



# WATERLINE

Mar 2010

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For information about the organization, call **1-800-607-5498** or visit the WALPA website

[www.walpa.org](http://www.walpa.org)

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## A Clean Lakes Program Success:

### Liberty Lake demonstrates the importance of dedicated lake restoration funds

By BiJay Adams

Today Liberty Lake near Spokane is a popular and attractive amenity that bolsters regional growth. Its current healthy state is a testament to homeowner involvement and the benefits provided by Washington's Clean Lakes Program. The success of Liberty Lake's restoration demonstrates why the program should be supported and coordinated state-wide, as WALPA worked for in this legislative session and will continue to promote.

Liberty Lake, a 708-acre mesotrophic lake three miles west of the Idaho border, was not always a success story. Formed by the damming of Liberty Creek during the Pleistocene Epoch, Liberty Lake has a mean depth of 23 feet and no natural outlet. Water leaves the system only by infiltration into the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, which currently supplies drinking water to more than half a million Spokane-area residents.

By the late 1960s, lakeside residents were removing tons of decaying aquatic weeds and dried algal mats from the lake each year to combat increasingly noticeable blue-green algae blooms. To address lake health and water quality concerns, in 1973 residents petitioned for and elected three commissioners to a special purpose sewer district.

In 1975, the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District got a grant from the Washington State Clean Lakes Program for in-lake restoration, stormwater management, and a sewage collection system and wastewater treatment plant. This ambitious project took almost ten years and cost nearly \$15 million, including federal grants and state restoration funds. After a study by the State of Washington Water Research Center and WSU's Civil Engineering Hydraulics Section, an integrated restoration plan outlined the need for watershed protection, reduced marsh runoff, sewers and dredging. Alum treatment followed, and a wastewater treatment facility was completed in 1982. Studies have assessed the effect of management efforts on lake organisms, including zooplankton, macroinvertebrates, macrophytes, and fish. To date, these studies find that the lake has stayed in a healthy mesotrophic state since project implementation.

Liberty Lake has been resilient, but it remains a soft-water lake with limited buffering capacity: heavy nutrient inflows could bring back large algal blooms. Protective measures to reduce and prevent nonpoint source pollution include

## WALPA Conference heads west this fall

### Save the date!

WALPA's annual conference will be held **September 9 and 10, 2010** at the Tacoma campus of the University of Washington. Plan to attend -- we'll look forward to seeing you there!

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# Clean carefully this spring to protect human health and water quality

If the longer days and warmer temperatures inspire you to do some spring cleaning, be sure to consider your family's health and the environment as you roll up your sleeves. Paint, gasoline, oil, burned-out fluorescent lights, wasp and hornet spray, old TVs, computer monitors, and unwanted medicines – these products can harm the environment and public health if not disposed of properly.

## How can I tell if a product is hazardous?

Look for the words *Poison*, *Danger*, *Warning* or *Caution* on the product label. *Poison* means that a product is highly toxic, and can cause injury or death if ingested, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin. *Danger* – often found on cleaners, polishes, paint strippers and pesticides – means that a product is highly toxic, flammable, or corrosive. *Warning* and *Caution* both indicate that a product is toxic, corrosive, reactive or flammable. Products with none of these words on the label are the least hazardous.

## What should I do if I find some of this stuff in my basement?

For information on potential hazards, disposal options, and

safer alternatives for a variety of common household products, check the King County household hazardous product list at: [www.lhwmp.org/home/HHW/list.aspx](http://www.lhwmp.org/home/HHW/list.aspx). Or call the Household Hazards Line with your questions at (206) 296-4692 or 1-888-869-4233. For disposal locations and times, and information on the monthly Wastemobile service at the Auburn SuperMall, go



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Area(s) of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

### Annual Membership Dues (Please circle the appropriate membership category below)

\$15 - students                      \$20 - individuals  
\$30 - professionals                \$40 - organizations & lake associations  
\$10 - individuals who belong to lake associations that are WALPA members

The membership year is from annual conference to annual conference.  
(Dues are renewable at the time of the annual conference.)

