

# *Twin Lakes*

## *Improvement*

### *Association*

#### *Newsletter*

P. O. Box 620, Rathdrum, Idaho 83858

Spring/Summer-2012

55<sup>th</sup> Year – 1<sup>st</sup> Ed.

#### **UP – COMING ANNUAL MEETING**

We are inviting all association members, property owners, and guest to the annual Twin Lakes Improvement Association meeting on **June 30<sup>th</sup> 2012** at the Twinlow Methodist Camp on lower Twin Lake, at 10:00AM. Sign in and new member sign up begins at 9:30 AM. The Twinlow Methodist Camp is located at 22787 N. Twinlow Rd., Rathdrum; one block west of Highway 41 between Par Three Rd and Twin lakes Rd. This annual meeting provides you the opportunity to address issues of concern with your Board of Directors. In turn, your Board provides updates on continued work done throughout the previous year. We will also discuss any upcoming projects. Our hope and goal is to encourage those with ideas and energy, to become involved in the association.

#### **SPEAKERS**

At the time of this printing, the guest speakers have not formalized their agenda.

#### **Your Twin Lakes Improvement Association**

Your Twin Lakes Improvement Association Welcomes You. We hope all our members had a wonderful winter and are looking forward to summertime at Twin Lakes. This is a great time of year to experience all the lakes have to offer. This year we are fortunate to contact additional property owners on Twin Lakes. Your lake association is providing this newsletter as a way to reach out to all property owners around Twin Lakes. There are many who live here year round and many who live outside the area that share our love of the Twin Lakes. If you haven't been involved in your lake association lately, then it is a good time to become reacquainted with your neighbors.

As a group of neighbors; the Twin Lakes Improvement Association has been working together to improve and preserve the quality of natural values of Twin Lakes for all users. This year we celebrate our 55<sup>th</sup> Year as an association.

On October 4, 1956 the Twin Lakes Improvement Association received its Certificate of Incorporation from the State of Idaho – Department of State. **Rick Swanson, R.L. Howell, W.H. Barnes, Charles Meuhlethaler, Tom Gunning, M.C. Young, A. Henry Paul, and Leo M. Faris** were the first elected directors of the Corporation. We have a proud history of associations members who have dedicated countless hours to preserve and continue what started 55 years ago.

It seems that everyone has a story, a memory, or some connection to Twin Lakes. What is it that you love about the Twin Lakes? What continues to bring you back? There are so many reasons to love Twin Lakes. Whatever your attraction to the Twin Lakes, it is worth preserving.

Your Twin Lakes Improvement Association is seeking all property owners who have not been involved in the association, to join our membership. If you would like to join but are unable to attend the annual meeting, write to us (P.O. Box 620, Rathdrum ID 83858) and we will add you to our membership list. The annual dues are only \$10 a year.

There are several benefits to joining. Meet your neighbors and other property owners who share your love of Twin Lakes. Enrich your experience



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and appreciation for the wonders we share in Twin Lakes. If you have a concern or issue you want addressed, you need to be a member to ensure your voice is heard. Some of you may want to become actively involved in the future decisions effecting Twin Lakes. You may want to join the Board of Directors or a committee and provide some fresh ideas and energy.

The TLIA Board of Directors is made up of concerned property owners, like yourself. The Board is a fluid group with folks who join because they want to take action and get things done. Some members remain on the board for a year or so; some have remained active for many years. Your TLIA Board welcomes fresh ideas and energy. If you have a project or idea of improving the lake and surrounding properties, why not join the TLIA and talk to us about joining the TLIA Board. What we have found is that PEOPLE are the decisive factor in making any change. Without personal involvement, all the scientific studies in the world won't make a difference. Your TLIA Association and Board is dedicated to doing what they can, to address lake issues. Involvement in this Association has always provided a way for non-Idaho lake property owners, as well as Idaho residents, to have their voices heard and to make a difference.

Over the many years, your association has worked with scientist, researchers, water resource manager, biologist, business professionals, property owners, and government agencies, to identify and address issues that affect life on Twin Lakes. Here are a few things that you should be aware of that the Twin Lakes Improvement Association Board has done on

your behalf. Some of this work was done in conjunction with other groups who shared their concern for the future of Twin Lakes.

### Twin Lakes Improvement Association Involvements /Accomplishments

The last 40 to 50 years - Worked to get/keep the cattle out of the lake.

1969 Establishing the historic lake level at 6-4 and 10-4 through the court system.

1975 Established Twin Lakes Improvement Association's storage water right to the water between 6-4 and 10-4. Based on a 1903 water right.

