

WASHINGTON  
TOXICS  
COALITION

# Alternatives

protecting health by preventing pollution

## WTC Wins Big Victory to Reduce Mercury Pollution

Gregg Small

The Washington Toxics Coalition and our allies won an important victory for children's health and Washington's environment with the passage of SHB 1002 by the state legislature. The bill will reduce mercury in schools, hospitals, and homes by banning the sale of certain mercury consumer products, like thermometers and thermostats, and requiring hospitals to develop plans for reducing the use of mercury products.

The bill passed with overwhelming majorities in both chambers. The Senate passed the bill 47-1, and the House voted it out unanimously, 97-0. We expect the governor to sign the bill sometime in the first few weeks of May.

The victory was the culmination of a two-year campaign led by WTC and key allies such as WashPIRG, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Washington Environmental Council, Washington Conservation Voters, and dozens more. Together, we generated hundreds of letters and phone calls to elected officials; generated widespread media exposure, including favorable editorials in *The Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *The Olympian*, and *The Bellingham Herald*; educated dozens of members of the legislature on the issue; and coordinated a broad coalition that included fishing, public health, environmental, and community groups, as well as local governments. WTC members and supporters played a big role in the victory, making phone calls and sending e-mails to legislators, and meeting directly with several key decision-makers.

Senators Lisa Brown, Don Carlson, Debbie Regala, Karen Fraser, Bill Finkbeiner and Dan Swecker, and Representatives Frank Chopp, Sam Hunt and Mike Cooper deserve particular credit for their leadership in helping to pass the bill.

One senator deserves his own place in the Legislative Hall of Shame: Sen. Bob Morton. Sen. Morton (R-7), chair of the Senate Natural



Resources, Energy, and Water Committee, refused even to allow the bill to come up for a hearing in his committee despite the unanimous passage of the bill in the House. The bill would have died this year thanks to Sen. Morton's opposition if not for some last minute procedural maneuvering that brought the bill directly to the floor of the Senate. When the bill was voted on, Senator Morton was the lone vote in the entire legislature against the bill.

SHB 1002 certainly does not solve all of the mercury pollution problems in the state. But it is an important first step, and demonstrates that an effective campaign can result in concrete victories even in a very difficult political climate in Olympia. WTC looks forward to building on the momentum of this victory by continuing to press for further reductions in pollution from mercury, dioxin, and other persistent toxic chemicals. Next, we plan to work for elimination of mercury from major sources such as dental offices and hospitals and to work with state agencies to develop a comprehensive plan for eliminating dioxin.

Thanks to all of you who played such an important role of making this victory possible.

For more information, visit our website at [www.watoxics.org](http://www.watoxics.org). ■

*Ivy Sager-Rosenthal, environmental advocate for WashPIRG (left), and Laurie Valeriano and Gregg Small of WTC examine the final version of the mercury reduction bill that was approved by the state Legislature and now goes to the governor for his signature.*



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## Toxic-Free Legacy



# Victory! King County Board of Health Unanimously Passes Mercury Thermometer Sales Ban

Brandie Smith

March 21, 2003 was gray and cloudy, but our spirits lit up council chambers as the King County Board of Health unanimously passed a regulation to ban the sale of mercury thermometers in King County. With this action King County became the first local government in Washington to take this important step in reducing mercury pollution. We are very excited about this victory and hope that more cities and counties around the state will work with us to pass similar regulations.

Mercury is an extremely toxic substance that can have devastating impacts on human health and wildlife. Mercury contamination is of particular concern to pregnant women, women of childbearing age, and young children. On January 31, 2003, the Centers for Disease Control released a report confirming that up to 10% of women have enough mercury in their bodies to pose a risk of neurological damage to their developing babies. Mercury attacks the central nervous system and can result in developmental deficits during fetal development, hearing and visual problems, and learning disabilities.

In addition to passing the mercury thermometer sales ban, the Board of Health took further action by voting unanimously to pass a motion, introduced by Seattle City Council member Richard Conlin, to brief the Board of Health on the issue of including mercury blood pressure devices called sphygmomanometers in the sales ban. The motion directed the King County staff to study the issue and report back to the Board of Health in September.

Mercury blood pressure devices are one of the largest mercury sources in the hospital environment. One mercury blood pressure device contains from 80-100 grams of mercury. Considering that it only takes about 1 gram of mercury to contaminate a 20-acre lake to the point where fish are unsafe to eat, these products represent a considerable hazard.

A growing number of hospitals have already eliminated mercury manometers, including nationally recognized institutions such as the Mayo Clinic, the National Institutes of Health's Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center, and Johns Hopkins Hospital. Here in Washington, the University of Washington is currently phasing out mercury manometers, and Harborview eliminated mercury manometers in 1999. Children's Hospital, Group Health Cooperative, and Virginia Mason and

Swedish medical centers have either completely switched to new aneroid devices or mix those devices with mercury ones.

