

WATERLINE

June 2003

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for future reference.

West Nile virus: Protect yourself

It's mosquito season! There are many ways to protect oneself against mosquito bites, but this year it's especially important to take more precautions against those pesky, buzzing, biting insects. Some mosquitoes may carry the West Nile virus, which was first found in birds and horses in Washington last year.

The virus is a serious illness that can be fatal. It can affect people, horses, certain types of birds and other animals. It's spread to people by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected after feeding on birds that carry the virus. The virus is not spread by direct contact with infected people or animals.

The risk of getting the West Nile virus is very low, but anyone can become infected. People over 50 years of age have the highest risk of serious illness.

Most people who are infected with the virus will not become sick. About one in five people infected will

have mild symptoms such as fever, headache and body aches.

To avoid mosquito bites, stay indoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active. Wear a long sleeve shirt, long pants and a hat when going into mosquito-infested areas, such as wetlands or woods. Repellents that contain DEET are the most effective against mosquitoes.

By emptying containers that hold standing water, it reduces homes for mosquitoes.

West Nile virus infects certain wild birds such as crows, jays, ravens and magpies. If you find a dead bird, use gloves to pick it up, place it in a double plastic bag and place the carcass in a garbage can.

For details about the West Nile virus, visit www.doh.wa.gov/wnv.

For information about Washington State Department of Ecology mosquito-control general permit, visit www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/pesticides/index.html.

Milfoil weevils under study

By Paula Rudberg Lowe, editor, *Waterline*

The milfoil weevil (*Ehurychiopsis lecontei*) is sometimes an effective biocontrol agent against Eurasian milfoil. Environmental Specialist Jenifer Parsons, Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), began studying and rearing milfoil

weevils in June 2002. She, along with a Department of Agriculture intern, will continue to study weevils this summer.

The milfoil weevil has been implicated in causing declines of
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Milfoil weevils

from page 1

Eurasian milfoil populations in Midwestern and Northeastern states. This weevil is native to the northern part of the U.S., including Washington. The weevil's native host is the native northern milfoil (*Myriophyllum sibiricum*), however, if the weevil is

reared on Eurasian milfoil then it will prefer that species over northern milfoil. Weevils spend their entire life cycle on milfoil, while adults will eat leaves, most damage is done by larvae that mine into the stem causing a reduction in plant buoyancy.

Last summer Parsons collected the natural occurring milfoil weevils in

Stan Coffin Lake near Quincy to raise them in freshwater aquariums, which are housed in the Fish and Wildlife Department buildings in Yakima.

The tiny weevils were collected by snorkeling in Stan Coffin Lake.

Weevils were placed in aquariums where the adult weevils laid eggs on the growing tips of fresh milfoil. The eggs hatched in three to six days and the larvae ate the growing tips, then burrowed into the milfoil stems. At the end of the rearing period, the eggs and larvae were counted and released to Mattoon Lake near Ellensburg.

Parsons continued the cycle through the summer and by August, she had released nearly 3,000 weevils of all life stages.

Parsons reports that she has not seen evidence of the weevils establishing in Mattoon Lake, but it may take a few years for the weevils to build to a level to be able to control the milfoil. Weevils in Stan Coffin Lake were in densities known to control Eurasian milfoil growth, and they collected weevils on northern milfoil because there is so little Eurasian milfoil in the lake.

Parsons hopes that the results of this study will be successful so she can advise lakefront property owners interested in using these weevils to control Eurasian milfoil in their lakes.

The study will continue this summer. Parsons also plans to inventory several lakes in King County to look for a test lake there and to check for natural weevil populations.

Questions about the project may be addressed to Jenifer Parsons, 509-457-7136 or jenp461@ecy.wa.gov.

Conference in Chelan a success

By Lee Mellish, conference coordinator, WALPA president

All reports indicate that the 16th Annual WALPA Lakes Conference was a success. Over 100 people attended the conference at Campbell's Resort in Chelan. The setting was outstanding and the weather cooperated.

The conference keynote speaker, Dr. Jack Stanford, University of Montana, Flathead Lake Research Center, provided an entertaining report on water quality of Flathead Lake. He characterized the mysis shrimp and lake trout as the "beasts" of the lake, causing serious problems in the lake's fishery and water quality.

The luncheon speakers on Friday were Nancy and Mike Barnhart, Barnhart Photographers, who presented a 100-year picture history of Lake Chelan. Mike's grandfather, also a photographer, homesteaded at the small town of Stehekin located 60 miles up-lake from Chelan.

The conference sessions were a balance between technical and non-technical subjects including international lake and stream studies; watershed restoration activities; fisheries and lake quality; aquatic weed control; landscaping and lakeside living; current lake research activities and fish contamination studies.

