Easy Current News

The Washington Water Trails Association Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2007

SAVE THE DATE!

Sea Kayak & Canoe Winter Seminar

February 2-3, 2008
Community Center at Mercer View

Quality Courses & Paddler's Market

¥ You are invited... \ WWTA Open House

Celebrate a year of accomplishments, learn more about WWTA, & connect with members, staff, and Board.

Tuesday November 13th, 6-8pm

"The Chapel"

4th Floor of the Good Shepherd Building 4649 Sunnyside Ave N Seattle, WA

Please join us for:

Mediterranean Tapas
Bay Bingo
A Visit from the Mud Monster
Slideshows
Volunteer Recognition
& More!

Guests welcome!

Flease R.S.V.T.

email: party@wwta.org phone: 206.545.9161

New Landing at Center for Wooden Boats

By Greg Reed, Center for Wooden Boats



A paddler loads her boat on the new kayak racks

Seattle's newest public point-of-access to Lake Union opened in July, and now awaits usage at the Center for Wooden Boats (CWB). A day-use kayak rack and accompanying float were constructed at CWB through partnership with South Lake Union Rotary, the City of Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods, and Washington Water Trails Association.

The float is tied behind the Center for Wooden Boats' boat shop, in the shallows near the southernmost end of Lake Union, in Waterway #4, and is low enough for kayakers—and the operators of other small, human-powered craft—to easily board and get out of their boats for wandering the historic museum and nearby Lake Union Park. Above the float are six canoe and kayak racks designed to allow paddlers to pull their boats out of the water for up to two hours.

Although the CWB float is designed for those who arrive in south Lake Union via the water—versus serving as a launching point for those who bring their boats by land—the fabrication of more racks is underway, to be placed in Lake Union Park near a public-use dock more accessible to those seeking to launch. Those docks, which will similarly be designated for two-hour use, should be completed and installed before the first of the year.

Survey Says...

By Gerry Hodge, WWTA Volunteer

What do paddlers think of boater education, law enforcement, and access issues? Where do members want WWTA to focus its energy? 534 paddlers answered these questions, and many more, by completing the 2007 Northwest Paddler Survey between April 10 and June 9. The participants, both WWTA members and nonmembers, shared what they think about safety issues, the amount of time they spend on the water, and their environmental concerns.

Feedback from 190 WWTA members will help guide the organization and improve member services. 403 individuals entered a drawing to receive prizes of kayak books and videos. Winners were Deborah Scarcia of Portland, Pat Roberts of Enumclaw, and Marc Bauman of Kirkland.

You can read the 4-page summary or explore full color charts in the 77-page survey released September 6. The documents are posted online

at www.wwta.org/about_us. You can also stop in and read the survey results at the WWTA office. Didn't have a chance to complete the survey? WWTA always welcomes your feeback!

Quick Guide to the Paddler's Survey

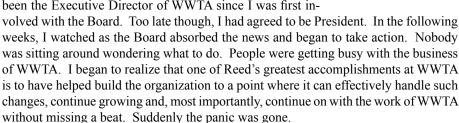
Read what WWTA members and other involved paddlers think about the following:

Participation in paddling organizationsp. 8
Favorite paddling destinationsp. 13
What paddlers wantp. 23
What keeps you from paddlingp. 26
Conflicts on the waterp. 28
The value of marine law enforcementp. 30
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Registering your non-motorized boatp. 32
Where WWTA should spend fundsp. 44
How is WWTA doing?p. 51-52
The education level of paddlersp. 56

From Board President Jim Emery

Returning recently from a year in New Zealand, I quickly got back onto the waters of Puget Sound and reacquainted myself with the Cascadia Marine Trail. There is nothing like paddling in the Northwest on a sunny July day. Upon returning home, I smiled as my two year old daughter hopped in the cockpit of my kayak and began rocking back and forth saying, "kak-ak, kak-ak!" Both experiences served to remind me of the pure joy of being out on the water in a kayak. It was with these thoughts in mind that I agreed to serve as President of the Board of WWTA.

