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KOKANEE POWER
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THE KOKANEE KRONICLE
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF KOKANEE POWER

EGGTACULAR!

BY: WES HAMASAKI

Every year, the Autumnal Equinox marks the departure of summer and the arrival of fall. With this change comes great anticipation. Major League Baseball enters the postseason, and the top teams from both the American and National leagues face-off until one team is declared the World Series Champions. The National League Football season just recently began. Every Sunday, fans flood to stadiums across the nation to show support for their team and even arrive hours before kickoff to fire up their barbecues and have tailgate parties. Other dedicated fans can be found in the comforts of their home watching the televised broadcast with friends and family. For kokanee fisherman, the arrival of fall signifies one of nature's most beautiful events – the migration and spawn of these beloved land-locked salmon. These wonderful creatures move from the depths of their impoundments and into the shallow feeder creeks and streams by the thousands. Their bodies undergoing a metamorphic change where they trade in their dime-bright outer skin for one of deep green and red.

With very few lakes here in California able to have a naturally sustaining kokanee fishery, egg collections are scheduled each year when the kokanee are ready to spawn. The eggs are then nurtured at the Friant Hatchery. Prior to hatching, they are distributed between three regional hatcheries - Silverado, American River, and Friant. Each facility will monitor the hatch and provide continual care for the fingerlings until the following spring when they are planted in the different lakes across California.



On October 8th, the first egg collection took place on the Little Truckee River, which feeds into Stampede Reservoir. A total of 781,200 eggs were collected. A few weeks later on October 21st was the second egg collection, but this time, it was on Lake Tahoe's famous Taylor Creek. From this collection, a record breaking 917,760 eggs were collected from over 1,500 female kokanee. This brought the total for this year to an astonishing 1,698,960 eggs! Simply amazing! Special thanks go out to all the volunteers and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for their help and making these egg collections a success. It couldn't have been achieved without every one of you!

The eggs are now at the Friant Hatchery where Kokanee Power Director Jake Flohr and his crew of Kokanee Power volunteers are caring for them on a daily basis. If you are interested in helping at the hatchery, please contact Jake at (559) 271-8908. Help is always welcomed!

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<http://www.kokanee.com>

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OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

BY: WES HAMASAKI

Wet feet...we've all been there. And, I'm not talking about sticking your bare feet in water on purpose. I'm referring to unintentional wet feet where your toes are cold, your socks are soaked, and every time you take a step, you feel the water come up from the sole of your shoes and socks and slosh around between your toes. We all know the feeling.

Unfortunately, for our friends at the American River Fish Hatchery, this was an all too common feeling every time they put on their waders. Their current waders were falling apart after about 5 years of use, which is a long duration even with the best care. Duct tape on waders can only go so far. Earlier this year, Dale Burkett, manager of the hatchery, approached President Gary Coe and the Board for help with the purchasing of new waders so that they can continue their work without any interruptions caused by old, leaky waders.

Without any hesitation, the Board was more than happy to help since it has been about 5 years since the last ones were purchased. After some shopping around and with the help of Brad Staplin, the local Pro Line Field Representative, 16 pairs of brand new Pro Line waders. These were presented to the great folks at the American River Fish Hatchery as shown in the picture below.



These smiling faces are a result of your membership dollars, derby fees, and donations put to work.

Thank you all for your support! The American River Fish Hatchery passes on their appreciation as well!

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<http://www.kokaneepower.org/store/>

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