

LAKE WISE

Newsletter of the Oregon Lakes Association

November 1994

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The Oregon Lakes Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and enhancement of Oregon's lake resources and is a chapter of the North American Lake Management Society.

Oregon Lakes Association
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A Note from the President

Since the Annual Meeting is the only time during the year when the membership is together, it provides an opportunity to talk to people and get to know what's on their minds, to regroup, and to evaluate where OLA is and where we are going.

The Annual Meeting in Seaside included one of OLA's best programs. Anjela Ehelebe did a great job in pulling everything together. We tried to put together a program that would appeal to lay people as well as technical types and I think we succeeded. You can review the proceedings of the meeting elsewhere in this newsletter.

My major concern about the meeting was the low attendance. Only about 40 people registered and only about 10 stayed through the whole meeting. The lack of full-day attendance may say something about how the program was structured. Lack of attendance is a more serious problem. In talking to a number of people, three issues come up that may be responsible for lack of attendance and slow membership growth. 1) OLA doesn't take stands on issues related to lake protection; 2) the meeting is too expensive; and 3) OLA doesn't provide the assistance that associations need.

Meeting registration cost could be reduced by increasing our efforts to raise funds. DEQ, KCM, SRI/Shapiro, and E&S Environmental Chemistry very generously helped to defray some of the costs of the Annual Meeting this year. We should work harder to solicit Corporate and Agency support of the meeting as well as increase the number of exhibitors, which would allow us to have lower registration fees (any volunteers to work at this?). In addition, we can hold the meeting in less expensive locations and lower our costs. Our Board meeting should be held during the lunch break of the Annual Meeting. This would allow Board members to avoid the expense of an overnight stay and have the added benefit of permitting more members to participate in OLA business.

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President's note continued

OLA is currently preparing a document, The State of the Lakes, that will be a statement of some of the problems in management (or lack of management) of Oregon's lakes. The State of the Lakes should answer the criticism that OLA doesn't take stands on issues. It is a constructive document in that it not only identifies problems but also recommends solutions. The proposed solutions include some that are relatively easily implemented, and others that will face difficulties given the Oregon electorate's aversion to taxes and State spending.

Many believe that OLA must be more outspoken in our advocacy for lakes. To this end, I have asked Dr. Doug Larson and Joe Eilers, two people who are not well known for their timidity, to Cochair a Special Advisory Committee on Activism to identify and advise the Board and membership of actions that should be taken to protect Oregon's lake resources. I encourage all members to be more active, write letters to your legislators (State and Federal), and to your employees in State agencies, to make sure that they are aware of the problems in Oregon's lakes.

Failure to provide assistance to Associations is not because of lack of desire and effort. OLA has not been more effective in helping people organize and run Associations because most, if not all, of the Board since OLA's inception have not been lake residents. Most of the people involved in OLA have been people with academic and/or personal interests in lakes. Perhaps I should speak only for myself, but I believe that most Board members have had little experience living on lakes but much experience studying lakes. We know about trophic interactions and nutrient cycling in lakes but have little experience and understanding of how nontechnical people relate to lakes.

OLA is fortunate to have a some members who are more familiar with the "social" aspects of lake management; one, Margaret Kilanski, was recently elected to a Director position on the Board. The "fresh blood" on the Board provides an opportunity for OLA to grow and become more effective. I have asked Margaret to Chair a Special Advisory Committee on Associations to advise the Board on how OLA can be more responsive to the needs of our Association members. Margaret will take over assem-

bly and distribution of the OLA Lake Management "Handbook" (which is really more a "Handbox"), recruit new Association members, and provide Associations a spokesperson on the Board.

In closing, I ask all members to remember that the Board is not OLA—you are OLA. Speaking out and advocating the protection of Oregon's lake resources is everyone's responsibility. OLA is an all volunteer organization, and OLA can only be as effective as its members are active. Get involved. Volunteer to serve on a Committee, There is plenty of work to go around. Talk to the Board members and let them know what you think. Come to Board meetings, which are held on the second Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November (contact a Board member for location). Don't wait for someone else to do the work – pitch in – and help carry the load.

