



WLI is one of 40 local non-profits chosen by the Whitefish Community Foundation (WCF) to participate in the 2016 Great Fish Community Challenge- www.greatfishchallenge.org.

WCF's mission is to enrich the quality of life in the Whitefish area by fostering philanthropy, building endowments, and helping donors and nonprofits benefit our community.

WCF provides a matching incentive to your gift to WLI, leveraging your charitable donation. WCF processes your gift, mails you a tax receipt and passes along 100% of your contribution, plus the match to us here at WLI!

Use of Funds: In our 2015 report- *Whitefish Area Water Resources Report: A Status of the Whitefish Lake Watershed*, WLI published a Watershed Restoration Plan Task Table. The table identified 64 water quality improvement tasks to be addressed by federal, state, and local entities to ensure long-term human, economic, and environmental health of the Whitefish community. Program funds will support *Restoration 64*, WLI's project to conduct research, develop educational programs, and facilitate projects that engage community leaders and project partners to drive these tasks toward completion. Addressing these tasks poises the community to improve water quality for the long term health of Whitefish.

Septic Leachate Update

On July 18th, the Whitefish City Council passed Resolution No. 16-32 providing an option for deferred annexation for 20 years for neighborhood areas around Whitefish Lake where WLI and previous studies have demonstrated that septic leachate is contributing to the degradation of the water quality of the lake. WLI views this action by city council as a very positive step in the right direction for the community to address the septic leachate issue. (A summary of the resolution can be found on Page 2.)

By now, everyone who lives in the Whitefish area recognizes that we face a challenging issue with septic leachate entering Whitefish Lake. Most folks also recognize that this issue befalls lakeside communities throughout the state and across the U.S. Wherever on-site septic systems are installed near water bodies, the potential for septic system failures leading (continued on Page 2)...

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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 City Beach

(Septic Leachate Update, continued from Page 1)...to septic leachate pollution exists.

Although newer (post 1990s) septic systems are designed to last longer, none of them are designed to last forever. The three main components of most basic home septic systems—a tank, pipes, and a drainfield—all have potential failure points. Also contributing to potential malfunctions are the location, geology, and soil type where systems are installed. These location issues are exacerbated around Whitefish Lake. Now that the general problem areas on Whitefish Lake have been identified, homeowners on septic systems around the lake will have opportunities to take appropriate action.

Addressing septic leachate pollution will take many years given the complexities of local, state and federal funding and the need for homeowners to support the process. Lake Tahoe and Lake Washington are excellent examples of how lake health can positively respond to septic/sewer mitigation efforts. WLI is working to put together useful information to help the Whitefish Community to understand septic leachate as well as options for addressing water quality degradation that results from human development. We all have a role to play in protecting our precious water resources for the future.

The next step in the ongoing effort to address septic leachate on Whitefish Lake will be the process of conducting a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for the East Lakeshore neighborhood. This will be the second PER conducted on the lake, with Lion Mountain being the first. There are a total of five PERs to be addressed. The process commences with publishing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to which interested engineering firms apply, followed by the engineering firm selection process, and finally conducting the PER and reporting the results.

(Deferred Annexation Resolution Summary from Page 1)...

In areas, subdivisions or neighborhoods of ten or more properties are on septic systems and where it has been demonstrated that septic leachate is contributing to the degradation of the water quality of Whitefish Lake, the City may, in its sole discretion, agree to defer annexation of the area, subdivision or neighborhood as an incentive for connecting to the City sewer system. In such cases, the City shall, by resolution, agree to defer annexation for 20 years or the length of the term of the RSID, whichever is less, if the area, subdivision or neighborhood successfully petitions the County for creation of a RSID within two (2) years of passage of the resolution. The annexation deferral period shall run from the date of the County resolution creating the RSID. Upon connection to the City's utility system, the property owner(s) or homeowners' association shall be required to execute a Waiver of Protest and Consent to Annexation including, but not limited to, the following terms: (1) that the City will not attempt to annex the area, subdivision or neighborhood for 20 years or the length of the term of the RSID, whichever is less, unless annexation is mutually agreed upon by the City and the area, subdivision or neighborhood; and (2) that subject to the City's agreement to defer annexation of the area, subdivision or neighborhood, the property owner or homeowners' association waives any right it may have to protest annexation and consents to annexation of the property. Deferred annexation is not available in areas that are wholly surrounded by the City.

We Appreciate You!

