

Easy Current News

The Washington Water Trails Association Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2008

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Leave No Trace Trainer Course

June 14-15
Blake Island State Park

Spend a weekend immersed in the principles and practice of low-impact recreation skills. The Leave No Trace Trainer Courses provides direct, in-field experience during the two-day overnight course and presents innovative teaching skills to share Leave No Trace ethics with a wide range of people.

The Leave No Trace Trainer Course fees are \$50 for members, \$45 for Site Stewards, \$75 for general public.

Tuition includes food, camping fees, course materials, and use of some gear. Participants must provide kayak or other sea-worthy hand-powered boat, safety equipment, and camping gear.

Course details and application at www.wwta.org/lnt

Kitsap KO's Camping

Kitsap Parks called the Washington Water Trails Association (WWTA) office the second week of February and said that camping would no longer be allowed at the agency's parks. There has been camping for over a decade at Salsbury Point and Anna Smith. Since 2003, people traveling the Hood Canal have enjoyed the Cascadia Marine Trail campsite at Laughlin Cove, a Kitsap County park property. Before the county purchased Laughlin, WWTA had a written agreement for public use there with the Trust for Public Land "with camping available only for parties accessing the sites by water only using human/wind-powered beachable craft."

The goal for the Cascadia Marine Trail is a safe pullout every 5 to 8 miles along Puget Sound shores. In its central Sound location, with over 200 miles of shoreline, Kitsap County is a very important link on this National Recreation Trail.

The loss of three campsites will put pressure on other sites and decrease safety around the Kitsap Peninsula. It also dashes hopes of opening campsites at Anderson Point on Colvos Passage near Vashon Island and Guillemot Cove on the Hood Canal. WWTA and Olympic Kayak Club members performed significant restoration work at Anderson Point in the early 2000's.

WWTA telephone calls and letters to Parks and Recreation Director Chip Faver have gone unanswered. For now, Anna Smith, Laughlin Cove, and Salsbury Cascadia Marine Trail sites are closed. February 20th Kitsap Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) minutes show a board member discussion "about the WWTA Kayaking [sic] and camping in the County Parks...the department can't do this now due to maintenance but it doesn't mean it can't happen in the future."

Welcome to WWTA's New ED

A nationwide search found qualified applicants from the East Coast, Chicago area, and Eastern Washington, as well as the central Puget Sound basin. Search Chair Ben Bauermeister, Jon Almquist, Claire Hews, Bruce Farrar, Judy Moyer, Janice Raymond, and Jim Emery poured through resumes, made calls, and questioned

applicants from January to March. In the end, the candidate recommended by the Executive Search Committee to the WWTA Board was working just a few miles away. Julie starts work Friday, May 16 and will get her feet wet at the Puget Sound Sea Kayak Symposium. Stop by the WWTA booth in Tacoma to greet her.

From Julie:

I am a native of Wisconsin, where my first exposure to the water was on the state's rivers. I came to the Seattle area after graduating from the University of Wisconsin La Crosse with a degree in Parks and Recreation Administration.

Since moving to Seattle, my work experience has revolved around the outdoor industry. I began at the REI Capitol Hill store. I worked in several departments over the years, supervising a succession of departments, including Paddlesports. I left REI for a two-year stint at Outdoor Research before moving to Sea Kayaker magazine. During the last 9 years as Circulation/Promotions Manager at Sea Kayaker, I have attended many paddling events

around the country.

My interest in paddling led me to volunteer at the West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium and join the organizing committee as chairperson. Over the last 19 years, I have been involved with the Trade Association of Paddlesports in many capacities - as a vendor, volunteer, the organizing committee chair and most recently on the board of directors.

I'm looking forward to applying my experiences to the challenges of the Executive Director position and hope to develop new opportunities for Washington Water Trails Association.

I have some big shoes to fill, good luck to Reed on his retirement!



Julie Anderson

From Board President Jim Emery

Hello. As I write this introductory letter to you, the members of Washington Water Trails Association, I have been on the job for two weeks.

These words were not written by Julie Anderson, our incoming Executive Director, but by Reed Waite in November of 2000. Looking back on the Easy Current News from this period, it is interesting to notice how much has changed and how many things have remained the same.

