment for damages in the form \$250,000 for loss of self-esteem, and \$2.50 for new underwear. Dave has the distinction of being the first two-time winner of the coveted Broken Oar Award.

**1992: Mike Riehle**, Sisters Dist. Biologist for the USFS, received for attempting to fly fish for large bull trout at the mouth of the Metolius River from his canoe. In making an extended cast, Mike and the canoe parted ways. In floundering out of the frigid Metolius while still clutching his prized fly rod, Mike wound himself up in the fly line-a tied up wet biologist-and then bummed a cold ride down Lake Billy Chinook to the Perry South boat ramp.

**1993: Art Oakley**, This was the year the Chapter hosted the National Meeting in Portland at the same time as our Chapter Meeting. No-one, including Art, seems to remember how he got his name on the Broken Oar Award.....especially since he retired in 1990.

**1994: Chuti Ridgley**, Biologist for the Hood River Ranger District, USFS, received for falling into Hood River....but there is more. She was working by herself tracking radio tagged spring Chinook with a portable receiver, perched on top a rim about 25 feet above the river....when the rim broke loose below her. Falling all the way into shallow water at the edge of the river, she injured both ankles and was pretty banged up. She crawled along the bank of the river downstream a long distance before there was a break in the cliff where she could crawl up, eventually crawling all the way to her truck. She drove out onto the highway, and a short way before meeting help coming to look for her...and they took her to the hospital. But the most amazing thing was (besides living through it), she never lost the data-clutching the data book through the whole ordeal!

**1995: Brian Lampman**

**1996: Linda Prendergast**, Biologist for Pacifcorp, was about to conduct a winter snorkel survey when she won this from Rich Grost. On a bitter cold January day in the big-snow year of 1993, Linda had drank several home-made triple-tall espressos and set out to snorkel a reach of Fish Creek in the Cascades Mtns to observe trout for Habitat Suitability Index measurements. The first setback was realizing the road was not plowed, so we donned our drysuits, stuffed our backpacks, and snowshoed about a mile, to the study reach. The next setback was realizing that much of the creek was frozen over, and the rest was about 0 degrees. Still we forged ahead, snowshoeing down along the bank and stamping a hard pad onto the 5 ft deep snow from which to work. We removed our snowshoes and staged our gloves, books, etc. and then did the most important thing before any snorkel mission – opened our drysuits to pee. Our little snow pad only allowed about 6 ft of separation so we balanced on the farthest opposite edges to pee as discreetly as possible amid the deadly quiet snow-shrouded woods...but just as I zipped up there was a soft "Poof" and a strangely muffled yet hysterical laughter behind me. Instinctively I turned (to not miss a good laugh) and there was Linda's head, hands, and feet sticking out of the powder snow off the edge. Leaping into action, as any chivalrous consultant would to save their client from a rear-end frostbite, I extended a hand to lift her up, to which she waved me off, exclaiming "no, no, wait - I'm not done!" Ultimately, it was the deepest and firmest patch of yellow snow ever seen.

**1997: Mike (Mikey) Flesher**, ODFW Biologist received for many years of missteps. Around 1982, Brian Jonasson had just taken a job in Madras and was going to use a boat on his project that was almost done being used on the John Day River, but Mikey sank the boat before it could be transferred. Mikey returned from a fish survey on Friday, went home for the weekend, and didn't remember that he had left snouts in the vehicle. The next Monday, some unfortunate individual went to use the truck, opened the door, and about fainted from the intense, reeking, nauseating smell! Mikey and Deb Eddy got home from a late steelhead spawning day. They pulled up by the old freight elevator at the office. Mikey told Deb to go home and assured Deb he would just put things away and go home, too. Later that night, a coworker happened to return and saw the truck still sitting at the freight entrance, *still running*, keys in the ignition and all! And they say the list goes on.....

**1998: Ray Perkins**, Asst. District Biologist for ODFW in SE Oregon won for actually breaking an oar, actually several of them during 1988! A strong guy, he broke one when he did not have an extra, and had to splice it to make it down the Owyhee to the boat ramp.

**1989: Tom Nelson**, ODFW Trout Creek Biologist in Madras, received for losing the lower Trout Creek downstream screw trap during a spring high water event. However, this was not really a Trout Creek trap, but a borrowed screw trap he was going to take good care of....

**2000: Kin Daily**, ODFW District Biologist in Lakeview, won for his prowess in manipulating a fish stocking trailer. Thank goodness those catfish don't need much oxygen!

**2001: Terry Shrader, Tim Walters, Jeff Zakel**, ODFW won for sinking the new warm-water fish, shocking boat twice the same dark and stormy night at Brownlee Reservoir; and they never even left the dock! They had the boat tied to the dock as it was getting dark and they were waiting in the truck for the wind and waves to die down-when they looked out and couldn't see it anymore. It was sunk, hanging vertically from the bow line. Stringing tow straps and chains they reached the bow line and used the boat wench to drag it along the bottom to the ramp-with Terry having to dive down to the bottom to re-hook it several times. After finally pulling it out and draining it, the boat was on the trailer tilted at 45°. They put it back into the water to attempt to get it on the trailer right, but with the wind howling and the waves breaking, they managed to swamp it again, and also bend the trailer tongue.....and there is even more to the story.....

