



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

Spring - Summer Newsletter 2021

Introducing CLA President

Vern Newby

Vern Newby has deep roots with Cocolalla Lake and the Lake Association. His father in law, Dal Van Der Meer purchased the family lot in 1962 and built the original cabin in 1964.

Dal was an original founding member of the CLA. Vern and wife Kris have been long standing Lake Association members.

Vern has served as Vice President for the past 5 years and has participated alongside former President, Fred Vincent with the seasonal duties of the Lake Association.

Please welcome Vern into his new role as President.

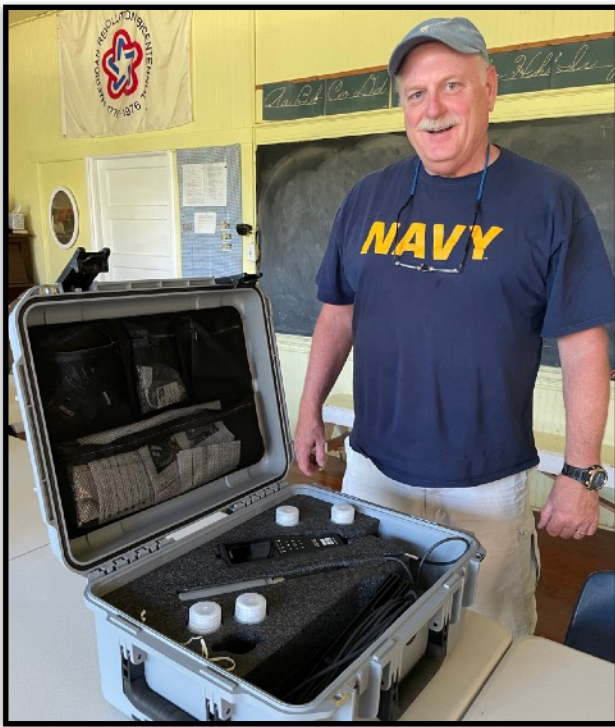


Outgoing President Fred Vincent With Incoming President Vern Newby

I knew the day would come that Fred Vincent would retire! He has been at the helm of our lake association for 10 years, not as a figure head but as an active leader. Fred seems to have a rolodex in his memory bank, at his immediate disposal, of all the important stake holders for our water quality and public land use, and it's not a short list, which he uses when needed! His concern for our lake has always been evident at the monthly meetings from March to October and throughout the remaining months of the year. During Fred's tenure Cocolalla Lake Association has seen our water quality improve, invasive species held in check by vigilant monitoring and treatment when indicated, and increased respect for our association with local, state, and federal agencies. Community outreach is an element of our mission statement, that was achieved via a program initiated by Fred and fostered by our new VP Gary Suppiger. The program is for 3rd and 5th grade students in Bonner County, in coordination with Fish & Game, bringing students to the south end Nature Conservancy area of Cocolalla Lake to learn about our lake and the natural environmental ecology, an eye to the future!

From all of us - a big THANK YOU Fred!

Cinda Crow



Tom Herron gives a tutorial on the new water monitoring tool to the CLA Board.

Water Quality Monitoring Meter Is A Great Tool

Thanks to the generous donations to the Janet Conlin Memorial, the Lake Association purchased a new handheld oxygen and temperature meter for use in monthly monitoring of the Lake. The meter consists of a handheld control module that reads the instantaneous temperature and dissolved oxygen in water. Combined with the 20 meter cable that links the sensor probe to the handheld readout we are better able to monitor the Lake as it changes throughout the seasons. This gives us insight into how much oxygen is in the water, the temperature of the water, and the depth of the water based on surface barometer readings. Water changes its density based on the temperature and this is what allows lakes to stratify or to have layers that are different temperatures. In the summer the warm water is on the surface and it cools on the bottom. Also in the summer the oxygen is higher on the surface than it is in the deeper water. In the winter the colder water is on the surface under ice and warmer water is on the bottom of the Lake. We use the meter to identify how much the lake has used up oxygen based on temperature and depth. It is very useful to characterize the health of the Lake and to make predictions about changes over time.

The new meter is greatly appreciated and is useful to help the Cocolalla Lake Association monitor and report on conditions to better protect water quality and recommend management alternatives to preserve water quality.

Thomas Herron

Thank you Tom and Annie Herron
for your very generous donation to the Janet Conlin Memorial.

