



# LakeFront

Quarterly Newsletter of the Whitefish Lake Institute

Spring 2018

## Montana Lakes Conference 2019 – Save the Date!



**MONTANA LAKES  
CONFERENCE**  
EMERGING ISSUES IN LAKE SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

Hosted by WLI, the Montana Lakes 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 to learn about improving the health of Montana’s lakes through science and monitoring advances, watershed restoration practices, policy innovation, and collaborative stakeholder involvement.

Save the date to join us March 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> on the shores of Whitefish Lake 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.

## Shawn Devlin Joins WLI Staff

Shawn Devlin, an Assistant Research Professor for Aquatic Ecology at the University of Montana Flathead Lake Biological Station (FLBS), has joined the WLI on a part time basis as an Aquatic Ecologist to conduct research on current projects with WLI staff.

“This is an excellent opportunity for WLI to expand its scientific research capacity and for our two organizations to increase our collaborative partnership to further watershed science,” commented Mike Koopal, WLI’s Founder and Executive Director. “I expect Shawn to expand our integrated knowledge of Whitefish Lake and answer some lingering questions about lake dynamics so that our community can better manage this headwaters lake.” Devlin and Koopal are also partnering on a research paper to describe the unique and complex dynamics of Tally Lake. Devlin was also the (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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Cover Photo:  
*Whitefish Lake and the Whitefish Mountain Range*  
Courtesy of gravityshots.com

(Devlin con't from Page 1)... lead author on "Spatial and Temporal Dynamics of Invasive Freshwater Shrimp (*Mysis Diluviana*): Long-Term Effects on Ecosystem Properties in a Large Oligotrophic Lake" published in the journal *Ecosystems*.



*Shawn Devlin conducting lake research.*

Devlin's efforts at the FLBS encompass work with a sophisticated computer model and the extensive dataset collected on Flathead Lake by FLBS researchers over the past 35 years. Devlin earned his Ph.D. from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio and a B.Sc. in Environmental Biology from Unity College in Unity Maine. He conducted postdoctoral research at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland prior

to coming to work at the FLBS. Shawn received the 2017 Raymond B. Lindeman Award from the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO), one of the world's largest and most prestigious international societies for water scientists. The Lindeman Award recognizes an outstanding paper written by a young aquatic scientist. His paper, "Top Consumer Abundance Influences Lake Methane Efflux" published in the journal *Nature Communications*, showed that methane released from a lake was greatly influenced by the presence or absence of fish.

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## Ripple Effect Scholarship Awarded

We are pleased to announce the recipient of the 2018 Ripple Effect Scholarship. Chloe (Pixie) Moore will use the \$500 scholarship to study marine biology at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa in Honolulu. Pixie will graduate from Whitefish High School this spring and has grown up on the shores of Whitefish Lake. She hopes to "gain an education about water ecosystems that equips [her] for handling the ever rapid changes in the natural environment." Pixie fostered her interest in marine biology through her time spent on the beaches of Playa Grande in Costa Rica. Specifically, she's interested in studying water ecosystems and how they will handle the effects of climate change. We wish Pixie the best of luck with her pursuits!

Ripple Effect Scholarship applications are due April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

*Past Issues of LakeFront are available on our website [www.whitefishlake.org](http://www.whitefishlake.org)*

## Welcome Summer Intern– Zach Cook

Zach Cook is currently a Sophomore at Brown University working towards a Bachelor of Science degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. He is involved in the Brown Formula Society of Automotive Engineers (FSAE) team and in kidney disease research on campus. "I have always been interested in studying the world around me, understanding its interactions, and discovering novel things about the world in which I live," notes Zach. "I believe an important part of preparing me to be an effective researcher in the ecology and evolutionary biology field is to step out of the classroom and lab, and into the field to conduct field ecology. Additionally, I want to observe how small non-profits are utilizing their skills and research in ecology to inform the community around them and to help foster the importance of environmental stewardship."



*Zach Cook collecting data in the Haffenreffer Forest, New Hampshire.*

Originally from Iowa, Zach has lived in Providence, Rhode Island for the past two years while attending school and conducting research. He spent much of his youth exploring in nature and now studying Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. He is very passionate about the environment and improving the ways in which we educate the communities around us about the importance of healthy natural ecosystems. "I am very excited to be spending my summer at the Whitefish Lake Institute as I will be able to be a part of a unique and special organization that is making a genuine contribution to society, science, and our planet." And we are very excited to have Zach on the team!

## AIS Program Information / Update

The *Our Lake, Our Future: Whitefish Aquatic Invasive Species Management Program* opened Watercraft Inspection Stations and the Prevention & Decontamination Station on May 1. The hours this season are:

### Whitefish City Beach Watercraft Inspection Station

May & September 6:00 AM – 9:00 PM\*

June thru August 6:00 AM – 10:00 PM

\*Extended hours Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends

### Whitefish Lake State Park Watercraft Inspection Station

May thru September 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM

### Whitefish Prevention & Decontamination Station

May & September 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM\*

June thru August 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM

\*Closes 8:00 PM Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends.

The Prevention & Decontamination Station has moved to the west side of Hwy 93, across from Don "K" Chevrolet just north of JP Road.

Please join us in protecting Whitefish Lake and its surrounding waterbodies from aquatic invasive species (AIS) by understanding the risk of AIS, following *Clean.Drain.Dry* protocols, and participating in the On-line Self-Certification program for Non-Motorized, Hand-Launched watercraft. More information on our website at [www.whitefishlake.org](http://www.whitefishlake.org).

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## Northwest Montana Lakes Volunteer Monitoring Network (NWMTLVMN) Update

The Northwest Montana Lakes Volunteer Monitoring Network (NWMTLVMN) 2018 spring training was held on Saturday, May 5, 2018 from 10:00am-12:00pm, at City Beach in Whitefish. Volunteers received training and equipment to assist them in data collection on their chosen lakes which will begin late spring/early summer. Volunteers are asked to monitor their lake(s) twice monthly, weather permitting, and may spend one day with NWMTLVMN staff collecting water chemistry data. To learn more, visit [www.nwmtlvmn.org](http://www.nwmtlvmn.org). If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, or you know someone who is, contact the Whitefish Lake Institute. Volunteers are still needed for the following lakes:

Big Therriault Lake—Lincoln County, Dollar Lake—Flathead County, Fish Lake—Flathead County, Skyles Lake—Flathead County, Smith Lake—Flathead County, Upper Whitefish Lake—Flathead County.

## Spring Photos



*New lake volunteers in the Northwest Montana Lakes Volunteer Monitoring Network and training staff from WLI paused for a photo during the May 5th training.*



*Cynthia Ingelfinger, WLI's Science & Education Coordinator, measures water quality conditions in Swift Creek near the Delrey Road Bridge.*



*Wildlife photos from the Averill's Viking Creek Wetland Preserve display a high degree of biodiversity, including this black bear.*



*Top end predators find secure habitat in the preserve, including this mountain lion as it stalks prey during the night hours.*



*WLI AIS Prevention & Decontamination Staff: Eleanor Gray, Justin Brewer, and Doug Huntley.*



*Russ Hartzel from Montana FWP provided hands-on watercraft decontamination training at Jesco Boat Center.*

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