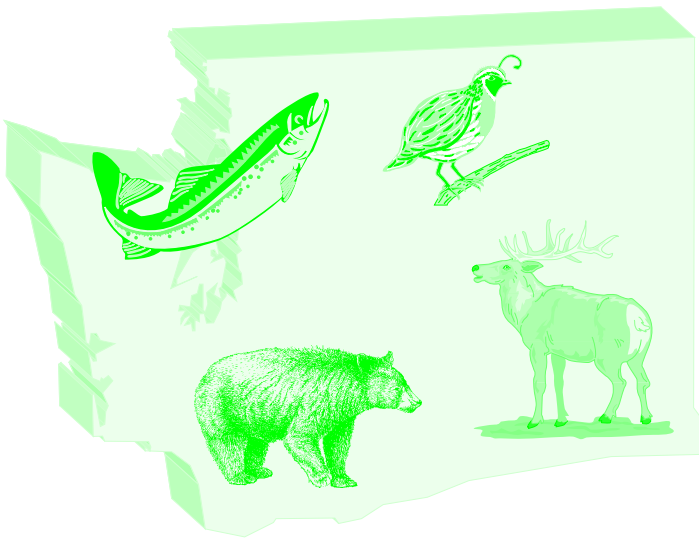


WAPB Newsletter



Washington Association of Professional Biologists September/October 1999

Treasurer's Report

by Lauri Vigue

Assets	
CD	\$14,030
Savings	50
Checking (Balance as of 9/27/99)	17,516
Total	\$31,596

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Member Participation

By Tim Rymer



I have been an active member of WAPB since its conception. Before WAPB was formed, I was a member of WPEA from the time I began my state service. In fact, I paid into both for several years before it finally became too big of a financial issue. I have always looked at "representation" from the standpoint of it being a form of good insurance. I didn't mind paying money into WPEA because I knew there were plenty of good things being worked on that would benefit me such as cost of living increases, salary surveys, insurance benefits, etc. I never actively participated as a member of WPEA, mainly because of the large size of the organization. That might have been different if I had ever needed other services, such as being represented in a grievance.

WAPB was formed in large part to be more responsive to individuals and issues that affected biologists. That is why I have stepped up to try and do my part in making a difference in this organization and have great appreciation for everyone else who does the same. We are made up of a relatively small number of members, which means participation is key to making our bargaining unit work well.

It is that time of year again when people need to step up to the plate and get involved. Unfortunately, many of us are content to sit on the sidelines while a few do all of the hard work. Some like to yell from the sidelines, which can be in the form of encouragement but many times is nothing more than harsh criticism. If you don't like the way things are going in this organization then get involved and do something about it. If you like the way things are going, then get involved anyway; we need lots of active members with new ideas and energy.

Begin by attending one of the upcoming annual meetings and/or running for office. There are not too many good excuses for not showing up at the annual meetings, you still get paid for a day's work. WAPB members cannot drive a state vehicle or claim mileage to the annual meeting, but you do get to see a lot of your fellow workers and perhaps meet some new people. Let's get with the program and help be part of the solution.

WAPB Phone Numbers



President	Tim Rymer	(360) 457-9015
Vice President	Ruth Milner	(360) 435-3285
Secretary	Jeff Korth	(509) 765-8255
Treasurer	Lauri Vigue	(360) 456-5688
Member at Large	Bob Bicknell	(360) 274-9814
Newsletter Editor	Pat Miller	(360) 577-0672

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ANNUAL MEETING COMING UP IN NOVEMBER

By Pat Miller



The specifics on the annual meeting of our group have been finalized. The meeting for the westside is November 9, 1999 in North Bend. The meeting location is the **USFS North Bend Ranger Station**, please note the change from past meetings. The Ranger Station is located on the same street as the railroad station, at 42404 SE North Bend Way. Coming from the west on I-90, take exit 27 (Snoqualmie); turn left at the off ramp; follow the road around the corner as it turns into North Bend Way; the Ranger Station is on the left (north) side of the road, approximately 4 miles from the freeway exit. Coming from the east on I-90, take exit 34; turn right at the off ramp onto 468th St. (used to be Edgewick Road); turn left at Ken's Truck Stop, which turns into North Bend Way; the Ranger Station is on the right (north) side. The meeting will start at 9:00 am and the room is reserved until 4:00 pm.

