



2022 SUMMER NEWS LETTER

INCREDIBLE, is all I can say about the weather this spring. No doubt that many of you have missed going to "the beach", mostly because you didn't have one that was above water. Reviewing the records of the Association the water level of the lake has not ever been noted as having risen substantially following the spring runoff. This year, however, the lake level was recorded to increase from June to July by almost one (1) foot! The weather appears to be stabilizing for the summer and the lake levels are dropping once again.

The unusual precipitation has also disrupted the monthly cycle of lake water testing. Following the heaviest rains a portion of the Fish Creek road was undercut and sediments from there and other drainages washed into the lake. As a portion of the lake quality analysis a secchi depth observation is determined. For the Cocolalla Lake analysis the secchi depth is significant to the bacterial (algae) presence in the water column. The sediments washed into the lake made that measurement not usable for our purposes. It was reported from the May testing that Cocolalla's water quality is near the point of Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB). The weather, particularly the wind, will be significant in holding the existing phosphorus on the bottom of the lake. Anything that we can do to prevent phosphorus from entering the lake will delay and possibly avoid a HAB. Testing is scheduled to resume at the end of July. Stay tuned for the results.

The 4th of July was a great weekend on the lake. Maybe a touch cool for the temperatures for both the water and air, but nice overall. And the lake users were definitely courteous and respectful of the high water as well as other users of the lake. Enjoying the lake is what we all want and I feel that was accomplished in a grand way this year.

The CLA continues to be in contact with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture to support our efforts to keep our lake clean of invasive species. Their recent survey of the lake revealed no areas in need of treatment. Please report any Eurasian Milfoil or Curly Leaf Pond Weed to ISDA or the CLA.

Bob continues to be a good host for the lake association and has benefited numerous fishermen new to the lake with information to collect their limits. The CLA is also encouraging the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to expand the parking lot at the boat ramp. It only takes a dozen or so vehicles with trailers to fill up the lot and then people are parking along the narrow entrance street.

Finally, at the June meeting the Board of Directors passed its annual budget. In order to meet that budget and fund the lake host position as we have in the past we need to raise our membership to 100 members and develop \$3,000 in donations or grants. If you know of a non-member who uses the lake please invite them to join, it's their lake we are trying to protect.

In June, through the coordination by Gary Suppiger, the Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game resumed tours the wet lands at the south end of the lake. This tour targeted 2nd and 4th graders from Southside Elementary and included observation station highlighting wet land vegetation, aquatic life and animals that inhabit the wetlands ecosystem. Without a doubt the "bugs" found in the water samples were a great intrigue for all of the young ecologists. (Pictures from IDFG web site)



Fall Festival is returning! Coordinated by River Clemens it is scheduled for September 23rd from 3-7 p.m. at Southside Elementary School. This is a great way to meet people behind the organizations and agencies that make our area a better place. Be sure to come visit with neighbors and pick up a bite to eat.

The second half of the season is going to zip by so take every advantage to enjoy a taste of Cocolalla.

Sincerely,

Vern Newby, President
cocolallalakeassociation@gmail.com