



LakeFront

Quarterly Newsletter of the Whitefish Lake Institute

Fall 2012

Welcome New Board and Committee Members

In an effort to continue to achieve the goals and expand the reach of the Whitefish Lake Institute, four new members have been added to our Board of Directors, and one new member each has been added to our Science Advisory Committee and our Citizens Advisory Committee. Joining the Board are Ed Lieser, Jordan White, John Collins, and Andy Feury. Each of these new members brings a wealth of experience, specific expertise, and personal vision to the Board.

Ed retired from forestry in 2008 after 30 years of service, and is the newly elected legislative representative for Montana House District 4. He has a BS in Natural Resource Management from the University of Minnesota. Ed brings to the board extensive natural resource management expertise and a commitment to clean and healthy water.



Ed Lieser

Jordan is the manager of Two Bear Properties of Whitefish and a volunteer helicopter pilot for the Flathead County Sheriff's Office. He spent 16 years filling almost every role in public service including firefighting, emergency medicine and law enforcement. He now volunteers his expertise in

emergency management and diverse land and resource management issues. He has a keen interest in securing a legacy of clean water and view sheds for future generations.



Jordan White

John was raised in Whitefish and returned here full-time in 1986. A retired businessman, John has a BS from the Wharton School of the (continued on page 2)

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Founded in 2005

The Whitefish Lake Institute is committed to acquiring scientific research and engaging the local citizenry to protect and improve the Whitefish area lake resources of today, while providing a collective vision for tomorrow.

Board of Directors

- Frank Sweeney, *Interim President*
- Karen Reeves, *Vice President*
- Charlie Abell, *Secretary/Treasurer*
- Greg Lane, *Past President*
- John Collins
- Susan Fletcher
- Andy Feury
- Greg Gunderson
- Ed Leiser
- John Muhlfeld
- Sharon Morrison
- Dan Weinberg
- Jordan White

Science Advisory Committee

- Karin Hilding
- Tony Nelson
- Eric Sawtelle
- Dick Solberg
- Brian Sugden
- John Wachsmuth

Citizens Advisory Committee

- Katie Callahan
- Cindy LaChance
- Nicole James
- Sue Moll
- Linda Sawtelle
- Nancy Svennungsen
- Dan Vogel

Staff

- Mike Koopal Executive Director
- Lori Curtis Science & Education Director
- Josh Gubits Environmental Scientist
- Jen Croskrey Administrative Assistant
- Chris Ruffatto Associate Environmental Scientist

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Cover Photo:

View of Whitefish Lake and Big Mountain from Lion Mountain (*courtesy: gravityshots.com*)

(welcome board and committee members continued from page 1)

University of Pennsylvania and an MBA from Temple University in Pennsylvania. He brings his expertise to WLI to guide the organization in working efficiently with other entities and the community to preserve and enhance the water quality of Whitefish Lake.



John Collins



Andy Feury

Andy has a degree in economics from the University of Montana and is the principal partner in Western Pacific Plastics, a company manufacturing laminated products and materials. With extensive experience in Whitefish City government, he brings well-honed leadership skills and passion to WLI.

WLI staff and board members wish to acknowledge outgoing president Greg Lane for his generosity serving the board from 2008 to 2012, and as its President since 2009. Nancy Svennungsen has served on the board since 2005, and will be stepping off the Board to serve on the Citizen's Advisory Committee. Current members who will remain on the board include Charlie Abell (treasurer), Greg Gunderson, Sue Fletcher, Sharon Morrison, John Muhlfeld, Karen Reeves (vice president), Dan Weinberg, and City Council representative Frank Sweeney.

WLI welcomes Eric Sawtelle to the Science Advisory Committee joining Karen Hilding – Whitefish Assistant City Engineer, Tony Nelson – Montana DNRC Hydrologist, Dick Solberg – Retired Flathead Lake Biological Station Director, Brian Sugden – Plum Creek Hydrologist, and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Biologist John Wachsmuth. Eric is a Science Teacher at Whitefish High School. He has a BS in Ecology and Systematic Biology from Cal Poly and a MS in Secondary Science Education from MSU, Bozeman. The Science Advisory Committee assists staff in the review of research needs, study methodologies and comments on draft reports.