Cut out this completed form and send with your membership dues to:

**WALPA**  
**P.O. Box 4245**  
**Seattle, WA 98194-4245**

WALPA is a nonprofit organization run by volunteers. Donations of any amount are welcome throughout the year.  
Find us online at [www.WALPA.org](http://www.WALPA.org).

## Clean carefully this spring

*Continued from previous page*

to [www.lhwmp.org/home/HHW/hhw.aspx](http://www.lhwmp.org/home/HHW/hhw.aspx).

Washingtonians around the state can find a Shopper's Guide and recycling and disposal services in their area at: [www.ecy.wa.gov/toxicfreetips/shoppersguide.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/toxicfreetips/shoppersguide.html). Information for businesses and residents on hazardous products is at [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/mrw/household.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/mrw/household.html).

### Small businesses can get help to do the right thing with hazardous waste

Qualifying businesses can take advantage of hazardous waste disposal and other services. Counties around the state offer a variety of services for businesses; check [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/mrw/mrw\\_contacts.html#local](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/mrw/mrw_contacts.html#local) for resources in your area. In King County, call the Business Waste Line at 206-263-8899 (1-800-325-6165, ext. 3-8899) or visit [www.lhwmp.org/home/BHW/index.aspx](http://www.lhwmp.org/home/BHW/index.aspx).

So whether at your home or business, in King County or around the state, as you spring into cleaning this month, keep human health and the environment in mind and dispose of hazardous products safely.

## WAPMS will head to Seattle in late March

The Western Aquatic Plant Management Society's 29th annual conference will be held at the Seattle Sheraton March 28-31. The two and a half day conference will feature techniques and strategies for managing a variety of aquatic plants, including flowering rush, spartina, hydrilla, egeria and emerging nuisance species. Other sessions will address managing aquatic plants in irrigated croplands, updates from the western states, and detection and control technologies. To learn more or to register, visit <http://www.wapms.org/index.html>



*Advertising lake-related products or services in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by WALPA or any of its officers.*

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# A Clean Lakes Program Success

*Continued from front page*

diverting runoff, reducing lawn fertilization, plant and landscaping workshops and educational material that explains the relationship between watersheds and lakes, water quality, and human activities.

## Let's learn from Liberty Lake

While Liberty Lake has been a success story, for more than a decade there has been little or no emphasis nor directed funding from state or federal sources to manage Washington's lakes. As our state's lakes program has dwindled, the range and importance of lake issues has grown. Toxic algae blooms, invasive species, climate change and biodiversity concerns have joined excessive nutrients and nuisance plants and algae in threatening lake health statewide. While local governments, lake organizations, water and sewer districts, and other small entities try to grapple with watershed and in-lake problems piecemeal, their funding capacities are minimal and they are losing ground. Washington

State desperately needs a comprehensive and effective statewide lake program to identify and address lake issues, set legislative and research priorities, and support local lake protection efforts across ecoregions.

For the past three years, WALPA has worked on legislation to identify funding that will support a joint effort by citizens, scientists and public agencies to develop the framework for a coordinated statewide lake program – and we will continue to do so in subsequent sessions.

Without the management activities funded through the Clean Lakes Program, the Liberty Lake area would not be the amenity it is today. The Liberty Lake success story demonstrates why a dedicated restoration funding category for lakes should be re-established in Washington. With your help, WALPA will continue to advocate for an appropriately funded lake program statewide to restore and protect our state's lakes now and into the future.



*Liberty Lake Algae Bloom - 1972*



*Liberty Lake Algae Bloom - 1976*



*Liberty Lake - 1980*



*Liberty Lake after successful restoration efforts - 2004*

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# Inflows and Outflows:

## News from the WALPA Treasurer, Rebecca Dugopolski

Periodically we try to provide WALPA members some insight into the organization's income and costs, and an indication of how dues and conference fees are spent. Below is a quick summary of WALPA's financial status over the last few years.