We are very excited that the King County Board of Health took this step forward to protect the public, especially children, from the devastating effects of mercury pollution. We urge the Board to take another step forward by revisiting the manometer issue and banning their sale in September. If you are interested in working on similar initiatives in your community, please contact Brandie Smith at the Washington Toxics Coalition, at 206-632-1545 ext. 18 or bsmith@watoxics.org. ■

## WTC Participates in an Exciting Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Roundtable

On March 24, WTC staff members participated in a roundtable discussion focused on environmentally preferable purchasing. Other participants in the meeting included representatives from the governor's office, King County, City of Seattle, Department of Ecology, and the Chlorine Free Products Association, to name a few. The primary focus of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of government agencies working together to purchase recycled chlorine-free (RCF) paper — paper that does not use any chlorine in the manufacturing process and uses recycled material to make new paper. Manufacturing chlorine-free paper helps to reduce dioxin emissions to the environment. Dioxin can cause a range of health problems from learning disabilities to cancer. Currently, most government agencies in Washington purchase paper that is bleached with chlorine dioxide, which contributes to dioxin and other harmful pollution.

We are very excited for this opportunity to work with state and local governments to make the switch to recycled chlorine-free paper. A collaborative effort between the state and local governments could help to achieve this goal by using the purchasing power of major buyers to increase the demand for safer paper. These types of efforts are well supported by the governor's Executive Order on Sustainability and the City of Seattle's purchasing resolution to reduce and eliminate the purchase of products containing persistent toxic chemicals. ■

**With this action King County became the first local government in Washington to take this important step in reducing mercury pollution.**

## Clean Water for Salmon

### West Nile Virus: A Primer

#### What is West Nile virus?

West Nile virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne disease found in the United States initially on the East Coast. WNV is mainly a disease of birds, with avian mortality rates after infection reaching 100% in some species. Last year saw reports of a few dead birds infected with WNV in Washington state, as well as two cases in horses.

#### Is West Nile virus a threat to humans?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "Less than one percent of those infected with WNV will develop severe illness." Most people who get the virus will suffer no health impacts at all, and some may experience flu-like symptoms. WNV can cause a potentially fatal illness called encephalitis, or swelling of the brain. Threats from WNV need to be kept in perspective. An estimated 36,000 people, for example, will die this year from complications of the flu in the United States, while only 277 deaths were attributed to WNV in 2002.

#### How can we protect ourselves?

You can take a few simple steps for personal protection: eliminate standing water around your home where mosquitoes can breed, install screens over windows, wear long sleeves when outside at peak mosquito times around dusk and dawn, and use non- or least-toxic repellants. For more on this, request a copy of our fact sheet *Mosquito Megabites: Effective Mosquito Control* or view it on our website.

#### What can our cities and counties do to prepare for West Nile virus?

Our local governments can take the most effective steps to decrease the risk from WNV by focusing on prevention. Municipalities should begin with a comprehensive mosquito monitoring and surveillance program, identification and reduction of potential breeding sites, and public education and outreach.

#### What about using pesticides for mosquito control?

West Nile virus needs to be placed in context with other health threats to avoid unnecessary public panic and to avoid taking steps, like using toxic pesticides, which would be both ineffective and unnecessarily hazardous to human health and

### Poison in the Water: Aquatic Herbicide Applications in Washington

Angela Storey

The incursion into our ecosystems by non-native plants and animals is a growing concern for governments, landowners, parks, and environmental organizations alike. Non-native plants can spread rapidly, devoid of natural predators or deterrents. In our lakes a number of invasive species threaten to choke out native plants, and alter the balance within already threatened ecosystems.

Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) is one of these non-native plants invading our freshwater areas in the Northwest. First found in Washington in 1965, milfoil forms dense mats of vegetation by mid-summer in heavily infested areas, and spreads by fragmentation: a cut piece of milfoil as small as one centimeter can generate a new plant. Because of its extremely high rate of spreading, milfoil is listed as a Class B Noxious weed species by the state.

Many areas dealing with milfoil infestations attempt control through applications of herbicides directly into lake waters. Unfortunately, the herbicides used for milfoil control also have known toxic effects on other plants, endangered salmon and other fish, pets and wildlife, and human health.

Portage Bay, located between Lake Washington and Lake Union in Seattle, is home to houseboats, beavers, natural shoreline, salmon, yacht clubs, and now milfoil. The two yacht clubs have decided to attempt control of milfoil due to complaints of plants being sucked into yacht motors. In 2002, the yacht clubs hired a company to apply an herbicide containing 2,4-D to Portage Bay. 2,4-D is toxic to fish and is a possible carcinogen and a suspected endocrine (hormone) disruptor. Community members found out about the application only a couple of weeks earlier, and were unsuccessful in halting the application.

