

## **Report of the Bellevue-Issaquah Trout Unlimited 2010 Fund Raiser Event**

To raise awareness and funding for the programs of the Bellevue-Issaquah chapter of Trout Unlimited, a social fundraising event was held at the Lake Sammamish Elks Lodge in Issaquah on Friday, January 15, 2010.

The event started off with a delicious fish and chips buffet featuring Alaskan Cod, caught by local commercial fisherman and Elks Lodge member, Kurt VanBrero. Lisa VanBrero also joined in, preparing the cod and making brownies as dessert for the buffet.

Chapter president Mark Getzendaner welcomed the guests and presented the audio-visual displays of the past and planned activities of the chapter. There was a call for volunteers to assist in the counting of migrating kokanee fry from Lewis and Ebright Creeks beginning in March. Photos of the fish tagging project in Lake Sammamish showed the contribution of TU members and contributors in helping to define unknown parts of the life cycle of kokanee in Lake Sammamish. An exhibit promoted the 2010 Northwest Youth Conservation and fly Fishing Academy, held June 20 to 26. Candidates of the ages 12 to 16 are being sought to learn and promote conservation, natural resource stewardship, and fly-fishing. The academy will be held on Hicks Lake in Lacey, Washington. After inviting non-Trout Unlimited guests to join the organization Mark began the silent auction.

Items for the silent auction were donated by trout unlimited members, local businesses, interested citizens and community organizations. Successful bids won, at extremely reasonable prices, fishing equipment and gear, metal wildlife art, fishing posters, books, Trout Unlimited merchandise, wine, collectible flies and fish posters; and miscellaneous items such as bird feeders, a wrist watch, wallets, and a fly tying kit.

To conclude the event, an entertaining hold-em poker tournament hosted by the Lake Sammamish Elks Lodge, was held with players filling three tables to play until everyone but the winner lost their chips. Players had a broad range of experience and about half had not played in a tournament situation before. With experienced players graciously helping, the tournament moved along and became very social with lots of laughing, groans and cheers. The first player to be eliminated received the "bringing home the bacon" award, a pound of fine bacon donated by Fischer Meats on Front Street in Issaquah. By elimination players fell out until there were six at the final table. The 6th-place player to be eliminated received a "bubble ham" for being eliminated in the bubble seat, the last person not to be in the money. Play continued until Todd Blair, owner of PC Fix in Bellevue, scored with his ace being paired to win the tournament and a rewarding cash prize, of which he generously donated \$50 to the fundraiser kitty.

Attendees and tournament players, alike, expressed having a great time and want to attend a repeat of the event. The chapter thanks all contributors, Elks lodge staff and attendees for their efforts in raising over \$1.6K to fund the kokanee preservation and community service events it sponsors.