The Washington State Lake Protection Association Newsletter

WATERLINE

DECEMBER 2007

In This Issue

WATERLINE is the newsletter of the Washington State Lake Protection Assoc. (WALPA). Send submissions to Polly Freeman at **polly_freeman@msn.com** Articles may be reproduced. Please credit *WATERLINE*.

For information about the organization, visit the WALPA website

www.walpa.org

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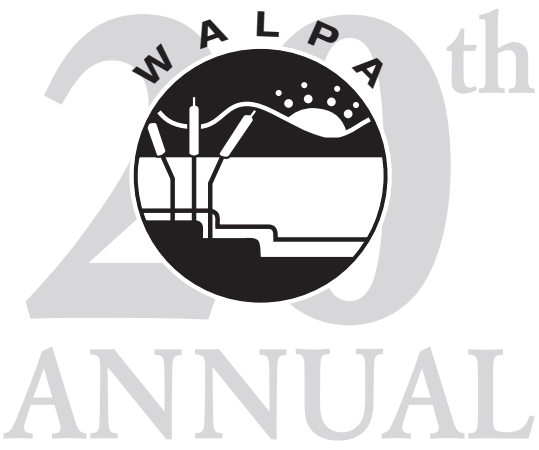
WALPA Celebrates 20 Years at October's Chelan Conference

On October 18th and 19th WALPA members gathered at Campbell's Resort in Lake Chelan to celebrate twenty years as an organization and to hear speakers on a variety of topics. Citizens, tribal staff, consultants, lake association members and government officials—more than 90 people altogether—attended the annual conference, this year called "Lakes – Bringing Science and Communities Together".

Jonathan Frodge from King County kicked off the plenary session suggesting directions WALPA could take as we head into our next 20 years. Ideas included leading an effort to reinstate a statewide lakes program and working on lawn fertilizer legislation to keep lakes clean. Senator Ken Jacobsen followed up on Jonathan's suggestions with a presentation about developing meaningful and successful legislation.



At Thursday's lunch, Bill Jarocki from the Boise State Environmental Finance Center spoke on "Saving Time and Finding Money to Achieve Results: A Watershed Approach." The talk focused on work his team has been doing to help people fund environmental enhancement and protection projects. Tools available include a searchable database of financial resources for watershed restoration in Washington and other states, a planning tool to help estimate project costs and a program that allows users to implement a long term financial strategy to meet strategic goals. All of these are available on-line and free to everyone at **http://efc.boisestate.edu/efc/**.

Other sessions at the Chelan conference covered topics from community and volunteer work to new legislation updating the state Shoreline Master Program to the ever-popular blue-green algae.

Members also gathered for cocktails and networking Thursday night and for a business meeting at Friday's lunch. At the business meeting members selected new board members, met the new presidents, and asked general questions of the board and other members.

Ten vendors sponsored this year's conference including Hach

WALPA Continued in box on page 5

Welcome New WALPA Board Members!

At the 2007 Annual Conference we added five new faces to the WALPA Board of Directors and chose one of our current board members as President-elect.

Kelly McLain, President-elect, is an Aquatic Pesticide Specialist and Permit Writer for the Department of Ecology. Kelly prepares risk assessments and environmental impact statements on new aquatic pesticides and adjuvants. Kelly also writes and manages invasive and nuisance species permits; she works at Department of Ecology headquarters in Olympia.

Shannon Brattebo, Secretary

Jacob McCann, Director

Shannon Brattebo, Secretary, works with the consulting firm Tetra Tech as a limnologist and environmental engineer. Based in the Spokane area, Shannon is currently involved in the Boundary Dam relicensing studies in Metaline Falls.

Jacob McCann, Director, is employed by the Spokane County Division of Engineering and Roads in the Environmental Programs section. Jacob provides guidance and monitoring for county road and bridge projects and is very involved in the Newman Lake Flood Control Zone. He coordinates volunteer projects and milfoil eradication efforts and operates and maintains the hypolimnetic aeration system.

Norm Dion, Director, is a hydrologist retired from the US Geological Survey (USGS). During his tenure at USGS, Norm worked on the groundwater resources of various regions, the effects of Mt. St. Helens' eruption on several lakes, and a lay primer on Washington lakes, among many other projects. Currently, he volunteers his time with the lake monitoring portion of the Pierce County Stream Team.

Dr. Joe Ravet, Director, is a post-doctoral Research

Norm Dion, Director

Dr. Joe Ravet, Director

Associate in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at the University of Washington. His current project is studying the molecular basis of food quality in aquatic food webs. Joe is assessing how the presence of compounds like polyunsaturated fatty acids may help strengthen food web interactions leading to fewer nuisance algae blooms and increased fisheries production.

Dr. David R. Christensen, Director, works as a post-doctoral researcher at the WSU Limnology Lab where he studies food web interactions and habitat constraints in part of the upper Columbia River. In the past, Dave worked with the Colville Confederated Tribes and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game on management and research projects, focusing on both warm and cold water fish species and their habitats.

