Easy Current News

Spring 2006

The Washington Water Trails Association Quarterly Newsletter

Master Educator Space still available! Course Page 3

Auction a Success! Page 4 212

WWTA Rendezvous!



The tradition of WWTA Rendezvous returns! Join WWTA for a paddle on the Cascadia Marine Trail with WWTA's Board of Directors.

Summer Rendevous Schedule

June 17th - Fort Ward July 15th - Camano Island August 26th - Nisqually Delta

The cost is \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members. Register online or return the form on page 7 to WWTA.

Visit www.wwta.org/events

Changes on the Cascadia Marine Trail

Storms rocked Puget Sound and the Cascadia Marine Trail over the fall and winter season. Many of the storms were localized, damaging one bay while the next was unaffected. The most serious damage reported to date occurred at Oak Bay County Park on the Quimper Peninsula, where wind and waves breached the lagoon and wiped out the campsite. The Cascadia Marine Trail site is closed and will no longer be a stop along the water trail.

Kopachuck State Park also sustained damage. Due to erosion of the steep shoreline, the stairway from the beach to the Cascadia Marine Trail site is unsound. Washington State Parks is exploring ways to replace the stairs.

"In every out-thrust headland, in every curving beach, in every grain of sand there is a story of the earth." - Rachel Carson

A February storm brought winds up to 60-knots to Blake Island State Park. Last year, WWTA volunteers planted 300 dune grasses at Blake Island. Many of those grasses were buried under three inches of sand deposited by the storm. On March 18th, six employees of the Seattle REI store joined twelve WWTA members for a work party on Blake Island. Volunteers



Member Karyl Winn plants dune grass at Blake Island's Cascadia Marine Trail site.

planted 800 native dune grass plants, helped State Parks survey the shore for creosote-treated driftwood, removed trash, and redefined paths to the campsite.

Those of us that travel in small boats know that the shoreline is earth's most dynamic environment. Whether it is the daily flotsam and jetsam, the sloughing of bluffs, the slow extension of a spit, or the rearrangement of riprap, the coast is always changing. While we cannot stop the Puget Sound from reclaiming its shore, we can do our best to take care of the sites we do have and continue to establish more public access along Washington's waterways.

Public Access to Double in Puget Sound

This March The Russell Family Foundation (TRFF) announced a donation of \$3 million to the Alliance for Puget Sound to kick off an \$80 million campaign to double the amount of publicly accessible shore on Puget Sound. TRFF is dedicated to environmental sustainability that focuses on Puget Sound and environmental education.

Puget Sound, the second largest estuary in the continental United States, and the Georgia Strait basin are home to over 7 million people. The Sound and the Hood Canal are now the object of increased funding and work under Governor Christine Gregoire.

The campaign includes 10 new shoreline parks. The Alliance is comprised of highly re-

garded organizations: the Nature Conservancy, People for Puget Sound, and the Trust for Public Land (TPL).

TPL announced its Puget Sound Strategy last September, unveiling a prototype GIS website to help planners and elected officials analyze public shores: http://www.tpl.org/pugetsound. TPL has a track record of successful shoreline projects including Ebey's Landing and Cascadia Marine Trail sites the Narrows (formerly known as the Doc Weathers Property) and Laughlin Cove.

This is a grand opportunity for public launch sites, camping and resting areas for those using non-motorized boats, and for the general public wanting to walk, bird-watch, beach comb, fish, or simply view Puget Sound waters.

From Executive Director Reed Waite

In this quarterly newsletter you will see exciting evidence of future plans, goals reached, and tasks completed. Behind each of these are human stories, too deep to condense into the small space of this paper communiqué. These are the human stories of ideas generated, commitments made, and the drive to achieve, demonstrated by members of the greater Washington Water Trails Association community.

Washington State has over 200,000 citizens who use non-motorized boats; WWTA has about 1,400 individual Association members. That's less than 1% of the total number of non-motorized boaters. But what these few have



accomplished! In less than two decades of work the state is crossed by water trails that will soon measure over 1,000 miles.

