

Oregon Lakes Association

February, 1992

A Voice for Our Quiet Waters

Newsletter

P.O. Box 586 • Portland, Oregon 97207

A WORD FROM THE BOARD ... by Joe Eilers

The OLA Board of Directors met in Salem on December 11, 1991 to discuss action for 1992. Among the many agenda items was the planning associated with our annual meetings. The 1992 conference is currently scheduled for September 26 at the Diamond Lake Resort (located just north of Crater Lake) and will focus on the Cascade lakes (see Ela Whelan's article in this issue regarding the conference and its agenda). The 1993 conference is tentatively planned for Eugene and is being organized by Richard Raymond who can be reached at 752-4271.

Several ad hoc committees were created to deal with specific issues for OLA. The committees and the OLA contacts are:

Recruitment / Dave Humphrey (378-4987)
Lake Outreach / Dave Smith (994-4452)/Andy Schaedel (229-6121)
Data Base Monitoring / Rich Peterson (725-4241)
Oregon Lake Management Program / Dave Wagner, Mike Bonoff (244-6922)

The goal of the *Recruitment Committee* is to maintain OLA's rapid growth in membership. OLA's current membership is about 140 and our intent is to double that in 1992. The *Lake Outreach Committee* will attempt to form stronger communications with existing lake improvement districts and those groups contemplating forming lake districts. OLA can provide assistance to lake groups regarding water quality issues, weed problems, governmental relations, and speakers. The *Data Base/Monitoring Committee* will begin the task of assembling a data base on Oregon lakes. The long-term goal is to have a computer file accessible to all that would index the data available for Oregon Lakes. Some publications such as the *Atlas of Oregon Lakes* (1985) made great strides in assembling available data, but these

reports quickly become dated unless a constant effort is made to keep the data base current. The *Oregon Lake Management Program Committee* will begin examining the feasibility of creating an official lake management office in an existing State agency. At present, no organization in the State allocates a full-time position for protection and management of Oregon lakes. Without recognition at the State level that the lake resources are important for recreation, drinking water, aesthetic, and scientific purposes, there is little reason to believe that they will be adequately protected. The job of this committee will be to develop a proposal for creating an office within State government to institutionalize the protection of the lake resources. If you are interested in participating in any of these committees, call the contacts listed above or Joe Eilers (758-1330).

OLA Annual Meeting will be held at Diamond Lake Resort/September 25-26. For more information please see page 2.

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OREGON LAKE CENSUS ... by Joe Eilers

This past month, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality took a census of the number of lakes in the State (work performed by E&S Geographic under contract to DEQ). After all, it's difficult to manage a resource when you don't know what you have. Previously published estimates indicated that there were over 6,200 lakes in Oregon (Figure 1). A new count using computer files shows that there are only 2,300 lakes in Oregon. What happened to the other 3,900 lakes? It turns out that both estimates (6,200 and 2,300) are correct - it just depends on how one defines a lake.

The process of taking the computer lake census was done electronically by counting all water bodies identified on U.S. Geological Survey digital files. These files contain all the information shown on 1:100,000 scale planimetric maps, only in a form readable on computers. However, the actual number of lakes is a very elusive number and is highly dependent on a number of factors. Foremost among these is the map scale used to define the number of lakes. The 1:1,000,000-scale used for this census generally identifies lakes as small as 1 ha (2.47 acre). Use of larger scales, such as 1:24,000, will greatly increase the count of standing bodies of water, but these small bodies of water can include a large number of wetlands and farm ponds. Other factors also affect the census of lakes, including the amount of precipitation, when the original maps were prepared, the construction or loss of impoundments, and decisions regarding lakes located on boundaries with other states.

The earlier count of lakes done by the Advisory Committee to the Oregon State Land Board apparently defined lakes using a scale of 1:24,000. This approach is more complete, but we know very little regarding the nearly 4,000 unnamed "lakes" other than they are small (average area = 2 ha [5 ac]). Regardless of whether you choose to use 2,300 or 6,200 Oregon lakes. These lakes constitute a tremendous resource worthy of protection. Urge your friends to "adopt" one of these lakes by joining OLA! A copy of the report can be obtained by requesting it from Andy Schaedel, DEQ, 811 Sixth Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204.



Figure 1

THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE ... by Ela Whelan

Mark your calendars for the third annual Oregon Lakes Association conference at Diamond Lake Resort on September 26, 1992. Diamond Lake, located at the base of Mt. Theilson, is said to be one of the most beautiful lakes in the Cascades. The area is a destination resort with fishing, camping, horseback riding, and hiking to offer outdoor enthusiasts. Skiing opportunities keep the resort busy year round.

The focus of the conference will be on management of Cascade lakes. Speakers have offered to provide information on ongoing studies on Waldo Lake, Crater Lake, Lake Notasha, and Klamath Lake. The Forest Service will discuss the history of Diamond Lake, ongoing analysis of effects of humans on the lake, and the current lake management plan.

A block of motel units and cabins has been set aside for this conference. Contact Diamond Lake at (503) 793-3333 to make reservations. The rooms will be held open for September 25th and 26th until approximately July. Additional information on the menus, and special menus will be provided in the next newsletter.