We are excited to have these fine people on board to help guide WALPA's work and achieve our goals. Sincere thanks to those Board Members who concluded their tenure with WALPA this year: Sally Abella, Isabel Ragland, Peter Burgoon, Glen Rothrock and Tricia Shoblom. We appreciate your many hours of work for the protection and enhancement of Washington's lake resources.

Dr. David R. Christensen, Director

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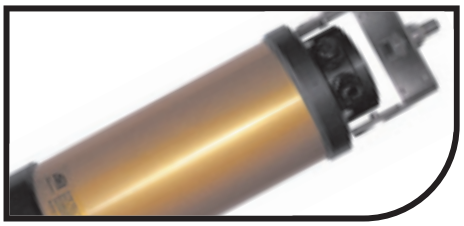

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Ecology Staff Ready to Help With Lakes Questions

A number of Washington State Department of Ecology staff work on lake issues around the state. The chart below shows who to contact with your lake questions.

Ecology has several programs to help lake residents. The long-standing Aquatic Weeds Program is designed to help lake groups manage non-native, invasive aquatic weeds like Eurasian water milfoil. This program provides technical assistance and funding. An Aquatic Weeds botanist coordinates lake plant surveys each year; these data are available online at **http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/lakes/aquaticplants/index.html#annualsurvey**.

As you know from reading *Waterline*, Ecology has launched a new algae program, which covers the cost of algae identification and analysis of water samples for toxic algae. The algae program also offers technical assistance and small grants for algae management or education.

Additionally, Ecology requires anyone using pesticides in a lake to get coverage under the Aquatic Plant and Algae Management NPDES General Permit. There are regional Ecology contacts for questions about lake cleanup plans (TMDL's). Ecology has a contact for lake water quality monitoring, as well as a botanist who can help citizens identify aquatic plants. For general information about lakes, aquatic plants, algae, and pesticide permitting, you may also want to visit Ecology online at **http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/links/plants.html**.

Name	Phone	E-mail	For help with...
Maggie Bell-McKinnon	(360) 407-6124	Mbel461@ecy.wa.gov	Lake monitoring
Joan Clark	(360) 407-6570	Jcla461@ecy.wa.gov	Financial assistance for aquatic weed and algae grants
Kathy Hamel	(360) 407-6562	Kham461@ecy.wa.gov	Technical assistance for aquatic weeds and algae, noxious weeds, invasive species
Ray Latham	(509) 575-2807	Rlat461@ecy.wa.gov	Central region aquatic pesticide permits
Kelly McLain	(360) 407-6938	Kelm461@ecy.wa.gov	Statewide pesticide permitting
Ken Merrill	(509) 329-3515	Kmer461@ecy.wa.gov	Eastern region lakes management, aquatic pesticide permits, TMDL's
Jenifer Parsons	(509) 457-7136	Jenp461@ecy.wa.gov	Aquatic Plant ID, lake surveys
Tricia Shoblom	(425) 649-7288	Tsho461@ecy.wa.gov	NW region aquatic pesticide permits, lake TMDL's, statewide algae contact
Rod Thysell	(360) 690-4796	Rthy461@ecy.wa.gov	SW regional aquatic pesticide permits

WALPA Conference

Continued from front

Environmental, Clean Lake LLC, AquaTechnex, TG-Eco-Logic, Aquatic Environments Inc., Northwest Aquatic Management, LLC, Electronic Data Solutions, Solar Bee and Cygnet Enterprises NW Inc. These generous sponsors helped make this year's 20th anniversary conference a great success – thank you!

Next year's conference is still coming together, but will be on the west side of the state in the fall Stay tuned and make space on your fall calendar now!

Redfish Lake Photos Credited

September's Lake Focus article featured the following two aerial photographs of Redfish Lake, Idaho showing the surrounding mountain ranges and glaciers. Both photos appeared courtesy of Redfish Lake Lodge.

Snow Lake: Beautiful and Popular

Continued from cover

Snow Lake is located near the summit of Snoqualmie Pass, about 50 miles east of downtown Seattle. A beautiful area near a major city, it naturally became popular with visitors early on. The first hiking trail to Snow Lake was built in 1909-10 by H.A. Noble. That first trailhead, which disappeared long ago, was located near the current Snoqualmie Summit Ski Area. Some think this trail was built to access private property along the lake; traces of a cabin were visible along the lake's shores in the 1960's. Others contend the trail was part of a larger plan to convey water down the valley and east over the pass to irrigate its eastern slopes. (A remnant of this effort can still be seen on the Pacific Crest Trail just north of the pass where it crosses the old logging road.)

In the late 1960's the trailhead was moved to its current location near Alpental Ski Area; the present day trail to Snow Lake is one of the most heavily used trails in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area. With up to 25,000 hikers and backpackers each season, Snow Lake attracts the highest recreation use of any wilderness or backcountry in the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest. One 1992 study found that weekend visitors encountered other groups about every 3.2 minutes!

