

Easy Current News

Fall 2005

The Washington Water Trails Association Quarterly Newsletter

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Win This Suit!

With four months to go in the WWTa New Member Drive, there's still time for you to claim top honors and the new Kokatat Tropos Paddling Suit. For finishing second an energetic WWTa member will get the complete SeaTrails Puget Sound Chart Set; the third place winner will receive a set of autographed Puget Sound guidebooks.

The goal for the Drive is 150 new Washington Water Trails members by March 30, 2006. Ask your friends and co-workers to join now.

More on page 6

Water Trail Discovery!

Washington's latest water trail is generating headlines and attracting the interest of paddlers wanting to explore the Inland Northwest. Five designation events this fall helped launch the Northwest Discovery Water Trail, providing a sample of the sights and scenery along its three rivers, the Clearwater, Snake, and Columbia.

Bonneville Ribbon Cutting, August 26th

Bonneville Dam links the Northwest Discovery and Lower Columbia River Water Trails, together offering over 500 miles of river travel. During the Taste of Lewis and Clark festival held at the Dam, visitors and dignitaries, including Washington Congressman Brian Baird and Washington State Parks Director Rex Derr, boarded the Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler for a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the lock. As the crowded Sternwheeler approached the lock at Bonneville Dam, two volunteers hoisted the ribbon strung from lockwall to lockwall over the jack staff flag pole and onto the deck of the moving boat, where water trail partners and guests cut the ribbon and celebrated the opening and connection of the two water trails.



Northwest Discovery Water Trail opening ceremony in Bonneville Lock

Mosier Fall Festival, September 3rd

At Mosier's Labor Day weekend community picnic, WWTa installed the first Northwest Discovery Water Trail marker on the Columbia River at the newly established Rock Creek launch site. Mosier is a small Oregon town but a big destination for windsurfers and, in the near future, it will be a prime stop on the Northwest Discovery Water Trail, where travelers can restock supplies or simply enjoy the town's shops and restaurants.

Clearwater Cleanup, September 24th

The free-flowing, rapid waters of the Clearwater River rush water trail travelers through a deep canyon. For years, agencies and community members have worked to rid the Clearwater of junked cars and abandoned appliances that marred the beauty of the river. WWTa teamed up with the Nez Perce Tribe and eight other partnering businesses and agencies to remove some of the last remnants of riverside junk from the Nez Perce Reservation near Lapwai, Idaho. The project was not your average litter pick up. Volunteers attached large pieces of contorted rusted cars to a boom crane, which then lifted automobile parts from the riverbank and into a container bound for the recycling center.



The Clearwater River gets a little cleaner.

Continues on page 3

From Executive Director Reed Waite

Continuing coastal catastrophes this year have me thinking about shorelines and our dependence on them. Last December's tsunami, Katrina and Rita in the Gulf Coast, and Hurricane Wilma's stall over the Yucatan are disasters obvious to everyone. There is just as much danger, if not more, in the incremental loss of natural shoreline, leading to a huge toll on fish, wildlife, humans, and the Earth as a whole.

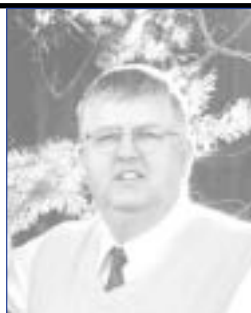
Societal costs for human development and use of the shoreline are immense. Waters warmed by the loss of riverfront trees drive out native species and add to already warming oceans. This affects species that support herring, smelt, and other fish that provide food for salmon, which then support Orcas. Our work, primarily for humans using non-motorized boats, is now seen as having a valuable impact on this web of life.

I have just returned from a weekend on the Hood Canal with the WWTa board of directors. We paddled to a future Cascadia Marine Trail campsite and picked up beach litter before getting down to work, planning for the future. The board is an amazing group of individuals who are committed to building and stewarding water trails, increasing support for WWTa and improving the membership experience for WWTa members, and maximizing investment in Washington shorelines by continuously improving the organization's efficiency. To them, the WWTa staff, and all the people who volunteer to help, my deepest thanks. It's great to work with you.