The eight years of Reed's stewardship have seen significant growth of our existing trails. The Cascadia Marine Trail has gone from 40 sites to well over 50. Two entirely new trails have been added across the state. During this period, we have lost founders of the organization and long tenured board members have retired. As an organization, WWTa has become financially more secure and developed a national reputation for our work to protect public access to Washington's waterways.

While many things have changed, some things remain the same. Access to Washington's waterways is still in danger of becoming more restricted. Campsites on water trails have closed due to natural or human actions. And, as was stated eight years ago in the November 2000 issue of Easy Current News, WWTa continues to look for board members and volunteers to help with our mission.

Reed deserves much of the credit for where WWTa is today. While it will be sad to see him step down as ED of WWTa, it is exciting to see how far the organization has come under his leadership. I fully expect that eight years from now, we will be able to look back and say the same thing about Julie's tenure. In the mean time, let us extend a warm welcome to Julie and join in helping her make this a reality.

From Executive Director Reed Waite

One of the perks of leadership is sometimes having the last word. I was able to read Jim Emery's kind letter above before doing the final edits to my letter below. I'll take a little credit. Thank you, Jim. But the majority of the credit rightfully belongs to many many others. Jim recruited speakers for the 2007 Sea Kayak Symposium while living in New Zealand!

Look at the lists in this issue of *Easy Current News*. It's a small way we thank donors, volunteers, and members. It's understated and incomplete. This page lists names of WWTa's Board. What you don't see is the thought and care put into their duties: emails, discussion before, during, and after monthly meetings, and how they promote public water access. Flip back a page. There's a list of volunteers who assisted the Board in hiring your next executive director.

Look at the lists from first quarter activities. The Sea Kayak and Canoe Winter Seminar had an outstanding group of volunteer presenters. Testament to the quality of instruction was one class where I counted five other presenters attentively listening and learning.

There are even larger lists for the Auction, held a month later. Local, regional, and national businesses gave generously of their wares and services. Artists and craftspeople added personality. That's just the start. "Day of" volunteers attended trainings weeks ahead, did prep work, and made suggestions that keep on improving this yearly event.

Listings include the Cascadia Marine Trail Site Stewards, newsletter and work party stalwarts and newbies, and the latest gifts in memory of Tom Deschner, a Washington Water Trails Association founding member.

The listings don't capture many helpful acts by members and supporters. People making the access component of many community's Shoreline Management Plans stronger. Island residents pushing parks and public access to local officials and agencies. Statewide boards and local task forces. The lists could go on...and on. Thanks to all. Take a look at the lists. Did you find someone you know or a business you frequent? Thank them.



Easy Current News is published four times a year by Washington Water Trails Association, a nonprofit organization that promotes advocacy, education, and stewardship of public access to Washington's waterways for people in human and wind powered beachable watercraft.

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Executive Director	Reed Waite
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Cascadia Marine Trail Site Stewards Get Schooled

The gathering of Cascadia Marine Trail (CMT) stewards at the Breazeale Interpretive Center in Padilla Bay on April 5 marked the first of a series of two Site Steward Trainings, a service to some of WWTa's most valuable volunteers.

WWTa's Americorps volunteer, Emily Slotnick, coordinated the training. Emily's year of service is dedicated, in part, to "improve educational resources for Cascadia Marine Trail Site Stewards." Planning for the project began in November, with an online survey for Stewards of all 55 CMT sites to assess the educational needs of the group, and to raise awareness of the training events. This effort could not be undervalued, as there had not been a training for more than 3 years.

The April training's special guests included Washington State Park Managers Jack Hartt and Steve Sabine, WWTa co-founder Tom Steinburn, Laurel Baldwin of Whatcom County Noxious Weeds Control Board, and Lincoln Loehr, Environmental Analyst for Heller Ehrman. Presentation topics ranged from elements of a CMT site and invasive species recognition to working with land managers and Leave No Trace for stewards. The five hour training hosted 12

stewards and 5 presenters, all of whom contributed critically to the success of the event.

The May training in Des Moines will showcase the expertise of speakers Katie Messick of King County Noxious Weeds, and Chrys Bertolotto of Washington State University's Beach Watchers and Shore Stewards of Snohomish County.