After the 2,4-D killed the milfoil in 2002, a number of native aquatic plants grew into that empty niche, also getting sucked into boat engines. The applicators solution? Use another herbicide to kill to native plants if they become a problem for the yachts.



Continued on page 4, please see *West Nile Virus*

Continued on page 4, please see *Milfoil*

## Clean Water for Salmon

### State Roadside Spraying Continues: WSDOT's First Response

Angela Storey

Despite the availability of effective alternatives, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) continues to spray highly toxic pesticides along state highways to manage roadside weeds and vegetation. Because these herbicides have been linked to a long list of human and environmental health impacts, WTC has joined forces with community organizations around Washington to work toward ending this harmful practice.

The good news is that six counties in the state — Island, Thurston, Jefferson, Clallam, Snohomish, and San Juan — as well as the city of Bainbridge Island choose to maintain their county roads without any herbicides. Unfortunately, because roadside vegetation along state highways is always maintained by the WSDOT, herbicides are sprayed along these highways even within counties that have chosen not to spray county roads.

Now, citizens in these no-spray communities are asking the WSDOT to maintain state highways without the use of herbicides.

The path to toxic-free roads will not be easy. On April 10, after hearing citizen concerns about roadside spraying, Secretary of Transportation Doug MacDonald wrote: "WSDOT is currently not considering an abandonment of herbicide use on any portion of the state highway system simply as a result of a county decision respecting the means of vegetation management on county roads in that county."

Fortunately for us — and for the WSDOT! — we aren't finished yet.

The fact is that there is no reason that the WSDOT can't begin no-spray programs in a few areas of the state. California does it. After battling with Caltrans for years, no-spray communities in northern California got the state to agree to maintain state highways within their counties without herbicides. If California can do it, so can we.

With a diverse coalition including families, tribes, fishermen, scientists, watershed agencies, environmentalists, and local governments calling for non-toxic roadside control, Secretary MacDonald needs to listen.

**Send in your comments today!** Let him know that you strongly support the WSDOT creating no-spray programs for communities that are choosing

not to spray. WSDOT should be responsive to our concerns, and especially to the decisions made in our communities. You can also contact your state legislators and ask them to register their concern about this issue with the WSDOT.

**You can send a letter from [www.watoxics.org](http://www.watoxics.org)** or write to Secretary MacDonald at [MacDonD@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:MacDonD@wsdot.wa.gov), 360-705-6800, c/o WSDOT, PO Box 47316, Olympia, WA 98504-7316. For more information, contact Angela Storey, [astorey@watoxics.org](mailto:astorey@watoxics.org) or 206-632-1545 ext. 11. ■

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#### *Milfoil, continued from page 3*

Community members are working right now to stop the permit process for the herbicide application and work with the yacht clubs to form a community board and agree to non-toxic management of the milfoil. With juvenile salmon migrating through Lake Washington toward Puget Sound throughout the spring and summer, any application of herbicides will pose serious risks.

If you are concerned about milfoil or milfoil control in a lake near you, contact the Department of Ecology to find out if herbicide or other control methods are being used. ■

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#### *West Nile Virus, continued from page 3*

the environment. Only judicious use of the least-toxic pesticides to control the larval populations should be considered. The use of highly toxic pesticides to kill adult mosquitoes threatens human and environmental health, while doing very little to effectively control mosquito populations.

#### *Where can I get more information about WNV?*

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
[www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm)

City of Seattle  
<http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/environment/WestNile.htm>

Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides  
[www.pesticide.org](http://www.pesticide.org)

For more information about any of these questions or others, please contact WTC Pesticides Organizer Angela Storey, at 206-632-1545 ext. 11, or [astorey@watoxics.org](mailto:astorey@watoxics.org). ■



*Waterfowl, other birds, and many other species of wildlife can suffer adverse effects from the herbicides used by WSDOT along the state's highways.*

## Volunteer Opportunities and Recognition

### Get Involved and Help Ensure a Healthy Environment for All!

In addition to the volunteer opportunities listed below, paid and non-paid internships are available with WTC. Check out our website at [www.watoxics.org](http://www.watoxics.org) or call us for more information.

#### University District StreetFair – Petition to stop spraying of pesticides along roadsides

**May 17-18.** One of Seattle's first street fairs celebrates its 33rd anniversary. As always the fair will be filled with many exciting events including four stages for musical entertainment, more than 300 arts and crafts booths, two food courts, workshops, and parades. Washington Toxics Coalition will offer an information booth on how the public can reduce and eliminate toxic chemicals. We are looking for volunteers to help gather signatures on a petition calling for the elimination of the spraying of pesticides along roadsides. Join us for a three-hour shift. Training provided.

