



WALPA

Washington State Lake
Protection Association

39th Annual Conference

Celebrating Lake Heroes: Critters and Champions

October 7-9, 2026 Bellingham, WA

Conference Events & Information

Meeting space

Conference sessions Wednesday and Thursday are at Four Points Hotel & Conference Center, 714 Lakeway Drive, Bellingham, WA 98229, 360-671-1011.

Special Speakers

We are pleased to welcome **John Harrison**, Washington State University, on local solutions to a global problem with "Reservoirs and Greenhouse Gas Emissions"; **Robin Matthews**, Western Washington University emeritus, on "Unsung Heroes of the Algae World"; **Gretchen Rollwagen-Bollens**, WSU, on plankton, those "Heroes of Freshwater Food Webs"; **Gregory Green**, WWU, on "Monet, Me, and the Mallards"; **Jen Vanderhoof**, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, on "Beaver-Driven Resilience"; and **Mike Brett**, University of Washington, spinning "A Tale of Two Lakes" about treatments at Lake Spokane and Utah Lake.

Wednesday Evening Social

Join us for appetizers, drinks, and good company! Peruse this year's posters, and be sure to buy raffle tickets and bid on the auction items to benefit student scholarships, research, and outreach. *Note:* Again this year, an online auction starting ahead of the conference benefits student scholarships. Start

bidding now on a state-of-the-art **RDO optical dissolved oxygen and temperature meter** from **In Situ/OTT** (value of \$1,265)! Bids close at 1 p.m. Oct. 8. The equipment will be available on-site for pickup by the winning bidder, with manufacturer-provided training also available.



Scan code to bid

Thursday Lunch Business Meeting

Lunch is provided for all. We will welcome new board members and thank those ending their term. We will announce this year's Secchi Disk Award for outstanding contributions to lakes, and celebrate the following student scholarship awards:

- **Dave Lamb Memorial Scholarship:** Paloma Mireles, Washington State University-Vancouver
- **WALPA Undergraduate Scholarship:** Ash Breault, University of Washington-Tacoma

Thursday Evening Social

Share stories and enjoy craft beverages at Stemma Brewing-West, 500 Carolina St., Bellingham.

Friday Morning Workshop

Registered participants will take a local field trip to WWU to learn freshwater algae identification.

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Celebrating Lake Heroes: Critters and Champions

Session Schedule

Wednesday, October 7

12-1 p.m. **REGISTRATION**

1-1:10 p.m. **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

1:10-2:45 p.m.

SESSION 1: SEDIMENT GAS, TOXICS, AND BENTHOS

Moderator: William Hobbs

Keynote: "Reservoirs and Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Recent Progress in Understanding the Global Problem and Local Solutions": John Harrison, *School of the Environment, WSU Vancouver*

"Background Concentrations of Toxics in Washington Lakes and Rivers": William Hobbs, *Washington State Department of Ecology*

"Lake Chelan Toxics Characterization: Updated Mass Balance Highlights the Importance of Controlling Watershed Discharges of DDT to Lake Chelan": Philip Long, *Lake Chelan Research Institute*

"Littoral Periphyton Biomass and Community Composition Vary Across Space and Time in Lake Chelan, Washington State's Largest Lake": Nate Hough-Snee, *Meadow Run Environmental and Lake Chelan Research Institute*

"Burbot Modification of Benthic Habitat in Lake Chelan, Washington": Anna Galipeau, *Lake Chelan Research Institute*

2:45-3:05 p.m. **BREAK**

3:05-5:05 p.m. **CONCURRENT**

SESSION 2: HAB MANAGEMENT 1

Moderator: Darren Brandt (Main Ballroom)

"Long-term Limnology: What Can We Learn From 30+ years of Monitoring an Urbanizing Lake and its Tributaries?": Angela Strecker, *Institute for Watershed Studies, Western Washington University*

"Water Quality Improvements Following Sequential Partial Dosing of Lanthanum Modified Bentonite": Ryan Van Goethem, *EutroPHIX*

"Lessons from White Lake: Implementing Lanthanum for Harmful Algal Bloom Management": Ruth Thirkill,

