

WATERLINE

June 2002

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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:
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Seattle, WA 98104



Contact WALPA:
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Please save *Waterline* issues
for future reference.

New president shares ideas

By Rob Zisette, WALPA President

At the annual WALPA conference in April, I talked about some of my plans for our organization for the next year. I got more ideas at the 15th annual NALMS conference in Chicago on enhancing the state's lake management programs, which had an invasive species theme this year. I attended a workshop with other NALMS chapter representatives where we shared what is and isn't working for our lakes organizations. As you would imagine with the 23 or more chapters represented, there are a wide variety of organizational structures and issues among us.

I am proud of WALPA's accomplishments, but I hope to improve on a few things. I want to increase membership by lake associations and lake residents. For example, the Maine chapter has 250 lake associations, compared to a handful in WALPA. To increase lake resident membership, WALPA needs to do more that directly benefits them. Our conference should continue to address technical issues, but it needs to include more applicable information for lake residents. We need to enhance other public outreach efforts such as giving more WALPA slide shows, expanding our newsletter, posting a comprehensive list of lake resources on our website, and holding special workshops. WALPA has a 15-person board and there are lots of lake professionals in our organization that can help make this happen.

Our membership committee will look at other ways to increase membership such as mailing membership renewal notices, eliminating membership dues, or extending membership terms beyond a year. We are also planning to investigate the pros and cons of combining with neighboring state chapters to form the Pacific Northwest Lake Association, which would save on expenses and has been a successful approach for the New England chapter. We also need to consider issues associated with differences between the east and west side of the state.

One of the take-home messages from the NALMS conference is that important lake issues generate interest and association membership. I also heard this at our conference, but we didn't identify which issues to pursue at the state level. I think aquatic nuisance species is an important lake issue that we should educate members about, and we should help with the 100th meridian initiative (see www.100thmeridian.org/) to keep zebra mussels out of Washington.

Based on the recently defeated bill that would have restricted the formation of lake management districts, we need to pay close attention to legislative activity and consider preparing a counter proposal to improve the LMD process. I am also interested in pursuing other legislation that would benefit lakes, such as the bill just *continued on page 2.*

WALPA member honored for lakes' work

By Paula R. Lowe, *Waterline* Editor

Fourteen years ago, a woman who called herself "just a housewife" emerged on the lakes scene and propelled Thurston County's lakes into the national spotlight.

Initially, Kathey Wyckoff wanted to learn more about aquatic plant removal in lakes. As a member of the Lakes Improvement Association, which represents four lakes in Thurston County (Long, Pattison, Hicks and Lois), she led the Aquatic Plant Management Committee from 1988 to 1989. The committee of lake residents met regularly to hear from experts about several options to control aquatic plants. Thurston County Lakes Manager Tom Clingman (at that time) and other county staff also attended the meetings, lending their expertise and clerical support. Some of the plant removal methods were so new, they were untested and some were illegal without a special permit. Those were the early years of lay people learning about lake ecology.

While the committee was meeting that year, Eurasian watermilfoil was discovered in Long Lake. The lake's residents started to focus on learning their options to control this noxious weed. The committee continued to meet and issued a final report on their findings in 1989. They presented the report to Thurston County Commissioners with recommendations.

Kathey was highly involved in the political and practical process of removing Eurasian watermilfoil from Long Lake. The lake formed an LMD which paid for the removal of the weed. Because of her knowledge about Eurasian watermilfoil and her experience in rallying sources, she gave presentations to lakes groups around the United States.

Thanks to Kathey, the state's boat trailer tax was established in 1991. She spent countless hours talking with legislators, state officials and others to pass that bill.

"Kathey has a gift for bringing together people who have different

viewpoints and joining them for a single cause to better our world," says Paula Lowe, friend and lakes volunteer.

Kathey, a self-employed business manager, served on the WALPA board for many years and was president from 1994 to 1995. She also served on the Lakes Improvement Association board and was president. She is a long-time volunteer water quality monitor for Ecology's program.

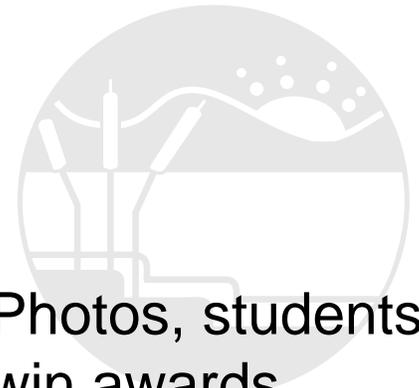
In May 2002, Kathey was honored for years of dedication to lakes by the Thurston County Commissioners. Many of the people who served on the committee and who contributed to Kathey's work through the years were present: Genie Stansbury and Scott Boyd, Long Lake residents; Kathy Hamel, Ecology; Tom Clingman and Jim Bachmeier, Thurston County; Paula Lowe, LIA and WALPA member; Roger and Betty Holderman, Long Lake residents and Kathey's parents; and Daniel Wyckoff, her husband.

Kathey and her family are selling their Long Lake home and will be moving out of state.

New president from page 1

signed by Minnesota Governor Ventura that restricts the phosphorus content in lawn fertilizers (see www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/perl/billinf4.pl and enter "SF1555").

I want to hear from you about your ideas on important issues and mechanisms for motivating fellow members to take action on them. Also, I hope to hear that you have some time and energy to work on a committee and help us make a difference. Send an e-mail to me at rzisette@herrerainc.com. WALPA's toll-free number is 1-800-607-5498, which is connected to the receptionist at my office, so you have to ask for WALPA or me.



