

Easy Current News

The Washington Water Trails Association Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2007

WWTA Rendezvous

Paddle Schedule



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Exploring New Waters Success!

Page 5

Speak Out Pacific Northwest Paddler Survey

Your opinion counts! Participate in a survey reaching thousands of Pacific Northwest paddlers. The results will help inform WWTA about its membership and provide valuable information to those who represent the paddling community in the political arena.

Please take a few minutes to participate in the 2007 Northwest Paddler's Survey. Over \$200 in prizes will be awarded to participants.

You can complete the survey online:

<http://tinyurl.com/2tfuq6>

See Page 3 for more information about the survey.

Center for Outdoor Ethics Honors WWTA

Every year, Leave No Trace recognizes exceptional organizations working to educate the public about low-impact recreation skills. For 2006, the Center recognized Washington Water Trails Association. Susy Levin Alkaitis, Deputy Director of the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, wrote a short note, "We simply love the WWTA story and your organization was the single nonprofit that we honored in 2006 with this award."

This acknowledges WWTA's commitment to educating its membership and the public about caring for the environment and assuring future visitors access to clean natural places. In 2006 WWTA's Sound Education and Action (SEA) Kayaker program reached hundreds of people and hosted the Leave No Trace Traveling Train-



Leave No Trace Traveling Trainer preparing to join the SEA Kayaker Team

ers in the San Juan Islands. Last year WWTA offered both Leave No Trace Trainer and Master Educator courses.

The award is inscribed "For outstanding commitment, leadership, and innovation in the teaching and promotion of Leave No Trace in Puget Sound." A WWTA Leave No Trace Trainer Course is scheduled in June. For more details, turn to Page 4.

Blake Island Restoration Continues

"Restoration in Progress" signs highlight the efforts of the third annual Blake Island Cascadia Marine Trail work party. A crew of 36 volunteers dodged rain showers Saturday, March 10 to work on multiple restoration projects on the island's northwest corner. Herrera Environmen-

tal Consultants joined WWTA volunteers and REI employees on a chartered Argosy cruise to Blake Island, and several volunteers arrived by kayaks.

One team of volunteers hit the beach to plant

1,300 dune grass shoots near the Cascadia Marine Trail campsite. Meanwhile, people scoured the shoreline for litter, collecting bags of garbage and removing the wreckage of a motorboat hull.

Another team of volunteers unearthed sword fern plants growing in the culverts of Blake's access roads. The sword ferns found



Fresh off the boat: Blake Island volunteers

Continued Page 6

Normally, you'd be reading a message from WWTa Board President Bruce Farrar here. Bruce wanted to let you meet and hear from other committed board members.

From Board Secretary Diane Leavy

Paddling on a river can be one of the most relaxing (or at times, most exciting) trips one can make. Watching the changing landscape, flora and fauna as the current carries you downriver makes you feel the power of the river and the ecosystem that it has created over the millennia. The river is your guide. It tells you how fast you can go, where you can go, and where you can camp. While paddling on the mighty Fraser River last Thanksgiving, I was struck with the realization that the places we camped (giant gravel bars and banks) would likely be significantly altered (or obliterated) by the force of the upcoming winter's floods. The river would also reveal new camping areas over the following year, as the waters shifted and the levels dropped as summer and fall approached.

While most water trail sites have survived the past winter, some of them have been damaged by storms and are in need of help. If you visit a campsite that needs some TLC, let WWTa know!



From Executive Director Reed Waite

When the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics award arrived in the mail mid-April it had a note of apology. It seems that the award had bounced around and been delivered to the wrong address, then returned to Boulder, Colorado, and shipped again, before arriving after a multi-month journey in Seattle. It was a total surprise.

How Washington Water Trails Association arrived at a place where it would gain this recognition took years and virtual travel by phone and web to many far away places. Years ago, the Maine Island Trail Association (MITA) received a Leave No Trace award. I watch what happens in the Northeast and talk with Dave Mention, the MITA Trail Director, a few times a year. Former employee Indi McCasey explored on-the-water work by the Glacier Bay kayak rangers and the fantastic Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary TeamOCEAN program. Bromley Henningsen worked two summers straight honing WWTa's SEA Kayaker Program and toiling to get top-notch training by communicating with National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) and Center for Outdoor Ethics staff.