1984 – TLIA committed \$12,000 towards a lake study

Helping fund the 1987 Falter Water Quality Study

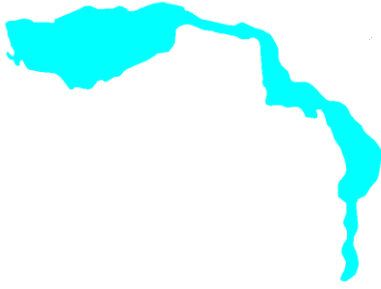
1991-1992 - Forming the Flood Control District (Flood Control District #17). (To monitor high water)

1992 - Helping to transfer the dam's ownership from the US Bureau of Reclamation to the newly formed flood control district.

1985-1989 - Forming the water district (Twin Lakes Water District #95C). (To monitor low water)

1992 - Forming the sewer district. (Plus several attempts to sewer the lakes – 1970's on).

1997-1999 - Obtaining 2 turn lanes from the highway into Twin Lakes.



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1998 - Creating a public water district (North Kootenai Water District) from a private system

2004-2011 - Applying for grants/permits to improve the narrows, the mid-channel area, Fish Creek.

2010 & 2011 – “319 Grant” Applications with DEQ

2007- 2008 - Helping Lakeland School District to lower the speed limit on the highway in the Twin Lakes area.

2001-2005 - Helping get the new dam built

2007-2009 - Helping establish snow-tel stations to better predict/ control the lake level.

2009 - Finding the historic high water mark and getting the CORRECT numbers on the new dam

2009 - Re-establishing TLIA’s 1903 water right with the state of Idaho.

On-going - Testing the water quality of the lakes. Last several decades

On-going - Working with Kootenai County Parks and Waterways –

On-going - Working with DEQ and EPA

On-going - Participating in Lakes Groups, and Watershed Groups, Kootenai Environmental Alliance

On-going - Built a positive relationship between Twin Lakes residents and Rathdrum Creek residents

So where are we today, and what are we doing? Decisions on which project(s) to work each year is based upon several factors including; funding, impact on the lake environment, association membership support in addressing the issue, and the availability of people to do the work.

As a reminder, most everyone who becomes involved on these projects is volunteering a piece of their time to benefit their neighbor. Your volunteer Board is moving along at steady pace, continually accomplishing portions of the big projects. Your Board is always seeking additional membership support in; experience, training, physical involvement, and financial. If you can assist your association in any of these areas, contact your Board, we would be grateful.

Your Board views projects in their long term effect on Twin Lakes. Your Board recognizes that work on either the upper or lower Twin Lake, effects the other lake. As well as in incoming and outgoing tributaries We are all tied together, and your Board seeks to address those areas that have the most benefit to all lake property owners.

Your Board has worked on the long term issue of sediment and nutrient loading in Twin Lakes. A second issue is how those factors affect the water quality and access to the lakes. The Channel Restoration Project (formally the Sediment Removal Committee - 2010) continues to address the sediment and nutrient loading in the Channel area. The Fish Creek Restoration Project committee is addressing the sediment and nutrient loading from this area into the Twin Lakes.



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The Channel Restoration committee met several times this year and is addressing many of the complicated issues involved in this project. The committee recognizes the many diverse opinions of property owners along the channel. There are also issues related to ownership in the various portions of the Channel. Funding is also a challenge!

The Fish Creek Restoration committee completed a “Demonstration” project on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Members of the community and your board volunteered their time to work on a 50 foot section of stream bank in Fish Creek. By the end of the day they had reinforced the steam bank with rocks, logs and plants, to divert the water and prevent further erosion. On June 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2012, volunteers from the community and your Board began work on the second phase of the Fish Creek Restoration project. Eight hundred feet of barbed wire fencing was strung along both sides of Fish Creek adjacent to the Demonstration project area. This fencing is designed to keep cattle out of this portion of Fish Creek. Additional work is planned to re-enforcing the stream banks to prevent further erosion in this area. This project could not have been accomplished without the generous support of the Easterday family that owns the property along this area. Additional information on these projects and the funding will be provided at the annual meeting.

Both Fish Creek and Mid Channel project are large projects that require large financial and volunteer commitments! The TLIA board has continuously and aggressively pursued federal, state, personal, and corporations for grants and donations. Without proper financing and commitment these projects

will inevitably be delayed and continue to put our lakes at environmental risk. We gladly accept any assistance and or guidance in obtaining donations for labor, products, service, and money. If you’re interested in volunteering please give us your email address.

### **RECOGNITION FOR GOOD STEWARDSHIP**

Your association would like to take the opportunity to recognize your neighbor and fellow property owner who has shown true stewardship in their relationship with the lakes. The TLIA will be recognizing the **Inland Empire Paper Company** this year during our annual meeting.