Photos, students win awards

Thanks to everyone who submitted photos to the photo contest! About 20 photos were entered, according to Maggie Bell-McKinnon and Gene Williams, photo contest organizers.

Here are the photo contest winners:

First place - "Sentinels Over Spirit Lake." Photo of Spirit Lake, Harmony Falls. Photo by Duncan Berry and submitted by Sharon Sorby. Sharon works for the Pend Oreille County Weed Board in Newport, Washington.

Second place - Photo of Long Lake, Thurston County. Photo by Yvonne Conway.

Third place - "Mountain Shadow." Photo of Mt. Rainier shadow with Pattison Lake in the foreground. Photo by Paula Lowe.

The winning photos and some of the submitted photos will be used on WALPA's web page and, perhaps, in WALPA's slide show. The black and white copies may be used in the *Waterline*.

Three awards went to students for their presentations: Shannon Ashurst, Western Washington University; Jena Lemke, Western Washington University; and Wendy Palen, University of Washington.

The winners received *An Aquatic Plant Identification Manual for Washington's Freshwater Plants* published by the Washington Department of Ecology.

Thanks to Ecology for donating these books. To purchase a copy of this book call 360-753-6820.

April WALPA conference a success

By Rob Zisette, WALPA President

WALPA's 15th annual conference was definitely a success based on good attendance (121) and positive feedback I heard from several attendees.

A lot of people deserve a lot of thanks. First, I want to thank all of those who attended and made it worth the work. Next, thanks to all the speakers for spending time to share your interesting work with us.

Thanks to the moderators for finding great speakers, operating the audio-visual equipment, and keeping us on schedule. I think we only lost one presentation due to a PowerPoint glitch. (I sure hope Terry McNabb is willing try it again next year at Lake Chelan, and special thanks to Kathy Hamel for filling in for two of her speakers.)

Also, thanks to poster presenters and photo contest participants; those were nice additions that I hope we can continue in future conferences.

A big thanks goes to fellow WALPA members (you know who you are) for taking care of registration, the photo contest, awards, and various important details at the hotel.

Finally, I want to specifically thank Ecology for their cash and book donations, and the following exhibitors for their contributions: Electronic Data Solutions, SeaPRO Corporation, ReMetrix, and Arrowtooth.

I don't have the numbers yet, but I am pretty sure we made money on the conference. The hotel compensated us for the inconvenience of the hotel evacuation (which was due to a gas leak that may have been from a propane tank that fell off a truck on the highway and the gas migrated into the hotel's ventilation system). So, the 45-minute wait in the parking lot, the two speakers who didn't return, the abbreviated WALPA business meeting, and the half-hour delay in the final sessions were worth it in the end. The following are a few conference highlights from my notes; I wish I could have attended all the sessions.

On Wednesday, Mike Brett

presented the WALPA slide show to over 100 students at Komachin Middle School. He said the students listened quite well and asked some good questions, and it even raised interest from the local press. TJ Sisson thought he had finished both half-day workshops by 12:30 pm and was looking forward to the afternoon off, but the afternoon group arrived to find TJ about to bite his sandwich in the restaurant (thanks to some fine detective work by Paul Szweczykowski), so back to work he went.

Thursday began with the Lake User Needs session. Mike Brett presented a nice summary (and statistical analysis) of the WALPA Lake User Survey results. Joanna Buehler wants to know what government is doing about her lake (Sammamish), and suggests

that we "needle, bicker, and sue" to get our needs met. Robert Rothschilds emphasized the need for long-term data. Paula Lowe learned the hard way about how to form an LMD (Pattison Lake). Bill Shawl wants to know how development will affect water levels in Loon Lake. In the sediment toxicity session, Deb Lester noted that sediment contaminant concentrations do not correlate with toxicity test results for sediment samples from Lake Sammamish, and Rachel Friedman explained how low levels of copper affect salmon migration because it impairs their ability to detect natural odors.

At lunch, Doug Larson shared his incredible experience trying to monitor Spirit Lake among the massive amount of floating logs that drift in the wind.

In the stream water quality

session, Sandra Embrey suggested that the DDT found in a urban stream might have come from a wetland construction project that disturbed contaminated soils. From various presenters, I learned about the amazing disinfecting and contaminant degrading properties of the hypersaline waters in Soap Lake.

Friday started out with a stimulating session on Lake Management – What Road to the Future? We heard different perspectives from state, county, and consultant representatives about what we need to do for lake management in Washington state. Look for more on this topic in the next issue of *Waterline*. In the aquatic nuisance species session, Pam Meechum explained how Chinese mitten crabs are catadromous (opposite of anadromous), as they crawl many miles upstream to burrow in stream banks and then migrate downstream in mass to spawn. I also learned that the red swamp crayfish has invaded Pine Lake, which Greg Pelletier and I researched together back in grad school.

At lunch, Daniel Poleschook and Ginger Gumm treated us to awesome photographs and sounds of loons and other lake creatures. In the macrophyte management session, Doug Henderson showed how hydroacoustics are used to create maps of plant biovolume.

In the mountain lakes session, Wendy Palen explained the flaws in research that blame a thinner ozone layer on the decline in amphibian populations.

The WALPA conference ended on Saturday with a lake resident session that proved to be most informative. Various residents shared their experiences in an open forum that included a lot of success stories and emphasized the need for persistence to make progress on lake issues. To me, this is what WALPA is all about.



Speakers talk to associations

Members of WALPA are 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 newsletter published quarterly

Waterline 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@attbi.com or call 360-491-0109.

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

WALPA Board for 2002-2003

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