Then I learned about Reed's impending retirement (see page 3). This brought about a moment of panic as Reed has been the Executive Director of WWTA since I was first in-



It will be sad to see Reed go, but every time I see WWTA in action I will be reminded of his legacy and the strength of WWTA. With that thought in mind, I am going to grab my kak-ak and rediscover Puget Sound in winter. Hope to see you on the water.

From Executive Director Reed Waite

It's not often I get into an argument with someone who died more than 2,000 years ago. My alumni magazine arrived with news of "an exciting change" at the college I attended - a new library rooftop garden. The article quoted Cicero (106-43~BC): "If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need." After contemplating the small garden in my backyard and a large number of books spread through my home, I begged to differ with this ancient Roman. Throw in public access to the water, Cicero, and you might have lived longer and been a happier man!



Cicero's final moments were fleeing on the Appian Way, heading from his villa to a ship in Formia, a Roman town whose name derives from the Greek hormiai or "landing place." Unfortunately Marc Antony's men caught up with his litter and killed him. If Cicero had closer shore access, and wasn't forced to travel so far for a getaway, the world would have been a different place. What will your life be like with better water access?

It's great to have Jim Emery back on the WWTA board of directors. Last year he was a far-flung volunteer living in New Zealand and helping arrange speakers for WWTA's 2007 Seminar. This year his considerable energies and enthusiasm are at work as board president. Welcome to new board members Tom Starr and Don Crook, who will help power WWTA, in its eighteenth year, into 2008, and who join many other volunteers helping to make the state a better and safer place to paddle.

Those of you who are interested in the state of people's thoughts should spend some time with the 2007 Northwest Paddler Survey. Gerry Hodge compiled data from hundreds of "involved paddlers" earlier this year. He compares results with a WWTA member survey done in 2002 and other recent surveys and shows the depth of concern on various political hot button issues from the environment to boat registration and mandatory boater education. It's posted on the WWTA website – wwta.org/about_us

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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Amy Popp Emily Slotnick

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Julie Russillo

Legal Advisors

Heller Ehrman

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Don Crook
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Julie, Sarah, Amy, Bob, and Gayle at a flat, clean, and well-signed Ft. Ebey campsite

Small Parties, Big Work

The unusually cool and rainy summer found paddlers scrambling to take advantage of those few warm days on the water. During two of the sunnier summer days, volunteers on the Cascadia Marine Trail got their hands dirty instead of their feet wet.

On August 21, two volunteers from the Whidbey Island Sea Kayakers (WISK) joined WWTA and State Park staff for a midweek work party to clean up and clear out the Fort Ebey campsite on Whidbey Island. In two short hours the group leveled the campsite, installed a bulletin board to house the brand new Cascadia Marine Trail sign, and moved a picnic table into the site.

Six volunteers and staff from the Gray Wolf Ranch joined WWTA for a September 11 work party at the Kinney Point Cascadia Marine Trail on the southern tip of Marrowstone Island. Six volunteers spent the day clearing trails of brush, removing dead limbs, clearing out the kayak rack area, and painting the inside of the restroom.

Since our Last Issue...

Washington Water Trails Association members, volunteers and staff are always busy working, improving public access to Washington's waterways, partnering, or planning. Here are some of the projects WWTA has been working on since the August newsletter.

