

# *"Keeping in Touch"*

Quarterly Newsletter by/for Idaho Dept. Of Fish & Game  
Retirees/Families and Interested Former Employees

April 2009 Vol. 5 No. 2



**Dates to Remember**  
**Retiree Luncheon Schedule**  
**Golden Corral**  
**on Emerald in Boise**  
**11:30 a.m.**

**2009**

Jan. 8, March 12

May 14, July 9,

Sept. 10, November 12

*(Correction: Please note the correct date for the July Retiree Luncheon. It is July 9, not 8 as listed in the last newsletter.*

*Sorry!!*

*Thanks, Bill Platts, for calling it to my attention. I appreciate it! JJF)*

## **IDFG Retirees' Reunion**

As you will note, your reservation form for the Retirees' Reunion is enclosed. You don't have to pay immediately; You don't have to pay immediately; however, we do need to know in advance if you plan to attend. Please let us know as soon as possible if you plan to attend (either by e-mail, phone or by dropping us a postcard or sending in your reservation form. We must guarantee at least 50 people in order to have the reunion. The date is August 8, 2009. E-mail me at: [JJFisher938@q.com](mailto:JJFisher938@q.com) <<mailto:JJFisher938@q.com>> phone: 888- 1015 (answering machine available); or mail to the address listed on page 2.

## **A Real Hero!!**

*(You will see from the story below why retired Sr. CO Larry Miller is so proud of his son, Kyle. Thanks for sharing your story, Larry!)*

"Back on July 8, 2000, my youngest son, Kyle, was in bed asleep with his fiance, Tara, when at 3:40 a.m., a drunken fool in the next apartment fired a round from a .357 revolver through the wall and changed all of our lives!

"Tara was struck and paralyzed by that round. Kyle saved her life, and stayed mostly in the background throughout the next two years, doing everything he could for Tara.

"On August 10, 2002, I was witness to an act that made a statement about his commitment to Tara. Tara had worked for months to be able (with assistance) to walk down the aisle at their wedding. Well, SHE DID, but after nearly five minutes of watching her struggle, Kyle walked forward, picked her up and carried her the rest of the way to the altar. Since the shooting, he has been by Tara's side, lifting her in and out of vehicles, the shower, onto exam tables, you name it, he does it. In my mind, his dedication and commitment makes him my HERO.

"Tara and I conspired to nominate Kyle as our HERO to the Outdoor Channel's "Higher Ground Outdoors" television show. On February 5, 2009, I got a call from Weston Clark, co-host of the show. Weston told me that because of our letter and the DVD clip from the wedding, that Kyle was going on a South Texas Whitetail Deer hunt. On Saturday February 7, 2009, Kyle was surprised with

the presentation of that hunt by Weston and Jodi Clark at the Post Falls Cabela's. I was later surprised to find out that I was also going, courtesy of Kyle's incredible boss, Bill Winant.

"The quality time spent with my son, the extraordinary people we met, and the fantastic hunt that we participated in, were an experience of a lifetime!!

"I would urge you to watch the Outdoor Channel on Sunday afternoon @ 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time. There you will see a whole different kind of Hunting show called "Higher Ground Outdoors Pursuing The Heart of America." The hosts of the show, Weston and Jodi Clark, are very special people. How do I know? I know because I have been blessed to meet them, and they have changed our lives for the better!!

"The show featuring Kyle should be on sometime late in March, 2009. We sincerely hope it may change someone else's life, as it has ours!"

## **Thank You, Thank You!!!**

Thanks to Tracey Trent, Dexter Pitman and Chuck Jensen for your great donations to keep us afloat. 'Tis much appreciated!



**“Keeping in Touch,”**  
a newsletter for IDFG Retirees/  
Families  
and Interested Former  
Employees  
is published quarterly by the  
IDFG Retiree Committee.

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*All donations should be sent to  
the above address*

## **Karen Fisher’s Art to Be Displayed!!**



Take a good look at this picture. Jack Fisher’s wife, Karen, is the very talented artist who created this watercolor.

Although you cannot see the color in the printed version of the newsletter, this web version shows the colors pretty well. You can also view it the month of April at St. Alphonsus Hospital where twenty of Karen’s best watercolor paintings will be exhibited.

All painting sales will provide a contribution to St. Alphonsus Volunteer Auxiliary.

So, make a note to stop in and enjoy this exceptionally talented lady’s display. St. Alphonsus is located at 1055 N. Curtis Road in Boise.

