

A.W.C.C. ALERT

Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs

www.AWCC.org.uk

AUTUMN / WINTER 2011
EDITION



The North East region's Retford and Worksop Boat Club has just celebrated 50 years in existence. Their rally held from 2 - 4 September was attended by AWCC members from the region including several boats from South Pennine Boat Club.

Long term member Mrs Barbara Wallace is pictured here with narrow boat 'Barbarella' which she owns with her husband John. Barbara and many other club members sported traditional boating dress at the event. (Photo by Jean Easterbrook)



This newsletter is available online and in print. It is aimed at AWCC members as well as the wider boating and water related community.

The AWCC is an association run by volunteers, which fosters links between member boating organisations and represents their interests in consultations and negotiations.





To sign up for electronic receipt please see page 7



Please send your pictures & accounts of club events for inclusion in Alert by email to the editor. Details of upcoming events open to members of the AWCC may also be publicised in Alert and at www.AWCC.org.uk



Ralph & Jenny Sullivan of AWCC South East region sent in this picture of the Nene 250 Festival which was held on Sunday 7th. August 2011. This promotion event for local people was organised by Northampton Borough Council. It celebrated the opening of the river to navigation from Northampton to the Wash in 1761. Several of the AWCC River Nene clubs took part in a Decorated Boat Parade viewed by passers by. It was quite exciting as the conditions were exceedingly breezy making some manoeuvres hazardous. (Photo by Ralph Sullivan)

Meet some of the Regional Teams – please say hello when you see any of us out and about

<p>Graham Myatt Midlands Region Chairman.</p>		<p>Stoke-on-Trent Boat Club – Vice-president. Formally harbourmaster, secretary, rear commodore and commodore. Chairman of Endon & District Heritage & Environment Project (Caldon Canal). Member of BW Customer Service Standards Advisory Panel. AWCC representative on the Boat Safety Scheme Advisory Committee. Boating for 30 years. Currently owns ‘Dart’ a 46ft tug.</p>
<p>Bob Mennell Chairman North East Region,</p>		<p>Retford and Worksop Boat Club member for past 46 years. Owner of a 50’ narrow boat named Johansa. Committee member Marnham Boat Club & has previously had extensive involvement with the Chesterfield Canal Society.</p>
<p>Roland Dotchin Chair, AWCC NW Region,</p>		<p>Ex Chair of Tudor Cruising Club. Has owned various boats over the past 24 years. Other experience has included chairmanship of Manchester and Stockport Canal restoration. Crew on Working boat in 1949, before entering Merchant Navy, MCA Boatmaster: crewed a 70ft Passenger Boat.</p>
<p>Ralph Sullivan, South-East Vice Chair</p>		<p>Ralph Sullivan, South-East Vice Chair and NEC Rep, Oundle Cruising Club (OCC) AWCC Rep. Boating Since 1987, Currently with wife Jenny owner of 55ft. Nomad Narrow boat, ‘Brace yourself’. Has also held offices with OCC and is currently Club Rep with the Association of Nene River Clubs.</p>
<p>Trevor Gillam London Region chair</p>		<p>President London Region Commodore West London Cruising Club. With his wife Rosemary, Trevor owns ‘Triskids’, a 27’ Norman Centre Cockpit Cruiser</p>
<p>Erica Martin Midlands Region Secretary</p>		<p>AWCC Rep for Stoke on Trent Boat Club. Currently also serving as Commodore Current boat is a 45ft cruiser stern narrowboat, ‘Yeomans Too’. Also active member of Stoke on Trent IWA, and the Caldon & Uttoxeter Canals Trust as well other boating interest groups.</p>
<p>David Butcher Vice Chair South and West regions</p>		<p>David has a special interest in reviving the AWCC in the South and West. Past Quartermaster at regional and national levels. AWCC involvement goes back many years. David has owned various boats up until 3 years ago having started out refurbishing a wooden shell and working up to a 54’ narrowboat.</p>
<p>Howard Smith President Midland region</p>		<p>Chairman of Erewash Canal Preservation & Development Association for last 19 years. With wife Sheila Howard used to own a 50’ narrowboat. Howard has been extremely active in his work on behalf of the Erewash and represents the Midland region as their President.</p>

