



LakeFront

Quarterly Newsletter of the Whitefish Lake Institute

Fall 2010

Flathead Watershed Sourcebook

The colorful, 260-page *Flathead Watershed Sourcebook: A Guide to an Extraordinary Place* is now available to the public.

Viewed from a bioregional perspective, the book discusses the many people and systems that make up the Flathead Watershed—one of the most biologically intact ecosystems in North America.

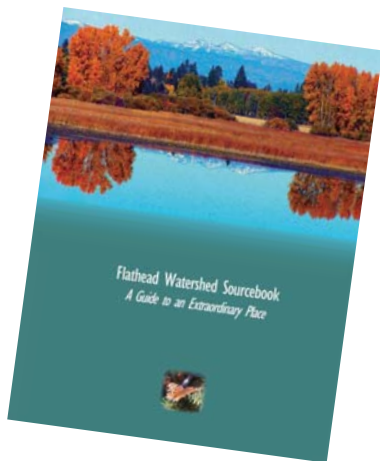
The book – and its companion website www.flatheadwatershed.org– where the entire book is displayed, is the product of the Flathead Community of Resource Educators (CORE). It was sponsored by: the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem Education Consortium, Flathead Audubon, Flathead Basin Commission, Flathead Conservation District, Flathead Lakers, Flathead National Forest, and the Whitefish Lake Institute.

The book weaves science and art, nature and human nature into an appealing and informative publication. It describes the Flathead Watershed including its natural history, climate, biodiversity, cultural history, town profiles, water bodies, water usage and quality, influences and protections, land ownership and management, agricultural

production, economics, and watershed conservation and education resources.

More specifically the book includes detailed information on:

- An overview of the human history, both native and European, cultures of the Flathead.
- Descriptions of the unique natural history of the region's geology and plant and animal life.
- Explanation of land ownership patterns, land management and resource management.
- Details of the economy, food and natural resource production. (*continued on page 4*)



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Whitefish Lake
INSTITUTE

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

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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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Aerial View of Whitefish Lake looking Northwest

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Water Steward Remembered

Bill Leonard passed away peacefully at his home in Whitefish on October 21, 2010 with his family by his side.

Bill served as WLI board member from 2007 until his death. Throughout his life, Bill loved the outdoors which passed from his father and he, in turn, passed onto his sons. Hunting, fishing and camping were Bill's passions.

Bill retired from three careers-the Army, the railroad, and the Midwest Assistance Program, a non-profit organization that travels to rural communities and helps them set up and finance water and sewer systems.

In 1982, Bill spearheaded community efforts to establish the Whitefish County Water and Sewer District, the public entity that sponsors water quality projects for the area. Voters approved creating the district with a 4-1 vote.

Two years later, Bill helped get funding for the first water quality study of Whitefish Lake. For Bill, the need for solid science and research were the driving force behind the project.

Bill's push for research on Whitefish Lake stemmed from his own personal observations. He was concerned that the lake was degrading before his eyes. He recalled crystal-clear waters years ago with colored rocks visible in 8-10 feet deep, that started fading to gray-green scum. Bill felt that the lake was going downhill and he saw the need for establishing a baseline.

Bill advocated for a second water quality assessment, which was completed in 2003. His tireless efforts behind the scenes, writing and administering grants and serving on the Whitefish Water and Sewer District since its inception, and serving on the WLI board, made him a true water quality steward for the community. His passion for the resource and leadership will truly be missed.



In 2009, Bill received the WLI Stewardship Award (Lifetime Achievement) from director Mike Koopal

Stewardship Award Nominations

The Whitefish Lake Institute is looking for people, businesses and organizations like Bill, 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.

To nominate an individual, business, or group, go to the WLI homepage www.whitefishlake.org and click on the Stewardship Award icon. This year, the nomination deadline has been extended to January 15th. Please help us in recognizing those that help keep our water clean.

WLI Receives Doris Schumm Community Spirit Award

As many of you know, long time Whitefish resident and lake advocate Doris Schumm passed away last winter after a long illness. Throughout the endeavor Doris remained positive, healthy in appearance and met everyone with the smile and enthusiasm that we will all remember. Even during the last few years, Doris seemed to get younger each and every day.

We're confident that she would want to be remembered kayaking and boating on the lake, guarding "her" community tennis courts, coaching tennis to countless young people, staying close to her friends, taking care of her flowers and trees, and always looking out for things in the neighborhood.

Everyone loved and respected Doris. When she spoke it was always about something that mattered. Her commitment to the common good and sense of community never wavered. When people had trouble making decisions they could always ask "What would Doris do?" Her wisdom and commitment to doing the appropriate thing will always point us in the right direction.

Doris was active in the Whitefish Community Foundation and made sure that she was able to give well beyond her tenure. It was in this capacity that her daughter Surrey wanted to present this award, in memory of her mother, to the Whitefish lake Institute. We could not be more honored. The award was a surprise and accepted with the utmost humility. We are proud to be recognized by such wonderful individuals.

