

TWIN LAKES IMPROVEMENT



ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

P. O. Box 620, Rathdrum, Idaho 83858

Fall-2000

44th Year - 2nd Issue

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 26, 2000

The annual meeting was held as scheduled Saturday, June 24, 2000, at the St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, Rathdrum.

The treasurer's report indicated that we had the following balances as of the date of the meeting: checking \$697.60, savings account \$4933.42; CD \$6487.22. Total assets: \$12118.24. The treasurer's books were audited and found to be in order. The elected board members met following the general membership meeting .

SPEAKERS

Kurtis Robinson, Supervisor of the Kootenai Co. Parks and Recreational Waterways Dept. spoke on various waterway issues related to our lakes. He discussed 3 public accesses which are not in use and which are the property of the Lakes Highway District. The county and the highway district are exploring what to do with the currently unused and undeveloped accesses. At the time of this writing no maps or descriptions of the accesses were yet available. Should you have concerns about these accesses and their impact on your property please feel free to contact Kurtis Robinson or his staff at 208-772-9239. He discussed planned improvements at the Upper lake boat launch which include a rest room, paved and landscaped areas and an improved deeper ramp. Parking will accommodate 8 cars and 8 rigs with trailers. Several members expressed their concerns about the project and its impact. Mr. Robinson also distributed pamphlets on Asian milfoil weed and copies of a new brief on boating law changes.

Our next speaker was Dick Snyder of the Inland Empire Paper Co, who spoke and distributed a pamphlet on the Paper Company's planned changes to woods entry and public use of their property surrounding our lakes. The concerns of the Paper

Co. are misuse and damage to their woods by the public which they wish to control by changing access and perhaps charging a yearly entry fee. This fee may be as much as \$50.

Our final speaker was Deputy Scott Carver of the Kootenai Co. Sheriff's Department Marine Enforcement Unit. He spoke on new boating regulations, safety and related issues. The new regulations require all boaters to travel no more than 5 MPH within 200 feet of a dock or other structure as well as in the vicinity of swimmers. Noise levels were defined as required to be less than 17 decibels (a fairly loud level) A person operating a vessel of more than 15 HP must be at least 14 years of age unless an adult is aboard. Children under ten must always have an adult aboard on any motorized vessel. The blood alcohol limit while operating a vessel is .08 (the same as a motor vehicle on the roadways). Day time speed limits on all waterways is 50 MPH and the night time limit is 20 MPH.

FALL WOODS TOUR

The Inland empire paper company (IEP) hosted the 10th annual Fall woods tour on September 8, 2000. Dennis Parent, Forest Operations Manager and Carl

Sostrum, Forester for IEP conducted the tour. IEP is a family owned company and the landowner in the Twin Lakes watershed including drainage from Mt. Spokane.

Those on tour had the opportunity to observe the regeneration and tree planting which has been done within the last several years. Regeneration is a process of natural seeding from Shelter wood harvesting that is the result of leaving about 50 trees per acre at the time of harvest.

The planting or regeneration immediately follows any removal of trees. The process from planting to

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harvest of the trees is similar to any other agricultural crop except that in forestry the growth period is 60 to 80 years; where in most agriculture that period is only a few months. There is soil preparation, planting weed control and harvest. In forestland the weed control also includes brush control. Brush is competition for young trees that shade trees from sunlight and use soil nutrients as well as water required for tree growth. Trees planted today will not be harvested in our lifetime but rather in the lifetime of our grandchildren.

The climatic zone of our watershed is unique in that several major tree species are native to the area, including Douglas Fir, White Fir, Larch, Spruce White Pine and Hemlock. IEP is planting, on most sites, a mixture of those species. The White Pine being planted is resistant to the blister rust disease which affects many native trees.

A bonus on the tour was our opportunity to see several moose cows and calves in the wild that were not disturbed by our presence.

This tour is an excellent yearly opportunity to observe the watershed and forest practices by professional foresters and I urge you to consider making this a part of your activities for next year.

Ralph Schmidt

NEW DAM PROPOSED

At the Sept. 23 Twin Lakes Improvement Association Board meeting, Mike Jackson of The Flood Control District, spoke of the engineering plan for the proposed new dam at the outlet of lower Twin Lake. The current dam was built in 1906. The dam was first under the control of the Greenacres Irrigation District, then the Army Corps of Engineers followed by the State of Idaho and finally to its current management, the Flood Control district. The formation of the District was aided by the Twin Lakes Improvement association. The new

engineering plan was done by the Welch-Comer firm.

There are three gates in the dam. The middle gate has failed; the Flood Control District had a temporary cover installed. The motor controlling two of the gates has required repairs and the third gate is manually operated. The engineers are also concerned in that no steel rebar reinforcement was found in the dam's concrete. The price to replace the dam, as of Oct 1998 was \$352,000. The District has about \$50,000 in available funds and can obtain grants to cover most of the remaining costs. Seeking of grants requires an election to obtain permission to apply for grants and to go into debt for some of the dam costs. The Flood Control board meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Twin Lakes Grill, Twin Lakes Village. The Board is seeking two new members, one from each lake.

The TLIA Board passed a motion to entertain any requests by the Flood Control District Board to support their efforts to replace the dam. It is vital to us all!

TURN LANE PROJECT UPDATE

The project has been completed and will obviously make entry to our lake areas safer for us all! Congratulations are in order for our board members who worked hard to achieve the goal of obtaining the turn lanes; of particular note were the efforts of Bill Carr and past President Don Ellis.

FOURTH OF JULY BOAT PARADE!!!!

The sun didn't shine but our spirits did!

"Hey there are 2 boats out there- and they're decorated! No wait there are 4 boats....6, 15, 23 boats!"

"It's only water!"

"Ohh say can you see ---?"

"---- The bubbles bursting in

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air”

“---- Statue of Liberty, George and
Martha”

“---- Brownie the Bear”

“---- The patriotic umbrellas”

“---- Come on!; let’s hurry and go!

Michelle Kuhn, upper lake

PLEASE BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR!

When something floats against your dock, boat ramp or onto your beach, please don’t push it back out into the water. Remove it from the lake instead. Remember, what is floating in the lake can be dangerous to boaters and swimmers.

All of us together can make our lakes safe and clean. Thank you.

Greg Durkee

Lower Lake

INLAND EMPIRE PAPER COMPANY

YOUR LAKE ASSOCIATION

What still only costs you \$5.00? Your membership in the Twin Lakes Improvement Association! The number after your name on the mailing label indicates you are paid through June of that year (i.e., 2000 means that you’re paid through June of 2000). Your dues helps the Board of Directors represent you and also put out this newsletter. If you can’t update your dues right now and still want to receive this newsletter, please let us know. (NOTE: Only \$5.00 will bring your dues current to 2000, even if you are several years behind.)

FREE MAP - MEMBERSHIP BONUS

Sign up a neighbor to be a member of Twin Lakes Improvement Association and both you and your neighbor will receive a free map of our lakes. Also, if you are behind in your dues, you can receive a free map for paying your dues current. Here’s the fine print: Limited to the many maps we have on hand - and, you must make arrangements to pay

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your dues and to pick up your map from Don Ellis
(Lower Lake) 687-2440 or Mike Nelson (Upper
Lake) 687-2480.

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