<p>Dick Elder Special Rep for non aligned clubs</p>		<p>Dick is a Committee member with a special interest in those clubs not assigned to any region. AWCC rep for Wilderness Boat Owners Club & Basingstoke Canal Boat Club. Wilderness Beaver Cub 'Grey owl 3' and 52' nb 'Talifoo' Boating since 1970s with partner Bobbie.</p>
<p>Bryan Pollard NW region Vice Chair</p>		<p>Member of Trent & Mersey Canal Society. Previous commodore of Broken Cross Boat Club. With wife Linda, Bryan owns a 53' semi trad narrowboat named 'Eden Keel'</p>

AWCC 2011 interclub newsletter competition

Having been awarded first place for the 2010 editions of 'Lock Key', Mrs Linda Davies of Retford & Worksop Boat Club will be judging your entries this year. Linda has asked that all entries be with her by 14th January 2012 at Editor, Retford & Worksop Boat Club, Clayworth Wharf, Clayworth, Retford, DN22 9AJ. Each club is

requested to send a maximum of 2 entries
If you have already sent your magazines to Heather Bearpark in the capacity of Alert editor please let Linda know which two you wish to be judged by emailing her c/o
HeatherBearpark@gmail.com
The Awards will be made at the 2012 AWCC AGM

EDITORIAL

Hello again

I have to thank the Midlands and South East regions who have been active in supplying copy to include in Alert. We would welcome more contributions from other areas in order to maintain a balance. It is particularly helpful if clubs or regions holding joint events provide a short synopsis and a few photographs of their events as this makes the editor's job a little easier.

We are also hoping that you will send in information about your upcoming events which you are holding open to other AWCC member clubs. Please include booking information or a web address for inclusion in these notices.

In order to increase revenue and reduce the overall costs of producing Alert it has been decided to accept a few classified advertisements (subject to space availability) in a short format at very low cost—please see page 6 for more information.

Clubs are encouraged to sign up for electronic distribution of Alert which you can then relay on to your members. This will in turn reduce AWCC Executive running costs and the fees charged to member clubs which are inevitably rising. Details on taking advantage of this service can be found on page 7.

Regrettably the next edition of Alert will be my last. I have family commitments which need to take priority. The AWCC is now seeking someone to pick up this role from March 2012 onwards.

Email: heatherbearpark@gmail.com

Post: Heather Bearpark, c/o South Pennine Boat Club, Wood Lane, Battyeford, Mirfield, WF14 OED



The 2012 AWCC AGM will be held on Sat 17th March at Stafford Boat Club

Transition C&RT Trustee Lynn Berry will be the speaker. Clubs wishing to submit resolutions for inclusion in the agenda are required to submit these to the National Secretary on or before 7th January 2012. For more information go to www.AWCC.org.uk

I write as rain drives against the windows, a voice on the wireless announcing that we are in for severe drought conditions next year and to cap it all we are promised at least seven years of austerity not known since the thirties. So much for the bad news, now for the good: the transfer of British Waterways to the Canal and River Trust has created a feeling of optimism for the future of our waterway system. The subject was the only agenda item at the Parliamentary Waterways Group Meeting held on Dec 8th attended by the Waterways Minister, Richard Benyon MP. The minister opened by reporting that negotiation with the treasury is still work-in-progress but the funding gap is closing; we should receive firm news on finance early in the New Year. The transfer from BW to CRT is on track for April next year. He continued to say that the Trust has all party support and the government is committed to a sustainable waterway system for the future. The next step is to issue results of the supplementary consultation as to whether CRT should retain the BW Statutory Powers and be subject to the Freedom of Information Act. AWCC's response to this consultation is available on the website.



On the subject of Waterway re-Classification, it was reported that any application would be subject to a thorough investigation and cost-benefit analysis before being considered. Tony Hales, BW Chairman stated that Category D & E assets will be maintained in a manageable condition of repair and that the current network will be maintained and enhanced for the future.

A statement regarding pension funding for BW Employees will be made in the New Year.

Those of us who have met the Transition Trustees continue to be impressed by their enthusiasm for the task and robust approach to negotiation with government in order to secure the best possible terms for the new trust. Lynne Berry has agreed to represent the Transition Trustees and to give a talk on the CRT at the AWCC 2012 National AGM.