Eric Sawtelle

Nicole James, Owner of Sage & Cedar in Whitefish is the newest member of the Citizens Advisory Committee, joining Katie Callahan, Cindy LaChance, Sue Moll, Linda Sawtelle, and Dan Vogel. The Citizens Advisory Committee assists staff in interfacing with the community.



Nicole James

WLI Welcomes Administrative Assistant

Jen Croskrey joined WLI part-time to help with organizational and administrative duties. After earning her degree in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Jen worked as a naturalist in Juneau, Alaska. Following her heart and skis to the Rockies, she landed in Whitefish in 1995 and began working in education. She first worked as a program supervisor where she directed staff and counseled youth for the Montana Academy therapeutic boarding school. More recently, Jen has been substitute teaching, helping educate children in kindergarten through 8th grade, including special education. With a number of years spent raising her two boys and as administrative assistant for her husband's general contracting business, Jen has mastered multi-tasking. She brings a wealth of administrative and organizational experience to WLI.



Jen and her boys.

Jen serves as a board member for Youth Adventure Knowledge in Nature (YAKIN), a non-profit that provides educational and experiential programs that challenge youth to establish positive relationships with the community, nature, and themselves.

Fall Education Programs

One of WLI's ongoing goals is to provide engaging information about water ecology to citizens of all ages. Our work in this area includes educational programs for grades K-12, college internships, educator in-service training, presentations to civic groups, and Road Scholar programs for seniors.

Environmental Scientist Josh Gubits presented his aquatic insect talk and hands-on identification to the 4-5 year olds at Woodland Montessori School in Kalispell. Josh was joined by Mike and Lori at Muldown Elementary to present an educational program to 2nd graders in support of their pond unit learning exercises. The classes enjoyed a review of amphibians and life history comparisons; a look under the microscope at zooplankton collected from Whitefish Lake; and a hands-on aquatic insect identification section. In an effort to bring the most memorable experiences to classrooms, the WLI staff goes out early in the morning of the classroom presentations to gather aquatic life for viewing. "Bug man" Josh usually finds an assortment of mayflies, stoneflies, dragonflies, caddisflies, beetles, true bugs, and at least one brook trout in Viking Creek. Zooplankton are collected at City Beach; and frogs, toads, and salamanders are collected from a variety of local Whitefish spots. Josh also presented at an after school program at Muldown Elementary.



Environmental Scientist Josh Gubits picking aquatic bugs with the 2nd graders at Muldown.

If you are interested in a presentation by the Whitefish Lake Institute, contact lori@whitefishlake.org.

Summer Internship Opening

Summer unpaid internships are available at WLI for college students upon recommendation from local educators. Student interns have a chance to become field assistants in the scientific process including data collection, database development, and data interpretation. They learn about stream and lake ecosystems, current watershed issues, and the operations of a nonprofit corporation. Work hours are negotiable depending on specific needs. Educators are urged to make recommendations early as our annual internship spot typically fills quickly. Send your nominations to mike@whitefishlake.org.

Past interns to date include: 2009 - Kristi Whisler (Northwestern University) and Mary Kohnstamm (St. Lawrence College); 2010 - Michael Harrison (Whitman College), 2011 - Leif Castren (Middlebury College), and 2012 - Meagan Powell (Westminster College) and Carl Talsma (Cornell University). To read about their experience at WLI, go to our website www.whitefishlake.org.

WLI Receives Whitefish Community Foundation Grants

The Whitefish Community Foundation (WCF) recently awarded seven capital grants in honor of Mary Jane and Russ Street. The Streets left the WCF an unrestricted gift of just over \$1.1 Million. The majority of the gift was placed in the WCF's permanent endowment fund where the interest will help WCF benefit our community for years to come through the Community Grant Program.

The Board of Directors of WCF wanted to make an immediate and significant impact with this gift on the community. WLI was one of seven organizations selected for a \$25,000 unrestricted grant to honor the Street's personal affiliations. Nephew and WCF board member, Mike Jenson, helped to select the projects based on the Street's interests.

