Easy Current News

The Washington Water Trails Association Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2007

Cascadia Marine Trail Guidebook A Puget Sound Classic Since 1993

New Cascadia **Marine Trail** Guidebook

fourth The long awaited edition of the Cascadia Marine Trail Guidebook will reach Washington Water Trails Association members with their summer edition of Easy Current News. WWTA hopes members will find the new Guidebook well worth the wait.

The Guidebook contains updated and revised content, including 14 new campsites since it was last printed in 2003.

WWTA members can always find the most up-to-date online information in the Guidebook:

www.wwta.org/trails/cmt

Not a member yet?

Sign up today! Visit www.wwta.org/join

Roll your boat onto a ferry and enjoy the San Juan Islands? It used to be that Friday Harbor was the only terminal where you could reasonably get on the water after disembarking the ferry. Now that's changed and public access near San Juan Islands ferry terminals has doubled with the Island's privately owned Orcas Landing opening its dock for a modest fee to hand-carried (or wheeled) boats. WWTA thanks Osprey Tours for alerting Washington boaters to the newly opened facility.

\$5 is the cost to launch a boat and \$5 is the fee for those taking out.

Driving a passenger car onto a ferry with one rider and two boats on a weekend is \$56.25, for trail- boaters are advised that their boats should be fully ers or oversized vehicles fares are more. Boaters rolling a kayak onboard pay the \$13.15 passenger wake waves from passing boats rock the dock. fee plus a \$7.35 stowage fee per boat.

Orcas is a busy area with site-seeing charters, inter-island ferries, and pleasure craft using limited shore facilities. The Orcas Landing dock is also a terminus for seaplanes. Orcas Landing (360.376.7368) requests that groups with four or more boats call ahead.

Orcas Landing

New Kayak Launch at Orcas Landing Dock

Take care when using the dock. Hand-carried loaded before getting to the dock. Frequent large Boats must stay 25 yards away from docked ferries and 100 yards from ferries not docked. There are frequent ferry arrivals and departures here. Ferries head any number of directions so do not anticipate their movement and watch their turning maneuvers carefully.

SEA Kayaker Team

Every summer, WWTA's Sound Education and Action Kayaker Team visits Cascadia Marine Trail sites to talk with individuals and groups about the importance of low-impact recreation skills. This year, Angela Winter and Robert Taylor, Leave No Trace Trainers, compose the SEA Kayaker Team. Angela is a seasoned educator who brings with her years of experience guiding

youth on multi-day paddling trips. Robert is an enthusiastic paddler with diverse environmental stewardship and public outreach experience.

Traveling to sites in South Puget Sound and the San Juan Islands, the Team discussed Leave No Trace skills with nearly 250 paddlers, including kayak clubs, scout troops, summer camps, and an Outward Bound course, in their first four weekends of outreach.



Angela spreads the word about WWTA and Leave No Trace at Deception Pass

The SEA Kayaker Program is possible thanks to grant support from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation, funds raised during the Annual Auction, and a donation of treats from BumbleBar.

Catch up with the SEA Kayakers! Throughout August the Team will be traveling to sites in North Sound and the San Juan Islands. Group presentations may be arranged by contacting WWTA at seakayaker@wwta.org.

Easy Currents News

From Past Board President Bruce Farrar

I don't mind borrowing ideas from others. This one comes from Christopher Kimball the editor of Cook's Illustrated Magazine whose message this month is "Ain't Dead Yet."

Even though I am no longer a member of the Board of Directors for WWTA and serving as President, I ain't dead yet. I hope to have many good experiences in the near and distant future working with the good people of WWTA. We've had some great experiences the past four years so it will be hard to top them but they will get bested. How do I know? I know because the organization is evolving and improving all the time.



I ain't dead yet and that is why I still enjoy a warm summer evening skimming across the water of Puget Sound in my kayak as the sun descends beyond the mountains. By this time of night the breeze no longer forces white caps from the waves and the incoming summer tide is lapping against the salt grass. Insect-eating birds are swooping and diving and the cormorants are staking out their positions atop the pilings as night draws nearer.

The morrow will be a new day and the staff and volunteers will continue the mission of WWTA. Because of that, it ain't dead yet. Please keep on keepin' on.

Thanks.

From Executive Director Reed Waite

There is a trilobite on my desk at home. It is quiet and I don't have to feed it. It's old, at least 250 million years old, and now fossilized in a rock. It's holding down my Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics membership renewal form now. Next month it will weigh in on other matters.

