



Easy Current News

Linking people to places of nature and history by travel in small boats

REI Floats SEA Kayaker Program



Next summer a team of SEA Kayaker educators will paddle the waters of Puget Sound

Have you ever been on a trip with someone who wants to follow seals, take close-up photos of seabirds, or carelessly litters while kayaking or packing up camp?

In the summer of 2005, Puget Sound and you will have a new resource in the Sound Education and Action (SEA) Kayaker Team. Thanks to generous support from REI, a team consisting of a SEA Kayaker Educator, trained volunteers, and/or WWTa staff will patrol the Cascadia Marine Trail during weekends from June to September 2005. They will encourage responsible outdoor recreation and stew-

ardship of Puget Sound by educating trail users at launch sites, rest stops, and campsites along the shore about low impact camping, wildlife viewing etiquette, and paddling safety.

This on-the-water approach allows the

SEA Kayaker Team to provide paddlers with education that is immediately relevant and experiential. As many as 900 paddlers will be reached during the summer, including children at local summer camps, paddling club members, guides, and those on outfitter trips.

As more Washington citizens and visitors paddle the waters of Puget Sound each year, they place pressure on Puget Sound shoreline habitats through unintentional trampling of vegetation, littering, and disturbance of nesting birds and marine mammals. The Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) predicts that participation in paddling sports will increase by 21 percent in Washington State over the next 10 years. The Sound Education and Action Kayaker Program will expand WWTa's current Leave No Trace (LNT) education to ensure that paddlers have the skills to reduce their impact on shorelines. The cost of education and prevention is far less than restoring damaged lands.

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SAVE THE DATE!

Washington Water Trails Association
Annual Auction
Friday April 22, 2004
Mt. Baker Community Club, Seattle

From Executive Director Reed Waite

As a Leave No Trace Trainer, I am duty bound to use the skills and ethics found in the seven principles of Leave No Trace. So please don't tell anyone that I was running from shop to shop in Port Hadlock on a Friday evening looking for tide tables. Principle Number One: Plan Ahead and Prepare.

We had planned a one o'clock start and only missed it by five minutes due to pressing matters at work for one group member. The bathroom, a bit of catching up on mutual friends, and a long line at the local low-price gas station further slowed progress to the Edmonds ferry terminal and Olympic outer coast. We had plenty of time, we thought, until we encountered hundreds of others ahead of us in the ferry line trying to escape the summer heat. As ferries emptied and filled, emptied and filled without us, hopes for our trip sank, until we rummaged through our car interiors, pulling out a Cascadia Marine Trail Guidebook.

We seized the opportunity and fashioned an alternative non-wilderness CMT trip on the other side of the Olympic Peninsula, provisioning in Port Hadlock (finding a tidebook at the local lumber supply's fishing aisle). After enjoying a dinner with hats at the Ajax Cafe, we launched, leisurely, at 8 pm. We slept at Fort Flagler and Fort Worden Cascadia Marine Trail campsites, lunched and napped Saturday by Strait of Juan de Fuca waters before building winds sent us surfing around Point Wilson to calmer waters, and brunch in Port Townsend on Sunday.

Returning via Old Fort Townsend State Park we were visited mid-bay by a harbor porpoise and offspring passing a mere ten feet from our lead kayaker. Next were native canoes heading to Port Angeles. Then otters along shore! Our many discoveries that weekend couldn't have been better planned. We went with wind and tide, returning to Seattle relaxed and thankful, friendships strengthened and spirits made whole again.



From Board President Ben Bauermeister

For a long time I've been waiting for this event. An event that couldn't be predicted but one I knew, sooner or later, would have to happen. Then, late one long summer evening, it happened. I was sitting at a stop light in Ballard with all the windows down, feeling a nice breeze blow through the car, when I looked up and spotted it. There, on the back of a green Subaru Outback (with racks) was a WWTA sticker; shiny, new, and blue as the early evening sky.

Now, I've seen WWTA stickers, but I've never seen a WWTA sticker on someone's car that I have never met. That's what made this event meaningful to me. In a way, I was being introduced to one of our members. A silent sharing of like minds.

When I see roof racks accompanied by a WWTA membership sticker, I see a complete paddler. I see not only someone who enjoys both the serenity and the exhilaration of being on the water, but also someone who has taken the time and the consideration to help preserve this method of recreation for generations to come by participating in an organization that balances access to water ways, stewardship of public lands, and education of low impact usage techniques.