We hope to have as successful a conference in 1992 as the 1991 conference at Florence. If you have any suggestions, questions, or are interested in a booth to present equipment or information, please give me a call at (503) 650-3474.

ANNUAL CLEAN LAKES APPLICATIONS

.... by *Krystyna Wolniakowski*

EPA solicited innovative grant proposals for Phase 1 and Phase 2 Clean Lakes project grant applications again this year. About \$589,000 has been allocated to Region 10, which includes Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska. The Department of Environmental Quality requested proposals for innovative projects that either emphasized pollution prevention or a regional approach to control lake water quality problems. A letter was sent out to lake associations, universities and consultants in late December by the Department requesting ideas or proposals. Proposals were due back to ODEQ by January 14, 1992. The Department received several grant proposal ideas and prepared the federal funding application paperwork for the projects. The projects emphasized:

- Cooperation between agencies, local government and landowners;
- Integration with other state and federal water quality protection programs;
- Protection of wetlands;
- Comprehensive, integrated watershed management approach; and
- Pollution prevention approach.

The Department submitted applications to continue the Lake Water Quality Assessment projects including support for Citizen Lake Watch and mercury assessments in lakes and reservoirs, Phase 1 Diagnostic and Feasibility Studies for Waldo lake in the Cascades, Lake Lytle and Mercer Lake on the coast, Smith and Bybee Lakes in the Portland metro area, paleolimnological work in several coastal lakes to determine land use patterns, and a supplemental grant request for Lake Notasha. In addition, an application to support the annual OLA conference was also prepared. The federal funding request was \$309,000 with a 30% local and state match requirement.

Judith Lekrone, EPA Clean Lakes Project Officer in the Seattle Region 10 office, will forward her recommendations for funding to the EPA Headquarters office in Washington D.C. by March 1, 1992. Grant awards will be made by May, 1992.

GRASS CARP USE FOR NUISANCE AQUATIC WEEDS? ... by *Krystyna Wolniakowski*

There have been many inquiries to DEQ about using grass carp for controlling excessive weeds in Oregon's lakes and golf course ponds. People have no doubt heard about the famous grass carp of Devils Lake and how weeds have been controlled to some degree thanks to their herbivorous appetite for milfoil and brazilian waterweed (*Myriophyllum* and *Egeria*). Under Fish and Wildlife Commission rules, no more grass carp could be introduced to Oregon Waters until six years of monitoring was completed in Devils Lake, examining weed reduction, mortality, effects on resident fish, water quality and waterfowl.

The six years of monitoring has been completed and a final report from the Devils Lake Water Improvement District to DEQ is due by July of 1992. At that time, DEQ and ODFW will review the data, and make recommendations whether or not to allow the use of grass carp in the future as a management tool to control nuisance macrophytes. The issue will be complicated because grass carp were to be an interim control, while trying to reduce the nutrient loading into lakes through aggressive watershed management in order to control and eventually decrease macrophyte growth in the long term. A Coordinated Resource Management Program was initiated in 1987 and has recently been revitalized to take another look at watershed management around Devils Lake. More information will be available about possible use of grass carp by next summer.

RESULTS FROM NALMS ELECTIONS

Newly elected 1992 NALMS Board of Directors include the following officers:

President-Elect: *Eugene Welch*
Secretary: *Carol Jolly*
Treasurer: *Chris Holdren*
Region 11 Director: *Jay Alan Bloomfield*
Region 5 Director: *Charles F. Dvorsky*
Region 8 Director: *Krystyna U. Wolniakowski*
Director at Large: *Bruce Wilson*

Krystyna U. Wolniakowski currently serves as the Oregon Clean Lakes Program Coordinator at DEQ.

WHERE'S HELP WITH EXOTICS WHEN YOU NEED IT? ... by Stan Geiger

Now don't get me wrong. I'm not one of those "Oregon for Oregonians" kind of person. I came here from Missouri. But when I think about Oregon plants and all of those exotics and alien species out there near our borders, and getting established in our state, I get protectionist. And for good reason. Try fishing for bluegill in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife ponds at St. Louis (Oregon) in a pond full of eurasian water-milfoil! We have an aquatic plant management problem on our hands in Oregon, at least three species of nuisance aquatic/wetland plants infesting new territory like old-time missionaries, and we have two regulatory agencies whose job it is to deal with this problem - doing virtually nothing.

Purple Loosestrife

Seen any purple loosestrife lately? You know, *Lythrum salicaria* (L.). Three years ago, there was some talk of it being in Oaks Bottom on the Willamette in Portland. Last year, I saw it in one of our company's mitigation wetlands in Milwaukie. I saw more of it last summer along the Willamette River above the Sellwood Bridge.

Two years ago I needed to pick up some little bauble at Washington Square near Portland and happened to visit when their annual art exhibit was in progress. I didn't walk very far before I spotted some excellent paintings of wetlands. The painter told me they were done in the Moses Lake area of Western Washington. I asked whether all of that low-lying layered rose color in wetland after wetland was purple loosestrife. It was, and he lamented the exotic and what it has done to wetlands there. Anyone who is in touch with Washington aquatic plant management efforts knows that the state is aggressively seeking relief from yet another exotic. They have been doing battle with eurasian water-milfoil for at least 10 years (and often without the assistance of useful herbicides). They know what an unwelcome exotic can do to native habitat.

