



HAUSER LAKE WATERSHED COALITION

GAZETTE

December 2006

DECEMBER HLWC NEWSLETTER

SUMMARY OF FALL MEETINGS



HLWC MEETING OVERVIEW PG 1

NOVEMBER MEETING NOTES PG 1

FERTILIZER – THE EFFECT ON AQUATIC PLANTS PG 2

FIRST ANNUAL HLWC POKER RUN PG 2

NOXIOUS WEEDS CONTINUE THEIR ENCROACHMENT PG 3

UPCOMING EVENTS PG 3

THANKS TO ALL PG 4

CONTACT INFORMATION PG 4

How time flies. It is December already. Since the last newsletter, much has been going on at the Hauser Lake Watershed Coalition meetings. At the September meeting a “Meeting in a Box” was facilitated by Tina McCoy. This was an opportunity to have your

concerns heard about the growth in Kootenai County. The October meeting was a planning session for the upcoming 1st Annual Hauser Lake Poker Run. This event, coordinated by Jabet Wheeler, was a resounding success. We look forward to next year’s

Poker Run. At the November meeting Ned Horner from the Fish and Game Department discussed fish and their habitat, what to do to ease the stress on Hauser Lake and the fish, what fish were stocked, and why. All the meetings have been interesting,, informative, and beneficial.

November Meeting Notes

contributed by JoAnn Wallace

At the HLWC meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 21, Ned Horner of the Idaho Fish and Game visited with us. It was a very interesting discussion about fishing in Hauser Lake. Ned has been with Fish and Game for 26 years.

The latest numbers he had, showed that there were 150,000 angler hours per year at Hauser and half of those were non-residents. He handed out an informational sheet showing the Fish Hatchery Stocking Program for the Panhandle Region for 2006 that included Hauser Lake. These sheets showed the amounts of various kinds of fish that he requested to be stocked, but the actual numbers were less in some categories. Reasons given for lower

numbers were disease, the closure of hatcheries, and fish going to other lakes.

In 2004 there were fish lost because of the hot summer which was also windy. These conditions made for a very small thermocline for fish. Since most of Hauser is a shallow lake, high nutrient levels result in more plant growth which then depletes oxygen for the fish. To improve conditions in the lake he suggested remembering the impact each of us has on the watershed and educating ourselves on good watershed management, rinsing boats to prevent the spread of noxious weeds especially Eurasian watermilfoil, and watching what other lakes are doing to improve lake quality. Ned felt that Cocolala had made a difference in the qual-

ity of their lake. After Ned’s presentation John Wallis, President of the HLWC gave a brief overview of the first annual HLWC Poker Run, saying that we came out ahead making \$400. Rake-A-Lake (where members and residents rake up and bag leaves and debris) in November was also a success despite the rain and limited turnout. Lake residents and HLWC members gathered 7.8 tons of bagged leaves, branches and debris which the Post Falls Highway Department picked up and disposed.

John told us that he is requesting an extension on the building of the Rinse Station and Boise says that it will be fine. John wants to make sure that we would have the money in case the work didn’t get done this year.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Photo’s wanted to submit in our newsletter for everyone to view. Send your photograph to: j94965t@yahoo.com or banff721@yahoo.com**
- **Hauser Lake Watershed Coalition is seeking new members. Join and help keep our beautiful Hauser Lake beautiful.**

FERTILIZER AND WATER QUALITY

Those who have lawns want them green and lush, and that takes fertilizer. But the same fertilizer that improves the growth of lawn also encourages the growth of aquatic plant life in the lake. Did you know well intentioned home owners living on or near open bodies of water can unknowingly contribute to water quality problems by over fertilizing lawns?

The HLWC is developing a

Lake Assessment System (Lake*A*Syst) program designed to help residents learn more about living on and around the Lake and how everyday activities such as lawn maintenance can have an impact on water quality.

The Lake*A*Syst program is supported by DEQ and the Natural Resources Conservation Service and has recently been implemented for Pend Oreille Lake. The HLWC pro-

gram will be designed specifically for Hauser Lake.