To internal matters: the NEC has been busy on your behalf to ensure that our limited funding is correctly managed into the New Year. We have responded in full to consultations on how the CRT is to be managed and on government proposals to abolish IWAC. The South and West Steering Group is working to re-establish a viable region in that area with an initial meeting of interested clubs scheduled for January 2012.

The NEC is currently stretched to the limit servicing the ongoing workload of managing the association; this will increase as CRT takes responsibility for the waterways and we face the prospect of DEFRA waterways becoming part of the integrated system.

The production of ALERT has out-grown the capabilities of a single editor; you will find details of a proposed group to enhance the publication and it's associated activities below. Please consider if you are able to help in any of these rewarding tasks.

I am looking forward to accompanying Ann Banks as we attend regional meetings early next year. We appreciate the warm welcome we have received to meet club reps and officers on their own patch.

I am delighted to confirm that David Pearce has decided to run for a Private Boater Member of the CRT Council. It is my view that David, with his background and experience, would greatly enhance the new organisation. I am sure you will join me in wishing David every success in this venture.

This leaves me offer my best wishes to you all for Christmas with a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

With Best wishes, Paul le Blique



CAN YOU HELP THE NATIONAL TEAM?

The team works on behalf of all boaters in the AWCC member clubs. We are seeking some motivated people to take a turn in the following roles which have been broken down into small, manageable chunks:

Quartermaster—someone who has free time to contact suppliers of boating related equipment and services. This person would be adept at negotiating deals on behalf of boaters and finding new ways of generating income for the association.

Newsletter editor—from Spring 2012 the current editor needs to step down. This individual will pull together materials forwarded to you by various members of the national team in preparation for publication as in this issue of Alert. Support will be given.

Communications officer – to pull together and oversee all aspects of Communications undertaken by the AWCC.

Journalist / content provider. Someone who can actively monitor web & other resources. Creation of content would be helpful as would daytime availability for phone contact to and from other boating related organisations and press. Again, help will be provided.

PS several clubs & regions have expressed dismay that there is not going to be an AWCC calendar produced next year. Is this something that you could consider working on and coordinating next year?

Reports from the National Executive & the Regions

AWCC National Executive

Fears have been expressed that dredging and maintenance schedules will concentrate on main flagship routes to the detriment of the waterways which are less used. This has been raised with WUSIG

Midlands region

A new regional chairman will be required at the next AGM as Graham Myatt will be retiring. The region is still seeking a quartermaster and seeks a willing volunteer to take over this role.

The region is disappointed that AWCC will not be producing a calendar in 2012.

The region continues to represent boaters at various meetings.

London region

Renovations to the Basingstoke Canal have now commenced with contractors on site working on the deep cut flight of locks as well as other engineering works. A celebration of 21 years since the reopening of the canal is planned for 2–4 June 2012.

For updates about the Thames please go to <http://www.riverthamesnews.com/> and sign up for email updates using the link to the top left of the page. This site features a link to the London Boat show which is running from 6–15 January 2012. Significant restrictions to passage whilst the 2012 London Olympics are being held are expected. Enquiries regarding passage of boats should be addressed to sarahemmings@bw.co.uk

North West region

A boat Gathering due to be held at Dunham Massey (Bridgewater Canal) on 26 May 2012. AWCC members are welcome to attend. Further details to follow.

North West region wishes to report that passages on the Ribble Link are being restricted to boats with a 2' draft despite boats with up to 3' having passed without incident previously. Charges will apply to boats requiring rescue if they prove not to fit this criteria. Bookings are now made on the internet.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES 2014 MARKS THE CELEBRATION OF 50 YEARS FOR THE AWCC

It was founded after the St Pancras Cruising Club commodore got into difficulties in 1963 whilst boating close to Luton & Dunstable Boat Club. He was assisted by their members. Following this an exploratory meeting was held at Uxbridge Cruising Club. These 3 clubs together with Lee & Stort Cruising Club formed the Association of Waterways Cruising Clubs in 1964.

Today the AWCC has over 100 member clubs and affiliated organisations across England & Wales.

To celebrate this milestone a rally will be held at Black Buoy cruising club on the Grand Union Canal in the summer of 2014.

Please watch this space and at www.AWCC.org.uk for more information.