So now here's my apology. If that was you driving your green Subaru in Ballard last summer, and you recall some wild-eyed, bearded guy driving a black Jetta wagon honking and giving you a big thumbs up, I didn't mean to scare you – I was just trying to introduce myself back at you. In the future, I'll let my sticker do the talking.

Nice to meet you.



Easy Current News is published four times each year by Washington Water Trails Association (WWTA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and preserving Washington's marine environment by engaging individuals in personal exploration of this unique resource through education, volunteer stewardship, and low-impact travel.

Washington Water Trails Association
4649 Sunnyside Ave. N. Room 305
Seattle, WA 98103-6900
Phone: 206.545.9161
Fax: 206.547.0350
email: wwta@wwta.org
<http://www.wwta.org>

Staff

Executive Director	Reed Waite
Programs Coordinator	Indi McCahey
Water Trails Coordinator	Sarah Krueger
Sound Action Educator	Bromley Henningsen
Geographic Information Specialist	Morgan Scherer

Bookkeeping services	Julie Russillo
----------------------	----------------

Legal Advisors	Heller Ehrman
----------------	---------------

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Fall 2004



National Park Service to Work Tri-state Trail

With the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial now in full swing east of the Rockies, the Pacific Northwest is readying for an influx of tourists and families following in the footsteps and paddlestrokes of the Expedition in 2005 and 2006. On October 21, the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program approved a Washington State Parks request for technical assistance to complete planning for a tri-state water trail.

The Northwest Discovery Water Trail project is supported by adjoining Idaho and Oregon state park departments and anchored by the Army Corps of Engineers Portland and Walla Walla Districts. The Corps convened exploratory planning meetings as early as November 2001. Help from National Park Service will ratchet up efforts to be ready for boaters by October 2005, two hundred years after the native tribes helped Lewis and Clark fashion canoes and head downriver.

Community Planner Sue Abbott will be working with Joe Sobinovsky, Washington State Parks Statewide Trails Coordinator, and the Northwest Discovery Water Trail steering committee during the upcoming year. Abbott assisted with the development of WWTa's Lakes-To-Locks Water Trail and the bi-state Lower Columbia River Water Trail previously.

In August WWTa launched a major fund-raising campaign at a donor event. Rex Derr, Director of Washington State Parks, discussed water trails in the Park's Centennial 2013 Plan.

Major WWTa donors boosted funding by pledging to match, dollar for dollar, contributions to the Cross State Initiative up to \$12,500 for a total of \$25,000. The funds will pay WWTa staff time, the

AmeriCorps Water Trail Coordinator, cross-state travel, and associated planning expenses for this multi-year project.

On November 1st, the proposed water trail held its first Idaho meeting at the Hell's Gate State Park in Lewiston with the assistance from the National Park Service and Idaho State Parks. WWTa provided funding for a welcoming lunch at the meeting. A November 30th meeting will be in Oregon at the Bonneville Dam Auditorium, hosted by the Army Corps of Engineers. Washington will be next in line, with public meetings being planned for the spring of 2005 along the entire length of the water trail.

Early contributions to WWTa's Cross State Initiative had reached 22 percent of the \$25,000 goal by mid-October. The Washington Kayak Club, through its Conservation Committee, gave a donation of \$636 that grew to \$1,272 when matched.

You can help fund Washington Water Trail Association members' vision of great water trails from the Idaho border to the Pacific right now. Use the WWTa Convenience Store order form on Page 9 to donate, wait for WWTa's annual appeal letter later this month, or contribute via the Internet anytime of the day or night at www.wwta.org/go-csi.



Two canoes at a potential Tri-State Trail site: Sacajawea State Park

Stage Set for Future Orcas Island Sites

A controversial Moran State Park land exchange affecting public access turned into a creative agreement including easements to a future Cascadia Marine Trail campsite. The outcome adds more public beach, above mean high water, for kayakers to rest and enjoy sparsely developed northeast Orcas Island.

Kayakers played a key role, stating opposition to any loss of public shore, at the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission meetings in Port Angeles and Richland. Owners and guides of Shearwater Adventures, Body Boat Blade International, and Osprey Tours gave valuable insight into how the shore is being used. WWTa board member Fran Troje arranged a flyover of the shore in question immediately prior to the deadline for written comments.

