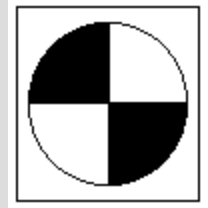


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Editor:
Roger Edwards

LAKE WISE

A Voice for Quiet Waters



The Oregon Lakes Association Newsletter

Looking Backward, Looking Forward

Having mastered changing the clocks back to Pacific Standard Time, the local election issues, and corralling the many, multi-hued leaves of the annual Fall foliage display, it must be time now for the fourth of the quarterly newsletters from OLA. Highlights from the Conference and a look at the lake news during the last few months generally make this final issue of the year a straight-forward one to assemble. Certainly, that is the case this year. Just the location of Diamond Lake Conference assured that attendees would be in the proper frame of mind to consider what lies ahead for OLA and Oregon lakes. The fact that the Lodge was full for the Conference dates is cause for optimism, even if a good share of the visitors were there for biking, fire-fighting, fishing, and quilting rather than the OLA Conference. Those of us who didn't make plans early to attend this year's Conference, might have been turned away and so would have missed the attentive Lodge staff, good weather, and pleasant lake views; with dead insects floating along the shoreline and fishing boats lingering until sunset before coming back to port.

This was the third time OLA has met at Diamond Lake, largely because it is nice to have an excuse to go there, but also because last year's rotenone treatment drew focus to several issues that are major concerns for lake managers. Cyanobacteria advisories, introduced nuisance species, boat washing pros and cons, and water quality monitoring are all current events there. The full day and a half of OLA activities brought updates on all of these topics. The USFS has begun placing permanent educational posters about cyanobacteria at the lakes where these species have posed problems. Jet ski enthusiasts on the Mississippi River have throttled down their craft out of fear that introduced Asian carp could intercept their trajectory. The carp can reach up to 40 pounds and leap from the water when they are disturbed. Flowing waters in New Zealand and more and more in the US are being impacted by mats of the stalked diatom, *Didymosphenia geminata*, descriptively known as "rock snot", which coats the rocks and plants of high quality streams. The quagga mussels that were just discovered in Lake Mead last January showed up downstream in the San Diego water supply this August. The spread of these and other detrimental invaders continue to increase awareness that washing and drying boats, waders, equipment, and pets needs to become a key part of a day at the lake.

Diamond Lake itself was the focus of several of the day's presentations. Visitor surveys from 2001 and 2003, which were before and after cyanobacteria advisories limited water contact recreation activities, were compared with those from 2007 to suggest that fishing is a big attraction to families. Even with the mechanical harvest of tui chub prior to the rotenone application, there were still an estimated 29 carcasses per foot along the drawn down shoreline after the treatment. The lake was rank and became dominated by *Anabaena* before the ice cover disrupted routine monitoring. The water was still a nasty soup when the ice began breaking up the following March. Warming temperatures and increasing photoperiods helped stimulate a diatom bloom in May and the dormant biota re-established their normal populations in June, when a Secchi depth of 12.7 meters was recorded. Trout that were stocked by ODFW in May and June were growing at a rate of 2 inches per month, and rooms and campsites at the lake became a hot ticket, again.

Just as the future looks bright for Diamond Lake, OLA too has cause for optimism. A ten member Board was elected, which adds three new faces and changes assignments for some of the incumbents. A donation from the law firm Stoel Rives provided the Conference lunch and refreshments, YSI displayed a selection of their instruments, and Hach Environmental and SolarBee distributed information about their products. A fun-raising raffle was provided by the donation of several pewter wildlife pins and two salmon/trout posters. The merriment of the raffle grew serious when YSI graciously added a pH and an ORP meter to the prizes. And there was a 30% return rate for the evaluation form tucked in among the presentation abstracts.

Evaluations are somewhat of a nuisance to fill out, but the feedback they provide is a great help to the Board in planning future meetings. To those taking the time to provide a response, thank you. Overall, there was a consensus that the presentations of the 2007 program were informative, with a couple of talks perhaps a bit too technical. Evaluators encouraged an effort to include lakeside homeowners, lake associations, and volunteer efforts into next year's program. Other suggestions were also forthcoming:

- ❖ It was noted that some of the talks ran over their allotted time, creating a bit of a time crunch. If speakers with broader topics need additional time, it may be useful to allow a larger time slot for them.

