

# HAYDEN LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION, INC.

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** **President Geoff Harvey**

As I write this message, the last rains of spring are winding down, while the stretches of warm clear weather are lengthening. The slopes surrounding the lake are a vibrant green with the spring flush of growth. The surest sign is the uptick in the number of vehicles with out-of-state license plates travelling the lake road. We are all looking forward to warmth of summer on the Lake.

The high water was not repeated this year, but the bank and property damage it caused last season triggered an appeal by the Association and action by the Kootenai County Commission. The Commission is considering an automatic no wake restriction on the Lake when the water level exceeds 39.5 feet on the gauge located at the Hayden Lake (formerly Tobler's) Marina. The restriction should limit bank and dock damage early in the season in high water years, but should be withdrawn well before Memorial Day when boating activity picks up on the Lake.

One cleanup project we have scheduled for nearly a year is already complete. Thanks to some Sheriff's work groups and especially the Coeur d'Alene Pathfinders Youth Group from the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Coeur d'Alene, the

Clark Ditch which drains the high water out of the Lake in the spring, was cleared of a large volume of debris and litter. More detail is available elsewhere in the newsletter.

The Hayden Lake Watershed Association is dedicated to the protection of the Lake and its special environment and the Association needs your assistance for the work that needs to be done - either financial or by volunteering. Since the Association operates only on donated funds, we are chronically underfunded. We rely heavily

on volunteers to advocate for the Lake or organize projects, but we also need financial assets to address those projects which require expenditure.

Among the services your donations help support is our part-time Lake Manager. The Lake Manager is our eyes and ears on the Lake, assuring that

homeowners have the proper information necessary to protect the Lake. Your funding also helps us to implement some projects and lake education efforts, but the Association simply cannot adequately carry out all the tasks necessary for lake protection.

For this reason, the Association advocated strongly for the reactivation of the Watershed Improvement District. The District has appointed directors and those directors and volunteers are setting the foundation for the operation of this District. The District that will have sufficient funding

**Annual dues are now due in full.** Starting in 2013 the Hayden Lake Watershed Association has moved to a calendar year dues model. We appreciate your support and look forward to your renewal for 2013. Look for the PayPal button on the website to make paying your dues easy and convenient!  
[www.haydenlakewatershedassociation.com](http://www.haydenlakewatershedassociation.com)

to operate those services and projects necessary to protect the Lake and the watershed that feeds the Lake. With the District in place, all landowners will pay a small but fair fee, roughly equivalent to the price of three Lattes.

Threats to health and safety seem to lurk in certain areas of the Lake and rear their heads on occasion. Floating docks and debris were an issue in the past. Routine dock and debris clean-up has addressed the threat to navigation in large part. Aquatic weeds and especially Eurasian milfoil continue to be problems in the north arm and also in some of the shallow bays. The State of Idaho and some private groups are addressing the aquatic weeds issues. The most recent issue is blue-green algae blooms that occur most often in the north arm of the Lake and possibly in some shallow bays as well. Such blooms are of great concern because these algae are capable of producing dangerous toxins. Blue-green algae blooms and the toxins these can produce are discussed in the greater detail later in the newsletter.

## **LAKE MANAGER'S REPORT**

**By Todd Walker**

It was a good winter for the lake. There was a lower snowpack in the mountains than psat years and spring melt went at a good pace. The water is already receding to normal levels early this year. Last years milfoil treatment went well and there will be more this year. Unfortunately the water levels will encourage stronger milfoil growth. I will be helping with the barrier permits again this year so if you wish to control the milfoil around your docks with barriers please give me a call at 208-771-0525 or use our [hlwa@imaxmail.net](mailto:hlwa@imaxmail.net) e-mail address. It will be dock clean-up time soon and we expect this to occur in late June. Camp Mivoden will be helping again this year. The date will be posted on the

website please check the website for more information. Anyone with a boat and time that would like to help would be appreciated to help ferry docks to the camp.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**By Chris Meyer**

The new HLWA web presence continues to be well received by our membership. To avoid the clutter in your inbox, the agendas and minutes from board meetings are now posted online rather than e-mailed to the membership. Please let us know if this is the right level of communication, or if you would like to hear more from us to stay involved.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**by Gloria Lund**

'Spring is finally here' – which means Summer is right around the corner. With Summer comes boats on the lake, new docks or dock repairs, building permits being issued by the County, a Lake Clean-Up Day in June, and who knows how many phone calls to Todd for help. All of which brings me to the point of this article! HLWA has only enough money left in its bank account to be able to continue paying Todd for his many helpful services through May and part of June. The dues have been very slow coming in this year. Listed below are the 'angels' who have kept us afloat so far. If your name is NOT listed won't you please consider sending in a check for dues for 2013 or even a donation to help keep us going! I'd love to be able to include you on our list of 'Hayden Lake Angels' in the next newsletter.