OLA Comments of NWPPC Plan

OLA recently submitted comments, drafted by Joe Eilers, on the Northwest Power Planning Council's Draft Staff Briefing Paper (Salmon and Steelhead Habitat and Production Issues, Document 94-36, August 15, 1994). OLA's concerns are twofold: (1) the plan would involve adding fertilizer to natural lakes, and (2) it may involve greatly increasing the production of sockeye to the exclusion of other species. The recommended measures are in direct conflict with the usual objectives of lake management, which are to minimize anthropogenic contributions of nutrients and to foster the natural diversity of all aquatic organisms. Wallowa Lake, one of the lakes recommended for fertilization, is a naturally oligotrophic (nutrient-poor) high-quality lake.

A salmon recovery strategy that would convert high-quality lakes into salmon rearing ponds illustrates the narrow focus that has created of the salmonid problem. There was too much concern in the past regarding power generation; now the paradigm seems to have shifted to doing everything possible to increase salmon production. While increased salmon production is a desirable goal, salmon production achieved at a cost to other natural resources, such as high-quality lakes, continues to foster a myopic view of environmental stewardship. We need to manage all our resources wisely and not continue the current policy of trading one problem for another.

Hydrilla Found in Clear Lake, CA

On August 1, 1994, biologists from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the Lake County Department of Agriculture (LCDA) discovered hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata* Royle) in Clear Lake. The discovery was made during a routine detection survey for incipient infestations of hydrilla in California. Analysis of the plant indicated that the infestation was the monoecious biotype of hydrilla.

Clear Lake is the largest natural lake in California. The popular bass fishing lake has 44,000 surface acres, over 100 miles of shoreline, and an average depth of just 30 feet. Hydrilla poses a serious threat to the recreational use of Clear Lake and to the economy of the cities around the lake. Water from Clear Lake flows down Cache Creek to the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. During high-water years, hydrilla could be transported further downstream to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Whether hydrilla movement from Clear Lake is via natural surface flows or human activity, the presence of this pest in Clear Lake threatens a major portion of California's aquatic ecosystem.

In response to the find, a delimitation survey was conducted. Results indicated scattered plants and small mats located in the southwest corner of the "Upper Lake" south of the City of Lakeport, CA. Small patches were also found along the western and northern shorelines. No plants have been found in the "Lower Lake", which supplies water to Cache Creek. Detection of hydrilla in Clear lake is very difficult, however, because of competing vegetation a dense algae growth. Surveys will be continued on a regular basis. The California Department of Food and Agriculture has requested \$1.9 million to battle hydrilla in 1995.

The presence of hydrilla in Clear Lake and elsewhere in California poses a threat to Oregon's lakes. Clear Lake is a popular bass fishing lake that is within a day's drive of southern Oregon lakes. Other hydrilla infestations have been even closer to Oregon. Hydrilla was found in ponds near the Sacramento River at Redding in 1985. The threat of hydrilla entry into Oregon's lakes, rivers, and water delivery systems has stimulated the Oregon State Weed Board to take preemptive action. See State Weed Board Initiates Hydrilla Program elsewhere in this issue of **Lake Wise**.

Science and Nature Survey Results

According to initial results of a nationwide Science and Nature Survey developed by the American Museum of Natural History in conjunction with Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., a majority of the American public (68%) believe that science will solve many of the world's problems. Yet, at the same time, much of the public admits that their understanding of science is diminishing.

The survey indicated that Americans are not apathetic about science since 76% reported that they enjoy learning about it. Other preliminary findings show that the vast majority of the American public (82%) is concerned about current plant and animal extinctions but, at the same time, more than half were unable to identify insects as the most abundant group of living things. Said Museum President Ellen Futter, "To the great detriment of American society, science is perceived as remote from and inaccessible to nonscientists. We cannot allow this to continue. We must begin to remove the obstacles to learning about science and make it accessible to the entire public." Contact Elizabeth Chapman, Assistant Director of Public Affairs, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West, 79th Street, New York, NY, 10024-5192 (212) 769-5762. (From the July 1994 Newsletter of the Ecological Society of America)

The best of science doesn't consist of mathematical models and experiments, as textbooks make it seem. Those come later. It springs straight from a more primitive mode of thought, wherein the hunter's mind weaves ideas from old facts and fresh metaphors and the scrambled crazy images of things recently seen. To move forward is to concoct new patterns of thought, which in turn dictate the design of the models and experiments. Easy to say, difficult to achieve.

—E.O. Wilson, The Diversity of Life

State Weed Board Initiates Hydrilla Program

The Oregon State Weed Board has initiated a program to deal with hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*). At the September 28 meeting in Bend the Weed Board voted to fund a hydrilla detection program and a workshop to begin to develop a contingency plan for a hydrilla invasion of Oregon.