South West region

There are moves afoot to recreate a formal South West AWCC region with a sub group working on this. A meeting of clubs expressing interest in this will be held in the new year.

A large section of the Kennet and Avon was closed during the autumn due to water shortages.

More reports from the Regions

South East region

Due to low spring rainfall in 2011 Braunston had its driest year in the last 90 years. There is need for more support from boaters in conserving water.

Volunteer lock keepers will be in place by Easter 2012. In addition to these further volunteering sources are being sought to include lock painting, clean ups and mooring rangers with an aimed 4-5,000 volunteer days clocked up over the year.

The regional quartermaster Clive Rowlands has recently retired from the committee after 25 years service.

Two clubs in the region have expressed their disappointment that the AWCC is not producing a calendar in 2012.

Jenny Sullivan (Secretary to the South East region) has provided the following advice regarding incorrect use of the guillotine locks on the River Nene: This not only causes inconvenience for other boaters but is crucial to controlling the water flow to prevent flooding. It has been observed that it is visitors to the river who are the main culprits. When leaving the locks boaters should endure that guillotine gates are left in the **raised** position and V gates are closed with paddles down. Where V gates are placed at either end of the locks the gates may be left open when leaving the locks. Paddles should always be lowered.

Full instructions are recorded at the locks and should be adhered to.

North East Region

It was previously reported that a serious accident had occurred due to the state of the landing stage at White Rose Boat Club. With pressure being exerted by the regional Chair Bob Mennell we are pleased to advise that BW has confirmed a new landing stage should be installed by March 2012.

The region is looking forward to see how the new Canal & River Trust will progress.

People wishing to volunteer services to assist the Canal & River Trust in the region should contact Kevin Tyson on 07808 786745.

AWCC National Treasurer, Ken

Bearpark wishes to make clubs aware that subscriptions to the AWCC in 2012 will be subject to a modest £1 increase. Subs due in 2012 will be £51.

From January 2012 Membership cards, available to order by club reps or regional quartermasters from Ken, will be charged at 20 pence each + P&P
ken.bearpark@gmail.com

Executive team members have decided to reduce their mileage allowance to 22 pence per mile in order to keep costs to clubs as low as possible. Car sharing is already being used wherever possible.

If you have received this copy of Alert in printed format but wish to reduce our ongoing running costs please 'opt in' to electronic distribution by following the instructions on page 7

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For a modest fee you may place your short advert in this publication. £3 cheque prepayment to 'AWCC' is required for up to 20 words + £1 for every additional 5 words. Please contact the editor to discuss further. Please note that space allocation may be different to that seen above. Commercial advertisers quarter, half or full page adverts charges POA from the editor.

ALERT

NEWSLETTER



New notification service for AWCC ALERT Newsletter

November 2011 sees the launch of a new service to Clubs and individual Club members.

This ALERT newsletter is published three or four times a year and for many years has been circulated to Clubs as a paper copy. More recently, we have produced an electronic version as a PDF file which has been available on the AWCC website at <http://awcc.org.uk/alert>. However until now we had no way to inform AWCC members or Clubs when the latest version had been published.

The AWCC ALERT notification service will send you an eMail whenever a new version of ALERT is available on the AWCC website. The eMail will include a clickable link which will download the PDF version of ALERT to your computer or smartphone.

To sign up to the service for a personal notification, please go to the web link below and follow the instructions there.

<http://eepurl.com/f2Dk5>

Smartphone users can scan this Q-Code to get to the link directly from their phone.



Once you have submitted the subscription form, you will receive a link eMail asking you to confirm your subscription request. You need to respond to this email and confirm your request. You will receive one further eMail confirming your details, so you know your registration is confirmed.

You can unsubscribe at any time from the service by clicking the link on any eMail your receive.

We have already contacted all Club secretaries asking if they would like to receive an electronic copy rather than being sent a paper copy by post. Clubs who opt in to this service help reduce the costs of producing and distributing ALERT, which helps us to keep costs to a minimum. Any Club who does not subscribe to the service will continue to receive a paper version by post.

