



# LakeFront

Quarterly Newsletter of the Whitefish Lake Institute

Summer 2011

## Whitefish Wine Auction Successful Fundraiser for Water Quality

Over 350 people enjoyed two evenings of Whitefish Wine Auction events at The Lodge at Whitefish Lake on July 21 & 22. Thursday evening guests enjoyed tasting fine and unusual wines from numerous vineyards and local wine distributors under the Lakeside Tent at The Lodge.

Guests were treated to visiting winery manager Axel Schug from Schug Carneros Estates in Sonoma and Muriel Kenyon from Otis Kenyon Wine in Walla Walla. Wine expert and Latitude 48 manager Raymond Dickenson was onsite to pour wines from the Foley Family Wines collection. Montanan distributors Cork Works Wine Company, Fun Beverage, Inc., Georges

Distributing, Intermountain Beverage, and wine broker Young's Market were all on hand with interesting wines and information to share with the approximately 135 guests.

The Whitefish Youth String Quartet provided delightful background music throughout the evening. A lively raffle for a chance to win from an excellent selection of raffle items took place with Lieutenant Governor Candidate Ryan Zinke drawing the winning tickets. Sommelier Dan Vogel presented an intriguing outdoor class on organic wines, describing the aromas, flavors, and characteristics of a variety of wines and defining the *terroir* from which they came.

Friday night was a fun-filled and elegant community event attended by around 225 people. During cocktail hour, guests had the opportunity to meet personally with painters Robert Marceau and Mark Ogle and view their to-be-auctioned paintings prior to the auction. All Live, Silent, and Raffle items were available for viewing during the cocktail hour. *(continued on page 2)*



225 guests filled the room for the Live Auction and four course dinner paired with Foley Family Wines on Friday night.

## IN THIS ISSUE...

2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Whitefish Wine Auction....	1
Road Scholars Visit Whitefish.....	3
Wine Auction Candid Photos.....	4
Membership.....	5
Become a Member.....	6



**Whitefish Lake**  
**INSTITUTE**

*Protecting and improving the  
Whitefish, Montana area  
lake resources*

**Whitefish Lake Institute**  
635 Denver Street  
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 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**

Greg Lane, *President*  
Karen Reeves, *Vice President*  
Charlie Abell, *Secretary/Treasurer*  
John Muhlfeld, *City Council Liaison*  
Susan Fletcher  
Greg Gunderson  
Sharon Morrison  
Nancy Svennungsen  
Dan Weinberg

### **Science Advisory Committee**

Karin Hilding  
Tony Nelson  
Dick Solberg  
Brian Sugden  
Wayne Svee  
John Wachsmuth

### **Citizens Advisory Committee**

Katie Callahan  
Cindy LaChance  
Sue Moll  
Linda Sawtelle

### **Staff**

Mike Koopal— Executive Director  
Lori Curtis— Science & Education Director  
Josh Gubits— Environmental Scientist  
Chris Ruffatto— Environmental Scientist

*LakeFront* is published quarterly by the Whitefish Lake Institute.

### ***Mike Koopal, Editor***

printed on recycled paper  
logo design by Carbery Creative

Cover Photo:  
*Lonely chairs next to Whitefish Lake after the Thursday night wine tasting.*

*(Wine Auction continued from page 1)...*

The 14 Silent Auction Lots ranged from food and wine to golf, art to specialty clothing, and field trips for hikers and anglers. The increasingly popular Raffle included photographic works, locally made products, health and beauty services, restaurant coupons, fishing trips, and theater events.

On Friday night, Executive Director Mike Koopal took the stage to thank the more than 50 businesses that donated to the event and the many volunteers that helped bring it to fruition. Key to the Wine Auction's success is the Featured Winery—this year Foley Family Wines. In addition to providing wines for pairing with the sumptuous and creatively prepared family-style four-course dinner, they provided cocktail hour wines, tasting wines for Thursday evening, and four extraordinary Live Auction Lots. Bill Foley and Greg Lane were recognized for their generous contributions during the events. The mother/daughter duo of Margaret Murdock and Sharlot Battin were awarded the 2011 Whitefish Lake Institute Stewardship Award under the category of *Lifetime Achievement* for their work in protecting and managing 250 acres of wetland habitat near the shores of Whitefish Lake.

BigValleyRadio.com personality Ross Strauser emceed the event with his inimitable style and humor for the second straight year. Guests enjoyed the exciting and entertaining Live Auction with auctioneer Marc Vesar—also back for the second year—who sought raised paddles for 22 auction lots that included specialty wines, exciting adventures, art, recreational passes and unique specialty items. Helping him out as spotter this year was Whitefish Mayor Mike Jenson who had his hands full with an active bidding audience.