The detection program will be coordinated with the ongoing Citizen Lake Watch program at Portland State University. Volunteer lake monitors will be asked to survey lakes they visit for aquatic weeds, to collect weeds, and to ship them to PSU for identification. In addition, program staff will survey boat launch areas in high-use lakes in southern Oregon.

The workshop will bring together experts in hydrilla and aquatic weed management from the West Coast and agency representatives from Oregon with lake management responsibilities to identify options, roadblocks, and issues related to control of a hydrilla invasion of Oregon. The workshop will result in a report that outlines how an action plan for hydrilla in Oregon could work.

Hydrilla verticillata



illustration provided by:
IFAS, Center for Aquatic Plants
University of Florida, Gainesville, 1990

Grass Carp Ban in Oregon Remains

Devils Lake, near Lincoln City, is the only waterbody in Oregon where triploid grass carp have been legally introduced to control aquatic vegetation, and that is the way it will stay. Oregon's Fish and Wildlife Commission decided September 21 that all other waters will remain closed to grass carp. The Commission's decision was based on concerns about spreading parasites or disease to other fish, effects on fish and wildlife including native reptiles and amphibians, and general uncertainty about future impacts of a nonnative species prompted the commission action. [Even though the impacts of nonnative plant species are well known and Fish and Wildlife continue to stock nonnative rainbow trout in many, formerly fishless lakes, Ed.]

The Department of Fish and Wildlife has logged several requests for grass carp introductions from private pond and lake owners seeking solutions to problems with aquatic vegetation, prompting the hearing and vote on grass carp. Grass carp stocked in Devils Lake in 1985 and 1993 have nearly eradicated all aquatic plants in the lake and water fowl use and warm-water fish populations have declined. According to preliminary reports, similar results have been observed in Silver Lake, near Toutle, WA.

While Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissioners were reported to be sympathetic to people's problems with invasive, nonnative aquatic plants, they did not endorse any alternatives to the use of grass carp, such as an integrated, statewide lake and aquatic vegetation management program. "When you look at the national picture on this fish, it's clear we could be opening a Pandora's Box," said Commissioner Phil Schneider of Portland. Commissioner Phil Habberstad, The Dalles, concurred. "When you look at the scientific evidence and consider the comments we've heard, I'm just not convinced you can control these fish," he said.

Habberstad also opposed proposals for additional, closely-monitored experimental releases, citing a declining department budget. "I'm not willing to put scarce resources into an expanded effort on this," he said.

Annual Meeting Report

Submitted by Avis Newell, Secretary

President Richard Petersen opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees and thanking the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, E&S Environmental Chemistry, SRI/Shapiro, and KCM for providing financial support for the meeting. Richard introduced Debby Boone, a representative of Kitzhaber's campaign, who attended to hear our concerns and learn about lake issues. Richard also reminded members that Board meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of November, January, March, May, July, and September and are open to all members. Members were instructed to contact a Board member for time and location of Board meetings.

After opening remarks, the program began with a presentation on aquatic plants by Mark Sytsma. Although often considered unsightly, aquatic plants are an important part of the aquatic ecosystem. They stabilize banks and sediments and reduce erosion and sediment resuspension, recycle nutrients, and provide habitat for fish, insects, and birds. However, exotic plants (plants not native to the region) are often such good competitors for nutrients and space that they can grow faster and exclude native plants. When aquatic plants become lush, the plants can have a large impact on lake ecology. They modify temperature regimes, alter habitat, reduce predation, increase evapotranspiration, and increase sedimentation rates. Thus, to maintain a healthy lake, a balance must be struck between moderate and abundant plant growth.

Mark then showed slides of several aquatic plants, both native and exotic. One of the most difficult aquatic weeds to control, Hydrilla, has not been reported in Oregon yet, but is commonly found in California. The plant looks very similar to Brazilian elodea, but is much more difficult to control. Very small pieces of plant can grow into a full-sized plant, so the plant can be easily transported between lakes on boats and trailers as they are moved from lake to lake. Each aquatic weed responds differently to management, so it is important to correctly identify problem plants prior to implementing a management strategy. So, if you have nuisance plants in a lake near you, you are welcome to contact

Mark, to learn how to send him samples for identification and management ideas.

