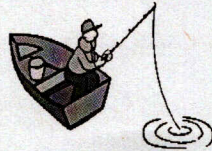


2024 Little Bitterroot Lake Association (LBLA)

MEMBERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTION Newsletter No. 1



PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT and READ THIS NEWSLETTER!

JOIN/RENEW your Membership

Make your 2024 Tax Deductible CONTRIBUTION TODAY!

An Important Message from Your LBLA Board President

Greetings Lake Friends,

Founded in 1988, Little Bitterroot Lake Association purpose is to ensure we protect and preserve the water quality and recreational value of our lake. 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.

Our job, like the big sign at the "Y" says, is to "Keep Little Bitterroot Lake Pristine for Future Generations". With your generous contributions, our active Board of Directors (BOD) and Great Volunteers - a lot is happening. There is great NEWS! But there are MANY Challenges!

Last year NEWSLETTER No. 5 (How the DAM works and who manages our lake water level) and NEWSLETTER No. 6 (Lake Regulations – The Flathead County Lake and Lakeshore Protection Regulations) hit home when Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (FIIP) brought a 5-person crew with a dirty backhoe to dig out the area in front of the DAM. I got a call from some concerned lake residents (good job keeping LBLA informed!) about their presence. I drove to the work site, confronted the crew, asked if they had a permit, told them to STOP, called their office (BIA – FIIP) and informed Flathead County Planning and Zoning. Not only did the FIIP dig out the area in front of the DAM but they fully opened the DAM doors (See last year's NEWSLETTER No. 5) and flooded fields south of the DAM that resulted in a large salmon KILL as the fish dove out via the DAM's water rush thinking it was a spawning event – only to be stuck outside the DAM when FIIP was directed to close the DAM doors as the water was destroying acreage south.

Your LBLA went after the BIA and FIIP. We filed complaints with the Flathead Conservation Commission (they work streams/rivers/land), and Flathead Planning and Zoning (they work permits/lakes/lakeshore). The FIIP had NOT filed for a permit. We filed against their action. Eventually, they tried to say their action was necessary EMERGENCY maintenance and asked our 3

Flathead Commissioners for after the fact authority. Your LBLA repeatedly worked with the Commissioners and explained to them that FIIP was trying to "scapegoat" them.

The Commissioners sided with LBLA and voted 3 to 0 against FIIP's allegation that their action was emergency maintenance. Now the lawyers for the FIIP and the lawyers for Flathead Planning and Zoning are working out a FINE settlement and procedures for any future maintenance event. LBLA acted, got results. We will keep you posted on the outcome.

The story above is just one example of many ongoing concerns at our lake. Please contact me, a board member, or attend our Annual Meeting on Wednesday August 7, 2024, for more details.

Be sure to take time to read this and future NEWSLETTERS. You will find interesting and valuable (money saving) information, such as: How you (and your neighbors around the Lake Watershed) can get grant money to thin your forest and eradicate weeds (Page 4), how you can be reimbursed up to \$200 when you pump your septic (Page 5), and what specifically you can do to stop aquatic invasive species from infecting our lake and decreasing property values.

I get many calls each month about the goings-on at LBL. Most members are concerned about the safety and health of our lake. We need your donations, volunteerism, and watchful eyes and ears on the lake. Your participation is making a difference. Together we are defending our lake. Taking care of our lake is a complex and serious endeavor.

In this NEWSLETTER is a list of Serious Threats to our Lake, your current LBLA Responses, NEW Programs we hope to launch, and current ACTIVE Initiatives.

We are all very busy and what we do boils down to what our priorities are...As you know there are some priorities that you MUST make time for – your Little Bitterroot Lake is one of them.

Let's all take care of our lake, not just use it! We MUST be GUARDIANS of our lake and thus protect the Investment we have all made... Please – Join and Contribute to LBLA.

Respectfully,

Capt Dan - President LBLA

CaptainDanNWA@centurytel.net

DON'T WAIT MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW – ANNUAL MTG Aug 7, 2024 – AT FIREHALL

If you are not a member, PLEASE JOIN NOW

If you are a member, PLEASE MAKE YOUR 2024 CONTRIBUTION TODAY!