*Site Stewards learning and laughing
Photo courtesy of Simeon Baldwin*

Access Dollars Rescue Rescue Tug

People who care about Puget Sound cheered upon hearing that the Neah Bay emergency response tug had received stopgap funding from the Legislature for the upcoming state fiscal year, July 2008 to June 30, 2009. Protection of Puget Sound, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and international waters on the state's northwest coast is important. Hidden in the funding package, however, were potential cuts to public water access funds and dollars previously slated for the Columbia River.

During the past winter the Department of Ecology reported it worked with the U.S. Coast Guard to deploy the tug to assist six ships. These ships were significantly disabled, having either reduced steering or limited propulsion power. The cost of running the tug is increasing with the rising cost of fuel and may reach \$10,000/day.

10,500 trips by oil tankers and cargo ships annually pose a significant risk. Fuel barges can carry 18 million gallons and oil tankers may have as many as 36 million gallons on board. The 1989 Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska was 10.6 million gallons.

The Legislature directed funding for 365-day coverage comes from several state accounts. For the next year up to \$400,000 will be taken from the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account. Also, \$36,000 previously dedicated for the Columbia River and \$42,000 for South Puget Sound restoration and research from the Coastal Protection Account will now go to the tug at Neah Bay.

The Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA), established in 1984, is funded entirely by revenue Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) receives from leasing state-owned waterfront sites and harvest rights for geoduck clams. ALEA funds provide grant support for the purchase, improvement, or protection of aquatic lands for public purposes, and improving access to such lands. It is guided by concepts including re-establishment of naturally self-sustaining ecological functions related to aquatic lands, providing or restoring public access to the water, and increasing

public awareness of aquatic lands as a finite natural resource and irreplaceable public heritage.

Ecology and the State are working to have the federal government fund the rescue tug in the future. For now, the cost of temporary oil spill protection comes at the expense of invaluable restoration and public access opportunities.

Boating Activities \$\$\$

Easy Current readers will remember the Boating Activities Program (BAP) created by the Legislature last year and its State boater needs survey. Since January the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO, formerly the IAC) has been hard at work getting ready to fund boating related programs.

\$1.6 million went immediately to Washington State Parks for its boating programs and \$110,000 covered costs for the statewide survey. RCO's board directed \$10,000 for contract services facilitating communication among the many state agencies dealing with boating. Bid submission cutoff was in April. The winning bidder will be named in early May.

RCO then looked at new BAP moneys and its other grant programs, deciding to create a new advisory committee to handle the three boating grant programs. Fifty people applied for the twelve appointed committee openings. The 15-person group will be filled out with representatives from the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, and State Parks. A WWTa member was selected to serve on the committee.

Between June and October the advisory committee will rank competitive grant applications and recommend funding for recreational boating facilities, such as launches, boat-in campsites, guest moorage, restrooms, and educational programs, from dedicated state and federal sources. For the first year of the Boating Activities Program, RCO staff will propose seven options to begin spreading the remaining \$353,000 from general fund dollars to benefit boaters across the State.

It's A Shore Thing!



Bidders battle for a Necky Looksha IV

Fantastic items up for bid + live entertainment + delicious food and drink + a witty auctioneer + 160 WWTa supporters = a spectacularly successful fundraiser. It's A Shore Thing, WWTa's March 21st auction and dinner, set a new standard for the annual event. The fundraising goal of \$35,000 was met and exceeded as members and supporters rallied together to raise a gross of \$44,000 for WWTa programs. Highlights of the evening included the acoustic sounds of singer-songwriter Kevin Jones, a divine dessert dash, belly dancing, and a surprise musical saw performance.

Thanks to the volunteers, board members, donors and participants who helped make WWTa's 12th annual auction a notable accomplishment.

Board Notes

One of the well considered parts of the WWTa Bylaws is board members' term limits. No board member shall serve more than two consecutive two-year terms. This brings new thoughts and energies to the board. There are times, however, when term limits seem the cruelest injustice. The April Board meeting was one such time; the board bid Fran Troje best wishes and thanks for her latest two terms of service.

