



WATERLINE

March 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:
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.

Olympia is site of WALPA conference

By Rob Zisette, president-elect, conference organizer

WALPA's 15th annual conference on lakes, reservoirs, and watersheds will be held in Olympia at the WestCoast Olympia Hotel April 3 through 6. Call 1-800-325-4000 for hotel reservations if you haven't made them yet! The preliminary conference program and registration form were mailed to past and present members in mid-February, or obtain one from WALPA's web site at www.nalms.org/walpa/. Registrations will also be accepted at the door.

On Wednesday, April 3, Electronic Data Solutions (EDS) will conduct a Hydrolab calibration and maintenance workshop and a lake monitoring equipment software and equipment seminar, featuring the exciting new "LakeWatch" data management program from Seveno. Limited registration is available for the workshop and seminar directly through EDS at www.elecdata.com or call 208-324-8006. In addition, WALPA's past president Mike Brett will be presenting the WALPA slide show on lake ecology and management to a local middle school throughout the day on Wednesday.

The conference begins at 8:30 am on Thursday, April 4, with a plenary session on the needs of lake users that will include a summary of results from WALPA's survey of over 300 lake users and presentations by lake association representatives. Concurrent technical sessions will follow on controversial topics such as pesticide permits and the

future of Capitol Lake, new research on sediment toxicity and stream water quality, shoreline habitat enhancement projects and impacts from docks, and the microbial wonders of Soap Lake in Grant County. Thursday's lunch includes a spectacular presentation by Doug Larson on the ecological succession of Spirit Lake from its destruction 22 years ago by the eruption of Mount St. Helens to its present-day infestation by Eurasian watermilfoil.

Friday begins with a panel discussion on the status and future of lake management programs in Washington that includes briefings from various state and county representatives. Concurrent technical session topics include exotic plants and animals that threaten our lakes, the toxicity and dynamics of blue-green algae blooms, aquatic plant management planning and new herbicide technologies, updates on goose management and bacterial pollution, and fascinating water quality and biological studies of urban and mountain lakes. The WALPA business lunch is Friday, and features the multimedia presentation "Nature's splendor at Loon Lake" by Daniel Poleschook and Ginger Gumm.

The conference concludes on Saturday with a panel discussion by lake residents on techniques for lake associations to increase involvement and make progress on lake protection efforts. This discussion will be followed by a series of reports by lake residents from across the state.

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Share your great lake photos

At this year's conference, WALPA is holding a photo contest. Submit your favorite lake photo(s) for judging by the conference attendees. Fabulous prizes will be awarded to the photos with the most votes.

Contest rules

- Any photo subject is allowed as long as it relates to lakes.
- Only unframed photographic prints or computer prints.
- Sizes 8x10 or smaller will be accepted.
- Limit of five entries per person.
- All photos will be returned, but by submitting your photo to this contest, you are giving WALPA permission to reprint your photo in publications, presentations, or the WALPA web site. You will receive photo credit with each use.

The deadline for photo submittal is April 1, 2002 by mail or in person by 10 a.m., April 4, 2002 at the conference. Mail entries to:

Gene Williams, WALPA Secretary
Snohomish County Surface Water Management
2731 Wetmore Avenue, #300
Everett, WA 98201

The decision of the judges will be final, but all bribes will be welcome.

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.

Ask a neighbor or co-worker to join WALPA

New WALPA membership brochures are available! Distribute them at your next lake association meeting or in your next newsletter. Give brochures to your neighbors.

For copies of the membership brochure, call Paula Lowe, 360-491-0109, or e-mail pmrlowe@aol.com.

Include your name, address, lake, phone number, e-mail address, and the quantity of brochures you need, so she can send them

Waterline accepts ads

The *Waterline* accepts advertising for lake-related products or services.

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

Water quality publications available

The Washington State University Cooperative Extension Office is a good resource for water quality publications. Some of the topics are: Sprinkler Irrigation Application Rates and Depth, Defining Water Quality, and Using Pesticides Safely in the Home and Yard. Publications are available at county WSU Cooperative Extension offices or ask for a free catalog: C0506, Educational Materials Catalog. Write to Bulletin Office, Washington State University, P. O. Box 645912, Pullman, WA 99164-5912 or call 1-800-723-1763.

Low Impact Development workshop is in March

Join regional experts, elected officials and members of development and regulatory communities in the South Sound as they explore technical, regulatory and financial aspects of innovative stormwater management practices during a Low Impact Development workshop. Presented by the Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team and co-sponsors, the workshop is Wed., March 20 from 8 am to 4 pm at Saint Martin's College Worthington Center, 5300 Pacific Ave. S.E., Lacey.