Owners of the "Land's End" property, which Washington State Parks will receive in the trade, will grant a recreational easement to the public, donate extra acres to Moran State Park, and actively pursue a conservation easement on the former Raccoon Point park property.

The WWTa Board considered its response to the proposed trade, expressing a desire to work for a "marine access area for the park and make human powered water access part of the park's offerings." Many people helped analyze pros and cons. Dennis Blum of SeaTrails Marine Maps calculated shoreline distances with GIS software using San Juan County parcel data. Tim Seifert of the San Juan Preservation Trust gave background information on the history of the proposed exchange and conservation efforts on Orcas Island.

The benefits for the public, island residents, and park visitors are a net gain in Moran State Park acreage and increased amount of publicly owned shores on Orcas Island. Also there's the very real possibility of getting a shared use hiker/kayaker campsite at Moran much like that on Obstruction Pass on the south Orcas Island in the future.

Partnerships Increase Access

By Chris Landoll, WWRC

Washington Water Trails Association (WWTa) and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition (WWRC) have partnered to protect shorelines. With support from WWTa members, the Coalition has leveraged over \$408 million for 650 recreation and conservation projects across the state since 1990, including \$35 million for water access projects such as Triton Cove State Park, Laughlin Cove, and Ala Spit along the Cascadia Marine Trail.

The Coalition helps city, county, and state agencies conserve sensitive lands and provide public access to our most beautiful waterways. In 2005, they will be lobbying Olympia lawmakers for \$3 million in state grants for new water access projects including:

Rockaway Beach - Bainbridge wants \$262,360 to purchase 220 feet of shoreline to give access to marine reefs.

Chinese Reconciliation Park - Tacoma seeks \$554,221 to restore shoreline and build a boat launch and picnic area on this former industrial site.

Fisherman Bay Spit - San Juan County

seeks \$1.2 million to purchase and develop 30 acres on Lopez Island into a waterfront park.

Meydenbauer Bay - Bellevue seeks \$1 million to purchase 0.5 acres on Lake Washington to link Meydenbauer Beach Park with the marina.

South Lake Union Park - Seattle seeks \$300,000 to restore the shoreline, build a dock, and develop 1.2 acres into a waterfront park.

Funding comes from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), a competitive grant program created by the Coalition in 1989 and funded by the Washington State legislature.

You can help protect more great places like these and increase public access to shorelines by calling 1-800-562-6000 and asking your state legislators to fund these and other WWRP projects with a \$60 million appropriation.

You can find more information about the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition at www.WildlifeRecreation.org or by calling 206.748.0082.

Marrowstone Island Makeover

Expecting fog, wind, rain, and mud, the October 26th and 27th work party on Marrowstone Island was surprised with ideal conditions - two cool but sunny autumn days accented by a clear, moonlit evening. Enjoying the weather, WWTa staff and hardy volunteer Will Winters paddled to the southern tip of the island to one of the newest Cascadia Marine Trail Sites, Kinney Point, to complete much-needed improvements. Within two days, the work crew had refreshed and enhanced this beautiful site by leveling and clearing trails, creating a third campsite, restoring disturbed areas by transplanting native plants, removing overgrowth from the kayak racks, and clearing a window through which to view the Olympic mountains from a newly established bench. While camping at nearby CMT site, Fort Flagler State Park, the workers took the time

between hot chocolates to plant a new Carsonite sign and remove traces of a forbidden fire ring. Wednesday afternoon, after all of the kayaks were loaded and tools packed up, the workers disbanded with dreams of the spring work parties to come.



Volunteer Will Winters transplants a fern at Kinney Point

Water Tops State Trails Conference

Water trails received unplanned advertising at "When Consensus Works," the 2004 Washington State Trails Coalition Congress held in early October at Snoqualmie Pass.

DNR, State Parks, US Forest Service, and National Park Service leaders started the meeting. Rex Derr, Director of Washington State Parks, listing 2004 agency accomplishments, spoke of new Cascadia Marine Trail sites, Lower Columbia River Water Trail opening, and work on the Northwest Discovery Water Trail.

Terry Bergerson, Oregon State Parks planner, gave the keynote address Saturday, talking about the upcoming Oregon Trails 2005 statewide trails plan. This is the first state plan in the nation giving equal weight to trails on water, on land, and for motorized vehicles. He noted the 138% increase in non-motorized boating use in Oregon between 1987 and 2002.

