

# Wedgwood Pool News

Vol. 47.0

March 2010

## A Note From Our New Wedgwood Pool Board President

I married into a Wedgwood Pool family, became a member in 1976, and experienced the WW Warrior spirit as a swim team parent for almost two decades. As I enter my third year on the board, it's been my great pleasure to serve this very special community.

My fellow board members, as with those before us, are very dedicated to the continuing success and good fortune of Wedgwood Pool. For many of us, it represents our summer home, near people we've grown very close to, as we swim, relax, and as our children grow up in a safe family friendly environment.

The pool is highly dependent upon a willing membership of volunteers providing expertise in all aspects of operating a successful nonprofit organization and an exciting swim team. I strongly encourage everyone to take a turn in helping on many levels.

### **About Our Board of Directors**

Each year the board looks to four new members as four of the twelve rotate out. It's very helpful to have people knowledgeable of governance and process, legal matters, finance, facilities, events, swim sport and team, IT, administration, community relations, etc.

If you have interest in serving on the board, talk to those who are serving, or have served. Generally, being a pool member for two to three years or more helps with understanding the community.

A nominating committee will be forming this season and will be announced

as we recruit for Fall 2010 elections.

We are very well supported by a great staff and a Finance sub-committee made up of member-professionals, which annually updates our ten-year revenue, expenses, and capital projects projections, with input from the board.

### **Landscaping and Facilities**

Landscape parties are scheduled in the spring and fall and will be announced in the news letter and website. Sure it's easy to write a check, but why not turn out to meet other members, create new relationships, and introduce kids to another level of volunteering.

Wedgwood Pool exists and continues because of this important aspect of membership .... volunteering.

In 2009 our maintenance projects were:

- Upper deck renovation – water diversion and membrane work
- Pool leaks identified and repaired and with significant improvement
- Federally mandated drain mitigation/repairs are underway
- In-floor heating (Entran) inspected as part of a class action suit and compensatory payments received

Energy and systems assessments are on the to-do list to enable us to plan for improvements and coordinate work that overlaps into multiple areas such as a new roof, solar heat

considerations, or structured shade, etc. If you have an architecture, construction, engineering, or similar background, we may have a sub-committee forming to provide recommendations and oversight continuity.

### **Technology**

We made the leap with our **computer check-in process** last year. It's helping us measure usage, which aids in planning and staffing. It has also helped us divert some unpaid and unfair access to the pool. Your help and cooperation is appreciated.

**Our newsletter** is posted on line by about the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month during swim season and members are reminded by email. Online calendar reminders work too. For the non-techs, you can arrange for snail mail but we are trying to have as many as possible receive the newsletter electronically – it has saved us a lot of money. The newsletter will also be posted in the lobby with a small supply of copies when the pool is open.

The board has committed to funding the methodical **digitizing of key elements of**

**archives** ..... facility plans and documents, governance records, historical records, etc. If you have expertise in archiving, librarianship, and related technology apps, etc, we'd love to hear from you. We hope to secure these virtually online and on CD.

**Wedgwood Pool Talk is a member-only private blog** that emerged in 2008 to facilitate pool related conversations. It remains a "work in progress", is now accessed through WWP's homepage, with a verifiable email checked against our membership database.

**Our website** has been artfully managed by webmaster Raab. We may be in need of additional supporting tech help with apps, internal list serves, and other enhancements yet to be determined.

These topics are a reflection of areas that are on my mind for this coming year.

"See you at the pool!"

*Bill Leak, Board President*



**As mild as this winter has been, it did get pretty cold between Thanksgiving and Christmas.**

**Who says Wedgwood swimmers can't walk on water?**



## Membership & Dues Reminder!

March 1<sup>st</sup> was the deadline for all dues & change of status requests. If you have not yet paid, you must include the \$60.00 late fee with your dues or your request for status change, such as Leave of Absence or Conversion to Senior Status.

### Member dues:

- Full member dues are \$700.00
- Full members also pay the 2010 Landscape fee of \$35.00. This can be waived if you work for 3 hours at the spring landscape party.
- Senior associated dues are \$175.00 (25% of full annual dues)

### Reminder regarding late fees:

- The late fee increases to \$100.00 for any payment postmarked after May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The late fee increases to \$100.00 for any request for status change postmarked after April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Dues statements were mailed mid January. If you do not have your 2010 dues statement readily available, contact Caryn Hopkins ([membership@wwpool.org](mailto:membership@wwpool.org), 206.361.0473).

### **Send all payments & change requests to:**

Wedgwood Pool-Attn: Membership  
P. O. Box 15104  
Seattle, WA 98115-0104

## 2010 Directory Cover Contest

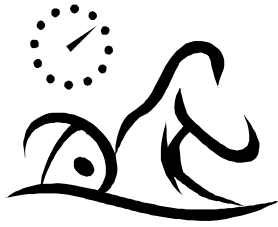
In an effort to have the pool directory available earlier this year, we are requesting families with children (ages 5-18) to encourage them to submit art that will be used for the Directory cover.

Those selected will have their entries printed on either the front or back cover of the 2010 WW Pool Membership Directory.

To enter

- Use an 8 ½ by 11" white blank sheet of paper and fold it in half the hamburger way (landscape format folded in half)
- Draw on one side of the paper. (The entry will be 8 1/2 high by 5" wide)
- Use black ink and white paper.
- Include the words: "Wedgwood Swim Pool Directory" and "2009" in your design.
- The theme is 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Wedgwood Pool
- Write your name and age on the back of the drawing.
- All kids between the ages of 5 and 18 are eligible to enter.

