



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

# NEWSLETTER SPRING AND SUMMER 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](http://www.cocolallalakeidaho.com). If you prefer to review the newsletter on the website or via email please contact Glen Weatherly at [weathgb@msn.com](mailto:weathgb@msn.com).

### **EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL**

The IDA EWM grant was approved essentially as CLA requested. The requested hot water washer system to remove any invasive species was approved in full. The equipment has been installed and is being used at the Sportsman Access boat launch at the north end of the lake.

A summer survey, conducted on June 17, 2009 by Lakeland Restoration Services found a few EWM plants in the shallows at the south end of the lake. The results of this survey were confirmed in a July 17 ISDA survey. The Cocolalla Lake Association applied for an ISDA Quick Response Grant amendment which was approved for \$17,767. This provided the funds necessary to treat the lake. Because of early detection, the treatment area was small and limited to only the area in which EWM was found.

All effected property owners were notified of the specific dates of treatment and shoreline green CAUTION signs were posted in the areas to be treated. The lake was treated on August 19, 2009 with 2, 4-D (the same chemical that was used previously). 2, 4-D is highly effective in eliminating EWM with no adverse side effects to native plants. The water was tested and indicated the chemical was lower than EPA required minimum levels and the signs were removed on September 9, 2009. We believe the treatment resulted in the eradication of all the EWM in the lake. We will do a complete lake survey next year to check to see if any EWM still exists.

**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.**

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

I've nothing to report on spring fishing, but I do know through reliable sources that ice fishing in '09 was quite productive. Trout were found in very shallow water .... two to three feet at the north end. A bit unusual, but fish rely on instinct. Water testing in June and July reveal that oxygen levels at 25 feet and below are too low to sustain the trout, so they're likely hanging out above that depth. The downside of this is that the water is warmer, and experience shows that the trout are sluggish in warm shallow water. So, we're going for the perch and crappie this summer. Plenty of each. Tube jigs and night crawlers (not on the same hook) are working well. Your favorite color of jig is the one that will work. Looking forward again to the fall.

## **WATER TESTING**

The Secchi Disc visibility tests this summer were:

6/29/09	3m
7/22/09	2.7m
8/26/09	2m

It appears that the lake has had a major algae bloom – so much so that we can't see through 1 meter of water. This is more reason to work on finding a way to stop algae blooms.

IDEQ has told us that they will no longer be able to fund the water tests which we take each month due to state budget cuts. Depending on the tests done, this could amount to more than \$100 per month. With the algae and mussel problems pending, it was felt by the board that we should continue the tests.

## **LAKE HOST**

Dan Hemmingway and Joe Boscarino are doing a great job as our Lake Hosts. The area is much cleaner and more usable. They report that the pressure hot water washer system operation for keeping watercraft clean and free from invasive species is going very smoothly. We want to thank Richard and Sherry Beck for donating a boat trailer for transporting the pressure washer system. Bryan Helmich, from Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game has received several calls in support of the Lake Host operation. When you get a chance, please stop by and let them know that we appreciate their efforts. You will notice a remarkable change in the area.

It is important that all users of the lake make use of the cleaning operation. If the Quagga and Zebra Mussels get into the lake, experience has shown that it is nearly impossible to get rid of them without destroying the lake. If you have computer internet available, [www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net) is a site to learn more about the damage caused by these and other invasive species.

There have been reports of unauthorized launching of boats on BNSF property on the southeast end of the lake. If you see this, please remind people that the only way we can keep our lake free from invasive species is to use the Sportsman Access launch and have their boats cleaned before launching. There are several State of Idaho boat cleaning stations positioned at ports of entry to the state but it is vital that we keep our lake clean ourselves. BNSF has recently put up no trespassing signs at the southeast corner and plan to place cement barricades this fall to stop the illegal use of the shoreline.

There have been many unauthorized campers on the east side of the lake near the BNSF tracks. These people are trespassing and BNSF is trying to keep them out. The campers have left campfire ash and charcoal and lots of trash in the area. Campfire ash and the trash are harmful to the lake so the CLA board members have cleaned the east side of the lake several times in past years trying to keep it clean.

If you observe camping and/or trespassing on the east side of the lake, on railroad property, please call the BNSF representative – Carlton Lyons at (509) 536-2361 or Deputy Dryer at (509) 536-2414 so action can be taken to have them removed.

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.



