



# Sightlines

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Spring 2022

## Newsletter of the Selkirk Conservation Alliance

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*Sightlines* is the newsletter of the  
**Selkirk Conservation Alliance (SCA)**, a non-profit corporation  
providing environmental  
oversight and public information  
for the Selkirk Mountains.

## Remembering Barry Rosenberg

BY BRUCE YOCUM, SCA BOARD MEMBER

Just like the sound of his name, don't you?

One early spring day in Squaw Valley at Priest Lake, I drove out to Barry and Cathe's house, and started my trek in, which consisted of putting on my x-country skis, day pack, and sun glasses, and skiing for a mile and a half to the off-grid cabin that Barry and Cathe built by hand in around 1975. Sunny skies, no wind, and 2 feet of snow. Ah, Squaw Valley in the spring!

Pepper, Barry and Cathe's baby, was the first one to greet me and sound the alarm, warning of an intruder. After pleasantries were exchanged, such as "what are you doing here Bruce?" we pulled up a couple of chairs and sat in the sun. Jays were chirping, squirrels were chattering, and it felt good just to be alive.

We would stare at the depleted wood pile, suck on a beer, eat nuts, tell lies, and then start in on a conversation about the state of the world – which covered just about every topic. I must admit, I personally am ill-equipped for such conversations with a master such as Barry, but I gave it my best.

Barry always loved to go out into nature, whether it be on the SCA boat for water



**Barry with Cathe, Bruce and Rosemary during an SCA litter pickup work party.**

testing, picking huckleberries and morels in the mountains, and especially cutting and loading firewood for the long winter ahead.

Once, when he joined us on the boat for water testing, after a wonderful lunch on Kalispell Island on a picture-perfect day, we were getting back onto the boat. Everyone else had loaded up, and there was Barry, one foot on the dock and the other on the boat. Soon, there was a distance of 3 feet between the dock and boat, with Barry trying to straddle the abyss. He lost the battle and ended up in the water. Everyone had a good laugh, even Barry, and we continued on our journey.

I will miss Barry, as I know many of you will, but he lives on in our memory.

**TRIBUTE TO BARRY**  
CONTINUED, PAGE 7



## Board of Directors

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is truly arriving to the Priest Lake region and I suspect we all are ready! My last winter wonderland adventure at "The Lake" in late January required four wheel drive, snowshoe trekking with a loaded sled and hours of snow shoveling. Even the professional snowplow service plowing our access road retreated with no place to push the snow and the equipment buried in a snow bank. For all of us concerned about the Selkirk Mountain snowpack and its impact on the Priest Lake Basin, all that snow was not only beautiful but sounded like a remarkably good thing.

Although the snow-pack in the Panhandle Basins was at the 30 year median on 2/1/2022, optimism for a recharging snow season did not last. As all of you skiers know, after above average precipitation in October and December, winter dwindled off. By 3/30/22, the mountain snowpack (as Snow Water Equivalents) had decreased to 88% normal at Hidden Lake (NE of Upper Priest) and 84% of median at Schweitzer Basin. Because of relatively warm and sunny weather, the

snowpack was dense with a prediction of an early spring snowmelt. Although there is no available Stream inflow data, Lower Priest River stream discharge flow (near Priest River, Id) was 1970 cubic feet/second on 3/30/22 compared to median of 1729 CuFt/Sec. Priest Lake level at the outlet gauge is beginning to rise.

What all this means to the health of the lake and Lower Priest River requires multi-variant guessing and an element of the Lake half full or half empty mentality! The lake will fill to summer pool and with a near average snow-pack, hopefully Priest River summer flows can be maintained to facilitate the health of the Priest River Habitat, avoiding a repeat fish die-off late summer this year.