Board of Directors Seeks Committed Members

The WWTa Board of Directors wants you! What does the Board do and how can you help?

WWTa's Board is the backbone of the organization breathing life and innovation into WWTa's mission. New initiatives have focused on fundraising and increasing the visibility of WWTa. Decals, Hood Canal CMT campsites, the Wolf Bauer presentation, and more articles in paddling magazines are a few board driven projects.

At monthly meetings (4th Monday 7 pm at Seattle REI) WWTa board members track projects, report on their activities the past month, and plan for the future. September's meeting involved the Moran State Park land exchange, Washington Alliance for Mandatory Boater Education (WAMBE), and membership numbers.

If you'd like to share your vision for public access to Washington waters and work with other committed members, contact Board President Ben Bauermeister, bbauerm@mac.com or 206.226.3280.

VOLUNTEERS

Trained to Leave No Trace

What do building a remote beach fire and peeing have in common? Both should be done **BELOW** the high tide line according to Leave No Trace (LNT) Master Educator Marlla Mhoon. Ms. Mhoon led WWTa's 2nd annual LNT Trainer Course August 28th and 29th on Anderson Island. Eight participants learned LNT's seven principles through experiential learning and interactive presentations. As Leave No Trace trainers, these participants can now conduct 1-2 hour presentations on LNT skills.



LNT Trainer Course participants listen to Marlla Mhoon in their outdoor classroom

Next year, WWTa will organize two additional Leave No Trace Trainer Courses in early spring for Puget Sound paddling communities. Participants in the Trainer Course will have the option to accompany the SEA Kayaker Educator (*see article front page*) for safety during the in the field educational portion of the project. WWTa staff will also provide LNT educational opportunities for paddling clubs, outdoor retailers, and kayak symposiums throughout the spring and summer of next year.

For more information about LNT for sea kayakers or to schedule a presentation for paddling groups please contact WWTa's Sound Action Educator, Bromley Henningsen at 206.545.9161 or bromley@wwta.org.

Reduce Your
Paddle Print

LEAVE NO TRACE
OUTDOOR ETHICS

Did you know that in the USA
an estimated **one million**
pounds of poop are left in the
backcountry every year?*

Leave No Trace and WWTa
suggest packing out "nature's
call" and depositing it in a
proper disposal facility

Check out www.lnt.org for
information on options to
pack out waste properly or
contact Bromley at
bromley@wwta.org or 206.
545.9161

*Statistic from, "Managing Human
Waste in the Backcountry," by Win
Gilliland of The Outdoor Network.

West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium: Wet but Worthwhile

Despite a torrential downpour Friday afternoon, the 21st annual West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium was a terrific way to spend a September weekend. The event was held at Fort Worden State Park, in Port Townsend, and included dozens of exhibitions, manufacturer demonstrations, on-water instructions, classes, presentations, and extra-curricular events (such as Kayak Karaoke, Cardboard Kayak Racing, and Salsa Dancing to the band Raw Experience).

Washington Water Trails had the opportunity to talk with hundreds of attendees—a chance for the new staff, Sarah and Bromley, to learn the fine art of explaining WWTa's work and meet heaps of kayaking regulars. Many thanks to the volunteers who also helped make the tabling efforts a success.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the WWTa Reunion, which was held at the stylish campsite of Bruce Farrar and Dennis Hartup—symposium veterans (now going on 13 years). The food was delicious and the conversation jovial. Those who were

brave enough got to take a plunge into the frigid waters of Lake Toowheelah and test out their radio-controlled kayaking skills. Turns out, the real thing is much easier.

If you missed out this year, never fear, there will be another symposium in September of 2005! Visit www.wcsks.org for more information about the symposium.



Volunteer Duane Differding (l) along with AmeriCorps members Sarah (c) and Bromley (r) share information about the Cascadia Marine Trail with a symposium attendee

Say Hello to WWTa's Americorps Team-Bromley and Sarah

Greetings!

My name is Bromley Henningsen, and I'm the WWTa Sound Action Educator. For the next 10 and a half months, I will be dedicated to spreading Leave No Trace (LNT) Ethics and Principles among non-motorized boating groups. I will do this through presentations, organizing trainer courses, and adding LNT materials to WWTa's web site and publications. The mission of WWTa is admirable and the staff, board, and members make for a terrific work environment. I can think of no better way to start my "life after college".