This 'beetle of the Paleozoic' is a reminder of the most diverse group of extinct animals found in this planet's fossil record. One of the most interesting aspects of this inch-long remnant is that it may not be the animal itself, but one of a series of exoskeletons sloughed off sometime during its life. What does this say about Leave No Trace? The shell of the

trilobite (which means three-lobed) reminds me of a hard fiberglassed boat. And my trilobite, with its pleura and pleural furrows (rib like lobe surfaces), looks a bit more like a skin boat, an old, very old skin boat.

250 million years from today how many kayaks will be discovered in rock? If a snapshot were taken today, the Outdoor Industry Foundation *Active Outdoor Recreation Economy* report estimates there will be more paddleboats found than snow sports equipment in Washington State. 555,625 participants, or 12% of the State's population, enjoy paddling – kayaking, canoeing, or rafting – while 543,671 are downhill or cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or snowboarding. And paddlesport participation is growing fast, one reason why Washington Water Trails Association work is so important.

I'm excited to welcome the latest members to the board, Janice Raymond and Fran Rehrmann, both committed WWTA volunteers. These two sharp, fun-loving women are asking great questions and thinking out of the box. The board also joyfully voted back returning veterans Judy Moyer, as board vice president, and Jim Emery, just home from New Zealand. My heartfelt thanks to Bruce Farrar, past board president, for four years of board service. Once again a regular member, he's already turned in his Site Stewardship report and volunteered to be on the Personnel Policies Review task force.

Lastly I'd to look a bit into the future. This fall an AmeriCorps member will join WWTA staff bringing FTE's to 3.8. This will mean more work parties, sign postings, and volunteer opportunities for you. WWTA has also taken the lead in planning a September 2008 international water trails conference, the first since 2001. These don't come cheap so on keep on donating your talk, time, and funds to the good work of WWTA.

Easy Current News is published four times a year by Washington Water Trails Association, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and preserving Washington's marine environment by engaging individuals in personal exploration of this unique resource through education, volunteer stewardship, and low-impact travel.

Staff

Executive Director Outreach Director Membership and Office	Reed Waite Sarah Krueger	
Manager SEA Kayaker	Amy Popp Robert Taylor Angela Winter	
Bookkeeping services	Julie Russillo	
Legal Advisors	Heller Ehrman	
Board of Directors		
Vice President	Judy Moyer	
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	Kari Anderson	
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	Fran Rehrmann	
	Michael Silence	
	Fran Troje	

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Summer 2007



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WWTA Hits the Surf



"Dude, its a fire pan!"

Surfrider Foundation, an international organization devoted to beach stewardship and access, invited WWTA to participate in the Clean Water Classic, a weekend-long surfing and surf kayak contest at Westhaven State Park. On June 2nd WWTA hosted a Leave No Trace demonstration booth. Beach-loving participants explored different waste management methods and learned how to effectively strain wastewater, build low-impact campfires, and avoid disturbing marine wildlife. Sarah Krueger, WWTA Outreach Director, was "stoked" to spend the day at the beach reaching a new audience with important low-impact recreation skills.

New Faces at WWTA

Amy Popp, WWTA's Membership and Office Manager, joined the staff in mid-May. Amy is a graduate of Ohio University in Athens, where she earned a degree in History and spent most of her time rowing at Stroud's Run State Park with the Women's Crew team and dedicated two summers to interning with U.S. Rowing. With an obvious enthusiasm for water and human-powered boats, Amy fits right in at WWTA.

The Board of Directors is also growing with the return of two previous members and the addition of two new members. Fran Rehrmann and Janice Raymond joined the Board in May. Fran has been a regular at newsletter mailing parties and also volunteered at the annual auction and Sea Kayak Spring Seminar. Janice became involved with WWTA after meeting the SEA Kayaker team on the water two summers ago. Last year she served on the auction committee and will serve as the 2008 Auction Chair.

In July, Judy Moyer returned to the Board for another term and accepted a nomination as Vice President. Judy took a break from the Board for a year, but remained active as the co-coordinator of the Spring Seminar and also volunteered for the annual auction.

Jim Emery returns to the Board after a year abroad in New Zealand. Welcome back, Jim!