- ❖ The words repetitive, redundant, and overlap showed up in a few evaluations. Even though Diamond Lake and the invasive species presentations were deemed important and informative, it was felt that some of these talks could have been combined. Updates regarding new findings on these topics were appreciated, but they should be limited to one talk each. There was a measured interest in including a future talk on the social aspects of lake restoration, which included following the long-term efforts at Diamond Lake.

- ❖ It was an even split on whether there was enough time to visit during the breaks. The inclusion of the raffle was an effort to move people back into their seats after the break, but the opportunity to meet and talk with colleagues and meet new friends is certainly recognized by all as one of the more valuable aspects of holding an annual meeting.

- ❖ A recommendation was made to put some of the power point presentations onto the OLA website, but the handouts were appreciated.

- ❖ The next annual conference site? The suggestions covered the length and breadth of the state, with "a remote site by a lake, with a lodge" being by far the most popular location. The list of suggestions included: Crater Lake, Lincoln City, the north coast/Astoria, Bend, Kah-nee-ta, H.S. Andrews Experimental Forest, Corvallis, and for those with a big city yen - Eugene and Portland.

These observations will receive close scrutiny as the Board takes up planning next year's Conference.

Exotic Pets Harm Native Plants and Animals

Why does the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife care if you have a red-eared slider turtle or an African clawed frog as a pet? Primarily, because the attention span of pet owners often times does not last as long as the lifetime of their pets.

"If everyone could guarantee that their pets would never escape or be released into the wild, we wouldn't care what kind of pets they had," says Jim Gores, the ODFW Invasive Species and Wildlife Integrity coordinator. "Unfortunately, this just isn't the case."

Over the last decade, ODFW staff have seen a rise in the general availability of exotic animals and, as a result, more exotics in people's homes—and, unfortunately, in the wild. As a result, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife

Commission enacted the Wildlife Integrity Rules in 1996. These rules spell out if an animal is “exempt” (not regulated by the rules and legal to possess); non-controlled (legal to possess); controlled (legal to possess under certain conditions) and prohibited (illegal to possess in Oregon). If an animal does not appear on any of these lists, then it is still considered prohibited or illegal to possess in Oregon.

When determining if an animal should be prohibited or not in Oregon, a Wildlife Integrity Panel of six animal experts from around the state consider a variety of factors including:

- ❖ Could the animal survive in Oregon?
- ❖ Would this animal prey on native wildlife?
- ❖ Does the animal have the potential to degrade habitat for native species?
- ❖ What is the potential that this animal could pass diseases or parasites on to native wildlife?

Ironically, the safety of the owner and the general public are not part of the evaluation process, therefore, alligators, crocodiles, and numerous venomous snakes appear on the non-controlled list.

Within the past year or so, ODFW staff have been helping the Oregon State Police make sure that the Wildlife Integrity Rules are followed. Pet and pond shops around the state are frequently checked to make sure they are only selling legal pets. Internet sites—especially Craig’s List—are frequently monitored to look for people trying to sell or give away prohibited species.

Although violations of these rules can result in police visits and/or fines, ODFW does not desire to go to that extent. “Our goal is to keep people from releasing their pets into the wild,” said Jim. “We have red-eared slider turtles, snapping turtles, goldfish, oriental weatherfish, and many others established in Oregon because people dumped their aquariums and unwanted pets in a local lake or stream. This is what we want to avoid.” So please, before you buy a turtle, fish or frog – particularly via the Internet, check the Wildlife Integrity Rules before you make your purchase. Also, learn more about the time and effort required to take care of the animal. Some, such as red-eared slider turtles can live 50-60 years!

If you want more information on ODFW’s Wildlife Integrity Rules, please visit <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/OARs/56.pdf> or call or email Jim Gores at 503-947-6308 or james.k.gores@state.or.us. The cited OAR provides the lists for the different categories of fish and wildlife. The lists were created by considering each species included in definitive texts of mammals, amphibians and reptiles, and birds of the world; and fish, mollusks, and crustaceans of North America. If you think you may have a prohibited species in your possession, please contact Jim and he will be happy to work with you. You will not be ticketed or fined.

