

WATERLINE

December 2000

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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
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- \$40 for organizations

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Please save *Waterline* issues
for future reference.



WALPA board plans outreach projects

By Mike Brett, WALPA President

The WALPA board has been quite busy lately. We have written a draft of our lake association survey which includes eight major headings (including aquatic plants, boating and jetskis, docks and bulkheads, eutrophication, fisheries issues, general water pollution, growth management issues, lake management, organization of lake associations, recreation, waterfowl control, wildlife enhancement) and 64 subheadings. We will ask each survey participant to rank the importance of the 64 specific items on a one-to-five scale, as well as pick the five subheading items that are of greatest interest and concern for them. The survey will be mailed to lake association members and lakeside property owners. Once we have ascertained the interests of lake association members, we will use

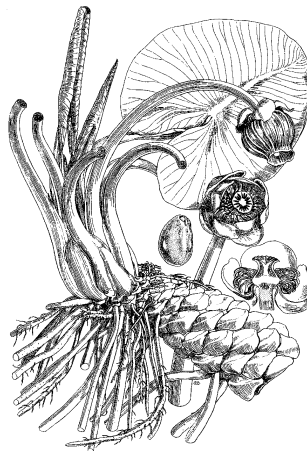
this information to lobby and educate at the statewide level as well as develop special sessions at our annual WALPA meetings.

In January we will present our new WALPA slide shows in Everett and Spokane. If your organization is interested in a WALPA slide show presentation, please contact Michael Brett at mtbrett@u.washington.edu.

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We have also had several fruitful planning meetings for the WALPA Web page. We will soon purchase our own domain name and hope to have our Web site hosted on the NALMS server.

The WALPA Board has also made preliminary plans to hold the 2003 WALPA meeting at Lake Chelan.





Apply soon for Ecology water quality grants and loans

By Paula Lowe, *Waterline* Editor

Grant applications for water pollution control projects (including lake pollution management) will be available from Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) in mid-December with applications due at the end of February.

"Lake projects need to look at the water quality management of the watershed," explains Environmental Planner Dan Filip, Ecology. "If projects compete favorably, in the statewide evaluation, we at Ecology can help them with small and large scale projects and local best management practices (BMPs) to clean up sources of water pollution that are being introduced to the lake. If the main target of the project is to control water pollution to the lake system, rather than relatively short-term symptomatic efforts, the project proposals has a better chance of receiving financial assistance."

Prospective applicants are encouraged to attend one of Ecology's application workshops to be held throughout the state in early January. To get a schedule of workshops and application packet, go to Ecology's Web site, www.ecy.wa.gov. Then click on the water quality icon, then the water quality grants and loans icon, then go to general information about the grants and loans program.

For those who don't have Web access, call Tammy Riddell at 360-407-6503 (after mid-December) to request a grant application.

A decade of lake monitoring winds down

By Dave Hallock, Washington State Department of Ecology

Eleven years ago, I applied for and received a grant from EPA to monitor Washington's lakes. There was an obvious need to do this. Ecology had long-standing state-funded programs to monitor rivers and marine waters, but no one kept tabs on our lakes. Over the years, Ecology staff and 244 citizen volunteers together have collected over 100,000 data points. Using these data, we have been able to assess 184 lakes in 32 counties all across the state.

I am sorry to report that the summer of 2000 was our last season of full lake monitoring. Until recently, our monitoring work was funded primarily by the Federal Clean Lakes Program, but in 1996 Congress folded that program into the larger Non-Point Source (NPS, also called 319) Program and instructed NPS coordinators to include lakes when they allotted funds. The North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) immediately argued that the NPS bureaucracy would not treat lakes on an equal footing with their existing NPS projects and this prediction was soon confirmed as funding for lakes across the nation began to dry up. Fortunately, our state's NPS program had a budgeted project cancelled just at a critical time for us, and they gave us the funds we needed to keep going—in fact, for a few years, we received more money than we had under the old Clean Lakes program and we were able to develop more intensive "lake-specific" monitoring procedures. However, although Congressional and EPA guidance to fund lakes projects is more specific this year than it has been in the past ("We suggest that each state use at least five percent of its section 319 funds for Clean Lakes activities..."), Ecology has determined that its traditional NPS projects are higher priority and our funding this year has been reduced to the minimum needed to maintain the

volunteer portion of the Lake Water Quality Assessment program. Nor are Ecology's NPS coordinators funding any other lakes projects this year. (See <http://www.nalms.org/resource/govtaffr/cleanlakesprogram.htm> for more about the fate and future of the Clean Lakes program.)

It is possible that loss of grant funding could eventually turn out to be a blessing. We have, on a number of occasions, argued for dedicated funding for lake monitoring but have not been successful, in part, I believe, because we were already funded through a federal grant. We will continue to press for funding and perhaps one day the legislature and/or Ecology will recognize the need to monitor the health of some of our state's most valuable resources.

Until then, what can you do? First, keep monitoring! Although our objectives have changed from water quality assessment to long-term transparency monitoring, the data could still be invaluable. You never know when a long-term data set will be needed, and, perversely, long-term data can only be collected before it is needed. Second, express your opinions about lakes to your elected officials: county, state, and federal, as well as to Ecology. Squeak! In government, the squeaky wheel often gets the grease.