As you can see from this Sightlines issue,

the SCA has been busy. Lake water quality and the serious threats to the health of the Lower Priest River habitat are major focuses. The lake and stream water testing program is robust and is expanding rapidly in step with the increasing challenges climate change is delivering. Critical to water quality management is wetland protection. Both the Coolin-Warren Beach Wetland development plans as well as the sale of the unique Sandpiper Shores-Mosquito Bay Wetland are serious concerns. Priest Lake is at risk of losing a huge majority of the wetlands crucial to the health of North Idaho's Crown Jewel. We are very lucky to have our Executive Director Amy

Anderson's expertise on zoning ordinances to help keep "regulatory" agencies on task with development and shoreline encroachment around the lake. Through her leadership, our involvement in the community and our educational outreach program also are blossoming.

The SCA Board thanks all the members and organizations who have donated to the SCA this past year. We know that our success is dependent on having an experienced Executive Director and

office staff. Financial security for that crucial expertise however required a leap of faith in our Membership.

With increased outreach comes an increased workload as well! And yes, all that requires ongoing time and money. We really need to expand our Membership to better reflect the size of the community benefitting from the beautiful Priest Lake and Priest River environment. Ask your friends and neighbors to join. Consider an extra donation. Help YOUR Selkirk Conservation Alliance "Keep the Wild in the Selkirk Ecosystem"

Curt Wickre, SCA Board President  
[sca@scawild.org](mailto:sca@scawild.org)

## Selkirk Conservation Alliance

### Mission

Engage the public in southern Selkirk resource and land management issues through cooperation, scientific inquiry, education and economic diversity.

### Vision

The Selkirk Conservation Alliance is the leading and faithful advocate to all who live, love and benefit from Priest Lake and its surroundings. We are committed to understanding, supporting and protecting the environment and all living beings found here. We are dedicated to the educational programs and scientific research that support and maintain this rare and exceptional environment for future generations.

For more in-depth articles, photographs and links, go to our website  
[www.scawild.org](http://www.scawild.org)

# Priest River Conservation Mitigation Alternatives Position Statement

**T**he Selkirk Conservation Alliance (SCA) is committed to understanding, supporting, and protecting the southern Selkirk environment through cooperation, scientific inquiry, education, and economic diversity. We advocate for all beings, human and non-human, who live in, love, and benefit from Priest Lake and its surroundings. One major component of these surroundings is the Lower Priest River – and it is in trouble.

Lower Priest River flows, both in quantity and quality, are insufficient to sustain an historical cold-water fishery, or healthy habitat for other threatened and endangered species. Recreation on the Lower Priest River in late summer is limited due to low river flows. The degradation of the Lower Priest River must be addressed.

SCA has monitored water quality in the lake for years including the temperature of Priest Lake tributaries. We are the leading advocate in the area for wetlands preservation. We advocate for responsible forest management to preserve forest canopy near streams. All these are attempts to maintain or improve water quality including temperature in the lake and in the river.

SCA is mindful of the tremendous recreational and economic benefit derived from Priest Lake itself. We do not deny that there are conflicts and tradeoffs between the river flow management and potential lake impacts. We are hopeful that wise management can reduce the magnitude of tradeoffs inherent in this issue.

SCA is open to discussion and exploration of all management actions that will improve the Lower Priest River environment while maintaining the enormous benefit derived from recreation on and adjacent to the lake itself. The SCA does not feel we can advocate for a cold water bypass until it can be reasonably assured that effects on Priest Lake, in both construction and operation, are held to a minimum and concerns listed herein are addressed.

Better hydrological and temperature data on stream and Thorofare flows under various climate scenarios would greatly advance the discussion of this issue. The ecologic impact to Outlet Bay and silt runoff to Priest River from a large dredging operation needs evaluation. Potential changes to Outlet Bay currents and flow patterns during the operation of a Bypass needs modeling. Importantly, a coordinated management plan incorporating Outlet Dam, Cold-

## New E-news

Are you receiving the SCA's newest E-newsletter? Don't miss out! There's a lot happening between the printed issues of Sightlines.