Thanks to all the presenters and session chairs for making the conference informative, interesting and entertaining. A special thanks to the hard working and dedicated WALPA Board of Directors. The 2004 conference will be held in Bellingham.

"I want to personally thank Rob Zisette for all his work and dedication

this past year as president of WALPA," says Lee Mellish, president. "I'm sure Rob would agree, being president is not always a fun-packed job. His leadership has given WALPA a direction and vision for the coming years. Thanks Rob, and we look forward to your continued commitment."

WALPA represented at conference

NALMS, EPA and the Chicago Botanic Gardens sponsored the 16th annual national conference, Enhancing the States' Lake Management Programs with the topic, Developing and Implementing TMDLs in Lakes and Reservoirs.

WALPA members Jonathan Frodge, Steve Butkus and Lee Mellish attended the April conference in Chicago.

TMDLs, Total Maximum Daily Loads, are a key element of the Clean Water Act, yet its development and implementation present many challenges for government agencies and lake managers. Nationally-recognized speakers directed interactive discussion sessions that provided unique insights into the obstacles and opportunities that lie ahead in developing lake TMDLs. Attending the conference were 160 people representing 34 states and two foreign countries. The conference was a great forum for networking and interaction between states.

For additional information regarding the conference and conference participants, call Lee Mellish at 509-922-9016.

Waterline accepts ads

The *Waterline* accepts advertising for environmentally-friendly, lake-related products or services.

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

WALPA names photo contest winners

By Maggie Bell-Kinnon and Gene Williams, contest organizers

First place photo was won by Michelle Payne of Woodinville. Her untitled photo was of a pothole lake in Eastern Washington. Michelle won a one-year subscription to *LakeLine*. (Donated by NALMS.)

Second place winner was Dave Olson of Yelm. His photo was "Sunrise at Lake Lawrence." It's a lake outside Yelm in Thurston County. Dave won the book, *Native Plants in the Coastal Garden*. (Book purchased by WALPA.)

Third place winner was Gene Williams of Snohomish County Surface Water Management. Gene's photo, "Lake Kachess" was taken in Kittitas County. His prize was a Secchi disk and a copy of Joy Michaud's *A Citizen's Guide to Understanding and Monitoring Lakes and Streams*. (Both items donated by Herrera Environmental Consultants.)

Questions about the contest may be directed to Maggie Bell-McKinnon, 360-407-6124 or mbel461@ecy.wa.gov.



Lake data available

The Washington State Department of Ecology has compiled data collected from lakes throughout Washington. Information is available on line for the years 1994 to 1997. The data shown on line for each lake is for the latest year when the data was collected. The web site is www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/fw_lakes/lk_main.html.

Data collected prior to 1994, volunteer data collected since 1997, and annual reports containing lake data collected by Ecology staff and volunteer monitors are also available. For further information, contact Maggie Bell-McKinnon, limnologist, 360-407-6124 or mbel461@ecy.wa.gov

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Lake Focus on Sprague Lake in Adams and Lincoln Counties

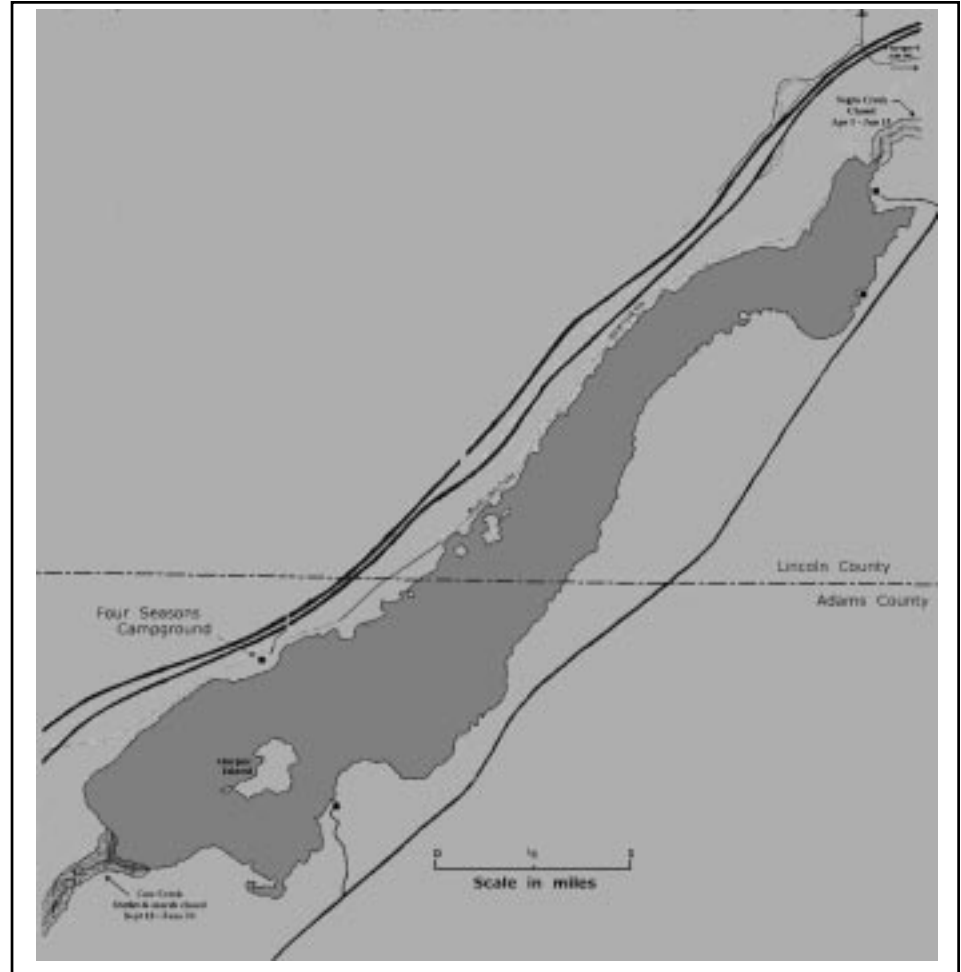
Compiled by Kurt Marx, Taylor Associates

