
Sergey Makeev



This week, we feature a native Sakhaliner whose profile could fill up the entire newspaper. Meet Sergey Makeev: teacher, ichthyologist, journalist and a public leader.

Sergey Makeev was born in Uglegorsk, located on the western coast of Sakhalin, in 1955. He speaks proudly of his childhood and the love and affection that he was showered with by his parents. His father worked in the construction industry and his mother used to work as a teacher and later on as a social worker.

He graduated from high school in Krasnogorsk, Uglegorsk district and then moved to the south of the island and entered the Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Teachers Training Institute, now Sakhalin State University. In 1978, he graduated from the institute and was awarded a Diploma of a Teacher in Physics and Mathematics. He then taught in an Aniva school.

After three years of teaching, he made a sharp career turn and became the Field Ichthyologist in 'Sakhalinrivvod'. At that time, professional work was very often combined with social work and Sergey came back to his profession - he became a teacher of young Sakhaliners who dreamt about nature and wildlife.

It was then that he formed the 'Blue patrol' group in Aniva Secondary School # 2. The group will celebrate its 25th anniversary this December. The children of his former pupils come and join organisation that is focused on ecology and ichthyology education of children. Sergey and his wife Ludmila have been responsible for many of Sakhalin's most famous ecological and nature awareness programmes and groups including Basarukinskie readings. He was also the mastermind behind 'Salmon Watch' excursion programmes for children.

Of course, he has also organized many programmes for adults including the Salmon Festival that became a celebrated annual late summer festival in the Aniva district for the last 5 years. Another project titled 'Adopt a Stream' brought about good results in pollution control with fishermen and Sakhaliners making sure that the streams aren't littered. In fact, these programmes have been used as a model by the Sakhalin State University.

He has also been very active in the civic society and in the late-1980s, he helped establish the Sakhalin branch of the Green party.

As an active member of public organizations, Sergey visited Arizona, USA in 2000 to meet leaders involved in new kinds of civic society projects. It was his first trip abroad. Since 2002, he visited the western coast of United States a few more times and got acquainted with the unique Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds Project. This inspired him to develop a similar 'Oregon plan for Sakhalin'.

Sergey applied his newly acquired knowledge to establish an active group called the Centre of Ecological Initiatives; he was the regional coordinator of the 'Living Sea' public campaign. That's not where his long list of achievements stops. Five years ago, he created the 'Sakhalin Wild Nature Fund', working in direct contact with the Wild Salmon Centre.

An experienced traveler, Sergey is also a perfect ecological tourism guide. He was the initiator and promoter of the 'Catch and Release' fishing principle in Sakhalin, helping to organise the first fishing competitions applying this principle.

Over the last 25 years, Sergey has visited a lot of Sakhalin Rivers, participating in fishing-ecological expeditions and developing a few ecological tours. These expeditions helped him to discover and mark some settlements of ancient people in the Aniva district.

His experiences are shared in books he has authored such as 'Aniva necklace', 'Liquidation of Ecological Illiteracy' and a number of other articles on various ecological and social problems. His writing prowess is also deep and he was a delegate of the Media Forum in St Petersburg in 2000 and the winner of the All-Russia competition of Journalists 'Ecology of Russia - 2000.' As a journalist, he also participated in the Civil Forum in Moscow.

But Sergey's true love is ichthyology. He is an author of several scientific articles and efficiency proposals. Having visited virtually all the rivers in the Aniva district, he has a special interest in Sakhalin Taimen. Last year, this fish was included in the Red Book of Endangered species by IUCN with Sergey's active support.

He works under the motto "Salmon Unites Us". This wondrous fish connects Russians, Americans, Japanese and Canadians through the huge Pacific Ocean. Sergey thinks that his greatest success is a development of educational programs focused on preservation and rational use of salmon.

Now he is looking for funds to publish educational materials and posters as well as to organise educational centre.

He studies methods of restoration of the spawning rivers and monitoring of salmon with enthusiasm. The Far Eastern regions of Russia have strongly lagged behind in this direction Sergey believes that "innovation is a must." His philosophy is "What is good for a salmon is good for us." For example, the development of oil and gas projects in Sakhalin creates a real threat for salmon and their eco-systems. But the largest corporations can provide opportunities for the study and preservation of salmon.

Sergey speaks some English and loves to read English books. While he doesn't have too much free time due to professional and social activities, he mainly reads professional literature.

Sergey has a happy marriage with Ludmila who helps him with research and social work. They have a daughter who has already graduated from school and works as a credit advisor.

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