Please contact SCA today to be added to the SCA E-news list, [sca@scawild.org](mailto:sca@scawild.org) or 208-448-1110



water Bypass, and Lower Priest River flow rates linked to seasonal lake pool levels needs to be scientifically developed.

Through scientific inquiry and public education, SCA seeks answers to the environmental challenges facing the Lower Priest River. Historically, the long-term ecologic impact of the Outlet Dam was not understood. As remediation efforts for those consequences are being considered, the SCA requests more thorough outcome data.

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*SCA Staff and Board of Directors,  
March 30, 2022*

## Welcome to SCA's Newest Board of Directors Member

### Meet Janis Houghton

#### Meet the newest member to join the SCA Board of Directors.

**J**anis grew up in Spokane and Coeur d'Alene, spending all her summers on Coeur d'Alene years at Kootenai Health in the Ultrasound and Echocardiology Departments, retiring in 2019. She and her family have enjoyed coming to Priest Lake for the past 32 years, and have grown to love the area. She loves to spend time in North Idaho's lovely forests, lakes and mountains skiing, trail running, hiking and foraging for mushrooms and berries.

"We are not owners, but caretakers of the land, and we all

have the responsibility of doing what we can to preserve as much of it as possible for future generations. Growth may be inevitable, but it needs to happen in a responsible manner, with the long-term result in mind."

"Having watched Coeur d'Alene Lake become overly privatized, with over 80% of its shoreline developed, it is alarming to see similar changes happening on Priest Lake, 'Idaho's Crown Jewel'. I have become aware of the deterioration of the lake's condition and the health of our surrounding forests. Being involved with SCA has revitalized my true passion of studying and protecting nature, and giving back to the region I have grown to love."



# Is Priest Lake Getting Warmer?

BY STAN MILLER, SCA BOARD MEMBER

## BACKGROUND

In the early 1990s Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) did an assessment of Priest Lake water quality. Beginning in 1990, with just a couple of sites, lake water samples were tested for a wide range of parameters monthly for as many as nine months of the year. In addition to the typical chemical and biological parameters, dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles were made for most sites on most sampling dates.

After a hiatus of over a decade, the Selkirk Conservation Alliance (SCA) initiated its Citizen Volunteer Monitoring Program (CVMP) in 2008. In that program the SCA sampled the same sites as those sampled by IDEQ, but due to funding limitations the range of parameters studied and the frequency of sampling was dramatically reduced.

## TEMPERATURE TRENDS

In this article we will look at some of the “trends” in temperature that are revealed by the data collected by IDEQ in the 1990s and the data collected by the Selkirk Conservation Alliance (SCA) since 2008. Though over 18 sites around the lake have been tested over the years, the frequency of testing varies widely among sites. Most of the sites are in the relatively shallow water (<12 meters – 40 feet) of “bays.” There are also a few “open water” sites where the lake depth is over 30 meters (100 feet). For this discussion we will focus on the Priest Lake North (PLNO) site located mid lake just north of the narrows & two bay sites. One, at the south end of Kalispell Bay (KALI) is 150 meters (500 feet) off shore and is about 11 meters (36 feet) deep. The other is in Huckleberry Bay (HUCK). This site is located “mid-bay” is 150 meters off shore, and 11 meters deep. These sites were chosen for evaluation because they have the largest number of years for which data was collected.

Using equipment from IDEQ, temperature and DO profiles are still made at the

sites tested by SCA. Though sampling frequency was reduced to monthly June-September. Of the 18+ sites used by IDEQ in the 1990's, SCA typically visits 9 sites per year on a rotating basis. Over the course of 2 years most of the historic sites are visited and sampled.

Given the nearly 30+ year record of temperature data it is possible make several observations about lake temperature dynamics. First, temperature of the lake surface fluctuates widely over a year. While SCA does not typically do temperature profiles other than in June,

collected by SCA. The three curves all show that after reaching a peak in late summer the lake cools dramatically in the fall. In fact, if ice forms on the lake in winter the lake is probably close to freezing all the way to the bottom at that site. Water is most dense at about 4° C or 39° F. When the water at the surface cools to this temperature it sinks to the bottom of the lake. Only when the whole water column gets down to 4° C will the surface start to freeze. That is one reason why the shallower bays freeze over first.