The lovely ladies of the WLI Citizens Advisory Committee put an enormous effort into event planning, hand-making the clay-fired WLI logo wine stoppers, decorating and setting up for the event, and doing the “Vanna White” walk with the Live Auction items.

Proceeds from the event will go towards management of the WLI owned and managed Averill's Viking Creek Wetland Preserve, a 30-acre parcel that was gifted to WLI in 2009 by the Averill family. In particular, funds from this years event will focus on Phase II construction of an interpretive nature trail in the wetlands. In addition, funds will go towards scientific and educational programs. -LC



*New to the wine auction this year was Musical Chairs in which some feisty folks entertained the crowd shaking their booties and trying to land a seat before any of their opponents.*

## Nationwide “Road Scholars” Learn About Whitefish

In our Spring newsletter, we talked about Whitefish Lake Institute’s unique relationship with the Black Hills Educational Institute to provide a local coordinator for the Glacier and Waterton Parks Road Scholar/Elderhostel trips. We have since organized and hosted 14 weeklong programs taking folks—average age of 72—into the parks for educational field tours. As part of the program, WLI hosts a three-hour Friday morning class. Each week 40 “Students” are brought by coach from their home-base at Whitefish Mountain Resort to The Lodge at Whitefish Lake where they are treated to a four-part class in Whitefish Lake Ecology.

First on the agenda, Executive Director Mike Koopal provides a classroom presentation that introduces the group to a timeline of the Whitefish Lake area, its rich geologic history, including the many glacial episodes that formed the Flathead Valley region, and the short timeframe since the settlement of the area. He paints a picture of the unique characteristics of the Whitefish Lake watershed and discusses the complex food web of the lake. His discussion and visual aids include fish species—both native and introduced—predator and prey relationships, and the changing dynamics of the lake food web. The historical and current physical, biological, and chemical threats to the lake are revealed, as are some of the actions being taken by WLI and other groups to mitigate those threats.

After the entertaining and educational presentation, the group is split in two. Half the group joins Mike at the edge of Whitefish Lake for an informative Fish Dissection class. He discusses not only the parts of a fish and how they function, but also the life history of the fish.



*WLI director Mike Koopal conducts a fish dissection for Road Scholar participants along the shores of Whitefish Lake.*



*WLI Environmental Scientist Josh Gubits aka “The Bug Guy” presents a hands-on experience in picking out and identifying bugs from Viking Creek.*

The other half of the group joins Environmental Scientist Josh Gubits for an entertaining Bug Class, complete with the identification of live bugs displayed in trays that were freshly captured from Viking Creek. The group even participates in a little “bug dance.” The groups switch so that all students have an opportunity to participate in both programs.

The students are then reunited for part four, a walk across the street from The Lodge to the Averill’s Viking Creek Wetland Preserve for a view of the wetland area that WLI owns and manages. Included in the walk is the story of the restoration efforts currently underway in the wetlands by WLI and other project partners.

In all, the group leaves with a newfound knowledge of Whitefish Lake ecology and general water quality issues, an introduction to wetland dynamics, and an appreciation for the people and places that make up the Whitefish Lake Watershed.

After the class, Road Scholar participants are taken by coach to downtown Whitefish where they have a choice of eateries for lunch, and a couple of hours to shop in our incredibly diverse establishments. -LC

~Wine Auction Candid Photos~



Axel Schug from Schug Carneros Winery in Sonoma, and Muriel Kenyon from Otis Kenyon Winery in Walla Walla were on hand to pour wines Thursday night.



The Whitefish Wine Auction Thursday night tasting is a great venue for friends to reconnect with Whitefish Lake serving as a beautiful backdrop.



Stephanie Sunshine reacts to winning one of the raffle items Thursday night. This year, patrons could purchase a Thursday night only ticket if they couldn't attend Friday.



Montana Lieutenant Governor candidate Ryan Zinke drew the winning raffle tickets on Thursday night.



(L-R) Auction Spotter Mayor Mike Jenson, Auctioneer Marc Vessar and Emcee Ross Strauser ran the live auction.



Director Mike Koopal presented the 2011 WLI Stewardship Award to Sharlot Battin and her mother, Margaret Murdock.



Whitefish Wine Auction Sommelier Dan Vogel poured wines and described each wine auction lot Friday night.



Whitefish were surfacing during the lively auction bidding.



WLI Citizen's Advisory Committee member Cindy LaChance displayed one of the wine auction lots.

The Whitefish Wine Auction has been labeled **"Montana's Premier Wine Event"** by the major wine distributors in Montana. Look for an article about the wine auction in the October 15<sup>th</sup> Issue of 406 Woman.



**SAVE THE DATE- July 26-27, 2012** [www.whitefishwineauction.org](http://www.whitefishwineauction.org)  
Tickets to the Whitefish Wine Auction have sold out both years. Ensure your participation at next years event by purchasing tickets early.

