

Reflection Lake Community Association

RLCA Newsletter

Spring 2021

Firewise Committee

By Charlie Bennett

EXCITING NEWS! As a result of our efforts over the past three years in wildfire preparedness, the state of Washington and Firewise USA has recognized Reflection Lake as a community that knows how to work together and get things done. Ironic, considering our growing pains lately! Nevertheless, through it all, we have done some things right. Our community has been chosen to represent Spokane County as a model community of their Wildfire Ready Campaign!

Wildfire Ready Neighbors is a collaborative effort between Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), local wildfire experts, and community organizations that aim to inspire action and help reduce wildfire risk in Spokane County.

Beginning April 29, this program will kick off with a six-week challenge across three counties - Spokane, Okanogan and Chelan. Please join our community's effort and show others in



Spokane County and Washington State what a great community we are and that we know what it means to be wildfire ready. A big step is to have a free home wildfire assessment and your free reflective address post (of course, the fire department is happy to receive donations for the address post).

On Thursday, April 29th, the Commissioner of Public Lands, Hilary Franz, will be here along with representatives from the DNR and Fire District 4. From 10:00 AM to noon we will host a media event with the local news affiliates and possibly NPR. There will be four speakers for this event: Commissioner Franz, a DNR representative, a Fire District 4 representative and Charlie Bennett, Firewise Captain and the RLCA secretary.

After the interview, Guy Gifford, our Firewise USA liaison and DNR forester will conduct a wildfire home assessment at Joe and Susan Dickinson's house.

This media event will kick off our planned clean-up day which will be Saturday, May 1st, after which will be a picnic at the RLCA Community Center.

All members will be eligible to enter a free raffle to receive a \$300 gift certificate at North 40!

Dumpsters will be provided again this year, starting on April 29th, paid for by the state. As an added bonus, they have offered to pay for the draft site (dry fire hydrant) and this newsletter. We will have all the information for your free assessment at our picnic on May 1st.

President's Message

By Lucinda Wiser

Last week Rick Smith, our RLCA President, resigned his position due to family health issues. He has our deepest gratitude as we say goodbye to him as President. He was a calm, intelligent voice in the middle of legal challenges for the lake. He had an incredible ability to see the big picture and to act in measured thoughtful ways to bring us together to take care of the business of running a lake. Thank you Rick!

At the last board meeting, two people were appointed to the Board of Directors to fill vacancies. Sandi Bennett was appointed to fill the position of Chris Cato and I was appointed to fill the position of Rick Smith. In the Executive Session, the RLCA Board then elected me to be the President of the RLCA. I would like to thank Sandi Bennett for stepping up to fill the resignation of Chris Cato. Both of these positions will come to the vote of the entire RLCA membership at our annual meeting. I will rely on your collective wisdom, talent and work to keep our lake moving forward to meet the needs of all our residents.

Rick Smith- 2023
(filled by Lucinda Wiser until Annual Meeting July 2021)
Joe Dickinson - 2023
Jeff Toffer - 2023
Charlie Bennett - 2022
Bill Pease - 2022
Chris Cato - 2022
(filled by Sandi Bennett until Annual Meeting July 2021)
Jim Boothby - 2021
Richard Miller - 2021
Gary Long - 2021

In addition to the strong RLCA Board, we have three vibrant and active committees that are working hard on behalf of the best interests of the lake. The Conservation, Maintenance and Dams Committee, the Community Relations Committee, and the Roads Committee. If you are not already on one of these committees, we would love to include you. Check the Reader board for meeting times and dates.

Fishing Date

By Jeff Toffer

The Conservation Committee planted rainbow trout in the lake on the 30th of March. Jeff put them in at Bings Landing this year.

Many who have never seen it before enjoyed watching the fish planting process. There are fewer fish being put into the lake this year because of the appointed board lowering dues and taking the money out of the fish budget.

Hopefully we will get back on track next year. As always we close the lake for fishing for a few weeks to allow them to get acclimated. We will plan on having the lake open for fishing by mid-April. Look for the "Closed to Fishing" signs to come down, then fishing is open. Please remember to use barbless hooks on flies and lures to allow easy catch and release.

Fishing Rules

Everyone on a boat must have a Life Preserver.
Children (under 12 years old) must wear the Life Preserver while on the boat.
Everyone fishing must carry a Guest Pass.
Current Guest Pass is valid until May 31, 2021.
Every homeowner is lake security.
Limit 5 fish per lot owner per day.
Remove trash, fish guts and personal items.
Fishing open except two weeks after fish planting.
No live bait and practice responsible "Catch and Release".

Boat Marking

By Randy and Diana Kenworthy

Hey boat owners, we need your help! If you are storing a boat at any of our four community beaches, please identify your boat by putting your block and lot numbers on the bow of your boat with waterproof

stickers. These can be found at Lowe's, Ace Hardware, etc. for about \$5.00 for a complete package of numbers and letters. (Example: For Block 2 Lot 26 it is as simple as B2 L26). Many boats have been sitting for years, taking up prime beach space without ever being used! We need to find out which boats belong to community members and which ones have been abandoned. After everyone has identified their boats, the abandoned boats will be removed. Removing the abandoned boats will help increase the available beach space. Also, please email or call Randy at mrl823@gmail.com or (509) 991-6836 to add your name to the boat register so your contact information is connected to your boat. If you can't remember your block and lot number or have any other questions, feel free to call Randy for help.

