



LakeFront

Quarterly Newsletter of the Whitefish Lake Institute

Fall 2011

Eurasian Watermilfoil found in Beaver Lake

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM)—an aquatic invasive weed—was found in Beaver Lake near Whitefish on October 19th during a Department of Natural Resources & Conservation field trip. A lengthy lake survey was then conducted by Flathead Basin Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Workgroup consultant, Erik Hanson, and Whitefish Lake Institute environmental scientist Josh Gubits who together concluded the area covers at least 12 square feet near the boat dock. Positive identification was confirmed by Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks and the Montana Department of Agriculture.

Boat Ramp Closure & Clean-up Effort

The boat ramp at Beaver Lake has been closed in an effort to protect a spread of the weed on Beaver Lake and to other Northwest Montana Lakes. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks announced that the closure will remain in effect until EWM plants and floating fragments have been removed.

Eurasian Watermilfoil

EWM was introduced to North America from Europe and Asia, and is found over much of the United States. Lakes with EWM can experience steep declines in fisheries, dissolved oxygen depletion, decreases in property values and the loss of recreational use.

EWM reproduces successfully and very rapidly, making it a threat to any water body it invades. It forms dense mats of vegetation on the surface of the water, interfering with recreational activities such as fishing, swimming, and boating. Because its spring growth starts earlier than most native plants, it can stop sunlight from reaching native plants, causing the decline of native species. In the fall and late summer, the plant becomes brittle and breaks into fragments, which float across lakes, sinking and starting new plants. Plant pieces are easily

transported between water bodies by boats and fishing gear.

Once established, this plant is very expensive to control. Idaho has spent \$9 million dollars over the last several years controlling EWM in its waters. *(continued on page 2)*



EWM showing leaflet structure and characteristically square end.

IN THIS ISSUE...

EWM found in Beaver Lake.....	1
Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program... 	3
Fall Education Programs.....	3
WLI Receives WCF Grants.....	3
Reflections from Summer Intern.....	4
Membership.....	5
Become a Member.....	6



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
- John Wachsmuth

Citizens Advisory Committee

- Katie Callahan
- Cindy LaChance
- Sue Moll
- Linda Sawtelle
- Danielle Sutton

Staff

- Mike Koopal– Executive Director
- Lori Curtis- Science & Education Director
- Josh Gubits– Environmental Scientist
- Chris Ruffatto– Associate 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:
 Looking towards Big Mountain from
 Blanchard Lake

(EWM continued from page 1)
Halting the Spread

Recreationists are asked to help stop the spread of invasive species by always properly washing their boats and fishing equipment. Anyone who has fished or boated on Beaver Lake should clean their boats, equipment, and waders prior to entering another water body. If non-decontaminated equipment was taken from Beaver Lake to any other lake, please contact Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) at 406.444.2449 so those locations can be monitored. FWP has a decontamination station and a brochure listing approved carwashes.



EWM can easily reach nuisance levels under the right conditions.

A Threat to Whitefish Lake

The Whitefish Lake Institute and the Flathead Basin Aquatic Invasive Species Workgroup have not found any evidence of EWM in Whitefish Lake during routine surveys and after an extensive survey this fall. WLI is concerned about the proximity of the Beaver Lake EWM infestation to Whitefish Lake. All boat owners need to become familiar with this issue to prevent the spread of this weed.

Flathead Aquatic Invasive Species Workgroup

The mission of the Flathead Basin AIS Workgroup is to work locally to help prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species into the Flathead Basin, and to help contain, control and, where possible, eradicate the aquatic invasive species present in the Flathead Basin. Members include: City of Polson, Clark Fork Coalition, Clearwater Resource Council, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Flathead Basin Commission, Flathead Conservation District, Flathead County, Flathead County Weed District, Flathead Lakers, Flathead Lake Biological Station, Glacier National Park, Lake County, Missoula County/Missoula County Weed District, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Montana Department of Agriculture, Salish Kootenai College, Sanders County, Swan Lakers, US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, US Geological Survey, Whitefish Lake Institute, and select Flathead County legislators.

To report a suspected EWM or other AIS infestation, contact any of the following:
 Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (Region 1) 406.752.5501
 Whitefish Lake Institute 406.862.4327
 Flathead AIS Workgroup 406.437.1440
 Flathead Weed District 406.758.5800



**STOP AQUATIC
 HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
 Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

Thanks to all of the hardworking and dedicated volunteers, the Northwest Montana Lakes Volunteer Monitoring Network 2011 field season was a great success! Forty six volunteers throughout the region participated in water quality data collection on the forty two program lakes. Volunteers spent more than 800 hours in the field collecting water data and searching for aquatic invasive species.

The newest feature to the NWMTLVMN is the program website and online database. Over 270 data forms were submitted through the new website, and the public is using it to find information on aquatic invasive species. The program is a partnership between Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, the Flathead Basin Commission and WLI. Please contact WLI if you would like to get involved with the volunteer program. -JG



Volunteer Kim Corrette prepares for an outing on Bootjack Lake.

Fall Education Programs

As Lori and I fired up the WLI truck at 5:00 am we wondered where we would collect bugs for a presentation later that morning at Somers Elementary School. After some caffeine and a little deliberation, we decided our first stop for bug collection would be on the Flathead River. When we arrived, still dark and bitter cold, I reluctantly slid on the waders and crept into the river. I could just barely make out where my next step would be, and would have been totally lost if not for the headlights from the truck to help guide my way.

Lori and I did manage to get quite the assortment of aquatic macroinvertebrates "bugs" which included caddisflies, mayflies, midges, worms, scuds and a few other neat critters that cruised the spoons of the students observing them. In addition to teaching a bug lesson at Somers, WLI staff taught five classes at Whitefish High School and more than 120 second graders at Muldown Elementary School. WLI offers educational programs to all age groups and explores concepts relative to clean water and watershed dynamics through water chemistry and biology. -JG



Second graders at Muldown Elementary scooping bugs.