Remnants of snow on the banks of Snow Lake
Photo provided by Chris Duvall, www.washingtonhikes.com.

Snow Lake is popular with anglers as well as hikers and backpackers, though it probably did not sustain native fish populations historically. Only a small percentage of alpine lakes that have been studied show evidence of self-sustaining populations, but the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has actively managed and stocked Snow Lake since 1947. To minimize negative ecological impacts to Snow Lake's excellent water quality, WDFW follows strict fish management guidelines. Fish are stocked at low densities (no more than 50 to 100 fish per surface acre), and species are chosen that are known to have lower reproduction rates in the alpine lakes. Because of Snow Lake's size and remote location, it is stocked aerially—a plane releases fish from tanks on a low flight over the lake. While in past years fish managers stocked Eastern brook trout, cutthroat trout, or rainbow trout, WDFW now stocks only rainbow trout once every five years, to keep the fishery compatible with the amphibians and native biota of the lake.

Immensely popular among hikers and fishers, Snow Lake may be in danger of being loved to death. Much of the shoreline has been compacted and vegetation trampled by visitors trying to access the lake; many lakeshore areas are currently closed off for re-vegetation projects. The U.S. Forest Service has considered limiting visitor numbers by requiring permits, but has not yet started such a program. Until then the public can enjoy Snow Lake for scenery, fishing or great exercise, but those searching for alpine solitude will have to go elsewhere.

Want to recommend a lake for the next Lake Focus? Send suggestions and questions to Heidi Wachter at **Heidi@taylorassoc.net**.

Sources for this article:

- Chad Jackson, District Fish Biologist, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Alpine Lakes Protection Society website, **www.alpinelakes.org**
- The History of the Trails in the Snoqualmie Pass Area Snow Lake/ Rock Creek, **www.alpental.com/history_-_trails.htm**
- Revised Environmental Assessment, Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Watershed Access and Travel Management Plan and Forest Plan Amendment #20, Snoqualmie Ranger District, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, USDA
- High-use destinations in wilderness: social and biophysical impacts, visitor responses, and management options. USDA Forest Service Research Paper INT-RP-496. David N. Cole, Alan E. Watson, Troy E. Hall, and David R. Spidlie. 1997
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish Program, Fish Management Division, Management of Washington's High Lakes, December 2005

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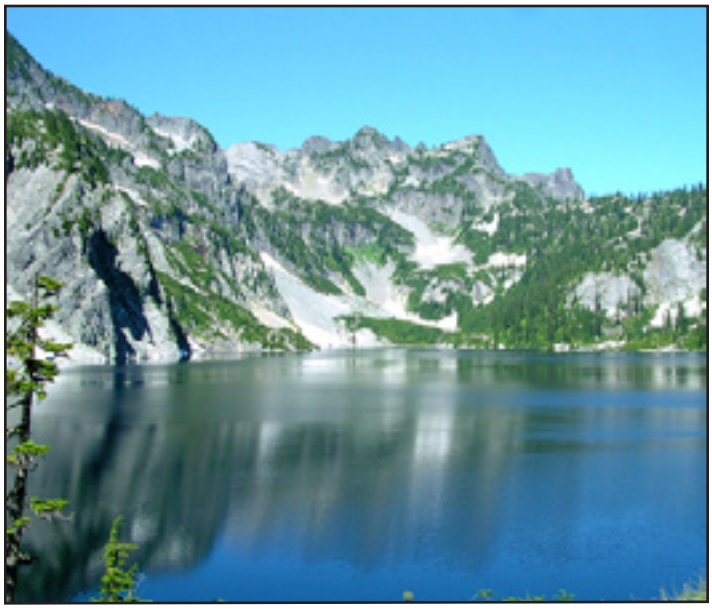
In This Issue

Focus on Snow Lake: Beautiful and Popular

by Carla B. Milesi

More than a mile long, Snow Lake is one of the largest alpine lakes in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area, a popular destination for Northwest outdoor enthusiasts designated as wilderness by Congress in 1976. Snow Lake is one of about 4,700 alpine (mountain) lakes in Washington. Alpine lakes are defined as those situated more than 2,500 feet above sea level in western Washington and above 3,500 feet elevation in eastern Washington. Most of these are cirque lakes that were formed when alpine glaciers gouged out small depressions during the last period of continental glaciation that peaked about 15,000 years ago.

Snow Lake sits in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Watershed at an elevation of 4,016 feet, and is surrounded by three peaks: picturesque and often snow-covered Wright Mountain, which stands at 5,500 feet, Kaleetan Peak at 6,259 feet, and Chair Peak at 6,238 feet. Snow Lake is fed primarily by snow melt through several small tributaries. The outlet, Rock Creek, drops 1,100 feet shortly after leaving the lake and before joining the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River. This dramatic Rock Creek waterfall is one of the tallest in the Alpine Lakes region.



Snow Lake and the surrounding peaks of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area. Photo provided by J. Brew.

Continued inside on page 6