



WATERLINE

June 2001

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Renew your membership

Remember to send in your WALPA dues. Be sure your lakes association is a member, too! Send your membership fee to WALPA.

Membership fees are:

- \$15 for students
- \$20 for individuals
- \$30 for professionals
- \$40 for organizations

Send your check to:
WALPA
P. O. Box 4245
Seattle, WA 98104



Contact WALPA:
1-800-607-5498

WALPA Web site
www.nalms.org/walpa/

NALMS Web site
www.nalms.org



Please save *Waterline* issues
for future reference.

WALPA president addresses goals

By Steve Butkus, WALPA President

I am truly excited about my role as the new president of WALPA. My goal for the coming year is to get greater visibility of lake issues with policy makers and the public. I will need your help to be successful.

Lakes are not getting the respect they deserve. The main goal of the Federal Clean Water Act is for all waters to become "fishable and swimmable." Where does most of the fishing and swimming in our state occur? In our lakes! There are so many beneficial uses of our lakes. Why have our bureaucrats forgotten about them?

With the heightened concern over the health of salmon in the state, funding for restoration and monitoring has been shifted away from lakes. The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has decided to stop the water quality monitoring of our lakes. Specific grant funding for the study and restoration of lakes is no longer available from the state or federal governments. Due to these cuts to funding for lakes, Ecology will not be able to meet specific requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act.

How do we get more visibility on lake issues? We need to contact our representatives in Congress and the legislature and insist that funding for lakes be restored! We were making progress on restoring numerous lakes before the funding set-aside for lakes was abolished in 1995. It is unconscio-

nable that Ecology does not have a program to monitor the quality of our lakes when the Federal Clean Water Act requires them to do so! We need to get word out to the public that these actions are not acceptable. Lakes are too important in our state to be ignored!

WALPA was founded in a grassroots effort to get visibility to our lake issues. WALPA has been very successful in getting this attention, but we have lost ground recently. We need to revive the grass-roots focus of our organization. One of the best ways to increase participation and interest in lake issues is to increase our membership. More WALPA members will translate into higher visibility of lake issues with policy makers and the public. I challenge each of you to recruit at least one new member for WALPA in the next year. If successful, the effort could double our membership.

I also urge you to take up the pen for lakes. Write your representatives. Write to Ecology. Write a letter to the editor of your local paper to say you want grant funding reinstated for lake restoration, and you want the monitoring of lakes to be reinstated.

I will be working to get specified funding for lakes. But I cannot do it alone. With your help, we can work together to get greater visibility for lake issues. Together we can help lakes get the respect they deserve!

Register for Washington WaterWeeks 2001

The statewide Washington WaterWeeks program is looking for community groups, organizations, schools, youth groups, individuals and others to plan local and regional environmental, water-related activities for Washington WaterWeeks 2001.

WaterWeeks is an annual, state-wide series of more than 150 water-related education and action activities that takes place September 1 through October 14. Last year, more than 35,000 people participated in WaterWeeks activities, and another 1.6 million people viewed WaterWeeks exhibits and materials at major fairs and festivals.

Active involvement activities, such as stream restorations, water quality monitoring and shoreline cleanups, are strongly encouraged. However, a variety of age- and skill-appropriate events are desirable to ensure that all citizens have opportunities to learn about and get involved in protecting Washington's waters.

WaterWeeks activities receive extensive promotional support, including a free event listing in 60,000

copies of the Washington WaterWeeks *Adventure Guide*, and on the Web at www.waterweeks.org. The *Adventure Guide* is distributed at state parks, libraries, chambers of commerce, visitor information centers, festivals, sponsors' sites and other locations statewide. The deadline to register an activity is June 22.

WaterWeeks is sponsored by a partnership that includes the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office; state departments of Ecology, Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife, Transportation, and Health; Washington Sea Grant; Washington Parks and Recreation Commission; Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team; Seattle Public Utilities; EPA; Clean Sound Cooperative; and Olympia Networking Services.