An Autumn Activity for the Lakeside

With the sun now setting early and with the teapot tempests of the recent election still fresh in our minds, it is easy to justify spending a couple hours of an evening, quietly reading Ibsen’s *An Enemy of the People*. Henrik Ibsen was a Norwegian playwright who lived from 1828 to 1906. His works have been described as social dramas because he portrayed his characters realistically, and the situations he placed them in were common, although they may not have received much discussion during his lifetime. Audiences could readily recognize

the personalities and the social interactions depicted in the plays, so it was natural that they became general topics of conversation and enjoyed much popularity.

An Enemy of the People is a five act play that was first performed in 1892. The key cast members are a competent doctor, who is medical officer of the Baths; a competent mayor, who oversaw the construction and now the operation of the Baths; two newspapermen who find solace from their own unfulfilled dreams by pointing out the foibles of others; their old printer, who advises everyone to get along, use moderation, and make things work out, but to no avail; a ship captain, who provides a safety valve for the play's resolution; and a drunken sailor who demonstrates it is possible to vote properly but for the wrong reason. As the play opens, the townspeople are shown enjoying the new prosperity that has come from piping water from a freshwater lake to the town. The water augments their drinking water supply and is used in the Baths, which have attracted visitors from distant places. The conflict unfolds when the doctor shows the mayor a report he requested from the university that confirms the presence of "infusoria" in the water, due to corruption in the lake from the tanneries there. Moving the conduit away from the tannery outfall will be expensive and will take enough time that competing cities could steal away the economic benefits the Baths have generated. The newspaper is eager to publish an account of this development until the mayor points out the repair will have to be borne by increased taxes in the town. The climax of the play occurs in Act IV, when the doctor's insistence that the public health implication of his findings must be made known leads to a vote of the people, who declare him their enemy. In dismay, the doctor exclaims that the might of the majority does not make them right.

The doctor is correct of course, but democratic societies have agreed to follow the majority's wishes. Interestingly, Ibsen has previously allowed the ship captain to opine that such a system would never work on board a ship, where a responsible adult must keep the purpose at hand in mind. Majority rule does not work well on land either unless people have a clear understanding about the issues on their ballot. Oregon's adoption of vote by mail has diminished the effectiveness of 11th hour announcements that can't be sorted out until after the polls close, but the misinformation that is made available during an election is still bewildering. As the play points out, voters should consider the long term impact of their vote in their decision process, and proponents of an issue must work unceasingly to educate the electorate about their concern.

2007 Recreation Advisories for Cyanobacteria

LOCATION	DATE POSTED	DATE LIFTED
Laurelhurst Park Pond	January 1st	
Hills Creek Reservoir	May 11th	June 6th
Detroit Lake Reservoir	May 30th	June 13th
Lost Creek Lake	June 12th	July 10th
Willow Creek Reservoir	June 22nd	August 3rd
	August 17th	October 30th
Lemolo Lake	June 26th	August 20th
Odell Lake	July 25th	August 13th
Devils Lake	August 13th	September 18th
Siltcoos Lake	September 18th	November 9th



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Improvements Keep Coming at Smith and Bybee Lakes

Any management action requires a well defined idea of why it would be beneficial, and what it must accomplish to be considered successful. While few would argue that additional proof of this axiom is needed, it is also true that evaluating all the possible contingencies of a change presents a challenge. The history of Smith and Bybee Lakes provide a good example of this difficulty.

Smith and Bybee Lakes lie in a 2000 acre complex of shallow expanses of open water, dikes, sloughs, ponds, and marshes at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers, which is in the midst of an industrial section of Portland. The depth of the water there seldom exceeds 4 feet and is influenced by tidal flows and stage levels in the Willamette and Columbia. Smith Lake is the larger of the two, is farther separated from the rivers and so is less responsive to their fluctuating flows, and can dry in the late summer. Water depth in Bybee Lake can vary daily in response to Pacific tides backing up water in the Columbia River. This wetland habitat has long been an attraction for woodland creatures, and over 160 species of birds and waterfowl have been documented in the area.

Out of concern about epidemics of avian botulism, a water control structure was placed on the Columbia Slough near Bybee Lake in 1982 to isolate the lakes from a direct connection with the rivers. The device permitted control of water fluctuations in both lakes and allowed over 1100 acres to remain inundated year-round. The absence of flooding and drying cycles caused a change in the wetland plant communities, and changes were also noted in the migratory patterns of some bird species that were once common visitors there. So while this management change did achieve its desired objective, it also eliminated the birds that would most benefit from the improvement.

