



Easy Current News

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

Gearing up for SEA Kayaker Summer



WWTA's Bromley Henningsen and Kristin Kosidowski in hats and jackets donated by REI and Kokatat

The final countdown for Washington Water Trails Association's new Sound Education and Action [SEA] Kayaker Program has begun! Starting on June 10th, a team of Leave No Trace educators will be paddling the Cascadia Marine Trail in Puget Sound raising awareness of low impact

recreation and wildlife viewing practices for paddlers. The program runs Friday through Monday for 12 weekends with a goal of reaching 900-plus paddlers on the water, at campsites, and at paddling club gatherings.

Joining Bromley Henningsen in the SEA Kayaker program is Kristen Kosidowski. Kristen recently moved from Wisconsin to Seattle to be close to the mountains and salt water. The two Leave No Trace Trainers will be accompanied by other volunteers, educating people at trailheads, Cascadia Marine Trail campsites, and rest stops throughout Puget Sound.

If you have experience with Leave No Trace skills and ethics, either through an educational course or a lifetime of practicing low-impact techniques, consider helping the SEA Kayaker team this summer. The team will paddle in the San Juan Islands and the North Sound area in June. A schedule for the summer will be posted on WWTA's website.

Support for this new program continues to grow with generous donations that include a \$6,000 grant and caps from REI, a \$1,000 grant from the Washington Foundation for the Environment, two kayaks from Island Outfitters in Anacortes,

Gore-Tex paddling jackets from Kokatat, tarp shelter from Cascade Designs, and food donations from BumbleBar, Annie's Homegrown Macaroni, Newman's Own Organics, and Lundberg Family Farms.

Bromley Henningsen, AmeriCorps volunteer serving as WWTA's Sound Action Educator this year, has been presenting Leave No Trace skills and ethics in a variety of locations. She talked with the Olympic Peninsula Paddlers club in April and at the Port Angeles Sea Kayak Symposium. More Leave No Trace workshops are scheduled for May, at the Back of Beyond store on Bainbridge Island, and at the Puget Sound Sea Kayak Symposium at Tacoma's Point Defiance Park.

For the third year WWTA offered a weekend Leave No Trace Trainer Course. Leave No Trace Master Educator Jan Prentice conducted the course Mother's Day weekend at Anderson Island in south Puget Sound.

If you have a group wanting to learn more about protecting shorelines and wildlife through low impact recreational practices, contact Bromley. Keep your eyes peeled for the SEA Kayaker team this summer in their orange hats and mango jackets on the Cascadia Marine Trail.

Progress & Pleasure: Work Parties in 2005

Anyone who thinks a "work party" is an oxymoron hasn't been a volunteer with WWTA. This season, our hard-working, fun-loving volunteers have managed to change the face of a number of water trail

sites with a smile.

Washington Water Trails Association kicked off the New Year with a major trail facelift at Kopachuck State Park on February 15th, partnering with the Hood Canal Watershed Project's AmeriCorps Team. Eleven volunteers, with WWTA and Kopachuck State Park staff, rerouted an eroded trail from the Cascadia Marine Trail campsite to the restroom and transplanted ferns to restore the closed trail.

A soggy mid-March work party at Point Robinson proved equally productive, as nine volunteers contributed to the restoration of this historic Vashon Island Park.

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Volunteers plant trees at Point Robinson

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FROM WWTA

From Executive Director Reed Waite

The renewal of spring happens on many levels. I welcome back two former board members, Ken Campbell and Diane Leavy. At its March meeting the Board elected Bruce Farrar as President and reelected officers Margie Eliason, Jim Emery, and Miles Ohlrich. Miles has pulled double duty for the past two years, serving as head of the Auction Committee and as Treasurer. Thank you.

To Ben, Bruce, and everyone who is working on and talking about public access and the benefits of water trails, my thanks and wishes for a great summer on the water.



From Ben Bauermeister

My love of the outdoors has manifested itself in different ways throughout my life. During the time of my life when I had more calories to burn than brain cells, I was a runner. Springtime would find me on the track, looping endlessly, concentrating more on the events of my life than on getting my half mile time down below 140 seconds. I still go to this place in my mind in the spring, but now the track is replaced with the shores of Washington State and the rhythm of pounding feet has been peacefully replaced with the dig of my paddle.