#### Fremont Fair – Staff an information booth

**June 21 and 22.** Engage in one of the greatest fairs Seattle has to offer. Take pleasure in listening to local and regional performers, viewing the solstice parade complete with whimsical costumes, sampling cuisine from a variety of cultures, and examining the multitude of hand-made crafts and imports. The Fremont Public Association is guaranteeing a good time by providing a Community Action Zone, Seattle Art Car Blowout, Kid's Universe, and more. Help us educate and empower by staffing the Washington Toxics Coalition information booth for a three-hour shift. Training provided.

#### Prevent Cancer First

Prevent Cancer First is a group of volunteers who are working to create a broad community movement dedicated to preventing cancer. Please consider attending our next meeting if you would like to learn more about the relationship between toxics and cancer, what you can do to eliminate the causes of this horrible disease, and how you can take action against polluting industries. Contact us to find out when Prevent Cancer First is meeting next.

#### Designers

Create a logo for Prevent Cancer First and/or help design our brochure.

#### Auction for Action

Join our annual celebration team and work with us to acquire fabulous items for our live and silent auctions. The Auction for Action will be held this fall, but it is not too early to start working on this fun event.

If an opportunity listed above catches your interest, contact Outreach Coordinator Kristina Logsdon at 206-632-1545 ext. 20 or [volunteer@watoxics.org](mailto:volunteer@watoxics.org) for more information. ■

### Volunteers Really Dig Helping at the School Workday Restoration



*With the weather in cooperation, volunteers from Washington Toxics Coalition, Seattle Works, and the Seattle School District weeded, mulched, and pruned the grounds of Highland Park Elementary School in West Seattle on March 15, 2003. Seattle School District groundskeepers involved the community in their efforts to beautify the school without the use of pesticides. If you would like to reduce pesticide use in your schools and promote events such as this workday, please contact Angela Storey at 206-632-1545 ext. 11 or [astorey@watoxics.org](mailto:astorey@watoxics.org).*



Photos by Kristina Logsdon

## Personal Pollution Stories

### Whidbey Island's Prophet of Creosote

Kate Nelson, WTC Volunteer

In the Bible a prophet was someone who spoke the truth, especially to reluctant listeners.

"Since my accident I walk the beach and see poison garbage everywhere," says Tony Frantz, a marine contractor on Whidbey Island for 30 years. He was the guy you called if you wanted a stairway built down to the beach, or a bulkhead or dock put in.

"See here, on this old piling, or this piece, I think it is a piece from the broken ferry dock. Oh, here is a railroad tie. Did you know that each one of these has been impregnated with five gallons of creosote? It just kills me that these ties show up in home landscapes — people actually pay the railroads to sell them their toxic waste!"

In June 2001 Tony was called in to do a repair job on a rock wall adjacent to the beach. "I'm careful when I work, I handle creosote very carefully. But this stuff fooled me. Under the rock wall were old wood pilings. I could smell creosote but I couldn't see it. I was working down in a six foot trench, getting a

little sick to my stomach, my sinus aching. I took a piece of this gray timber and smelled it and it was creosote all right. Salt from the sea had dried it to a light gray — now I see timbers like that all over the beaches. I put the claw of my hammer into the wood to pull myself up and hit a pocket of the stuff that squirted me in the face. I took a direct hit."

"On top of a terrible headache, my sinuses closed and I got sick to my stomach. Then came convulsions and mental confusion. They took me to the hospital, pumping me with intravenous fluids,



Kate Nelson

Tony Frantz shows a piece of creosote-soaked wood on a Whidbey Island beach.

#### WTC Launches Toxic Pollution Stories Project

The Washington Toxics Coalition is launching a new project aimed at putting names and faces on the pollution problems facing Washington state.

Too often, the fight over reducing toxic pollution ends up being about numbers, risk assessments, and cost-benefit analyses. But toxic pollution is about more than numbers. It is about people being poisoned and dealing with the real-world impacts of health problems. It is about our local streams and wildlife being poisoned.

The Toxic Pollution Stories Project's goal is to compile and tell the stories of people living in Washington who have suffered health impacts from toxic chemicals and pesticides and to tell the stories of those living near pollution who have seen the environmental damage it can cause. We also want to tell the stories of people who have been successful in stopping pollution and in developing innovative alternatives.

If you have a story to share, or know of anyone who might be interested in sharing their story, please contact Kristina Logsdon at 206-632-1545 ext. 20 or klogsdon@watoxics.org.

trying to flush the poisons out of me. I was there for four days. The poisons go immediately to your intestines. I was a mess."

"I lost thirty pounds and was really sick for a month. For months after that I would vomit when I smelled asphalt when driving along the highway. The petroleum-based hydraulic fluids used commonly in the marine construction business affect me the same way now. Whiffs of creosote logs, gasoline at the pumps, any petrochemical can set off a reaction in my sinuses and throat first, then upset my stomach for days afterwards."

