



Salmon Fest—More Than a Good Roast

Who would have thought that a festival celebrating fish would be fun? Well, the 4th Annual Bear Creek Salmon Festival was that and more.

This past month North Mountain Park hosted a free community event celebrating salmon. The main focus of this event is to educate the public about the benefits and role salmon play in our lives. Susan Cross from Oregon Trout's, Health Waters Institute and member of the Salmon Festival planning committee, had an exploration booth next to Bear Creek. Cross said the reason that she participates in this event "is to raise awareness of salmon in our community; that we have salmon in our streams."



Event goers viewing live wild salmon up-close .

There were loads of booths with educational materials and fun activities for kids of all ages. A 350-gallon tank was brought in for people to view the headliners of the festival – live wild salmon. Wildlife Images also drew a crowd with a stately Bald Eagle and elusive Spotted Owl. There were plenty of hands-on activities for the kids to delve into – constructing a miniature stream, making clay sculptures, exploring the critters in Bear Creek (waders provided), trying their hand at fly fish casting, watching demonstrations on Native American basket making, or coloring a 4 x 8' salmon banner.

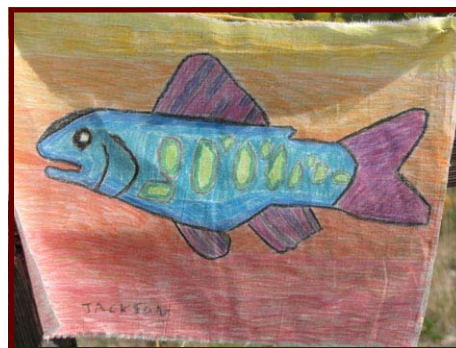


Lena Hurd demonstrating Native American basketry.

Tasty barbeque salmon dinners were available for \$10 grilled in the traditional Native American way on sticks over red hot coals. Vegetarian dinners were also available. And you could enjoy your meal while listening to lively music from one of the many local bands. Hundreds of colorful salmon banners created by local grade school children decorated the grounds of North Mountain Park.

Despite the cool fall weather many families turned out for this event. Like the annual salmon migration, the Salmon Festival is a tradition that should not be missed. Salmon Fest happens the first Saturday of October each year.

Mary Theis, Contributing Writer.



One of hundreds of colorful banners on display.