



Whitefish Lake Institute Requests Stewardship Award Nominations

Everyone agrees that water quality is an important issue, now for the first time in Whitefish, water quality stewards will have the chance to be formally recognized.

The Whitefish Lake Institute is pleased to announce the first annual Whitefish Lake Institute Stewardship Award. The award recognizes individuals or groups that took extraordinary measures to protect water quality in the Whitefish area in 2008.

Awards will fall in the following categories:

- Water quality project
- Habitat protection
- Green building and native landscaping
- Environmental education
- Lifetime achievement

Examples for a water quality project include: erosion control, stormwater runoff reduction and treatment, revegetation of riparian areas, and improved treatment of septic or sewage effluent. Habitat protection includes conservation easements, open space preservation, land gifting, and parkland dedication.

Green building techniques include creative recycling of materials, general layout and implementation. Native landscaping can highlight rain gardens, efficient use of native vegetation to curtail erosion and design that combines function

and beauty. Environmental education includes acts that help foster continued stewardship of aquatic resources.

Individuals of all ages are eligible. Groups include businesses, developers, homeowner associations, government agencies, school districts and clubs. Nominations are due November 30th. Winners and honorable mentions will receive recognition in a January 2009 issue of the Whitefish Pilot.

Nomination forms are found on page 2 of this issue of *LakeFront*, or on-line at www.whitefishlake.org. For any questions about project eligibility, please contact the Whitefish Lake Institute at 862-4327.

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Whitefish Lake Institute
 635 Denver Street
 Whitefish, MT 59937

Voice: (406) 862-4327
 Fax: (406) 862-4341
 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.

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Mike Koopal, Editor

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 Looking over the Viking Creek Wetland
 treetops towards Whitefish Lake
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Whitefish Lake Institute Stewardship Award
Nomination Form

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.

Award winners will be presented with a plaque by the Whitefish Lake Institute. Award winners and honorable mentions will also be shown in a full page display in the Whitefish Pilot in January of each year.

Nomination forms are due by November 30th. Winners will be informed in December.

Your name: _____
 Your address: _____
 Your phone number: _____
 Your email: _____

(Your name and contact information will remain anonymous. The Whitefish Lake Institute may contact you for additional information.)

Category of your nomination (please circle):

- Individual
- Group (business, developer, homeowners association, government agency, school districts, or clubs.)
- Lifetime achievement

Name of your nominee _____

Address of your nominee (if known): _____

Phone number of nominee (if known): _____

Email of nominee (if known): _____

How has the nominee demonstrated stewardship in the form of a specific project or educational effort that has benefited the water quality of the Whitefish area? (Please include on a separate sheet of paper)

Do you have, or are photos available for the project? Y N

Please return completed form to:
 Whitefish Lake Institute
 635 Denver Street
 Whitefish, MT 59937

Call WLI at 862-4327 with any questions about the award.

Fall Photos



Chris Ruffatto demonstrates to Whitefish Project FREEFLOW students how lake data is stored in a hand held computer.



Former project FREEFLOW student David Harrison, a college senior, spent a November day assisting the sampling effort on Tally Lake. His brother Mike, a college freshman, volunteered in 2007.



Whitefish second graders got a closer look at a spotted frog during the annual Pond Unit presentation given by Mike Koopal. In fourth grade, they'll take part in a fish dissection.



Whitefish Project FREEFLOW students take a closer look at zooplankton just collected from Whitefish Lake. The students were introduced to lake ecology and how lake data is collected .

Project FREEFLOW Update

Project FREEFLOW is designed to raise a generation that understands what clean water is and to promote water quality in local streams, rivers and lakes. This fall has been a busy time for the FREEFLOW program at Whitefish High School. There are forty students in the program this year so the fall work was held over two days. During the cool hours of the morning the group inspected some of the work they did on a stream restoration project one year ago on the Voerman's Ranch. The willows cuttings collected by the group were provided to River Design Group for bank stabilization. The willows appeared to have taken very well and their root mass should offer good bank stability. During the next part of the field trip students helped Greg Gunderson and David Noftsinger of Forestration Inc. Forestration supplied the plants, guidance and tools and the students contributed the labor to reclaim the new footbridge area on the Whitefish River at Riverside Park. Students learned first-hand about the benefits of native plants, the invasion of noxious weeds (particularly burdock) and the hands on part of conservation work. Their enthusiasm was impressive. The students planted forty small dogwoods, eight large aspens, and bagged about one hundred burdock plants.

Just before leaving the site students took dissolved oxygen readings in the storm water pond at Riverside Park. The pond experienced a vigorous algae bloom last summer. The discussion revolved around the eutrophication of the pond presumably due the accumulation of nutrients conveyed to the pond from the stormwater system that drains city streets, alleys and yards, etc. The pond offered a great place to reinforce concepts that students learned on Whitefish Lake while aboard the Whitefish Lake Institute re



FREEFLOW students plant an aspen by the Whitefish River.



Project FREEFLOW at Haskill Creek.

search vessel.

After a brief lunch, the group headed out for Haskill Creek for one of their three trips per year to collect chemical, physical and biological data. The students collect macroinvertebrates, calculate the stream flow, determine nutrient levels, and analyze bedload movement. What used to take the group four to six hours, students now complete in about two hours. Their level of expertise and proficiency during monitoring sessions has increased dramatically.

In other FREEFLOW news, ten teachers from School District 44 completed an in-service on the Whitefish Lake Institute pontoon boat. They were introduced to equipment regularly used by WLI in sample collection including, the Hydrolab, Vandorn sampler, benthic dredge, secchi disk and turbidimeter. They were also exposed to basic principles of limnology, lakeshore land use and a lengthy discussion on the use of Whitefish Lake as a domestic water source. The in-service, held on two different evenings, was very well received and will be offered by School District 44 again next year. -CR

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 Contact us at 862-4327 or info@whitefishlake.org if you
 have a change of address.*

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