



Cocolalla Lake Association
Box 133
Cocolalla, ID 83813

*Protecting Cocolalla Lake
Since 1984*

NEWSLETTER FALL/WINTER 2008/2009

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. If you prefer to review the newsletter on the website, or to receive it via email, please contact Glen Weatherly at weathgb@msn.com.

FISHING REPORT (by Cary Poston)

Fall of 2008, as in previous years, confirmed Cocolalla Lake's unpublished place among Idaho's top trout fishing destinations. Fishing pressure was fairly low this fall. Let's go ahead and blame that on the economy too. The lake level was a bit higher than in the past, but didn't seem to affect the fishing. Most fishermen were reporting about two fish per hour. The fish were large, many in the 15" to 18" range. No lunkers (over 3 pounds) were seen. The trick again this year seemed to be a slow troll, or a fast troll, whatever you found to be most successful. It was confirmed, however, that the best attractant was a small spoon. Triple Teasers worked well, as did Dick Nites. Best times to fish ... in the morning until about 10:00 AM, and after about 3:00 PM. The fish caught were a mix of rainbow, cutthroat, "cuttbow", brown, and a few brook.

There seemed to be a lot of juvenile largemouth bass in the lake this year. We all hope that to be a predictor of improved bass fishing down the road.

Another great ice-fishing season is upon us. Expect to find trout at depths less than 12 ft. Most success should be had within 200 yards of the shore. Go further out and to the bottom for perch.

LAKE HOST

The Lake Host proved to be a great value to the lake checking for Eurasian Water Milfoil and in reducing disturbances at the launching area and in the campground. The area was much cleaner this season than in the past. EWM can be easily carried by boats, motors, trailers, live wells, bait buckets

or fishing gear. It can also be carried by waterfowl, wind and water currents. We need to do everything possible to stop the introduction back into our lake. IDF&G was pleased with the results. Members of the Lake Association Board expressed the Board's appreciation to the Lake Host.

IDF&G will provide a new sign next season that will direct all people launching boats to have them inspected before launching and will indicate where the boat cleaning station is located.

There is an Idaho State Law in effect that makes it an offense to transport Eurasian Water Milfoil or other invasive species by boat, motor, trailer or other means within the state. A fine for an infraction of this law may be as high as \$3,000.00. Be sure that your boat and trailer are clean.

EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL

A final 2008 survey was made on September 11, 2008 and no sign of EWM was found. What an accomplishment it is to remove this infestation from our lake! Many of the waters around Cocolalla Lake are now infested. We will need to be on watch for boats and trailers that may reinfest the lake. We have written and submitted to the IDA, the final phase IV grant request to fund two surveys in 2009. The grant would include contingency funds to remove EWM if any is found. We have also made a request in the grant to fund the purchase of a hot water pressure washer system. This system would be used to clean EWM and other invasive species from all watercraft and trailers before they entered the lake. The system would be owned by the IDA and operated and maintained by the IDF&G.

There is a new treatment procedure which could be useful in identifying and treating EWM. New equipment can map the bottom of the lake in 3D. Then the chemical is applied to the EWM near the plant roots. It is more efficient, decreases the amount of chemicals used and decreases the cost of treatment. This procedure could be used if the equipment becomes available.

WE NEED ALL THE PEOPLE USING THE LAKE TO WATCH FOR EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL AND TELL A BOARD MEMBER IF YOU SEE ANY PLANTS GROWING OR FRAGMENTS ON SHORE. LEARN TO IDENTIFY THE WEED.

BNSF LIAISON

BNSF has posted no trespassing signs on the railroad property on the east side of the lake and they intend to enforce them. They are very concerned about the liability and the dangers to people on and near the track. This allows them to call local law enforcement to remove trespassers. Violators may be fined. BNSF want to be notified of any violations. If you see violators, please call BNSF Railroad Representatives Carlton Lyons at 509-536-2361 or Deputy Dryer at 509-536-2414. Several tents were seen on railroad property in September. This was reported to the railroad. BSNF does not want trash receptacles placed along the east shore because it implies approval of the use of the property. They do encourage the CLA to do an annual clean up like we have been doing.

WATER TESTING

The September Sechi Disk visibility test was done and we found that the visibility was somewhat reduced (1 ½ meters). There was evidence of a coming algae bloom. We were fortunate this year in the reduction of algae in the lake. The oxygen level was lower than in previous years. It did not seem to

affect the fishing. Tom Herron (IDEQ Dept. of Water Quality Manager) reported that the biomass is higher now which would likely be the cause of the lower oxygen levels.

