



**Cocolalla Lake Association**  
**Box 133**  
**Cocolalla, ID 83813**  
*Protecting Cocolalla Lake*  
*Since 1984*

# **NEWSLETTER**

## **SPRING AND SUMMER 2008**

### **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).

#### **ALAN CARLSON**

Alan Carlson, co-founder of the Cocolalla Lake Association, passed away on May 8, 2008 at the age of 82. Alan was a person who made things happen and when he saw that Cocolalla Lake was no longer the clear, clean lake it had been, he and co-founder Betty Stockwell, started the Cocolalla Lake Association on 06/04/85. He was instrumental in forming the North Idaho Lake Association Coalition. While Alan was President and on the CLA Board of Directors, the Association applied for and received several grants and was able to improve the lake and watershed in many ways. The Association received a grant that Idaho Fish and Game used to purchase 90 acres of land at the South end of the lake. This was an important purchase as it secured that the land will continue in public hands and will be kept free of lake pollution sources. We will miss Alan, his enthusiasm, his smile and his ability to organize and get work done.

#### **FISH CREEK ROAD IMPROVEMENT**

Jamie Davis, Water Resource Conservationist with the Idaho Conservation District, announced that she had verbal confirmation of the Fish Creek Road Improvement IDEQ 319 Grant. This grant is for the purpose of controlling erosion damage happening from runoff on the Fish Creek Road. The Bonner County Soil Conservation District, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Bonner County Road and Bridge, Bonner County Commissioners and the CLA are working with IDEQ to make it happen. The work involves installing several new culverts and upgrading ditches and banks. Work on improving the drainage will begin during the summer of 2009.

As indicated in last newsletter, CLA is responsible for several in-kind tasks:

1. Take annual photos for 5 years to record the improvements in the spring runoff conditions after the improvements are implemented.
2. Provide property owner contact information in the grant implementation area to the agencies involved at their request.
3. Consider adding another water quality monitoring location for sediment.
4. Provide community outreach programs: Articles in the newsletter, provide information regarding the grant at public meetings which CLA might hold, involve students at Southside school.
5. Check culverts and to clean debris and sediment from the culverts twice in the spring and once in the fall.

So you can see that CLA 's work is not done. We will continue to monitor and keep the debris out of the creek.

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

About the only thing to report since the fall newsletter is the ice fishing. The perch fishing was excellent as usual and the trout fishing was better than usual. I saw a photo of a whitefish that a local resident caught. This is the first whitefish that I've seen from Cocolalla Lake. A report was received of a large brown trout caught this spring ... I'm hearing it was in the 9 pound range. I would have to see that one. The trout fishing overall has been spotty this spring. About two hours is being invested in every fish. The few fish I've seen are fat, colorful and appear strong and healthy. Fishermen are reporting lots of juvenile largemouth bass. This is very encouraging for future bass fishing. Crappies are hiding out. I've caught only one that would be considered impressive. A lot of small crappie are available at the north end of the lake near the Westmond Creek inlet. The normal things need to happen in order for crappie fishing to improve ... the lake level needs to drop a bit, meaning a decrease in runoff, and the water temperature could come up a bit. There are always lots of perch and I've caught several in the 7-9 inch range this spring. Tastier filets are hard to find. Trout fishing will likely remain spotty as the lake drops and the water warms. This is not a prediction, just a repeat of what usually happens. Most of the veterans will store the trout rigging until fall.

## **EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL**

The initial herbicide treatment for Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) was conducted on Cocolalla Lake in the summer of 2006. Approximately 85 percent of the EWM was eradicated by the treatment. The pre-treatment survey for the 2007 treatment confirmed that conclusion. In 2007, another 2,4-D herbicide – DMA4 was applied to the same area. Since then, surveys in the fall of 2007, on June 6, 2008, and another on July 18, 2008 have found no EWM in the lake. There will be another survey in late August or September 2008 and if there is any EWM found, it will be controlled by diver hand pulling or another herbicide treatment as recommended by the Idaho Department of Agriculture. In the future, the CLA will have a continuing program of surveys to detect any further infestations of EWM and will take appropriate action if any is found. This is a very difficult plant to get rid of. It is a tremendous accomplishment to have eliminated it in Cocolalla Lake.

The native aquatic plants are flourishing. The surveys found no apparent bad effects from the treatment.

**WE NEED ALL THE PEOPLE USING THE LAKE TO WATCH FOR EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL AND TELL A BOARD MEMBER IF YOU SEE SOME. LEARN TO IDENTIFY THE WEED.**

## **INVASIVE MUSSELS**

Zebra /Quagga Mussels are a problem we need to be aware of. They are invasive freshwater clams that infest water in large numbers, attaching to any hard surface. They are presently mostly back in the Eastern United States waters but they can be easily spread by boats anywhere. When they get into local waters, they clog power plant and public water intakes and pipes. They can ruin your equipment, clog cooling systems in motorboats, foul hulls and jam the centerboard well under sailboats. An adult female zebra mussel can release up to 1,000,000 eggs each season.

Portland State University has provided the Association with 3 Zebra/Quagga Mussel substrate collectors. One is in place at the Sportsman Access dock and the other two will be put at strategic locations around the lake. The collectors will be checked monthly. The Washington State Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (WSDF&W) has provided a plankton net collector for mussel larvae. The net will be deployed behind the boat when the monthly water samples are taken. WSDF&W will examine the contents of the net to determine if any mussel larvae is present. Working with these agencies will provide early detection if these invasive species are in the lake.