Another "prize" of sorts for WWTa's committed action came at this year's auction. Guests donated \$11,000 to fund WWTa's SEA Kayaker Program in 2007. There's a lot at stake on Puget Sound and across the state with water resources, public lands, and our ability to retain the natural amenities we so treasure in the Pacific Northwest.

The Legislature chimed in this year with funding for Puget Sound, increasing Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funding to \$100 million for the next biennium, and charging the IAC, soon to be renamed the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board, to make rules and distribute 2.5 million dollars in new boating activities funding.

2007 has been very busy so far with well-attended work parties and community outreach events. I will miss working daily with Bromley, who resigned in March to work for a local consulting firm. Miles Ohlrich, Ken Campbell, and Dennis Blum, who left the board the first quarter of the year, all worked hard for you. Years from now, projects where they made significant contributions will continue and grow. I want to be proactive in my thanks to Board President Bruce Farrar, who will complete his second term in June, and welcome the latest member to the board, Rachel Van Noord.

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 2007
Volume 16 Number 2



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Embracing Lake Union

There were many thrilled people at Seattle's Lake Union Park groundbreaking ceremony February 28. Sally Jewell, REI CEO, was excited to have a place nearby the Seattle REI to launch her kayak. Karen Daubert, former WWTa Board member and now Seattle Parks Foundation Executive Director, repeated herself, "It's wonderful, wonderful." More than 200 people and 25 neighboring organizations and businesses attended the mid-day ceremony.

Work had already begun so construction workers and cranes were part of the action. By November there will be a new seawall, boardwalk and terraced steps to the water, and a pedestrian bridge connecting to the west side of the park, to the low float dock

(Right) School children, politicians, and construction workers mix at dedication

on Lake Union. A second phase to begin fall 2008 will have more water related facilities.

The Seattle Parks Foundation has raised 16 of the \$20 million to complete the park. Vulcan, a sponsor of WWTa's largest work party September 2001 at this shoreline, and the United Indians of All Tribes also participated.

Center for Wooden Boats founder Dick Wagner expanded, "I think on-the-water activities are what will draw people; the park is really 612 acres -- 12 acres of land and 600 of water."



Pacific Northwest Paddler Survey

When Gerry Hodge called last October to offer help, the Washington Water Trails Association office responded immediately – Yes! This WWTa member is a multi-talented guy. In addition to being the Cascadia Marine Trail Site Steward for Hope Island, he represents paddlers and WWTa on the State Boating Safety Council and kayaks regularly with the South Sound Area Kayakers.

Gerry was taking a class with the Uni-

versity of Washington Program Evaluation Certification Program and wanted to do some survey work. He studied the WWTa 2002 member survey and determined that would be used as a baseline to see what had changed over the intervening years.

In November 2006 a Washington State Parks and Recreation consultant began a phone survey of registered boat owners regarding safety, education, and law enforcement. In early 2007 House Bill 1651 was introduced which will require that the boating community be surveyed. Sensing a need for the non-motorized boating community to be heard, Hodge's survey expanded to include

questions that would help guide the decision-making process by lawmakers and state agencies. Realizing that many out-of-state boaters travel to Washington, Hodge again expanded the survey to paddlers outside Washington State.

Gerry hopes to contact over 5,000 paddlers with the survey. You can help WWTa, the State, and Gerry in his studies by completing the web-based Pacific Northwest Paddler Survey, <http://tinyurl.com/2tfuq6>. WWTa is helping by supplying prizes for the random drawing of those completing the survey. Preliminary results will appear in the next *Easy Current News*.

Farewell & Welcome to Staff & Board Members

Spring brings a number of changes to WWTa's staff and Board of Directors. In March, former Program Director Bromley Henningsen accepted a position as Office Manager for Berk & Associates, a policy and management consultancy firm based in Seattle's Leschi neighborhood. Bromley spent over two years with WWTa, directing Leave No Trace education programs, coordinating Cascadia Marine Trail Site Stewardship, and managing membership and office tasks. Good luck, Bromley!



Bromley in the field

became involved, volunteering at the auction, mailing parties, and several outreach events.

Former Board member Ken Campbell became the proud parent of a new baby boy this December. Now occupied with more important work, Ken left the Board after completing his term this February. Congratulations to Ken and his wife Mary!