"See this shredding on this old telephone pole? That's what the rocks on the beach do to this stuff when the tide and storms beat them around. Then you see small pieces of the wood, pieces that have been torn off." But it is the big pieces, the 50 footer here and 60, even 70 footer there, old beams that catch your eye here. These and the six foot lengths of logs. "Yeah, look at these," says Tony, "some guy chain-sawed them and kicked them off a barge and into the water instead of taking them to a landfill. You see that all the time."

We are walking to Admiralty Inlet's Lake Hancock Marsh, the prime saltwater marsh on Whidbey Island.

Hundreds, maybe thousands of huge logs rest here on its northern edge; the tide and storms floating them here once the lake lost its protective spit and opened to the sea in the 1930s. The lake was the site of a Coast Salish Indian camp with an abundant supply of cranberries, waterfowl and salmon. In the mid-19th century whites settled here, harvested cranberries and planted oats, hay, and pastured animals near the lake. A kiosk along SR

## Personal Pollution Stories

525 above the lake, which is near Greenbank, explains the unique environmental character of the Lake Hancock Marsh, with its four ecosystems: saltwater marsh, brackish marsh, freshwater marsh, and adjacent grasslands. This is prime habitat for 150 species of birds.

The kiosk informs us that “It is a well restored and preserved example of our natural heritage.” And it is piled high with creosoted logs and arsenic-treated wood!

To Tony, it feels like Holy Ground; a land that holds many stories, of both the human and natural worlds. He has snorkeled in this lake hundreds of times in the past 30 years. He remembers it when it was an incredibly rich ecosystem, a breeding ground for herring, which are favored by salmon. They especially liked the eelgrass beds that now cover the entire floor of the once freshwater lake. It was home to giant Dungeness crabs. Salmon fingerlings and adults hung out here at different times. Huge schools of perch, sand lance and baitfish came in and laid eggs in the sandy part, surf smelt bred on the sand. Migrating ducks and geese by the thousands used to stop here. Tony has seen a dramatic decline in the marine environment. Now he thinks he knows why — the toxic seepage from the creosote and arsenic-impregnated logs is slowly doing the place in.

“In recent years, I haven’t seen those large schools of fish. I see a fraction of the waterfowl that used to be here. I’ve seen gasoline on the water throughout this marsh, even years ago I used to get it in my diving boots. I’ve seen small fish half dead, acting sick, disoriented. I’ve seen baby ducks with deformed feet and had to kill them — they were helpless.” Tony doesn’t snorkel here any more — no one does. The U.S. Navy owns the property and they restrict access, whether for habitat protection or personal safety it is not clear. Tony is determined to see this place cleaned up.

“So I’m a contractor,” continues Tony, speaking now in the living room of the log house he built himself. “I know how many pilings there are out there loaded with creosote. I start to think about better ways of doing this business. Use of creosote and arsenic is being cut way back, but there are still thousands of poison-leaching logs out there. And then a series of ideas just came to me. I’d wake up and write them down, and one thing led to another and I applied for two patents. One invention I named for Senator Patty Murray — she has a home here, she liked my invention. It removes old pilings and sucks up the muck, injecting clean sand in the hole. The second one wraps pilings and telephone poles with a plastic sleeve to contain the poisons. I

do not mean to get rich with these things, I just want us to clean up the place; all my patent royalties will go toward clean-up operations. I picked a major marine engineering firm to work with — I want someone who can work on a scale that will start here, but spread everywhere.”

Tony is beginning to clean up Whidbey Island, one beach at a time. The going has sometimes been rough; people responsible for keeping a clean marine environment have not always appreciated his “whistle-blowing” about the creosote issue. On the other hand, ORCA Network, the Whidbey Island No Spray Coalition, the Whidbey Island Environmental Network, and the Department of Ecology welcome his work and the Puget Sound Creosote Awareness Project he has set up (web site: [www.pscap.net](http://www.pscap.net)). In March a woman on Deer Lagoon asked Tony for help removing creosote logs from the spit next to her house. Tony got some financial help from the ORCA group, and they removed all the toxic logs. The logs went to an approved landfill. This is not an ideal solution, but until bio-remediation firms can devise a better plan, at least they are out of the marine environment.

The Department of Ecology and Bellingham plan to do a pilot project in September using Tony’s piling extractor/decontaminator. His next Whidbey Island target is Double Bluff Beach, a popular summer play spot. In August he and some island environmentalists tied red balloons to 300 target logs on that beach, then called a press conference showing how prevalent the creosote and arsenic logs are here where children play. Congressman Rick Larsen attended that event, as did State Senator Mary Margaret Haugan.

How did a guy from Brooklyn get so interested in oceans?