The goal of Lake*A*Syst is to show residents how to evaluate their activities, become better informed of the issues regarding these activities, and help determine ways they can lessen their impact on Hauser's water quality. The program will consist of several information sections. Included will be landscaping and buffers, lawn care,

pasture management and others. The most important part of the program will be a self-assessment that residents complete to evaluate their property and activities for possible adverse water quality impacts. The survey and information packets will serve as a tool for residents to take action on high risk items with suggestions for solutions in-

“Through individual action and responsibility we can help ensure the health of our greatest asset”.

cluded. Coalition members will be available to help with surveys, corrective measures and identification of resources where needed.

As more people come to live in our community, it becomes critical to encourage awareness of the proper care and protection of our watershed and lake. Through individual action and responsibility we can help ensure the health of our greatest asset.

The Coalition will be releasing more information as the program takes shape and the launch date nears.

If you would like to participate, either as a volunteer or in helping put the program together, or would like more information you can contact John Wallis at 777-6967

Information for this article contributed by **Tina McCoy**.

HAUSER LAKE Summer of 2006

Unknown fisherman enjoying a sunny day on the lake.



HLWC FIRST ANNUAL POKER RUN

The Hauser Lake Poker Run was held on October 21, and thanks to coordinator Jabet Wheeler it was a great success. If you didn't attend, you missed a fun time, good food, a great bluegrass band "Spur of the Moment", and prizes galore. Food was served at the Hauser Lake Resort under sunny skies. There was a

raffle and dollar prizes for the best poker hand. Lake educational materials such as boating laws and responsibilities, Forest Practices Act, ways to conserve water and much more were located around the lake by the HLWC volunteer members and were handed out with one playing card. The person with the

best hand won \$100. Hooded Sweatshirts were sold at the Poker Run with a picture of the lake and the HLWC logo on the front. You can still buy one of these quality sweatshirt for \$30. They are great for these cold days. Thanks to the many local businesses for their donations for prizes.

Thanks to all residents and HLWC volunteers for their assistance in this event. You can pick up more educational material covering subjects pertaining to maintaining lake quality by calling Jim or JoAnn Wallace at 457-8329 or send an e-mail to wallaceonhauser@hotmail.com or Jaquith Travis at j94965t@yahoo.com

NOXIOUS WEEDS CONTINUE ENCROACHMENT

Noxious weeds continue to encroach on the shores of Hauser Lake. In late August using pontoon boats, kayaks and canoes, HLWC volunteers collected 100 pounds of purple loosestrife seed heads from in and around Hauser Lake. The hope is that by collecting seeds we can reduce the spread of this non-native invader. These seed heads eventually fall off the plant and float to a new location where they can establish a new thicket of plants. If this cycle is not stopped the shorelines and wetlands around Hauser will be in big trouble in a few years. This plant can easily take over the shoreline and destroy native flora and fauna habitats. It is a perennial plant that is extremely good at replicating itself through seeds and/or rhizomatous roots. It is unknown at this time, due to environ-

mental concerns, if the use of herbicides in and around shorelines is even an option to aid in the eradication of this robust plant. So our effort right now is to simply stall the spread until we come up with a viable and environmentally responsible solution.

We are working in conjunction with Nina Eckberg at Kootenain County Noxious Weeds to help us control the purple loosestrife infestation at Hauser Lake. Eckberg indicated that several biological controls (beetles) are already in place at Hauser. These beetles feed on the flower head, plant foliage and roots. Some of the plant foliage we found looked like they had been partially eaten but much of it appeared very healthy and robust. We are also assisting Eckberg by providing GPS (Global Positioning System) data of the

location of loosestrife around the lake. This data will then be incorporated into a GIS (Geographic Information System) database to assist in future management decisions at Hauser.

In addition to seed head collection and GPS mapping we also flagged the loosestrife plants to aid us in our efforts next year to visit the sites again.

Thanks to all of you who spent your weekend helping with this project.

For more information on Purple Loosestrife visit <http://www.kcgov.us/departments/noxiousweeds/>.

“It makes good sense to maintain the high quality of the lake we all love.”



Purple Loosestrife—Plant Conservation Alliance’s Alien Plant Working Group. Weeds Gone Wild: Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/>

ment of Fish and Game.

