



LakeFront

Quarterly Newsletter of the Whitefish Lake Institute

Winter 2018

Cynthia Ingelfinger joins WLI as Science and Education Coordinator

Cynthia Ingelfinger joined WLI's staff as its Science and Education Coordinator on January 2nd. She came to WLI from the Flathead Conservation District where she was the Assistant Conservationist. Cynthia will coordinate the Northwest Montana Lakes Volunteer Monitoring Network and conduct WLI's baseline field work. Prior to her work at the Flathead Conservation District, Cynthia was an Outreach Coordinator for the Ipswich River Watershed Association and prior to that, a Research Associate for the Wilderness Society—both in Massachusetts. She is knowledgeable about scientific research processes and has experience integrating science, fieldwork, critical thinking and public outreach. An excellent communicator and writer, with grant writing and educational program development experience, Cynthia is a welcome addition to WLI's staff.



Cynthia Ingelfinger
Photo Courtesy: Whitefish Pilot

Cynthia earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies from Brown University, a Master of Science in the Field Naturalist Program from the University of Vermont, and completed a one year Professional Residency in Environmental Education at the Teton Science School.

Nicky Ouellet Receives Chris Ruffatto Excellence in Education Award

On February 7th, WLI presented its *Chris Ruffatto Excellence in Education Award* at the Whitefish Chamber of Commerce Community Awards Gala. Montana Public Radio Reporter Nicky Ouellette was selected to receive this award as a result of her extraordinary contribution to water quality education through her "SubSurface: Resisting Montana's Underwater Invaders" podcast. The podcast—aired in 5 episodes during November and December of last year—educated the public on scientists' and citizen efforts to understand and combat (*continued on Page 2...*)



Mike Koopal presents Nicky Ouellet with WLI's Stewardship Award.
Photo courtesy: Whitefish Pilot

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Whitefish Lake Institute
550 East 1st Street #103
Whitefish, MT 59937

Voice: 406.862.4327
Fax: 406.862.0686
info@whitefishlake.org
www.whitefishlake.org

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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Cover Photo:
Northwest shore of Whitefish Lake

Courtesy of gravityshots.com

(Nicky Ouellet from Page 1...) Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Nicky's prior work producing radio and web stories in northwest Montana has included excellent coverage on natural resource and land management issues. Her work to closely examine and describe for Montanans the increasing threat of AIS constitutes a breakthrough in public education on the issue.



Averill Family Receives Recognition from WLI, Governor Bullock and Senator Tester for Stewardship Efforts

At the Whitefish Chamber of Commerce Awards ceremony on February 7th, the Averill Family was thanked for their on-going support of water quality initiatives in Whitefish. WLI presented the family with a framed recognition piece that included letters of appreciation from Montana Governor Steve Bullock and U.S. Senator Jon Tester.

Timeline of Averill Family contributions to water quality:

2007- WLI and Friends of Wisconsin Avenue Wetlands invited by the Averill Family to broker a solution that allowed for economic expansion while preserving important wetland habitat across from The Lodge at Whitefish Lake as part of the Viking Creek development proposal.
2009- The Viking Creek development proposal was unanimously approved by the Whitefish Planning Board and City Council, and touted as a template for future development.
2010- 2015- The Lodge at Whitefish Lake hosted WLI's fundraising event- The Whitefish Wine Auction, to support trail construction and management of the wetlands.
2013- WLI opened the Living Wetlands Interpretive Trail in the wetlands, a great community amenity and educational venue to hundreds of Flathead Valley students and adult geo-tourism groups.
2017- Averill Family commits to a very generous donation to WLI in support of water quality projects including AIS prevention.



Mike Koopal and Lori Curtis present the framed recognition piece to Brian and Fabienne Averill at the Whitefish Chamber of Commerce Awards Gala. Photo courtesy Whitefish Pilot.

WLI's Committees Updated to Address Current Needs of the Community

WLI's **Science Advisory Committee (SAC)** has, since its inception, provided scientific and technical guidance to WLI's efforts to conduct research that results in important data for resource management decision makers in the Whitefish Lake Watershed and surrounding waterbodies. WLI works to continually enhance data collection, scientific research, and the communication of research results on Whitefish Lake and local streams. The SAC is responsible for providing input to the scientific methodology used by WLI to collect data, and for review of study results. SAC members will also be assisting in the planning and execution of the first Montana Lake Conference to be held in Spring of 2019. New to the SAC are Ryan Richardson and Paul McKenzie.

Ryan Richardson is a fluvial geomorphologist for River Design Group (RDG), a Whitefish based river restoration firm, where he conducts river restoration efforts across Montana and Idaho ranging from dam removals to watershed assessments. He holds a MS in Geography and Water Resources from Wyoming and a BS in Earth Science from Furman University. Prior to joining RDG Ryan worked as a geomorphic technician for the Rocky Mountain Research Station with the US Forest Service where he worked on mountain streams throughout Wyoming. Though Ryan has focused on river and streams, his expertise with remote sensing and drone application make him a great addition to the WLI team. Ryan is excited to apply the latest techniques in his field to our monitoring programs on Whitefish Lake and local streams.



