

Salmon Festival

On Saturday, October 2, 2010, Historic Vernonia hosted its 8th Annual Salmon Festival, an Oregon Days of Culture event at Hawkins Park. This event brought together many exhibits and people to share in a celebration of the salmon returning from the ocean to spawn. Among the many exhibits was Claudia the Salmon, a giant salmon display where children could climb in and out, learning about the salmon and manipulating a hands-on display of a fish habitat. Claudia's display also offered a chance for visitors to learn about the life cycle of the salmon as well as conservation. Right on schedule for the festival, returning salmon could be seen spawning in nearby Rock Creek.

The opportunity to learn about organic farming including composting and worm bins was available to visitors as well. Also on hand were several children's activities including trout fishing, scarecrow making, pumpkin carving, and airbrush tattoos. Adding to the excitement of the day were hayrides and pottery making; three bands were on hand so that people were able to gather around and listen to the music while several children danced.

In addition to Claudia the Salmon, there were many vendors present with items such as hand-made jewelry, stone cutting boards, hand-knitted items and airbrushed t-shirts being sold. Food vendors also joined in on the day's events, offering roasted nuts, the traditional hot-dog, cheese-steak sandwiches, and even salmon burgers to visitors of the celebration.

Vernonia offered a wonderful day and celebration to those who came out to visit. As first time visitors to the festival, my children, wife and I had a wonderful time, taking in the new scenery, learning about the festival itself and basking in the sun that shone on the day. I encourage others to attend the ninth annual festival in October 2011.

Submitted by: Andrew Demko, Member of the Columbia County Cultural Coalition Board

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