

AWRA Winter Newsletter 2007

Greetings everyone,

The AWRA UW student chapter would like to let you know about our past activities during autumn quarter (2006) and upcoming activities for this year (2007). We hope you'll join us at our upcoming Member Social— Friday , January 26th at 12:00pm – 1:30pm. Professor Susan Bolton will give a presentation about composting toilets in Costa Rica. Discuss or listen to future activities and have the opportunity to get acquainted in a relaxing atmosphere. FREE Pizza and FREE refreshments will be provided.

*Thanks everyone, from the UW AWRA officers -
Ted, Arden, Julie, Matt, Garrett, and Chris*



Composting toilet—Costa Rica

Upcoming!

AWRA Member Social

When: January 26th, 12—1:30pm

Where: “Forest Club Room” (Anderson Hall 207)

What: Professor Susan Bolton’s Presentation

Free Lunch

Get Involved Planning Next Year’s Events!

2006 Hamm Creek Restoration

It's amazing what 15 people, garden tools, and some inspiration can do! In just four hours, we cleared dense blackberry brambles from about 50 yards of stream bank along Hamm Creek, a tributary of the Duwamish River. This activity was just one of several at various sites along the Duwamish that day, all part of a celebration of the life and work of John Beal, a Vietnam veteran who dedicated his post-war life to restoring the Duwamish River's habitat. Beal passed away in June this year.

Beal became interested in restoring Hamm Creek in 1979, in an effort to leave a meaningful legacy after suffering several heart attacks and learning that he only had months to live. Not only did his work with the creek prolong his life by 27 years, but his efforts lead to the foundation of several environmental organizations and the daylighting of Hamm Creek in 2002. This allowed salmon to spawn in the creek for the first time in 50 years. *(Cont'd next pg.)*



Work party carries on the work of veteran John Beal

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(Hamm Creek, cont'd from pg. 1)

Our work party was followed by a ceremony recognizing Beal's contribution and dedicating the Hamm Creek site to him. People for Puget Sound's Robin Clark, and Beal's wife Lana, were on hand to give us a tour of the site, recount the history of restoration efforts on the Duwamish, and testify to Beal's influence on environmental stewardship in the region.

Many of us felt honored to be continuing Beal's work. Simply seeing the difference we made in clearing out the brambles was gratifying itself. We look forward to working here again in the future. And from the sound of it, plenty more work awaits! Thanks to everyone for coming out and doing some environmental good!

More information about John Beal's life and restoration of the Duwamish can be found at: <http://www.duwamishcleanup.org/uploads/FocusSheet2006.pdf>

UW AWRA Wins National Award

Our AWRA student chapter won the Outstanding Student Chapter Award for 2006 - for the entire country!

Chapter officers for 2006 included:

- **Chris James** (President)
- **Brian Cook** (Secretary)
- **Matt Fontaine** (Treasurer)
- **Julie Horowitz** (Publicity and Outreach)
- **Arden Thomas** (Liaison to WA Chapter)
- **Ted Bohn** (Website Developer)
- **Stephanie Kampf** (past President)
- Professor **Anne Steinemann** (Faculty Advisor).



2006 Chapter officers meeting

The AWRA presents the Outstanding Student Chapter Award each year to recognize the Student Chapter that has provided outstanding service in the furtherance of the Association's objectives. The award was presented at the AWRA Annual Water Resources Conference in November, 2006
(cont'd next pg.)

To learn more about AWRA, how to become a member, or about becoming an officer, email the officers at:

awra@u.washington.edu

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(National Award, cont'd from pg. 2)

in Baltimore, Maryland. Julie Horowitz attended the conference and presented "Best Practices and Successes of the UW AWRA Chapter" to the leadership meeting of national AWRA officers and state chapter presidents.

Congratulations to those individuals listed above for their hard work and contribution towards this achievement!

Yakima Project Fisheries Tour

Members of the student and professional AWRA chapters saw the first Spring Chinook Salmon of the season returning into the Yakima River system last spring during of a tour of the Yakima Project. The Project is led by the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). The fish traveled through the fish collection facility operated by the Yakima Tribe at the Roza Dam.

One of the largest water resource projects in the state, the Yakima Project stores roughly 1 million acre-feet of water in reservoirs on the east slopes of the Cascades and supplies it to 464,000 acres of arable land surrounding the Yakima River.

The tour focused on the fisheries aspects of the project - including the fish ladder and screens at the Roza Dam, a small fish screen on a diversion ditch near Thorp, the fish ladder at Town Diversion Dam, the Cle Elum Dam and Spillway, and the Cle Elum Supplementation and Research Facility. We viewed several different types of fish ladders, juvenile salmon traps, captive salmon breeding *(cont'd on pg. 4)*



Cle Elum spillway with fish bypass (dry during visit)



Lake Cle Elum

Check out the UW-AWRA webpage for up to date information about water-related activities, classes, links, and the opportunity to join the listserve!

