

# NEWSLETTER FALL/WINTER 2006/2007

## COCOLALLA LAKE ASSOCIATION

**MISSION: "TO HALT AND REVERSE THE EUTROPHICATION PROCESS IN COCOLALLA LAKE"**

### WEBSITE

For those lake association members receiving the newsletter by regular mail who would rather review it online please visit the Cocolalla Lake Association (CLA) website at [www.cocolallalakeidaho.com](http://www.cocolallalakeidaho.com). If you prefer to review the newsletter on the website, or to receive it via email, please contact Glen Weatherly at [weathgb@msn.com](mailto:weathgb@msn.com), or Cary Poston at [crposton@sandpoint.net](mailto:crposton@sandpoint.net).

### EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL TREATMENT

In our last newsletter we listed those members and non-members who generously donated money to the milfoil control program. As a result of those donations and financial support by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) the lake was treated with an aquatic herbicide. The visible results were impressive, and a survey conducted in the early fall confirmed a milfoil kill in the neighborhood of 85% of the original infestation.

CLA operated as an independent organization in its application for the ISDA grant. CLA's milfoil project has received recognition from several government agencies and, in terms of the milfoil battle, CLA is being called the "poster child" by our local legislators. CLA member and Legislative Liaison, Shelley Vincent, was invited to attend and give a report on Cocolalla Lake's milfoil treatment project at a meeting in Boise at the ISDA. Experts from around the country had gathered to discuss and critique Idaho's Eurasian Watermilfoil program and make recommendations for future management. Similarly, Shelley will make a presentation at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Lakes Conference in Spokane on February 10, 2007, and will address the Idaho legislature in its current session.

Plans for 2007 may include minimal spot herbicide treatment for remaining clusters of milfoil, or mechanical removal. Further surveys will be conducted in the spring prior to the decision on how to continue the milfoil battle. Fund-raising is in progress now to enable ongoing efforts to bring the Cocolalla Lake milfoil infestation under complete control, and to re-energize the activities aimed at reducing algae growth in the lake.

All of us who enjoy the lake are pleased to have the respect and support of the Dept of Agriculture, our elected members of the Idaho legislature, and all others with an interest in seeing Cocolalla Lake restored.

### STREAMWALK NEWS

There was no streamwalk conducted in the fall of 2006. The lake association has only one or two trained streamwalkers left, and training is no longer offered for the procedures we have used in the past. ID Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) has introduced the lake association to the protocol they use for stream surveys throughout the state. This protocol is titled Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program (BURP), and it has been proposed that Cocolalla Lake Association adopt the BURP protocol for future streamwalks. Results of the BURP surveys conducted throughout the state are posted annually on the web at <http://webserver.deq.idaho.gov/website/deqwaters/viewer.htm>. Persons with

access to the web can review future streamwalk results online. CLA anticipates not publishing the streamwalk books as in the past. For those of you who have participated in the past, the procedures will not change significantly. More information will be available in the spring of 2007. The point of contact for streamwalk efforts is Cary Poston 208-290-0273.

### **FISHING REPORT (by Cary Poston)**

You've doubtless heard that the worst day fishing is still better than the best day working. For most of the fall of 2006 that statement was overwhelmingly true. The lake was fished very lightly considering the productivity. This fisherman has seen few seasons on the lake that were more productive, and will go out on a limb to say that Cocolalla lake was **the** premier trout fishing lake in the state during the October/November time frame. As Dennis Miller says so often, "Of course, that's my opinion, and I may be wrong." At almost any time of the day, a trout limit could be had in about an hour, and the fish were fat, firm and tasty..... mostly rainbow, with some cutthroat, browns, and brook. There seemed to be quite a few cutthroat/rainbow hybrids in the mix also. A very productive spot this fall was a short stretch about 200 yards long, 50 to 100 yards offshore, just north of the old Sandy Beach Resort. Nearly all fish caught were in the 11 to 16 inch range, with an occasional rainbow of 1-1/2 to 2 pounds. The brook trout caught were mostly in the 6 to 8 inch range, making me suspect a plant in 2006. Lets hope these tasty fish keep growing.

Now, keep in mind that this information is for lake association members only. I tell others who ask that the fishing has been pretty slow this season.

### **CLA COMMITTEE RECRUITING**

CLA still seeks members to serve on important committees. Please consider one or more of the committees listed below:

1. Land Use Committee – This committee will represent the association at local public hearings and informational meetings relating to zoning, sanitation codes, subdivision ordinances, pollution sources, and changes in land use which may affect water quality. Please contact Rose Chaney at (208) 263-2940.
2. Finance Committee – This committee will recommend and organize fund raising activities. They will assist the treasurer in developing the annual budget. Please contact Fred Vincent at (208) 255-2570.
3. Membership Committee – This committee will initiate plans for recruiting new members. The Membership chairperson will chair the nominating committee. Please contact Sonia Gladish (208) 263-6515.
4. Lake Management Committee – This committee will oversee issues including those pertaining to boat safety, fishing and recreational use of the lake, water quality, water levels, invasive aquatic plants and algae. Please contact Cary Poston (208) 263-4157.
5. Education Committee – This committee will work in partnership with appropriate local and state agencies to provide information to watershed residents and visitors regarding the best practices to prevent pollution of the lake. It will also develop outreach programs for local schools and youth groups. Please contact Teri McGrath (208) 265-9754.
6. Legislative Committee – This committee will represent the CLA with state and federal legislatures and promote state and federal support for our mission. Please contact Shelley Vincent (208) 255-2570.

If the CLA is to accomplish its goals, these committees must be active and doing the job they are responsible for. We need volunteers on each of them. Please contact the people listed and volunteer to be on one or more of the committees.

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

2006 was a pretty exciting year for the Cocolalla Lake Association. After confirming the existence and rapid growth of Eurasian Watermilfoil in the lake in 2005, the determination was made to do whatever was necessary to control this noxious weed. This is a very expensive project and we decided that we would need both the support of the users of the lake and government grants to have any chance of being successful. The response from the community and members of the lake association was truly impressive. We asked for a commitment of \$500.00 per year for a period of three years from residents, property owners, and users of the lake. We also received a donation from the largest property owner on the lake, Burlington Northern Railroad. We applied for and received a grant from the Idaho Department of Agriculture, allowing us to commence a treatment program in July of 2006. The treatment was very successful, to the extent of eliminating approximately 85% of the existing milfoil. As we knew from the start, this is only the beginning. We expect to need another smaller herbicide treatment this summer, and to further control the infestation by diver hand-pulling in future years. We will never be able to completely eliminate this weed; however, we will be able to control it with the continued support from the community and lake association members. We thank all of you for your help in preserving the lake.

Chuck Gladish  
President, Cocolalla Lake Association

**COCOLALLA LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*Chuck Gladish, President*  
*(208) 263-6515*

*Fred Vincent, Board Member at Large*  
*(208) 255-2570*

*Herman Collins – Vice President*  
*(208) 263-7282*

*Cary Poston, Board Member at Large*  
*(208) 263-4157*

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*Rose Chaney – Secretary*  
*(208) 263-2940*

*Linda Muskopf, Board Member at Large*  
*(208) 265-0295*

*To join the Cocolalla Lake Association, mail this form and the \$25.00 annual membership fee to:*  
*Cocolalla Lake Association*  
*P. O. Box 133*  
*Cocolalla ID 83813*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_