



LakeFront

Quarterly Newsletter of the Whitefish Lake Institute

Fall 2018



Registration Open

The Whitefish Lake Institute is pleased to organize the inaugural Montana Lakes Conference. The Conference will gather diverse resource professionals to exchange information, scientific advancements, and management strategies that promote clean and healthy lake and reservoir ecosystems. Participants from academic, nonprofit, government, business organizations, and the public will gather on the shores of Whitefish Lake in northwestern Montana to learn about improving the health of Montana's lakes through science and monitoring advances, watershed restoration practices, policy innovation, and collaborative stakeholder involvement.

Join us at The Lodge at Whitefish Lake March 13-15, 2019 to celebrate Montana's lakes, to exchange knowledge, ideas and experiences, and to introduce new approaches to help manage and protect our lakes. Immerse yourself in innovative, practical, and applied lake management techniques and current research. In addition to the formal program, networking opportunities will allow attendees with varied experiences to compare notes and collaborate on important lake management issues. Scholarships are available to lakefront landowners thanks to funding from Soil and Water Conservation (continued on Page 3...)

WLI Partners with the Montana Climate Office

The Montana Climate Office (MCO) is leading the development of a cooperative statewide soil moisture and meteorological information system. Designed to support resource management decision-making, the Montana Mesonet network integrates existing networks with new remote sites to develop the first statewide soil-climate network. WLI is pleased to host a MCO weather station. All stations are solar powered and will allow users to check the data from virtually anywhere in the world. Data are transmitted from the data-logger's internal module to MCO's secure server via (continued on Page 3...)



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A 501 (c)(3) Nonprofit Corporation



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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:

Western Larch changing colors along Whitefish Lake
Courtesy of gravityshots.com

Montana Watershed Coordination Council 2018 Symposium

The Montana Watershed Coordination Council's 2018 Symposium, "Advancing Conservation through Effective Communication" was held at The Lodge at Whitefish Lake on October 10-12. The conference brought together renowned communications and storytelling experts, including Tony Incashola of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Salish Culture Committee, Sarah Elkins of Elkins Consulting, Ben Long of Resource Media, Randy Bachmeier of Montana State University, and Mike Forsberg, a National Geographic photographer. WLI helped organize the conference and participated in several conference sessions.

As part of the conference, participants had the choice of field trips during which they toured water protection and restoration projects in Eureka and Whitefish. Led by WLI's Executive Director Mike Koopal, the Whitefish tour included WLI's Living Wetlands Interpretive Nature Trail in the Averill's Viking Creek Wetland Preserve, the Whitefish Water Treatment Plant, the Whitefish High School Center for Sustainability & Entrepreneurship, and the Haskill Creek Restoration Project.

Koopal also moderated the *Changing the Fundraising Paradigm: Strategies to Increase Your Bottom Line* panel in which Marc Ducharme, General Manager of Xanterra, Linda Engh-Grady President of the Whitefish Community Foundation, and Koopal addressed partnerships and creative avenues to fund watershed organizations. WLI's Science & Education Director, Lori Curtis was a participant on the *Watershed Stories: A Statewide Campaign for Sharing our Successes and Demonstrating Collective Impact* panel in which panelists discussed their communications challenges, the process of developing their watershed stories, and shared advice from their experiences. Koopal led the *Developing Local Partnerships* panel in which City of Whitefish Public Works Director Craig Workman, Curtis and Koopal discussed the difficult work that has been addressed through partnerships between nonprofit watershed groups and municipalities to address the septic leachate issue.



WLI Executive Director, Mike Koopal, addresses field trip participants during the Montana Watershed Coordination Council Symposium.

Montana Lakes Conference

(*con't from Page 1...*) Districts of Montana (SWCDM). Scholarships are limited and will be awarded on a first come/first serve basis. Anyone interested in a scholarship should contact Cynthia Ingelfinger at the WLI office at 862-4327 before registering.

The first day of the conference will also include a three-hour lake limnology primer workshop taught by WLI's aquatic ecologist, and University of Montana Flathead Lake Biological Station professor Shawn Devlin. Shawn will provide a basic understanding of the chemical, biological, and physical processes in lakes.

For the most current conference information, visit WLI's webpage www.whitefishlake.org and click on Montana Lakes Conference. If you would like to become a conference sponsor, contact the WLI office.

