Final June 2019 Flyer column

One of the great things about being a FBSES volunteer is that we are all part of something larger that involves a lot of people who are just like us; committed, focused, dedicated, hard-working and of course, modest about all the great things we do. Once a year, at our own River Never Sleeps Festival, our family and community day for everybody but especially Fanny Bay people, our community includes people like us who do the same things we do in other places all over Vancouver Island. And the point of mentioning that we had 45 separate community, business, government and mostly environmentally conscious groups totalling about 90 people on site at the FBSES hatchery on May 5 to meet all 628 who attended is to tell you that they all had a good time, loved meeting you all, and thought we did a great job. We know that because we asked them, and except for the person who wanted free hamburgers, everybody was positive. It tells you a lot about your fellow citizens that not only are they as nice a bunch of people as say, Fanny Bay residents, but that they care like you do about our area, its creatures, especially its salmon, and our world, and of course, that they all are so modest about their wonderfulness. Like us.

June brings a shift in priorities to FBSES, from spawning and raising the years’ brood stock, and releasing the previous year’s coho into the wild blue yonder, to preserving what is out there like the wild fry in our creeks by salvage and rescue, as well as all the cleaning, repair, upkeep and improvement the hatchery always needs. Problems being dealt with include keeping our potted tree stocks properly watered, tracking down and fixing a winter-long leak we couldn’t get to until incubation was complete, and catching up on the things that had to wait because other things were being done. Think of a hatchery as being a large house mostly full of running water, big tubs of fish and complicated plumbing. Then add in everything that goes wrong at your place, and you will appreciate the scale of the job.

Every day is wild salmon day at Rosewall and Wilfred Creek for FBSES and our middle name is Enhancement. So it is good news for us and everyone else that the first official B.C. Wild Salmon Day was May 16, 2019 and it was marked by the announcement of a five-year, five-million dollar grant to Pacific Salmon Foundation by the provincial government. PSF intends to use the money to continue to do the good things it does for salmon, which includes funding projects like the ones FBSES spearheads for our area. The money will be put to use in places where it is needed, and hopefully that includes us. If you missed Wild Salmon Day, you can read all about it on websites like <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2019PREM0052-000967> which has links to others.

And we welcome visitors Wednesday and Saturday mornings at 8425 Berray Road, and on our website, www.fbses.ca.