## 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  
 Greg & Susan Fletcher - Whitefish, MT  
 Bill Foley - Whitefish, MT  
 Bill & Ann Jones - Whitefish, MT  
 LaChance Builders, Inc., Tom LaChance - Whitefish, MT  
 Greg Lane - Whitefish, MT  
 River Design Group, John Muhlfeld - Whitefish, MT  
 Tom & Teresa Quinn - Whitefish, MT  
 Joseph & Beverly Raudabaugh - Lake Forest, IL  
 Scott & Cindy Schmid - Portland, OR  
 Mike & Marie Shaw - Whitefish, MT  
 InvesTech Research, Jim & Lisa Stack - Whitefish, MT  
 Plum Creek- Columbia Falls, MT  
 Don & Ruth Taylor  
 Dan Weinberg - Whitefish, MT  
 Steve & Ardy Whisler - Whitefish, MT

**Lake Visionary (\$500)**

Dick & Sandra Boyce - Portola Valley, CA  
 Mark & Connie Cowett - Bozeman, MT  
 Barbara Greene - Calgary, AB  
 Ruth Leonard - 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  
 River Design Group- Whitefish, MT  
 Peter & Christine Stanley - Whitefish, MT  
 Bill & Dori Walton - Jacksonville, FL  
 Whitefish Credit Union, Jim Kenyon - Whitefish, MT

**Lake Benefactor (\$250)**

Charlie & Susan Abell - Whitefish, MT  
 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  
 Charles & Teresa Grenier - Whitefish, MT  
 Les and Kay Hardy - Whitefish, MT  
 Gene Hedman - Whitefish, MT  
 JoAnna Hoefle - Billings, MT  
 Harold & Marie Lockhart - Whitefish, MT  
 Joseph & Cora Belle Montalban - Whitefish, MT  
 Marla Shaw - Dallas, TX  
 Dick & Jane Solberg - Whitefish, MT  
 Nancy & Mark Svennungsen - Whitefish, MT  
 Third Steet Market, Ric Blair - Whitefish, MT  
 Watershed Consulting, LLC, Marnie Criley - Missoula, MT  
 Ben & Roberta Whitten - Whitefish, MT

**Lake Leader (\$100)**

Anonymous  
 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  
 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  
 Forestration, Inc., Greg Gunderson - Whitefish, MT  
 OTB Designworks, LLC, Chuck Gailey - Whitefish, MT  
 Getter Properties, William Getter - Sheridan, WY  
 Kerry Gubits- Littleton, CO  
 Dewey & Sandra Hartman - Whitefish, MT

Ron Hauf - Whitefish, MT  
 Carl Hulick - Pasadena, CA  
 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 & Betty Koopal - Johnston, IA  
 Nancy Krause & Dan Handlin - Marion, MT  
 Sue & Joe Malletta - Whitefish, MT  
 David McMullin & Jennifer Jones - Woodside, CA  
 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 & Dot Ricker - Whitefish, MT  
 Bill & Linda Sawtelle - Whitefish, MT  
 Brad & Susan Seaman - Kalispell, MT  
 Soroptimists International of Whitefish, - 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  
 Pat & Deborah Turski - Madison, WI  
 Ed & Susan Walters - Albuquerque, NM  
 Whitefish Lake Golf Club, - Whitefish, MT  
 Nancy Woodruff - Whitefish, MT  
 Kari Zirkle - Los Angeles, CA

**Lake Sponsor (\$40)**

Anonymous  
 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  
 Walt & Lori Curtis - 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  
 Friends of Wisconsin Avenue Wetlands- Whitefish, MT  
 Peter Graziano - Whitefish, MT  
 Bill & Judy Halama - Whitefish, MT  
 Will Hammerquist - Whitefish, MT  
 Donald & 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  
 Chuck Stearns - Whitefish, MT  
 Mike & Bonnie Streeter - Whitefish, MT  
 SunCrest Homeowners, - Whitefish, MT  
 Brith Sutherland - Kalispell, MT  
 Steve Thompson - Whitefish, MT  
 David & Jeannine Trousdale - Whitefish, MT  
 Tony & Kim Vasquez - Whitefish, MT  
 Paul & Colleen Verdon - Colfax, WI  
 Carol Zachary - Eureka, MT

**Sign Me Up! Please enroll my membership in the Whitefish Lake Institute.**

My check is enclosed

Visa       Mastercard

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expires: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please check your **Annual Membership** category:

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

**Special Giving**

- Endowment Fund (\$500 +)
- Frank Morrison, Jr. Scholarship Fund

*Your Contribution is 100% tax-deductible.  
501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation*

Whitefish Lake Institute · 635 Denver Street · Whitefish, MT 59937

**Visit us at [www.whitefishlake.org](http://www.whitefishlake.org)**

635 Denver Street  
Whitefish, MT 59937