**LEARN TO IDENTIFY THESE PESTS. CONTACT A CLA BOARD MEMBER IF YOU SEE ANY OF THEM. YOU CAN ALSO REPORT THE SIGHTING TO BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION'S CRIME WITNESS HOTLINE AT 1-800-437-2744.**

## **LAKE HOST**

CLA worked closely with Idaho Fish and Game (IDF&G) in the completion of the Lake Host Facility. The project was funded by a grant which the CLA requested from the Idaho Department of Agriculture. The site is complete and IDF&G has selected a Lake Host. The Host is in place and operating under the guidance of IDF&G. IDF&G has provided him an operating manual and CLA has provided him with invasive species handouts. He has been provided with a pressure washer to remove any plants from boats and trailers using the launch.

IDF&G took the lead in developing the specifications and issuing the necessary contracts. The facility is located at the entrance to the public boat launch area. A 20' by 60' concrete slab for a RV with suitable electrical power, water and a septic system were developed. There is a vehicle and trailer turnout to accommodate inspection of boats and trailers. It is anticipated that the facility will be operating from Memorial Day through Labor Day. IDF&G will maintain the facility and select the Lake Host each season.

## **PHOSPHATES USE IN THE WATERSHED**

Tom Herron, Surface Water Program Manager with IDEQ, did a water test during the early spring just after the ice on the lake had melted. His test found that there is a higher concentration of dissolved phosphorus near the bottom of the lake than the readings we have had later in the summer in years past. This is caused by oxygen depletion under the ice. The high phosphorous and nutrient levels promote algae. This must be controlled to keep the lake healthy. Homeowners and users of the lake need to be aware of the affects of phosphates. Phosphates in detergents and lawn fertilizers can contribute to algae blooms in the lake. Using phosphate free dish washing detergent and establishing a buffer of native plants between the lawn and the lake shore are two ways everyone can help. Also we need to watch the amount of sediment entering the lake during construction activities along the lake.

## **IDAHO DOT WETLAND MITIGATION**

The Idaho Department of Transportation mitigation will establish a functional wetland at the south end of the lake. A large functional wetland in this area will filter waters entering the lake from Cocolalla Creek, Fish Creek and Butler Creek. This is a long range project however, when it is implemented, it should reduce the sediment and nutrient loading entering the lake from this portion of the watershed. The mitigation is required as a part of the Idaho DOT Garwood to Sagle highway construction project.

## **MOTT FAMILY TRUST CONSERVATION EASEMENT**

CLA wants to express our appreciation and thank you to the Mott Family for their efforts to protect their land and to protect the lake. They have placed their entire 52 acre estate at the south end of the lake in a conservation easement. Their property will be left in its' natural state in perpetuity. This is a wonderful contribution to the all of us who live near and/or use the lake.

## **SHADOW COVE AND NEIL LANE HOMEOWNERS STORM WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Property owners on Shadow Cove Lane and Neil Lane completed a storm water improvement project that included new ditches with rock lining, larger culverts, directing flow and planting vegetation where needed. For several years, spring storm water runoff had exceeded the capacity of the roadside ditches and culverts causing massive erosion and flooding septic and home. The effluent from this overflow went directly into the lake. This year, there was no runoff into the lake from this area. This is a good demonstration of residents recognizing a problem, finding out how to fix it and then doing it right. They did an excellent job.

## **EDUCATION ACTIVITIES**

Scout leaders, Scott Lockie and Tom Pfeiffer have their troops collecting and cataloging plants this summer to start building an aquatic plant data base for Cocolalla Lake. This is part of an ongoing need for education.

We gave 100 milfoil story and activity books to the Southside Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Leslie Marshall, Bonner County Public Works Director, gave us the books. We had applied for the books in our milfoil grant, but the request was turned down. Leslie purchased and gave them to us.

Tom Woolf, ISDA Aquatic Plants Program Manager, instructed three classes on identification, preservation and cataloging aquatic plants. He held two classes at the Southside School for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. He later held a class for members of the community.

Shelly Vincent gave Dr. Kurt Getsinger of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers a tour of the lake. Dr. Getsinger is a nationally recognized leader in the treatment of aquatic invasive species. He is a research biologist involved in the study of biology, ecology and the management of aquatic plants with an emphasis on the chemical control of submersed, floating and emergent exotic plant species. He is the leader of the Chemical Control and Physiological Processes team at the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center. He was very impressed with the success of our Milfoil Program. He encouraged the CLA to continue with the great program we have going.

**COCOLALLA LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*Chuck Gladish - President  
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*Fred Vincent - Board Member at Large  
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*Herman Collins – Vice President  
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(208) 263-6515*

**WE MUST HAVE NEW PEOPLE TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN OPERATION OF THE LAKE ASSOCIATION. THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY AND TREASURER HAVE ALL INDICATED THEY WILL NOT SERVE AFTER JUNE 2010. ALL THE PERSONS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE SERVED MANY YEARS AND IT IS TIME FOR NEW PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED.**

*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 ( )* \_\_\_\_\_