“I watched Diver Dan on TV as a kid. That did it. And then there was Sea Hunt and the Jacques Cousteau specials. It beat dodging the gangs in the neighborhood. I joined the Navy at 17 and came to Whidbey Island. After my service I got training in diving and marine construction at the Divers Institute of Technology in Seattle, and I have been here ever since.”

Tony’s life, personal and vocational, has been altered dramatically by his experience with creosote poisoning a year and a half ago. “I’m lucky, I guess,” he says with a wry smile. “Most guys wonder what they are put here to do with their life. I know I am to clean up this mess, to figure out better ways to do that — so messes like this all over the world can be cleaned up.” ■

***Most guys wonder what they are put here to do with their life. I know I am to clean up this mess.***

***—Tony Frantz***



Kate Neilson



## Home Safe Home

# Welcome to the Pesticide Free Zone

Philip Dickey

Have you been wishing for a way to identify your home landscape as free from toxic pesticides? Well, we've got good news. Welcome to the Pesticide Free Zone, a project to mark unsprayed landscapes with attractive signs. We're hoping to get thousands of these signs out there in neighborhoods to show that we are gardening naturally.

The eight-inch diameter aluminum signs are permanent and have two mounting holes that allow them to be attached to a stake, fence, or wall, or hung from a wire. The cost will be \$7.50 each, including shipping and Washington state sales tax. Some retail stores in the Seattle area will also be selling the signs. If you pick up the signs at our office or at our table at an event, you will save \$1.00. The sign comes with three fact sheets: *What's Wrong with Using Pesticides?*, *Talking to your Neighbors about Pesticides*, and the *Pesticide Free Zone Sign Owners Manual*. In addition, purchasers of the sign will receive a one-time special price of \$1.00 each on our popular Home Safe Home fact sheets (See the Pesticide Free Zone page on our website for a complete list of fact sheet titles and a special order form).

One of the questions we're being asked frequently is "what does pesticide free mean?" Ideally, pesticide-free means that no chemical pest controls at all are used. However, we consider the use of organically certified materials and EPA-exempt pesticides to be compatible with our philosophy because we want to encourage manufacturers to develop safer products. We distribute the signs on the honor system. We don't ask or monitor what materials you use. If you feel that the sign accu-



rately reflects your practices, you should display it. Should you have questions about the suitability of any products, please feel free to call the Toxics Coalition for more information at 206-632-1545 or 800-844-SAFE outside the Seattle area.

To get your signs, you can mail in a check (see order form at right) or contact our office by phone. Alternatively, you can visit our website ([www.watoxics.org](http://www.watoxics.org)), print out the special order form, and mail it in. If you want to get a pile of signs for your neighborhood or for friends and relatives, let us know and we'll make arrangements to get them to you. You are setting an excellent example for your neighbors by not using pesticides, and you have a right to be proud. We hope you'll display your sign right away and be willing to share your philosophy and your techniques with your friends and neighbors. ■





## Pesticide Free Zone Signs Order Form

Please complete this order form, mail with payment. Credit Card orders can also be faxed or phoned. Thank you!

Washington Toxics Coalition  
4649 Sunnyside Ave N  
Suite 540  
Seattle, WA 98103  
206-632-1545 ext. 8 Fax: 206-632-8661

Washington Resident

Qty _____	Price per sign including tax and shipping at \$7.50 per sign .....	Total _____
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Out of state resident

Qty _____	Price per sign including shipping at \$6.97 per sign .....	Total _____
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Additional donation .....

Grand Total .....

Method of payment  I've enclosed a check  
 Bill my credit card (Visa, Mastercard, or Discover)

CREDIT CARD NO. \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

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Daytime Phone

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E-mail

### *Announcing Two new Home Safe Home fact sheets*

❖ ***The Fruitful Northwest Home Orchard***  
by Philip Dickey

Find out what kinds of fruit grow best in the maritime Northwest. Also includes detailed pest management tips for codling moth, apple maggot, cherry bark tortrix, peach leaf curl, and brown rot.

❖ ***Preventing Plant Diseases: Roots*** by Doug Collins

A wealth of information on soil-borne plant pathogens like phytophthora, pythium rhizoctonia, armillaria, fusarium, and verticillium. Find out how to prevent these diseases through plant choice and managing the soil environment. Learn about beneficial mycorrhizal fungi and what they do for your plants.



We're excited to add these new titles to our series. If you would like to order print copies of these fact sheets, the cost is \$1.50 each plus .50 shipping and handling for the order. Washington state residents please add 8.8% sales tax.

You can also view these fact sheets on our website at [www.watoxics.org](http://www.watoxics.org).