## **Louise Celebrates 90 Years of Living!!**

*Lorrie Spiker Parrish* and I had the pleasure of attending *Louise Snodgrass*’ birthday celebration in Payette this last Sunday (March 15). Louise was 90 years young on March 13. The party was hosted by her sons, Mike and Roger and their wives. Of course, Lorrie and Louise had to reminisce about some of the “pranks,” etc., and all the fun we had over the years while at Fish and Game. (Some of them I would like to forget!) But a fun time was had by all and we expect to attend her 100th in about 10 years!!

## **Retiree Benefits Bill Passes House**

Compromise legislation to trim back Idaho’s costs for health insurance for state retirees, in part by moving all Medicare-eligible retirees off the state plan, passed the House today (Feb. 24) on a 59-11 vote. “I know there is opposition to this bill,” Rep. Dennis Lake, R-Blackfoot, told the House. We did the best we could.” Rep. Anne Pasley-Stuart, D-Boise, said she was the biggest opponent of last year’s version of the bill, but she’s a strong supporter of this version, HB 173, which was

negotiated between lawmakers from both parties, the state Department of Administration, and the Idaho Public Employees Association. “This bill is a model of bipartisanship -- we worked as one,” Pasley-Stuart said. The measure includes clauses allowing retirees to use unused sick leave to pay some premiums, and some other concessions. Opponents included House Commerce & Human Resources Chair Bob Schaefer, R-Nampa, who said the state committed back in 1988 to providing health coverage for state retirees, and that it was “unconscionable” to change that. “We’ve not remunerated state employees as we should, that’s clear,” Schaefer told the House. “We’ve done it for many years, that’s clear. Most state employees are not millionaires . . . We are betraying their trust by changing this commitment that was made.” Rep. JoAn Wood, R-Rigby, said longtime state employees feel “betrayed” by the change. “There’s a little group of people, not very many, and we’re all gonna die in the next maybe 20 years, that they could’ve made some accommodation for,” she declared. The bill now moves to the Senate.

## Bill Gnemi Still Making the Headlines

(For those of you who do not get the Idaho Statesman, here is a condensation of an article that appeared in the Sunday, March 15, edition of the newspaper. To read the whole story, go to the Statesman's website -- IdahoStatesman.com and search for Gnemi. Or contact me and I will e-mail you a copy of the article.)

### Legacy of Southern Idaho Gardener Lives on in Boise

Bill Gnemi's irises and day lilies will soon bloom at the Idaho Botanical Garden, but his work included so much more.

Bill Gnemi lived to be 94 on his 80-acre farm in Jerome. Maybe he had good, Italian genetic luck. Maybe his life proves that doing satisfying work around living things is as powerful as genetics. More proof of the latter: his wife, Margaret, lived to be 101.

Their daughter, Wilma Gnemi (pronounced "nee-mee"), said that when her dad was alive, he grew so many varieties of irises, peonies, roses, day lilies and gladioli, plus daffodils in the spring and crocuses in the fall -- all in orderly rows -- that people would pull over to the side of the road, just to admire the 2 acres Bill Gnemi had covered in color.

He pored over catalogs every year to choose new specimens. He got into the science of flowers, too, hybridizing his own gladioli varieties, naming them for his daughter and grandchildren.

Last year, Wilma Gnemi decided there was no better way to honor her parents' memory than to donate much of her father's collection of irises and day lilies to the garden.

Gnemi's plants will be enjoyed on a larger stage than in the past. They'll enhance the sensory experience of garden visitors and help students learn basic botany. . . .

Bill Gnemi was a self-taught horticulturist, old-style and self-sufficient in a way many a Westerner would like to claim. Ninety-nine percent of what he knew, Wilma Gnemi said, "was what he read, got from talking to people, or discovered on his own."

After a working life riding the Wyoming range as a cowboy, then raising pheasants on a game farm for Idaho Fish and Game, Bill Gnemi retired and spent the next 30 decades devoted to his flower collection.

### Retiree News/Activities

#### **Fred and Dottie Christensen**

are doing well. They have put August 8 (Retiree Reunion) on their calendar and will be there for sure. Fred says he is giving up a lot of his activities this year as of July 14 which is his birthday. "I won't tell you which one but I intend to do a lot more fishing and bird hunting while I am able."

"We have one of the best views from our deck in Idaho. We invite anyone to drop in. We live between two wineries. I think it is possible we might share a glass or two with you."