We really appreciate your support and cooperation!



Go Paperless

If you are willing to receive your newsletter digitally instead of in the mail, please let Lucinda Wiser know by email. lucindawiser1@gmail.com



Roads Committee

By Lucinda Wiser

The RLCA formed a new Roads Committee at the Board meeting in March. The members are: Sharon Vanderholm, Jon and Lori Roman, Robert Syverson, Casey Lambert, Jim Boothby, Renee Reedy, and Lucinda Wiser. We are meeting on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Community Center. You are welcome to join us.

Our first order of business was to fill the potholes. We were able to get that done sooner than expected, by the end of March. At the same time, we are getting bids for fixing the road. We are researching and compiling an array of solutions to send to the Private Road Lots to vote on. The ballot will be sent in mid-May, and the deadline to vote is June 3, 8:30 PM. We are taking bids for solutions from cheap (returning to a dirt road) to expensive (asphalt road complete with drainage and culverts). Please look for your ballot in the mail in mid- May and let us know your choices about the road.

We will have a Roads Committee Community Forum on June 3, at 7:00 PM at the Community Center to discuss each of the available options. If you live on a Reflection Lake private road, you are welcome to come to the meeting to hear a full report on each of the options. The deadline for mailing or dropping off your ballot will be at the end of this meeting.



Our RLCA Covenants state: "3.2 Private Roads. The Common Area includes private roads and drainage facilities within common area tracts,...Notwithstanding other provisions in these Covenants regarding allocation and responsibility for payment of Assessments, however only Lots directly using a private road as a means of primary access shall be obligated to share in costs arising after the date of this Amendment for maintaining the private roads (the "Private Road Lots")." This means those living on the private roads are responsible for the cost of repairing that road. However, contributions are greatly appreciated. Because the Private Road Lots are responsible for the bill, the ballot will be sent only to the Private Road Lots.

Thank you to the Road Committee for taking on this underappreciated job.

Legal Update

April 8, 2021

Status of First Lawsuit: The Interpleader filed by Banner Bank was decided on January 29th by Judge Tony Hazel in favor of the currently elected RLCA Board. The Elected Board currently has possession of the bank account and is running the operations of the RLCA business. However, James Powers has filed an appeal. Currently, the appeal of our summary judgment regarding last year's election is under way in the appellate court. We have no court date scheduled at this time. The legal documents for both lawsuits can be found on our website at <https://reflectionlake.net/rlca-legal-documents/lawsuit-documents/>

Status of the Second Lawsuit: We are also facing another lawsuit spearheaded by five members of the Association to disband the RLCA and hire third party operators. This action would likely increase the management cost to each owner in the RLCA Association because it would replace our volunteers with paid management positions. This would make three organizations: The Water, the Roads, and the Common Area (dams, lake, access lots) and each organization would assess us accordingly. We expect this lawsuit to come to the courts sometime in late summer. If we do not respond, then we would be in default and the small minority who brought the suit would win. In response to that lawsuit, McNeice Wheeler Law Firm, the firm representing the RLCA, has filed a Third Party Complaint. This brings all lawyers, the Water Board and the three additional Appointed Board members into the larger suit. This was done to allow discovery and depose those who have participated in disputed decisions regarding the RLCA in the past year.

Money: Up until this point the defense against these lawsuits has been paid for by 24 households on the lake. We are grateful for these families stepping up to defend the Association. However, it is not fair that a few pay the cost of what has become very expensive in protecting the whole. **From this point forward, we are considering using RLCA funds to defend ourselves. Ultimately this means you will be paying for the lawyer. We will have a vote at a Board meeting, where all are invited to approve this use of funds or not.** We are also setting up an Ad Hoc Legal Defense Advisory Committee. They will advise the Board on how to respond to these legal challenges. We have enclosed a survey asking you, the members, what you want to do. Please respond to this survey in the next couple of days by mail, or give your survey to a Board Member. The RLCA Board supports a resolution of these

issues either by court decisions or negotiation. If anyone would like to write up a proposed settlement, we would be happy to consider it.

Going Forward we will:

- Outline issues in dispute
- Propose a compromise
- Vote by ballot on the larger lawsuit
- Prevail in litigation

Our community is growing, and how we manage this moment will affect our children and grandchildren for decades. Volunteerism has sustained this community since its creation, almost 60 years ago, and is still alive and going strong today! Below is just one example of what our fantastic volunteers can accomplish.

Yard Sale

We will be having a Yard Sale at Sandi and Charlie Bennets house, 37116 N Dunn Road, on June 19 & 20 starting at 10:00 AM. If you have things you want to sell, please bring them. Proceeds go to RLCA or private parties, (upon request). Contact Sandi Bennett for details.

Thank You



Thank you to the 24 volunteers for cleaning up the Elk-Milan Roadside on April 10th! We appreciate Randy and Diana Kenworthy for organizing this event with the support of Spokane County. Thank you to Claudia Kokinda and Sandi and Charlie Bennett for hosting the event.

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