

Little Bitterroot Lake Association Newsletter No. 3 Jul 2022

“Dedicated to keeping our Lake PRISTINE for Future Generations”

PLEASE ATTEND OUR:

ANNUAL MEETING WEDNESDAY Aug 3rd

at the Marion Fire Hall 6:00pm

SEE ATTACHED AGENDA

Founded in 1988, Little Bitterroot Lake Association’s purpose is to ensure our lake is protected and remains pristine for future generations. The association is a non-profit and consists of a board of directors, but most importantly it is made up of members of our lake community just like you.

Together we must all “ACTIVELY” serve to protect our Lake

It is “Active” member support that makes everything possible. Thank you for your continued donations and for keeping your eyes and ears open to issues concerning Little Bitterroot Lake. Please continue to report any issues you discover (*CaptainDanNWA@centurytel.net* or 612 251-3778).

For those that have not yet joined the association please take the time to think about what your support would provide everyone, including yourself, who enjoys our beautiful lake now and in the future. Every tax-free donation helps. If you are not a member it is time to join! Your membership makes a statement about our community. It says, “WE CARE.”

Participation by current members is outstanding. You care about our lake enough to call us when ANY issues of concern arise. Recently a member with LBLA help stopped asphalt from being poured into our lake! Today we are closing in on record setting membership numbers – estimated at over 100 lake shore households by August 3rd. More than twice what it was 4 years ago! Strength in numbers gets good things done and keeps bad things from happening.

LBLA does many things for our lake. Let’s discuss a few.

We give our lake an in-depth “physical exam” every year. Lake water testing (begun 27 years ago) shows we have a measured visibility of 50 ft, using the Secchi Disk. - the clearest in the area. However, our nutrients are increasing (algae growth) and our septic systems are getting very old in some places (possible lake pollution). Your BOD recently added Aquatic Invasive Species testing, E Coli testing and have contracted for a septic system analysis. Your contributions have also enabled us to have the ability to hire an LSU Natural Resource/Environmental/Management Graduate and Marion resident (Kate

Thomas) to oversee our Septic Education and Awareness Program (SEAP). She will assist homeowners of older septic systems to ensure they operate safely.

The Association manages many programs. Many have been built within the last four years. To name a few: The Lake Education and Awareness Program (LEAP), the Septic Education and Awareness Program (SEAP), the Weed Education and Awareness Program (WEAP) and more...You get the approach – We are into Education and Awareness!

Via our Lake Education and Awareness Program (LEAP), we talk to boaters at the boat launches on the weekends during the summer. We kindly ask for help to keep an eye out for our lake. We ask local boaters and recreators to be “ACTIVE” boaters and recreators. People really appreciate our friendly approach and request for their help in saving the lake from (out of state) AIS infection.

Please volunteer to “work” the boat launches this summer. Primarily weekends from 1030am to 230pm (flexible hours OK!). Working at the North and South launches is FUN. We train you how to “kindly” ask people to be “ACTIVE” boaters and watch out for boats from outside of our area. How to talk to the boaters, and make sure that they have safe boats (no aquatic invasive species imported from out of state), if you notice a probable infected boat call 1-800 TIP-MONT and report it!

Wouldn't it be a crime to hurt our lake? It is. Have you heard of the program “Crimestoppers”? Guess what, there is a program to stop abuse of our lake...Just call 1 800 TIP-MONT to report what you see.

This Newsletter asks for your new, or continued support, and reporting. Thank you so much for calling in or emailing concerns. It is all our duty and responsibility as good stewards of this amazing lake.

Thank you for your support. Enjoy your summer!

All the best,

Your LBLA Board of Directors

What are the top things you can do to ensure our lake remains healthy and pristine?

- 1) Support the Little Bitterroot Lake Association.
- 2) Do your part to keep a look out for problems and report them to the association board.
- 3) Don't use Fertilizers or Pesticides near the lake.
- 4) Have your septic system health checked. ***Pump it!***
- 5) Pickup garbage before it gets into our lake
- 6) Work as a volunteer at the boat launch.
- 7) Check for AIS on any boat BEFORE it enters the lake

Interesting Questions and Answers about our Lake.

What is the yellow-green dust on the lake?

The yellow or greenish dust on the lake is pine tree pollen. It often accumulates near shorelines from wind action. Eventually the pollen becomes waterlogged and sinks.

What is the black streak attached to my dock or buoy?

These black streaks appear to be periphytic or attached ciliates. Ciliates are protozoans that are characterized by the presence of hair like organelles called cilia. Most likely, periphytic ciliates are part of a biofilm that can develop on hard substrates and may also contain algae, bacteria, and fungi.

What are the white streaks in the lake?

These “windrows” are Langmuir circulation cells. They develop when the wind blows steady over the water surface. That surface energy creates counter-rotating vortices in the very upper strata of the lake. White foam congregates where the counter-rotating vortices converge.

What is the white foam or “soap suds” along the shore?

Foam is created when the surface tension of water is reduced, and air is introduced. Various natural organic surfactants from biological activity can reduce surface tension. If the suds smell earthy, it is a natural occurrence. If the suds smell like perfume, it is an indicator of human pollutants.

I see what looks like green paint or grass clippings

This could be a “Harmful Algal Bloom” (HAB). Cyanobacteria or “blue-green algae” are ubiquitous in all lakes. The right environmental conditions are needed for a bloom to occur, usually calm and hot weather where there are plenty of nutrients. It’s unknown how and why cyanobacteria can produce cyanotoxins. If ingested, cyanotoxins can cause skin irritations and intestinal distress to humans. In extreme cases, death can occur to livestock that ingests larger quantities. If you suspect a HAB, call or report it to Montana DEQ at www.hab.mt.gov, or 1-888-849-2398

I see what looks like green cotton candy in shallow waters.

This is filamentous algae. It is common in some lakes and may not indicate a water quality problem. These clouds may appear after heavy run-off in the spring or following a long, hot spell in the summer. Localized concentrations may indicate a pollution source nearby.

Little Bitterroot Lake Association



Contribution Form

JOIN/SUPPORT LBLA TODAY

PLEASE DETACH AND MAIL BACK TO: LBLA PO BOX 1003 MARION, MT. 59925

NAME _____ CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ CELL _____

COMMENTS/IDEAS