(For your information, the service we are using is managed by Mailchimp <http://mailchimp.com> and the AWCC has a free account to the service which does not cost us anything. However you should be aware that the details of your subscription are held on a host system outside the UK and therefore may not be covered by UK Data Protection Law. The information you provide is used only to notify you of new versions of ALERT and will not be used for any other AWCC services or passed on to any other parties.)

If you have any questions about this procedure or about the notification service in general, please eMail me at the details below.

Brian Rich

Acting Communications Officer

Email: communications@awcc.org.uk

OBITUARY - BRIAN KEELING

A former Commodore of Stoke on Trent Boat Club, Brian Keeling, passed away recently. Brian was Commodore from 1985 to 1988. He was a very popular man, an excellent ambassador for the club, with a ready smile for everyone. A talented dancer and singer, he often led members of the club in a sing-song, conducting with a tuning fork. His boat, Josiah Clowes, was always warm and welcoming. With his wife Joan, he was very involved in the social activities of the club, particularly catering – on one occasion when serving teas, he was seen to rinse the teapot in the cut!



At Christmas, Brian was the face of Santa to the children and grandchildren of the club, a role he played many times around North Staffordshire, and latterly, in the Cotswolds village to which he and Joan moved, to be nearer to daughter Karen and her partner John.

A thanksgiving service was held at the Baptist Chapel in Hook Norton, where the villagers had quickly taken Brian to their hearts. Four members of Stoke on Trent Boat Club attended the service, including Midlands Chairman Graham Myatt – a Past Commodore of SOTBC, and Erica Martin, Midlands Secretary and Commodore of the Club, who gave a short eulogy on Brian's boating life.

Warm, open, friendly, obliging - a great guy. This is how members of Stoke on Trent Boat Club remember Brian. Our thoughts and prayers are with Joan, Karen and John.

The new charitable Trust introduces itself and invites readers to sign up for email updates.



Boat licence holders are entitled to stand for election onto the 35 strong C&RT council. Licensed boaters will have voting rights in these elections.

Further information on the elections will be available here from 12 December:

<http://www.waterscape.com/features-and-articles/features/introducing-the-canal-and-river-trust/the-canal-and-river-trust-council>

Please use your votes to support members of the AWCC who decide to stand.

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AWCC Club news—snippets of news taken from club magazines

To ensure that news and invitations to your club events are featured in Alert & at www.AWCC.org.uk please forward copies of your magazines to the editor



'Ditchcrawler', the magazine of the North Cheshire Cruising Club reports that the Manchester Branch of the IWA is organising a boat rally in the Piccadilly basins over the early spring and Diamond Jubilee bank holiday weekend (2–5 June 2012). This is planned as a trial run for a larger event in 2014 which marks the 40th anniversary of the Cheshire Ring being reopened.

In the October edition of the Lee & Stort Cruising Club 'Gazette' there is a report about a summer regatta with a 50's theme. This involved their



members and visitors from Broxbourne and Ramme Marsh Cruising Clubs both of whom are members of the AWCC

'Wide Views', the magazine produced by Thrupp Canal Cruising Club, reports on a canalside songs of praise service held at Thrupp Wide on the Oxford Canal. This included AWCC members of the Boaters Christian Fellowship. The club has also hosted a visit by the Mikron Theatre and supports a charitable project to provide clean water "toilet twinning" project in Burundi, Sierra Leone.

The Waterways Recovery Group (WRG) is a member of the AWCC. It continues to offer volunteers opportunities to spend working holidays on waterway restoration projects. For more information and to sign up for 2012 activities please visit <http://www.waterways.org.uk/wrg/>

**waterway
recovery
group**

volunteers restoring
the waterways

In their magazine 'Wilderness News' the Wilderness Boat Owners Club reports on their lively and varied programme of cruising activities including crossings by ferry to take their boats on cruises in Ireland. Various activities are planned for 2012. Information about the club can be found at

<http://www.wilderness.org.uk>

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BW pump-out price hike

On 1st November 2011 the price for a BW pump-out rose from £10 to £14.75

BW say that on average it costs them £30 to run the service which is affected by breakdowns, customer misuse and costly septic tank service charges in remote areas.

There has also apparently been local consultation regarding closure of the most expensive sites. You are advised to make sure that your views are made known through your AWCC representative!



