

WATERLINE

MARCH 2009

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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, call **1-800-607-5498** or visit the WALPA website

www.walpa.org

Please save *WATERLINE* issues for future reference.

WALPA members advocate for lakes in Olympia

by Rebecca Dugopolski,
WALPA Treasurer, Herrera Environmental Consultants

To celebrate WALPA's first annual Lake Day January 28, seventeen members journeyed to Olympia from around the state to educate senators and representatives about current lake issues. WALPA members met with legislators and even pulled a few off the Senate floor during their morning sessions. Members staffed the brand-new WALPA display board set up for the day in the Capitol's South Portico and discussed lake issues with passers-by.

WALPA reintroduced two bills to the Senate and House this legislative session and is opposing a third bill that would pull funding from the statewide Freshwater Algae Program (HB 1231/SB 5412). See p. 4 for the very latest on all three of these bills. With a short session and WALPA members just learning the ropes last year, we had an uphill battle. This year, members headed to Olympia with better knowledge of the legislative process and a clear goal of approaching and talking with more elected officials.

A priority for WALPA is the passage of HB 1636/SB 5503 to ban residential application of lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus. Similar legislation has been enacted in Minnesota, Maine and Florida; several counties in Wisconsin and New Jersey; Ann Arbor, Michigan; and Bellingham and Liberty Lake in our own state. Phosphorus runoff can stimulate weed and algae growth in lakes, resulting in adverse environmental, health, and aesthetic effects. Typically, phosphorus is unnecessary after a new lawn has been established anyway since sufficient levels are already present. This bill has been passed by the Senate Committee on Environment and Water and Energy and awaits action in the Ways and Means committee.

WALPA is also promoting HB 1635/SB 5486 which would create a strategy for lake protection and restoration, the first step toward a comprehensive statewide program. This bill may be a tougher sell in today's challenging economy, but it is important to keep this topic on the legislative radar. We will continue to stress the importance of coordinating funding to support joint efforts by citizens, scientists, and public agencies.

Overall, Lakes Day was a great success and WALPA is committed to tracking these bills through the legislative process. Visit www.walpa.org/legislation.htm to read up on the bills – and then write your legislators to ask for their support.



WALPA members gather to celebrate after a very successful Lakes Day in Olympia

Meet WALPA's new lobbyist!

by Beth Cullen

Allow me to introduce you to WALPA's new lobbyist, Joe Daniels. Joe serves as our eyes and ears in Olympia, talking to elected officials, opponents and proponents about the bills WALPA is monitoring and/or promoting. He has been working in Olympia as a lobbyist for over a decade and has brought in strong legislative support like Senators Fraser and Pridemore to sponsor our bills this year (see p. 4 for more details). Joe also alerts us when he learns of legislation that WALPA and other lake advocates should know about.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Arlen Harris, our lobbyist from last year (who spoke at last fall's WALPA conference), when he took a job with the state. Arlen eased his transition by recommending we talk to Joe and we are glad we did! WALPA's interests are dear to Joe's heart: he has lived on Thurston County's Long Lake for decades and has been an active member of its Lake Management

District. So it was natural for Joe to pick up the baton and help WALPA make sure that water quality issues are prioritized in Olympia and that lakes get the attention they deserve in our state.

Joe joined us for Lakes Day in Olympia this

January (see cover article) and did some groundwork to make it easier for WALPA to educate legislators about our bills. He is in constant communication with the board, allowing us to react quickly when action is needed.

Joe was born in Tampa, Florida, graduated from Evergreen College in Olympia, and is a U.S. Air Force veteran. He is married with three children and three grandchildren. When not knocking on the doors of senators and representatives, Joe can be found canoeing on Long Lake, enjoying bluegrass, Cajun and classical music, and playing poker with friends. (Just for fun, of course!)



WALPA's new lobbyist, Joe Daniels

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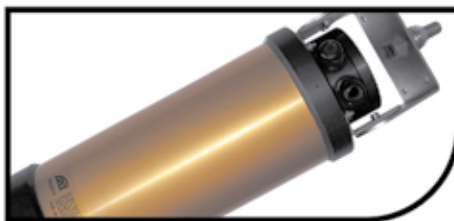


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WALPA legislative update – the latest news from Olympia

by Beth Cullen

It's been a busy legislative session for WALPA in Olympia this year. With WALPA leaders testifying before the Senate and members writing e-mails to legislators, we have had a strong presence at the Capitol. Now that we're halfway through the session, what has happened to the bills we proposed and have been tracking?