Andy Schaedel, of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and an OLA Director (and past President), put together a panel of folks from various state agencies to describe what their agency can provide for in-lake or watershed issues. Each talked about their program for about ten minutes and then answered questions from the audience. Andy spoke first about what DEQ does for lakes in the state. DEQ protects lakes for beneficial uses, such as fishing, boating, swimming, drinking, and irrigation. Oregon does not have a permanent monitoring program, but coordinates monitoring for lakes with reported problems. Currently, the major source of funding for lake programs in Oregon is from the Clean Lakes Program. However, this source of funding is decreasing, with only \$250,000 for all of EPA Region X (Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Idaho).

Dennis Isaason talked about the Oregon Department of Agriculture's program for aquatic weeds. Hydrilla is on the Departments "A" list of weeds, although funding for weed programs is very tight. The Department oversees weed programs for 60 million acres with a budget of only \$250,000, about 0.6 ¢ per acre. Dennis indicated that the Agriculture Department is very interested in working with OLA in combatting the introduction of hydrilla into Oregon. He also suggested that OLA should be represented on the Pacific Northwest Pest Plant Council.

Wayne Schulyer of the Oregon Marine Board described the Marine Board's responsibilities for providing access and making and enforcing rules for boating activities. Most of the funding for the Marine Board comes from boat registration fees.

Al Smith described the Department of Fish and Wildlife's role in lakes. ODFW is responsible for fish protection, habitat, angling regulations, and stocking of Oregon's freshwaters. ODFW also regulates the release of grass carp for control of aquatic vegetation. The Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) is coordinated by ODFW.

Continued on next page.

Meeting summary continued

Dennis Illingworth, of DEQ, talked about DEQ's program for on-site (septic system) sewage disposal. Septic systems can increase nutrient pollution to a lake as nitrates leach through soils and into surface waters. Sand filters can decrease nitrate pollution; the ability of other systems to decrease or adsorb nitrates is not known. Otherwise, this Department ensures that septic systems are functioning to reduce pollution and disease contamination.

Jim Wolf, with the Oregon Department of Forestry, talked about how the Oregon Forest Practices Act of 1971 and recent revisions help protect Oregon's lakes by encouraging efficient forestry, continuous growth and harvesting and notification of subscription for forest operations. They also conduct a volunteer stream enhancement program to restore and protect Oregon's waters.

Jeff Weber, of the Department of Land Conservation and Development, discussed Oregon's Coastal Program. There are planning goals which protect watershed activities and agricultural land in local watersheds, but these do not necessarily protect water quality. Currently in the coastal watersheds, federal law 6217 mandates land use planning for water quality protection and dictates that non-point source pollution controls must be enforceable. The intent of this law is to reduce the effects of land uses on coastal waters. Once this program is fully operational, it may be extended to non-coastal areas.

After lunch participants broke into technical sessions, a session on how to run a lake/homeowner association by Jack Jenkins, Margaret Kilanski, and Heather Reynolds, and a Citizen Lake Watch training session on aquatic plant identification. After the breakout sessions, attendees assembled for a discussion of the pros and cons of Lake Associations and Special Districts for lake management. Lake associations can raise funds through membership, although membership is not a requirement, so funding sources will be defined by membership desires. Special Districts, because they are a part of local government, have rule making authority, but they also become the governing authority. Lake associations may have more flexibility but also may have more difficulty getting folks to comply with fund rais-

ing and the implementation of rules. OLA is considering sponsoring legislation that modifies existing special district statutes to enable the formation of special districts for lake protection.

Water Resources Database Access

The Universities Water Information Network (UWIN) was established under the auspices of the USGS and the Universities Council on Water Resources. Its main objective is to provide a forum for the exchange of information in the water resources community. Information is available to users around the clock. There is no fee to either post information or to utilize the system. Current services include the following: **Expert Directory** – listing of water resources experts that can be searched by name, area of expertise, organization, etc.; **USGS WRSIC Database** – directory of abstracts of water resources research since 1967 (abstracts can be searched by keywords); **NIWR Directory** – this information base contains the National Institutes for Water Resources publication directory and water resources information. To access UWIN on the Internet with a gopher client, just type the following at the prompt: gopher *gopher.cwr.siu.edu*. You can also contact UWIN by modem at (618) 453-3324. You need to set your communication parameters to 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, and no parity (8N1) before dialing. For best results, set your software to emulate a vt 100, ANSI, or compatible terminal. At the prompt, you login as a guest and use uwin as the password. You can also use the Water Talk Bulletin Board System of UWIN by choosing the Water Talk option at the UWIN main directory. In the near future Water Talk can be accessed on the World Wide Web using Mosaic at: <http://www.uwin.siu.edu>. For more information contact Faye Anderson, 4543 Faner Hall, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL 62901, FAX: 618-453-2671.



