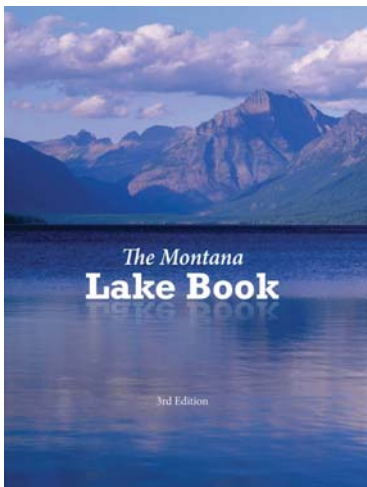


LakeFront

Quarterly Newsletter of the Whitefish Lake Institute

Fall 2017

Montana Lake Book Third Edition Available



We are pleased to announce the publication of the Montana Lake Book Third Edition. This 56 page coffee-table worthy publication tells the story of how lakes function, how they are challenged, and how they can be protected. Executive Director Mike Koopal and Science & Education Director Lori Curtis from Whitefish Lake Institute coordinated the production of the newest edition, and served on the steering committee which was comprised of contributors from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality; Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; Flathead Basin Commission; Flathead Conservation District; Flathead Lake Biological Station; Flathead Lakers; Flathead National Forest; Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; Montana Watershed Coordination Council; and Whitefish High School.

The book is separated into seven chapters including Lake Basics, Waterfront Living, Working in a Watershed, Water Recreation, (continued on Page 3...)

Whitefish Aquatic Invasive Species Management Program Update

OUR LAKE OUR FUTURE

Whitefish Lake | Aquatic Invasive Species Management Program

Since 2013, the Whitefish Lake Institute (WLI) has recommended a local AIS Management Program to the City of Whitefish to prevent the introduction and spread of AIS to local lakes. Each year, the City of Whitefish has approved the program and has provided a funding commitment. The program focuses on early detection monitoring for dreissenid mussels and Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM) via microscopy and/or eDNA analysis, early detection macrophyte surveys, control and eradication of EWM in Beaver Lake, a watercraft inspection and decontamination program, (continued on Page 3...)

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Founded in 2005

The Whitefish Lake Institute is committed to science, education, and community stewardship to protect and improve Whitefish Lake and Whitefish area water resources today, while providing a collective vision for tomorrow.

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Whitefish Lake Institute

Cover Photo:
*Whitefish Lake looking toward
Whitefish Mountain Resort*

Courtesy of gravityshots.com

**2017 Stewardship Award
Lifetime Achievement - John Wachsmuth**

Whitefish Lake Institute Science Advisory Committee Member, John Wachsmuth retired after a 36 year career with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. John was presented the WLI Lifetime Achievement Award at his retirement celebration on November 3rd. The award was given to him for his lifetime of contributions to volunteer monitoring programs, protecting water quality, promoting watershed stewardship, and protecting Northwest Montana fisheries resources.



John Wachsmuth (L) receives WLI's Lifetime Achievement Award from executive director Mike Koopal (R) at John's retirement party.



Thank You Great Fish Community Challenge Donors!

The 2017 Whitefish Community Foundation Great Fish Community Challenge provided support to 45 nonprofits this year, raising over \$2 million dollars. WLI is grateful to have been chosen to participate in the 2017 Challenge. The \$40,000 in donations and \$9,600 in match from the Whitefish Community Foundation will support critically important programs and projects in 2018. Thank you to the many individuals who chose to support WLI!!

(Montana Lake Book continued from Page 1...) Protecting Our Fisheries, Aquatic Invasive Species, and A Changing Climate.

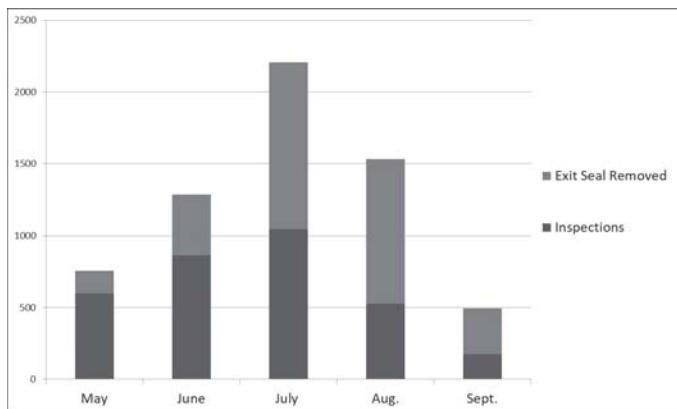
Each chapter offers web links to sites with more information on chapter subject matter. It also includes a list of lake related Montana and U.S. agencies and an appendix of lake terminology. The book was designed by eBizServices and printed by Thomas Printing. The book can be obtained free of charge from the steering committee offices. A companion website mtlakebook.org will launch at the end of November.