From Board President Bruce Farrar

I have the privilege of serving as site steward for one of our Cascadia Marine Trail sites. During a recent visit to my site, I replaced the faded bulletin board contents with new weatherproof posters providing information for water trail users. While I was there, I got the chance to talk with a park ranger about the site and visitation by water trail travelers. The ranger lamented that as far as he could determine, the site does not get much use.



Although the site may not be a popular spot along the Cascadia Marine Trail, it is an essential component of the trail. What I mean is, the site has value just being there. For instance, consider the contents of my first aid kit. How many times have I used my first aid kit in the last two years? I don't think I've used it once but I still carry it on kayak outings, hikes, and car trips. The value of each item in the first aid kit is the knowledge that it will be there when I need it- just like the lesser-visited water trail sites.

The Cascadia Marine Trail continues to grow along with the number of its users. WWTa staff and volunteers have established 54 Cascadia Marine Trail sites, about 18% of our goal to have a site every 5-8 miles on the Puget Sound shoreline. So, I'd like you to do a few things:

- Use the water trail sites and, when you do, share your stories with WWTa
- Tell others about the Cascadia Marine Trail
- Communicate with WWTa about existing sites and potential sites
- Enjoy the trail – it is there for you!

Easy Current News is published four times a year by Washington Water Trails Association, 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.

Staff

Executive Director	Reed Waite
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Sound Action Educator	Bromley Henningsen

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Legal Advisors Heller Ehrman

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	Judy Moyer
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Easy Current News

Editor Sarah Krueger

Fall 2005
Volume 14, Number 4



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<http://www.wwta.org>

Volunteer Appreciation Party



Volunteers make the world go round! In 2005, WWTa volunteers helped establish two new Cascadia Marine Trail sites, distribute *Easy Current News*, maintain and steward numerous water trail sites, run designation events, and support WWTa outreach in many ways!

Whether you are a veteran volunteer or interested in getting involved, WWTa invites you to the annual Volunteer Appreciation Party on January 18th. Enjoy food, drinks, and door prizes to celebrate volunteering. Reunite with work party buddies, meet other active members, and be among the first to see the 2006 redesign of the WWTa office, in the historic Good Shepherd Center in Seattle's Wallingford neighborhood.

You are Invited!

Who: *WWTa Members*

What: *Volunteer Appreciation Party*

When: *January 18th, 2006
6:00-8:00 p.m.*

Where: *WWTa Headquarters
4649 Sunnyside Ave N #305
Seattle, WA 98103*

Why: *We ♥ our volunteers!*

*Please R.S.V.P.
Email volunteer@wwta.org
or call 206.545.9161*

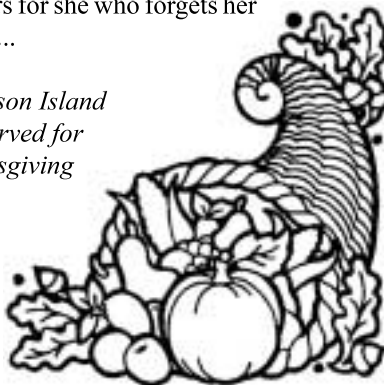
Cascadia Marine Trail Thanksgiving

by Indi Finch, WWTa Member

Thanksgiving we three set out under sunny skies, too late (at noon), with the tide, strong wind and current against us, on a course for Anderson Island. We sidled our way up the Key Peninsula shoreline, counting down by threes ("3-2-1") when the next puff of wind was about to hit. We took a break before we attacked the channel. About mid-way, the wind picked up and it was like paddling through a washing machine. We were a bit too far apart, but somehow we all instinctively turned downwind, glided on the waves in the opposite direction, but at least it took us out of the chop. We then paddled up the east shore of Anderson Island. We rounded the point and coasted in just as the sun was setting. The fire was lovely. We cooked a meal of pan fried pork chops (and Tofurky),

complete with baked potato, onion/shitake mushroom sauce, salad, and wine. We finished with pumpkin pie and fresh whipped cream (we took turns whipping) under the full moon shining on the tips of the outgoing waves under a nearly windless night- it was spectacular! Oh, and pogies make good slippers for she who forgets her shoes....