FIGURE 3: PLNO August 2021 Temperature Profile

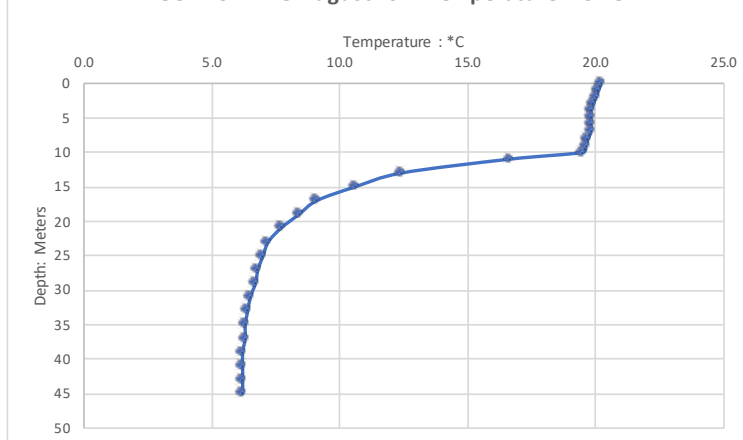


Figure 3 shows a temperature profile for the PLNO site for August of 2021. Figure 3 illustrates another of the characteristics of temperate zone lakes: stratification. There is a rapid drop in

FIGURE 2: PLNO Annual Temperature Variation 0-1m

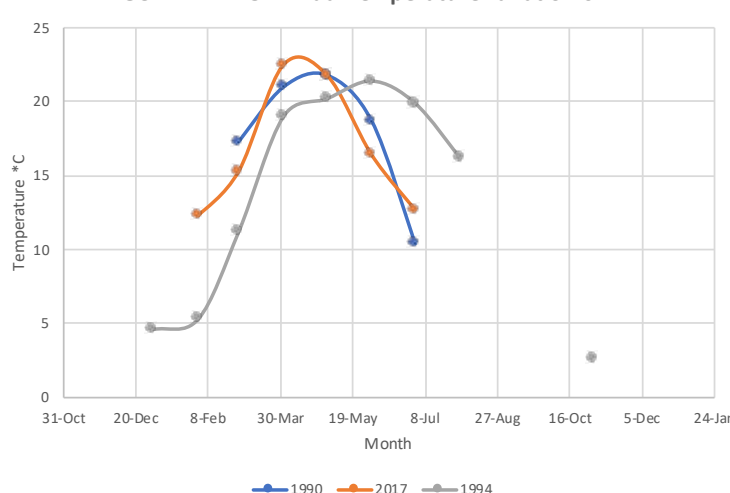


Figure 2 shows the monthly surface temperatures, again for PLNO, from the 1990 and 1994 IDEQ data and for 2017 the most complete set of annual data

temperature between 10 and 11 meters in depth. That “cooling” layer extends another 5 or 6 meters until the temperature stabilizes near its coldest temperature. The technical term for this layer of rapidly cooling water is the “thermocline.” The upper warm layer is called the epilimnion and the lower, colder layer is the hypolimnion. The temperature difference between the upper and lower layers of the lake forms an effective barrier between warm surface water and colder water below. Because the epilimnion in Priest Lake during the

epilimnion. While the two sets of data show that the average of the epilimnion is a bit cooler than the top meter, the trend lines are essentially parallel indicating the same temperature trend.

An additional observation that can be seen in Figure 4 – 6

is that 2021 was not the warmest year for Priest Lake in August. That honor goes to 2013 and 2017 when the surface of the lake reached nearly 25° C (77° F). Because of the wide variation in August temperature from year to year it is hard to analyze this data statistically, but everyone who has spent several decades at the lake has observed the trend.

summer is usually between nine and 11 meters thick, most of the bays, which are typically around 10 meters deep will not show stratification in mid to late summer; they will be “warm” all the way to the bottom.