### Our main cash inflows include:

#### Advertisements in Waterline

**Annual conference** - exhibitors, grant from the Department of Ecology, and registration fees

#### Membership dues

### Our primary outflows are:

#### Insurance for the officers and the board members

**Affiliate dues to the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS)**

**Annual conference** - facility cost, program layout and printing, supplies, and postage

**Waterline** - editing, layout, printing, and postage

#### Lobbying

**Two scholarships** (\$1,000 and \$750) - awarded to students at the annual conference

Moving to an electronic newsletter format for *Waterline* would save WALPA about \$1,000 each year in printing and postage. We strive to keep conference costs low, although facility costs vary with the location. Last year's conference

facility was more expensive than some of our previous locations, but it provided an important test run for the 2011 NALMS conference in Spokane that WALPA members will help organize. The cost for our state lobbyist rose to \$3,000 in 2009, but the increased exposure in Olympia improves our ability to attract bill sponsors and pass legislation to protect lakes.

Please encourage your friends and colleagues to join WALPA and attend our conferences to help us continue and expand WALPA's work. Member dues and conference fees allow us to support relevant research through scholarships, share state lake news through *Waterline*, and support public education and lobbying efforts in Olympia.

## Find WALPA on Facebook!

To stay up-to-date on WALPA events and lake-related news, visit our page at [www.facebook.com/pages/WALPA/436621190103](http://www.facebook.com/pages/WALPA/436621190103) Become a fan and invite your friends to do the same!



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**WALPA's financial status 2007 - 2009**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Advertising	\$2,400	NA	\$2,200
Conference	\$20,300	\$17,700	\$16,300
Dues	\$400	\$700	\$1,000
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>	<b>\$23,100</b>	<b>\$18,400</b>	<b>\$19,500</b>
Insurance	\$800	\$800	\$800
NALMS Affiliate Dues	\$250	\$250	\$250
Non-profit Status	\$10	\$10	\$10
PO Box Rental	\$110	\$130	\$200
Postage and Supplies	\$40	\$40	\$90
Brochures	NA	NA	\$200
Conference	\$9,700	\$8,500	\$16,000
Newsletter	\$4,600	\$2,800	\$3,500
Lobbying	NA	\$900	\$3,000
Scholarship	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$1,750
Web Page	\$20	\$20	\$300
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>\$17,280</b>	<b>\$15,200</b>	<b>\$26,100</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>+\$5,840</b>	<b>+\$3,200</b>	<b>-\$6,600</b>

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[www.LittLine.com](http://www.LittLine.com)

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Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration & Maintenance



Washington State Lake  
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## Lakes advocates bring energy to Olympia for Lakes Day

January 19 marked the second annual Lakes Day in Olympia, which was just as energizing and successful as the first one. Originally planned for January 28, the education and advocacy day was moved to coincide with a committee hearing on the phosphorus fertilizer ban, a priority bill for WALPA this year.

WALPA members from across the state spent the morning preparing for the Senate Energy, Water and Environment Committee hearing. Their mood was buoyed by support from non-profits, industries and local governments around Washington. Testimony backing the bill was heard throughout the morning from WALPA, the Spokane Riverkeeper, Inland Paper Company and Avista Utilities. As expected, fertilizer and landscaping industry representatives opposed the bill. Overall, the hearing went well, and committee Senators provided excellent feedback.

The afternoon was spent visiting supporters of the fertilizer ban, thanking them and answering questions. Some WALPA members met directly with their own legislators and discussed the organization’s mission and legislative priorities. While representatives do not always agree with every WALPA position, they value face time with their constituents, and our

organization gains recognition and credibility through citizen activism. Lakes Day is always a win-win scenario!

Following a long day of education and advocacy, members still at the Capitol capped their efforts with a visit to the nearby Fish Brewing Company, where they toasted the success of the second-ever Lakes Day.



*WALPA Members prepare for testimony at Lakes Day in Olympia*

As the season progressed, the phosphorus bill continued to move forward, passing the Senate 36-11. It was then referred to and passed out of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and awaits hearing by the full House. If passed by the House, the bill will go back to the Senate to be ratified. The final outcome will be clear soon, since the legislative session concludes March 11.

The WALPA Board would like to thank Senator Pridemore, Senator

Marr and Representative Ormsby for their work to keep unnecessary phosphorus out of our lakes and streams. In addition to the groups mentioned above, WALPA efforts for a phosphorus ban have been bolstered by the Washington Environmental Council, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Sierra Club, WASHPIRG and King County’s Local Hazardous Waste Management Program.