I want to close by recognizing all the hours (I estimate 10,000 so far!) you have invested on behalf of our state's lakes. Twelve lakes have been sampled every year since 1989, and six volunteers have been active every year from the beginning. The efforts of Julie Rector, Kirk Smith, Maggie Bell-McKinnon, and especially you, the volunteers, helped to make Washington's Lake Water Quality Assessment program one of the best in the nation. Our data will always be there and someday, someone desperate for historical data on a particular lake will be even more grateful to you than me.

Wetnet teaches lake residents

By Paula Lowe, *Waterline* editor

Residents from eight lakes in King County participated in community meetings in November to learn about stewardship opportunities for their lakes.

Funded by the King County Waterworks program, the Washington Wetlands Network (Wetnet) organized the meetings. Wetnet is a program of the National Audubon Society Washington State Field office.

While the lake topics varied slightly, all the meetings covered lake stewardship issues. Residents from the Lake Wilderness Preservation association talked about how to form a Lake Management District. Volunteer lake monitors presented water quality measurements from their lakes.

Landscape Designer Brian Bodenbach's presented two garden designs to discourage Canada Geese, and benefit from Wetnet's tax break program. Wetnet's property tax program allows landowners to receive a tax deduction on land that is left in native vegetation. In the past four years, Wetnet has helped more than 100 property owners prepare applications for this program.

There's a great need for this program as shown by the more than 100 lakes who applied. The lakes selected are: Morton Lake, Lake Margaret, Lake Geneva, Pine Lake, Lake Sawyer, Spring Lake, Star Lake, Fish Lake and Killarney Lake. The lakes were chosen by four criteria:

- lake had public access;
- fish in the lake, preferably a salmon or trout species;
- have a water quality problem or on the verge of one;
- volunteers and/or neighbors who have the potential for stewardship on their lakes.

Wetnet has also helped to teach wetland monitoring at 12 wetlands in King County with King County Department of Natural Resources, Adopt-a-Beach, and Washington State University Cooperative Extension ('95-'96). Wetnet helped the owners of a

bog on Shadow Lake and the Rainier Audubon Society to conserve a very special wetland. The owners, the Prinsen family, have won numerous awards for the bog restoration and have formed a non-profit organization. They are the recipients of several grants for their work restoring the wetland and creating an education facility and boardwalk.

For further information about Wetnet programs, call Christi Norman, 206-524-4570.

Centrum offers class for young students

Centrum in Port Townsend offers a week of hands-on learning in the program "Our Water World" for fifth and sixth graders. The class runs April 22 to 27.

Located on the beach at Fort Worden State Park, the Marine Science Center is staffed by environmental educators, certified science instructors, and volunteers. Students and adults will learn about marine and fresh water science.

Centrum is a nonprofit center for the arts and creative education.

Call for an application, 360-385-3102 or send an e-mail to carla@centrum.org.

WALPA speakers talk to associations

Members of WALPA will be 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.

WALPA holds April conference

WALPA's 14th annual conference, Lakes Reservoirs and Watersheds, with a special focus on Federal Initiatives, is April 4-7, 2001 at the Shilo Inn in Spokane.

On Wednesday, April 4, there will be a Hydrolab calibration workshop presented by Electronic Data Solutions. Bring your Hydrolab equipment to this workshop.

On Thursday, April 5, workshops are scheduled from 9 am to 5 pm covering subjects such as total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and lake management; Coeur d'Alene Lake studies & issues; lake restoration & management; watershed studies and analyses; bacterial contamination studies; and aquatic plant studies. The luncheon guest speaker is Charles Goldman who will talk about Lake Tahoe.

On Friday, April 6, a plenary session on "Environmental Attitudes: How did we get here?" will be presented by Ken Bevis. Other topics on Friday are: stream bioassessment; impacts of urbanization on habitat; integrated aquatic plant management; volunteer monitoring studies; and Lake Roosevelt studies & issues. At noon, the WALPA business lunch will be held to introduce the new board and recognize the outgoing board.

There will be a half-day workshop on Saturday, April 7 for lake residents.

The Shilo Inn is located on the east side of the downtown business district and just off of I-90. It will be a comfortable setting for the conference as well as easy access to downtown dining and shopping opportunities and also to parks and scenic attractions. The hotel offers 24-hour indoor pool and hot-tub, sauna, steam room, and fitness center. The room cost includes breakfast served in the rooftop restaurant.

Registration brochures will be mailed in February. For information, call Steve Butkus, conference program coordinator, 360-407-6742, or send him an e-mail, stbu461@ecy.wa.gov.

Waterline newsletter published quarterly

These are the deadlines and publication dates for the next three issues:

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

The editor will follow-up and research story ideas that meet within *Waterline's* editorial guidelines.

WALPA Board for 2000 - 2001

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- Robin Matthews
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Waterline accepts ads

The *Waterline* accepts advertising for lake-related products or services. Published quarterly, the *Waterline* reaches lake professionals and scientists, educators, and lake residents.

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

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.

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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