Herrera Environmental Consultants, and Andrew Skibo, *Amaruq Environmental Services*

"Continued Lake-Scale Application of Zero Valent Iron for Phosphorus Sequestration in Lake Steilacoom, Pierce County, Washington": Jake Walker, *Northwest Aquatic Management*

"Evaluating Where / When Zero Valent Iron Will be Effective in Mitigating Hazardous Blooms": Jeffrey Tepper, *University of Puget Sound*

"Aquatic Plant and Algae Management Permit Monitoring Requirements Feedback": Shawn Ultican, *Washington State Department of Ecology*

3:05-5:05 p.m. **CONCURRENT**

SESSION 3: INVASIVE MUSSEL MANAGEMENT

Moderator: Brian Turner (San Juan Room)

"An Ecological Overview of Invasive Freshwater Mussels": Brian Turner, *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

"Protecting our Waters: Prevention and Monitoring for Invasive Freshwater Mussels in Washington": Nicholas Plants and Casey Pruitt, *WDFW*

"City of Bellingham Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program": Meghan Crisp and Kelsey Ochoa, *City of Bellingham*

"Oregon Invasive Freshwater Mussel Prevention and Response Actions": Keith DeHart, *Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife*

"Invasive Mussel Discussion": All Presenters

5:05-7:05 p.m.

SOCIAL, AUCTION & POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Thursday, October 8

8:30-8:40 a.m. **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

8:40-10:25 a.m.

SESSION 4: PLANKTON HEROES

Moderator: Angela Strecker

Plenary: "Unsung Heroes of the Algae World": Robin Matthews, *WWU Emeritus*

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Session Schedule

Keynote: "Heroes of Freshwater Food Webs: Plankton Community Dynamics and the Role of Planktonic Grazers across Washington Lakes, Reservoirs and Rivers": Gretchen Rollwagen-Bollens, *WSU Vancouver*

"Long-term Changes and Stability of Lake Washington Zooplankton": Arielle Tonus Ellis, *UW*

"Assessment of Thermal Structure and Plankton Phenology in Lake Whatcom, Washington (USA) in Response to Climate Change": Emily Flarry, *WWU*

10:25-10:45 a.m. BREAK

10:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

SESSION 5: WILDLIFE HEROES

Moderator: Pilar Deniston

Plenary: "Monet, Me, and the Mallards": Gregory Green, *Western Washington University*

Keynote: "Beaver-Driven Resilience: Where Adaptable Meets Beneficial": Jen Vanderhoof, *King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks*

"Development of a Phytoplankton and Zooplankton Assessment Tool for Snohomish County": Darren Brandt and Jen Oden, *Advanced Eco-Solutions*

"Food-Web Interactions Along Residentially Lit Shorelines": Kerry Accola, *University of Washington*

12:30-1:50 p.m.

LUNCH AND ANNUAL WALPA BUSINESS MEETING

1:50-3:40 p.m.

SESSION 6: HAB MANAGEMENT 2

Moderator: Jen Oden

Keynote: "Lake Spokane and Utah Lake: A Tale of Two Lakes – Over and Under Treatment": Mike Brett, *UW*

"Challenges of Managing Both Cyanobacteria Blooms and Noxious Weed Invasions in Green Lake, Seattle, WA": Rob Zisette, *Herrera Environmental Consultants and Friends of Green Lake*

"Unsolved Mysteries - Keogh Lake Edition: The Story of a Meromictic Lake and Planktothrix Rubescens": Shannon Brattebo, *Tetra Tech Inc.*

"Water Quality Characterization and Alternatives Evaluation for Clackamette Cove, an Urban Lake in Oregon City, OR": Mark Rosenkranz, *Aquatic Insight*

"Developing LCMPs With Limited Resources: Pattison Lake's Phased Approach": Katie Rodriguez, *Herrera Environmental Consultants*

3:40-4 p.m. BREAK

4-5:30 p.m.