Fran brings with her years of WWTa involvement, having worked to establish the organization and serving on the board in the early 1990's. Devotees of local outdoor efforts from the Washington Kayak Club to The Mountaineers have benefited from Fran's encyclopedic knowledge and insight into how to make things happen.

Now that the fourth Monday of the month is free on Fran's legendary calendar, is she sitting at home twiddling her thumbs? Definitely not. It's good luck for Volunteers for Outdoors Washington (VOW) board.



Fran Troje, WWTa Board Member; Rex Derr, Director of Washington State Parks; and Reed Waite, WWTa Executive Director at WWTa's Auction

Ready to step up your commitment to public water access? The Board will be recruiting new members over the summer. If interested, send an email to Jim Emery, Board President, president@wwta.org.



GROUP DYNAMICS: PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

Planning a day or overnight trip with a group of fellow boaters? Consider having a Leave No Trace discussion before you hit the water. Will the group carry a portable toilet or personal waste disposal bags? Do participants anticipate a blazing campfire? Is everyone up-to-speed on wildlife viewing etiquette and laws? Did anyone research to make sure the destination's capacity will accommodate the group size?

Individuals may have different comfort levels and expectations when it comes to low-impact recreation skills. You can avoid uncomfortable situations or conflicts by discussing ahead of time how the group plans to apply Leave No Trace ethics. If individuals disagree - try compromise. Some, for instance, consider campfires essential while others adamantly oppose them. A compromise for both parties may be to try building a low-impact campfire one night, and agreeing to go fire-free the other evening, by substituting lanterns or luminarias for firelight. Always approach matters with an attitude of experimentation and learning, and everyone will have fun!

Learn more, visit www.wwta.org/lnt

Thank You 2008 Auction Donors!

Agua Verde Cafe & Paddle Club
 Alki Kayak Tours
 Amy Relnick, LMP
 Anderson Island Kayaks
 Aquabound Technology Ltd
 Argosy Cruises
 ArtsWest
 Becky Poole
 Bauermeister Family
 Biffle French
 Blue Moon Burgers
 Bob Burnett
 Carmelita Logerwell
 Carmi Weingrod
 Cascade Bicycle Club
 Cascade Canoe & Kayak Center
 Cascadia Kayak Tours
 Catherine Roth
 Center for Wooden Boats
 Century Ballroom
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 Columbia Gorge Riverside
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 Mountaineers Books
 Museum of Glass
 Northwest Dance Network
 Northwest Outdoor Center
 Seattle Aquarium Society
 Olympic Music Festival
 Olympic Raft & Kayak
 Pacific Science Center
 Paddy Coyne's Irish Pub
 PCC Natural Markets
 Philharmonia Northwest
 Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
 Rachel Van Noord Peterson
 Reed & Tina Waite
 REI
 Renton Civic Theater
 Sea Kayaker Magazine
 SeaTrails Adventure Guidemaps
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 Seattle Raft & Kayak
 Seattle Supersonics
 Seattle Tilth
 Skamokawa Paddle Center
 Spa Blix
 Sparehands Systems
 Stellar Pizza & Ale
 Stohlquist Waterware
 Swantown Inn Bed & Breakfast
 The Comedy Underground
 The Inn at Mallard Cove
 The Museum of Flight
 The Whale Museum
 Therm-a-Rest
 Tillicum Village
 Trade Association of Paddle
 Sports
 Tutta Bella
 University of Sea Kayaking
 Werner Paddles
 Whirling Girl
 Wild Lily Ranch
 Woodland Park Zoo



Winter Seminar Success



Participants plot their course in Tim Walsh's navigation session

Washington Water Trails Association's annual seminar, renamed this year, the Sea Kayak & Canoe Winter Seminar, succeeded in bringing over 200 people to the Community Center at Mercer View February 2nd & 3rd for two full days of sharing, shopping, learning and networking. Featuring 26 speakers, a full exhibitor hall, and lecture topics ranging from Tides & Currents to Kayak Repair, this year's seminar had something for everyone. A special thanks to the many wonderful speakers, exhibitors, and volunteers and to Tom Starr and Judy Moyer, whose dedication and enthusiasm made the event possible.

