

LakeFront

Quarterly Newsletter of the Whitefish

OUR LAKE OUR FUTURE

Whitefish Lake | Aquatic Invasive Species Management Program

City of Whitefish Passes Ordinance Requiring All Watercraft to be Inspected Prior to Launching in Whitefish Lake

In 2016, zebra mussels were found in Montana waters east of the Continental Divide. The rapid spread of these mussels in U.S. water bodies shows how profoundly Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) can alter the environment. Human health, ecosystems, recreation, industry, tourism, and the economy are all impacted by the presence of zebra mussels.

In April, the City of Whitefish passed Ordinance 17-16, adding a new chapter to Title 13, Lake and Lakeshore Regulations, of the Whitefish City Code, to establish an aquatic invasive species prevention program. Watercraft inspections aid in intercepting vessels and equipment that have the potential to spread AIS, and allow for decontamination, if necessary, before launching into Whitefish Lake.

The Whitefish AIS Program consists of watercraft inspection stations at City Beach and Whitefish State Park administered by the City of Whitefish and a watercraft decontamination station located at Whitefish Marine & Powersports administered by WLI.

Whitefish Community Foundation Awards Whitefish Lake Institute a Major Grant for Aquatic Invasive Species Program



WLI accepts a WCF Major Grant at Whitefish City Beach.

In April, the Whitefish Community Foundation (WCF) awarded WLI a major grant for \$38,500 for the Whitefish AIS Management Program. Due to the urgent and critical nature of this project, this is the largest Major Grant awarded from the foundation, according to Whitefish Community Foundation (*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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**Northwest Montana Lakes Volunteer Monitoring Network
Volunteer Service Award Recipients**

WLI recently honored three long-time Northwest Montana Lakes Volunteer Monitoring Network (NWMTLVMN) volunteers with Volunteer Service Awards; Carol Blake, Jim Crawford, and Frank Schroeter. The Northwest Montana Lakes Volunteer Monitoring Network

NWMTLVMN is a partnership between Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the Whitefish Lake Institute. Our mission is to recruit and train citizen scientist volunteers to monitor water quality, identify and report Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and promote watershed stewardship in Northwest Montana.

Carol Blake, Tetrault Lake

Carol Blake has been monitoring Tetrault Lake in Eureka for ten years. As often as possible Carol jumps in her kayak, paddles out to the study site and records the health of what she describes as "our precious body of water. With all the challenges our water sources face these days it is paramount to remain vigilant in regards to pollutants and invasive species," noted Blake in a recent interview. "It feels good to play some small part in the wonderful program the Whitefish Lake Institute designed to keep tabs on many bodies of water in Lincoln, Lake and Flathead Counties. I am profoundly grateful for all their hard work."

Jim Crawford, Jette Lake

Water quality monitoring in Jette Lake was in place when Jim moved to Polson in 1991. At that time the Flathead Lake Biological Station led the program and they were looking for a resident to check water clarity, temperature and general conditions on a regular basis. "Since I had just retired after 35 years in the corporate world, I volunteered and have been 'the lake guy' for the past 25 years," explained Crawford. "I've proudly watched our lake and surrounding grounds become a recreational jewel, especially after Whitefish Lake Institute took over monitoring and helped us formulate a plan to decrease noxious elements that were in the lake." According to Jim, Jette's clean, clear water and outstanding swimming, boating and fishing for trout and bass are now a primary reason people move to the private subdivision.

Frank Schroeter, Flathead Lake

Now in his 24th year as a NWMTLVMN volunteer, Frank Schroeter retired from a 34-year career as a civil engineer with Los Angeles County Road Department (Public Works) in 1990 and moved to Somers, Montana. Schroeter believes that maintaining a high degree of lake water quality and clarity enhances the value of properties in the vicinity of Flathead Lake, including his own. "So I heeded the 1993 invitation of the Flathead Basin Commission's Mark Holston to volunteers who would be willing to spend a few hours a month measuring and reporting the clarity and temperature of a lake in the area," according to Schroeter. "I am pleased to play a small part in collecting and reporting data that is useful in maintaining a continuous record of water quality in the Flathead, Schroeter notes.

WLI Receives WCF Award

In 2002, Mary Jane Street set up a charitable remainder trust and selected Whitefish Community Foundation (WCF) as the beneficiary. Mike Jenson, one of the original founders of the community foundation and the nephew of Mary Jane said, "Russ and Mary Jane's early pride in Whitefish and their efforts to help build our community will continue with this bequest. I believe they would be happy knowing they will continue to be a part of that effort through the Whitefish Community Foundation." In 2014, the Board of Directors for the Whitefish Community Foundation established the Russ and Mary Jane Street Community Service Award. Each year, this special award comes with a \$2,500 grant to recognize the important work the selected organization provides for the community and that honors the spirit of the Street's support of our community.

The Whitefish Community Foundation selected WLI to receive this award because of the proactive and dedicated commitment to protecting Whitefish Lake from the devastating effects of aquatic invasive species.

This is the second time the WLI has received the Russ and Mary Jane Street Community Service Award. WLI also received this honor in the award's inaugural year of 2014.

The 2017 WCF grant cycle awarded 35 local nonprofit organizations over \$122,000 in funding at this year's Community Grant Awards Ceremony, held at the Whitefish Lake Lodge on Thursday, May 18.



Mike Jenson presents Mike Koopal and Lori Curtis the 2017 Russ & Mary Jane Street Community Service Award during the Whitefish Community Foundation's Annual Grants Award Ceremony. Photo courtesy Whitefish Pilot

Welcome 2017 Summer Intern

From Barrett Gray- I am finishing up my first year at Princeton University with a prospective Bachelor of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering, focusing on either environmental engineering or geological engineering. I am involved with the office of sustainability on campus and other environmental activism clubs and activities and am a leader for the outdoor freshman orientation program. I am an avid runner and compete as part of the running club at Princeton.

I grew up in Whitefish and attended Whitefish High School where I had the opportunity to work on projects with Whitefish Lake Institute through FREEFLOW club, GIS class, and chemistry class. I am very passionate about the environment and spend much of my free time adventuring in the outdoors, whether it's running, hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing, skiing, or any other outdoor activity.



Barrett hiking the Dawson Pitamakan Trail in Glacier Park.

(WCF Major Grant Continued From Page 1...)

President, Linda Engh-Grady.

"Through this Major Grant, the Whitefish Community Foundation has demonstrated how nimble they are in addressing an emergent community issue," said Mike Koopal, executive director for WLI.

The award is one of 13 Major Grants over \$20,000 presented by the WCF, bringing the total awarded to over \$368,600 since the Major Community Project Grant Program began in 2010.

Spring Photos



Jim and Lisa Stack recently had some visitors near their place off of East Lakeshore Drive. Three otters were observed catching fish.



City of Whitefish employees Meg Sedgewick and Lisa Gunderson at the Whitefish State Park Watercraft Inspection Station on first day of watercraft inspections.



City of Whitefish employee Craig Sedgewick at Whitefish City Beach on first day of watercraft inspections.



Rick Guenther, lead watercraft inspector and decontaminator for WLI with the decontamination unit funded by the Whitefish Community Foundation.



Mike Koopal presents Whitefish High School graduating senior Rose Madison WLI's Ripple Effect Scholarship at the school's annual grants award ceremony. Rose will be attending Hampshire College this fall to study Environmental Science.



Lori Curtis leads a field journaling station with a 5th grade class from Whitefish. In May, all of the Whitefish 2nd graders and 5th graders visited WLI at the wetlands to learn more about the natural world.

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