After serving the Board limit of two consecutive terms, Miles Ohlrich attended his last board meeting in March. Miles served in

Board officer positions as Treasurer, Secretary, and finally Vice President. In addition, Miles served as auction chair and raised funds for WWTa during a circumnavigation of Vancouver Island last summer.

Dennis Blum resigned from the Board in March, after serving two consecutive years as the auction chair. Thanks, Dennis, for setting the bar high for future auction committees.



Miles at the end of his Vancouver Island circumnavigation

In January, WWTa welcomed Rachel Van Noord to the Board. Rachel quickly

WWTA's On the Map



Identifying potential public access improvements on the Green/Duwamish River

Interest in trails, shores, and public recreation is growing. Washington Water Trails Association has been working on two projects that will highlight public access in King County. The first is the Green-Duwamish River Mapping Project, extending from Kent to Elliott Bay, and the second an interpretive map of the Lake Union and Portage Bay portions of the Lakes-to-Locks Water Trail in Seattle.

The Green-Duwamish River Project, spearheaded by Cari Simson & Brooke Alford of the Green-Duwamish River Visioning Forum, is moving fast. An agency meeting in January quickly added layers of information to a draft map. Three months

later the draft map was ready for comment at the 21st annual Greer River Clean Up. The next chance to see the map is at the Backyard Wildlife Fair in Tukwila May 12 from 10am-3pm. Visit www.backyard-wildlife.org for details.

WWTA and The Center for Wooden Boats received a Seattle Department of Neighborhoods grant

to produce a map for boaters. The map will interpret the natural and cultural features of Lake Union and Portage Bay shorelines and highlight public access.

Another component of the project will be the installation of transient kayak racks at The Center for Wooden Boats and the newly redeveloped Lake Union Park. Partners in the project include The Center for Wooden Boats, WWTA, Museum of History and Industry, Seattle Central Community College, and the Lake Union Rotary. You can participate in the creation of the map by joining one of two "focus groups" for a paddle on Lake Union (*see insert*).

LAKE UNION MAP PROJECT PADDLES

Participate in the creation of an interpretive map of Lake Union!

WWTA & the Center for Wooden Boats welcomes you to join a "focus group" of paddlers to help hone the map-in-progress.

Two paddle events will cover portions of Lake Union. The paddlers will test out a draft map & provide feedback on the content.

Tentative dates are July 28th and August 18th.

Space is limited. Details to be announced. Interested paddlers should contact maps@wwta.org or call WWTA at 206.545.9161.

Leave No Trace Trainer Course June 23rd & 24th Blake Island

Join WWTA for a unique two-day outdoor workshop focusing on learning and teaching low-impact recreation skills and ethics. Participants will paddle to Blake Island and camp overnight.

Trainer Courses are the second highest level of Leave No Trace training. The Leave No Trace Trainer Courses provide participants with innovative teaching skills to educate a wide range of students on low-impact recreation.

Course fees are \$50 for WWTA members, \$45 for Cascadia Marine Trail Site Stewards, and \$75 for non-members. Fees include food, camping fees, course materials, and use of some gear.

Space is limited, please apply by June 1st.

Details online: www.wwta.org/Int



Puppets teach people to strain their dishwasher



Guests move in on silent auction items

Auction Success

Exploring New Waters, WWTa's auction March 23rd, was a record-breaking success! The fundraising goal of \$30,000 was met and exceeded as members and supporters rallied together to raise \$39,000 for WWTa programs. Acoustic guitarist Kevin Jones set the tone of the evening. Keynote speaker Sally Jewell, CEO of REI, spoke about looking ahead to provide outdoor opportunities and access for generations to come. Auctioneer David Silverman kept bidders on their toes and a surprise belly dance by Morgan Scherer spiced up the live auction. Thanks to the volunteers, board members, donors and participants who made the WWTa 11th annual auction an unprecedented achievement.



Morgan entices bidders

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 Miles Ohlrich
 Paddler's Supply
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 Janice Raymond
 REI
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 Washington State Parks
 Tina Waite
 WaveLength Magazine
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REDUCE YOUR PADDLE PRINT

In emergencies, survival comes first. Leave No Trace practices have lower priority when faced with hypothermia, physical injury, or other life-threatening situations.