Proposed Lummi Launch

Early July Jennifer Hahn and Tom Barrett reported by email on Whatcom County's proposed kayak launch next to the Lummi Island ferry landing. The project is now going through shoreline permitting, a rigorous and time consuming regulatory process, and it appears, according to Mike McFarlane, County Parks Director, that there are no insurmountable obstacles to project completion.

The launch site project will involve removing some riprap, preparing the slope and building a gravel trail to the beach. Hahn and Barrett are checking in with the county every few months and expect to have another report this fall.



Fran Rehrmann and Judy Moyer

Despite living over 7,000 miles away from Washington State, Jim took a lead role in coordinating speakers for the Spring Seminar. Welcome back, Jim!

Sea Kayak Spring Seminar Success



Participants explore the body mechanics of lifting and loading kayaks properly

The second annual Sea Kayak Spring Seminar succeeded in bringing over 160 people to the Renton Community Center for a day of skill sharing, gear ogling, and networking April 28th. Keynote speaker Jennifer Hahn kicked off the day with accounts of her solo journey through the Inside Passage as well as some of her famous wild harvesting recipes from the sea. Afterward, participants attended five different sessions of their choice, with time in between to browse the Paddler's Market.

The event would not be possible without the dedication of Seminar Co-Chairs Jim Emery, who coordinated speakers long-distance from New Zealand, and Judy Moyer. Dan Henderson and Fran Troje secured the venue and concessions. Thanks also to the excellent instructors, exhibitors, and good-spirited volunteers.

Special Thanks to Seminar Presenters

Andy Bridge Ken Campbell Annette Dong Bruce Farrar Jason "Kiwi" Goldstein Dennis Hartup Jennifer Hahn Dan Henderson Wayne Horodowich Dik Lang Gary Luhm Kirby Stevens Tim Walsh

And Paddler's Market Exhibitors

Adventures Through Kayaking Anew Outdoors Backpackers Supply Cascade Canoe & Kayak Coastal Waters Recreation Maps University of Sea Kayaking Discovery Sea Kayaks Explorers 3 Global Adventure Guides Osprey Kayak Tours SeaTrails Adventure Maps Seattle Raft and Kayak Snoqualmie Foothills Mountaineers



(Left to Right) Mud Monster; Allison Rone, Miss Emerald City; Jeff Compton, The Nature Conservancy; and Bill Ruckelshaus, Puget Sound Partnership Chair

MudUp for Puget Sound

On May 31st WWTA staff, outfitted and joined by Alki Kayak's Greg and Kara Whittaker, paddled to the Alki Beach Bathhouse in West Seattle to attend the Alliance for Puget Sound Shorelines MudUp Campaign launch.

The portal to the campaign is www.mudup.org. The site serves as a clearinghouse for Puget Sound clean-up events and activities and will also track sightings of the Mud Monster, official mascot of the Puget Sound clean-up.

The MudUp launch party featured appearances by the Mud Monster, Miss Emerald City, who donned rubber boots and a tiara for the occasion, and Puget Sound Partnership Chair Bill Ruckelshaus. Also present at the launch were Robin Stanton, formerly of Canoe and Kayak Magazine, and former WWTA Treasurer Martine Andrews. After the official Beach Grass Ribbon-cutting ceremony, guests were encouraged to stay and enjoy mud-themed food and drink. The band Big Dirt played the debut of the MudUp Campaign song.

MudUp is a component of the Alliance for Puget Sound Shorelines' multi-year plan to conserve, restore, and protect the Sound. The Alliance, a partnership of The Nature Conservancy, People for Puget Sound, and The Trust for Public Land, hopes to reach its first goal of creating 10 new parks, restoring 100 miles of shoreline, and protecting 1000 miles of shoreline by 2009. The final goal of restoring Puget Sound to a healthy condition is set for 2020.

Check out www.mudup.org for upcoming events and keep your eyes open for the Mud Monster.



the Chapel...

For the Member & Volunteer **Appreciation Night!**

November 13th, 2007 • 6-8pm The Chapel

On the fourth floor of the historic Good Shepherd Building 4649 Sunnyside Ave N • Seattle, WA

You are invited to the Member Appreciation Night! Learn more about what WWTA is doing for you and how you can get involved. Meet the Board of Directors and staff as well as fellow members. Share your ideas. Enjoy food, drinks, and door prizes!