- Recommending public access improvements for Jefferson County's Shoreline Management Program Update
- Planning meetings and October 27th work party for Waterway 18, a Seattle Lake Union launch site
- Developing Lake Union & Portage Bay self-guided history tour map
- · Participating on Mason County Trail Plan Committee
- Wrapped up SEA Kayaker program
- Rendezvous paddle on the Nisqually Delta with over 20 participants
- Bulletin board updates at 44 Cascadia Marine Trail sites
- Presentation at the States Organization for Boating Access Conference
- Participated in 3 Greater Columbia Water Trail Steering Committee meetings
- · Staff attended EarthShare speaker training
- Signs installed along Clearwater Reach of Northwest Discovery Water Trail
- Tabled at REI Distribution Center in Sumner
- Tabled at Army Corps of Engineers Seattle Headquarters
- Tabled at Combined Federal Campaign Kickoff with EarthShare of Washington
- Assisted with Duwamish /Green River Access & Interpretive Map
- · Helped organize Washington State Trails Coalition Ellensburg Gathering
- Attended meeting with State Parks on cross-state trails program
- 2008 Auction Team held two meetings
- 2008 Sea Kayak & Canoe Seminar Mercer Island venue selected
- Executive Search Committee held two meetings
- · WWTA Board of Directors had two-day retreat

Executive Search

At the August Board meeting Reed Waite, WWTA Executive Director, announced his intention to retire in June 2008. "I want to give the Board ample time to conduct a thorough search for the next executive director and for a transfer of knowledge to occur," Waite says. Jim Emery, new Board President, immediately began recruiting past and present Board members for an Executive Search Committee, which will also include some outside experts.

Since Reed began working in fall 2000, he has been busy expanding the Cascadia Marine Trail, adding 16 new campsites in Puget Sound, extending the scope of the organization to include water trail development across Washington State, and forging important partnerships to help further WWTA's mission. "Reed's friendly and effective leadership will be greatly missed," stated Jim. "We will be actively looking for a successor to continue the organization's advancement."

Former Board President Ben Bauermeister is chairing the Executive Search Committee. A schedule is already in place to conduct a national search and hire the finalist to start in May so the new executive director can participate in important spring symposia and meetings. The Committee is now updating the job description.

Waite and his wife are planning a two-month European hiking trip – "a trip of a lifetime" – immediately upon retirement before returning for the International Water Trails Conference to be held at Fort Worden next September. "My commitment to WWTA and public water access has not lessened an iota, I'm still excited coming to work each day. From day one I knew working for WWTA members would be the best job of my life and that I would retire from this great little organization."

If you can recommend a potential candidate, please email the Executive Search Committee at edsearch@wwta.org. The position announcement will be posted on the WWTA website in November, visit www.wwta.org/about_us/employment.asp.

Way Better than a Bake Sale: It's a Shore Thing! **WWTA's Annual Auction**



You can be a part of WWTA's famously fun annual auction on March 21, 2008 at the Community Center at Mercer View. Do you have a **cabin**, timeshare or vacation home to donate for a weekend getaway? How about frequent flyer miles, hotel rewards, or season tickets to share? Maybe you have an "in" for a unique behind-the-scenes tour or perhaps you want to join the planning team and help throw the party! WWTA needs **you** to help host an evening of **festive** bidding and fundraising.

To donate to the auction, volunteer, or join the planning team, contact WWTA at 206.545.9161 or email auction@wwta.org.

www.wwta.org/auction

New Staff at W

Emily Slotnick joined WWTA's staff in early October as the Community Involvement Coordinator. She will serve as an Americorps volunteer for 10 ½ months, helping coordinate volunteers and improving the site stewardship program, among other duties.

Emily is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where she studied philosophy and captained the university's Women's Ice Hockey team. Last year, she worked at Mt. Snow in Vermont, interned for a non-profit waterfront development group in Boston, and completed a summer program in Urban Planning at Harvard. Her summer jobs have included working as a launch boat captain in Marion, Massachusetts and on Martha's Vineyard. Emily also ran her own boat bottom cleaning business catering to sailboat racers.



her sea-going experiences while exploring Washington's numerous water trails and engaging in the planning and management While at WWTA, Emily hopes to broaden of Washington's waterways.

THE MUD MONSTER WANTS YOU



TO SAVE PUGET SOUND

By Robin Stanton, Nature Conservancy

Did you know that there are more than 3.5 million people living around Puget Sound? The Mud Monster says it's time for us to MudUp and do our part to save the Sound.