In August, WLI is rolling out a new program to help us communicate our appreciation to WLI's members. As a small nonprofit, we have never before been able to offer "Welcome Gifts" to new members. Thanks to some of our long-time supporters, we now have some nice gifts to offer you. New members of WLI will receive:

SUSTAINER (\$20,000 +)

- Personalized Gift from WLI

FELLOW (\$5000 - \$19,999)

- Valerie McIntyre Photography \$750 Value Package

GUARANTOR (\$1000 - \$4999)

- Valerie McIntyre Photography \$500 Value Package

VISIONARY (\$500 - \$999)

- Sage & Cedar Gift Bag

BENEFACTOR (\$250 - \$499)

- New Whitefish Lake Map

LEADER (\$100 - \$499)

- Whitefish Lake Water-Resistant Bathymetric Map

SPONSOR (\$40 - \$99)

- WLI Tote Bag

Existing members who are current with their dues will also receive these gifts over the next month. Our special thanks to Nicole James of Sage & Cedar and Valerie McIntyre of Valerie McIntyre Photography for making these gifts available.

Whitefish Lake Map

WLI is excited to announce the release of a new Whitefish Lake map produced in cooperation with the Flathead Lake Biological Station. This beautifully detailed and richly colorful 18"x24" map is based on satellite imagery. It communicates many natural features such as nearby lakes, the Whitefish River outlet, and Whitefish Lake's six tributaries; as well as Whitefish Mountain Resort, boat launches on the lake, and the City of Whitefish. All proceeds go toward WLI's ongoing research, education, and community stewardship programs. The maps are available for \$25 at WLI, The Walking Man Frame Shop & Gallery, Mi Casa Pottery, and will be available at other locations in the near future. Shipping boxes are available for an additional \$1.25.



Good Bye Josh, Hello AquaTerra Solutions

On July 1st—after five years of service—Josh Gubits departed WLI to start his own company, AquaTerra Solutions. Josh will remain involved with WLI as we have become one of his clients. He will continue to provide educational programs and weed management in the wetlands for WLI and coordinate the Northwest Montana Lakes Volunteer Monitoring Network on a contracted basis. We are excited for Josh and look forward to continuing to work with him as he expands his service offerings.

A Welcome Addition to Limnology in the Flathead

We are excited that internationally renowned and highly published freshwater ecologist Dr. Jim Elser is the new director at the Flathead Lake Biological Station (FLBS).

Jim's research expertise lies in the integrative field of biological stoichiometry, the study of balance of energy and multiple chemical elements in living systems. Ecological in focus, stoichiometry uses an evolutionary viewpoint to integrate organizational levels from the molecule and cell to the ecosystem. He has conducted observational and experimental studies at various scales from laboratory cultures and short-term field experiments to sustained whole-ecosystem manipulations.



His more recent work has investigated the connections among Carbon:Nitrogen:Phosphorus stoichiometry, growth rate, rRNA physiology and genetics, and ecological dynamics in diverse biota and ecosystems, including the application of these ideas to tumor dynamics. Jim is an active member of the Arizona State University's NASA-funded Astrobiology project "Follow the Elements" and a co-organizer of ASU's Sustainable Phosphorus Initiative. Jim is the Past President of the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography.

Jim has already joined his FLBS research team on Whitefish Lake and has met with WLI staff on several occasions to discuss partnering opportunities.

Coming in the Fall LakeFront— You'll receive an update of our Whitefish Lake mysis shrimp and periphyton studies and our work in collecting samples for the Rangewide Bull Trout eDNA Study. We'll also tell you about the Whitefish Watercraft Inspection Station and what we're doing to prevent the spread of AIS at the local level.

Summer Photos



Wetland Work Day volunteer Lauren Dietemann stains a bench in the *Averill's Viking Creek Wetland Preserve*.



Wetland Work Day volunteer Walt Curtis replaces a toe kicker on a boardwalk segment of the *Living Wetlands Interpretive Nature Trail*.



Wetland Work Day volunteer Jan Haller stains a bench in the *Averill's Viking Creek Wetland Preserve* trailhead.



Volunteers Russell Chadwick and Chris Ruffatto pause after moving equipment out to the weather station to install new solar panels to power the bulk loading precipitation collectors.



WLI is facilitating construction of the Whitefish Watercraft Inspection Station at City Beach with funding from the Joe & Cindy Gregory Family. Pictured are Nate Gibson and Chris Condiss from Trumble Creek Builders, the General Contractor.



Tim Greenwood (2nd from Right) and his crew from Greenwood Masonry Construction before they got started on the rock work for the Whitefish Watercraft Inspection Station.

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Support WLI by purchasing our specialty license plate for \$25. Your county treasurer will charge an additional one-time fee to cover administrative costs at the time of purchase. The plate will be automatically renewed each year after purchase.