### **HISTORICAL INFORMATION / PHOTOS REQUEST**

We would like to remind our membership. Do you have photos or stories of the lake from family and friends that you would like to share with other lake residents? The TLIA would like to include a section in our news letter for your stories. We would also like to collect (old and new) photos of life at Twin Lakes. Please send your stories and photographs to Twin Lakes Improvement Association, P.O. Box 620, Rathdrum ID 83858.

### **FOURTH OF JULY BOAT PARADE!!!!!!**

Decorate your boat and join everyone on the southern end of the lower lake, for the 2012 Boat Parade. The parade starts at 11AM. This is a great way to start your 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. This event is enjoyed not only by the participants, but by the hundreds of homeowners who celebrate it from the shores. Your TLIA Board wishes to remind participants; that although your association does not organize the event, we proudly support this grassroots participation.



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## TLIA BOARD ELECTIONS

Elections for five (5) positions on the TLIA Board of Directors will take place at the annual meeting. We are specifically looking for someone with finance experience to volunteer for the treasurer's position. The other 4 positions are for members at large. If you are interested in becoming active on the board or know of someone who is, please contact **Steve Kolb** TLIA President at: P.O. Box 620, Rathdrum, ID 83858. Or you can call **Susie Ellis**, Association Secretary at 208-687-2440. You can also notify us at the meeting.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

Just a reminder, TLIA annual dues are \$10 year. Please continue your support your board, by paying your membership fees. The funding will certainly help your association address future projects that affect your quality of life on the lake. Your association continues working for the good and improvement of our valuable asset, clean and usable lakes.

Express yourself during the year by writing to any of your board members at: TLIA, P.O. Box 620, Rathdrum, ID 83858.

## TLIA Board Members:

President: **Steve Kolb**

Vice President: **Don Ellis**

Secretary: **Susie Ellis**

Treasurer: Vacant

Directors: **Gregg Durkee, Debra Andrews, Mike Knowles, Laurin Scarcello, Marita Little, Belinda Childers, Shelley Matthews and Mike Williams**

## AGENCY PHONE LIST 2011

| AGENCY  | REMARKS   | CONTACT PERSON  | PHONE No.                                  |
|---|---|---|--|
| Kootenai County Sheriff Dept                        | Sheriff;<br>Rocky Watson  | Marine Unit<br>Dep. Tim Leader                                      | 446-1300                                   |
| Northern Lakes Fire Protection District             | Fire Chief;<br>Lane Wintermute  | Emergency<br>Twin Lakes Sta.<br>Business / Admin                    | 911<br>687-1815<br>772-5711                |
| Idaho Dept. of Lands – Mica Forest Protection Dist. | Boat access only<br>fire permits /<br>May thru October  |   | 769-1577                                   |
| Flood Control District #17                          | Water level above<br>10'4" at the dam.<br>(High water)  | Water Master;<br>Tim Sullivan<br>Chairman;<br>John Eixenberger      | Meets TLV<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs.<br>7pm |
| North Kootenai Water District                       | Meets 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday<br>Monthly   | Board of Directors<br>Tom Crimmins<br>Dist. Manager<br>Mike Galante | 772-3619                                   |
| Dept. of Lands / Navigational Waters                | Dock Permits  |   | 769-1577                                   |
| Panhandle Health District                           | Septic system<br>permits / new &<br>revisions   | Division Director;<br>Dale Peck<br>8500 N. Atlas Rd.,<br>Hayden     | 415-5200                                   |
| Idaho Department of Environmental Quality           | Environmental<br>Quality issues, ie:<br>cattle in lake,<br>Hazardous<br>Material spills, ect. | Gwen Swanson<br>2110 Ironwood<br>Pkwy. Cd'A,                        | 769-1422                                   |
| Idaho Department of Water Resources                 | Water Rights  | Regional<br>Manager;<br>Robert Hanes                                | 762-2800                                   |
| Kootenai County Building and Planning               | Building permits,<br>codes, Stormwater<br>runoff  | 451 Government<br>Way., Cd'A  | 446-1088                                   |
| Twin Lakes Improvement Assoc.                       | Preservation of<br>Twin Lakes   | Steve Kolb;<br>President  | P.O. Box<br>620<br>Rathdrum<br>ID 83858    |
| Waterways & Parks of Kootenai County                |   | Nick Snyder   | 446-1275                                   |
| Kootenai County Noxious Weeds                       |   | Nina Eckberg<br>County Weed<br>Supervisor                           | 446-1290                                   |



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**DUES FORM – Please Mail responses to:**

**TWIN LAKES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION  
POST OFFICE BOX 620  
RATHDRUM, IDAHO 83858**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Give beach area if owner, or write “associate” : \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$10.00

2012 \_\_\_\_\_

2013 \_\_\_\_\_

2014 \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_

+ Donation (optional) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation earmarked for:** CHANNEL PROJECT \_\_\_\_\_ FISH CREEK PROJECT \_\_\_\_\_