WLI has named a bridge in the Averill's Viking Creek Wetland Preserve in honor of Russ and Mary Jane. The interpretive nature trail will be opened in July 2013.

WCF set a new record high in giving to local nonprofits at the 2012 Grant Awards Presentation. More than 300 people watched as over \$345,000 was awarded at the 12th annual Community Grants Presentation. WLI received a WCF Community Grant Program grant to help pay for signage in the Averill's Viking Creek Wetland Preserve, in addition to donor advised grants from the Kramer Family Fund and the Whitefish Mountain Resort Fund. Grant awards ranged from \$500 to \$6,000 from the Foundation's Community Grants Fund, a competitive grant program.

Call for Nominations: WLI Stewardship Award & Chris Ruffatto Excellence in Education Award

The Whitefish Lake Institute **Stewardship Award** is designed to recognize individuals and groups that have taken extraordinary measures to protect the water resources of the Whitefish area for the benefit of all. Eligible nominees include those that have implemented on-the-ground projects that improve water quality or educational efforts that help foster continued stewardship of aquatic resources. Nominations will be accepted until December 31st.

WLI is proud to have named our new educational stewardship award in honor of Chris Ruffatto. Ruffatto is the first recipient of the award, recognizing his lifetime dedication to environmental education. Chris mentored thousands of students during his career as a high school educator.



At the Whitefish Wine Auction, Chris Ruffatto listens as Director Mike Koopal informs the audience that WLI has named an award in his honor.



Director Mike Koopal presents Chris Ruffatto the first "Chris Ruffatto Excellence in Education Award."

The award recognized him for his extraordinary dedication to involving young people in contemporary environmental issues and for challenging their thinking process by introducing them to innovative learning techniques.

If you know of an award-worthy Whitefish area educator who truly engages the next generation of environmental stewards, or an individual or group that has protected water quality in the Whitefish area, please submit your nomination to WLI by December 31st. Nomination forms are available online at www.whitefishlake.org. Both the Stewardship Award winners and Excellence in Education Award winners will be honored by WLI at the annual Whitefish Wine Auction July 25 & 26, 2013.

Whitefish Lake Institute Membership

Research Guarantor (\$1,000 and above)

Richard & Carol Atkinson - Whitefish, MT
 Jim & Jo-Ann Armstrong - Paradise Valley, AZ
 Rick & Alicia Blake - Whitefish, MT
 John & Anne Collins - Whitefish, MT
 Ila Dousman Fund - Whitefish, MT
 Bill Foley - Whitefish, MT
 Bill & Ann Jones - Whitefish, MT
 InvesTech Research, Jim & Lisa Stack - Whitefish, MT
 LaChance Builders, Inc., Tom LaChance - Whitefish, MT
 Greg Lane - Whitefish, MT
 Tom & Teresa Quinn - Whitefish, MT
 Plum Creek- Columbia Falls, MT
 Joseph & Beverly Raudabaugh - Lake Forest, IL
 River Design Group - Whitefish, MT
 Mike & Marie Shaw - Whitefish, MT
 Scott & Cindy Schmid - Portland, OR
 Don & Ruth Taylor
 Bill & Dori Walton - Jacksonville, FL
 Dan Weinberg - Whitefish, MT
 Steve & Ardy Whisler - Whitefish, MT

Lake Visionary (\$500)

Dick & Sandra Boyce - Portola Valley, CA
 Mark & Connie Cowett - Bozeman, MT
 Susan Fletcher - Whitefish, MT
 Barbara Greene - Calgary, AB
 Charles & Teresa Grenier - Whitefish, MT
 Lion Mountain Homeowners Association, - Whitefish, MT
 Lion Mountain, Inc., Tim Grattan - Whitefish, MT
 Ched & Rebecca Lyman - Whitefish, MT
 Mark Mance & Katherine Callahan - Whitefish, MT
 Soroptimists International of Whitefish, - Whitefish, MT
 Peter & Christine Stanley - Whitefish, MT
 Third Steet Market, Ric and Dawn Blair - Whitefish, MT
 Bill & Dori Walton - Jacksonville, FL
 Whitefish Credit Union, Jim Kenyon - Whitefish, MT