Mail in your entry to Wedgwood Pool-Directory, P. O. Box 15104, Seattle, WA 98115-0104, **by May 1<sup>st</sup>**.  
Questions? **Contact Caryn Hopkins** ([membership@wwpool.org](mailto:membership@wwpool.org), 206.361.0473)



## **Wedgwood Swim Team News – March 2010**

There are just over two more months to wait until the 2010 swim season begins! While the schedule of meets, fun days, mini clinics and other team activities has yet to be finalized, we have some important information to communicate during this off-season.

### **New Coach**

While we were sad to have to say goodbye to one of our wonderful coaches, Jill Kripps, we are thrilled to announce that Sara Behrens (2009 “graduate” of the WW swim team) will join the coaching staff of Matt Miller, Michael Matsumoto, and Peter Hoff. We’re looking forward to another fun-packed season with these four great coaches leading the way.

### **Dues Increase**

For several years now the swim team has consistently cost the club more money than it has brought in. The losses can be considerably less, or non-existent, when we host one of the big championship meets (i.e., Northerns or All City) but that is not always possible or desirable to do. The Board has monitored this situation and has agreed to offset these deficits with the revenue it makes from swim lessons and pool rentals because of the vital role the team plays in the life of the club.

In reviewing the 2010 budget, the Board considered how to reduce or eliminate the swim team deficit. While we will continue to carefully manage our costs, we decided not to make cuts to our biggest budget expense – paying for four coaches. We then considered how to increase our income (i.e., raise dues, charge higher margins on concession items, sweats and T-shirts, etc.) and determined that it was time to raise the dues. The Board last raised the swim team dues in 2004, from \$60 to \$65 per swimmer. A survey of the dues charged at other Seattle Summer Swim League pools in our area revealed that other clubs charge between \$75 and \$125 per swimmer. As a result, the Board agreed to raise our dues to \$75 per swimmer in 2010.

Keep in mind that the dues cover five practices per week, two meets per week during the peak season, snacks for the entire team after several practices, fun days, ribbons, trophies/patches, swimmer-of-the-week recognition items, gifts for the coaches and graduating seniors, and an amazing end-of-year banquet. When you compare swim team dues and all that comes with them to what you pay to participate in other team sports, we hope you’ll agree that \$75 is still a great value.

### **Volunteer(s) to Run Concessions**

Speaking of income for the swim team, for the past few years, the amazing group of concession volunteers has earned between \$5,000 and \$8,000 for the team each season. This amazing feat was due in large part to the tireless leadership and work of Lenee Arnett, Diana Black, and Kelly Crow.

We are grateful for all of their efforts! But these women want to take a break from concessions and give to the team in other ways. As a result, we are looking for one or more volunteers to organize our group of concessions volunteers for the upcoming 2010 season. We will be hosting five home meets (including Wedg v. Wood) and possibly a post-season meet. If you have questions or are interested in volunteering for this valuable position, please contact one of us on the Swim Team Committee. We will be glad to help you get started and support you all the way through. It's actually a fun way to get to know other Wedgwood parents and do something positive while you attend your child's meets.

### **More Swim Team Details to Follow**

Be on the look-out in the coming months for emails and newsletter articles with information related to registration, practice and meet schedules, and other volunteer opportunities.

Thanks and keep dreaming of summer!

***Patty Cannon, Jacque Ives and Erin Manca***  
***Swim Team Committee***



## **The Dirt on Landscaping**

Member participation at the landscape parties this past year was impressive to say the least. The spring work party was blessed with beautiful weather, esprit de corps, good conversation and coffee and pastries. Highlights included new plantings on the pool deck, featuring Blue oat grass and New Zealand flax (both plants that should be able to handle the sun and errant ping pong player traffic in this area). The autumn work party installed new planting at the entry terrace, expanding on the existing groundcover and ferns. We accomplished a great deal at these parties; many thanks to all participants!

This coming year, watch for improvements to the plantings on the east side of the parking lot. The pool has engaged the services of the landscape architecture firm Allworth Design to develop a master plan for this area. The design will address: barren areas, removal of plants past their prime and strengthening the overall composition of plantings. The design will feature low maintenance and drought tolerant plantings.

Steve Fihn is the 2010 Board Landscape Chair and will be scheduling a Spring work party. I look forward to seeing the fruits of our labor flourish over the years.

***Peter Brunner***  
***Landscape Adviser Emeritus***

**2010 WW Pool Board Members**

Bill Leak ~ President  
[president@wwpool.org](mailto:president@wwpool.org)  
[wcleak@hotmail.com](mailto:wcleak@hotmail.com)

Greg Miller ~ Vice President  
Jeri Morin ~ Treasurer  
Kari Monsen ~ Secretary

Susie Dade ~ Newsletter Editor  
[duzies@comcast.net](mailto:duzies@comcast.net)

Steve Fihn, Maintenance & Landscaping

Caryn Hopkins  
Membership/Near Neighbor Liaison  
[membership@wwpool.org](mailto:membership@wwpool.org)

Jacque Ives, Erin Manca & Patty Cannon  
Swim Team Committee  
[swimteam@wwpool.org](mailto:swimteam@wwpool.org)

Todd McCollough ~ Special Events  
[tbjge@comcast.net](mailto:tbjge@comcast.net)

Surena Khatir, Asst Treasurer

Wedgwood Swim Pool  
P.O. Box 15104  
Seattle WA 98115

**Return Correction Requested**