On a personal note, I was born and raised in Missoula, Montana—a charming town packed with outdoor enthusiasts and university students. Much of my childhood was spent at Flathead Lake and Glacier National Park; I quickly grew to love being in the backcountry. When I was 19, I spent a year at Holden Village in the Cascades, where I cultivated a deep appreciation for the environment. I attended both St. Olaf College and Pacific Lutheran University, receiving a BA in English. My final semester was spent exploring the south island of New Zealand. In my spare time, I like to be outdoors, dance, read, write, converse, and go on long walks with my family.



Team AmeriCorps: Bromley (front) and Sarah

Howdy!

I'm Sarah Krueger and I'm glad to be joining the WWTa team as the Water Trails Coordinator. I've got all sorts of fun duties, including organizing work parties on the Cascadia Marine Trail, developing the action plan for the Lower Columbia River Water Trail, and planning outreach events for the upcoming Northwest Discovery Water Trail. It's a great opportunity to meet the wonderful volunteers, members, and various partner agencies and organizations that make WWTa's work possible.

It's amazing to be here in the beautiful Northwest! It's quite a change from the barrier islands, blackwater swamps, and coastal plain of northeast North Carolina, where I've been living and working for the past year as the Outreach Coordinator for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Red Wolf Recovery Program. At water-level with egrets and alligators, coastal North Carolina is where I fell in love with

paddling and came to appreciate the benefits of marked trails as I navigated confusing cypress stands and wetlands. Though I do miss howling for a living, I'm enjoying my transition from wolves to water trails - though I admit the cold waters of the Pacific Northwest are a big change for me!

WWTa Salutes Committed Partners

A large amount of the work that WWTa does is made possible through partnerships. It is only with the invaluable help from volunteers, public land agencies, foundations, businesses, and paddling clubs that water trails sites get developed and remain open.

The Wolf Bauer presentation at the Seattle Mountaineers Clubhouse is a case in point. It was made possible with assistance from the Mountaineers' Conservation Division, Photography, and Sea Kayaking Committees. Washington Kayak Club also helped by providing refreshments.

The Cascade Land Conservancy and the Pacific Coast Joint Venture have convened the Nearshore Initiative, looking at improving Puget Sound shores. Research indicates that public support for mitigation projects is dependent on public access.

WWTa joins with Surfrider Foundation, Nature Conservancy, and others, in sharing successes and tools for the future.

The Trust for Public Land is another valued partner. TPL is the temporary owner of the Laughlin Cove Cascadia Marine Trail campsite and has engaged WWTa in its plan to "greenprint" Puget Sound.

Adhesa Plate has generously donated the WWTa sticker to help make our organization more visible in the public eye.

REI gets front page coverage for providing the dollars to get the SEA Kayaker program off the beach next summer. The Seattle Foundation gave a grant of \$10,000 for general operating support. While not as glamorous as some others programs, this funding will improve WWTa operations, making more partnerships possible. Thank you all!

Thanks to the Web Tech Committee

Members enjoying the newly designed WWTa website know Mennonite volunteer Dave Brubaker's work. Helping him behind the scenes were stalwarts Kate Cunningham and Ben Bauermeister.

These two paddlers brought fresh ideas to make planning trips and capturing steward reports easier for members and staff.



Kate Cunningham (l) and Ben Bauermeister

THANK YOU

Volunteers

Newsletter Mailing Party 8/5

Tim Garton
Tom & Laura Deschner
Jackie MacRae
Marty Oppenheimer
Olivia Roth
Mark Tatcher
Bruce Farrar

Kinney Point 8/5

Millard Martin
Jerry, Millard's friend

West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium 9/17-18

Ben Bauermeister
Lisa Bellefond
Duane Differding
John Farr
John Floberg
Nicole Hoagland
Gerry Hodge
Andrew Nelson
Fran Troje
Izzy Valdez

Stewardship Reports

Jennifer Berlin
Brager Family
Jimbo Buickerood
Jean Caldwell
John Githens
Tim Hallmark
Ryan Hanegan
Gerry Hodge
Pete Jancola
Ron Karr
Dave & Helaine Mottershead
Jude Rosenberg
Brad Tubbs
Gail Wilcox