Dave Humphrey of the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the primary lead agency on the aquatic plant scene, recently mentioned that two short courses to be held in Corvallis and the Rogue River area are educational programs on Purple Loosestrife to make the public aware that PLS, once established, will spread rapidly, displacing native and other vegetation, reducing

wildlife habitat, choking waterways, and in general making the land it infests useless. Education is not the answer to bringing PLS infestation under control as it has been reported that at least one nursery in Oregon is actively selling purple loosestrife plants. From what I have seen of loosestrife's presence, we ought to be beyond education to seriously combat an aquatic species that could cost us a lot of valuable wetland associated with our state's lands.

Eurasian Water-Milfoil

I've been nervous about exotic aquatics since we (Beak Consultants, Inc.) successfully tackled the control of eurasian water-milfoil in Blue Lake (Multnomah County) in 1979. At that time it was barely known to the Oregon State University Herbarium (in fact the Corps of Engineers paid Herbarium staff to do a reconnaissance to find out where it was in the state). The Corps did their own reconnaissance of the upper Willamette in 1978 and found serious infestations in the Eugene area and in Kirk pond. Our company (Scientific Resources, Inc.) was contracted by the Corps in the early 80's to investigate the three lower reservoirs of the Columbia River to see whether the plant had colonized shallow areas there. We didn't find positive evidence of it, but it was documented by Washington State in the reservoir above McNary Dam. Now that's too close for comfort! There is a lot of good aquatic plant habitat in those lower three reservoirs that is probably being occupied by the antithesis of fish habitat itself, eurasian water-milfoil. You wonder about those who try to protect the fishery of the Columbia River. Isn't a dramatic change of submersed plant species in the Columbia of any relevance to threatened salmonid populations? Well, you can't rule it out can you?

It is my perspective that we have never had a state effort to combat this old invader of aquatic habitat. I think we have a *laisse faire* strategy in the state regarding these nuisance species. Live and let live? Not always the best plan.

Regulatory Snafu

Let's face it. Oregon does not have a state strategy for dealing with nuisance aquatic plants. There was a glimmer of a program back in the 50's when serious attempts were made to control *Elodea densa* on the coast. But nothing since then. At least three agencies have regulatory responsibility for state waters: Department of Agriculture (ODA), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the Division of State Lands (DSL).

You would think the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife would have more interest in this problem as well. Loss of habitat and all that entails.

ODA licences aquatic herbicide applicators and operators and licences herbicides for use in the state. They even have a nuisance plant section. I tried to get ODA to co-sponsor a Clean Lakes-funded effort to develop a state strategy for managing nuisance aquatic plants during last year's brief opportunity for funding programs. There was no interest, and presumably no money. Think of the value of getting the Corps of Engineers to help share the cost of aquatic plant management. They have lots of experience with this kind of program and are quite willing to help *if the state requests it.*

DEQ is making sounds like the application of herbicides in "wetlands" may become impossible. At a time when DEQ is staffed with competent people to assess wetland alteration proposals in the state, the impetus to *protect wetlands* has produced a blindness to the problem of nuisance and destructive aquatic exotics that could lead to the loss of one of the state's effective weapons for reducing or eliminating the threat. Think about it. Aren't lakes wetlands too? They are according to the US Fish and Wildlife Service and DSL. No option for use of herbicides for submersed or emergent aquatics could force us into the fins of- you've got it - the grass carp. Perhaps we are dealing with a subtle Arkansas conspiracy.

It is past time for developing a state strategy and program for aggressively resisting the spread of these noxious weeds. An individual can't mount this kind of program. It's obviously state business. But woe is us. In a time of

the dreaded Measure 5 and supposed need for reductions in state budgets and agency consolidation, recommending this kind of program will be unpopular. What are our priorities? And how much money is really available? I noticed the clever resilience of local government this past year in maxing out assessed property values in response to Measure 5 to recoup revenues. I can understand that response. How about a little state cleverness applied to another high priority resource degradation problem? We private sector scientists would be glad to provide assistance. But the ball is in the state's court.

FSU STUDENT TAKES THE LEAD FOR CITIZEN LAKE WATCH

Steve Daggett, a PSU limnology graduate student working under the direction of Dr. Richard Peterson, has been working closely with DEQ to begin the 1992 Citizen Lake Watch Program. He will be responsible for outreach and tracking of current volunteers, finding new volunteers for critical lakes, and compiling and reporting the data collected. One of the most critical tasks Steve will be doing to keep good volunteers is maintaining frequent contact with them and providing feedback on data collected.

Have you paid your membership dues for 1992? Records show that many of you have not yet renewed your membership. If you have any questions about renewal, please contact Stan Geiger, OLA Treasurer (245-4068), or Anjala Ehelebe, OLA Secretary (378-3449).

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Oregon State Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society.

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