To plan an activity or get more information, visit www.waterweeks.org; call the WaterWeeks office in Olympia at 360-943-3642; or write WaterWeeks at P.O. Box 1354, Olympia, WA, 98507-1354.

Seeking volunteers for Secchi Dip-in

Contribute to a snapshot of North American water quality from June 30 to July 15, by volunteering for The Great North American Secchi Dip-In.

Dip-In 2001 is our eighth year of gathering transparency information. Volunteers have contributed more than 17,000 data points on more than 5,000 waterbodies. This is an opportunity to demonstrate that volunteers can be an effective information-gathering network.

The Dip-In is open to any program in any country, whether it monitors rivers, streams, estuaries, lakes or reservoirs that uses a measure of turbidity or transparency. We accept data taken with a Secchi disk, a turbidity tube, a black disk, LaMotte turbidity test kit, or a turbidimeter.

To participate, enroll your program at our Web site: <http://dipin.kent.edu>. All volunteers in your program will receive a summary of

the Dip-In 2000, whether or not they participated in the 2000 event.

While at our site, please visit some of our pages:

£ Dip-In Events: Use the Dip-In as a focus in an event to highlight your own volunteer efforts.

£ Volunteer Methods: A growing guide to volunteer methods. We welcome your contributions or links.

Please contact the Dip-In at:
Bob Carlson
Dept of Biological Sciences
Kent State University
Kent, OH 44242

E-Mail: dipin@kent.edu or
r Carlson@kent.edu
Tel: 330-672-3849
Fax: 330-672-3713
See the latest on the Dip-In at: <http://dipin.kent.edu>



Meet the 2001-2001 WALPA Board

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Stream Team offers camps to youths

Stream Team in Thurston County is offering three-day camps at Priest Point Park for eight to 10 year olds. Sessions are July 10-12, 17-19, 24-26, or July 31-August 2. The cost is \$75 per session and includes a T-shirt, snacks, and a one-to-five adult to camper ration.

Campers explore Ellis and Mission Creeks, the forest ecosystem of the park, and Budd Inlet's shoreline with highly-qualified instructors and volunteer camp counselors.

Camp activities provide options for various learnign styels and knowledge levels, with an emphasis on learning science through team activities, hikes, art, and games.

For information, call 360-753-8380.

Diversity at the water's edge

By Klaus Richter, Senior Ecologist, King County Department of Natural Resources

Lakes come in many different sizes, shapes, depths, and of course, water quality. Regardless of these characteristics, shorelines are the most biologically diverse and functionally important areas associated with lakes. Transitions between the lake and adjacent upland and terrestrial ecosystems, shorelines provide conditions favorable to rearing fish, as well as habitat for birds, mammals, and others vertebrates.

A lake's shore is also important to animals with biphasic life cycles (those having two distinct life phases: an aquatic larval stage and a terrestrial or semi-aquatic adult stage.) Examples include aquatic insects such as caddisflies and dragonflies, and pond-breeding amphibians such as frogs, toads, and salamanders.

The littoral zone

The shallow shoreline area, known as the littoral zone, accounts for much of the wildlife diversity seen at lakes. The wide variety of emergent plants such as grasses, herbs, rushes, and sedges in this zone provide the food and cover for an extensive aquatic food web starting with microscopic zooplankton such as water fleas and rotifers.

Larger, yet relatively small animals called macroinvertebrates also dwell here. Examples include the well-known pond snail. In turn, a host of immature insects, notably dragonflies, alderflies, and diving beetles feed on the smaller insects, snails, worms, and larval amphibians.

The role of plants

Without the diversity of aquatic plants and invertebrates along the lake shore, frogs and salamanders, turtles and snakes, waterbirds and songbirds, and mammals including muskrats, otters, and deer would not be found at lakes. For example, soft, thin-stemmed emergent plants provide critical egg attachments sites for breeding amphibians. Without these plants, eggs sink to the bottom where they may suffocate from sedimentation or be eaten by predators.