Because of stratification in Priest Lake, if inflow to the lake during the summer is as warm or warmer than water in the epilimnion it will stay in that layer and not go to the deeper portion of the lake where it would warm the hypolimnion. Warm inflowing water from streams may thicken the epilimnion, but will not cool the deepest parts of the lake.

A final observation from the long-term temperature data is that we see a gradual increase in lake surface temperature data over the last 30 years. Both open water sites like PLNO (Figure 4) and in the bays where we have good data from the 1990s and at least eight observations since 2008 (KALI, and HUCK- Figures 5-6) show that the typical August lake surface temperature is 2° C or more warmer now than in the 1990s. These graphs show two sets of data. They show the trend in the temperature of the top 1 meter of the lake, and the trend in the average temperature of the

temperature from year to year it is hard to analyze this data statistically, but everyone who has spent several decades at the lake has observed the trend.

## FUTURE WORK

SCA will continue to collect and evaluate water temperature data. Our monitoring will be modified to help us zero in on potential threats to lake quality. Among those focal points will be: How much warm water is flowing into the lake from tributary streams in the summer? Could warmer future inflow become great enough to impact the hypolimnion or will that impact be isolated to the upper layer warm water as it is now? Future issues of Sightlines will highlight this work.

FIGURE 4: PLNO August Temperature Trend

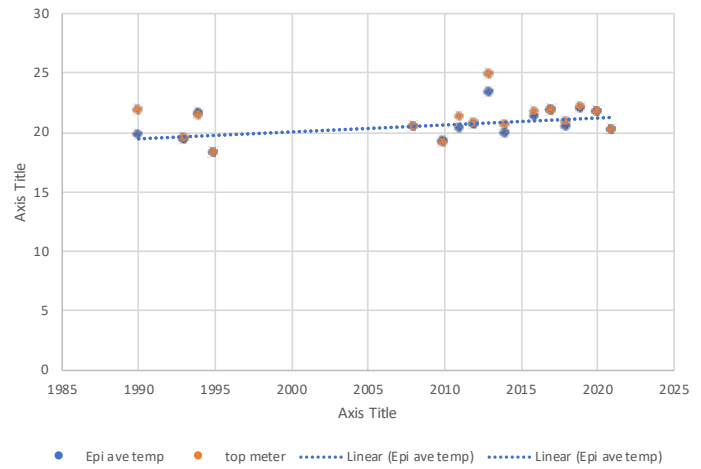


Figure 5: Kalispell Bay - August Temperature Trend

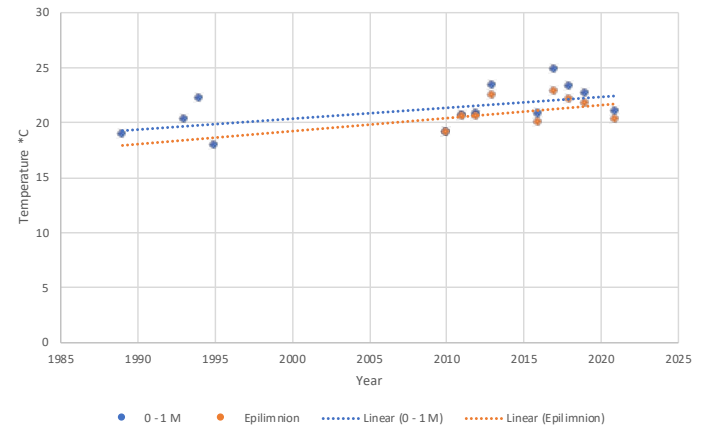
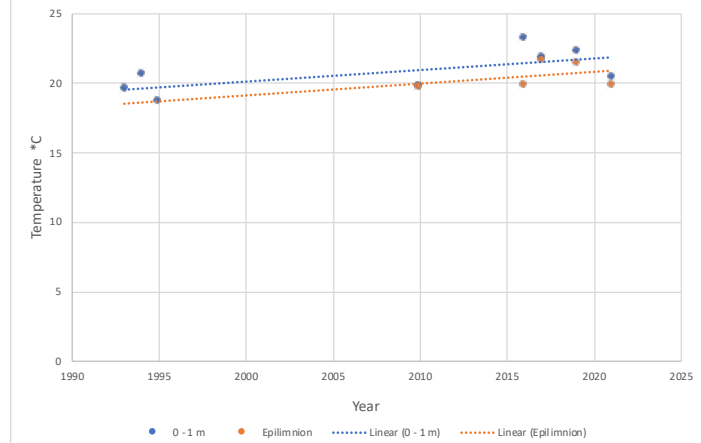