*Anderson Island
is reserved for
Thanksgiving
2005.
(ed.)*



New Trail

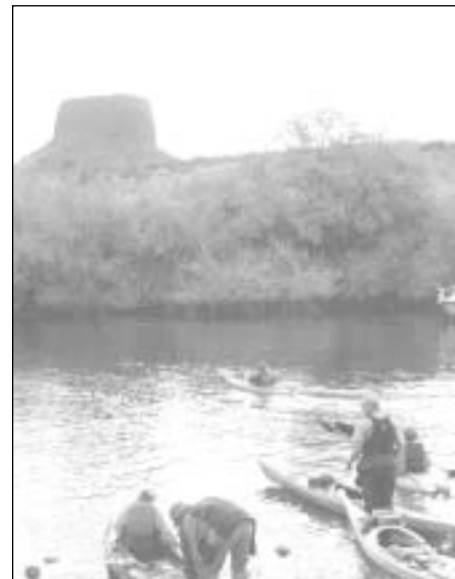
Continued from front page

Heritage Paddle, October 15th

Indicative of the growing interest in paddle sports in Eastern Washington, the Tri-Cities Heritage Paddle drew 48 people in kayaks, canoes, rowboats, and sailboats. Participants made a 12½-mile journey from Columbia Point Marina to Sacajawea State Park, with stops along the way for designation ceremonies at public access points. Pushed along steadily by a strong tailwind, boaters arrived early at Sacajawea State Park in time to enjoy the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Heritage Days festivities, an opportunity to learn about traditional living and water travel from the pioneer reenactment camps and authentic Wanapum village.

Trace the Trail, October 16th

At sunrise, a crowd of 150 gathered in Hat Rock State Park for a ceremony led by members of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Two hundred years ago, Lewis and Clark had given tribal members peace medals; on this day the Confederated Tribes reversed the roles, presenting their own medals to representatives from the Northwest Discovery Water Trail. Twenty-nine boaters launched from the park, paddling past steep basalt rock forms decorated with mud-crafted cliff swallow nests. When the flotilla reached its first stop at McNary Beach, six miles down the Columbia River, white caps and building wind ended the planned lock through of McNary Dam.



Paddlers launch from Hat Rock State Park

Successful Summer for SEA Kayakers

In the Sound Education and Action (SEA) Kayaker Program's first year, Bromley Henningsen, WWTa AmeriCorps staff member, and Kristen Kosidowski kayaked the Cascadia Marine Trail, greeting boaters and campers with a Leave No Trace message. They were on the water Friday to Monday and recorded seeing over 756 people using non-motorized boats. They met international tourists from Denmark, Japan, Canada, Switzerland, and Argentina; national visitors from Florida to California and Boise to New York; and state residents from Spokane to San Juan Island.

Over the summer four other Leave No Trace Trainers filled in or joined the team as they moved from the South Sound to the San Juan Islands. On the final weekend, PI reporter Greg Johnston paddled with the SEA Kayakers around Cypress Island; that trip appeared as the cover article in the September 15 Getaways section. Here are Bromley's reflections on the summer.

The team received a positive reaction from paddlers on the Cascadia Marine Trail. "People were thrilled that we were out on the water, spreading Leave No Trace information. We got a lot of thanks and support, as well as ideas and inquiries. People working at the Cascadia Marine Trail sites we visited were especially grateful, since they are the ones who witness the most impact outdoor enthusiasts have on the environment," Bromley said. Paddling outfitters and shops took interest in the program, asking the team to leave brochures for customers and employees. Also, this fall, an increasing number of clubs are requesting Leave No Trace presentations, partially due to contacts made over the summer. "Being



Kristen and Bromley, the SEA Kayaker Team

out on the water, visiting the actual places that WWTa is working hard to preserve and maintain, lead to lots of encounters with paddlers from kayaking clubs and the owners and employees of shops and outfitters. Kristen and I realized how interconnected the paddling community is here and how rapidly information can be spread within the community."

"Kristen and I realized how interconnected the paddling community is here and how rapidly information can be spread within the community."