SESSION 7: LAKE REGULATION AND ORGANIZATION

Moderator: Rob Zisette

"Washington Water Quality Standards Rulemakings: HABs and Lake Nutrients": Kalman Bugica, *Washington Department of Ecology*

"Holding the Line or Losing Ground? Tracking Shoreline Change in Snohomish County Lakes": Marisa Burghdoff, *Snohomish Co. Surface Water Mgt*

"Beyond the Science: Building Organizational Capacity to Advance Lake Restoration": Adrienne Mason, *Friends of Vancouver Lake*

"Lake Management Districts at a Crossroads: Lessons from Spanaway Lake and the Future of RCW 36.61": Timothy Clark, *Herrera Environmental Consultants*, and Brianne Blackburn, *Pierce County*

5:40-10 p.m.

EVENING SOCIAL

Stemma Brewing - West, 500 Carolina St.

Friday, October 9

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Registration required)

FRESHWATER ALGAE IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

With Robin Matthews, *WWU Emeritus*, in Interdisciplinary Science Building Room 240, Western Washington University, 100 21st St., Bellingham. This workshop will include short lectures on algal taxonomy and the ecology of major algal groups. Most of the time will be spent on guided and independent algal identification using live algae samples collected prior to the workshop.

AT-A-GLANCE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE 2026	
WED	12-1 p.m. Registration
	1-1:10 p.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks
	1:10-2:45 p.m. Session 1 <i>Sediment Gas, Toxics, and Benthos</i>
	2:45-3:05 p.m. Break
	3:05-5:05 p.m. Concurrent Sessions Session 2: <i>Hab Management 1</i> Session 3: <i>Invasive Mussel Management</i>
	5:05-7:05 p.m. Social, Auction, and Poster Presentations
THURS	8:30-8:40 a.m. Welcome and Announcements
	8:40-10:25 a.m. Session 4 <i>Plankton Heroes</i>
	10:25-10:45 a.m. Break
	10:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Session 5 <i>Wildlife Heroes</i>
	12:30-1:50 p.m. Lunch and Annual WALPA Business Meeting
	1:50-3:40 p.m. Session 6 <i>HAB Management 2</i>
	3:40-4 p.m. Break
	4-5:30 p.m. Session 7 <i>Lake Regulation and Organization</i>
	5:30-5:40 p.m. Closing Remarks
	5:40-10 p.m. Evening Social
FRI	8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Algae Identification Workshop at WWU

Posters

On display throughout the conference, with presentations Wednesday evening.

Physical and Biological Conditions in the Upper Toutle River System and Interplay with Invasive New Zealand Mudsnaills (NZMS): Possible Impacts on Chinook Salmon Reintroduction - Ash Breault, Rose Chapman, Emily Raker, *University of Washington Tacoma*

Evaluating Aluminum Sulfate (Alum) Treatment for Reducing Arsenic Mobility in Lake Killarney Sediments - Zaire Sanders and Aurora Alexander, *University of Washington Tacoma*

Sediment Characteristics and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes Following Dam Removals in the Klamath River Basin - Paloma Mireles, *Washington State University Vancouver*

In-lab Study Investigating the Efficacy of Lanthanum-Modified Bentonite as an Arsenic Remediation Treatment in Shallow Freshwater Lakes Using Large Microcosms - Sophia McCarragher and Chloe Johnson, *University of Washington Tacoma Environmental Sciences*

The Effects of Zero-Valent Iron on Arsenic Immobilization from Lake Sediments in Laboratory Experiments - Kaytlin Turner, *University of Washington Tacoma*

Unraveling the Spatiotemporal Variability of Methane Emission Pathways in Small Reservoirs - Ruth Thirkill, *Herrera Environmental Consultants*

Large-Scale Nutrient Reduction Efforts in the Coeur d'Alene Lake Basin - Pilar Deniston, *Idaho Department of Environmental Quality*

Advancing Arsenic Remediation in the Laboratory: Large Microcosm Investigation of Lanthanum-modified Bentonite and Alum - Jade McCloud, *University of Washington Tacoma*

Building a Vernal Pool to Encourage the Return of Pacific Chorus Frogs to Seattle's Green Lake - Rayna Gleason and Rob Zisette, *Herrera Environmental Consultants and Friends of Green Lake*

WALPA Business Meeting Agenda

2026 Accomplishments
Student Scholarships and Secchi Disk Award
Board of Director Changes
Committee Reports
2027 Goals



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