Thanks to Seminar Speakers:

Andy Bridge	Mick Keenan
Suzy Cornell	Ann Kruse
Pat Daly	Dik Lang
Earl Doan	Gary Luhm
Bruce Farrar	Tim Mattson
Shawna Franklin	Jim Metzner
Jason "Kiwi" Goldstein	Annette Metzner
George Gronseth	Steven Reutebuch
Dennis Hartup	Eric Volkstorf
Dan Henderson	Matt Ross
Karl Kohegan	Leon Somme
Allen Sansaro	Kirby Stevens
Rhonda Schwab	Tim Walsh
Wayne Horodowich	Steve Weileman
	Greg Whittaker

Thanks to Paddler's Market Exhibitors:

Alki Kayak Tours	Kokatat
Cascade Canoe & Kayak Center	Outdoor Adventure Center
Coastal Waters Recreation Maps	Sea Kayaker Magazine
Columbia Kayak Adventures	SeaTrails Adventure Maps
Biffle French	Seattle Raft & Kayak
Kayak Academy	University of Sea Kayaking
Kayaker's Pal	

Island Work Parties

The young shoots of 3,000 new native dune grasses stud the beach at the Cascadia Marine Trail Campsite at Blake Island, thanks to the help of 13 volunteers at the 4th annual Blake Island Restoration Work Party. The grass plantings are part of a long-term effort to restore dune grass to provide habitat for ground nesting birds and protect the natural sand beach at the northwest point of Blake Island. Volunteers arranged driftwood logs to delineate walking paths through the restoration area.



Volunteers unearth a UFO: Unidentified Flotsam Object

Meanwhile, a crew unearthed two large, mysterious boat-like creatures that had been semi-buried near the popular campsite for years. With the mammoth pieces of garbage gone, volunteers filled in the beach and covered the disturbance with a patch of new dune grass plants. And all this before lunch!

Other projects included clearing gullies along the park access road, trash pick-up, and transplanting ferns to an eroding campsite on the island's western shore. At the end of the day, the sun peaked through the clouds to shine over a clean and green beach on Blake Island.

Shortly after the work party, WWTa and Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission signed an "Adopt-a-Park" agreement for the Cascadia Marine Trail site, committing to continue the restoration effort through 2011.

In late April, State Parks shuttled a small crew of three volunteers and two WWTa staff to Skagit Island in North Puget Sound to improve the Cascadia Marine Trail campsite. The work party focused on removing downed limbs, trimming back voracious salal and overhanging branches, and smoothing lumpy tent pads. Volunteers expanded two of the three campsites. The sites, once barely large enough for a two-person tent, now provide roomier accommodations.

After improving the established campsites, the crew followed a rough trail circumnavigating the island - dismantling unsanctioned fire rings and picking up litter along the way. A bonus for everyone involved was the colorful smattering of wildflowers on the Island's delicate southern meadows.

Volunteers

Stewardship Reports

Simeon Baldwin Triton Cove State Park
Gerry Hodge Hope Island
Patrick Morrison Ala Spit
Mike Woolf Stuart Island

Sea Kayak & Canoe

Winter Seminar 2/2-3

Chelsea Adams
Ed Alm
Ken Biddle
Bob Burnett
Dede Chinlund
Don Crook
Connie De Maria
Joy Farquhar
Peggy Federer
Betha Gutsche
Beth Hinz
Lisa Johnson
Sean Kroll
Alison MacKenzie
Nicole Milanese
Judy Moyer
Ben Peterson
Amy Ramsey
Debi Scacco
Karen Scharer
Tom Starr
Kristi Sterling
Fran Troje
Rachel VanNoord
Bill Walker
Sara Whitney
Chi Zhang

Newsletter Mailing Party 2/6

Jennifer Barron
Dave Humeston
Tim Lottridge
Emily Moran
Toffer Palm
Rosemary Schmidt
Sara Whitney
Ali Zuberi

Blake Island Work Party 3/8

Betsy Bertiaux
Don Crook
Chuck Curry
Dave Cusenza
Kris Cusenza
Helen Daniel
Wendy Jensen
Larry Jensen
Ann Kruse
Curtis Mobley
Tina Waite

