



Spirit Lake Report

Quarterly Update on Spirit Lake by the **SPIRIT LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION** • July, 2017 • Vol. 2

SLPOA Mission: *To develop the capacity within our community to provide a sustainable lake habitat that will allow all people who live, work and play within its environment an optimal North Idaho experience.*

Spirit Lake Property Owners Association ANNUAL MEETING Saturday, August 12th • 10 am • Spirit Lake Community Center

Are you a “Friend of Spirit Lake” and want to know more about what’s being done to help “Protect, Preserve and Improve” our beautiful lake?

We’d like to invite you to attend our annual meeting held in the Spirit Lake Community Center, August 12th. Meet your neighbors and have an opportunity to ask questions and hear what we have accomplished in the last year.

There will be updates on three of our major projects; Weir Replacement, Brickle Creek Habitat improvement and Causeway Flow.

Representatives from Fish and Game, DEQ (Dept. of Environmental Quality), Dept. of AG, the Mayor and Chief of Police will all speak, plus other lake related information will be presented.

Everyone is invited. You don’t have to own property or live on the lake to attend or become a member.

Please join us in preserving the beautiful lake that we all cherish and become a member today. Membership is open to all who share our environmental concerns and contributions are tax deductible. Make checks payable to SLPOA.

Please send in your membership form today!



Enjoy a social hour with coffee and pastries at 9:00 a.m., meeting starts at 10:00 a.m.

You can now Donate or Pay online at: friendsofspiritlake.com

The Brickle Creek Habitat Improvement Project Continues for 2017 *by: Karen Cowan, SLPOA Board member*

200 of the 600 feet of The Brickle Creek Habitat Improvement Project were conducted the fall of 2016. SLPOA will complete the last 400 feet of this project during September and early October 2017.

Last year the project was supported by SLPOA, The Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Community Volunteers. During 2017’s project SLPOA and Community Volunteers will continue their donations. Plus Idaho Fish and Game has committed another \$1,500 to our project. In addition to this continuing support, we are working on new assistance. The Lands Council of the Inland Northwest has agreed to partner with us and provide student volunteers to assist with the planting of the native plants, plus possible other assistance yet to be determined. We will also reapply for a \$10,000 grant from the Community Strategies program funded through Inland Northwest Community Foundation.

Our larger community support strategies are growing, but we

still need volunteers outside of our board of directors to complete the work of this and future projects. We also desire to establish a strong relationship with community members who live, work and play in the Spirit Lake area. The larger projects that need to be completed in the future are connected to the economic viability of the city and larger community. Local jobs, businesses and recreational activities are dependent on the lake’s long term health. The City of Spirit Lake’s revitalization efforts also depend on the communities joint efforts for the preservation of the lake. In other words the Brickle Creek Habitat Improvement Project is just the beginning of a renewed emphasis on environmental protection of Spirit Lake and the surrounding areas.

If you are interested in volunteering for projects designed to protect and improve the environment of Spirit Lake, please contact any SLPOA board member or Karen@focusedfitness.org, 509-994-9874.

Become a "Friend of Spirit Lake" and Join the SLPOA today!

...for only \$35 per year (\$40.00 in 2018) you can be a part of the healthy future of your lake.

YES..... I would like to Join the Spirit Lake Property Owners Association!

YES I would like to continue receiving the "Spirit Lake Report" Newsletter!

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____ Phone: _____

Email _____ Comments: _____

Please send this completed form with payment : Make checks payable to SLPOA or go online at "friendsofspiritlake.com"

Bike, Hike and Bluegrass Trail Fundraiser

by: Marc Kroetch, SLPOA Board member



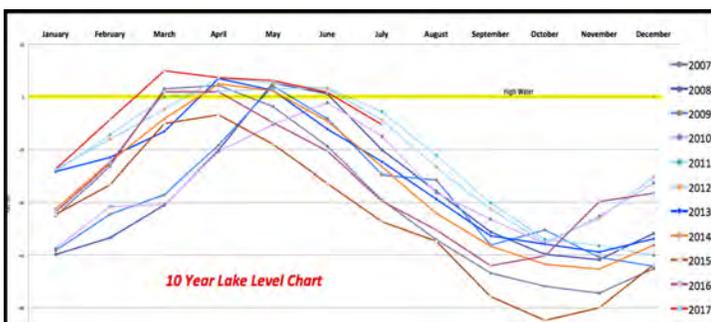
This is it! Save the date! Come and enjoy the wonders of the trail with sweeping views of Spirit Lake, Mount Spokane and the working forest we call home.

Bring your hiking shoes or mountain bike and see for yourself the new 2 miles of trail and 3 new outlooks that face the east.

Spend the morning on Empire Trails (9:00-12:00), and retire to Sedlmayers Lakeside resort (12:00-3:00) for live bluegrass music, great food and raffle prizes! This annual fund raising effort will fund the ongoing maintenance and improvement of our trail. All paid trail fees for the day are a direct donation to the trail fund, which pays for amenities like port-a-potties, maps and a first class trail experience.. This event will provide thousands of dollars in raffle prizes and fun, all for a good cause! Bring the whole family and ride your bikes in, as parking is limited.

See you there!

Record Year for Lake Levels



Does the Lake Seem Clearer This Year?

by: Jerry Peterson, SLPOA Board Member

Well, here are the statistics: A Secchi disk (an 8-inch disk with alternating black and white quadrants) is lowered into the lake to estimate the clarity of the water by measuring the depth at which it disappears.

Spirit Lake's average clarity since 2002 (May thru September) is 14.4 ft (4.4m), with July and August being the highest clarity months. Last year's (2016) July Secchi disk level was 9.84 ft (3m) due to the brown algae which started to appear later in the 2015 season and continued thru 2016.

This year's (2017) July Secchi disk level is now 22 ft (6.7m), up from June's 13.1 ft (4m) reading and is more than twice as clear as the same time last year. So, yes...the lake is much clearer this year and "above average" for the month of July!

The best clarity month was July 2004, at 24.6 ft (7.5m).

The Future of Lake Clean Up Day Projects

by: Randy Hurst, SLPOA Board member

The Spirit Lake Property Owners Association has held Lake Clean Up Day Projects twice in the past few years, notably 2011 & 2013. They were very successful and 20-25 dump truck loads of debris were hauled away during each project. The SLPOA designated a pickup location for debris removal at the east end of the lake at Maiden Rock boat launch. Since then it has become very expensive and difficult to get approval from the state and local agencies (DEQ, Department of Lands Management, etc.). Plus cabin owners near the launch are hesitant to continue due to the amount of debris and waste that collect in the area.

We have discussed a new strategy for keeping our lake free of debris. Our suggestions for solutions include: be proactive with neighbors when dock replacements occur by discussing removal solutions and all cabin owners should be managing debris on their property. We have also asked Steve at Boon Docks to help encourage homeowners to make sure they remove all debris. Keeping our lake clean will take a new mentality that says we must ALL work together!

The Board of Directors are always open to hear about possible solutions regarding lake cleanup.

I can be contacted on my cell at 509-981-7473.