Summer 2007—Lake*A*Syst (Lake Assessment System) is a voluntary program aimed to assist and inform watershed residents of ways in which they can reduce or minimize their impacts on water quality of Hauser Lake.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Wednesday, January 17, 2007, 7:00 p.m. at Hauser City Hall

Ed Tulloch and Glen Pettit from the Department of Environmental Quality will be discussing TMDL’s (pollution budgets) and how they affect future management decisions on Hauser Lake.

Saturday, February 10, 2007 at 9:00 a.m., HLWC will help sponsor and participate in the Regional Lakes Conference in Spokane. See our website for details (www.hauserwatershed.org)

April 2007 - Hauser Lake Fun Run. HLWC volunteers will help facilitate in this annual spring classic.

Spring 2007—

Construction and grand opening of Idaho’s first Eurasian Watermilfoil Rinse Station. This is a collaborative effort between the HLWC, State Dept of Agriculture, City of Hauser, Kootenai County Parks and Waterways and Idaho Depart-

From John Wallis - President HLWC

Thanks to all of you!!

(in no particular order)

A sincere thanks for all of the HLWC volunteers and residents that contributed so much of their personal time to a very successful year. There simply isn't enough room to name every individual that contributed but here is a list of those that took the lead on projects from this past year.

Hauser Lake Fun Run - Chaired by Tina McCoy; **Hauser Lake Poker Run** Chaired by Jabet Wheeler; **Lake A Syst Educational Program**—Chaired by Jonell DesMarais and Sherry Wallis; **HLWC Newsletter**—Chaired by Jaquith Travis; **Adopt A Highway Litter Control Program**—Chaired by JoAnn and Jim Wallace, and Duane Justus; **Eurasian Watermilfoil Rinse Station** - a multitasking effort lead by Wiley Marks, Sherry Wallis, Scott Weston, with special thanks to Joe Tierney and also the Hauser Lions Club; **Web Site development** - Chaired by Don Werst; **Sweatshirt fundraiser** - Chaired by Cathy Weston and logo design by Jaquith Travis; **Rake A Lake** - Chaired by Tina McCoy; **EFC Grant Funding Workshop** Chaired - by Sherry Wallis; **Lake Water Quality testing** - Chaired by Jim and Jabet Wheeler; **Stream water quality testing** - Chaired by John Wallis; **Purple loosestrife eradication effort** - Chaired by Jim and JoAnn Wallace.

A very special thanks to Jim and JoAnn Wallace who have provided countless hours and have volunteered in some way with every project the HLWC has taken on over the last two years. Thanks so much for your commitment, enthusiasm, and cookies!

Recognition goes to Barbara Rostad of the Rathdrum Star and Brian Walker of the Post Falls Press for their efforts in publicizing the HLWC's many contributions to this community.

Also, many Federal, State and local stakeholder agencies have been working with the HLWC and we wish to thank them for their help and cooperation in our efforts.

City of Hauser, Board of Kootenai County Commissioners, Post Falls Highway District, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Kootenai Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District, Idaho Association of Conservation Districts, Idaho Soil and Conservation Commission, Boundary Soil and Water Conservation District, Idaho State Dept. of Agriculture, Kootenai County Parks and Waterways, Panhandle Health District, Natural Resources and Conservation Service, Panhandle Lakes R C & D, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game, Idaho Dept. of Lands, (USEPA) Environmental Protection Agency - Environmental Finance Center, Spokane County Conservation District (WA), Department of Ecology (WA), Spokane Community College, Eastern Washington University, Liberty Lake Sewer District, and the Newman Lake water quality testing volunteers.

We look forward to continued collaboration with all of you in 2007, Thanks to you all.

HAUSER LAKE WATERSHED COALITION CONTACTS

Committees

Outreach and Education—Jim and JoAnn Wallace 457-8329

Watershed Monitoring—John Wallis

Lake Monitoring—Jim and Jabet Wheeler 777-0483

Lake*A*Syst—Jo DesMarais 773-0911 Sherry Wallis 777-6967

Newsletter—Jaquith Travis 777-2456

Officers

President—John Wallis 777-6967.

Banff721@yahoo.com

Secretary/Treasurer—Tina McCoy 773-6928