Figure 6: Huckelberry Bay: August Temperature Trend



# Land Trusts and Conservation Easement Programs

BY JANIS HOUGHTON, SCA BOARD MEMBER

**A**s our area in lovely north Idaho becomes steadily more populated, word of its attractive finalized and it's too late to protect the land. Many say change is inevitable, but that kind of change does not need to happen. Wouldn't it be nice if we could save some of these precious areas and keep them undeveloped so that wildlife could continue to roam freely and the beauty could be spared for future generations. Land conservation, through land trusts and conservation easements are ways to protect these natural spaces, and the wildlife that inhabit or migrate through, from development.

## **What is a Conservation Easement and how does it relate to a Land Trust?**

A Conservation Easement is a legally binding agreement between a private land owner and a land trust, or in some cases, a government agency, which is attached to the deed for the property. It allows the owner to set limits on the land's usage and establish his/her vision for the land, with the trust or agency acting as a steward through the easement, while the owner retains ownership of the land. Conservation easements can be sold or donated to the trust or agency, and are designed to protect the land from development in perpetuity, meaning the current owner(s), heirs and all future owners of the land are obligated to adhere to the terms of the easement. Each conservation easement is unique according to the landowner-land trust agreement, however, terms of the agreement usually allow for conservation of the land without significant impacts to the owner(s).

For instance: A farmer can use a conservation easement to prevent his/her farmland from being residentially, or commercially developed in the future, while farming practices are allowed to continue.

Many conservation easements in North Idaho maintain logging practices on private timber land.

As of 2015, Congress changed the tax laws such that property owners with conservation easements are allowed tax deductions up to 50% of annual income for 15 years, or until the value of the donated land is achieved. Qualifying farmers and ranchers may deduct up to 100%, if farming or ranching constitutes at least 51% of their gross income.

Although conservation easements will generally lower the value of the land through preclusion of development, this can be of benefit to the owner(s) in that property taxes can be lowered as a result. For those who stand to inherit land with a conservation easement, the estate taxes are correspondingly lowered. In some cases, a conservation easement may lower the value below the threshold for estate taxes altogether. In addition, heirs can exclude 40% of the value of land with a conservation easement from estate taxes.

A conservation easement must meet certain criteria; including a qualifying real estate appraisal being done prior to the finalization of the easement.

Its formation must be in accordance with governmental conservation policies. By Idaho state law, conservation easements must accomplish at least one of these purposes: "retaining or protecting natural, scenic, or open-space values of real property, assuring its availability for agricultural, forest, recreational, or open-space use, protecting natural resources, maintaining or enhancing air or water quality, or preserving the historical, architectural, archaeological, or cultural aspects of real property."

Lumber companies will sometimes partner with other organizations or agencies to form conservation easements on large parcels of their forestlands. This is often facilitated through the Idaho Forest Legacy Program (FLP), a pro-

gram of the Idaho Dept of Lands. The purpose of this program is to 'protect privately owned, economically and environmentally important forestlands that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses'. Each conservation easement project must be at least 5 acres, and meet the FLP's primary objective of 'keeping working forests working', among several other criteria. The FLP gets funding from the Land & Water Conservation Fund, which obtains royalties from oil and gas companies that perform drilling on the outer continental shelf. To date the FLP has preserved 98,000 acres of privately owned forestland as working forestland.