Ryan Richardson

Paul McKenzie is a Lands & Resource Manager for F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co. in Columbia Falls where he first came to work in 2003 as a Management Forester. Paul is tasked with oversight of three professional foresters who are responsible for all aspects of land management on the company's 39,000 acre tree farm. He also oversees the procurement of sawlog material for the Stoltze sawmill, biomass for the 2.5 MW cogeneration facility and management of company and contract logging crews. Paul has a BS in Forest Management from the University of New Hampshire,

is a Society of American Foresters "Certified Forester," and has practiced forestry for a variety of private, industry and agency organizations in locations ranging from New England to Alaska. He is an active participant in many collaborative efforts and community organizations on a local and national scale, including board member of the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders, member of the Whitefish Range Partnership and Whitefish Face Working Group, past President of the Montana Wood Products Association, member of the Flathead County Resource Advisory Committee, the Columbia Falls Chamber of Commerce, and the Society of American Foresters, and is active in the Federal Timber Purchaser's committee.



Paul McKenzie

WLI's **Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)** enables diverse community involvement and participation in support of the science, education and community stewardship goals of WLI. The CAC provides a forum for the exchange of information between citizens and WLI, conducts community outreach, and provides opportunities for learning about—and engaging in—Whitefish Lake Watershed issues. To those ends, CAC members are responsible for participating in the Whitefish Community Foundation's Great Fish Challenge; providing annual recommendations for WLI's Ripple Effect Scholarship Program, Community Stewardship Awards, and volunteering on National Trails Day at the *Living Wetlands Interpretive Nature Trail* to help maintain the trail. In 2019, the committee will help with registration for the inaugural Montana Lakes Conference. *WLI is currently seeking additional members for the CAC. Please send inquiries to lori@whitefishlake.org or call 406.862.4327.*

WLI Staff Committee Assignments

WLI staff participate on a number of committees to strengthen partnerships and to broaden the reach of the organization. Mike Koopal is a governor appointed member of the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC³) and the Flathead Basin Commission. He also serves on the Whitefish Climate Action Plan Committee. Lori Curtis is a governor appointed member and chair of the UC³. She also serves as a supervisor for the Flathead Conservation District. Cynthia Ingelfinger serves on the Haskill Basin Watershed Group, Flathead Consortium of Resource Educators (CORE), and the Flathead Conservation Roundtable.

Winter Photos



Your WLI staff (L-R) Mike Koopal, Lori Curtis, and Cynthia Ingelfinger.



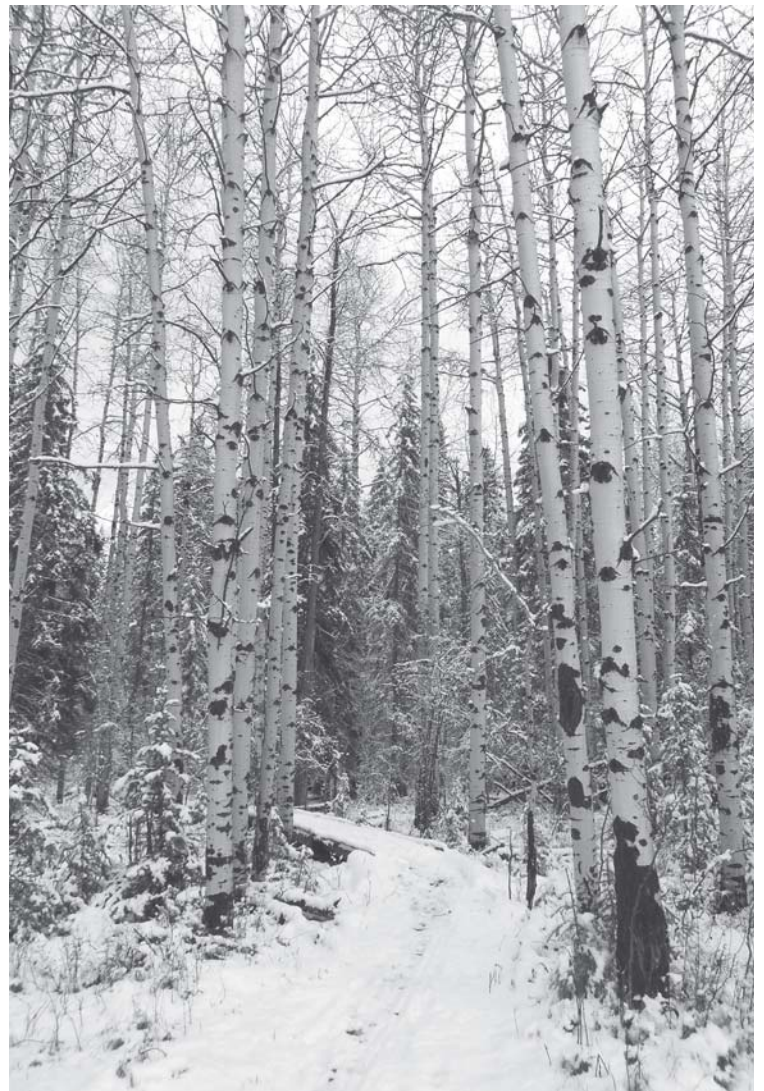
Thomas Woolf, Aquatic Invasive Species Bureau Chief for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks presented to the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC³) at the January 24th meeting. Photo courtesy Patrick Reilly, The Daily Inter Lake.



Mike Koopal answers questions about the WLI baseline monitoring program at the Stream Gaging in the Flathead Basin Workshop hosted by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana.



Winter tracks on Whitefish Lake.



WLI's Living Wetlands Interpretive Nature Trail - Beautiful in all seasons.

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