Kopachuck
Oak Harbor
Kinney Point
Potlatch
Blind Island
Deception Pass
Deception Pass
Hope Island
Fay Bainbridge
Cypress Head
Penrose Point &
Manchester
Kinney Point-
Ala Spit
Kopachuck

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Lil' Cat Boat Co. Ltd.
NW Outdoor Center
Ocean Kayak/Necky Kayaks
Odyssey Builders
Sea Kayaker, Inc.
SeaTrails
Spring Bay Inn
The Mountaineers Foundation
The Trust for Public Land
Washburne Marine
Werner Paddles

Club Members

The Mountaineers Recreation Access Committee
North Sound Sea Kayaking Assoc
Olympic Kayak Club
WA Kayak Club
Whatcom Assn of Kayak Enthusiasts

Donors/Supporters

Adhesa Plate
REI
Seattle Foundation



Dennis Hartup looks in on Lake Twowheelah created for the WWTa Member Reunion at the 2004 West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium

The WWTa Convenience Store

(For more Washington Water Trails merchandise, visit our website: www.wwta.org/shopping)

WWTA T-Shirt

Circle size: S M L XL XXL 3XL \$25 x ____ = ____

Lakes-To-Locks Trail Maps

West Region: \$6 (member), \$9.50 (nonmember) x ____ = ____

WWTA Decal

\$2 x ____ = ____

Donation

Cross State Initiative (will be matched) \$____ Unrestricted \$____

Pay by check, VISA or MasterCard.

Card # _____ Exp. date ____/____

Cardholder's signature _____

Mail to: WWTa, 4649 Sunnyside Ave. N Room 305, Seattle, WA 98103-6900

Membership - New or renewal

of years ____ x (write in level amount) ____ = ____

LEVEL AMOUNTS:

\$35 Individual Member	\$150 Individual Sponsor
\$50 Household (2+ cards)	\$500 Patron Member
\$75 Donor Member	\$1000 Guardian Member

Total \$ _____

We will mail merchandise to the label address on the back of this form. Please correct as needed.

CALENDAR

November 2004

9: Lower Columbia River Water Trail Meeting: BES Water Pollution Lab, Portland 9:30am-12:30pm. For more information contact Chris Hathaway at 503.226.1565 ext. 228.

16: Seattle South Lake Union Park Development Final Public Meeting: Review final design drawings and discuss the supplemental environmental impact statement from 6:30 - 8 pm at the South Lake Union Armory, 860 Terry Avenue North. Contact Colleen Brown 206.684.4155 or colleen.brown@seattle.gov.

18: The State of the Sound: Dr. Usha Varanasi, talks about the challenges facing Puget Sound health due to contaminants. 7 - 9 pm at the Seattle REI, 222 Yale Avenue North, Seattle. Tickets: \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door, students and retirees free. To register call 206.382.7007.

22: **WWTA Board Meeting:** 7 pm at Seattle REI (222 Yale Ave N).

25-26: **WWTA Office Closed**

30: Northwest Discovery Water Trail Meeting: Bonneville Dam at the Army Corps of Engineers Auditorium Training Room from 9am - 12noon. For more information contact Sarah at sarah@wwta.org or 206.545.9161.

December 2004

14: Lower Columbia River Water Trail Meeting: 9:30 am until 12:30 pm at a location to be announced. Contact Chris Hathaway of the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership at 503.226.1565 ext. 228.

24: **WWTA Office Closed**

31: **WWTA Office Closed**

January 2005

15: **Easy Current News submission deadline:** Contact Indi at indi@wwta.org or 206.545.9161

17: **WWTA Office Closed**

23: **WWTA Board Meeting:** 7 pm at Seattle REI 222 Yale Ave N

26: **WWTA Volunteer Appreciation Party:** Mount Baker Community Clubhouse, Seattle 6pm-8pm. Contact Indi at indi@wwta.org or 206.545.9161 to find out more.

February 2005

4: **Newsletter Mailing Party:** 6pm at the WWTA office. Contact Indi at 206.545.9161 or indi@wwta.org

Washington Water Trails Association

4649 Sunnyside Avenue North, Room 305
Seattle, WA 98103-6900

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Inside:

Leave No Trace education for
kayakers expanding



See front page
and page 5



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