Cocolalla Lake Fish Stocking by Idaho Fish & Game

Rainbow Trout	1,650	Greater than 6 inches	05/10/2021
Rainbow Trout	1,650	Greater than 6 inches	05/07/2021
Westslope Cutthroat Trout	20,000	Less than 6 inches	04/29/2021
Rainbow Trout	6,680	Greater than 6 inches	04/20/2021



Part of our ISDA Roving Team

Boat Inspections and Recorded Launches Reach New Record

From May 1st through July 9th with only Thursday through Sunday monitoring our hosts documented **759** vessels inspected and launched. That is up from **628** in 2020.

Power loading which creates a trough like hole continues to be a problem at the boat launch. In a recent conversation with Fish and Game we were informed that the iron bar that had been raised at the end of the launch due to this action has been cut off and covered with gravel. Please exercise caution when using the launch and avoid power loading.

ISDA have sponsored roving teams to assist us with our inspections at the boat launch, unfortunately they like many other companies are facing a severe shortage in people willing to work, as such their time at Cocolalla is limited.

The Cocolalla Lake Management fund is being utilized to cover any shortfall in the CLA budget from membership dues and donations to employ our lake host Bob Brimmer. Bob continues to be a great ambassador for our lake while educating our visitors. Also helping offset any deficits are Bob's fishing maps which continue to be in high demand with robust donations so far this season totaling \$587.00 and an impressive \$2128.00 since its inception in 2017. Thank you Bob Brimmer for initiating this program and your continued support in keeping Cocolalla Lake healthy and free of invasives.

Water Quality Testing

July 14th Report

We made it out on the lake today for monitoring. We increased water clarity by 1.75 m to a Secchi of 5.0, up from 3.25 on 23 June. Surface water has risen to 78.8 F, up from 68.4 F. Total dissolved oxygen in the water column has increased from 57.3 to 70.8. The DO increase could be from increased photosynthesis down to the Secchi depth combined with an evening wind (at some point?). Overall it was nice to see increased water clarity and increased oxygen levels. I still don't have any lab data back from the June 23rd sampling but the transfer to the lab has gone well. Cinda informs me that some of our additional test equipment that was purchased through the Janet Conlin Memorial Fund has arrived. Increased water clarity could be due to a clear water phase that can occur between various blooms. We will likely see another bloom before long. We looked at Fernan Lake yesterday and didn't see any indication of a blue-green bloom, which I would expect is not far off for that lake, but the fact that it hasn't happened yet is good news. I haven't heard of anything blooming on Hayden Lake (yet).

Tom Herron

Climate Change

Hoover Dam, a symbol of the modern West, faces an epic water shortage.

The effects of drought and climate change are seen at Hoover Dam, which will soon hold the smallest amount of water since it was filled in the 1930s.

Ian James, Arizona Republic - Published 10:22 AM PDT Jun. 7, 2021 Updated 10:22 AM PDT Jun. 7, 2021

For complete article go to - <https://www.kirksvilledailyexpress.com/in-depth/news/2021/06/07/hoover-dam-drought-water-levels-lake-mead/7587807002/>