Senate Bill 5412/House Bill 1231

Controlling saltwater algae

This was not a bill WALPA anticipated working on this session, but it has been a focus of considerable legislative effort as we tried to defeat it.

The bill would divert a quarter of the Department of Ecology's freshwater algae program funds to control nuisance saltwater algae along one small section of Puget Sound. We alerted all the Senators to the problems this bill would cause, but it has been a very tough battle. As we go to press, the bill has been heard by the Rules Committee and passed the Senate 31-16 with 2 excused. It will now be heard in the House, and becomes law if passed there. WALPA members, let your Representatives hear from you on this one!



Maggie Bell-McKinnon and Rep. Hunt on Lakes Day

Senate Bill 5503/House Bill 1636

Protecting lake water quality by reducing phosphorus from lawn fertilizers

This was WALPA's top legislative priority for passage this year; we introduced and defended it. Senator Pridemore sponsored this bill and it received excellent support from the Senate Committee of Environment, Water and Energy. This was the only bill this session that promoted broad scale direct action to protect surface waters in the state. The bill had wonderful supporters, but also saw opposition. The Department of Ecology could not support it because of fiscal restrictions in the bill, and industry non-profit Friends of Farms and Forests spoke against it. The bill cleared the Senate Committee of Environment, Water and Energy, but did not make it out of the Ways and Means Committee because of its fiscal restrictions.

There was a silver lining, however. King County Council member Julia Patterson, who lives on Angle Lake, learned of the bill and asked WALPA to help draft

a similar ordinance for King County. At press time, the Council committee was about to hear its first testimony on the ordinance. This bodes well for drafting a new and improved bill for the 2010 legislative session.

Senate Bill 5486/House Bill 1635

Requiring a comprehensive state lake management strategic plan

This bill, sponsored by Senator Karen Fraser and heard in the Senate Natural Resources, Ocean and Recreation Committee, was the dark horse of the session. The committee recommended it be passed along to the Senate

Ways and Means Committee, where WALPA testified for the bill and the Friends of Farms and Forests testified against it. It passed out of Ways and Means with an addendum stating, "If specific funding for the purposes of this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by June 30, 2009, this act is null and void." No one knows whether there is enough funding to support the bill in this challenging economy, but it has been passed along to the Rules Committee for a second hearing. It was a surprise to see the bill get this far, but we hope

it's because legislators have realized the need for a more systematic, peer-reviewed effort to address the multitude of issues facing Washington's lakes.

In conclusion, we extend hearty thanks to the WALPA membership for the many calls, e-mails and letters to our elected officials reminding them of the importance of our lakes. Also, a giant THANK YOU to the Senators and Representatives who have supported us and spoken in favor of our mission to protect Washington's precious lake resources.

Visit Spokane in September with WALPA!

Mark your calendars for next year's WALPA conference: September 22-23, 2009 at the Doubletree Hotel in Spokane

More details in the next issue of *Waterline*!

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Let's make this spring a growing season for WALPA!

by Norm Dion

Our association has accomplished a great deal in the past, but our best days lie ahead. To meet our long-term goals, however, the organization needs to grow, and quickly. The larger and more diverse our membership, the more clout we'll have in all arenas.

We are mounting a major membership drive to double (triple?) our current paltry numbers. Our success will depend largely on the willingness of existing members to spread the WALPA word and bring in new members.

Here's our battle plan:

- Joining WALPA will now be a lot easier and cheaper; attendance at the annual conference will now be an option instead of a requirement.
- Dues costs will remain low; joining will bring full membership and voting rights.
- When they join, new members will get a discount on registration for the annual fall conference. Conference registration will no longer include membership.
- The membership year will begin April 1st, giving new members two editions of the newsletter to learn about us before conference time.
- All future newsletters will contain a recruitment/renewal flyer that can be copied and handed out (see below), and a link to our web page www.WALPA.org, where there is a similar form. Payments will continue to be made by check and mailed in.
- Members who paid dues at the 2008 conference will remain members until the April 1, 2010 renewal date. Despite this lenient carry-over policy, remember that we are a non-profit association and any donations are greatly appreciated (and quickly accepted).
- Lastly, we'll soon be asking each of you to contact at least three colleagues, friends, students or lake homeowners. Tell them about our recent accomplishments, goals and new membership structure and urge them to join!

Working together, how can we **not** double our ranks? Let's do it!

Join WALPA today!