Increasing your margin of safety is good for you *and* the environment. Carry tested communication devices and monitor weather forecasts. Bring thermoses with hot liquids and a space blanket or emergency bivy to fight the onset of hypothermia.

Ultimately you must know your own limits and recognize when to ask for help and get off the water. Be safe, everyone will benefit.



Blake Island *continued*

a new home on the face of a rapidly eroding bluff. The bluff was barren from the foot traffic of island visitors who scrambled up its slope for a better view. A crew worked to create a terrace of fallen logs and branches to support the transplanted ferns. Volunteers transported buckets of topsoil and ferns up the steep slope by creating an assembly line of workers. By day's end, the bluff had a complete makeover.

Additional work included installation of new fire rings and an interpretive poster about the dune grass restoration project.

The large-scale work party was made possible thanks an REI conservation grant, help from Tillicum Village, and partnership with Washington State Parks.



The youngest volunteer does quality control on a new fire ring

Olympic Coast Cleanup

Every year, the Olympic Coast Cleanup effort rallies hundreds of volunteers to clean up litter and garbage flotsam from Washington's Pacific beaches on Earth Day weekend.

WWTa volunteers participated in the eighth annual clean up on April 21-22. Eleven paddlers scouted the shores of Lake Ozette for litter. The paddlers were pleasantly surprised to find minimal garbage on the state's third largest lake.

Meanwhile, seven volunteers hiked the coastal beaches, hiking out with over 20 bags full of litter. Despite over 500 registered volunteers working during the Coast Cleanup weekend, the task of cleaning our beaches is far from complete.

Trash will continue to wash up on even the most remote beaches, including a staggering amount of plastic. Greenpeace estimates that of the 100 million tons of plastic produced each year, 10% will end up in the ocean. Worldwide the plastic is dumped, lost by cargo ships or washed out to sea from urban areas. Ocean currents sweep much of the debris on Washington shores from the North Pacific Gyre, a 10 million square mile area with circular surface currents that draw debris to the middle. Roughly the size of Texas, the North Pacific Gyre is a swirling mass of floating trash. A study by the Algalita Marine

Research Foundation found 10 pounds of plastic for every 1 pound of zooplankton in the Gyre.

The immensity of the problem is humbling, but every piece of plastic and litter picked up from the beach makes a difference. WWTa pledges to continue participating in coastal cleanups and hopes you will join the effort.



A portion of the trash removed from Ozette beaches and lake shore.

WWTa Rendezvous Paddles

Join the WWTa Board for fun and informative Rendezvous Paddles. Each Rendezvous is a unique opportunity to meet other WWTa members and enjoy the benefits of public access to Washington's waters.

Registration is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Sign up early, as space is limited!

All trips subject to change or cancellation due to weather.

2007 Schedule

June 10th

Snohomish River Delta

July 4th

Sammamish Slough

September 22nd

Nisqually River Delta

October 20th

Skagit River Delta

Details & Registration:

www.wwta.org/rendezvous

Volunteers

Stewardship Reports

Michelle Connor & Mark Levensky Possession Point
 Bill Corson Spencer Spit
 Charles Curry Point Doughty
 Ed Harold Fort Flagler
 Stuart Hennessey Wingehaven
 Gerry Hodge Hope Island
 Laurie Hillyard Laughlin Cove
 Mac Mackimmie Port of Brownsville
 Dave & Helaine Mottershead Manchester & Penrose Point
 Pat O'Connor Tacoma Narrows
 Adam Peck Joseph Whidbey
 Sandy Playa & Carl Burger Obstruction Pass
 Carol Triplett Camano Island

Newsletter Mailing Party 2/7

Laura Deschner
 Tom Deschner
 Laurie Hillyard
 Jackie MacRae
 Keith Martin
 Ben Peterson
 Rachel Van Noord

Blake Island Work Party 3/10

Alison Ator	Kris Cusenza	Suzanne Peck
Christina Avolio	Tom Griga	Eric Ream
Tina Baldwin	Michael Haseltine	Jeff Rogers
Richard Bisbee	Julie Howe	Kathleen Sabo
Toyoko Bisbee	George Iftner	Katheryn Seckel
Jennica Bisbee	Katie Jagt	Robert Taylor
Teos Bisbee	Kris Lepine	Brad Thiele
Gina Cattera	Keith Martin	Art Thomas
Maria Cook	Darcy Miller	Stephanie Von Tack
Carrie Culp	Curt Mobley	Josh Wozniak
Dave Cusenza	Judy Moyer	Natasha Wozniak
		Sue Wozniak