The meeting for the eastside is November 16, 1999 at the **Grant County Public Works Complex** in Ephrata. The meeting will begin at 9:00 am and the room is reserved until 4:00 pm. To find the meeting room site; entering Ephrata on Highway 28 (which becomes Main Street), go east on Division (cross RR tracks and proceed up the hill) to Enterprise Street, turn right on Enterprise, go two blocks and you're there!

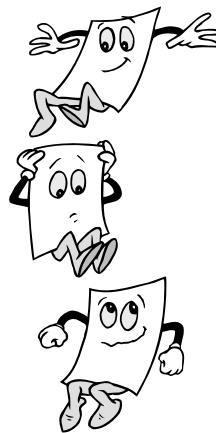
The purpose of the annual meeting is the election of officers and the discussion of other matters that the membership deems important. One item on the list for this year is a possible dues adjustment to deal with increasing costs. Another item is the clarification of which union represents whom in the Agency, hopefully we will have some resolution on this to present to the members. We are planning on having our Attorney, Rhonda Fenrich attend if possible. Do you have an issue that you would like to add to the agenda? Please send it to Ruth Milner (present VP and future President) and we will try to put it on the agenda.

As a reminder, the contract states that you can attend one WAPB meeting per year on Department time, but you may not use a state vehicle to travel to the meeting. We have had members use state vehicles in the past and they could be subject to disciplinary action.

INVITED COLUMNS

By Pat Miller

Another feature of this publication that the Executive Board would like to begin is the contribution of articles from the members on issues that they believe will be of interest to all members. An example of that is the article from Rhonda Fenrich, our attorney, in the last newsletter and the article from Curt Kraemer in this edition. The article can be on resource issues, contractual matters or anything else that you believe would be of interest. Please send the articles to me and if the demand is high enough, I will ask the board to help select those we print and in what order. Please send the articles in Word Perfect or ASCII text format.



MEET THE WAPB OFFICERS

By Pat Miller and Ruth Milner

We are a very diverse group and it has been suggested that we improve our communications with members by providing a short biographical sketch of the officers in the newsletter. This month we asked Ruth Milner, current Vice President and future President to tell us about herself and her views on our organization. Ruth shared the following:

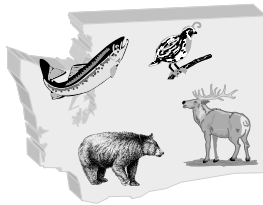
I have been a district biologist with the Wildlife Management program for the past 7 years. I work in District 13, which is basically the middle portion of Region 4, the state's most urbanized region. Prior to taking this job, I was the Stewardship Biologist in Habitat Management, processed scientific permits out of Olympia, and worked as a temporary in Regions 4 and 5. I've been a WDFW employee for about 12 years. I have two bachelor's degrees — one in comparative literature and history and one in wildlife science, and a master's degree in wildlife science.

I decided to put some time and energy into WAPB as this year's vice president, and next year's president because I believe in the organization's ability to enhance our capability to be effective professionals. Every bargaining organization has its share of disagreements with managers. We have these too and deal with them very effectively. However, for me the Association's greatest strength should be to give us a voice to speak for the resource.

I am not an advocate of an approach which views managers and management decisions as the en-

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YOUR ASSOCIATION AND YOU



By Curt Kraemer, Past President WAPB

I often hear comments about “what does the Association do for me.” As with many things in life there isn’t a simple answer. The obvious, of course, is the “union type” activities of labor relations, working conditions, etc. With the ongoing instability in the upper levels of the agency and what seems to be perpetual reorganization this is no small item.

However the association can be much more, especially with membership involvement. A major consideration during the formation of this Association revolved around activities outside what is normally considered normal “union activities”. Through the Association we have the opportunity to champion resource needs based on biological concerns rather than various political agendas. With regard to Washington fish and wildlife biology, habitat and management we are among the most knowledgeable biologists in the world. Collectively we have unique knowledge, experiences and insights that places us in position to be very effective advocates for the resource.

We have opportunities to provide valued input to lobbying efforts at the State Legislature, sound technical review of issues to decision makers at local, state, and national levels, and to be spokesperson’s for the resource. Reviews of Habitat Conservation Plans, forestry rules, etc., are opportunities that cry out for our input. If we take the time to put together well thought out and technically sound responses to these kinds of issues we will become creditable representatives for the resource. To successfully do this we need people that are willing to provide the leadership to bring issues to the larger group and/or write the needed technical input. The other need is for individuals to serve in a technical review capacity for the Association’s board so that any products produced is representative of our interests. This kind of effort will result in a Association that we can be proud to be associated with.