Aquatic plants also provide cover

for tadpoles and the larvae of many amphibians and near-shore herbs and shrubs provide shady and cool habitats for newly metamorphosed frogs and salamanders. Mallards, American wigeon, northern pintail, and other waterfowl that visit during their annual migrations or remain as breeding residents throughout the year eat aquatic plants and their seeds. Mammals such as voles, muskrats, and deer feed extensively on the succulent grasses and rushes of lake shores.

A whole host of critters, from the western painted turtle, common and western terrestrial garter snakes, rubber boas, to wood ducks, common Golden-eye, and Great Blue and Green-backed herons prey upon the snails, insects, tadpoles, and metamorphosed amphibians and small fish among the emergent plants.

Vital habitat

Riparian vegetation is also important as nesting, denning, and rearing habitat for a great variety of songbirds and mammals. Besides being close to water, vegetation found here is abundant with insects and other small aquatic animal populations, a prime food source for young songbirds and mammals.

Recently, 90 bird species, 19 native small mammal species, and six native pond-breeding amphibian species were seen at 19 wetlands in with open water and vegetation similar to that found at natural lakes. Clearly, this transition habitat from open water to upland forests represents the greatest biological diversity when compared against other ecosystems and highlights the importance of lakeshores and riparian areas.

This article is reprinted by permission. It first appeared in King County's *Lake Steward* Vol. 8 No. 2. For further information, check King County's Web site: <http://dnr.metrok.gov/wlr/waterres/smlakes/> or contact the staff at your local jurisdiction or your extension agent.



Conserve water during drought

While Washingtonians enjoyed a dry winter, the need for water remains the same. Now in a drought, declared by Governor Gary Locke, it's time to conserve water resources. Check with your city, county or power company to ask for their recommendations for conserving water and power.

Using less water may help to lower your water bill; keep water in streams for fish and wildlife; postpone the development of new water supplies; decrease the need for further increases in power rates; and prolong the life of septic systems.

In residents, the water is mostly used for toilets at 22 percent, and following a close second is landscape at 21 percent. Other uses are clothes washers at 16 percent, showers and baths at 15 percent, faucets at 14 percent, leaks at 11 percent, and finally dishwashers at 1 percent.

Installing water-efficient toilets can greatly reduce water usage. Put a rain barrel outside to capture rain water, then water plants with rain water when the weather turns dry. Run clothes washers and dishwashers at full capacity to use water efficiently. Take shorter showers. Find water leaks and fix them!

Most importantly, don't waste water, especially this year!

Waterline newsletter published quarterly

These are the deadlines and publication dates for the next two issues:

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Issue date</u>
August 1	September 1
November 1	December 1

Story ideas are always welcome. Send your ideas to *Waterline* Editor Paula Lowe, pmrlowe@aol.com or call 360-491-0109.

Be sure to include the topic, suggested writer, contact person with phone number and e-mail address.

The editor will follow-up and research story ideas that meet within *Waterline's* editorial guidelines.

Speakers talk to associations

Members of WALPA will be available to speak to lakes associations around the state. They'll bring the new slide show and talk with lake residents and others about limnology, eutrophication, food webs, non-point source pollutants and the threats to lakes posed by Eurasian watermilfoil and the zebra mussel, and other subjects.

To schedule a WALPA speaker, call WALPA at 1-800-607-5498.

Waterline accepts ads

The *Waterline* accepts advertising for lake-related products or services. Published quarterly, the *Waterline* reaches lake professionals and scientists, educators, and lake residents.

For advertising information and rates, call Paula Lowe, 360-491-0109, or e-mail her at pmrlowe@aol.com.

Story ideas welcome

The editor of the *Waterline* is always looking for great stories. If you have a story that you would like to share about your lake or lake project, send your idea to Paula Lowe, editor, pmrlowe@aol.com or call 360-491-0109.

WATERLINE is the newsletter of the Washington State Lake Protection Association (WALPA). Send submissions to: Paula Lowe, Expressions, 5202 Rumac St. S.E., Olympia, WA 98513. Articles may be reproduced. Please credit the *Waterline*. For information about the organization call 1-800-607-5498. WALPA is a chapter of the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS).

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