**Pat Cudmore**, as you know, is with Keller Williams Realty West. He says, "Home prices

are at record lows and interest rates are on their way down into the 4's so now is the best time in many, many years to buy a house. If you hear of anyone who wants to buy or sell, please let me know. I would really appreciate it." Pat's phone number is: 208-859-6275; e-mail: [patcudmore@kw.com](mailto:patcudmore@kw.com) <<mailto:patcudmore@kw.com>> . (Pat also sent me an article about the new tax break for first time homebuyers. If you want a copy, I will be glad to e-mail one to you. JJF)

**Dexter Pitman** let us know that he and his wife Verna are still in Pocatello. Both are retired now and keeping busy with the little things.

And **Clay Cummins** is enjoying his first year as a retiree. He says, "I enjoyed my first fall off from work and did a fair amount of working out a lot and have 16 ski days in so far at Bogus Basin. Retirement is treating me good so far."

Lots of you are doing quite a bit of traveling. **Irene Powell** took a trip to Dallas to meet up with her sister there and they visited with their cousin and took in the Dallas Quilt Show. Then when she returned home, she attended the Boise Roadster Show where her son Steve was showing his car.

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## ***More Retiree news***

A month ago, ***Ralph and Edie Pehrson*** had a great trip to Arizona to visit their daughters and families. Ralph said, “the 90 degree days, warm evenings and nights and picking ripe oranges off the tree almost convinced me to stick around. However, when we landed back in Boise to wind, rain and 30-40 degree temperatures, it made us appreciate the four season weather we have here. YUK!” (Yeah, sure Ralph, we know you wanted to stay in Arizona!!!)

***Kent Ball*** reported on Feb. 26 that “I am at Black Meadow Landing on the California side of Lake Havasu. Came here to fish for a couple weeks before working my way North. I guess we just went for a boat ride yesterday. Not a bite. Had visitors today. Don Wright and retired C.O. Paul Loveall and wife Roberta.” On March 6, Kent was still at Lake Havasu, but said he would be starting North on March 9. “Going to spend a week at my son’s in Nevada on the way home.”

### **Now for Some GOOD NEWS!!!**

From ***Tracey Trent***: “This is a quick follow-up to our New Year’s letter. As you may recall, I had a bunch of radiation treatments in November and December to my chest. I had a CT and MRI at the end of January and met with the doctor on Feb. 3. She started the interview with “I have good news for you today!” She went on to explain that there was nothing going on in my brain, which should not surprise anyone, the tumors in my chest had all either

shrunk or stabilized, and there were no new tumors anywhere. I will go back in three months for more scans & check-up.

“Needless to say, I was very happy to hear all this as I was pretty close to the edge last fall even though I did not realize it at the time. I had a blood clot in my right pulmonary artery that was caused by a chest tumor constricting the artery . . . tumor has shrunk and the blood clot is dissolved. I really do feel a lot better. My oncology doctor consulted with my lung cancer specialist at Seattle’s Cancer Care Alliance and decided not to put me on any more chemo or radiation at this time.

“So, with everything ‘dormant’ and me feeling good, Debbie and I are off to go steelhead and salmon fishing for 4 weeks on the coastal rivers of northern Oregon and the Olympic Peninsula of Washington. Hey, we gotta make hay while the sun shines!

“Thanks for all your thoughts, prayers, good ju-ju, and positive vibes! They really help me keep my spirits up! Tracey”

And more good news from ***Janet and Jerry Conley***: “Jerry is doing very well as far as we can tell. He did remarkably well with the radiation and chemo pill and is now enjoying 6 weeks of rest and relaxation after that. We’re in Seattle now visiting Mark and his family, then will make our way back to Boise next week or so. We are enjoying the unending entertainment of our 3-year-old grandson and 10 month granddaughter. He went to the Wild Turkey Fed.

banquet a couple of weeks ago and they gave him an award for reintroducing turkeys back to Idaho along with a nice bronze. We just call him Mr. Turkey!

“Jerry is scheduled for another MRI the second week of April so we’re anxious about that. As you know, this is a surreal experience but unfortunately the road many of us must travel. Thanks to all who are keeping us in their hearts and prayers. Our best, Janet & Jerry”

(It is so enlightening to hear some good news for a change. Gives you a feeling that our thoughts and prayers are working!!)

I have had lots of inquiries about where ***Bernice Howell*** has been hiding lately. Well, she has been battling a sciatic nerve problem and has been through extensive treatments and has been suffering a lot of pain. But she is getting better and hopeful it will not come back. And she is still taking organ lessons. She says, “I don’t seem to improve very much but I have a good time!!!” That’s what it’s all about, Bernice! A GOOD TIME!!!