Lake Benefactor (\$250)

Dan Averill - Bigfork, MT
 Jim Berry - Kalispell, MT
 Nick & Karen Chickering - Whitefish, MT
 Colla Enterprises, Jim Colla - Whitefish, MT
 Jack & Florence Fletcher - Whitefish, MT
 Morrison & Frampton, Sean Frampton - Whitefish, MT
 Les and Kay Hardy - Whitefish, MT
 Gene Hedman - Whitefish, MT
 JoAnna Hoefle - Billings, MT
 Carl Hulick - Whitefish, MT
 Harold & Marie Lockhart - Whitefish, MT
 David McMullin & Jennifer Jones - Woodside, CA
 Joseph & Cora Belle Montalban - Whitefish, MT
 Marla Shaw - Dallas, TX
 Dick & Jane Solberg - Whitefish, MT
 Nancy & Mark Svennungsen - Whitefish, MT
 Patricia Serrurier- Bend, OR
 Watershed Consulting, LLC, Marnie Criley - Missoula, MT
 Ben & Roberta Whitten - Whitefish, MT

Lake Leader (\$100)

Charlie & Susan Abell - Whitefish, MT
 Koel and Lazette Abell- Portland, OR
 Tarn & Marybeth Abell - Colorado Springs, CO
 Peter & Cheri Aronsson - Whitefish, MT
 Sharlot Battin - Whitefish, MT
 Bay Point Country Homes, Robert Bennett - Whitefish, MT
 Cameron Blake & Alexander Gray - Whitefish, MT
 Brad & Ann Bulkley - Whitefish, MT
 Karen Burke & Donald Feldman - Whitefish, MT
 Luther & Dorothy Campbell - Whitefish, MT
 Doug Chadwick & Karen Reeves - Whitefish, MT
 Steve & Doreen Christian - Whitefish, MT
 Don & Sally Clark - Whitefish, MT
 Clear as Mud Drywall, Larin Witzke, Lethbridge, AB
 Kim Corette- Whitefish, MT
 Mitchell and Lanette Cuffe- Columbia Falls, MT
 Walt & Lori Curtis - Whitefish, MT
 Will Eckert - Las Vegas, NV
 Edwin & Maura Fields - Whitefish, MT
 First Interstate Bank, -Whitefish, MT
 Todd & Susan Flynn - Oro Valley, AZ
 Friends of Blanchard Lake- Whitefish, MT
 Five Star Rentals & Property Management, Jill Zignego- Whitefish, MT
 Forestoration, Inc., Greg Gunderson - Whitefish, MT
 OTB Designworks, LLC, Chuck Gailey - Whitefish, MT
 Getter Properties, William Getter - Sheridan, WY
 Josh Gubits- Whitefish, MT
 Kerry Gubits- Littleton, CO
 Dewey & Sandra Hartman - Whitefish, MT

Ron Hauf - Whitefish, MT
 Brent and Karen Haverstock- Whitefish, MT
 Bob & Cindy James - Great Falls, MT
 Nicole James- Whitefish, MT
 Mike & Barb Jenson - Whitefish, MT
 Carol Keim - Whitefish, MT
 Jim & Marion Kibbe - Whitefish, MT
 John & Maureen King - Whitefish, MT
 Murray Knechtel - Calgary, Alberta
 Mike & Mae Koopal - Columbia Falls, MT
 Jack Koopal - Johnston, IA
 Nancy Krause & Dan Handlin - Marion, MT
 Steve Lull- Whitefish, MT
 Sue & Joe Malletta - Whitefish, MT
 David McDermid- Calgary, AB
 Greg & Mary Anne Moffatt - Encinitas, CA
 Sharon Morrison - Whitefish, MT
 Nelson Hardware, Rick & Marilyn Nelson - Whitefish, MT
 Whitefish Lake Restaurant, Doug Reed - Whitefish, MT
 Nir & Cherie Regev - Wildwood, MO
 Michael Ricker - Whitefish, MT
 Bill & Linda Sawtelle - Whitefish, MT
 Brad & Susan Seaman - Kalispell, MT
 Chuck Stearns- Whitefish, MT
 John and Nancy Streibich- Whitefish, MT
 JCCS, P.C., John Stevens - Whitefish, MT
 Jean Anne Swope & James Mechem - Whitefish, MT
 The Lodge at Whitefish Lake, Brian Averill - Whitefish, MT
 David & Jeannine Trousdale - Whitefish, MT
 Pat & Deborah Turski - Madison, WI
 Ed & Susan Walters - Albuquerque, NM
 Whitefish Lake Golf Club, - Whitefish, MT
 Lisa Witzke, Lethbridge, AB
 Nancy Woodruff - Whitefish, MT
 Kari Zirkle - Los Angeles, CA