Citizen Lake Watch News

Fall 1994

Program notes

The pile of blue data cards on the Coordinator's desk is testimony to the work that Citizen Lake Watch volunteers have done this year. Over three hundred and fifty blue cards have been sent in from 27 lakes around Oregon. Devils Lake volunteers deserve the stewardship prize in 1994. The four volunteers at Devils Lake burdened the US Post Office with 144 data cards. Al Rice, with his strict four to five day monitoring regime (he even sampled Devils lake on Christmas day last year) has accounted for 58 of those cards, leading the monitoring derby for 1994. Bill Vaughan (also from Devils Lake), with 43 cards submitted isn't far off Al's pace. Janette Goolsby (Cullaby Lake), with 36 cards submitted, and the Don Martin/Fred McMillan team (Garrison Lake), with 33 cards, have also been very busy this year. Everyone keep those cards and letters coming; the Coordinator has ordered a larger desk!

The Lake Watch Program received a boost from the State Weed Board in September, when the Board voted to help support the Program with a grant to PSU. The Weed Board and the Department of Agriculture are concerned about an invasion of Oregon's lakes by Hydrilla, an aquatic weed that puts others to shame. Hydrilla isn't in Oregon as far as we know; however, it has been found throughout California. The most recent find was in Clear Lake, a large natural lake in Northern California. While the hospitality of Oregonians to California immigrants is well known, we draw the line at Hydrilla! California can keep it!

Quick detection of newly arrived plants is critical to the eradication of Hydrilla. The Weed Board will help support a Hydrilla Watch Program as part of the Lake Watch Program. You will be receiving more information about the Hydrilla Watch as the new program gets underway.

New Lake Watch Volunteers

Several people have joined the Citizen Lake Watch Corps of Volunteers.

John Richter and his students in Vernonia began monitoring Vernonia Lake in September. Vernonia Lake is a former millpond that is adjacent to the Nehalem River. The mill was burned down in the early 60's during filming of that cinematic classic, *Ring of Fire*, starring David Jansen. Vernonia Lake is shallow, maximum depth about 5 feet, with abundant algae and aquatic plant growth. At the outskirts of Vernonia, the lake is home to a number of birds. Its shoreline provides a pleasant stroll for Vernonia residents.

Richard and Steve Kaufmann, two longtime residents on Loon Lake, east of Reedsport, joined the Citizen Lake Watch Program in August. Loon Lake is a popular lake for water-skiers, and hosts a Bureau of Land Management campground and beach that are typically full during the summer. The 294 acre lake has a maximum recorded depth of 105 feet, however, anecdotal reports suggest that it is much deeper. Most of the littoral (shallow water) area of the lake is occupied by Brazilian elodea (*Egeria densa*) a nonnative plant that has infested many lakes on the coast. Janette Goolsby, the volunteer at Cullaby Lake, has reported Secchi disk transparencies in Loon Lake for several years that suggest that water transparency is decreasing. Rich and Steve's data will help document any long-term changes in Loon Lake water quality.

Tenmile Lake volunteers joined the Citizen Lake Watch Program on a rainy day in October. Tenmile faces a number of problems common to Oregon's coastal lakes including high sediment and nutrient input and abundant

Continued on next page.



Volunteer Roster for 1994

Jack Jenkins	Fishhawk	Al Burhans	Munsel
Bob Anderson	Woahink	Roy Fisher	Munsel
Janett Goolsby	Cullaby	Rick and Pat Peterson	Suttle
Koren Marthaller	Blue (Willamette)	Fred Barstad	Wallowa
Elmer Waite	Clear	Richard Hiersche	Lytle
Gary and Paula Lovegren	Blue (Cascade)	Richard Kaufmann	Loon
Dave Wagner	Devils	Steve Kaufmann	Loon
Ken Highland	Devils	John Richter	Vernonia
Barbara Hagerman	Devils	Stephanie Harte	Lawrence, Lost
Warren Phillips	Devils	Kristi Hickox	Rock Creek Reservoir
Bill Vaughan	Devils	Ryan Nieman	Trillium, Cast, Mirror
Al Rice	Devils	Paula Curry	Trillium, Cast, Mirror
Robert Johnson	Fairview	Sally Thomas	Tenmile Lakes
Don Martin	Garrison	Edward Lopez	Tenmile Lakes
Max and Nila Peel	Hosmer	John Kelsey	Tenmile Lakes
Catherine Hayes	Lake of the Woods	Hazel Freeland	Tenmile Lakes
Fred McMillan	Garrison	Ken Freeland	Tenmile Lakes
John and Janet Milandin	Odell	Dan Jordan	Tenmile Lakes
Ron Boehi	Mercer		

