

April 2020

WOAHINK LAKE ASSOCIATION



The Woahink Lake Association was established in 1996 to promote the understanding, protection, and thoughtful management of Woahink Lake, its watershed, and its ecosystem.

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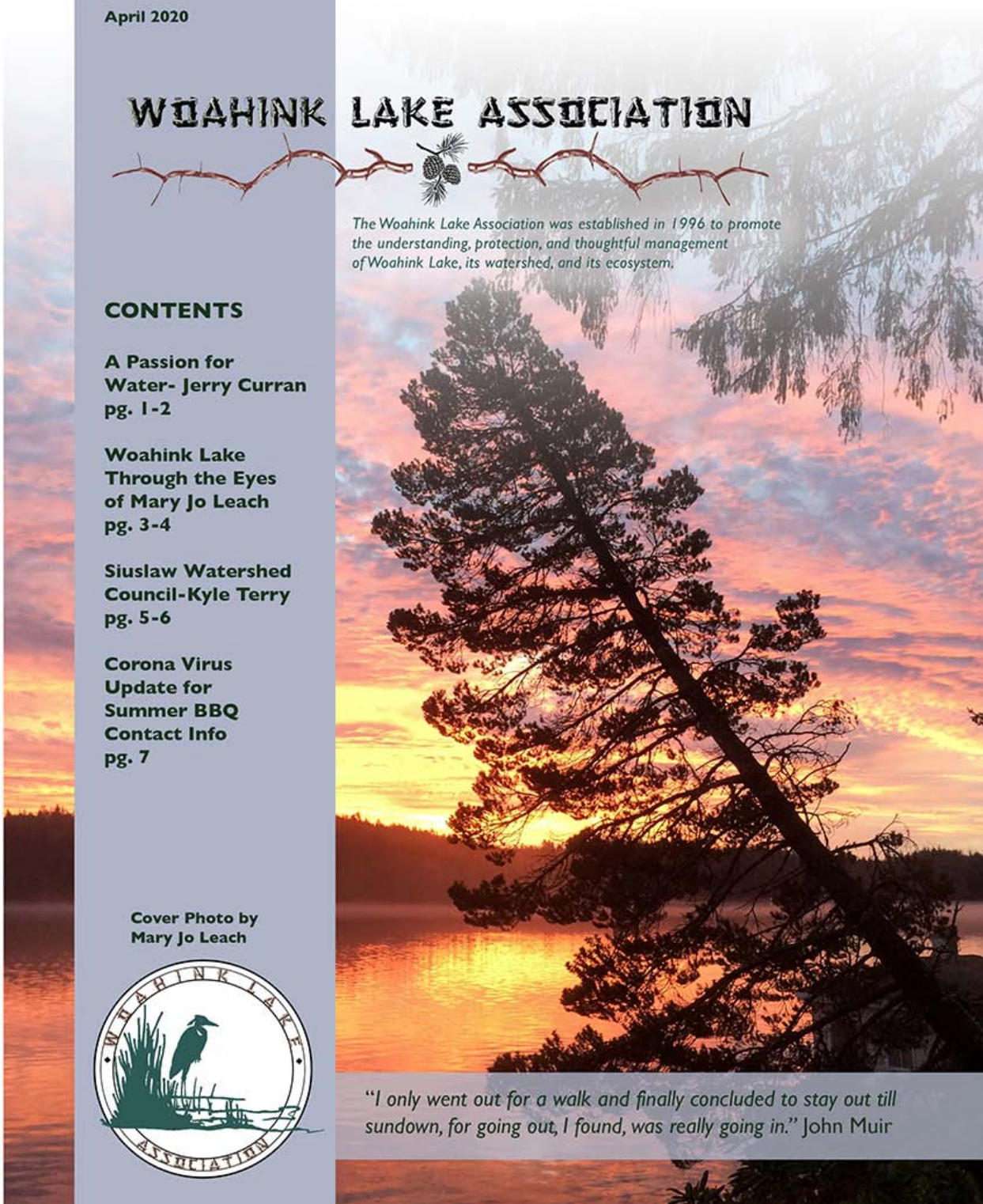
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Cover Photo by
Mary Jo Leach