Janice & Brad Baldwin  
Mary & Ward Paine  
Connie & Jim Frank  
Bonnie & Pat Parden  
Donna & Geoff Harvey  
Mary & Paul Quesnell  
Renee & Chris Heath  
Linda & Clark Richards  
Gloria & Pat Lund

Mary Lou Johnson  
Barb & Will Neal  
Patsy & Larry Small  
Margaret & Larry O'Leary  
Karen & Merlin Thykeson  
Jennifer & Don Vogt

This amounts to 15 households who have contributed to HLWA for 2013, out of approximately 280 who are receiving this newsletter. Please help us continue the good work of the Hayden Lake Watershed Association by sending in your dues today!

### **CLARK DITCH CLEANUP** **By Geoff Harvey**

Over the years, the Hayden Lake Watershed Association (HLWA) has sponsored projects at various levels of organization. From a rather massive dock and litter clean up on a substantial segment of the south, west, and north shores, to a more modest litter and dock removal on specific bays, to planting riparian plants for the US Forest Service along Hayden Creek, to removal of debris from the Hayden Creek Shooting Range, work has been completed to remove hazards and litter to better the quality of our lake environment. One area that has interested the Association is not in the Lake's watershed, but the ditch, known as the Clark Ditch, where water spills from the Lake and subsequently seeps into the earth to recharge the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer.

The ditch is at least rumored to be the remains of an effort of F. Lewis Clark, the builder of the Clark House, to build a canal between Hayden and Coeur d'Alene Lakes. The project was terminated by Clark's disappearance in California in 1914. The

Post Falls Irrigation District used the ditch to convey irrigation water to a pump station and pipe that carried the water across the prairie to fields north of Post Falls. With the termination of the irrigation operation, the ditch, which is the lowest point below the lake, receives the first spill water and infiltrates it to the aquifer.

Since the ditch flanks East Hayden Lake Road for a quarter mile, it is unfortunately the recipient of litter thoughtlessly discarded from passing motorists or from users of the south end of the dike. In ignorance, these folks are discarding their trash into a primary infiltration gallery for the water entering the primary domestic drinking

water source for most of the people in the Coeur d'Alene-Spokane Corridor and beyond.

The Association's Lake Manager has managed several work crews to remove the waste from the ditch in the past years. The work made some improvement. On March 12, 2013, board member,

Joe Threadgill coordinated an effort by the Coeur d'Alene Pathfinders Youth Group to remove waste from the ditch and adjacent road right of way. Easily 35 full bags and at least four tires and a road sign were gathered and properly disposed of, although not all the ditch was covered. The Association extends our appreciation to the Coeur d'Alene Pathfinders Youth Group and to Joe Threadgill for organizing the work. Now the task would be complete if only we could only dissuade those traveling around our lake from littering into this key feature that infiltrates water to the aquifer.

**New Board Members Needed!**  
The HLWA Board of Directors currently has two board positions open. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering your time to help protect Hayden Lake please contact us at [HLWA@imaxmail.net](mailto:HLWA@imaxmail.net) We appreciate your support!

## **THE HAYDEN LAKE WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

**By Geoff Harvey**

The Hayden Lake Watershed Improvement Association has sought to maintain and improve the quality of both Hayden Lake and its environment. The Association has sponsored and sought funds for several projects on a voluntary basis. Resources and manpower have always been an impediment to the Association's goal. The Association has sought to partner with various agencies and districts. However, protection of the Lake and its environment is not specifically the mission of any agency and never specifically in any of their budgets. The Association agreed a long time ago that if our Lake and its environment are to be protected, we landowners around the Lake who have the largest stake in the Lake and Lake's watershed will have to support the necessary work to maintain and/or improve the Lake and its environs. The Association sought a fair way to transfer the cost as equitably as possible to the landowners. The Association found a Watershed Improvement District (HLWID) had been created around the lake in the 1960s and that it still existed. The District met our specifications as a local governing mechanism.

Many of you likely recall that the Association forwarded a petition to the Governor's office signed by many Hayden Lake residents asking that he appoint new directors to the District. The Governor obliged with the appointment of two directors with the request that they appoint the third. The third was appointed and the District's directors, with the help of others, began the organizational work of understanding the District's authority and obligations, understanding its boundaries and putting together a list of projects that the directors and others believe are necessary to protect water quality, manage phosphorus input, support a lake manager, and manage lake problems associated with all our uses of the Lake. The District is also exploring how it can work with other governing bodies, agencies, and districts to partner in problem solutions. The District is formulating the costs into a fee levy that will be put before constituents for a vote.

To keep informed on the HLWID, be on the lookout for the newsletter to be sent out by the District, and the announcement of its web page which will be its primary vehicle to inform the public on a regular basis of the latest news concerning the District's activities.

**Do you have a new neighbor near where you live on the lake? Please encourage them to visit our website to find out more about the Hayden Lake Watershed Association and become new members!**

**[www.haydenlakewatershedassociation.com](http://www.haydenlakewatershedassociation.com)**

*Are you still getting this newsletter in the traditional mail? Please help us save your precious dues money and get the newsletter via e-mail! Send your e-mail address to [HLWA@imaxmail.net](mailto:HLWA@imaxmail.net) and we'll add you to our digital distribution list. Thanks!*