As this flaw was recognized, better plans were devised and additional controls were put in place in 2003 to restore the ability to mimic natural cycles. Under this regime, the project's established criteria of success soon became apparent. Juvenile salmon were found in Bybee Lake within a year of the change. Plants that had long been dormant sprouted as soon as water levels were drawn down. And all manner of birds flocked to feed on the fish stranded in the shrinking pools. Great egrets are among those that have joined in these feasts. More than 500 individuals were counted in late October last year, feeding alongside the great blue herons that are also common there.

Great egrets are large wading birds that are just smaller than great blue herons, to whom they are related. They have a cosmopolitan distribution although their populations were nearly destroyed by the millinery fashions of the early 1900's. They are well known in Oregon but more so east of the Cascades. Their return to Smith and Bybee Lakes is a tribute to both their present protected status, and the success Metro Regional Government has achieved in looking after this wetland resource. Knowledge of their work to make the lakes better accessible is also gaining appreciation.

Hydrolab, OTT, and Hach Company Introduce Hach Environmental



Hydrolab, [OTT](#), and [Hach Company](#) are pleased to introduce you to Hach Environmental – a division of Hach created to bring special attention to the unique needs of our environmental water monitoring customers.

Hach Environmental was created from a combination of Hydrolab and OTT, and supported by the resources of Hach – a great example of how a combined team is truly greater than the sum of the individual parts.

Future of Little Hyatt Lake is Under Review

A perceived increase in the seepage coming through the Little Hyatt Dam this summer has led the BLM to drain the 20 acre foot pool behind the dam for a thorough inspection of its integrity. Concern about seepage was the cause of a previous inspection in 1999, but the upstream part of that work was performed by divers.

Comparison of the findings of these inspections show continued deterioration of the concrete structure, which has areas of “soft” concrete and eroded areas on both dam faces. Without repairs, these eroded areas will continue growing until they ultimately penetrate the dam. This eventuality could occur anytime after the reservoir is refilled. The recommendations for repair from 1999 are considered still valid today. The more immediate concern is an eroded area at the bottom of the west abutment, on the dam's upstream face. This area receives the stress of the impounded water pressing against the shallow arch of the 15' high dam. The head gates and canal structure that formerly diverted water to Emigrant Lake through the Ashland Lateral Canal are now supporting this pressure. The failure of these structures would cause the dam to collapse. Filling the eroded void with concrete will stabilize this problem while the larger decision of what to do with the dam is under consideration.

Little Hyatt Dam is in Jackson County on Keene Creek, downstream and just over a mile southwest of Hyatt Reservoir. Both dams were built in the 1920's to provide water for the Talent Irrigation District. This water diversion from the Klamath to the Rogue Basin is now accomplished at the Keene Creek Reservoir, which is a 339 acre foot impoundment behind a 67' dam that was built in 1959 downstream and 2 miles south of Little Hyatt Dam. So while the Little Hyatt Reservoir is now used principally for recreation, it is a highly popular recreation site. In the short time since the safety of the dam has come into question, support groups have been organized to demonstrate their concern about the possibility of dismantling the dam and have started private fundraising for the dam's repair. An incomplete estimate of repair costs is in excess of \$700,000.

LAKE WISE

The Oregon Lakes Association

Newsletter 2007 #4

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OLA Mission: The Oregon Lakes Association, a non-profit organization founded in 1988, promotes understanding, protection, and thoughtful management of lake and watershed ecosystems in Oregon. For additional information on OLA, write to the address above, or visit our website.

OLA welcomes submissions of material that furthers our goals of education and thoughtful lake management in Oregon, and is grateful for the corporate support that helps sustain the organization. Corporate members are offered a one-time opportunity to describe their product or service to Lake Wise readers. These descriptions are not endorsements, and opinions appearing in Lake Wise are not OLA policy statements.

Visit our website: www.oregonlakes.org



Mural

New Mural Reflects YSI's Environmental Strategy

In 2007, to highlight our environmental mission, YSI commissioned a mural. This mural was painted on our headquarters building which faces Ste. Route 68, the main road into the Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio.

The theme of the new mural reflects the strategy of our Company:

- Healthy ecosystems sustain the planet's people, aquatic life, and animals;
- YSI is committed to preserving ecosystems (water, land, and air);
- YSI works with partners across the globe to accomplish this.