My thoughts return to the track for another reason this spring; it has to do with the members and board that I have worked with the past four years. A well-coordinated team can produce more than an individual and a relay can clock a better time than a single runner. It has been a wonderful dash, helping with more trails, publications, and members. But it's time for me to pass the baton. With great pride and full confidence, I extend the baton to Bruce and yell "Stick."



From Board President Bruce Farrar

Every Sunday evening my son and I watch Iron Chef America - A LA CUISINE!!! We love the drama. Every week a secret ingredient is revealed which becomes the basis for the dishes the gourmet chefs prepare. It's the secret ingredient that makes the show.

WWTA has a secret ingredient too. But it is no secret to those who know the organization. Our secret ingredient is our people. The staff and volunteers of WWTA make everything happen. Our staff work long hours under sometimes less than perfect conditions to do the work of WWTA. The bennies are free pizza and a chance to paddle once in a while.

Our volunteer Board of Directors take time from their busy and productive days to "direct" the work of the organization. Each director has talents and abilities they freely give and for what? The giving is for the chance to be of service to you and me as we pursue our favorite pastime. Other volunteers are another part of the mix. WWTA relies on site stewards along the water trail to report conditions and needs - to be your eyes and ears on the waterways. Often staff and board members talk their friends and relatives into assisting the efforts of WWTA. We greatly appreciate their service.

On a personal note I want to thank one of the volunteers who has been an inspiration to me. Our past board president, Ben Bauermeister, is still involved even though his term of service has expired. His leadership built upon a solid foundation and has gotten us where we are today. Thanks Ben! Thank you everyone.



Easy Current News is published four times a 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.

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Programs Coordinator	Indi McCahey
Water Trails Coordinator	Sarah Krueger
Sound Action Educator	Bromley Henningsen
SEA Kayaker Educator	Kristen Kosidowski

Bookkeeping services	Julie Russillo
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Legal Advisors	Heller Ehrman
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Vice President	Margie Eliason
Treasurer	Miles Ohlrich
Secretary	Jim Emery
	Dennis Blum
	Ken Campbell
	Diane Leavy
	Judy Moyer
	Fran Troje

Honorary Directors	Tom Deschner
	Tom Steinburn

Easy Current News Editor	Indi McCahey
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Spring 2005



TRAIL UPDATES

Cross State Trail Forges Ahead During Spring

The realization of a 474-mile water trail across Washington gets closer month by month and meeting by meeting. Highlights of the past few months include: a presentation at the Association of Partners for Public Land (APPL) annual conference in Portland, a "Floatilla" on the Snake River, and tour of potential stewardship project sites on the Clearwater River.

In March, under a title of Marketing Watershed Ecotourism, Reed Waite and Sarah Krueger of WWTa, Patti Williams of the Army Corps of Engineers, and Jane Jacobson of The Confluence Project gave APPL conference attendees insight into past and present relationships between water and people in the Northwest.

Testing the waters of the Northwest Discovery Water Trail on April 2, Tri-Cities area paddlers descended the largest vertical drop lock in the nation at Ice Harbor. The Army Corps of Engineers and US Coast Guard Auxiliary assisted Jeff Nelson planning the 13-mile "Floatilla" on the Snake

River. Boaters passed wildlife refuges, taking out at Sacajawea State Park at the Columbia River confluence.

The next week the Northwest Discovery Water Trail Steering Committee met in Orofino, Idaho. Tours of the Clearwater River included stops at Canoe Camp, where natives helped Lewis and Clark fashion boats 200 years ago, and the Pink House launch area.

WWTA was successful twice this spring applying for grants. With funds from the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership, WWTA will install signs for the Lower Columbia River Water Trail. A 2005 Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Challenge Cost Share project will fund the design and hosting of a Northwest Discovery Water Trail website. The National Park Service had applications for \$11.2 million of projects and only \$4.87 million of funds available. WWTA has one of 101 projects chosen.



Photo by Jeff Nelson

Floatilla boats descend down the Ice Harbor Dam lock

....Progress & Pleasure continued

Several volunteers helped the Point Robinson Park Stewards establish a native plant garden near the Lighthouse Keeper's Quarters while others worked diligently to remove invasive blackberries from an adjacent meadow and strip English ivy from the trees surrounding the Cascadia Marine Trail campsite.