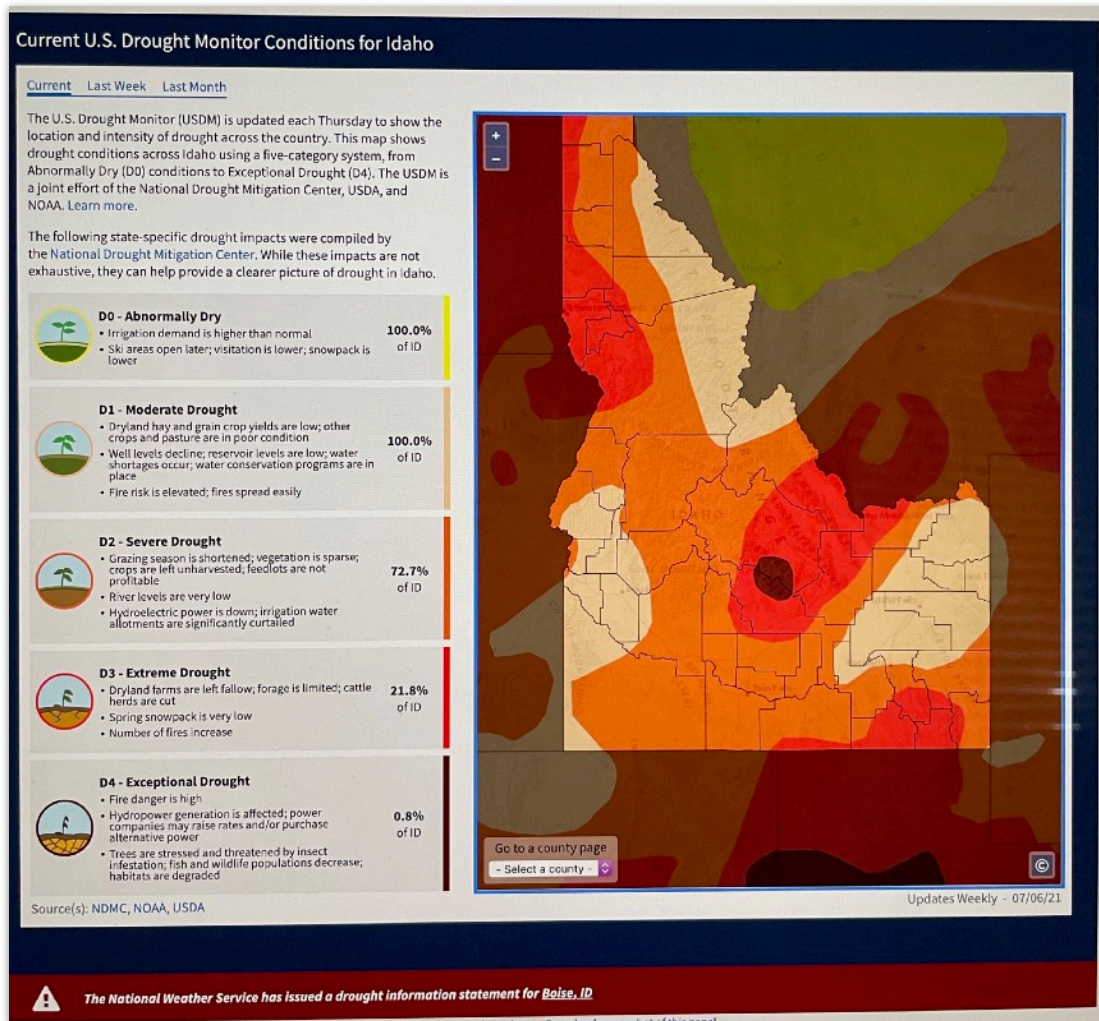
Cocolalla Lake Water Level

The CLA has been monitoring our lake level monthly since 1999. Our last measurement indicated a slight reduction over last year. The CLA is paying attention to lake water draws by external companies to ensure it will not impact the health of Cocolalla Lake. Dust abatement by the Dept. of Road and Bridges on county roads is of particular concern. In our past conversations with them they claim Lake Pend Oreille is too far to access water for the roads in our area. The Board is discussing how to approach the county to reduce the water draws from Lake Cocolalla due to concerns over an extended drought.

Severe Drought Conditions Continue To Challenge Our State

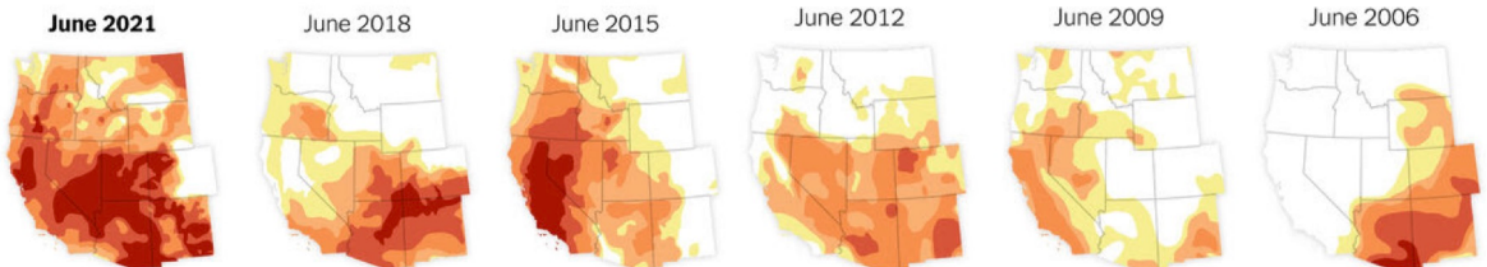
Contact Northern Lights if you see a dangerous tree or branch hanging over a power line or something that looks off with one of their poles or lines. Your vigilance may prevent a fire from occurring.