## Creative Support

# We Need Your Help to End Washington's Toxic Legacy

Lori Mudge

Because of the known long-term damage caused by persistent toxic chemicals (also known as PBTs), including mercury, dioxin, pentachlorophenol, and PCBs, stopping their use and release is one of the most urgent health and environmental issues facing Washington today.

For this reason, over the past five years WTC's Toxic-Free Legacy Campaign has united a powerful coalition of community-based organizations and has

won significant victories that have established Washington as the national leader in the efforts to eliminate and clean up these highly toxic chemicals.

However, our work is far from finished. Due to our past successes, we are now well positioned to further advance Washington in its efforts to eliminate and clean up these highly toxic chemicals. In 2003 we must raise \$275,000 to support the next phase of our Toxic-Free Legacy Campaign. We need your support to reach this goal.

Your contribution will help WTC establish local model policies to phase out persistent pollution, achieve state-level action to reduce and eliminate mercury, and reduce and eliminate persistent pollution at its source. With your support we will create a new legacy for our environment, one in which humans and animals can eat, drink, and breathe without the threat posed by persistent pollution.

To learn more about our Toxic-Free Legacy Campaign please join the board, staff, and volunteers of Washington Toxics Coalition at the Museum of History and Industry from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14, 2003, for *Building a Toxic-Free Legacy: An inside look at state and national trends in the toxics reduction movement*.

To RSVP for this event or to make a special contribution to support this campaign, please contact Lori Mudge, WTC development director, at 206-632-1545 ext. 15 or [lmudge@watoxics.org](mailto:lmudge@watoxics.org). ■

### Save The Date

Our third annual

#### **Auction for Action: Annual Celebration & Dinner**

will be held at the beautiful Shilshole Bay Beach Club in Seattle on Wednesday, October 22, 2003.

Please mark your calendar today and join us this fall for an evening of breathtaking views; delectable organic cuisine, wine, and beer; a delicious oyster bar; a lively and eclectic auction; and a short, yet inspiring program.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Invitations to this event will be mailed this summer. If you would like to pre-register, contact Lori Mudge at 206-632-1545 ext. 15. Tickets are \$75.

Interested in being involved in the planning of this fabulous event? We have a number of opportunities for you!

- ❖ Join our auction acquisitions team and work with the WTC staff, board members, and volunteers to recruit the hundreds of fantastic items that will grace our silent and live auctions.
- ❖ Become a Table Captain and host your own table of guests. Bring together nine of your friends, support WTC, and have a great time in the process!
- ❖ Help us financially by becoming an event sponsor. We have a wide range of individual and corporate sponsorships available, each with special perks. Help us throw a wonderful event and treat yourself in the process.
- ❖ Are you an artist or massage therapist? Do you own a restaurant, bed and breakfast, time share, or vacation home? Are you able to guide a trip, teach a class, or offer another unique service? Please consider offering your art, skills, services, or getaways to our auction as a tax-deductible donation.

To learn more about these opportunities, to donate, or to become involved, please contact Lori Mudge by phone at 206-632-1545 ext. 15 or by e-mail at [lmudge@watoxics.org](mailto:lmudge@watoxics.org).

### Raise Money for WTC When You Shop at PCC

Thank you to all of our members who have participated in PCC Natural Markets' "1% for Education" offer. Your receipts have generated \$564 of support for WTC since we joined this program.

We invite all of our members who shop at PCC to take advantage of this simple offer. It's easy — just save your receipts each time you shop at PCC. When you have a bundle, send them to WTC. We will turn them in and receive 1% of the pre-tax total in return.

Receipts should be mailed to: Washington Toxics Coalition, 4649 Sunnyside Avenue North, Suite 540, Seattle, WA 98103. ■

## Creative Support

### Advocates Circle Monthly Donors Thanks to Pennington Books

We would like to thank the following list of committed individuals who are dedicated to protecting public health and the environment by providing monthly support to Washington Toxics Coalition through our Advocates Circle. We appreciate your support!

One anonymous  
Jackie and Tom  
Andrewjeski  
Margaret Bartley  
Trudy Bialic  
John Birnel and  
Mary Lou Dickerson  
Deborah Bowler  
Liz Brown  
Heather Brynn  
Karin Carter  
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Susan Olson  
Irene Pasternack and  
Ed Mills  
Debora Petschek  
Christine Pledsted  
Marjorie Smith  
Nancy Streiffert  
Margaret Swain

We would like to acknowledge the thoughtful support of Pennington Books. They donate at least 5% of the proceeds from their book sales to Washington Toxics Coalition and Climate Solutions.

Pennington Books uses chlorine-free paper in their printing process, which reduces the amount of dioxin entering our water bodies.