WLI Receives Whitefish Community Foundation Grants

At the November Whitefish Community Foundation Grants Awards Ceremony, WLI received grants from the Whitefish Community Foundation Community Grants Fund, the Kramer Family Fund, and the Whitefish Mountain Resort Fund.

Between the Foundation's grant program and another \$193,000 from donor advised funds, over \$300,000 was distributed at the awards ceremony, a 20% increase over 2010. In total, 137 grants were awarded to 75 different non-profit organizations that are either Whitefish based or provide services to the Whitefish Community. To learn more about the Whitefish Community Foundation, please visit www.whitefishcommunityfoundation.org.

Reflection on a summer with Whitefish Lake Institute- Leif Castren

As I contemplate my time spent at WLI during the past summer, trying to recall a moment that epitomized an internship spent with Josh, Lori, and Mike, I am bombarded by a flood of memories seemingly unassociated with water quality or watershed education. Even as I sit at a computer stall in my brightly lit and deafeningly quiet college library, I can hardly suppress my chuckles as I recall our daily banter in the office, our long field excursions, and many moments of oddity and hilarity in between. The memories I would like to remind myself and others of were of laughing:

With Lori as she stood in the back of the boat, distracting me with rapid-fire speech in some made-up accent, while simultaneously pumping chlorophyll samples, filling water chemistry bottles, and making labels for the next site, as I attempted to ease the boat into a shore site.

With Josh as he stared in shock at the recently punctured tire of the WLI truck, the malfunctioning Hydrolab, or the missing piece to our bridgeboard, his tongue tripping over his chewing gum as he cursed our misfortune, or as he performed his famed "Mayfly Mambo" for a crowd of seniors during our Friday educational programs.

With Mike as he enviously eyed my lunch during a snack break out on the water, or as he gave me all the fun jobs on field days, only to remind me jokingly of my nonexistent salary.

And with myself as I licked the seal of hundreds of envelopes of Wine Auction invitations on a rainy day and sang along to Lori's Cat Stevens CDs, or as I spent a long day joyously pulling weeds in the company of last summer's intern Michael Harrison in the mosquito infested swamp WLI cherishes as their Wetland Preserve.

I remember running out from under the thin aluminum roof of the pontoon boat and taking a sustained blast of heavy hail and rain to my exposed face and limbs with a whoop of joy as Josh and I skipped back across Whitefish Lake to City Beach as fast as the boat would safely take us.

Though many of my most notable memories focus on the comic side of my internship experiences, I can honestly say I learned far more than I could have hoped during this past summer. I feel privileged to have been able to see so many of the Flathead Valley's lakes from a completely new angle, one that has given me a new appreciation for the natural beauty of my home and a new joy in finding new lakes and seeing them with a new depth of understanding. I feel privileged to have left with the lessons from the people who really care about the beauty and worth of water resources in the Flathead Valley and have committed themselves to life with that beauty and value as inspiration. I learned about the fragility of lake ecosystem dynamics, the inner workings of a non-profit organization, and taking responsibility for problems with a reassuring chuckle and a shake of the head from Mike; about collecting data in the field, being an enthusiastic educator, and being a young dad and fledgling family man from Josh; and about working the hardest and still having the most fun, finding the money to keep the institute alive, and being young at heart from Lori. These three really do care about the Flathead Valley, they really have dedicated themselves to the task of protecting the Flathead's aquatic treasures, and I am truly proud to have briefly joined their ranks.

Editors note: Leif is a sophomore at Middlebury College in Vermont double majoring in biology and Spanish. Leif is a graduate of Flathead High where he was a valedictorian. We enjoyed Leif as much as he enjoyed his time with WLI. He's welcome back anytime there is work to be done in inclement weather as long as Cat Stevens isn't on the radio.

WLI offers an unpaid internship to college students majoring in the environmental sciences. Our past interns include Kristi Whisler of Northwestern University, Mary Kohnstamm of St. Lawrence University and Michael Harrison of Whitman College.

WLI is seeking an intern for the 2012 field season. Applicants are welcome to submit a cover letter with a recommendation from a Flathead Valley educator. Thank you to Eric Sawtelle from Whitefish High for recommending Leif.



Environmental scientist Josh Gubits out on the lake with 2011 summer intern Leif Castren.



**SAVE THE DATE for Montana's Premier Wine Event
to support the Whitefish Lake Institute
July 26-27, 2012 www.whitefishwineauction.org**

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 Fletcher- Calgary, Canada
 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
 Bill & Dori Walton -Jacksonville, FL
 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
 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
 Soroptimists International of Whitefish,- 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
 Patricia Serrurier- Bend, OR
 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
 Walt & Lori Curtis - 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
 Forestoration, Inc., Greg Gunderson - Whitefish, MT
 OTB Designworks, LLC, Chuck Gailley - Whitefish, MT
 Getter Properties, William Getter - Sheridan, WY
 Kerry Gubits- Littleton, CO
 Dewey & Sandra Hartman - Whitefish, MT
 Ron Hauf - Whitefish, MT

Brent and Karen Haverstock- 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
 John and Nancy Streibich- 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
 David & Jeannine Trousdale - 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)

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
 Kim Corette- 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
 Giselle Haring - 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
 John Steitz and Carol Treadwell-Steitz- Whitefish, MT
 SunCrest Homeowners, - Whitefish, MT
 Brith Sutherland - Kalispell, MT
 Steve Thompson - 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

635 Denver Street
Whitefish, MT 59937