## **Examples of conservation easements in Bonner and Boundary Counties:**

Examples of conservation easements in Bonner and Boundary Counties:

elds, wetlands and ponds. This was done through a collaboration between Stimson Lumber Co., Idaho Dept of Lands, and Idaho Dept of Fish & Game. The easement was purchased for \$9.5 with money from the Trust for Public Land, including funds from the Forest Legacy Program, Pittman-Robertson wildlife restoration funds, and a significant private donation. This resulted in over 10,000 acres being opened to the public.

McArthur Lake Wildlife Corridor near Sandpoint and Bonners Ferry has 6,846 acres of productive forest land in which the Trust for Public Land worked with Stimson Lumber and the Idaho Dept of Lands to create a conservation easement and allow public access for hunting, fishing, and hiking.

These examples of conservation easements may not appear to fulfill conservation needs first and foremost by allowing logging practices to continue. They do, however, protect the land from development and other detrimental uses, including mining operations.

**LAND TRUSTS**

CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE

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# Loss of an Endangered Species: Conservationist

## Tribute to Barry Rosenberg

BY AMY ANDERSON, EXEC DIRECTOR

Barry, Thank you for teaching me some of the principals of conservation that cannot be taught in school. Thank you for your electric love of the woods, water and wildlife of Priest.

Thank you for opening so many eyes to the sheer perfection of this area and pouring your life in to protecting it. Thank you for having the courage to speak the hard truths and hold the front line. In a nation of armchair warriors – thank you for being a true warrior.

Do not stand  
By my grave, and weep.  
I am not there,  
I do not sleep—  
I am the thousand winds that blow  
I am the diamond glints in snow  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,  
I am the gentle, autumn rain.  
As you awake with morning's hush,  
I am the swift, up-flinging rush  
Of quiet birds in circling flight,  
I am the day transcending night.  
Do not stand  
By my grave, and cry—  
I am not there,  
I did not die. **A poem by Clare Harner 1934**

## LAND TRUSTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

A conservation land trust is a private, nonprofit organization that takes over the development rights of the land via a conservation easement, or transfer of ownership of the land through a sale or donation. There are over 1,600 land trusts operating across the United States of which 20 are in Idaho. These lands may be open to the public or used as a wildlife refuge.

One of the largest and well known conservation land trusts is the Nature Conservancy, a global organization, which has been successful in the preservation and protection of over 125 million acres just in the US alone.

An example of a successful land trust in our area is the Kaniksu Land Trust, based in Sandpoint, Idaho. Since 2002, through conservation easements and land acquisition, Kaniksu Land Trust has "helped area families to protect nearly 4,000 acres of working farms and forests, scenic views, important wetlands, and habitat for wildlife in Bonner and Boundary counties in Idaho and Sanders County, Montana. Some of the properties protected by the KLT

include the Pack River Wildlife

Conservation Easement (66 acres on the Upper Pack River, ID), Ross Conservation Easement (106 acres in Bull River Valley, Montana), and Gold Creek Ranch Conservation Easement (643 acres in Gold Creek, ID), which came about in 2009 through the owner's concerns regarding subdivisions, urban sprawl, and rapid land development.

A real success story right in our backyard is that of Bismark Meadows, just south of Nordman, Idaho. Duck's Unlimited, along with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, spent several years working to restore this land as close to its natural state as possible, after years of the meadows being drained so as to allow for cattle grazing and hay production. Approximately 1,000 acres of this land was purchased in 2018 from Joe Hawley and several adjacent private land owners by Vital Ground, a land trust out of Missoula, Montana that seeks to preserve grizzly habitat. The acquisition of this unique low-lying wet meadow complex has ensured these meadows will be preserved as a natural wetland forever, 'providing refuge threatened or endangered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture'. Thank you Mr. Hawley and neighbors! This is an incredibly beautiful setting that will be saved thanks to their foresight and generosity, and that of Vital Ground and the ALSAM foundation, which receives funds from Leonard Samuel Skaggs of Salt Lake City, Utah.