**2002: No Winner**

**2003: Dave Ward, ODFW Supervisory Biologist** won for being called "the a-hole who beached the boat" by Alan Alda, the host of "Scientific American Frontiers". Alan Alda and crew were filming of segment for an upcoming show. Dave proceeded to get a boat with the show's producer, director, camera man, sound man, and host of miscellaneous and unnecessary dignitaries stuck on some jagged rocks along a shoreline in the McNary Dam tailrace. At the Annual Meeting, Dave was presented both the Broken Oar Award, and the broken propeller that found the jagged rocks.

**2004: Jen Stone**, USFWS, receivedvfor losing a screw trap in Cedar Creek. Her techs suggested they take it out, but she told them it would weather the storm. Jen admits that, 10 years later, when it rains hard she still wakes up in the middle of the night thinking "Got to Pull the Screw Trap!"

**2005: Dan Domina**, PGE Biologist at Willamette Falls, won for swamping the PGE jet boat at Willamette Falls in the same rapid that caused the 2009 winners. With Josh Boatner (PGE tech) and Robert Maggy (PSMFC) as passengers they were attempting to get to the base of the Falls to collect adult lamprey. At the SE corner of the Falls, the boat hit a submerged rock and was thrown sideways in a BAD place as the current immediately pinned them against another rock with the upstream side catching water. As the boat swamped, they swam for it....Later, the PGE crew came up and pull the boat off, but lacking enough buoyancy, it immediately sank. They finally got it caught, and pulled back up, but as it cleared the water, the battery shorted causing the electrical system to catch fire-so they sank it again to put the fire out. With the ruckus and many witnesses they made the local news.....

**2006: No Winner**

**2007: Martyne Reesman**, ODFW, received for her boat navigation skills. While electrofishing on the Columbia River, in the middle of an exceptionally dark night, she ran right into Miller Island. Luckily there was minimal damage to both boat and crew.

**2008: Eric Schulz**, PGE Data Specialist, was assisting in the annual adult kokanee seining and tagging effort at the head of the Metolius Arm of Lake Billy Chinook. Where the kokanee are seined, the surface water is often too warm to handle and tag the fish, so Eric was transferring the adult kokanee as quickly as possible from the seine into barrels of cold Metolius water lashed into the back of PGE's large Alumaweld boat. Eric's job was to move kokanee from where they are seined and loaded up to a holding pen in the cold-water zone upstream, where they are tagged, recovered, and released. However, he got a little fancy with his boat maneuvering with barrels of water in the stern, and once the cold Metolius came over the stern, she was swamped. To his credit he powered it to the stream bank before it completely sank.

**2009: Tim Shibahara**, PGE Biologist and **Chris Karchesky**, Consultant won for surviving a whitewater boat, test-drive. The salesman was trying to show them he could reach up through the class 4 water to the pool where they were hoping to collect fish from a balloon test. The US Marine issue avon raft with huge jet engine ended up vertical, stalled out on a class four wave. She slid sideways and swamped to the top. They limped back full of water-he didn't get the sale. Stephanie Burchfield did a great job of describing the ordeal at the annual meeting-hilarious.

**2010: Don Ratliff and Jim Bartlett**, PGE Biologists, received for the most expensive mishap in the history of the award...although not really their fault; when, in April 2009, after 10 years of modeling and planning and 2 years of construction, the 60-ft diameter vertical flow conduit for the new 100-plus million \$ selective water withdrawal facility at Round Butte Dam came apart during final assembly -with half of it falling to the bottom of Lake Billy Chinook in 300+ feet of water. However, to the contractor's and PGE's credit, they immediately went back to work and had the new facility operating in December 2009. Don has the distinction of being the second two-time winner of the Broken Oar Award.

**2011: Jeremy Romer, Fred Monzyk, and Mike Hogansen**, ODFW, received for loosing not just one, but two screw traps in the same high water event. On the South Fork McKenzie River, a screw trap (which had been pulled to the bank in anticipation of high flow) managed to liberate itself. The escape attempt promptly resulted, as many high speed chases do, in a failed attempt to navigate a bridge crossing and the trap was crushed against a bridge piling (see photo). Meanwhile to the north a screw trap on the upper North Santiam broke loose and successfully bolted 10.2 km downstream, past two bridge crossings, eventually floating with storm debris in the middle of Detroit Reservoir. And who should spot it, but the big boss Steve Marks who happened to be driving by.

**2012: Adam Storch (with assistance from his crew)** won for demonstrating how not to anchor boats in shallow water, during wind driven seiches at high-tide. The boat, anchored near the mouth of the Sandy River, was high and dry when they returned from a long October day seining/sampling fish. Later than night, and much of the next day were spend attempting to pull/slide it off with lots lines, jacks, and slide wood, and expletives for grease....with no success. They finally conceded and called a professional salvage company that floated the boat in about 45 minutes.

**2013: Brian Alfonse**, ODFW Chum Reintroduction Project, won for losing a screw trap during high water in Scappoose Creek. They went to check on the trap that had been pulled out of the channel to find it wedged on a tree in the middle of a flood. As they watched, it broke loose and the safety line failed, sending it down the flood. They ran to the rig and moved downstream a couple of miles to where the flooded creek was just about up to a concrete bridge. They waited, and soon spotted the trap clearing the tree line and heading for them. It caught on the bridge and they were able to lasso it and pull it to the side and safety before it was destroyed.



First Winner, 1982: Chris Christianson



Two time winner, Don Ratliff 2010



Two time winner, Ray Perkins 1990