The crème de la crème of public-spirited citizens are people like you who support WWTA, who steward sites, volunteer for clean-ups, give time for mailings and work parties, and who serve on committees and the board of directors.

Jim Emery and Judy Moyer are two such people. This March, after 4 years, the two left the WWTA board of directors (bylaws have a 2 consecutive 2-year board member term limit). They continued their commitment in spearheading WWTA's inaugural Sea Kayak Spring Seminar that took place at the end of April. Judy handled vendor registration and Jim coordinated speakers for the day long event.

In the months to come, Washington Water Trails will be needing your help to continue our good work. If you're not receving WWTA's email newsletter, take a minute now to send your email address to emailnews@wwta.org. We'll send you breaking news, notices of upcoming work parties, events, and member paddles twice a month to keep you informed and engaged. Thank you.

From Board President Bruce Farrar

While padding recently I spotted the following sign: All Trusspassers Prosected – Stay Out! Despite the author's academic failings the meaning is clear. On another trip my friends and I were looking for a place to stretch our legs after a long day of paddling. Strollers on the beach where we wanted to stop were asked permission to do so but they said, "Move on." So we did, finding an uninhabited beach a while later.



These examples highlight the balance between property owner's rights and the needs of travelers enjoying the wa-

terways. As an organization seeking improved and increased access for operators of non-motorized watercraft, we work with landowners and managers for our members.

Besides maintaining your membership in WWTA there are other things you can do to help us fulfill our mission. Examples include the following:

- Volunteer your time and talents
- Encourage your club to be involved
- · Become aware of access issues
- Speak out on issues important to you
- Visit marine trail sites and give us some feedback

Thanks for all you have done in the past and for your continued support.

Corrections: In the Winter 2006 edition, Ted Houck was incorrectly identified in the article "A Member Remembers." In the letter from the Executive Director, Reed Waite neglected to mention the Charburger in Cascade Locks, Oregon as a notable dining experience along the Northwest Discovery Water Trail.

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.

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Easy Current News

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Spring 2006 Volume 15, Number 2



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WWTA Named "Outstanding Volunteer Group"



Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission acknowledged WWTA's statewide water trail planning efforts with an "Outstanding Volunteer Group Contribution" award at a February 16th ceremony at Governor Christine Gregoire's office in Olympia. WWTA was nominated for the award for its leadership in the establishment of the Northwest Discovery Water Trail. State Park Director Rex Derr and Commissioners Joe Taller and Joan Thomas presented a plaque to WWTA Board President Bruce Farrar and Outreach Director Sarah Krueger.

Pictured (Left to Right): Commissioner Joe Taller, Sarah Krueger, Commissioner Joan Thomas, Bruce Farrar, and Director Rex Derr

Russian Eco-Tourism Group Visits WWTA

Russian managers and industry professionals involved in ecotourism in Russia's Far East visited WWTA in February during an ecotourism conference. The group spent a month traveling coast-to-coast in the United States, visiting with tourism and conservation organizations. This program was made possible through the Special American Business Internship Training (SABIT), which strives to build associations between American and Eurasian companies and organizations through innovative training programs. SABIT was first started in 1991 and is run by the Department of Commerce in Washington D.C.

During the conference, the group learned about eco-tourism in relation to water trails and shoreline access in Washington State. Thanks to a perfectly sunny day, they gained a unique understand-

Hope & Partnership

Washington Water Trails Association and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission solidified their partnership by signing a cooperating agreement at Hope Island State Park in February. Park Director Rex Derr and WWTA's Reed Waite were joined by State Park



rangers and Hope Island Site Steward Gerry Hodge. Hodge helped install new Marine Trail signs during the visit.

The agreement acknowledges the contributions of both organizations in developing and stewarding water trails. It will also increase visibility at the Commission level with an annual report of accomplishments. Agreements like this are part of Washingon State Parks' Centennial 2013 Vision.

ing of the water trail system through an informative tour of several Lakes-to-Locks Water Trail sites. The group also learned about low-impact recreation and the principles developed by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, and enthusiastically participated in a Leave No Trace game. The group was eager to learn and make connections, as well as inform WWTA staff of eco-tourist practices and opportunities in Russia. There were several invitations to visit and a bounty of stunning photographs shown.