### **In Memoriam**

Our deepest sympathies go out to ***Vickie (Jensen) Williams, wife of Terry Williams***, upon the loss of her brother A. Jay Jensen. He passed away in Boise February 23 after a two-year battle with cancer. Jay is survived by his wife, Mary; his mother, Faye; a brother, DeLore (Sandra); his sister, Vickie (Terry) Williams; two nephews and one niece and their spouses and children; his dog, Charlie; and the shop cat, Agent Orange.”

## Carp on Muffler

By Robert L. Salter, Retired Asst. Director  
(Reprinted from Blasts from The Past, Fish Tales and Ramblings,  
Wild Game Feed, December 14, 2007)

I joined the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in June 1949 as the first waterfowl biologist. Our office was one half of a building at 518 Front Street, Boise.

The Director, T. B. Murray was a crusty old guy who came from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. One day, the Director came out of his office and asked several of us to check out his car. He said it had a funny smell to it. We went out to the parking lot and had a look. Someone crawled underneath the car and exclaimed, "I've got it. Get me some pliers." Apparently, someone had tightly secured a big ripe carp to the muffler. We laid it all out and sent for the Director. When he arrived, he took one look and said, "That damn Phil Swanstrum! Go get the car washed!"

Phil was a C.O. who lived in a department house on the Middle Fork of the Boise River near where Spring Shores sits today. This was before the high bridge or Lucky Peak Reservoir.

I never did know if the Director had recently visited the ranch, or Phil or why he had immediately suspected Phil but I didn't need to. After all, isn't the Director always right? Right!

## Something to Make You Smile! (LOL)

(The following was provided by someone who wants to remain anonymous! I guess we can do this!)

### Dad at the Mall

I took my dad to the mall the other day to buy some new shoes (he is 92). We decided to grab a bite at the food court. I noticed he was watching a teenager sitting next to him. The teenager had spiked hair in all different colors: green, red, orange, and blue. My dad kept staring at him. The teenager would look and find him staring every time.

When the teenager had had enough, he sarcastically asked, "What's the matter, old man, never done anything wild in your life?"

Knowing my dad, I quickly swallowed my food so that I would not choke on his response, knowing he would have a good one, and in classic style he did not bat an eye in his response. "Got drunk once and made love with a peacock. I was just wondering if you were my son."



## Happy Birthday!!

Jack Fisher – March 30  
Linn French – April 1  
Corinne Barlow – May 7  
Eric Stansbury – May 23  
Jack Trueblood – June 18



(If you want to sneak in a Birthday Wish for someone, just let me know!)



**To Heck With The Economy!!  
Let's Celebrate!!**

**Time Again for the IDFG Retirees' Reunion!  
August 8, 2009 – Boise, Idaho**

**Don't Miss the Fun!**

**Make your reservations now!** ALL RETIREES, PAST and PRESENT EMPLOYEES, and FRIENDS are invited. Lots of fun and good conversation available. Just \$20 takes care of your

registration, continental breakfast, hospitality hour and dinner. *(Notice the cost is the same as last time!)*

**Registration:** *Begins at 9 a.m., Saturday, August 8, in the Boise Headquarters Trophy Room, 600 S. Walnut. A complimentary Continental Breakfast will be available during registration. As in the past, come prepared with an update of your activities since the last reunion.*

**Raffle:** Bring extra spending money for the raffle and silent auction! The committee is again gathering some great gifts for the raffle and door prizes. You will remember that the money from the raffle helps defray the costs of the reunion. *(If you have an item you wish to donate, please let us know. We will gladly accept all your donations!)* If you have any questions, call Ralph Pehrson at 343-3945 or e-mail him at [tiffey@aol.com](mailto:tiffey@aol.com) <<mailto:tiffey@aol.com>> .

**Lunch Break:** As in the past, lunch is on your own so you are free to do whatever you wish. There are many local attractions in the surrounding area.

**Dinner at 6 p.m.** At 4 p.m., the group will reconvene at Municipal Park for the social hour. The same great menu will be catered by American Catering as in the past: Ribeye steak and BBQ chicken, corn on the cob, baked beans, dinner rolls, salads, and strawberry shortcake for dessert, including soft drinks (iced tea, lemonade, coffee), beer and wine. Leave your diet at home!!

**Cost & Deadline for Reservations:** \$20.00 per person by July 15. Children 6 years and under are FREE!

**Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game Retirees' Reunion – August 8, 2009  
(Make Checks to: IDFG Retiree Reunion)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I plan to attend the reunion and dinner. Number of persons (including myself) \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of those attending: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am enclosing \$20 per person. Amount enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Send to:**

IDFG Retirees, PMB 401, 3313 W. Cherry Lane, Meridian, ID 83642