"I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in." John Muir





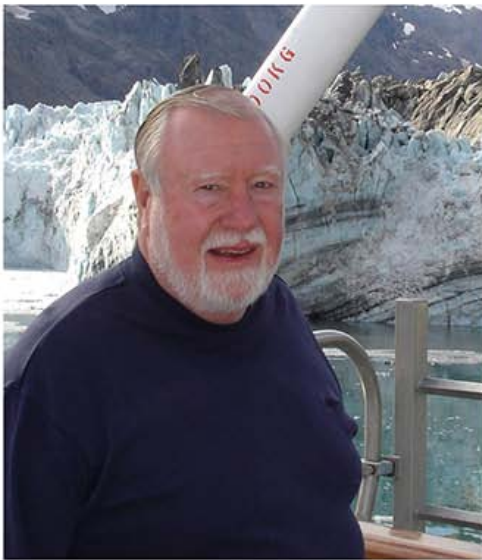
A PASSION FOR WATER

by: Pat Briggs

Gerald (Jerry) Curran and his wife Sherry have lived on the Summerbell Arm of Woahink Lake for 14 years. For the last 12 of those years, Jerry has been a key member of the Dunes City Water Quality Committee, whose responsibility is to monitor the quality of Lake Woahink water. About twelve times a year, depending on the weather and availability of equipment, Jerry takes his personal boat from his boathouse and meets a crew of 4 or 5 other volunteers at the Woahink boat landing, where testing equipment is brought on board. At each of 5 designated sites, secchi (visibility) readings, surface temperature, and surface conductivity are recorded, and water samples may be collected for testing. The most extensive testing is done at the Zenith site which, at 50 feet deep, is one of the deepest areas in the lake. Laboratory testing includes turbidity, pH, dissolved oxygen, fluoroscopy, chlorophyll A, and nutrients (including phosphorous). Most of these tests are done at Dunes City. Some samples are packed on dry ice and sent to Washington State University or San Francisco for testing. Results are entered into a database and provided to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Jerry enjoys the testing experience, when it's not raining. Fortunately, there is flexibility involved. The team members are always variable, depending on who is available, and the testing dates are negotiable.

When asked why he is so devoted to this cause, Jerry says "I drink the water and at one time I used it to heat my house." He continued, "In the past when phosphorous levels were high in the lake, powdered phosphorous was banned. The phosphorous ban started on Woahink Lake and then, the State adopted it." Also, "We don't want our property values dragged into the mud." All of these things make the cause worthwhile.



Beyond this is Jerry's simple love for water. "I'm more comfortable in water than walking." Growing up on Staten Island, he swam in New York Bay, was a lifeguard in New York City, and taught himself to scuba dive in rivers, oceans, lakes, and off docks. Every place he has lived, he has joined a local diving club, and Jerry has lived in many places.

For 34 years Jerry worked overseas for the Department of Defense Dependent Schools program primarily teaching vocational/industrial education and physical education; coaching swimming, soccer, football, and wrestling. Among the places he has lived are England, Japan, Germany, and Morocco. His favorite country is Australia. He admired Perth because "It's really clean, has good transportation, and beautiful reefs."

Jerry's wife, Sherry, shared his overseas travel, working as an art and English teacher.

More recently Jerry worked as a volunteer diver, then a scientific diver, at Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport. Among other things, he fed fish and trained sharks. He has always volunteered in many capacities and was with Dunes City Council for eight years, working mainly on the Road Commission.

Jerry enjoys classical music. Although he doesn't play an instrument, he says "I can hum in the shower, and I can play the foghorn." He admires architecture and has visited many classical architectural sites, including cathedrals, temples, pyramids, etc throughout the world.

When asked what gets him up in the morning, Jerry says, "Weather Station Woahink". Seeing what's happening on the lake has a calming effect. "I relish the 8 AM rush hour because there isn't one. It's like paradise here."

Please Note: Testing of Woahink Lake water is on hold indefinitely until our pandemic situation improves. Thank you for your understanding.



Photograph By: Mary Jo Leach

*"When one tugs at a single
thing in nature, he finds
it attached to the rest of
the world."*

John Muir



*Photos by
Mary Jo Leach*





The Siuslaw Watershed Council - Kyle Terry



The Siuslaw Watershed Council is a non-profit organization formed in 1995, that operates through grants and works in coordination with the U.S. Forestry Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and other organizations. Its goal is to formulate large scale plans for maintaining, restoring, and improving riparian and watershed ecosystems, as well as to create outreach programs to engage the general public.

Kyle Terry is a Project Manager for the Siuslaw Watershed Council and we were very fortunate to have him as our guest speaker at the "Winter Fiesta" meeting of The Woahink Lake Association.

Kyle has degrees in geography and geology from the University of Oregon and is originally from the Summerbell arm of Woahink Lake. His work with the Siuslaw Watershed Council includes the management of four important programs: The Water Quality Program, Native Plant distribution, Smolt Trap monitoring and The Summer Exploration Camp.

Much of the effort of the Siuslaw Watershed Council is related to the protection of our local Coho salmon, which are listed as an endangered species. Early cannery records indicate that the Siuslaw was second only to the Columbia River in numbers of Coho. The average Coho numbers from 1889-1896 were 209,000 fish. This compares to an average of just over 3,000 in the years 1990-1995.