Please refer to Bonner County guidelines on restrictions before considering burning any slash.



The New York Times

June 11, 2021



The American West is no stranger to drought, but climate change is making it worse. Extreme conditions are more widespread than at any point in at least 20 years, according to the government's official drought-tracking service.

Reservoirs are running dry and the outlook on the risk of wildfires is "as bad as it could be," experts say.



Nic Zurfluh of ISDA was on Lake Cocolalla mid June. Nic oversees the State's watercraft inspection program, which includes our station at the North End boat launch, along with water quality testing. Nic mentioned that as of the day of the meeting (June 24th) the highway inspection stations had quarantined 27 boats with mussels, one with live mussels. The water testing primarily covers sampling for Veligers, which are the microscopic larval stage of the Zebra and Quagga mussels. Nic also reported while he was on the lake he did a site specific test (rake) for EWM and Curly Leaf Pondweed. Happy to report he found only one EWM plant which they removed. We do need to keep an eye on our normal areas of concern around the lake front for any plant growth. This is the time of the year they spring to life but so far it looks like the ProcellaCor treatment two years ago has held.

Kim Holzer of ISDA said "everyone loves Cocolalla Lake because it's such a friendly place".

Even our fish are friendly!

Photo's courtesy of Vern Newby during a recent 30 minute encounter with an inquisitive trout.



Don't Cut The Reeds



There was a significant amount of freshly cut reeds floating in the lake for a few days in June. These native reeds provide much needed habitat for our fish and waterfowl population. Left floating they can be drawn into the intake valve on boat motors causing costly repairs, litter our beaches and their decay contributes to de-oxygenation in the water column.

ATTENTION AQUATIC PET OWNERS, AQUARIUM HOBBYISTS, AND WATER GARDEN ENTHUSIASTS!




PRESS RELEASE - IDAHO DISCOVERS INVASIVE MUSSELS IN AQUARIUM PRODUCTS

DID YOU PURCHASE OR ACQUIRE ANY MARIMO MOSS BALLS?

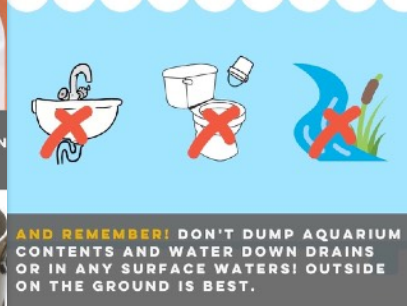


INVASIVE ZEBRA MUSSELS HAVE BEEN FOUND HITCHING A RIDE!

FIRST: DESTROY MOSS BALLS BY FREEZING, BOILING, OR BY SUBMERSING IN CHLORINE BLEACH OR UNDILUTED WHITE VINEGAR.



AND REMEMBER! DON'T DUMP AQUARIUM CONTENTS AND WATER DOWN DRAINS OR IN ANY SURFACE WATERS! OUTSIDE ON THE GROUND IS BEST.



NMMA: Wakesurfing legislation heating up in some states

January 28, 2021

With several state legislatures schedule to resume operations in the days and weeks ahead, the NMMA advocacy team is engaging with policymakers across the country on key recreational boating industry issues, including wake surfing access. To date, four state legislatures Indiana (HB1098), New Hampshire (HB229 and HB115), Oregon (HB 2555, HB 2725, and HB 2734), and Virginia (HB 2083) have acted on this critical issue, and more are expected to follow suit throughout 2021.

For more information : <https://boatingindustry.com/news/2021/01/28/nmma-wakesurfing-legislation-heating-up-in-some-states/>

Star Tribune

The one-size-fits-all 200-foot setback in the industry-sponsored legislation will not protect our lakes from wake boat damage. This proposed standard comes from an industry-funded study that has never been peer-reviewed and is contradicted by nonpartisan, university-sponsored studies that scientifically confirm that wakeboats must operate at a setback distance of 1,000 feet from shore to avoid damage to lake quality, lakeshore integrity and near-shore wildlife habitat.