WWTA is pleased to have participated in the SABIT Program and welcomes similar outreach opportunities in the future. Learn more about SABIT at www.mac.doc.gov/sabit.





Paddle to Cascadia Marine Trail sites in the San Juan Islands during this four day workshop and earn the highest level of Leave No Trace certification available. A NOLS instructor leads the course. Spaces still available, register today!

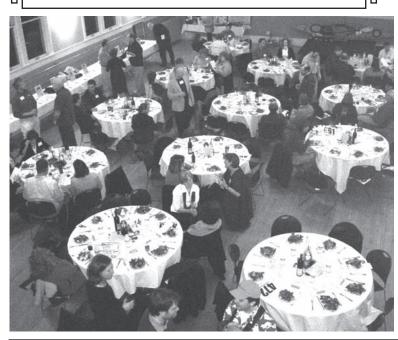
Details online: www.wwta.org/lnt/master.asp

Easy Currents News

WWTA Says "Thanks!" CH-IRTING the COURSE

2006 Annual Auction & Dinner

130 people showed their support for public access to Washington's waters on March 31st at WWTA's Annual Auction. Spirited bidders took home a range of unique items from the silent and live auctions. As always, a competetive dessert auction incited frenzied bids for delicious treats. Thank you to all of the hard-working volunteers, generous donors and auction attendees helped WWTA chart the course to success!



Thanks to our generous donors!

Agua Verde **Argosy Cruises** ArtsWest **Azimuth Expeditions** Babette Kunkle, LMP Back of Bevond Backpackers Supply **Balabuste Catering** Bauermeister Family Boston Harbor Marina Michael Byrne, ND Canoe & Kayak Magazine Carey Gersten Cascade Canoe & Kayak Center Cascade Crags Cascadia Kayak Tours The Center for Wooden Boats Chaco Sandals Civic Light Opera Center for Wooden Boats **C&N** Development Company Cocoon by Design Salt Columbia Gorge Riverside Lodge Confluence Watersports Daly's Paint & Decorating Delille Cellars Egan & Associates Epic Kayaks

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Trade Association of Paddlesports
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University of Sea Kayaking
Tina Waite

Washburn Marine Products Western Skylights Whirling Girl Wild Lily Ranch Dick Wilk WWTA Members

If we inadvertently missed a donor, please accept our thanks!

On Board!

News from WWTA's Board of Directors



Kari Anderson

WWTA welcomes Kari Anderson to the board of directors. Kari, a lead guide and instructor at Azimuth Expeditions in Tacoma and a professional caterer, brings a wealth of fresh enthusiasm to the board.

Jim Emery and Judy Moyer left the board after serving four consecutive years. Thank you, Jim and Judy, for your dedication!

Diane Leavy, by unanimous vote at the April board meeting, replaces Jim Emery as board secretary.

Clearwater River Float

A Northwest Discovery Water Trail Event

June 10th, 2006 Orofino, ID

Join a special celebration of the Clearwater River- past and present. Float 19 miles of swift Class I and II rapids on the Clearwater in a raft or double canoe. The morning begins with a special ceremony by the Nez Perce Tribe and dedication of the Northwest Discovery Water Trail.

All are welcome to the opening ceremony. The guided float trip costs \$55 per person and includes lunch. Camping is an additional \$10.

To register call Clearwater River Company by June 5th, 877-894-9199.

Northwest Discovery Water Trail Website & Workshops



Sue Abbott and Scott Eckberg of the National Park Service review facility inventories for Nez Perce National Historic Park.

Want to explore the Northwest Discovery Water Trail? WWTA announces the launch of www.ndwt.org, a new resource for planning trips on the Clearwater, Snake, and Columbia Rivers. The website, designed by former WWTA staff member Dave Brubaker, embodies the look of the Inland Northwest and highlights the natural and cultural history along the 367-mile water trail. Much of the website content is still under development, so check back often as new information is being added frequently.

