

WATERLINE

September 2002

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Story ideas welcome

The editor of the *Waterline* is always looking for stories about lake projects, send your idea to Paula Lowe, editor, pmrlowe@attbi.com or call 360-491-0109.



Contact WALPA:
1-800-607-5498

WALPA Web site
www.nalms.org/walpa/

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Join with nation to monitor water

Citizens across America are invited to participate in National Water Monitoring Day on Friday, October 18. It's easy to take part in this event, simply sign up through the Web site, www.yearofcleanwater.org. Volunteers will measure a core set of water quality parameters: temperature, pH, turbidity/clarity and dissolved oxygen.

The Web site also offers a place to post upcoming water-related events such as festivals, beach walks, workshops and conferences. To help increase awareness of the Year of

Clean Water, colorful posters for children and adults are available. Teachers may order educational materials for their classrooms.

The event is part of this year's Year of Clean Water as proclaimed by Congress, state governors, federal agencies and national nonprofit organizations. America's Clean Water Foundation is coordinating and facilitating events this year to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act signed by former President Richard Nixon.

Zebra mussels threaten waterways

Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) are native to the Caspian Sea in Asia. They entered the Great Lakes Region via ballast water of a transatlantic vessel in the late 1980s. Within 10 years, these mussels had colonized the river basins of the Great Lakes, Mississippi, Tennessee, Hudson and Ohio. Zebra mussel densities have been reported to be well over 700,000 individuals per square meter in some places in the Great Lakes area. The US Fish and Wildlife Service estimates these invasive creatures will have a potential negative economic impact of \$5 billion to the U.S. and Canada within the Great Lakes region, alone, over the next decade.

A real menace

Zebra mussels cause far-reaching damage to water structures and native ecosystems. They attach to humanmade structures, particularly pipelines, impeding water movement through hydroelectric turbines and intake structures for drinking water and irrigation systems. They also negatively impact aquatic ecosystems, harming native organisms. In huge numbers, they out-compete other filter feeders, starving them. They adhere to all hard surfaces, including the shells of native mussels, turtles, crustaceans, and each other. In the Midwest, they have destroyed boat engines, fouled beaches, and caused damage to boat ramps and docks. Zebra mussel fecal material may also contribute to taste and odor problems in drinking water sources.

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Zebra mussels threaten waterways

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Stopping the spread

These tiny creatures can live for long periods out of water and cling to all kinds of hard surfaces. Trailing boats from one body of water to another has significantly contributed to their rapid spread throughout the Midwest. As of June, boaters are required to clean their boats and trailers of aquatic weeds and other debris before leaving a boat launch in Washington state, or risk being ticketed. Hopefully this important legislation comes in time to curtail the westward spread of zebra mussels and other invasive aquatic species.

Monitoring

Preventing the spread of zebra mussels to the Columbia River and its associated waterways is the primary objective of the Zebra Mussel Monitoring Network coordinated by the Center for Lakes & Reservoirs. Volunteers are being sought throughout Washington who have access to lakes and rivers. They will be provided with a PVC substrate to hang on their docks and monthly reply cards. If there is a positive sighting, authorities will be alerted and will determine the extent of colonization. To date, these invasive species have not been sighted in any Washington waters.

For additional information about becoming a volunteer, contact Toni Pennington, zebra mussel volunteer monitoring coordinator, at 503-725-9075 or toni@pdx.edu.

Washington WaterWeeks annual cleanup time

Washington WaterWeeks, an annual series of water-related education and involvement activities, takes place Sept. 14-Oct. 20. It includes beach cleanups, water quality monitoring, habitat restoration, salmon festivals and more. To view a statewide calendar of WaterWeeks' events, go to www.waterweeks.org.



Zebra mussels pose a multi-billion dollar threat to our region. Although these barnacle-like mollusks have not yet been found in Washington waters, they are destroying freshwater ecosystems through the eastern United States and are spreading westward. King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, along with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Portland State Center for Lakes and Reservoirs have launched a public education campaign to alert citizens to the dangers of these non-native creatures and to hopefully keep them out of lakes and rivers.

Reprinted by permission from the Lake Steward newsletter, a publication of King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks. For more information on small lakes in King County, please visit their web site <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/waterres/smlakes/> or call 206-296-6519.

Stand up for lakes

By Moya Joubert, WALPA Elections committee

WALPA is looking for nominees for director and officer positions to serve on the WALPA board from 2003 to 2005. The following positions need to be filled:

- Five Directors (each with a two-year commitment);
- Secretary (two-year commitment);
- President-Elect (one year each as President-Elect, President and Past-President).

