



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

Dr. Kurt Getsinger and Herman Collins



Glen Weatherly Retires

After 15 years of Editor and Chief of The Cocolalla Lake Association Newsletter, Glen turned over writing duties to Shelley Vincent. His dedication to this semi annual publication is commendable and we wish him all the best as he and his wife Barbara pursue their family and leisure interests. Glen will remain a Member at Large on our CLA Board.



In July, Dr. Kurt Getsinger and Dr. Dave Soballe of the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers visited Lake Cocolalla as part of the USACE monitoring of water quality in Northern Idaho. This visit was made possible through funding from the Water Operation Technical Support (WOTS) program. Dr. Soballe and Dr. Getsinger were impressed with our results in our Milfoil control strategy and provided us with a report on management alternatives for our algae issues.

Pictured: Dr. Getsinger shows Herman a sample of Curly Leaf Pondweed which has been deemed an invasive weed. CLA has submitted a request for funding consideration to the SCWMA for treatment in 2011. If granted, treatment would likely occur in May. (See Curly Leaf Pondweed Page 3)

Many Thanks to Gary and Shelley Barton for the use of their pontoon boat and Bernard and Helen Berg for their expert captaining for this survey.

EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL (EWM)

In November 2009, Idaho State Dept of Agriculture (ISDA) advised the Cocolalla Lake Association board of the availability of funds for continuing our EWM eradication/control program through 2010. The funds made available allowed CLA to conduct thorough surveys in 2010 for EWM.

A summer survey, conducted on July 7 2010 by Lakeland Restoration Services, found no EWM plants in the lake. A follow-on survey on October 26 2010 revealed that a small recurrence of EWM exists, mainly on the west side of the lake. The lake association has made grant application to ISDA for funds to treat this recurrence with herbicides sometime during the summer of 2011.

Although disappointing to all, the recurrence of EWM points out that this weed has the ability to survive even tenacious treatment processes. At the bottom of the newsletter is a list of names and telephone numbers of the lake association board members. All residents and users of Cocolalla Lake are asked to remain vigilant for this noxious weed and report any suspected sightings/findings to a member of the board. Our experience to date says that there is no such thing as a false alarm.

The association's efforts regarding noxious weeds have also been rewarding. ISDA grant monies have allowed CLA to continue to improve the Lake Host site at the boat ramp area on the north end of the lake. A metal shed has been erected to provide some shelter and short term storage of the hot water pressure washer purchased as part of a previous year's EWM project. The washer unit is now mounted on a custom-built trailer for ease of movement.

The Lake Host program continues, and users can expect the lake host to be present between Memorial Day and Labor Day each year.

FISHING REPORT (by Cary Poston)

I did not get a chance at early spring fishing this year, but reports that I received indicate not a lot of trout taken during the spring of 2010. Summer, as usual, was slow for all trout in the lake. Water testing by the lake association revealed the expected stratification of the lake cooler water below about 20 feet was low on dissolved oxygen. Water nearer the surface was warm seems to slow down the activity level of the trout.

I did find some good crappie spots along the east shore. Yellow perch were plentiful and seemed a bit larger this year. I don't fish for bass, but bass fishermen were rewarded around docks and along the east shore. Not a lot of keepers though.

Fall fishing; a whole 'nuther story. After the lake mixed (turned over) and the water started cooling, the trout got active. There were many fish in the 2 – 3 pound range. I put one in my sink that weighed in at just under 4 pounds. Photos available. The fish were firm and bright. Many more Westslope Cutthroat than in the past few

years; without a doubt, one of the most beautiful fish available in the northwest. Catch rate was about 1 – 2 fish per hour. Not as good as some past years, but fish were larger this year and made the trip worthwhile. Notable was the lack of fishing pressure this season.

It's difficult to predict what the ice-fishing might hold in store, but judging by the nice size of some of the yellow perch caught this summer, I will predict some very nice catches through the ice this winter. Besides, who doesn't enjoy hanging around a bunch of ice-holes



Curly-Leaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*)

DESCRIPTION: Curly-leaf pondweed is an invasive aquatic perennial that is native to Eurasia, Africa, and Australia. It was accidentally introduced to United States waters in the mid-1880s by hobbyists who used it as an aquarium plant.

The leaves are reddish-green, oblong, and about 3 inches long, with distinct wavy edges that are finely toothed. The stem of the plant is flat, reddish-brown and grows from 1 to 3 feet long. The plant usually drops to the lake bottom by early July.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: Curly-leaf pondweed is commonly found in alkaline and high nutrient waters, preferring soft substrate and shallow water depths. It tolerates low light and low water temperatures. It has been reported in all states but Maine.

LIFE HISTORY AND EFFECTS OF INVASION: Curly-leaf pondweed spreads through burr-like winter buds (turions), which are moved among waterways. These plants can also reproduce by seed, but this plays a relatively small role compared to the vegetative reproduction through turions. New plants form under the ice in winter, making curly-leaf pondweed one of the first nuisance aquatic plants to emerge in the spring.

It becomes invasive in some areas because of its tolerance for low light and low water temperatures. These tolerances allow it to get a head start on and outcompete native plants in the spring. In mid-summer, when most aquatic plants are growing, curly-leaf pondweed plants are dying off. Plant die-offs may result in a critical loss of dissolved oxygen. Furthermore, the decaying plants can increase nutrients which contribute to algal blooms, as well as create unpleasant stinking messes on beaches. Curly-leaf pondweed forms surface mats that interfere with aquatic recreation.

CONTROL METHODS: Turions and plant fragments can be carried on boats, trailers, motors and fishing gear from one water body to another, thus proper prevention techniques are essential to curb the spread of this aquatic invasive. An effective prevention and remediation program also addresses the overall health of a waterbody: Maintaining a healthy ecosystem with diverse native aquatic plants and animals as well as minimizing nutrient and pollutant inputs will deter invasions. Once introduced, curly-leaf pondweed spreads rapidly. Long-term management requires the reduction or elimination of turions to interrupt the life-cycle.

CLA Board Members

Chuck Gladish	President	(208) 263-6515
Fred Vincent	Vice President	(208) 255-2575
Sonia Gladish	Secretary	(208) 263-6515
Cinda Crow	Treasurer	(208) 263-1172

Members At Large

David Crow	(208) 263-1172
Glen Weatherly	(509) 466-7299
Nancy Cambron	(208) 263-7829
Janet Conlin	(208) 255-4896

We'd like to welcome Janet and Jeremy Conlin and Family into our Cocolalla Community. We are fortunate to have Janet join our board as a member at large. Her background and expertise as a marine biologist will a valuable asset to our group. We'd also like to thank the Conlins for their generous donation to our lake management fund.

If you haven't had an opportunity to join us at our monthly meetings, make a point of doing so in the New Year. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet this group of dedicated individuals that work hard to ensure your investment and that of the community is protected, maintained and improved.

In closing we'd like to wish all our members a Happy Holiday Season and a New Year blessed with Good Health, Good Fortune and Great Fishing on our beautiful milfoil free lake.