To learn more about this company, visit their website at [www.penningtonbooks.com](http://www.penningtonbooks.com). ■

### Correction

In the acknowledgments of foundation donors to WTC in 2002 that ran in the last issue of Alternatives we made a mistake in one foundation's name. The correct name is the David and Melinda Gladstone Foundation. We apologize for the error. ■

**Alternatives** is published quarterly by the Washington Toxics Coalition. Copy deadlines are the first of January, April, July, and October. Press run is 2500 copies. Distribution is free to WTC members. If you would like extra copies of an issue, please write.

**Editors:** Philip Dickey, Ken Steffenson

**Layout:** Ken Steffenson

**Design:** CC Design

**Printing:** EcoGraphics

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### Join Us!

The Washington Toxics Coalition (WTC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting public health and preventing pollution in industry, agriculture, and the home. WTC's work is supported in part by dues from our members. If you are not already a member, please consider joining! Members receive our quarterly newsletter "Alternatives" as well as periodic action alerts.

**WASHINGTON  
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### Membership & Renewal Coupon

I would like to support the Washington Toxics Coalition. Please bill me:  Visa  Discover  MasterCard  check enclosed

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

#### Individual Member

- \$30 Basic Membership  
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 \$120 Environmental Defender  
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 \$500 Toxic Avenger  
 \$15 Limited Income  
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#### Business Subscriber

- \$30 Small business (less than 25 employees)  
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 100 Large business (more than 100 employees)  
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Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

The Bylaws of the Washington Toxics Coalition state that only individual persons or nonprofit organizations can be voting members. All other entities are eligible to receive subscriptions to Alternatives, a quarterly publication of the Toxics Coalition, and other mailings. Any amount over the subscription rate is a tax-deductible contribution. Federal ID# 91-1214158

## Official 2003 Ballot for Board of Directors Election

*It's time to elect members to the board of directors. The slate of candidates is shown at the right. Paul Bogart and Steven Gilbert were appointed as interim members during 2002, and this is their first election.*

*Instructions: Only WTC members in good standing, including individuals or nonprofit organizations, are eligible to vote. Other entities, including newsletter subscribers, are not eligible.*

*This will be our fifth election done by mail rather than by meeting. The Board Development Committee, made up of both board and staff, recommends a yes vote for all candidates. After filling out the ballot, you may clip it out or photocopy this entire page and mail it to WTC ELECTION, 4649 Sunnyside Ave N., Suite 540, Seattle WA 98103.*

*Please include your membership ID number located on the top of your address label. This number is required to validate your ballot. All votes are confidential.*

### NOTE:

*Please clip out or photocopy this ballot. Fill it out and mail it back to us. Ballots must be postmarked by June 15, 2003. All votes must be submitted via this ballot.*

**Your membership # \_\_\_\_\_**  
**(Copy from your mailing address label below.)**

YES NO Name

- Paul Bogart** has worked in the areas of environmental and social change for almost twenty years. During 13 years with Greenpeace, Paul led the international effort to protect Antarctica and served as political director for Greenpeace USA. He has served as a strategic campaign consultant for such diverse organizations as the White Earth Land Recovery Project and the Service Employees International Union and worked for three years coordinating a corporate responsibility campaign for the United Steelworkers of America. He currently serves as a campaign coordinator for the Healthy Building Network. Paul joined the board in 2002.
- Don Bollinger, Treasurer**, is an energy consultant at Braco Energy services, and has worked as a chemist for 12 years, including two years working on environmental mutagens with Barry Commoner. He is the past board president of the Coalition for the Environment (St. Louis), and has four years experience as an anti-nuclear activist. Don joined the board in 1994. As Treasurer, he is chair of WTC's Finance Committee.
- Jennifer Dold** is an environmental attorney with Bricklin Newman Dold LLC, an environmental law firm in Seattle. She brings to the Toxics Coalition legal expertise complemented by many years experience as an activist. Jennifer joined the board in 1996, and serves on our Legal Affairs Committee, our Event Committee, and is the chair of our Personnel Committee.
- Steven G. Gilbert** is director and founder of the non-profit Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders (INND), and is an affiliate associate professor in the Department of Environmental Health, University of Washington. He has a Ph.D. in Toxicology, and is a Diplomate of American Board of Toxicology (D.A.B.T.). For several years he worked in the drug development industry as an owner and president of Redmond based Biosupport, Inc. and as president of SNBL USA, Inc. His primary research interests are in the effects of lead and mercury on the developing nervous system. He is currently consulting in toxicology and drug development, and has recently authored a book entitled "A Small Dose of Toxicology." Steven joined the board in 2002.
- Jon Stier, Vice President**, is an environmental attorney who has litigated with the National Environmental Law Center, served as an environmental and consumer rights lobbyist for WashPIRG, practiced indigent criminal appellate defense, and helped litigate nuclear whistleblower cases. Jon joined the board in 1999. He chairs our Legal Affairs Committee and serves on our Personnel Committee, and Fundraising, Marketing, and Membership Committee.

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