

Annual Meeting 2009: Good Food, Great People

By Lucy DeGrace

SFEG's Annual Meeting and Silent Auction Fundraiser was a big hit this year. We celebrated the work and volunteers of 2008, and guest speaker Russel Barsh presented his program "Skagit Salmon's Use of the San Juan Islands."

The Dick Knight Award was presented to Kurt Buchanan for his many hours of volunteer service in 2008 toward education, project development, and monitoring. Kurt has contributed his expertise in so many ways to our organization, and we are lucky to have him as a volunteer. Beach Watcher volunteer Bill Bowen was recognized for all his efforts in education and assistance with At the Water's Edge, an educational event at Rasar State Park. Bill took on the task of setting up a tank of juvenile salmon from the Marblemount hatchery at his camp site at the park, and fed and cleaned up after them for several weeks! Anyone who passed by his campsite got an impromptu lesson about salmon. Also recognized were private timber companies Goodyear Nelson, Sierra Pacific Industries and Hampton Tree Farms, for their cooperation with our Lower Finney Creek logjam project.

Our silent auction and raffle fundraisers included a mix of beautiful artwork by several local artists, and great merchandise from local businesses. With Puget Sound Energy as a sponsor to our event, more money raised from this auction can go directly back into our programs. Our guests were treated to a grilled salmon dinner prepared by current and past board members, with salmon donated by Ken Urstad and Lone Tree Point Seafoods. Local beer donated by the Anacortes Brewery and Rock Fish Grill along with Skagit Fresh sparkling fruit juices donated by Sakuma Farms were the perfect accompaniment to the salmon.

Thank you to the army of volunteers who arrived early to help set up and stayed late to help get everything cleaned up. SFEG staff had a great time, and we could not have pulled it off without you. See you next time!