Thanks to all those associated with the Whitefish Community Foundation, Surrey and Steve Schumm, Will Brewster and above all, thank you Doris for being a part of our lives.

In 2010, WLI also received Whitefish Community Foundation Donor Advised Grants from the **Tom and Teresa Quinn Fund**, the **Kramer Family Fund** and the **Whitefish Mountain Resort Fund**.

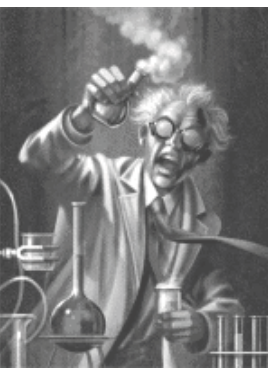
To learn more about the Whitefish Community Foundation, and to support their generous leadership in assisting local non-profits, go to www.whitefishcommunityfoundation.org. -CR & MK



Doris Schumm enjoying Whitefish Lake.

WLI Job Opening- Environmental Scientist

The Whitefish Lake Institute in partnership with Montana FWP, and the Flathead Basin Commission is seeking a full-time environmental scientist. This position will have dual responsibilities with 2/3 time as coordinator of the Northwest Montana Lakes Volunteer Network and 1/3 time as WLI staff scientist.



The position is responsible for all aspects of coordinating the Northwest Montana Lakes Volunteer Monitoring Network (NWMTLVN) (2/3 time). In 2010, NWMTLVN was developed to merge two existing programs; FBC Volunteer Monitoring Program and the WLI/FWP Whitefish to Eureka Lake Volunteer Monitoring Program. Position will coordinate and train local volunteer monitors, collect field data, administer website and manage database, interpret data and supply an annual program report. Position will also research and write small grants.

The position will also be the lead field scientist for WLI (1/3 time). Position will collect field data for Whitefish Lake tributaries, Whitefish Lake, Tally Lake, Blanchard Lake, Swan Lake, and atmospheric bulk loading. Position will work with WLI ED to interpret and report data to the public. Position will also be required to fulfill the many miscellaneous tasks associated with the operations of a small non-profit corporation.

A bachelor's degree with a major in the environmental sciences or a related field, an understanding of aquatic ecosystems, and field experience in water quality data collection is desired. Excellent communication skills and computer proficiency are required.

For a detailed job description, please visit www.whitefishlake.org or www.nwmtlvn.org. Closing date is December 15, 2010.

Pontoon Boat Donated to WLI

WLI recently acquired a pontoon boat thanks to an anonymous donation. The pontoon boat will replace WLI's original pontoon boat donated by Bill and Ruth Leonard in 2005. The old boat was perfect for our research on the lake but over the course of five field seasons of use, it was in constant need of maintenance including multiple welds to keep the pontoons water tight. The new pontoon boat is 24 feet, two feet longer than the old boat.

The E-tech motor, partially funded via a Whitefish Community Foundation Grant will be swapped from the old boat to the new boat thanks to the generosity of Jim Berry's expertise. At that point, Chris Ruffatto will engage the help of industrial arts students from the high school to retrofit the new boat with the needed specialized infrastructure that we had on the old boat.

The new boat also allows for expanded seating that will enhance the lake experience during our outings with Whitefish High School Project FEEFLOW students, during Whitefish School District Teacher In-Service Training Sessions, and for outings with other small groups.



Chris Ruffatto on board WLI's "new" pontoon boat

(Sourcebook con't from page 1)

In addition to the central content, it includes over 50 "Watershed Perspectives," short individually contributed vignettes that help tell the story of the watershed from a variety of viewpoints. It is a "must have" book for long-time residents as well as new community members and visitors. And it is an essential sourcebook for the development of learning tools by Flathead Watershed resource educators. The book was written by Lori Curtis, of Bigfork, as part of her post-graduate studies.

Funders of the project to date include: F. H. Stoltze Land & Lumber; Flathead Audubon Society; Flathead Basin Commission; Flathead Conservation District; Flathead County River Commission; Flathead Lakers; Flathead National Forest, Flathead County Resource Advisory Committee; Glacier Association; Mae and Mike Koopal; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Northwest Regional Resource Conservation & Development; River Design Group; The Sustainability Fund; and the Whitefish Lake Institute.



Flathead Watershed Sourcebook Steering Committee (L-R)- Robyn Steinkraus- Flathead Lakers, Patti Mason- Flathead Conservation District, Mike Koopal- Whitefish Lake Institute, Lori Curtis- Author, Lex Blood- Crown of the Continent Ecosystem Education Consortium, Nancy Zapotocki- Flathead Audubon Society, Teresa Wenum- Flathead National Forest. Not pictured; Caryn Miske- Flathead Basin Commission.

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