Please RSVP to party@wwta.org



WWTA at Symposium 9/14-16

The 24th West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium theme is women in paddling and families. In Port Townsend the WWTA family will be out in full force, doing outreach from Building 204, where you stop first for registration - stop by and say hello. WWTA staff will be active throughout the weekend doing classroom presentations.

Volunteers are needed to for two hour shifts at WWTA's outreach table. To volunteer, contact volunteer@wwta.org with availability. Don't forget the member potluck Friday evening, September 14 at Officer's Quarters 9W at Fort Worden beginning at 5:30pm. Please RSVP to potluck@wwta.org.

Wanted: Policy Wonk

WWTA is seeking members for a Personnel Policies Review task force. Can you help? Please contact WWTA at policy@wwta.org.

Leave No Trace Trainer Course

Saturday June 23rd ten kayakers launched from Vashon Island, headed for class. The WWTA Cascadia Marine Trail campsite on Blake Island, surrounded by newly planted dune grass, served as the classroom for a unique two-day outdoor workshop focused on learning and teaching Leave No Trace's low-impact recreational skills and ethics.

WWTA Leave No Trace Master Educators Reed Waite and Sarah Krueger led the workshop. Participants ranged from novice sea kayaker to veteran outdoor adventure enthusiasts. Each participant prepared and presented information on one of the seven Leave No Trace principles, sharing their knowledge and unique experiences with the group. Presentations included walks to the beach to explore durable surfaces and delicate vegetation, demonstrations of campfire alternatives, and an Oscar worthy performance by "LNT Improv Theater" actresses. After presentations there was time for further discussion and debate. At the end of the workshop the group had a chance to do some fieldwork picking up micro-trash and taking the opportunity to visit a nearby campsite where departing campers where doing the same.

Overall the workshop proved to be a great success challenging participants and educators alike. The weekend concluded with a graduation ceremony, each "graduate" received a hard earned Poop Tube.

(Left) A demonstration of easy campfire alternatives

REDUCE YOUR PADDLE PRINT

Bring your backcountry Leave No Trace ethics home with you! Decisions we make in our dayto-day lives can greatly impact the marine environments we enjoy. The largest source of marine debris-up to 80%-is land-discharged plastic waste.

Become a savvy shopper and choose products with minimal packaging. Avoid items containing polystyrene (aka Styrofoam). Reduce your use of disposable items. Bring your own grocery bags to the store.

Battle for Blind Island Continues



A carpet of purple camas blooms greeted WWTA staff and volunteers as they returned for the fourth annual Blind Island work party on Cinco de Mayo. The team of twenty tackled invasive Scotch broom and English ivy on the three-acre island. Volunteers traversed steep terrain to eradicate even the smallest Scotch broom plants. Meanwhile, two people applied a new coat of paint to the composting toilet.

By the end of the day, the toilet gleamed and State Park rangers claimed a single Scotch broom couldn't be found on the island. But, despite three small mountains of pulled ivy, remnants of the pernicious vine await next year's invasive weed yanking fiesta. Join the crusade to liberate Blind Island from invasive species and volunteer for the next spring work party in 2008.

(Left) Volunteers track down Scotch broom

Farewell to Joe



Joe designates a water trail site on the Snake River

WWTA wishes a fond farewell to Washington Statewide Trails Coordinator Joe Sobinovsky. Joe will be leaving his post at Washington State Parks and Recreation in mid-August to accept a position with the National Park Service in West Virginia where he will coordinate land acquisition for the Appalachian Trail. WWTA has worked closely with Joe on projects across the state. Joe also served as the comptroller of the Washington State Trails Coalition. A tremendous champion for water trails within his agency, he will be missed greatly. Good luck in Appalachia, Joe!

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! Experienced paddlers are needed to co-lead trips. To volunteer, contact rendezvous@wwta.org

All trips subject to change or cancellation due to weather.



September 22nd

Nisqually River Delta

Experience the wildlife mecca that is the Nisqually Delta! Paddlers will meet at the Nisqually Reach Nature Center at 9am. Expect to spend about 3 hours on the water exploring McAllister Creek, the delta and the Nisqually River itself.

October 20th

Skagit River Delta

Paddlers meet at La Conner at the Sherman Street boat launch at 10am. The paddle will explore the Swinomish Channel and paddle a short distance up into the Skagit River delta. Estimated time on the water is 3-4 hours.