Support for the new water trail continues to grow. The Northwest Discovery Water Trail Steering Committee recently hosted workshops in Richland, WA; Lewiston, ID; and The Dalles, OR. The open house workshops brought together park and port authorities, river guides, chambers of commerce, and boaters to provide input on the water trail, review the current facility inventory, and preview water trail signage. The workshops developed new partnerships and inspired participants to think creatively about how their parks, ports, and hometowns will fit into the water trail system.

New Boating Safety Bill

By Gerry Hodge, Hope Island Site Steward

Gerry represents WWTA on Washington State Park's Boating Safety Advisory Council. He provides valuable input from the perspective of non-motorized boaters, combing statistics diligently to get a clear picture of water safety issues.

For several years, the Boating Safety Council has been busy with the Washington Alliance for Mandatory Boater Education, crafting legislation that requires educational achievement for Washington's recreational motorized boat operators. The Mandatory Boating Education Bill, approved this 2006 legislative session, requires all boaters 12 and older operating any motorized boat of 15 horsepower or greater to pass a boating safety course. The deadline for completing the safety course and obtaining a Boater Education Card is determined by the operator's age. There are also special rules and exceptions for commercial license holders, new boat purchasers, race participants, and rental boats. Washington joins 36 other states that have some sort of educational requirements for operating a boat. The Boater Education Card is not like a driver's license. It is obtained once and is good for life. The card indicates that the boat operator has a basic level of boating safety knowledge.

While non-motorized paddle craft are exempt, paddlers will benefit from a safer on-the-water environment. During deliberations in the formation of the Mandatory Boater Education Bill, it was noted, however, that canoe/kayak operators have a fatality rate four times higher than the general recreational boating population. Paddlers are currently exempt from the bill because there is no national education standard specifically suited for the many types of non-motorized boats, boards, floats, etc. used on State waters. The Safety Council will consider bringing paddlers under the mandatory education umbrella if non-motorized recreational boaters do not improve their casualty statistics within six years.

Be part of the solution in reducing deaths among paddlers. Use your best judgment, improve your knowledge, skills and equipment, avoid paddling alone and encourage those others to do the same. Wear your PFD at all times, in all situations.

REDUCE YOUR PADDLE PRINT

If you can't imagine a campsite without a campfire, try constructing a low-impact mound fire. First, collect sand or gravel from below the high tide line and place on top of a tarp or ground cloth. The cloth helps insulate the ground and makes for easy cleanup. Build a mound 6-8 inches thick and 18-24 inches in diameter. Use small dead and downed wood no thicker than your wrist to construct a fire on top of the mound.

thicker than your wrist to construct a fire on top of the mound. When the fire is completely out, pack out the ashes and return sand or gravel to its source.



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WWTA volunteers Eric Zytowski and Joy Cordell survey and mark creosote logs at the Blake Island's Cascadia Marine Trail Site during the March 18th work party.

Creosote in Puget Sound

By Chrys Bertolotto, WSU Beach Watcher

Throughout Puget Sound, creosote-soaked logs lay scattered on beaches or stand as abandoned upright pilings, oozing toxic chemical into the sand and water. For decades this pesticide was the main ingredient of wood preservatives in water environments. Though the state restricted its use in 1995, toxic compounds from derelict pilings and washed up logs threaten the health of beach visitors and forage fish eggs.

Washington State University's Beach Watcher Program is looking for volunteers to join the hunt for creosote logs and Spartina seedlings. You may attend a free training session on May 13th in La Connor or June 10th at Snohomish County's Mission Beach Park from 9am – 12pm.

The WSU training session provides instruction from state and local experts. Participants learn about creosote, its impacts in Puget Sound and how to document log locations for future removal, as well as how to identify spartina so that it can be detected and eradicated. Participants are asked to commit to survey a beach in Skagit or Snohomish Counties.