We need people who are motivated to help our organization and the lakes in Washington. Duties include working on our annual conference or on one of our committees. WALPA strives to maintain state-wide representation and would like to diversify the board with more lake residents.

The WALPA board gathers every two months for two hours evening in Tacoma. We use conference calling for those unable to attend the meetings in person.

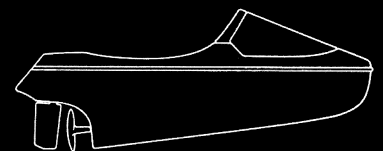
New board members and officers will be elected by written ballot and the results will be announced at the next WALPA conference in April 2003.

If you are interested in nominating someone or volunteering yourself, contact Moya Joubert by Nov. 1. Call 206-233-2057, or e-mail her at moya.joubert@ci.seattle.wa.us.

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-- Paula Lowe

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Nation's first "Alien Invaders" exhibit opens in Tacoma

Zebra mussels and other "alien invaders" are causing extensive damage throughout the world. With waterbodies surrounding the Pacific Northwest, it's vital that people know what these creatures look like and understand how destructive they are. Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium in Tacoma opened an "Alien Invaders" exhibit last May that features green crabs, tiny zebra mussels and the Chinese mitten crab. Since opening, about 200,000 visitors have seen the exhibit in the new Marine Discovery Center.

The "Alien Invaders" exhibit was developed primarily by David Secord, University of Washington, Tacoma, environmental science professor, John Rupp, the Point Defiance curator of marine animals, and Kristin Hemmelgarn.

"Aquariums and zoos are an untapped resource for public education on biodiversity," says Secord.

"Because they are all about combining entertainment, education and conservation, they are perfect for this kind of outreach. "More people visit zoos and aquariums annually in the U.S. than attend all professional sporting events combined, so this is a great way to educate the public about aquatic invasive species." He points out that this problem, according to one university study, cost more than \$137 billion annually in the U.S. alone.

"If the zebra mussels reach Montana, all you have to do is move a boat from there to a Washington lake or river and – zap! –you've got a problem here. That's one of the reasons for this exhibit," says Secord.

Secord says growing awareness created by this exhibit and others like it will also generate support for

public policy changes. He has been active in supporting legislation to help protect the state's shorelines from invasive species. The state Legislature has passed legislation addressing aquatic invasive species. Other states and the federal government have been active as well.

The exhibit was made possible with support from the National Sea Grant Program, which is part of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, as well as the Washington and Oregon Sea Grant Programs, Pacific Northwest Marine Invasive Species Team, Puget Sound Action Team, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board.

The exhibit available for viewing during Zoo and Aquarium hours.

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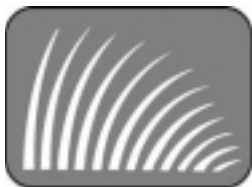


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Chelan is the place for 2003 conference

By Lee Mellish, conference organizer, WALPA president-elect

Planning is well underway for the 2003 WALPA annual conference in Chelan, Washington, April 3, 4 and 5. The theme will be "Lakeside Living" and will focus on two tracks of interest.

One track will look at what can be done within the watershed to protect lakes including construction methods; stormwater management; landscaping options; controlling bank erosion; forming Lake Management Districts; conservation easements and land trusts; volunteers and lake monitoring; and a frequently-asked question of lake association groups, "where's the money?"

A second track will focus on erosion control and other lake protection activities at Lake Chelan; zooplankton and fish planting research;

lake monitoring design and data interpretation; issues regarding relicensing of dams; Lake Roosevelt studies; using GIS and GPS in lake protection; exotic nuisance species update; TMDLs and lakes; and international lake issues in Chile, New Zealand and Burma.

The conference will be capped off on Saturday morning with a cruise on Lake Chelan to see and hear about lakeside living activities in progress.

The conference will be held at Campbell's Resort in Chelan. For reservations, call 1-800-553-8225. For information about the resort and accommodations, view it on the Web, www.campbellsresort.com.

For additional information or suggestions for additional conference topics, contact Lee Mellish, 509-922-9016, ext. 24 or e-mail at sewerdoc@aol.com.

Waterline newsletter published quarterly

Waterline deadlines and publication dates for the next two issues:

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Issue date</u>
November 1	December 1
February 1	March 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.

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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