The AWCC's detailed response to DEFRA's consultation on 'The New Era for the Waterways' can be read at www.AWCC.org.uk



FIRE ALERT

Andrew Phasey, Technical Advisory officer for the AWCC has asked us to bring to your attention the following advice regarding smoke alarms.

The boat safety scheme reports a live aboard boater narrowly escaping death following his disabling of the smoke alarm on his boat when cooking and failing to reinstate the batteries afterwards. Boaters are recommended to fit alarms which have the following features:

'The alarm of choice is an optical alarm with a long-life battery, a hush button, and one that is certified as meeting either BS 5446:2000 Part 1, or BS EN 14604:2005, so it should carry a 'Kitemark' or 'horseshoe' certification mark. Also, if you can't hear it in the saloon while you are in the sleeping quarters, buy two, one for each end of the boat.' The full article is available at

<http://search.boatsafetyscheme.com/news-and-information>

The same location should be checked for advice on 'Keeping Safe with Solid Fuel Stoves'. This includes info on new installations, over firing of stoves, precautions regarding Carbon Monoxide emissions within the cabin, potential for ignition of materials within the boat fabric and routine care and maintenance.

2012 AWCC Handbooks

Clubs reps are requested to check that club contact details listed in the 2011 handbook are up to date by 17th February 2012.

Please advise of any changes in you Club's information to your Regional Secretary or to the National Secretary Brian

Rich: secretary@awcc.org.uk

Club reps should order printed copies via the regional quartermasters by the 24th February 2012. Orders submitted by 17th Feb for printed copies will be available for collection at the AGM. Further copies will be available at their face value plus carriage at cost for postage and packing.

An electronic PDF version, or individual pages, will be available on the AWCC website from 17th March 2012 to Club secretaries who have the appropriate login privileges.

Orders should be available for collection (avoiding postal costs) at the AGM in March.

We anticipate that the cost of the printed handbook will be £2.00 excluding postage.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the handbook.

Brian Rich

Acting Communications Officer

communications@awcc.org.uk

The AWCC will be at the Crick Show from again from 2—5 June 2012.

As always we are pleased to welcome volunteers to assist on the AWCC stand. Please contact any member of the National Team to express an interest in helping with this. You will have enough time to visit the exhibits as well as helping on the stand.

Please go to the show website for details.

<http://www.crickboatshow.com/visitorinfo.html>

York city council report that on July 9th 2012 the city celebrates its 800th anniversary of becoming a self-governing city. King John signed a charter to this effect in 1212.

On the first weekend in July (Charter Weekend) a flotilla of hundreds of boats will progress on the River Ouse. Many other celebrations feature. See more information on the City Council Website:

http://www.york.gov.uk/leisure/Arts_and_entertainment/Festivals/york800/

At the time of writing there are no booking details available.

The editor would be very pleased to hear from any AWCC members who participate in this flotilla or the London Queen's Diamond Jubilee River Pageant on Sunday 3rd June.

NABO reports their views in response to a 'Boaters' manifesto' prepared by boater and retired journalist Peter Underwood

<http://www.nabo.org.uk/issues/nabo-responses/395-nabo-press-release-on-the-boaters-manifesto>



If you believe that you are witness to any fish poaching you are asked by BW to report this at the first opportunity to the Environment Agency
Tel 0800 807 060

REMEMBER

112 as opposed to **999** remains the best number to call in emergencies as it aids identification of your actual location

MONEY SAVINGS

Want to save money on your mobile or landline bills? You are often charged when using mobiles even for the free 0800 numbers. <http://www.saynoto0870.com/> is a free website where you can easily check out alternative numbers and cut down on your expenditure.

SPOTTED ON TWITTER

Someone has produced a London underground style map of the canal system To take a look go to

<http://www.canalworld.net/forums/index.php?showtopic=41548&st=0>

Not an April Fool? Birmingham Post December 13th reports a Mr Fogarty who believes he has invented a diagonal lock which could improve the speed of transition between levels. This apparently has the backing of Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman. Mr Fogarty is seeking backers to turn his invention into a reality.

This issue of AWCC Alert was produced by Heather Bearpark of South Pennine Boat Club & Cutweb Internet Boating Club
Please email copy for the next issue to: heatherbearpark@gmail.com

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Note. The editor reserves the right to edit copy and views expressed may not be those of the AWCC