WWTA staff completed additional work at two mid-week Cascadia Marine Trail work parties in March, improving landscaping at Oak Harbor, cleaning up Ala Spit on Whidbey Island, and removing an entire dump truck full of invasive Scotch broom at Fort Warden State Park.

April work parties enjoyed warm weather and fairly clear skies. Seven volunteers gathered for the Blake Island State Park work party, but due to forecasted small craft advisory winds plans to paddle and camp on the island were canceled. The good-natured volunteers enjoyed a ride in the State Park's drop-front utility boat to the Cascadia Marine Trail campsite beach, where they planted 300 dune grasses, installed a bulletin board, and swept the

beach area of trash, plastic, and styrofoam flotsam.

A handful of volunteers arrived on the Southeastern Washington coast to help Willapa Bay Water Trail Steward and organic oyster farmer Larry Warnberg, clear the trail from Pinnacle Rock campsite on Long Island to the ancient cedar forest. After a pleasant day of paddling and work, volunteers stayed to camp and enjoy Larry's delicious oysters.

The following week, six volunteers from the Gray Wolf Ranch Trek Program helped improve Kinney Point. They removed brushy debris that was damming up a creek, cleared weeds from the trail to the campsites, and leveled two of the newer campsites. The group also managed to enjoy the spoils of the low tide, investigating

clams and other creatures found on the cobbled shore.

WWTA plans to wrap up the pre-season with work parties at the next two Cascadia Marine Trail sites, Skagit Island and Burrows Island. Although work parties end when the summer begins, the efforts of WWTA volunteers make a lasting impression on the water trails and state shores.



AmeriCorps volunteers restore an old trail with ferns at Kopachuck

Going, going, gone.... A Successful Earth-Day Auction for WWTa

Early evening sun filtered through the trees and warmed the hardwood floors of the Mt. Baker Community Club as guests arrived for the Night of Discovery, Washington Water Trails Association's 9th annual auction. Trays of Lucky Palate and Balabuste Catering hors d'oeuvres and bottles of champagne circulated as the attendees browsed silent auction items that ranged from magazine subscriptions and theatre tickets to paddling gear and weekend getaways.

As night fell, the silent auction closed, with last-minute bidders scrambling to secure their favorite items. Balabuste Catering began serving mouth-watering platters of pesto-stuffed cod, lamb, and couscous tangine. As the meal commenced, tablemates began pooling their resources to bid on the tempting array of treats in the dessert auction.

The gourmet desserts had names alluding to well-known and not-so-well-known places along the Columbia and Snake, such as the Sauvie Island Torte, Dam & Lock Chocolate Shock, and Umatilla Bliss. Some of the more offbeat offerings included a duck-shaped pound cake swimming in blue gelatin and a diorama of a kayaker paddling to a peanut butter pie inhabited by plastic bunnies.

Auctioneer Grant Bower took the stage to launch the live auction, introducing dozens of items with the help of Liz Wilhelm and Barb Hintzen. Bid numbers waved in the air for cruises, vacation packages, paddles, and maps. One of the hottest items of the night was the burlesque tassel twirling class, inciting frenzy amid the bidders. Other popular items included a handcrafted baidarka boat, a seven-day cruise on the Columbia River, and tour of Ile de Jetty with WWTa's board president, Bruce Farrar.

A 10-minute video, produced by public television's Oregon Field Guide, on the Lower Columbia River Water Trail wrapped up the evening. After a finale of three additional auction items, the bid numbers were put to rest and guests began



Night of Discovery Auction bidders raise their cards high to signal the start of the live auction

collecting their new treasures.

Dedicated volunteers remained, taking care returning the Mt. Baker Community Club to its proper order. Folding tables and chairs and packing up the paperwork, WWTa Program Coordinator Indi McCassey reflected, "I think the auction was a success. We raised money and brought together many of our members, past-board presidents and staff, as well as long-time volunteers."

In the wake of the event, WWTa applauds that the auction raised \$26,416. Quick to recover from the demands of organizing such an event, staff and board members are already thinking about next year's auction, challenging themselves to continue to improve the event and raise more funds for the growing organization.