As Kristen puts it, "A full summer on the water gave us the chance to engage people and to have fun while sharing the Leave No Trace message. Our work was meaningful in so many ways, especially when we encountered people who were truly interested in employing the Leave No Trace practices."

Throughout the summer, the team noticed

that paddlers are frequently characterized as already being "really good environmentalists." The team would sometimes get asked, "Why do paddlers need to learn about Leave No Trace?" and hear the comment, "We already know this stuff; we pack it in and pack it out, but thanks for being out here and telling other people." The team agrees that paddlers tend to be well educated on issues involving the environment. However, there is much more to Leave No Trace than packing out what one packs in. Methods for low-impact recreation vary greatly by region and activity and continue to evolve, as more research on recreational

There is much more to Leave No Trace than packing out what one packs in.

impacts is made available. The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics provides up-to-date resources for teaching people how to recreate without damaging wild, and not so wild, places.

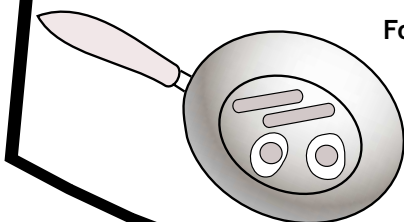
Making a difference in a single person's actions is an accomplishment. One Sunday, after Bromley talked with Girl Scouts at Blake Island State Park, the campers woke the next morning and did a "micro-trash" cleanup of their camping area before leaving the island. "There's the future for Puget Sound."

WWTa will continue the Sound Education and Action Kayaker Program next summer. The REI Lynnwood store donated \$3,000 in support this fall. The team looks forward to seeing you on the water next year.

REDUCE YOUR PADDLE PRINT

For your messier camping meals, use tortillas or bread to mop up your pots, pans, and dishes. Eat "the mess" in pots and pans at the beginning of the meal - it's more appetizing when warm! This method will reduce the need to strain your dish-water and make cleaning up later a whole lot easier.

For more information on Leave No Trace, visit www.lnt.org



☼ Save the Date ☼

Friday March 31st, 2006

WWTa Annual Auction
 Register online before 2/28, \$50
 After 3/1 \$60

Save a bunch - organize a table of
 eight with seven friends now!



CHARTING
 the
 COURSE

Volunteer, Donate or Get Items for 2006 Auction

The chart for the next WWTa Annual Auction is displaying areas of great food, masses of intriguing auction items, and a horizon of new opportunities for evening fun. The crew will be back on board at the Mount Baker Community Clubhouse in Seattle Friday evening March 31, 2006.

Now is your chance to help "Chart the Course" by donating great gear, reserving a table for eight, or joining the Auction Committee to help. You can volunteer to work before or during the event. There's lot's to do from writing catalog copy to making the final small touches on silent auction displays. To volunteer, contact Auction Chair Dennis Blum by emailing auction@wwta.org.

The event raises funds that support water trail expansion across the state, protect and preserve public access to Washington waters

and shores, and provide on-the-water Leave No Trace education again next summer.

Don't miss the chance to bid successfully on the complete (!) set of Sea Kayaker magazines, weekend cabin getaways, a Dagger kayak, artwork, wine, and much, much more. Make your reservation now at www.wwta.auction at the early bird rate of \$50 per person.

More WWTa Member Discounts

WWTa members can stay at the 1887 Queen Anne style Swantown Inn in Olympia and enjoy a 10% discount. Innkeepers Nathan and Casey are WWTa members. Visit the Seattle KAVU store in Ballard where non-sale clothing is 35% cheaper with your WWTa membership card.

Hooked on WWTa? You Need the Patch!

Public access is in style! Show your support for WWTa by sewing our new patch on your gear bag, clothing, or backpack. Order your patch for \$4.00 on page 7 or visit the WWTa web store at www.wwta.org/shop



Detail of Marsters' self-portrait

New Publications for New Water Trail

Two publications are now available for people who want to learn more about the Northwest Discovery Water Trail. With assistance from National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program, WWTa has designed and printed a full-color brochure about the new water trail. The brochure features the artwork and photography of Andrew Marsters, who rowed his wherry 436 miles for 28 days on the Northwest Discovery and Lower Columbia River Water Trails.