My challenge to you is to direct your zeal and passion for the resource through the Association for the support of Washington’s fish and wildlife resources.

MEET THE WAPB OFFICERS

(continued from Page 2)

emy. I think we should strive to form a cooperative approach, where the whole agency functions as a team; where managers respect the experience and opinions of biologists, and vice versa. I’m not afraid to disagree with bad management decisions, and I believe strongly that we have a great contract and need to work hard to keep it that way. However, I want professionalism, and not grievances to guide our organization. The biggest challenge we face, in my opinion, is keeping the resource healthy and functioning in the face of an ever increasing human population, which doesn’t always place the same value on the natural world that biologists do.

I spend my time away from the job with my husband (a fish biologist) and two daughters, ages 6 and 8 on our small horse farm. We try to spend as much time as possible doing outdoor activities, but I also love opera and great literature.

ASK THE BOARD ?

By Pat Miller

In the July/August newsletter I solicited questions from the membership to be posed to the board. To date, I have receive none. I hope that we can begin a process of improving communication within our organization by members submitting questions for the board or our attorney. Please send your question to me or any other board member and we will find the answer and include it in the next newsletter.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



By Greg Schirato

As you are aware, WAPB has a lobbyist that works closely with legislators. Lobbyists keep in contact with legislators both during and outside of actual sessions. A Senator recently contacted the WAPB lobbyist, Dawn Vyvyan, concerning the possibility of WAPB running, writing and passing a new bill. The Senator’s idea was to set up a Scientific Committee to formulate strategies to protect and prevent loss of T&E species. The committee would review both plant and wildlife species and direct interagency approaches to protection.

It is good to have legislators seeking out our help and professional guidance on bills and this is a great example of how our organization through our lobbyists can influence natural resource policy and law. We need your input on the proposed committee mentioned above. Is this a bill that we as a union should advocate? Do you have ideas for other bills that we should develop and work with our lobbyist to implement? Please give your input to any board member.

NEW NRB SAFETY RULES



Natural Resources Building (NRB) employees take note. The following information was distributed in message to PROS-S members and it is important to WAPB members as well. Howard Fuss was recently present for discussions about building safety after hours after one of their members raised concerns. The stairwell doors are locked after 5:30 PM. If you get into the stairwells after 5:30 your only exit is at the bottom of the stairwells and you must reenter the building using your card key. The bottom line is: USE THE ELEVATORS AFTER HOURS TO MOVE BETWEEN FLOORS. Also, after 5:30 you will be expected to have your card key/identification badge clearly visible. It appears signs will be placed on the outside of the stairwells to remind us of the above warning. Lastly, if you are in the stairwells and face an emergency, the only way that you can exit is at the bottom or by pulling the fire alarm, which will unlock the doors. Guess where the fire alarms are located in the stairwells? Yep at the bottom.

25th Anniversary Celebration... Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

Dedication of Visitor Center and Boardwalk Trail



Saturday, October 16, 1999

- 8 am - noon Guided bird walks every hour along the new boardwalk trail.
- 10 am - 4 pm Open house
Visitors can tour the new facilities
- 1 pm - 2 pm Dedication and Ribbon Cutting
(Seating limited to 100 people)

Be a part of this great celebration for YOUR National Wildlife Refuge!
For more information, call (360) 753-9467

Job Reps

Jerry Hickman, *Wildlife Mgmt., Region 1* ... (509) 464-4453
Lynda Hoffman, *Habitat Mgmt., Region 2* . (509) 997-9428
Steve Jackson, *Fish Mgmt., Region 6* (360) 264-5689
Anita McMillan, *Wildlife Mgmt., Region 6* . (360) 457-4601
Greg Schirato, *Wildlife Mgmt., Region 6* ... (360) 427-8628
Jeff Skirletz, *Fish Mgmt., Olympia* (360) 357-7607

WAPB

Washington Association of Professional Biologists
c/o Lauri Vigue
9530 Johnson Point Rd. NE
Olympia, WA 98516

*Please submit articles for
upcoming newsletters*