

# Northwest Connections

*Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Northwest Association of  
Environmental Professionals*

## President's Letter



Aron Borok

Dear members and interested environmental professionals:

As much of a cliché it is to say that with the spring comes change, it's all too appropriate for NWAEP. We're in the midst of elections for four board positions. (Reminder to vote if you haven't done so, yet!) We'll be announcing the

results at the annual meeting, which will be held at Hale's Ales in Seattle in March. More information on the election and the meeting are in this issue.

Another big change is that we are revamping the NWAEP website. After a long search, NWAEP has hired I.C.E. Digital Studio to redesign the website. Along with a new "look," the website will have a "members-only" discussion board to exchange ideas relevant to environmental professionals. You'll also be able to sign up for membership online. We'll continue to have a job board and links to training events on the site.

Speaking of training, there are two events that I encourage you to attend: The first is the annual NAEP conference in San Diego at the end of March. This is a great opportunity to network with environmental professionals from around the country and the world. The other is NWAEP's spring workshop, which will be on "Building a Better BA." More information on both of these events is in this issue.

Thanks for reading and I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event!

Aron

### Look What's Inside:

"Building A Better BA"	2
Welcome, New Members	2
Upcoming Chapter Events	2
Member Spotlight	3
2008 NAEP / AEP Conference	3

## Chapter News

### NWAEP Hosts 3rd Annual Meeting in Seattle on March 19

If you only attend one NWAEP event this year, make this the one! NWAEP invites you to our 3rd Annual Meeting on March 19 at 5:30 pm at Hale's Ales (4301 Leary Way NW) in Seattle. The Annual

Meeting is a great opportunity for NWAEP members from Portland and Seattle to get together, celebrate our achievements this year, and share ideas for the future. We will finalize the election results for the four open Board of Directors positions, so this will be the best time to meet

your new and returning Board members.

All members and guests are welcome, and refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to Kristin Duin at [kduin@srgii.com](mailto:kduin@srgii.com) by March 17 (so we know how much food to order). See you there!



Cat Brown, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Marc Liverman, National Marine Fisheries Service



April Wolstencroft, National Marine Fisheries Service

## “Building a Better BA”: NWAEP Spring Workshop

Cat Brown, Marc Liverman and April Wolstencroft will present the NWAEP Spring Workshop, “Building a Better BA”, on Friday, April 4, 2008 from 8:30 am to noon in the Billy Frank Jr. Conference Center, Ecotrust Building, 721 NW 9th Avenue, in Portland. The registration fee is \$95 for NWAEP members and \$115 for non members.

Explore the best ways to handle ESA consultation and Biological Assessments. This half-day workshop will improve your skills on collecting and presenting

specific kinds of information for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), or both (the Services), to ensure that the actions of Federal agencies are not likely to jeopardize a listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat.

Cat Brown is a wildlife biologist who works on various endangered species issues and is an instructor for classes on Section 7 consultation for the USFWS

National Conservation Training Center. **Marc Liverman** is a fisheries biologist and ESA policy analyst for the Oregon State Habitat Office of the NMFS. **April Wolstencroft** is helping develop the Consultation Initiation and Reporting System (CIRS), a web-based alternative to initiate consultation. She is also working on improving the Public Consultation Tracing System (PCTS).

Workshop seating is limited—reserve your spot early at [www.nwaep.org](http://www.nwaep.org).

## NWAEP Membership Keeps Expanding

NWAEP membership crosses a wide range of practice areas. Please welcome:

### General Members

Bret Carp  
Michelle Clements  
J. Theodore Couillard  
Michael Dee

Peter Masson  
Rebecca McCoun  
Michael C. Ridgeway  
Damon Schmidt  
Owen Schmidt  
Stephanie Vasquez-Pettit

**New Corporate Member**  
Fremont Analytical, Inc.

If you have not yet become a member or renewed your membership, please consider doing so. General membership is only \$25/year. For details see the membership page at [www.nwaep.org](http://www.nwaep.org).

## Chapter Events

### Portland

**Wednesday, April 30**  
**Panel on Public Involvement**  
**5:30-7:00**

Join us for a panel discussion at the Multnomah County Library Main Branch. The panel will consist of representatives from public, private and non-profit groups.

**Wednesday, May 28**  
**Topic to be Determined,**  
**Check [www.nwaep.org](http://www.nwaep.org).**

### Seattle

**Wednesday, March 19**  
**Annual Meeting, 5:30-7:30**

Join us at Hale’s Ales in Ballard (4301 Leary Way NW) for our annual meeting/happy hour. Come meet the Board of Directors, including our new additions (and if you are a member, cast your ballot). NWAEP will cover the cost of food and drinks as we socialize and plan for the

future of the organization. All NWAEP members and guests are welcome at all events.

**Tuesday, April 15**  
**Networking Social, 5-7**

Join us for a networking social at the Rock Bottom Brewery in downtown Bellevue, 550 106th Avenue NE, #103. Bring your ideas for future events and activities!