Lake Sponsor (\$40)

At Your Service Property Mgmt - Whitefish, MT
 Mary & Dave Armstrong - Whitefish, MT
 Richard & Shirley Baker - Manhattan, KS
 Teri Balaska - Whitefish, MT
 Paul and Colleen Bell- Whitefish, MT
 Doug Betters & Jennifer Prendergast - Whitefish, MT
 Joe Brenneman & Nancy Pensa - Kalispell, MT
 Birch Hill Homes- Whitefish, MT
 Birch Hills Homes Community Park Assn. - Whitefish, MT
 Bill & Judith Bruzek - Whitefish, MT
 William & Margaret Burg - Whitefish, MT
 Ben & Doreen Cavin - Whitefish, MT
 Jerry and Jen Croskrey- Whitefish, MT
 Dave & Kelley Evans - Red Lodge, MT
 Anne Flannagan - Austin, TX
 Bob & Kate Fletcher - Portland, OR
 Mayre Flowers - Kalispell, MT
 Doug & Ann Follett - Whitefish, MT
 Rob and Ansley Ford- Somers, MT
 Friends of Wisconsin Avenue Wetlands- Whitefish, MT
 Peter Graziano - Whitefish, MT
 Bill & Judy Halama - Whitefish, MT
 Giselle Harring - Whitefish, MT
 Rollin & Carole Harwood - Whitefish, MT
 Robbie & Mary Holman - Whitefish, MT
 Dennis & Frankie Johnson - San Antonio, TX
 John & Laverne Kavanagh - Whitefish, MT
 Leo Keane - Whitefish, MT
 Kintla Copy & Creative, Kelly Beatty - Whitefish, MT
 Betsy & Dan Kohnstamm - Kalispell, MT
 Sue & Steve Krider - Norwalk, IA
 Marianne Madler - Whitefish, MT
 Larry & Barb Magone - Whitefish, MT
 Curt & Janet McIntyre - Whitefish, MT
 Tom & Donna Menard - Whitefish, MT
 Jan & Pete Metzmaker - Whitefish, MT
 John & Janice Moore - Whitefish, MT
 Rebecca Norton - Whitefish, MT
 Al & Shirley Ronseth - Whitefish, MT
 Karl & Elaine Roosa - Deer Lodge, MT
 Chris Ruffatto - Columbia Falls, MT
 Cami & Eric Sawtelle - Whitefish, MT
 Mike & Timmie Smart - Helena, MT
 Mike & Bonnie Streeter - Whitefish, MT
 John Steitz and Carol Treadwell-Steitz- Whitefish, MT
 SunCrest Homeowners, - Whitefish, MT
 Brith Sutherland - Kalispell, MT
 Steve Thompson - Whitefish, MT
 Tony & Kim Vasquez - Whitefish, MT
 Paul & Colleen Verdon - Colfax, WI
 Richard and Diane Ward- Whitefish, MT

Whitefish Lake Institute Membership Coupon

Yes! Please enroll my membership in the Whitefish Lake Institute, and send me the quarterly newsletter *LakeFront* to keep me informed of the current projects underway and issues being addressed by the Whitefish Lake Institute.

- My check is enclosed
- Visa  MasterCard  Discover 

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Address _____

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Please check your membership category:

- Research Guarantor - \$1,000 and above
- Lake Visionary - \$500
- Lake Benefactor - \$250
- Lake Leader - \$100
- Lake Sponsor - \$40

Your Contribution is 100% tax-deductible.

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**SAVE THE DATE for Montana's Premier Wine Event
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