Decisions...Decisions

AUCTION



Guests peruse the decadent dessert options before casting their final bids

Thank you to the following people without whom the auction would not be possible:

Sharon Alper
Ben Bauermeister
Eric Bell
Dennis Blum
Margie Eliason
Bruce Farrar
Angie Green
Xandra Green
Barb Hintzen
Nicole Hoagland
Dria Littlehawk
Jackie MacRae
Judy Moyer
Miles Ohlrich
Emily Paddison
Robin Robertson
Mike Savory
Morgan Scherer
Mike Weller
Liz Wilhelm
Annette Wood
Jeff Wright

and the many donors you'll read about in the Summer *Easy Current News*!

Row Your Boat

You couldn't miss the bright blue rowboat at the Mount Baker Community Clubhouse. Placed between the bar and the dining area, the gleaming hull and Sitka spruce and cedar trim was an eye catcher as well as a makeshift hors d'oeuvre platter. The youngest attendee, a two-year old, immediately focused in on the best item on the floor and spent the evening climbing in and out of the boat.

When Max Gordon, one of the catering waitstaff, caught sight of the rowboat, he exclaimed, "Hey, I built that boat!" WWTa's Executive Director Reed Waite had handpicked the rowboat during the winter from a selection of student projects created in the Seattle Central Community College's Boat Building Program. Max's father, Henry Gordon of Balabuste Catering, the caterer for the past three WWTa auctions, quickly approached Reed and asked, "How do I get a bid number?"

When item number 11 was up for bid, Max was ushered to the boat where he received a warm round of applause. Henry Gordon stood at the back of the hall, bid number 343 relentlessly held high above his head, as others bid on the boat. He didn't lower it once, securing the blue rowboat despite the competing bids. On auction night, the Mt. Baker clubhouse burst with applause for the head caterer, not for the sensation of the gourmet dinner, but because he was the proud owner of the boat his son had built.



Finnean Stitham quality checking the rowboat



Bartender Eric Bell ready to serve

New Faces at WWTa



Kristen Kosidowski

WWTa welcomes Kristen Kosidowski as this summer's Sound Education and Action (SEA) Kayaker Educator. Kayaking has been a natural extension of Kristen's lifelong love of paddling, and her past work with youth and community programs has consistently incorporated Leave No Trace principles. Kristen has worked in an exciting variety of positions, from trip leader to cook to violin teacher, though her passions consistently draw her to the outdoor world.

Kristen splits her time between outdoor education and community development, international, social, and environmental justice work, and playtime in her new Northwest home of Seattle.



Diane Leavy


Diane Leavy, a former WWTa board member (2001-2002) rejoined the Board of Directors in March. She is an enthusiastic whitewater boater and sea kayaker, having toured in many areas of Puget Sound and the lower BC coast, as well as a few in SE Alaska. Her many years in the outdoor industry, formerly at REI in Seattle and currently at Cascade Designs, have given her a unique perspective on the paddling community and many valuable contacts. She looks forward to working with the board again.



Ken Campbell

Ken Campbell returns to the WWTa Board with a vision of expanding the Cascadia Marine Trail to Neah Bay on the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Ken is a sea kayak guide, instructor, and author. His books include a series on paddling Puget Sound and *Around the Rock*, the story of his 2000 circumnavigation of Newfoundland. He lives in Tacoma where he's been involved in the first Puget Sound Sea Kayak Symposium this year. In addition to being the co-owner of Azimuth Expeditions, he runs Little Bay Press, and coaches women's high school softball at Bellarmine Prep.

Reduce Your




Paddle Print

Did you know that invasive species have contributed to the decline of 42 percent of the country's threatened and endangered species?*

To avoid spreading invasive species, WWTa suggests washing off your boat, car carrier and gear after you paddle.

Check out www.lnt.org for more information about how to LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND while paddling or contact Bromley at 206.543.9161 or bromley@wwta.org



*Information from the Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team. Visit their website www.psat.wa.gov

Zebra Mussel

WWTa: All Over the Map

From Clarkston at the confluence of the Clearwater and Snake Rivers to Port Angeles for the annual April Sea Kayak Symposium, WWTa staff and volunteers are active citizens in the boating community.