New volunteers continued

aquatic weed growth, primarily the nonindigenous Brazilian elodea (*Egeria densa*). New volunteers include: **Sally Thomas, Edward Lopez, John Kelsey, Ken and Hazel Freeland, and Dan Jordan.** The enthusiasm of the Tenmile volunteers has depleted the Citizen Lake Watch's equipment supply. More volunteers will come on board as soon as equipment comes in.

I managed to visit most of the volunteers this summer and I thank you for the hospitality and opportunity to tour your lake. I missed meeting some of you and hope to see you next year. For those of you who sample only during the summer—thanks for your efforts. For those who sample all year round—try to keep warm! I am excited about the new cooperative arrangement between the Oregon Lakes Association and the Citizen Lake Watch Program. The support the Program has received from the Department of Agriculture and the State Weed Board for the new Hydrilla Watch Program will give the Program a chance to expand and be proactive in protecting our lakes. We hope that other Agencies will also see the advantage to our lakes of helping citizens become more involved.

— Mark Sytsma,
CLW Coordinator

The Citizen Lake Watch Program is coordinated by Portland State University under a grant from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The goal of the program is to involve citizens in the collection of reliable water quality data in an effort to identify long-term trends in the water quality of Oregon's lakes. For more information about the Citizen Lake Watch Program or Lake Watch News, contact the Lake Watch Coordinator at: Citizen Lake Watch, ODEQ, Water Quality Division, 811 SW 6th Avenue, Portland, OR 97204, or call 725-3833 or 1-800-452-4011.

Lake Watch News is available in alternate format (e.g., braille or large type) by contacting DEQ Public Affairs at 229-5766 or toll-free in Oregon 1-800-452-4011. People with hearing impairments can also contact DEQ's TDD at 503-229-6993.

A questionnaire by Margaret Kilanski

What do you need from OLA?

How can OLA increase its membership base?

Should OLA be taking a for/against position on political issues and politicians?

How would you suggest OLA keep its current members informed?

Would you be willing to share in the OLA responsibilities?

Are the OLA meetings too technically oriented?

Other comments?

Fold, stamp, and mail to Margaret Kilanski

**Margaret Kilanski
560 SW Willow Creek Rd.
Aloha, OR
97006**

**Don't
Forget the
Stamp**



Association News

Communicate your successes, problems, and questions to other Associations or groups by writing a brief note for the Association News Section of Lake Wise. Better yet, put OLA on your newsletter mailing list.

Fishhawk Lake

The **Fishhawk Lake Recreation Club Board** is considering purchase of a dredge. **Bob Yoder** and **Ken Forbes** recently viewed operation of an Aqua-Mog. Other dredges are being considered as well. An informational meeting was held on October 29 to answer questions and show a video of the Aqua-mog in operation. A dredge is an expensive item, and the Board encouraged Fishhawk Recreation Club members to provide input into the decision. **Sally Dogherty, Jack Jenkins, Margaret Kilanski, and Krista Morris** took home a copy of the *Atlas of Oregon Lakes* for being the association with the most representation at OLA's Annual Meeting in Seaside.

Mercer Lake

The **Mercer Lake Property Owners Association (MLPOA)** held its first Annual Meeting on 3 September. Thirty-one property owners attended, representing 20 voting members. There are 89 members of MLPOA!

MLPOA conducted a use survey of Mercer Lake in July. Use conflicts topped the list of concerns. A question about restriction brought out some very strong responses – from all directions, and some thoughtful, even-handed remarks from many. Forty-eight percent favored some restrictions on activities (jet-skiing and associated noise); 46 percent favored restrictions on activities near shore (distance from docks and sensitive shorelines); 22 percent did not want any restrictions on use (beyond existing laws and regulations).

The MLPOA Board includes: **Dave Honey** (President), **Ron Boehi** (Vice President), **Jack Pyle** (Immediate Past President), **Carol Honey** (Sec/Treasurer), **Steve Olienyk**, **Andy Boughal**, **Edith Laverdiere**, and **Matt Miller**.