There are all kinds of ways to MudUp. You can MudUp figuratively, with activities such as writing letters, making phone calls, and letting your public officials know that the health



of Puget Sound is important to you. Or you can MudUp literally, by pulling *Spartina*, helping spread oyster shells, doing a beach cleanup, or inventing your own activity.

Join with the Mud Monster at www.MudUp. org, where you can find a host of family-friendly ways to get muddy and help save Puget Sound.

REDUCE YOUR PADDLE PRINT

What's the human scoop on poop? You can extend your boating range, traveling without hurry, by carrying your own portable toilet. Many guides are now packing a privacy screen to offer cover anywhere for the comfort of their clients. If you're a minimalist, use commercial products like the WagBag or Restop bags as your personal sanitation device. This is true pack it in and pack it out. Your waste is securely held in sturdy bags that can be safely deposited in any garbage can at the end of your excursion. For belt and suspenders, keep bags in transit in a pooptube.

Find instructions for making your own tube at www.wwta.org/lnt



SEA Kayaker Success

The 2007 Sound Education and Action (SEA) Kayaker Program completed another season of successful outreach on the Cascadia Marine Trail. Angela Winters and Robert Taylor, Leave No Trace Trainers, traveled to popular campsites throughout Puget Sound every weekend in July and August, reaching 383 people with information about low-impact recreation skills.

This summer's SEA Kayaker Program was funded almost entirely by direct donations at the annual auction. BumbleBar provided delicious give-aways. A community conservation grant from the REI Distribution Center will provide \$5,000 for next year's SEA Kayaker Program. The Norcross Wildlife Foundation is funding the purchase of two sea kayaks for the program.

(Left) Angela shows the way to paddlers from British Columbia on the Cascadia Marine Trail

Invest in WWTA's Future

In a little over two years, the Washington Water Trails Association past three years.

Recently members and donors have stepped up to assure the future of economic downturn.

More senior members of the Association have taken advantage of tax provisions under the Pension Protection Act of 2006 to make donations. Taxpayers over 70.5 years old can give up to \$100,000 of pany has a charitable gift matching program which can sometimes their IRA required minimum distribution (RMD) tax-free if the gift goes directly from their account to the charity. The Act will expire at be securing successful outcomes for WWTA and helping make the the end of 2007. Tom Steinburn, one of WWTA's founders, directed future better for people using Washington's valuable shores. his contribution under this Act as the first gift to the reserve fund.

In September, WWTA received a \$10,000 donation from Professor will celebrate its twentieth year as an organization. With growth Gene Menke to start an endowment fund for the organization. The of trails throughout the state and growth as a nonprofit membership principal will be invested and its income will be used for operating or corporation, WWTA staff and volunteers are called on to work on special expenses under board direction. Any size gift to the reserve more projects each year. The increasing workload takes resources fund, endowment, or to fund WWTA programs now is welcome. and WWTA has been fortunate to increase its operating budget the For sizable gifts, it is best to consult with a financial advisor about exact tax benefits and limitations.

Annual payroll deduction plans, offered by many employers and by making pledges, donating funds and stocks, and adding WWTA conducted in autumn, are another excellent way to fund WWTA's to their wills. At the November 13 WWTA Open House, Treasurer work. A set amount is deducted before taxes from your check; it's Carmelita Logerwell will announce plans for a reserve fund (yet to one of the easiest ways to give. Your employer may run a giving be named) to smooth out cash flow and provide a cushion in case campaign of its own, or work with the United Way or Earth Share of Washington. In any case you can designate, via a pledge form, your favorite charity - Washington Water Trails Association.

> For those who give directly, there's still time to check if your comdouble or triple your contribution. No matter how you give, you'll

Making History in Seattle



A trial run of the Lake Union map

Lake Union has always been a popular place for paddlers - well, for at least 5,000 years. The lake, in the heart of Seattle, offers an interesting perspective to people using small human-powered craft. From the urban waters, one can see a bustling, modern city but also find clues to a time before high rises, marinas, and busy streets. A new map will help paddlers explore Lake Union and Portage Bay history, as well as identify public access points.