Low impact development strategies include retention of native vegetation, reduced impervious surfaces and landscaped bioretention of native vegetation, reduced impervious surfaces and landscaped bioretention areas to manage stormwater and protect streams, fish habitat and hydrologic functions of watersheds.

The workshop includes:

- Overview presentations on the principles and practices of low impact development and why conventional land development and stormwater practices are inadequate to protect our water resources.
- Case studies of applications of low impact development principles in South Sound.
- A panel discussion of the regulatory, economic and marketing aspects of low impact development.
- A design exercise on the application of low impact development techniques.

The registration fee is \$25 and includes presentations, workshop materials, continental breakfast and lunch. Space is limited to 100 participants.

To register call or e-mail Gigi Williams at 360-407-7311 or 1-800-54-Sound, or gwilliams@psat.wa.gov. For information on workshop, contact Tim Ransom at 360-407-7323 or transom@psat.wa.gov.

Additional workshops will be held in north Puget Sound and on the Olympic Peninsula.

What is a TMDL?

By Maggie Bell-McKinnon, biologist, Environmental Assessment Program/ Washington Department of Ecology

In 1972, the U.S. Congress passed the Clean Water Act. This act requires each state to identify waterbodies (rivers, creeks, lakes, etc.) or sections of waterbodies, not meeting their respective state water quality standards. This list of waterbodies is often referred to as the 303(d) list (named after a section of the Clean Water Act). Once these waterbodies are identified, the state is required to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for each pollutant identified as exceeding state water quality standards. A TMDL specifies the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, and allocates pollutant loadings among point and nonpoint pollutant sources.

If you are interested in reading a TMDL study that was done for a Washington waterbody, you can visit this bibliography web site www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/eap.html for TMDL studies done by the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) to date.

Ecology has until 2013 to develop TMDL studies for 643 polluted waterbodies in Washington. Most of these waterbodies are affected by more than one pollutant. The primary water quality problems in our state's waters are temperature and fecal coliform bacteria. Both are generally associated with nonpoint source pollution, which can originate from a variety of sources. Appropriate water temperature is essential for the health of aquatic life including salmon and other fish. With regard to human health issues, fecal coliform bacteria levels are significant as an indicator of the presence of disease carrying organisms.

Other water quality problems in Washington include:

- Erosion from roads, construction, and agriculture, which increases the amount of sediment in streams.

- Too much organic material decaying in the water, which lowers the dissolved oxygen levels that fish and other aquatic creatures need to survive.
- Excessive nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitrogen; these are the primary pollutant problem in Washington's lakes. Sources include irrigated agriculture, gardening practices, and urban and suburban property development. Excessive amounts of these nutrients can cause algae and other aquatic plants to grow to such a degree that they deprive other aquatic life of vital oxygen. Algae can also make lakes unusable for recreation.

So how does a waterbody become included on the 303(d) list? There must be adequate documentation that water quality standards are not being met. A "call for data" from Ecology requests the submittal of information indicating a waterbody is not meeting water quality standards. There are requirements for the kind of data that can be submitted and accepted by Ecology. For more information about the specifics of what is contained in Ecology's 303(d) listing policy and when the "call for data" will take place, contact Matthew Green at 360-407-6386 or e-mail at mgre461@ecy.wa.gov.

Ecology's 303(d) list is one place where data collected by volunteer monitoring organizations could be valuable. Submitting data on a waterbody where a suspected problem exists, allows Ecology, the public and other stakeholders to track these waterbodies and look for opportunities to pursue additional sampling, incorporate a waterbody into existing studies or to find other means to confirm or address the suspected problem.

Alison Beckett, Ecology, receives data on waterbodies that are being considered for Ecology's 303(d) list.

Alison can be reached at 360-407-6456 or by e-mail at abec461@ecy.wa.gov

Ecology is developing a TMDL effectiveness monitoring process. This process involves the monitoring of waterbodies that have had a TMDL study done and where programs or activities are in place that are moving (or will move) the waterbody toward meeting water quality standards. Effectiveness monitoring would document this movement toward compliance. I am working toward incorporating volunteer monitoring organizations into becoming an integral part of the effectiveness monitoring portion of the TMDL process in Washington. Potentially, Secchi data collected by volunteer monitoring groups could be a valuable source of information in a lake effectiveness monitoring study.

For more information about TMDL's, check out Ecology's web site at: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/index.html.

Olympia is site of WALPA conference

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Exhibits at the conference are presented by non-profit organizations, government agencies, and corporate/commercial enterprises. Two new features for the WALPA conference include the presentation of technical posters by students and professionals, and a photo contest with prizes. Contact Rob Zisette by e-mail at rzisette@herrerrainc.com or call at 206-441-9080 if you want to exhibit, present a poster, enter a photo, or need additional information about the conference.

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> |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| May 1 | June 1 |
| August 1 | September 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.

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