(AIS Update continued from Page 1...) and an annual program report.

In 2017, the watercraft inspection program was amplified based on the Montana FWP announcement in late 2016 that zebra mussels were found east of the Continental Divide. The City of Whitefish passed an Ordinance requiring watercraft to be inspected prior to launch in Whitefish Lake and signed an MOU with the state of Montana for program operations.

Watercraft inspection stations were expanded at the only two major access points; City Beach and Whitefish Lake State Park. The staffed inspection season at the stations now run from May 1-September 30 with an on-line self-certification for non-motorized hand launched vessels, and for all watercraft during the non-staffed season. Due to congestion and traffic pattern issues at the major access points, the program expedites the inspection process by offering exit seals to watercraft users as they leave the lake. Users can then re-enter Whitefish Lake without the need for an inspection if they have an intact seal. A decontamination station at an off-site location was established for high risk watercraft that are defined through an approved algorithm.

Inspection station visits for 2017 by month for both inspection stations are shown below. The positive impact of the exit seals to the overall program is clearly shown.



Whitefish Lake Institute Presentations

Executive Director, Mike Koopal has been busy on the speaking circuit this fall. On October 12th, Mike travelled to Helena with Flathead Conservation District staff Valerie Kurth and Cynthia Ingelfinger to present the Cow Creek Restoration Project 319 Application Grant to the selection committee. The project was awarded over \$70,000 pending authorization from the Clean Water Act.

On October 16th, Mike joined Flathead Lake Biological Station Assistant Director, Tom Bansak on a Water Experts panel as part of the Montana Climate Science Day presentation at Flathead Valley Community College. The presentation was centered on the first *Montana Climate Assessment* by a team of scientists from Montana State University and the University of Montana. The water experts were joined by assessment scientists, local foresters and farmers to discuss study results and what they may mean for those who live, work, and play in Montana. Mike's talk addressed lake elevations and ice cover on Whitefish Lake, as well as general lake functioning as it relates to climate change.

On October 19th, Mike presented a paper at the Montana Chapter of the American Water Resource Association in Helena co-authored by City of Whitefish Mayor John Muhlfeld, Principal Hydrologist for River Design Group, and WLI's Science & Education Director Lori Curtis. In his presentation titled Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Risk Management at a Local Level: *The Whitefish AIS Management Program*, Mike discussed the components, partners, and results of the 2017 Whitefish watercraft inspection and decontamination effort. The program was designed to address the growing threat of aquatic invasive mussels, as well as other aquatic invasive plants and animals. The program sponsored by the City of Whitefish, Montana State Parks, and the Whitefish Lake Institute and sanctioned by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, was a huge success.

Mike also presented results from the Whitefish Aquatic Invasive Species Management Program to the Flathead Basin Commission on September 27th and at the Flathead Conservation Roundtable on October 11th.

Mike is an invited special guest along with Paul McKenzie of Stoltz Land & Lumber November 16th at a reception following tours of the Algae Aquacultures Technology (AACT) Green Power House in Columbia Falls. AACT will be introducing reformulated organic soil amendments and biostimulants. Mike's interest in this topic relates to limiting nutrient runoff to waterbodies from fertilizer application.

Fall Photos



Linderman Education Center students from Kalispell visited the Living Wetlands Interpretive Nature Trail.



Lori Curtis from WLI discusses water quality issues with the public at the Whitefish Community Foundation's Community Challenge.



Mike Koopal from WLI helps a youngster identify an aquatic insect from WLI's preserved collection at the Whitefish Community Foundation's 5K Color Run and Community Celebration.



Mike Koopal and Lori Curtis from WLI take a break at the Whitefish Community Foundations 5K Color Run and Community Challenge. The event was part of the Great Fish Community Challenge.



A small black bear ambles through the Averill's Viking Creek Wetland Preserve.



A small whitetail buck has been photographed many times in the Averill's Viking Creek Wetland Preserve.

—Past Issues of LakeFront are available on our website www.whitefishlake.org—

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