The free map will be available by the first of the year, look for a notice in the next issue of Easy Current News. The map project is a joint effort of WWTA and the Center for Wooden Boats. Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods is funding the project with a "Small and Simple" grant, with additional support from the Lake Union Rotary, Museum of History and Industry, REI's Flagship store, and Sea Trails Adventure Maps.

Partnership for Northwest Discovery Water Trail



(Left to Right) Patricia Williams, Army Corps of Engineers; Greg Cox, US Forest Service; Reed Waite, WWTA; Debrah Marriott, Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership; Dan Wiley, National Park Service; Rex Derr, Washington State Parks and Recreation; Washington Congressman Brian Baird; Tim Wood, Oregon State Parks; June LeTart, Oregon State Marine Board; Patrick Garrity, US Coast Guard

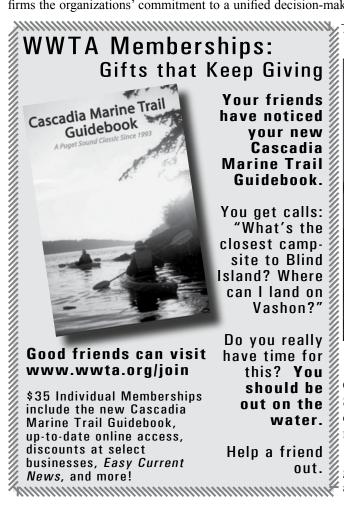
The partnership of agencies, organizations and individuals working to establish the Northwest Discovery Water Trail held a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing ceremony at Bonneville Dam under sunny skies August 27. Congressman Brian Baird was among the speakers to herald the good news of so many entities working together to build a better future, on the water. The agreement affirms the organizations' commitment to a unified decision-making

approach regarding the management of the Northwest Discovery Water Trail as it applies to recreational boaters. "The dedication of the partners and local communities has been one of the water trail's greatest strengths," commented Patricia Williams, the Natural Resources Chief for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Portland.

The agencies and organizations agreed to be advocates for boaters when management decisions are made regarding river access and facilities along the Northwest Discovery Water Trail. "Each organization agreed that strategies should focus on what is best for the users of the water trail," said Williams. "That focus highlights the water trail and not the individual agencies' goals and supports what is important for the water trail's success."

The goals of the Northwest Discovery Water Trail include improving launch and landing sites and other facilities that support the water trail user, promoting boating safety, commemorating water trail heritage, and supporting environmental stewardship along the trail. The 367-mile recreational water trail begins at Canoe

Camp on the Clearwater River in Idaho and flows down the Snake and Columbia rivers through Washington and Oregon. The route ends at Bonneville Lock and Dam, where it links with the Lower Columbia River Water Trail to create a seamless 500-mile water trail system with more than 200 sites for camping, picnicking and launching non-motorized boats.





Greg Stegman, Janice Raymond, and Judy Moyer meet and greet at WCSKS

Volunteers and board members ran the WWTA ship at this year's West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium in Port Townsend's historic Fort Worden State Park. The WWTA table, adorned with maps, brochures, books, and decals attracted many participants helping to double the number of new members joining at the Symposium compared to last year.

The WWTA Member Potluck on Friday night was well attended and guests were well fed. Thank you to all of the WWTA volunteers, board, and members who attended and helped make the weekend a success.

Volunteers

Stewardship Reports

Bill Corson

Ed Harold

Fort Flagler

Kinney Point

Glenn Hoenes

Odlin County Park

Susan and Wis Macomson

Millard Martin

Curtis Mobley

Spencer's Spit

Fort Flagler

Kinney Point

Anderson Island

Salsbury Point

Blake Island

Patrick Morrison Ala Split
Dave & Helaine Mottershead Manchester State Park

Penrose Point

Ron Oberst Burrows Island
Rich and Kay Smith Twanoh State Park
Belfair State Park