<http://students.washington.edu/awra>

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(Yakima, cont'd from pg. 3) pens and captive salmon rearing pens at the Cle Elum Hatchery.

We also heard stories of the Yakima Project fisheries facilities from the USBR and Yakima Tribe officials, including the Steelhead Trout tracking program. In this program, small transmitters are placed in the stomachs of trout for day-to-day tracking by personnel on the ground. Visitors also heard the inside scoop on the experimental Coho Salmon breeding program at Lake Cle Elum. The tour was capped off with dinner at The Brick Tavern in historic Roslyn. We look forward to another exciting trip to the Yakima Project this spring!



Stealth spawning viewing: researchers video spawning salmon through the blinds.



Tsunamis were discussed at conference

Washington State AWRA State Conference

On November 16th, 2006 the state chapter hosted their annual conference focused on Water Resource Disasters in Washington: Risks and Recovery. By including both researchers investigating the multiple natural threats that this region faces (tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanoes, and lahars) and those involved in on the ground preparation for these disasters, the conference aimed to integrate both academic understanding and real-world applications. Common themes included the need to understand risks and identify areas of high danger, and the importance of outreach and communication before and during a disaster. This conference was held at the Museum of History and Industry, in close proximity to the University of Washington Campus, and several UW students attended.

October 2006 Mixer

On October 24, the UW Student Chapter and the Washington State Chapter of AWRA hosted a mixer where students met water resources professionals from around the State! Mixer attendants were treated to "The Pulse of the Mountains: Cycles in Streamflow," by Dr. Jessica Lundquist, UW Civil & Environmental Engineering Department. This event presented a great opportunity for students from UW to break bread, have a beverage, and hear and discuss water-related topics with peers, professionals, and professors! Rumor has it that a couple of students scored some potential job opportunities. Hopefully you will be able to make it to our next mixer.



Professor Lundquist discussed Sierra Nevada runoff cycles at the mixer



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Washington State AWRA Fellowship Award Winners

Congratulations to Arden Thomas and Amy Yahnke for receiving fellowship awards from the Washington State AWRA chapter. Arden and Amy are both UW students in the College of Forest Resources. The fellowship amount of \$1500 is awarded on the basis of: the interdisciplinary nature of research; effectiveness of communicating research objectives, and the potential application of the work to current needs in water resources management. We encourage all students engaged in water-related research to apply for the 2007-2008 fellowship. Applications will be due in early fall 2007 and information will be available on the UW-AWRA website: <http://students.washington.edu/awra>

Your new AWRA Student Officers are:

President: **Arden Thomas** (CFR)

Secretary: **Chris James** (CFR)

Treasurer: **Matt Fontaine** (CEE)

Liaison to WA Chapter: **Julie Horowitz** (CEE)

Publicity/Newsletter: **Garret Leque** (CEE)

Website: **Ted Bohn** (CEE)



UW Water Center Annual Review of Research Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Join us at the UW Water Center's 2007 Annual Review of Research. The review will take place in the HUB West Ballroom. The Review is free, no advanced registration is required, coffee and sign in start at 8:00 a.m., and talks begin at 8:40 a.m. More than 300 attendees from agencies, industry, tribes, non-profit organizations and the public will participate in a day of talks, followed by reception. Talks will cover topics as diverse as riparian development, drought, stream and river ecology, climate change and variability, sustainability, stormwater impacts, water rights, and stream restoration and protection.

The Review is a great opportunity to get your resume to professionals in the field. AWRA will be preparing a resume CD for distribution at the Annual Review. Email your two-page or less resume before February 6th to: awra@u.washington.edu.

2005 Spring Rafting Trip down Skagit River

The University of Washington AWRA chapter greeted early spring with a raft trip down the Skagit River. Students from the Civil Engineering, Forest Resources, Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, and Urban Planning departments floated from Marblemount to Rockport. Cleve Steward (Steward Associates / WA-AWRA board), Larry Wasserman (Skagit River System Cooperative), and Chris Kowitz (Skagit County) donated their time to accompany us and share their expertise. On the river we learned about Chinook and steelhead life history and habitat requirements, and how the diverse needs and circumstances of the Skagit watershed affect the local fishery. The Skagit River is special because it sustains productive salmon runs that are not driven by hatchery production. We learned about progress that has been made to help improve the health of the watershed. Changes in hydroelectric dam operations now help prevent fish stranding and redd dewatering. We also gained a glimpse of the challenges this watershed faces with increasing human population growth and urban development. Thank you to all of our participants for a great trip.