WLI Partners with the Montana Climate Office

(*con't from Page 1...*) cellular communication and are delivered in multiple formats such as maps and graphs that dynamically report the latest content. This includes the ability to rapidly summarize point and gridded data by state, county, watershed or ownership unit. Because no one entity can ensure sustained operation and success of a statewide climate and soil moisture information network, the MCO embraces a cooperative context that addresses a diverse set of information needs. Participants are extended a significant cost reduction on science grade stations and the MCO ensures that data collected are quality controlled and accessible in real time through web services and smart devices. An annual service fee covers data transmission fees, computing infrastructure, and maintenance costs. The MCO will not profit from the stations or maintenance of the network beyond the inherent value in facilitating an expansive and publically available soil moisture and climate information network.



The new Mesonet station near Lazy Bay.

Thank You Whitefish Community Foundation and Great Fish Community Challenge Donors!



The 2018 Great Fish Community Challenge organized by the Whitefish Community Foundation raised over \$2.4 million dollars in support of 50 nonprofits this year. The 50 nonprofits raised over \$1.9 million and the Foundation match came in at 51% on the first \$20,000 raised by each nonprofit. The funds awarded to WLI will support our critically important AIS programs and restoration projects in 2019. We extend a heartfelt thanks to the Whitefish Community Foundation and the many individuals who chose to support WLI!

Thank You AIS Program Sponsors

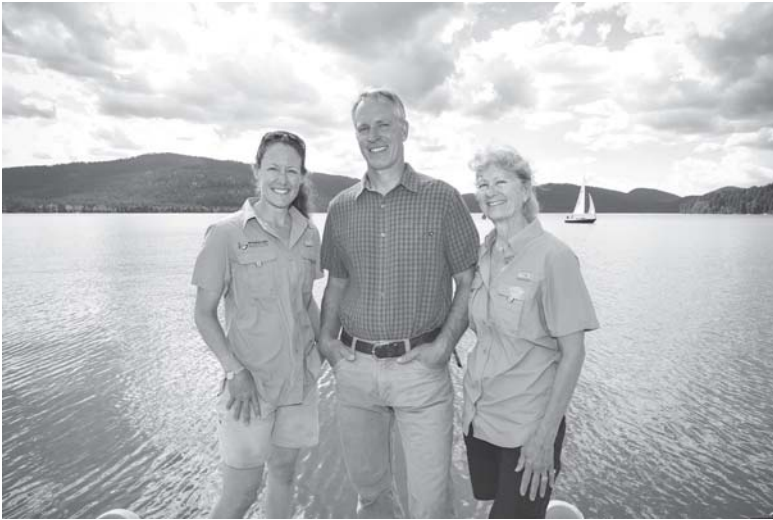
Since 2012, the City of Whitefish has approved and provided funding for the WLI recommended Whitefish Aquatic Species (AIS) Management Program. Each year the program involves early detection monitoring for AIS and a comprehensive watercraft inspection process. The city administers the Whitefish City Beach and Whitefish Lake State Park inspection stations while WLI administers the decontamination station for high risk watercraft.

Beyond the partnership with the City of Whitefish and Montana State Parks, the program relies on the generosity of local businesses to make the program a success. In 2017, Whitefish Marine & Powersports provided a home for the decontamination station while the Whitefish Community Foundation awarded WLI a major grant of \$38,500 to purchase a decontamination unit and for partial operating costs. The Krummholtz Fund came in by purchasing all the materials to build the City Beach Watercraft Inspection Station.

This year, Don K provided space for the decontamination station and the Glacier Nordic Club provided their portable ski shop to house our operations and staff. Thank you!



Fall Photos



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



Cynthia Ingelfinger collecting data near Lazy Bay.



Whitefish Public Works Director, Craig Workman, addresses field trip participants from the Montana Watershed Coordination Council's Symposium at the Whitefish Water Treatment Plant.



WLI is partnering with the Flathead Conservation District, Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, and Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks on the Cow Creek restoration project. Project Partners hosted the Whitefish School District Project FREEFLOW to survey the two reaches scheduled for restoration.



WLI Science Advisory Committee member Ryan Richardson teaches Project FREEFLOW students about survey techniques.



Project FREEFLOW students pause for a photo after a successful day of collecting data in the field.

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