Guidebook Mailing Preperation Party 7/26

Alan Gurevich Jackie Macrae Keith Martin Fran Troje Don Crook Dave Humeston Al Koskie

Newsletter & Guidebook Mailing Party 8/1

Jackie Macrae
BJ Hedahl
Bromley Henningsen
John Anderson
Dave Humeston
Ken Clark
Pete Kukors
James Young
Rachel Van Noord

thank yous

Fort Ebey Work Party 8/21

Gayle Austin Bob Kuehn

Kinney Point Work Party 9/11

Craig Isenberg

Connie de Maria

David Gluckman

Bruce Farrar

Stan Gorski

Gray Wolf Ranch Volunteers

West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium 9/14-16

Dennis Hartup
Gerry Hodge
Carmelita Logerwell
Judy Moyer
Ben Peterson
Janice Raymond
Fran Rehrmann
Michael Silence
Greg Stegman
Robert Taylor
Fran Troje
Johnathan Tucker
Rachel Van Noord

Donations In Memoriam of Howard Nutt

MannTech SafeWorks Scott Farrell Mary Frimer Barbara Sullivan

Angela Winter

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Business/Organization Members

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Azimutii Expedii

Easy Rider

Explorers 3 Adventures
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

PT Outdoors

Puget Sound Paddle Club

Pygmy Boats, Inc Sea Kayaker, Inc. SealLine

SeaTrails

Seattle Raft & Kayak

Spring Bay Inn
The Mountaineers Foundation

The Trust for Public Land
Washburne Marine

WA State Parks & Recreation

Werner Paddles YMCA Camp Seymour

The WWTA Convenience Store

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



WWTA T-Shirt

Unisex size: M L XL XXL 3XL \$20 x ____ = ____

Women's Fit size: S M L XL \$20 x =

WWTA Patch \$4 x =

WWTA Decal \$2 x ___ = ____

Lakes-To-Locks Trail Map: West Region

\$6 (member), \$9.50 (non-member) x ____ = ___

Donation \$



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

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Write your mailing address on the back of this form and mail to: WWTA, 4649 Sunnyside Ave. N Room 305, Seattle, WA 98103-6956

Calendar



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

November

- 13: WWTA Open House. 6-8pm at Good Shepherd Building Chapel. Learn what's new at WWTA! RSVP to party@wwta.org
- 22-23: WWTA Office Closed
- 26: WWTA Board Meeting. 7 pm at WWTA Office
- 30: Pacific Horizons: Exploring the Northwest Coast by Kayak. Movie premiere benefit for WWTA. 7pm, Seattle Raft and Kayak. Details at www.seattleraftandkayak.com

Check Your Email.

December

- 2: Deception Pass Dash. 5-mile race from Deception Pass State Park. \$15 Preregistration required. Details at www. seattleraftandkayak.com
- 24-25: WWTA Office Closed
- 31: WWTA Office Closed

January

- 1: WWTA Office Closed
- 21: WWTA Office Closed
- 23: Easy Current News deadline. Submit photos or articles to editor@wwta.org
- 28: WWTA Board Meeting. 7pm, location TBA

WWTA's semi-monthly email updates keep you informed about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and water trail information. No spam, just straight news. Sign up today at www.wwta.org/news

February

- 2-3: Sea Kayak & Canoe Winter Seminar. Get ready for a new year on the water! Two days of courses, networking, and Paddler's Market at the Community Center at Mercer View. Details and registration coming soon to www.wwta.org/seminar
- 6: Easy Current News Mailing Party. 6-8pm at WWTA's office. Enjoy pizza, folding, and fine company. RSVP to volunteer@wwta.org
- 18: WWTA Office Closed
- 25: WWTA Board Meeting. 7pm, location TBA

March

21: It's a Shore Thing: WWTA's Annual Auction & Dinner. 6pm, Community Center at Mercer View. Tickets and details at www.wwta.org/auction



Preserving access to Washington's waters for future generations

Washington Water Trails Association 4649 Sunnyside Avenue North, Room 305 Seattle, WA 98103-6956