For those interested in making a similar voyage, or just wanting to plan a small

excursion, the *Northwest Discovery Water Trail Traveler's Guide & Journal* is a good planning resource. The *Traveler's Guide & Journal* highlights natural and cultural resources, offers safety information, and provides room for notes. The *Journal* is a cooperative project of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and nine other water trail partners.

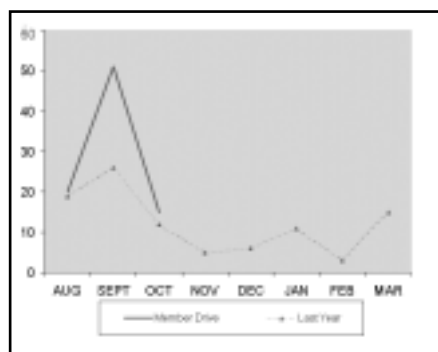
These products will be available next year at visitor centers and chambers of commerce on the trail. For a copy of the brochure or *Journal*, contact sarah@wwta.org.

2005 - 2006 New Member Drive

New memberships skyrocketed during the first month of the six-month New Member Drive. But by the end of October there was no clear leader in the competition for the Kokatat Tropos paddling suit that will go to the WWTa member recruiting the most new members. The goal is 150 new WWTa members by March 30, 2006

Now may be the perfect time to sign your friends up or buy gift memberships for Aunt Ann, Cousin Carl, or Nephew Ned for the holidays.

The Board of Directors ratcheted up their commitment to build a stronger organization during their recent annual retreat. The New Member Drive rules prohibit board members from any prizes so they created their own deadline and internal contest. The board member bringing in the most new WWTa members by December 31, and his or her spouse, will be treated to a dinner at the Top of the Space Needle and a case of Washington apples. These were generously donated by Board President Bruce Farrar and the Membership Committee Chair Michael Silence.



New members per month

The drive began in August and ends March 30, the day before the 2006 auction where the names of those bringing in the most new members will be announced.

A list of prizes for the top three member recruiters is listed on the front page of this newsletter. Rules are posted on the Internet at www.wwta.org/membership.

Track progress in the next *Easy Current* News print newsletter, on the website, and in semi-monthly email newsletters. Call the office for a supply of member brochures for your friends today. Good luck.

Board in Expansion Mode

Washington Water Trails Association's Board of Directors is seeking committed WWTa members to expand its program



Board pitches in and picks up on Hood Canal

development and oversight capacity. At its annual retreat in October the directors set goals to produce a financial plan for the organization, increase marketing efforts, and hold three Rendezvous events in 2006.

Directors serve 2-year terms, meet 10 times a year, the fourth Monday of the month, and attend a weekend retreat. They also work with a committee of their choosing: Trails, Membership, Finance, and Fundraising.

Service on the Board can be a significant commitment of time and rewards are many. Directors benefit from new friendships and the satisfaction of working on sites and issues that directly affect boaters on Washington's waters.

Interested in helping make the future better? Attend the next board meeting or contact Board President Bruce Farrar by email: brucefarrar@earthlink.net. Consider being a committee member only if you can't commit time to be a board member.

Symposium News

The 2005 West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium was a week earlier than normal in September and WWTa was well prepared. The WWTa Board pitched in to help at the second annual member potluck Friday evening, held at an officers' house at Fort Worden State Park. The dinner brought together members from as far away as the Florida and Colorado and as near as Port Townsend itself.

Presenters talked about Washington's water trails each day. Robert Miller, author of *Kayaking the Inside Passage*, and Ken Campbell of Azimuth Expeditions discussed the Cascadia Marine Trail in their presentations. Kristen Kosidowski presented "48 Days on the Cascadia Marine Trail," promoted Leave No Trace, shared some secrets, and summarized the 2005 SEA Kayaker Program. Reed Waite talked about Day Trips and Overnights in Washington State. The most anticipated show was by the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership's Chris Hathaway: "From Nude Beaches to Floating Restaurants, The Lower Columbia River Water Trail."