Smith Lake

Several members of the **Smith Lake Improvement District** in Warrenton have paved the way for a county road beautification project. With assistance from the Clatsop County Public Works Director **Randy Revillian**, members **Dick Pellisier** and **Frances Dunton** have helped establish the county's first Adopt-A-Roadway project. (Reprinted from the September 15, 1994 Seaside Signal)

After considerable discussion and study, the Board of Directors of the Smith Lake Improvement District is recommending annexation of the Smith Lake watershed City of Warrenton. A public meeting has been scheduled for 7:30 PM, November 1, 1994 at the Warrenton High School library. Board members, City, and DEQ officials are scheduled to be present to explain the possible annexation and to answer questions.

Smith Lake Improvement District has taken the necessary steps to be incorporated. The new name is **Smith Lake Improvement, Inc.**

Associations Take Note

Association members that haven't received the OLA Lake Resource Library (formerly called the Lake Handbook), a compendium of books and other information about lakes, shouldn't have much longer to wait. The materials are in, but they haven't managed to assemble themselves into a package and get themselves to the post office. Although we have been hoping such a miracle would happen, it looks like the job will fall upon the shoulders of one or more volunteers. If anyone is interested in helping get the materials together and mailed they can contact Margaret Kilanski (645-1676). In addition, remember that there is strength in numbers. OLA appreciates and encourages Association membership, but we need Individual memberships too. **Help OLA be a louder voice for lakes in Oregon by asking the members of your Association to become Individual members of OLA.**

Association News continued...

Clear Lake

H2O P.O.W.R., a political action committee with one primary goal – to maintain, protect, and enhance the purity of water in Clear Lake through education of the public and government officials, and through participation in government policy and decision making that might effect that purity, recently hired an attorney to defend a challenge to a local initiative. Ballot Measure 20-16 was passed by nearly of the vote in the last election. The initiative required Heceta Water District voters be included in the decision making process before the District can put sewers anywhere in the District.

Clear Lake is the water supply for the Heceta Water District, which also supplies water to the City of Florence. Restricting development around Clear Lake to protect the water quality has been a contentious issue in the District. H2O P.O.W.R. has recommended that the Board of the Heceta Water District pass an amendment to the District Bylaws with the same requirements as the initiative – no spending of District funds on sewerage plans or projects without a vote of the people.

OLA's Corporate Members

SRI/Shapiro

Aquarius Systems

Electronic Data Solutions

KCM

**E&S Environmental Chemistry
Resource Management**

Blue and Fairview Lakes

Interlachen, Inc., the homeowners association at **Blue and Fairview Lakes** in East Multnomah County held a meeting on October 19 to discuss management issues. **Dave Wagner**, OLA Treasurer, and **Mark Sytsma**, OLA President, made presentations on how watersheds influence lakes and the Citizen Lake Watch Program. Fairview Lake, originally built as a flood control reservoir at the headwaters of the Columbia Slough, has severe water quality and sedimentation problems. Blue Lake has aquatic weed and algae problems. For further information on the activities of Interlachen, Inc. contact **Bettianne Goetz**, President (666-4369).

Devils Lake

PADL, the **Preservation Association of Devils Lake**, volunteers have worked with the **Devils Lake Water Improvement District (DLWID)** since 1992 to control the spread of purple loosestrife around Devils Lake. This summer, for the third year, PADL volunteers have been cutting flower heads in an effort to stop the spread of seeds. Landowners have been contacted to control loosestrife on their property along the lake. This year several new areas were infested, including the shoreline along the large wetland near the mouth of Rock Creek.

The need for sewerage around Devils Lake to protect the watershed is of increasing concern to PADL members. The Lincoln City City Council DLWID and PADL are working together to update a sewerage plan that will protect and restore water quality in Devils Lake. Contact President **Joe Peterson** (994-3214) for more information about Devils Lake.

Cullaby Lake Project Underway

Consultant selection has been completed for development of a workplan for a multiple-lake study of Clatsop Plains lakes. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality secured the \$10,000 grant through the EPA Clean Lakes Program. Clatsop County will administer the \$10,000 grant.

Lakes in the Clatsop Plains typically have high nutrient concentrations, algae blooms, and aquatic weed problems. Agriculture, logging, development, and septic systems may be contributing to these problems. These types of activities in a watershed increase the nutrient and sediment input to lakes, which fuels the algae and plant growth.