Kyle's team is working to provide habitat by placing logs into local creeks to act as breeding grounds for Coho. He also oversees a project to increase plantings of native species in the riparian zone. The Siuslaw Watershed Council has distributed an estimated 25,000 trees to private landowners for riparian planting, resulting in about 20 miles of new streamside trees. It is also their goal to restore parts of the estuary back to tidal wetlands. During their last "Native Plant Giveaway" they handed out another 15,000 native plants as a part of their continuing effort to help rebuild the Siuslaw watershed.

Among one of the most successful projects undertaken by the SWC is their Fivemile-Bell Creek Valley Restoration for which they have gained some acclaim, and which has acted as a model for other agencies. In 2003, the Siuslaw National Forest worked with The Western Rivers Conservancy to get Land and Water Conservation funds with the goal of purchasing 640 acres of bottomland near the Oregon Coast. They purchased the land to conserve Coho salmon habitat in one of the most productive stream systems in the Oregon Coast Range—Fivemile Creek and Bell Creek, tributaries to Tahkenitch Lake. The land was formerly used for cattle grazing, farming, and timber harvesting. The two overarching goals that guided the project were to enhance the health of streams and associated aquatic ecosystems focusing on threatened Coho salmon, and to speed the development of late-successional and old-growth forest habitats to benefit a variety of species, such as the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet. In a collaboration with many other partners, the SWC manages the riparian revegetation component of the 4.5 mile restoration project along the two streams.

Kyle also spoke of current joint projects with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, wherein the Board approved \$500,000 to restore 11.5 miles of salmon habitat. He pointed out that the kind of work they are doing in restoration requires patience and faith. The Coho population, which is nearly extinct, hasn't shown much improvement as yet, although the habitat has clearly improved. He firmly believes that "If you build it (habitat), they will come." Coho, having a huge range, go out to sea for long cycles of their lives, and getting accurate counts to note increases in population takes time. Kyle personally believes that he has in fact seen some improvement in the creeks and streams where he works.

"From stories of what the Siuslaw once was
~ we have a vision of what we can be ~
for our lands and forest, lakes and streams, fish and wildlife,
and for the people of the Siuslaw."

Community Outreach Programs include:

"The Watershed Exploration Camp," where 20-30 youths are introduced to conservation and stewardship in a wilderness camp setting.

"Diamonds under the Douglas Firs," a presentation which recently happened this past February 26th 5:30-8:00pm. Meeting was at 10868 E. Mapleton Rd. Mapleton, OR.97453.



Their team includes seven staff members and nine board members who work out of Mapleton at the Mapleton School District Campus, 10868 E. Mapleton Rd. Mapleton, OR. 97453.

For more information about their organization and future events sponsored by the Siuslaw Watershed Council check out their website at : <https://www.siuslaw.org/>

Or contact them at Phone number: 542-268-3044





SUMMER MEETING CANCELLED

In view of our desire to do our part to stop spread of Covid19, the Woahink Lake Association is cancelling the Summer Meeting that was originally scheduled for Sunday, July 19. Covid19 may be under control before July, but as of now there is no reliable assurance that it will. We pray that all of our members stay healthy and free of this terrible disease. Many of our members are of the vulnerable age and the close confinement of lunches and group meetings is not considered to be in everyone's best interest at this time.

WORK AND ENTERTAINMENT

Yarn, art supplies, or other hobby items
It's a good time to dive into an activity you can do at home. Morale matters!

Things for working from home
From a desk chair to a mouse, it's better to have the tools for your job if it's possible to work remotely.

Electronics and, potentially, spare parts
If your phone or computer breaks, it's an inconvenience in the best of times. Right now, it might be more than that, if stores aren't open to get a replacement.

Games for family time
If you've got kids at home, you'll need distractions!

IF YOU GET SICK

Medication for reducing a fever, like acetaminophen (Tylenol).

A thermometer for monitoring a fever.

Cough and cold medication
Including cough drops and lozenges, cough syrups like Dayquil/Nyquil, and decongestants like Sudafed.

A humidifier can also help with a cough that makes it tough to sleep.

Rehydration solutions
Pedialyte or Gatorade works, but you can make it at home with a liter of drinking water, a scoop of sugar, and a pinch of salt. Plain water or other liquids also work for mild dehydration in adults.

CLEANING

Soap
It's the best way to wash up (and much easier to find than hand sanitizer).

Disposable gloves
For handling things that might be contaminated. Do not wash or reuse.

Disinfectant wipes
Look for products with active ingredients such as quaternary ammonium, sodium hypochlorite, or hydrogen peroxide.

Towels, clean linens
Or anything else you might need more of as cleaning habits change.



CONTACT YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

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INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE

If you would like to contribute either stories relative to our life here on Lake Woahink or photographs please submit content to: 2bmoontouched@gmail.com. We would enjoy sharing in your experiences.