With all the talk about water trails, WWTa gained 28 new members over the weekend. Some of this may be due to WWTa's advertising strategy, giving a few WWTa decals to the pink PFD-clad Humboldt Honeys to grace their entry in the Cardboard Kayak Race.



WWTa sponsors a cardboard kayak

THANK YOU

Supporters

Volunteers

Stewardship Reports

Gayle Austin
Steve & Ginny Burger
Pete Jancola
Pete Weiner
Werner Paddles

Ft. Ebey
Odlin Park
Fay Bainbridge
Pt. Robinson
Deception Pass

Mailing Party 8/4

Elrik Buzan
Laura Deschner
Tom Deschner
Bruce Farrar
Ron Johanson
Jackie MacRae
Janice Raymond

West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium

Pat Daly
Bruce Farrar
Dennis Hartup
Gerald Hodge
Eric Kocaja
Kristen Kosidowski
Nicole Pelz
Michael Silence
Fran Troje

NDWT Designation Events

Pat Daly
Marcia Medler
Jeff Nelson
Isaac Nelson

Business/Organization Members

Aqua Sports Paddle Center
Azimuth Expeditions
Easy Rider
Folding Kayak Adventures
Hole in the Wall Paddle Club
Kayak Academy
Lil' Cat Boat Co. Ltd.
North Sound Sea Kayaking Association
NW Outdoor Center
Ocean Kayak/Necky Kayaks
Odyssey Builders
Olympic Kayak Club
Olympic Raft & Kayak
Outdoor Adventure Center
People for Puget Sound
Puget Sound Paddle Club
Pygmy Boats, Inc.
Sea Kayaker, Inc.
SeaTrails
Spring Bay Inn
The Mountaineers Foundation
The Trust for Public Land
Washburne Marine
WA State Parks & Recreation
Werner Paddles
YMCA Camp Seymour

Donors

Annie's Homegrown
Adhesa Plate
Bumblebar
Island Outfitters
Kokatat
Newman's Own Organics
Norcross Wildlife Foundation
REI
Seattle Foundation
Washington Foundation for the Environment



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 \$10 x ____ = ____

Lakes-To-Locks Trail Maps

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

WWTA Decal

\$2 x ____ = ____

WWTA Patch

\$4 x ____ = ____

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
\$25 Student/Low Income	\$5000 Life Member

Donation

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

Pay by check, money order, VISA, Discover or MasterCard in US funds.

Card # _____ Exp. date ____/____

Cardholder's signature _____

Total \$ _____

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

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

Calendar

For updates and more info, visit www.wwta.org/news



November

24-25: **WWTA Office Closed**

28: **WWTA Board Meeting.** 7pm 2nd floor conference room, Seattle Flagship REI store (222 Yale Ave N)

December

14: Lower Columbia River Water Trail Meeting: 9:30am - 12:30pm. Contact Chris at 503.226.1565 ext. 228

23-26: **WWTA Office Closed**

30: **WWTA Office Closed**

January

2: **WWTA Office Closed**

10: Lower Columbia River Water Trail Meeting: 9:30am - 12:30pm. Contact Chris at 503.226.1565 ext. 228

15: **Easy Current News deadline:** Submit articles and photos to newsletter@wwta.org

18: WWTA Volunteer Appreciation Party 6-8pm at WWTA (4649 Sunnyside Ave N #305)

23: **WWTA Auction Meeting.** Help plan the 2006 auction! 6pm at World Wrapps on the 2nd floor of the Seattle Flagship REI store (222 Yale Ave N)

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

February

4: **Newsletter Mailing Party:** 6pm at WWTA office (4649 Sunnyside Ave N #305)

14: Lower Columbia River Water Trail Meeting: 9:30am - 12:30pm. Chris at 503.226.1565 ext. 228

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

Annual Auction

March 31st, 2006

Details on Page 5



Preserving access to Washington's waters for future generations

Washington Water Trails Association

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

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
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No. 1464

Inside:

More Discounts for WWTA Members!
Page 5

Return Services Requested



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Non-Bleached Paper