THANK YOU

Annual Auction 3/23

Elizabeth Cromwell
 Dave Cusenza
 Kris Cusenza
 Melody Datz
 Connie DeMaria
 Bromley Henningsen
 Laurie Hillyard
 Kevin Jones
 Laurie Kavanaugh
 Eric Kocaja
 Kristen Kosidowski
 Kevin McHugh
 Judy Moyer
 Ben Peterson
 Fran Rehman
 Mike Savory
 Karen Scharer
 Rachel Simon
 Annabelle Sutcliffe
 Mike Weller
 Greg Whittaker
 Kara Whittaker
 Abbe Wolff
 Ritz Wood

Olympic Coast

Cleanup 4/21-22

John Bridge
 Dave Cusenza
 Kris Cusenza
 Darlene Dickinson
 Laura Dobrowits
 Josh Dobrowits
 Michael Haseltine
 Lily Iftner
 George Iftner
 Bruce Monroe
 Beverly Simpson
 Brad Thiele
 Debbie Thiele
 Karyl Winn

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 The Trust for Public Land
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 WA State Parks & Recreation
 Werner Paddles
 YMCA Camp Seymour

Port Angeles Symposium 4/13-15

Bruce Farrar
 Gerry Hodge
 Ben Peterson
 Robert Taylor
 Rachel Van Noord

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

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

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WWTA Patch \$4 x ____ = ____

WWTA Decal \$2 x ____ = ____

Lakes-To-Locks Trail Map: West Region

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

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

Total \$ _____

Calendar

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



May

- 11-12: Paddlefest. Instruction and demos in sunny Richland, WA. To volunteer at WWTA's booth, contact volunteer@wwta.org
- 12: Spartina Mapping in Willapa Bay. Kayak & canoe volunteers needed on the Niawiakum River, 10am-3:30pm. Contact Ken Guza, dianaken@olywa.net or 360.754.7371
- 12: 5th Annual Lake Union Sweep, 9am-12pm. Join Puget Soundkeeper to help remove litter by kayak or canoe. Contact Chris Wilke at 206.297.7002
- 12: Penn Cove Water Festival. Canoe races plus performance, crafts, and food. www.penncovewaterfestival.com
- 19: Everett Marina and Jetty Island Cleanup. 9am-1pm clean-up by boat with barbecue, music and prizes. Meet at Popeye's, in the North Marina, 814 13th St.

19-20: Puget Sound Sea Kayak Symposium. Pt. Defiance Park, Tacoma. To volunteer at WWTA's booth, contact volunteer@wwta.org

21: **WWTA Board Meeting.** Seattle REI.

26-27: Hobuck Hoedown: Pacific Northwest Coast Surf Kayak Festival at Hobuck Beach on Makah Bay

28: **WWTA Office Closed,** Memorial Day

June

1-3: Clean Water Classic, Westport, WA. Surfrider's annual competition features a WWTA-hosted Leave No Trace demo booth!

7: Greater Columbia Water Trail Steering Committee Meeting. Contact Aimee Pope, aimee@ccpd.com

8-10: SSTIKS 2007. The annual South Sound Traditional Inuit Kayak Symposium at Twanoh Stare Park on Hood Canal. Details: www.qajaqpnw.org

10: **WWTA Rendezvous on the Snohomish River Estuary.** Join WWTA Board Members for a fun and informative paddle!

23-24: **Leave No Trace Trainer Course,** Blake Island State Park. Two-day workshop focused on learning & teaching low-impact recreation skills and ethics

30: Elk River Invasive Plant Survey. Map locations of invasive Spartina and Japanese Knotweed. Contact Ken Guza, dianaken@olywa.net or 360.754.7371

July

4: **WWTA Rendezvous on the Sammamish Slough.** Join WWTA Board Members for a fun and informative paddle!

18: **Easy Currents News deadline.** Submit your articles to news@wwta.org

28: **Lake Union Map Project Paddle.** Details TBD. Contact maps@wwta.org



Preserving access to Washington's waters for future generations

Washington Water Trails Association

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Paddle Schedule
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