The lakes are infested with at least three different non-native plants: fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*), brazilian elodea (*Egeria densa*), and parrotfeather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*). These invasive plants displace native plants, alter water chemistry, and degrade fish and wildlife habitat.

SRI/Shapiro, a Portland-based environmental consulting firm (SRI/Shapiro is also a Corporate member of OLA and provided financial support for OLA's Annual Meeting), was selected to write the work plan. Will this be "Just another study"? The answer is yes and no. The EPA guidelines for a Phase I Diagnostic and Feasibility Study require a good understanding of how a lake functions and the root causes of problems. This requires characterization of physical, biological, and chemical features of the lake and its watershed – a study. This is needed to find permanent solutions to the problems, not just band-aid, quick-fixes. The increased understanding of how a lake works allows the development of a watershed-based strategy for long-term protection and management of a lake that will assure that future activities will not degrade lake quality.

The work plan for the Clatsop Plains lakes will not result in "Just another study", however, because of several innovative approaches advocated by Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality. The project will take a regional approach, several lakes will be looked at in

one Phase I Study. This makes sense because, while each lake is unique, many Clatsop Plains lakes share a common shallow groundwater aquifer and suffer from similar types of problems. A second innovation is the probable inclusion of pilot projects that will test and demonstrate various methods for managing the aquatic weeds in the lakes. Such implementations of management measures typically occur in Phase II of most Clean Lakes projects. DEQ's approach balances the need for sound technical understanding of how the lakes work, which requires study, with an understanding of a local desire to see the problems addressed immediately.

While funds for developing the work plan have been allocated, there are no funds currently earmarked for actually carrying out the Phase I study. When submitting its budget to Congress EPA always eliminates the Clean Lakes Program; lake-friendly legislators add the money back into the budget. So the Clean Lakes Program is in constant jeopardy. OLA and our parent organization encourage federal legislators to support the Clean Lakes Program, but funding is never assured. Nevertheless, DEQ and EPA staff are optimistic that a way to fund the study can be found. For more information about the Clean Lakes Program contact Avis Newell, the DEQ Clean Lakes Coordinator, at 229-0618.

OLA Committees and Chairs

Membership	open
Bylaws	Anjela Ehelebe
Publications	Mark Sytsma
Associations	Margaret Kilanski
Activism	Joe Eilers

Openings exist on OLA committees (as noted above). Members are encouraged to help out and be a more active part of OLA. Call Mark Sytsma if you are interested in being on a committee.

Open Page.....

Samuel Johnson once opined, "No man but a block-head ever wrote, except for money". While Mr. Johnson's observation may account for the lack of participation of members in the OLA Newsletter, the Editor prefers to believe that OLA members are not mercenary and that lack of input from members is because no one ever asked them to express an opinion. The Open Page is a new feature of **Lake Wise** that is intended to prove two things: (1) Mr. Johnson was wrong, and (2) OLA members have opinions. At the same time, the Open Page will make the newsletter a more stimulating and thought-provoking voice for lakes and lake management in Oregon. Anyone can submit an opinion on OLA and/or lake management issues in Oregon. Submit your opinions to:

Lake Wise Editor
Oregon Lakes Association
PO Box 586
Portland, OR

Express your opinion here

or here

Taking the pulse of OLA

From time to time I believe in taking an organization's pulse. Especially when an area of concern makes itself so apparent. For me this concern came to light at this year's annual meeting when attendance was low, despite active and informative mini-sessions and panel discussions. We had a wonderful space, good weather, and the peacefulness of the beach for our meeting. We sent out mailings and flyers to several hundred folks. Why didn't we get a good turnout?

I think OLA is not speaking the lake management/residents language. OLA does a wonderful job of talking technical about the what for's of lake/watershed life but is not in tune with the people who live the issues on a daily basis. This surprises me because two of OLA's objectives are to foster communication and working relations among lake associations, local, state, and national governmental agencies, organizations, universities, consultants, and individuals concerned with lake and watershed protection, restoration, and management. And provide a means for education, and for dissemination of information related to lake and watershed ecosystem management.

I'm here to tell you OLA has the expertise to assist lake manager/residents with many of the complicated issues regarding your lake. We need your feedback to give us some direction on how we can help. Please take a few minutes to complete the questions found on page x. We want to help you. Give us a chance!

Thank you – Margaret Kilanski, Fishhawk Lake

or here