A three year boating safety effort was capped by passage of boater education legislation in April. The new law requires those operating boats with a 15 horsepower or greater motor to obtain boater education. WWTa staff, board, and volunteers helped craft the bill.

Upcoming WWTa presentations on water trails and Leave No Trace include visits to the Benton County Park Board, Hole in the Wall Paddle Club, Puget Sound Sea Kayak Symposium, Columbia River Paddle Festival, and Oregon Ocean Paddling Society (OOPS).

AmeriCorps volunteers Sarah Krueger and Bromley Henningsen with the Garfield Ecology Club cleaned two Lakes-To-Locks sites on Lake Washington as part of their commitment "to get things done."

THANK YOU

Volunteers

Stewardship Reports

Bill Corson
Jan Hillyard
Gerry Hodge
Millard Martin
Paul Murphy
Dave Mottershead
Helaine Mottershead
Jude Rosenberg
Pete Weiner
Kopachuck Work Party
Hood Canal Watershed Project Ameri-Corps Team

Point Robinson Work Party 3/19

Ron Britton
Larry Jensen
Jerry Meenk
Dave Mottershead
Helaine Mottershead
Mark O'Brien
Sharon O'Grady
Tim Garton
Pete Weiner

Blake Island Work Party 4/2

Eric Bell
Mike Donohue
Dave Mottershead
Helaine Mottershead
Toffer Palm
Dick Thurston
Tina Waite

Willapa Bay Work Party 4/9-10

Robert Gardner
Anna Githens
John Githens
Robert Taylor
Larry Warnberg

Kinney Point Work Party 4/13

Jimbo Buickerood
Gray Wolf Ranch Volunteers

Supporters

Business/Organization Members

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Azimuth Expeditions
Easy Rider
Folding Kayak Adventures
Kayak Academy
Lil' Cat Boat Co. Ltd.
NW Outdoor Center
Ocean Kayak/Necky Kayaks
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Washburne Marine
Werner Paddles

Donors/Supporters

Adhesa Plate
Island Outfitters
Kokatat
REI
Seattle Foundation
Washington Foundation for the Environment



Photo by Eric Bell

Toffer Palm plants American dune grass on Blake Island

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 _____

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

May

14-15: **Skagit Island Work Party:** Next Cascadia Marine Trail is almost ready. *Phone 206.545.9161 or email sarah@wwta.org*

14: WAKE Swap Meet and Demo Day: Bloedel Donovan Park in Bellingham. *More info at www.wakekayak.org or 360.647.2531*

14-15: Outdoor Adventure Gear Swap: Redmond. *More info at www.outdoor-adventures.org*

21-22: Puget Sound Sea Kayak Symposium: Point Defiance Park in Tacoma. 253.594.7847 or www.metroparkstacoma.org. To volunteer contact indi@wwta.org or 206.545.9161

21: North Sound Sea Kayaking Association Demo Day: Thornton Sullivan Park at Silver Lake. *More info at <http://nsseakayaker.homestead.com>*

21: Spartina Survey: Niawiakum River on Willapa Bay with DNR. *Contact Ken Guza at 360.754.7371 or email dianaken@olywa.net*

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

30: **WWTA Office Closed**

June

4-5: **Burrows Island Work Party:** It's National Trails Week, time to finish work on this new Cascadia Marine Trail campsite. *Phone 206.545.9161 or email sarah@wwta.org*

8-9: Northwest Discovery Water Trail Meeting: Wallula, for more information contact sarah@wwta.org or 206.545.9161

11: Columbia River Paddle Festival: Fun for the whole family at North Howard Amon Park, Richland. 9am - 3pm *Contact Pat Daly at 509.947.5901 or cka@owt.com*

11: Day in the Park: Beach clean up and wetlands restoration at Seattle's Golden Gardens Park with Earth Share of Washington. 9:30am continental breakfast. *More info at <http://www.dayinthepark.org>*

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)

July

4: **WWTA Office Closed**

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

16-17: Pend Oreille County Poker Paddle: From Usk to lone, 32 miles, camping accommodations available. To register 509.447.4812 or email edugger@popud.com

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

August

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

Washington Water Trails Association

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Inside:

Auction Night!



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