To sign up or get more information, contact Chrys Bertolotto, WSU Beach Watchers of Skagit & Snohomish Counties, chrys@wsu.edu or 360.333.7977.

Members Top Two Goals

By the end of March, WWTA members completed two major fundraising and friendraising challenges. The Cross State Initiative, to fund planning efforts on the Lower Columbia and Northwest Discovery Water Trails, reached \$25,000 at the Annual Auction. One day before, March 30th, WWTA gained its 165th new member at the end of a seven and one half month drive whose goal was 150 new members!

The Cross State Initiative, launched in August 2004, was WWTA's largest campaign ever, helping expand trail development statewide. A few committed and generous WWTA members agreed to match the first \$12,500 donated, for a total of \$25,000. Margie Eliason, WWTA Board Vice President, hosted a Marysville shorefront party that kicked off the Initiative drive. Washington State Park Director Rex Derr was the featured guest at the event. Nineteen months later the goal was a reality. WWTA used the funds to help print the Northwest Discovery Water Trail Travelers Guide and Journal, to pay staff travel expenses, and augment designation event costs. New trail efforts continue across the state. You can make a contribution at www.wwta.org/go-csi to help expand the state's water trail system.

In August of 2005, the Board of Directors unveiled a membership drive. Kokatat and Sea Trails Marine Maps donated prizes for the drive. Ken Campbell, Carey Gersten, Randall Washburne, and Robert H.Miller autographed their kayaking guidebooks to complete prizes for the outstanding WWTA members who would recruit the most new members.

By March 1st, 2006, 139 new members had joined WWTA. End date for the drive was one day before WWTA's Annual Auction. On March 30th WWTA received membership applications from Seattle and South Africa to complete the drive with 165 new memberships. The top recruiter on new members during the period was Robert Taylor who won a new Kokatat Tropos paddling suit for his efforts.

New Trails in View



 ${\it WWTA members and Azimuth Expeditions explore the Strait of Juan \ de \ Fuca.}$

Planning on two major water trails has begun. The first is along the Strait of Juan de Fuca from Admiralty Inlet to the Pacific Ocean, linking north Olympic Peninsula communities from Port Townsend to Neah Bay. The second runs the Okanogan and Columbia Rivers, passes through the Hanford Reach, and ties into the Northwest Discovery Water Trail at the Tri-Cities.

Olympic Peninsula Paddler's Club and new WWTA member Bruce Monro leads the Strait effort. At a March 23rd Clallam County meeting, Ken Campbell, of Azimuth Expeditions and WWTA Board Member, discussed his four winter weekend 136-mile exploration of Strait shorefront opportunities and answered questions from the people attending the initial public meeting.

The Port of Chelan County is looking at a water trail as economic development. A Forest Service funded survey for Okanogan County garnered interest from local PUD's, businesses, and public agencies across eleven central Washington counties. Regular meetings, the first Thursday of each month, began on May 4th. Participants have formed task groups and are researching resources.

When completed, these two efforts will add over 600 miles of water trails and improve public access in Washington State.

Volunteers

Stewardship Reports

Michelle Connor
Mark Levensky
Bill Corson
Earl Doan
Doug Garland
Gerry Hodge
David Varnau

Possession Point
Possession Point
Spencer Spit
Fort Ward
James Island
Hope Island
Meadowdale

Newsletter Mailing Party 2/6

Fran Troje Judy Moyer Miles Ohlrich Michael Silence Dennis Blum

Auction Invite Mailing Party 2/8

Laura Deschner Tom Deschner Alison Pirdle Judy Moyer Dennis Blum

Jeff Clark

Blake Island Work Party 3/18

Robert Taylor

Andy Wiselogle

Eric Zytowski

Karyl Winn

Joy Cordell Kristen Duin Chris Henningsen Larry Jensen Wendy Jensen Jerry Meenk Judy Moyer Mark Murphy Edward Murphy