CLA President, Chuck Gladish, presenting restaurant gift certificates to Joe Boscarino and Dan Hemmingway in appreciation for all their work as Camp Hosts.

## **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).

The CLA has been in contact with Phoslock Water Solutions, Ltd (PWS) in Sydney, Australia. Phoslock Water Solutions, Ltd. produces Phoslock which is an activated clay (Bentonite) in a lake slurry which is spread on the surface of a lake. As it settles to the bottom, it captures the suspended phosphorus in the water and binds it in an insoluble mineral called Rhabdophane. Up to 95% of the phosphorus in the water column will be captured as the Phoslock settles causing an immediate improvement in the water clarity. Once locked in the Rhabdophane structure it will be unavailable for use by algae. As Phoslock settles on the sediment, it forms a 1-3 mm layer. The layer of Phoslock continues to absorb phosphorus.

Mr. Craig Coad of GeoGenesis, Inc. made a presentation to the CLA Board at the August 27 board meeting. GeoGenesis, Inc. is a bio-agricultural and natural environmental services company that provides uniquely effective and proven “Green Earth” remedies for water and soil contamination problems. GeoGenesis, Inc. does not use the bottom layer concept that alum and Phoslock use. It uses microbes, proprietary solar powered electronic technology, and an

oxygenator which super charges water with oxygen. The CLA board is presently reviewing the information provided by Mr. Coad.

Tom Herron and Glen Pettit of IDEQ did a water test under the ice in January, 2009. The results of this test and others performed back to 1986 are providing information about the dissolved oxygen and phosphorus in the lake. We took some sediment samples from the bottom of the lake on June 7 at various points as recommended by Phoslock, Ltd. The samples were sent to SVL Analytical Laboratories for testing. The results of all the tests were sent to PWS. Samples were taken in the input streams, the outflow stream and the bottom of the lake. The highest concentration of Total Phosphorus (TP) was found to be in the sediment at the bottom of the lake. The level of TP flowing out of the lake is less than TP in the inflow streams which suggests that the lake is retaining some of the phosphorus.

It is important to note that any potential contract with Phoslock, Ltd., GeoGenesis, Inc. or any other algae control program is preliminary in nature. Before a product can be used in the lake, all applicable state and federal regulatory agencies will have to give approval for its use. Also, the costs for this type of procedure are very high and we will need to write grants and obtain grant approval for the necessary funds. This will take a great deal of time and effort on our part before any such program could be accomplished.

## **INVASIVE MUSSELS**

Zebra and Quagga mussels are invasive freshwater mollusks, similar to clams. They attach themselves to any hard surface. They are native to the Black Sea and Caspian Sea in Eurasia. They can get on our clothing, boats, and any other items used in the water. Unfortunately, they can then be released into any other body of water and become established and create drastic results. The mussels will reduce fish populations, ruin boat engines, substantially increase costs for power plants and dam maintenance. They will impact drinking water, plants and reduce property values.

In order to stop transporting the mollusks, we need to:

- \* Remove all plants, animals and mud then thoroughly wash everything, including all crevices and other hidden areas on the watercraft.
- \* Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- \* Allow time for your boat to completely dry before launching in other waters.
- \* Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that water.

The Cocolalla Lake Association has purchased and installed a hot water pressure washer system at the Sportsman Access. This system will remove the mussels and EWM from water craft being launched. Joe Boscarino and Dan Hemmingway, the Lake Hosts, supervise and maintain the system. It is important that all users of the lake make use of this operation or we will find the invasive species in our lake. If this happens, experience has shown that it is nearly impossible to get rid of them.

Please report any sightings Zebra or Quagga mussels by calling 1-877-STOP-ANS.

## **LAKE SIGN**

Scott Lockie, local Scout Master, and Boy Scout Troop #141 is going to refurbish the CLA lake sign at the north end of the lake. They will produce the new sign and CLA will pay the expenses.

## **COCOLALLA LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

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

*David Crow – Vice President  
(208) 263-7979*

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

*Cinda Crow – Treasurer  
(208) 263-7979*

*Sonia Gladish - Secretary  
(208) 263-6515*

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

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

*Rose Chaney – Board Member  
(208) 263-2940*

**The Cocolalla Lake Association has been very effective in bringing Cocolalla Lake back to its original pristine condition. The present board members have all been 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 (    ) \_\_\_\_\_