THANK YOU'S

Annual Auction 3/21

Chelsea Adams
Bob Burnett
Elizabeth Cromwell
Don Crook
Carol Cusenza

Kris Cusenza

Helen Daniel

Mike Ewanciw

Bruce Farrar

Tim Garton

Toene Hayes

Bria Hedahl

Gerry Hodge

Dave Humeston

Kevin Jones

Eric Kocaja

Kristen Kosidowski

Emily Moran

Judy Moyer

Alex Otto

Becky Poole

Judy Rawlings

Janice Raymond

Fran Rehmann

Debi Scacco

Karen Scharer

Morgan Scherer

Micheal Silence

Tom Starr

Natalie Tacher

Robert Taylor

Rachel Van Noord

Nadia Villarroel

Mike Weller

Ali Zuberi

Site Steward Training 4/5

Laurel Baldwin
Jack Hartt
Sarah Krueger
Lincoln Loehr
Steve Sabine
Tom Steinburn

Port Angeles Sea Kayak Symposium 4/11-13

Simeon Baldwin
Mark Kuric

Skagit Island Work Party 4/28

Ken Biddle
Tim Garton
Bruce Henson

Gifts In Memory of

Tom Deschner

Sue Abbott

Boeing

Marquita Green

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Evergreen Escapes
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Hooked on Washington's beautiful waters? You need the patch - sport your support for Washington Water Trails. Sew this 2.5" X 2.5" embroidered patch on to your gear bag, hat, backpack, or favorite fleece.

Price: \$4.00

Quantity _____ x \$4 = _____

Coastal Waters Recreation Marine Maps of Puget Sound

Marine Recreation Maps are an excellent resource for trip planning. The maps highlight points of interest, wildlife viewing areas, picnic and camping sites, as well as boat launches and beach access. *These maps are for reference only, and should not be used for navigation.*

North Puget Sound Price: \$13.00

Quantity _____ x \$13 = _____

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Total \$ _____
Includes tax & shipping

Calendar

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



May

17-18: Puget Sound Sea Kayak Symposium. Pt. Defiance Park, Tacoma. To volunteer at WWTA's booth, contact volunteer@wwta.org

19: **WWTA Board Meeting.** 7pm, WWTA Office

24-25: Hobuck Hoedown, Pacific North Coast Surf Kayak Festival. Info at www.hobuckhoedown.com

26: Memorial Day, WWTA Office Closed.

30: Northwest Discovery Water Trail Meeting, 10am-3pm, The Dalles Dam. RSVP to info@ndwt.org

31: Paddle Fest: Instruction and demos in sunny Richland. Volunteer at WWTA's booth, contact volunteer@wwta.org

31: Spartina Survey on the Bone River in Willapa Bay via canoe or kayak. For details contact Carlo Abbruzzese at carlo.abbruzzese@wadnr.gov or 360.274.2056.

June

6: Greater Columbia Water Trail Steering Committee Meeting. Contact Aimee Pope at aimee@ccpd.com or 509.663.5159

7: Greater Columbia Trails Day event, Wenatchee. Visit www.gcwt.org

14-15: **Leave No Trace Trainer Course**, Blake Island State Park

23: **WWTA Board Meeting.** 7pm, WWTA Office

July

4: WWTA Office Closed

18: **Easy Current News deadline.** Submit to editor@wwta.org

28: **WWTA Board Meeting.** 7pm, WWTA Office

August

1-2: Paddle Kitsap: Port Gamble to Poulsbo. Fully supported group paddle with food and entertainment to benefit North Kitsap Trails Association. Details at www.paddlekitsap.com

6: **Easy Current News mailing party**, 6-8pm WWTA office, RSVP to volunteer@wwta.org

Sound Education & Action Kayaker Program Summer 2008, Puget Sound

Paddling in the Puget Sound this summer? Week-end visitors to Cascadia Marine Trail sites may expect to encounter a pair of water trail "ambassadors." The Sound Education & Action (SEA) Kayaker Program puts two Leave No Trace trainers on the water during the busy summer months. These paddlers reach the public with low-impact recreation skills and resources. Be sure to say "Hello" when you encounter the SEA Kayakers on the water trail!



Preserving access to Washington's waters for future generations

Washington Water Trails Association

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**New Executive
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