Details & Registration:

www.wwta.org/rendezvous

T.....T

Volunteers

Stewardship Reports

Michelle Connor & Mark Levensky Possession Point Bruce Farrar Kavak Point Doug Garland James Island Gerry Hodge Hope Island Ron Karr Cypress Head Paul La Pointe Lisabuela Curtis Mobley Stuart Island Tina & Reed Waite Kinney Point Pete Weiner Point Robinson

Sea Kayak Spring Seminar 4/28

Don Crook Jim Emery Al Koskie Carmelita Logerwell Keith Martin Judy Moyer Janice Raymond Fran Rehrmann Michael Silence Greg Stegman Fran Troje Gretchen Thompson Rachel Van Noord Karyl Winn

Newsletter Mailing Party 5/2

Bruce Farrar Alan Guervich Jackie Macrae Keith Martin Anne Monteforte Ben Peterson Fran Rehrmann Barbara Sahler Robert Taylor Tina Waite Karyl Wynn

thank yous

Blind Island Work Party 5/5

Dede Chindlund Frederick Clark Alice Conner Peggy Ferderer Alan Gurevich Darryl Hrenko Pat Jacobsen Diane Kalunki Sean Kroll Curtis Mobley Helaine Mottershead **Dave Mottershead** Amy Ramsey Charley Rowley Michael Silence Robert Taylor Tina Waite Scott Wilburn

PaddleFest 5/12

James Young Rachel Van Noord

Puget Sound Sea Kayak Symposium 5/19-20 Don Crook Gerry Hodge

Supporters

Business/Organization Members

Aqua Sports Paddle Center Azimuth Expeditions 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		
	CE -	Unisex size: M L XL XXL 3XL	\$20 x =	
	(And And And And And And And And And And	Women's Fit size: S M L XL	\$20 x =	
VA	NATH TRANS	WWTA Patch	\$4 x =	
		WWTA Decal	\$2 x =	
	Walkington Water Teally Association	Lakes-To-Locks Trail Map: W \$6 (member), \$9.50 (non-m	-	
-		Donation	\$	
Pay by ch	eck, money order, VISA, Discove	r or MasterCard in US funds.		

Card #	_ Exp. date	_/	
Cardholder's signature			Total \$

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

August

- 18: Duwamish River Festival.11 am-3 pm. Duwamish Waterway Park, 10th & Kenyon, South Park, Seattle. Free, fun, family-friendly festival with kayak tours on the river, live entertainment, water taxi rides, food, and more
- 25: Gig Harbor Heritage Row. All human powered craft welcome. \$25 per participant. Registration and info at www.gigharbormuseum.org
- 24-26: Lower Columbia Kayak Roundup. A fun, community-minded, BCU skill-based sea kayak symposium in Wahkiakum County, WA. Details at www.columbiariverkayaking.com
- 27: WWTA Board Meeting. 7 pm at Seattle REI (222 Yale Ave N)

September

- 14: WWTA Member Potluck Officer's House 9W, Fort Worden State Park, Port Townsend. 5:30pm. RSVP to potluck@wwta.org
- 14-16: West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium. Fort Worden State Park, Port Townsend. Details at www.wcsks.org To volunteer at the WWTA outreach table, RSVP to volunteer@wwta.org
- 22: WWTA Rendezvous on the Nisqually Delta. Join WWTA Board Members for a fun and informative paddle! Register online: www.wwta.org/ rendezvous
- 24: WWTA Board Meeting. 7pm at Seattle REI (222 Yale Ave N)
- Have time on your calendar for WWTA? The Board of Directors is seeking active, engaged members. Learn more, contact WWTA at 206.545.9161 or email board@wwta.org

October

- 18: Easy Currents News deadline. Submit your articles to news@wwta.org
- 20: WWTA Rendezvous on the Skagit Delta. Launch from LaConner & explore. Space is limited. Register online: www.wwta.org/rendezvous
- 25: Washington State Trails Coalition Gathering. 4-7pm Student Union Bldg, Central Washington University in Ellensburg. www.wwta.org/wstc

November

- 7: Easy Current News Mailing Party. 6-8pm at WWTA's office. RSVP to volunteer@wwta.org
- 13: WWTA Member & Volunteer Appreciation Night. 6-8pm at Good Shepherd Building Chapel. Learn what's new at WWTA! RSVP to meeting@wwta.org



Preserving access to Washington's waters for future generations

Washington Water Trails Association 4649 Sunnyside Avenue North, Room 305

Seattle, WA 98103-6956