For more info: <https://www.startribune.com/counterpoint-a-200-foot-wake-restriction-not-enough/568717642/>

Sierra Club Minnesota

Just one pass of a wake boat can be devastating to the ecosystem. Unfortunately, these boats often make multiple passes in the same area, causing long-lasting damage.

When there isn't enough distance on a lake or river to dissipate these wakes, the boats cause shoreline erosion. They also damage docks, swamp other boats, endanger swimmers, and destroy waterfowl nesting sites.

Additionally, the propwash points downward at such an angle that it can disturb the lake bottom at depths 16' or more. **This action reintroduces sequestered contaminants such as phosphorus and nitrates into the water column and results in algae blooms.** The propwash also increases turbidity, which warms the water and makes the ecosystem less hospitable to native flora and fauna. It uproots native plants and destroys fish nesting sites.

Furthermore, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are often pumped into the tank along with the lake water. A study by the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center shows that Zebra Mussels are difficult to remove from these tanks and therefore easily spread to other lakes. Although the boating industry has acknowledged this problem and is attempting to improve the tank-cleaning process, for now the boats will continue spreading AIS.

for more info: <https://www.sierraclub.org/minnesota/blog/2021/03/wake-boats-land-10000-lakes>

STATE AND COUNTY AGENCY CONTACT INFO RELATED TO COCOLALLA LAKE

Bonner County Planning – Shoreline development
(208) 265 – 1458
Website www.bonnercountyid.gov

Panhandle Health District – Septic system permitting and drinking water safety
(208) 265 – 6384
Website www.panhandlehealthdistrict.org

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality – Surface and well water regulations
(208) 769 – 1422
Website www.deq.idaho.gov

Idaho Department of Water Resources – water rights, well permitting
(208) 762 – 2800
Website www.idwr.idaho.gov

Idaho Department of Lands & Waterways – Dock permitting
(208) 263 – 5104
Website www.idl.idaho.gov

Idaho Department of Fish and Game – Fishing Regulations/ Licensing
(including purchasing invasive species fund stickers)
(208) 769 – 1414
Website www.idfg.idaho.gov

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation – Boat registration/
regulations (including purchasing invasive species fund stickers)
(208) 514 – 2474
Website www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov
Website for sticker and boat license renewal – www.idpr.idaho.gov

Bonner County Sheriff Office – Marine regulation enforcement and public safety
(208) 263 8417
Website www.bonnerso.org

Bonner County Emergency Management – Public Safety
(208) 265 8867
Website www.bonnercountyid.gov

Idaho State Department of Agriculture – Aquatic Invasive weed control
1 (877) 336 8676 – Idaho Invasive species hotline
Website www.invasivespecies.idaho.gov

Bonner County Noxious Weeds Department

Our mission is to keep Bonner County rights-of-way clean and clear of state listed noxious weeds [pursuant to Idaho Statute Title 22-Chapter 24], as well as Bonner County weeds of concern. Additionally, we maintain strong efforts to keep small infestation noxious weed species from becoming widespread issues. We strive to achieve excellent customer service as related to assisting with weeds identification, offering weeds management advice, facilitating landowner assistance programs and providing public education (continuously throughout the year).

Questions or concerns about weed control or fertilization around the lake should be directed to Chase.

Chase Youngdahl – Weeds Manager chase.youngdahl@bonnercountyid.gov
208-255-5681 Ext.6 (Internal Ext. 1171)

A Shout Out To Our State Agencies And Their Employees For Their Continued Support of the Cocolalla Lake Association

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Idaho Department of Agriculture

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

Idaho Department of Lands

Bonner County Noxious Weeds Dept.

Bonner County Emergency Management

US Army Corps of Engineers

We appreciate you.

Have a Safe Summer

Remember to:

Wear something bright while paddle boarding or kayaking especially in the mornings and dusk when there are shadows on the lake.

Pay close attention to restrictions on burning.

This will be my final edition of the Cocolalla Lake Association Newsletter. I have been publishing it for the last 12 years and I've enjoyed this creative outlet and the interaction with so many who have contributed to its content. I feel it's time to pass on the duties and welcome someone that has a desire and willingness to produce our semi annual publication.

Change is good.

Please contact Vern Newby if you have an interest.

Shelley Vincent