*Get the most out of your NWAEP membership by participating in your local meetings.*

## Member Spotlight: April Zohn

April Zohn is a new member of NWAEP, but no stranger to the region or the practice. She is an Environmental Regulatory Specialist who specializes in developing integrated regulatory compliance strategies for projects in California, Oregon, and Washington. She has spent the last several years of her career managing NEPA documents specific to

multi-species Habitat Conservation Plans, including the recent EIS evaluating the effects of the public's recreational use on western snowy plover along the Oregon Coast. April began work with Biota Pacific Environmental Sciences about one year ago, and was previously with Jones & Stokes for seven years.

April and fiancé Eric share their southeast Portland home with one new puppy (Lola), three cats, nine fish, and thousands of worms that are happily housed in a brand new worm bin. When they're not backpacking, backcountry skiing, training for the annual triathlon or trying to tire out Lola, they focus their energies in the vegetable garden. Says April, "Worm castings have an amazing impact on the quality of our compost!"



April Zohn

## NWAEP Board of Directors Election on March 19

At our third annual meeting, the first one to be held in Seattle, we will finalize the election results for the four open positions on the Board of Directors. This will be a great opportunity to meet the new and old Board members.

Hale's Ales in Ballard will be the scene of all the high spirits, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm on March 19.

We prefer that you cast your ballot electronically, but if you have not already done so you can vote for the four open positions on the Board at the annual meeting.

The four candidates for the Board are as follows:

**Aron Borok**, current Board president, is running for reelection to the Board.

**Stephen Gerritson** has been a member of the NWAEP Seattle chapter since 2004.

**Peter Masson** has been a member of the NWAEP Seattle chapter since 2005.

**Rona Spelleccacy** was elected to the NWAEP Board of Directors in 2005 and has served as the NWAEP Chapter Representative to NAEP since 2005.

*Members—be sure to cast your ballot for the four open positions on the NWAEP Board of Directors.*

## NWAEP Members to Speak at 2008 NAEP / AEP Conference

NWAEP members Aron Borok, Rona Spelleccacy and Owen Schmidt will be speaking at the 2008 NAEP / AEP Annual Conference in San Diego, March 25-28. Aron and Rona will both be showcasing their work in the Land and Watershed Management conference track on March 26.

Aron's presentation will focus on impact assessment and

mitigation planning with respect to Tribal natural resources and Lake Roosevelt in eastern Washington.

Rona will be speaking about an innovative water resource planning process developed for the agricultural community in Washington.

Owen will speak on "Mistakes and Gaps in CEQ's

Regulations" and "Global Warming in EAs and EISs: What the NEPA Case Law Tells Us."





*Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Northwest Association of  
Environmental Professionals*

We're on the Web:  
[www.nwaep.org](http://www.nwaep.org)

The Northwest Association of Environmental Professionals (NWAEP) was founded in 1992 and became official affiliate of the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) in 2005. We are a nonpolitical interdisciplinary organization made up of professionals in Washington and Oregon. Our members are from the full range of environmental professions, including environmental management, planning, impact assessment, environmental protection, compliance, research, engineering and education.

Our **goal** is to provide opportunities for and to encourage the professional development and recognition of members through meetings, conferences and other activities.

Our **policy** is to promote advancement in scientific interdisciplinary environmental education, research, planning, assessment, review and management.

Our **objectives** are to encourage and facilitate full participation in NWAEP goals and activities by all persons qualified to be members of NWAEP, and to encourage diversity among members of NWAEP in order to assimilate the widest range of views and concerns of professionals engaged in the environmental field.

## Northwest Connections

**Editorial Committee:** Rona Spelleccacy, Gayle Birrell

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If you would like to contribute articles, announcements, artwork, book reviews, or even cartoons, please contact Rona Spelleccacy.

**Officers and Board Members:**

**President:** Aron Borok,  
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**Vice President:** Jeff Norville

**Secretary:** Kristin Duin

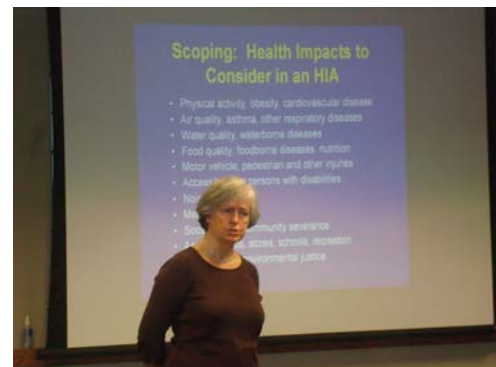
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**Chapter Representative:**  
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**Board Members At Large:**

Keith Bellingham

Molly Brown



Barbara Wright, Public Health for Seattle, shares an overview of Health Impact Assessments with the NWAEP Seattle group in February.