RATHDRUM PRAIRIE LAKES COUNCIL

This is a new group made up of representatives from the Hauser Lake Water Shed Coalition, the Twin Lakes Improvement Association, the Spirit Lake Homeowners Association, the Hayden Lake Watershed Association and the Cocolalla Lake Association. The purpose is information sharing and networking among individual lake groups at a combined meeting. The information shared at these meetings can be carried to each individual group by their Rathdrum Prairie Lakes Council representative.

ALGAE COMMITTEE

The Lake Board formed a committee to look into how we might control the algae in Cocolalla Lake. The primary objective of the committee is to develop a viable plan for controlling the algae. The plan must have the support of IDEQ, ISDA AND IDF&G prior to writing a grant request.

The most effective means of controlling algae is to control nutrients coming into the lake and those that are already in the sediment on the lake bottom (primarily phosphorus).

We have been working on controlling the nutrients coming into the lake in the following ways:

1. The preservation of wetlands as the south end of the lake. The wetlands provide filtration of the water coming into the lake. The Albany Falls Mitigation project where nearly 100 acres was purchased is the biggest of these projects. The Walter Mott donation of wetlands is another important part of the plan to stop the nutrients. We are working with ITD to mitigate lost wetlands due to the proposed highway 95 construction.
2. CLA has worked toward repairing the Fish Creek watershed and the road. This project is still in progress.
3. CLA members have worked to provide fencing and stream crossings in the watershed.
4. CLA members have cleaned the east side of the lake annually removing a large amount of garbage and campfire ash left by people using the lake.
5. Educated lake users on how to not damage the lake when using the lake.
6. Educated watershed users to use Best Management Practices in the watershed.
7. We conducted annual watershed stream walks and evaluations for many years to be certain the streams' water quality remained consistent.

Other projects under consideration to control incoming nutrients are:

1. Working with IDEQ to look at possible fund sources for implementing a sewer district.

2. Working with the county to encourage consistency with watershed goals for reduction in pollution to Cocolalla Lake on the Westmond area county owned 400+ acres.

We now need to address the algae nutrients in the water and on the lake bottom. Approximately 23% of the total phosphorus loading comes from this internal phosphorus loading. Two of the agents that are available for removing phosphorus from the lake are Alum and Phoslock.

Alum:

1. Is sprayed on the surface of the lake. On contact with water it forms a fluffy aluminum hydroxide precipitate called *floc*. *Floc* binds with phosphorus to form an insoluble compound removing it as a food source for algae. As *floc* settles onto the bottom of the lake, it forms a layer that acts as a “phosphorus barrier.”
2. Its long term effectiveness is dependent on how well the incoming streams’ nutrients are controlled. To make a valid estimate, we need to make a survey of the amount of phosphorus in the lake water and in the lake bottom sediments. The survey is estimated to cost as much as \$10,000.
3. Treatment of the phosphorus load in the lake is expensive. To make a valid estimate, we need to make the survey noted above. We need to determine how much of the lake would have to be treated. The cost of a recent alum treatment of Green Lake in Seattle which is 380 acres was \$800,000. Cocolalla Lake is 800 acres.

Phoslock:

1. This is basically an activated clay (Bentonite) in lake water slurry which is spread on the surface of the lake. As it settles to the bottom, it captures the suspended phosphorus in the water and retains it in an inert form on the bottom in a very thin layer (approximately 1-3 mm).
2. Its long term effectiveness is dependent on how well the incoming streams’ nutrients are controlled. To make a valid estimate, we need to make a survey of the amount of phosphorus in the lake water and in the lake bottom sediments. The survey is estimated to cost up to \$10,000.
3. This procedure is also expensive. To make a valid estimate, we need to make the survey noted above. We need to determine how much of the lake would have to be treated. The treatment could cost as much as \$900,000 for a full lake treatment. Hopefully, we will not require a full lake treatment. Also, this could possibly be spread out over a period of several years.

More study is necessary before we can select what treatment would be best for Cocolalla Lake.

INVASIVE MUSSELS

Zebra /Quagga Mussels are a problem we are concerned with and we are taking steps to keep them from getting into Cocolalla Lake. They are invasive freshwater clams that infest water in large numbers and create many problems with water intakes, equipment, boat motors, etc.

COCOLALLA LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

*Glen Weatherly – Board Member at Large
(509) 466-7299 (Spokane)
(509) 710-4828 (Lake)*

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

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

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

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

*Sonia Gladish – Treasurer
(208) 263-6515*

*Nancy Cambron – Board Member at Large
(208) 263-7829*

*Bonnie Anderson
Immediate Past President
(208) 773-5783*

The Cocolalla Lake Association has been very effective in bringing Cocolalla Lake back to its original pristine condition. The present board members have all be active in this project for many years. We are actively soliciting new board members to participate in this process. If you are interested in being a part of this, please contact any board member and indicate your desires.

Thank you,

Chuck Gladish, President Cocolalla Lake Association

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: () _____