THANK YOUS

Annual Auction Volunteers 3/31

Kristin Blum Judy Cohn Bruce Farrar Jennifer Garton Carey Gersten Laurie Kavanagh Eric Kocaja Kristen Kosidowski Judy Moyer Miles Ohlrich Sue Putnam Ed Putnam Janice Raymond Greg Raymond Robin Robertson Mike Savorv Julie Sowa Robert Taylor Marja van Pietersom Mike Weller Ross Wildman

Ben Bauermeister

Dennis Blum

Port Angeles Sea Kayak Symposium 4/7-9

Bruce Farrar Gerry Hodge Dave Mottershead Helaine Mottershead Robert Taylor

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North Sound Sea Kayaking Association

NW Outdoor Center

Ocean Kayak/Necky Kayaks

Odyssey Builders
Olympic Kayak Club
Olympic Raft & Kayak
Outdoor Adventure Center
Paul Hirsch, Attorney at Law
People for Puget Sound
Puget Sound Paddle Club
Pygmy Boats, Inc

Sea Kayaker, Inc. SealLine SeaTrails Spring Bay Inn

The Mountaineers Foundation
The Trust for Public Land
Washburne Marine

WA State Parks & Recreation

Werner Paddles
YMCA Camp Seymour

The	WWTA	Conve	nience	Store

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

WWTA T-Shirt WWTA Rendevous Registration Unisex size: M L XL XXL 3XL \$20 x = June 17th - Fort Ward \$10 x = \$20 x = Women's Fit size: S M L XL Non-member \$15 x ____ = ___ Lakes-To-Locks Trail Maps \$10 x ____ = ___ July 15th - Camano Island West Region: \$6 (member), \$9.50 (non-member) x = \$15 x ____ = ____ Non-member August 26th - Nisqually Delta \$10 x = **WWTA Decal** \$2 x = Non-member \$15 x = **WWTA Patch** Donation

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/calendar

May

- 13: Richland Paddle Fest, Amon Park
- 13: Beach Watcher Creosote Training in La Connor, contact Chrys, 360.333.7977
- 20-21: Puget Sound Sea Kayak Symposium, Pt. Defiance Park in Tacoma.
- 13: Lake Union Cleanup, Seattle, 9am 12pm, volunteer@pugetsoundkeeper.org
- 20: Ship Canal Cleanup, 9am 12pm, Seattle, volunteer@pugetsoundkeeper.org
- 22: WWTA Board Meeting: 7 9pm at Seattle Flagship REI
- 23-24: Northwest Discovery Water Trail Meeting in Arlington, OR, www.ndwt.org
- 27: "Pulling for the Natives" Work Party on Hope Island South, ssak@hctc.com
- 29: WWTA Office Closed

June

- 1-5: Leave No Trace Master Educator Course
- 1-5: WWTA Office Closed
- 2-4: South Sound Traditional Inuit Kayaking Symposium, Twanoh State Park
- 3: Hump Island Cleanup, Columbia River, jboyd@lcrep.org
- 9-11: Wenatchee River Festival
- 10: Clearwater River Float. Northwest **Discovery Water Trail Designation**
- 10: Beach Watcher Creosote Training at Mission Beach, Chrys, 360.333.7977
- 10: Spartina survey on the Elk River. Ken Guza, 360.754.7371
- 17-18: Leave No Trace Trainer Course
- 17: WWTA Rendezvous Fort Ward
- 26: WWTA Board Meeting: 7pm Seattle REI

- 4: WWTA Office Closed
- 14: Easy Current News deadline: Submit articles to newsletter@wwta.org
- 15: WWTA Rendezvous Camano Island
- 22: TrailsFest 2006, Rattlesnake Lake, North
- 24: WWTA Board Meeting. 7pm Seattle REI
- 29: Day in the Park with Earth Share of WA

August

- 2: WWTA Newsletter Mailing Party. 6pm WWTA office
- 26: WWTA Rendezvous on Nisqually Delta
- 28: WWTA Board Meeting. 7pm Seattle Flagship REI



Preserving access to Washington's waters for future generations

Washington Water Trails Association 4649 Sunnyside Avenue North, Room 305

Seattle, WA 98103-6900

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