Sprague Lake is a lake of many names. In 1865 it was referred to as Big Lake. Later the lake was called Colville Lake. Finally, in the 1950s the name was changed to Sprague Lake, what the locals called it.

Sprague Lake is located in Adams and Lincoln Counties. The lake runs northeast to southwest, parallel to Interstate 90, about 2.2 miles southwest from the town of Sprague. The lake is 5.3 miles long, 1,841 acres in area (about two-thirds in Adams Co., one-third in Lincoln Co.), 20 to 25 feet deep, and at an elevation of 1,879 feet. The outlet is at the southwest end at a small dam that flows into Cow Creek. Cow Creek flows south to the Palouse, tributary to the Snake River. Sprague Lake is mainly a recreational lake, offering an array of fishing, whether in the summer or on the ice in the winter.

Sprague Lake is inhabited by a variety of warm-water fishes, including smallmouth and largemouth bass, bluegill, walleye, black crappie, channel catfish, brown bullheads, and yellow perch. Rainbow trout are also planted in the lake. Recently, most anglers seem to go after the walleye. Anglers should check for special fish regulations on the lake before fishing. (Resource for fishing information: www.washingtonlakes.com)

In the summer of 2002, a Sprague Lake angler reported that the water temperature was getting warmer earlier than usual. Another lake user thought that the prior two years of low water and overpopulation have



caused problems in the lake. Since Sprague is a warm water lake, with hot summers on the eastern side of our state, another lake user reported that “the algae has the water looking like soup, pea soup.” Not to worry, Mike Carey, editor of Washington Lakes web site, and other long-time residents say that these algal blooms are par for this lake.

Sources of information in this article:

- ❑ Lakes of Washington, Volume II – Eastern Washington, Ernest E. Wolcott. Third Edition, Olympia, WA. 1973.
- ❑ www.washingtonlakes.com/adams.htm#SpragueAdams
- ❑ www.spraguelake.com

NOTE: WALPA makes no guarantee to the accuracy of this information.

EPA awards grants for nation’s watersheds

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded \$15 million in grants to 20 watershed organizations selected as part of a new Watershed Initiative. Two of the grant winners are in the Northwest: the Lower Columbia River in Washington / Oregon and the Clark Fork-Pend

Oreille in Montana / Idaho.

EPA Administrator Christie Whitman says, “EPA is excited to commit significant federal dollars to support these top watershed efforts, all of which will serve as national models for other communities to follow. These Watershed Initiative grants will help tackle some of the

nation’s most pernicious water quality problems, such as habitat loss and alteration, nutrient enrichment, pathogens, and invasive species, all of which continue to harm watersheds nationwide.”

For more information, log on to www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative.



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New web address for Action Team

Puget Sound Action Team has formalized that name for itself and changed its web site address.

For brevity and to bring it in line with the addresses of other state agencies and programs, the Action Team's web site address is now www.psat.wa.gov. Web sites that link to Puget Sound Action Team's have been asked to update the link.

Since 1996, when the Legislature created the Puget Sound Action Team in the Puget Sound Water Quality Protection Act, it interchangeably used "Puget Sound Action Team" and "Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team." The partnership of state agencies, tribal and local governments agreed upon on the new name.

Waterline newsletter published quarterly

Waterline deadlines and publication dates for the next two issues:

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

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