Name _____
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E-mail _____
Newsletter preference: email _____ snail mail _____
Area(s) of Interest: _____

Annual Membership Dues (Please circle the appropriate membership category below)

\$15 - students \$20 - individuals
\$30 - professionals \$40 - organizations & lake associations
\$10 - individuals who belong to lake associations that are WALPA members

The membership year is from annual conference to annual conference.
(Dues are renewable at the time of the annual conference.)

Cut out this completed form and send with your membership dues to:

WALPA
P.O. Box 4245
Seattle, WA 98104

WALPA is a nonprofit organization run by volunteers. Donations of any amount are welcome throughout the year.
Find us online at www.WALPA.org.

Help keep phosphorus out of our lakes with P-free detergent

By Tom Brattebo

On July 1, 2008, two Washington counties stepped out in front of the rest of the United States on the path to better water quality. In Spokane and Whatcom counties, the sale of household dishwasher detergent with phosphorus (P) was banned (with minor exceptions) by the state legislature. Scientists have identified phosphorus as the limiting nutrient in many of our water bodies for the growth of aquatic plants, including algae. The more phosphorus in the water, the more plant growth, and the more opportunity for oxygen depletion as plants decompose. Oxygen-depleted waters do not make attractive neighbors. Removing phosphorus from dishwasher detergent is a logical continuation of the ban on phosphorus in other detergents that occurred in the 1990s.

In my home county of Spokane, the move to P-free dishwasher detergent has not been entirely smooth. Our proximity to Idaho (where several lakes are deteriorating due to increased plant growth... hmm, maybe too much phosphorus?) allows consumers easy access to the "old reliable" brands like Cascade and Electrasol. Only one major supplier, Palmolive, is currently marketing a P-free detergent, with most others supplied by small, "green" companies. Not all merchants carry a wide assortment of

P-free dishwasher detergents. It can take some experimentation to find a brand that works in a particular location, with water hardness, among other things, being a factor. By trial and error, though, we have found products that work in all regions of Spokane County.

In July of 2010, the entire state of Washington is scheduled to join the P-free dishwasher detergent world, though with no enforcement and no education funds. If the state does not require people to find a P-free detergent and help them in their search, I am concerned that a state-wide effort could fail.

Officials from the Soap and Detergent Association say they will be ready to go P-free nationwide by 2010, but today it's 2009 and only Palmolive is competitive. Can we rely on the industry to follow through?

As a Washington resident who cares about lake water quality, you can help lead this effort. Find a P-free dishwasher detergent that works at your house---and use it. You may need to search different stores and different places in the store. (I found the P-free Seventh Generation dishwasher detergent in the health foods section at one store.) Ask your favorite store to stock a P-free brand, explaining the new law and the reason for it. When you find a P-free detergent that works for you, ask your neighbors to use it and tell them why. Your efforts can help limit the flow of phosphorus to our natural water bodies statewide and across the country.



Products to enhance our water resources

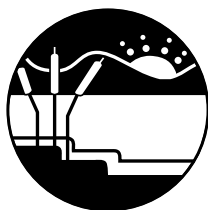
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Two exciting NALMS events on the horizon!

The 22nd annual national NALMS (North American Lake Management Society) conference on *Enhancing the States' Lake Management Programs* is coming up very soon in Chicago: April 14-17 at the Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza. With a theme of *Save the Edge: Enhancing Ecological Integrity of Shorelines*, this year's conference will include sessions on state-level approaches to protecting and enhancing lakeshore lands and nearshore waters, assessing and classifying lake shorelines, shoreline landscaping, and the effects of altering nearshore habitat. The NALMS Affiliates (which include WALPA) tentatively plan to meet on Wednesday the 15th from 7:00-8:30 PM.

This fall, the *NALMS 2009 International Symposium* in Hartford, Connecticut, will focus on *Ensuring Our Lakes' Future* October 24-31. The Symposium will include a sub-program geared toward lake and watershed stewards, covering pertinent topics like creating a lake or watershed program, Directors & Officers' insurance (for your board of directors), invasive aquatic plant management, local regulatory measures to protect lakes, and alternative on-site sewage technology. Got an idea for a great topic or speaker for either the Symposium program or the lake and watershed

steward sub-program? Send your thoughts to Amy Smagula at asmagula@des.nh.gov as soon as possible. For more information on the conference, including the Call for Papers (to be posted any day now), please visit www.nalms.org.



WALPA Members pose in front of majestic Lake Louise at the 2008 NALMS conference.