*Please contact SCA to learn more about local, state and federal conservation programs that can help you and your family permanently protect and conserve your bit of heaven for generations to come. 206-448-1110 or [sca@scawild.org](mailto:sca@scawild.org)*





# SCA Stream Monitoring Update

BY JAMES LEA, SCA BOARD MEMBER

For several years we have considered extending our water quality monitoring program to include the streams in the Priest Lake/River watershed. Two years ago we were finally able to initiate this new program with a generous gift from the Priest Lake Cabin Owners Association (PLCOA). That first year we were able to install temperature monitors (with the amusing name of Hobo Tidbits) in Lion, Two Mouth, Indian, Hunt and Soldier Creeks. We placed these little devices in a protective case of PVC and bonded the cases to boulders with marine epoxy. We were not optimistic that they would survive the winter because water temperature in early November was about 40 F, but fortunately they all made it through the winter. We downloaded our first data set last summer. An example for Lion Creek is shown. Note how in the winter the temperature flat lines around 0 degrees C. Also note the warming as spring and summer arrive. In late June through August the temperature touched 19 C, but fortunately you will see that the daily temperature fluctuation in summer can be as much as 3 C. So it seems the cold water biota would have done fine.

Temperature is a critical environmental factor for our streams since they provide habitat for cold water biota such as west-slope cutthroat trout, endangered Bull Trout and the invertebrates and phytoplankton which form the basis of the food chain. With climate warming and ongoing industrial logging our streams are at risk potentially. Dr. Frank Wilhelm, professor of Limnology at University of Idaho, believes that long term temperature monitoring is the most important thing we can do to monitor and protect our unique environment.

We have also monitored nutrients that can lead to degradation of water quality in the lake. These nutrients are nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P). Excess nutrient loading can lead to abundant growth of aquatic vegetation. Phosphorus in particular is a potential problem given

that the aquatic vegetation growth in our lake is limited by P.

Last summer we inaugurated our "adopt a stream" program to help fund our ongoing monitoring. We also received \$3,000 from PLCOA. This allowed us to extend our monitoring to nearly every stream in the Priest Lake watershed. These streams include Caribou, Trapper, Upper Priest River above the upper lake, Granite, Kalispell and Lamb Creeks.

We downloaded our temperature data last October and tabulated our nutrient data. We then had all these data reviewed both by Bob Steed at IDEQ and Dr. Wilhelm. DEQ has created a permanent record that is available to the public for future reference.

In summary our streams remain in reasonably good shape from the standpoint of temperature and nutrients. However, there were times last summer when Soldier and Granite Creeks had temperatures above 19C for several days. For cold water organisms 19C is usually a critical cut-off point. Protracted temps above 19C can result in fish kills as happened in Lower Priest last summer.

Dr. Wilhelm reviewed our nutrient data and feels that N levels are consistently low and do not represent a worry. He recommended that we check N less frequently. In general P levels were not a concern except for Cougar and Kalispell Creeks. Here the total phosphorus levels (TP) were not dangerously high but suggested to Dr. Wilhelm that they



**James Lea in the midst of stream sampling work, greater Priest Lake area.**

could represent a proxy for turbidity. Kalispell Creek has had a problem of excessive siltation for years and has an EPA TMDL established for that problem. In the case of Kalispell Creek there has been extensive deforestation in the watershed from a century of logging, road building and fires. This has accelerated soil erosion leading to extensive siltation.

In the case of Cougar Creek the elevated TP may be due to a similar problem of siltation from logging and road building. This year we would like to begin measuring turbidity directly with a dedicated turbidity monitoring device. We will then determine a correlation between TP and turbidity. If there is a significant correlation, we can measure turbidity much more frequently and cheaply than TP. This could be a way to more intensively monitor IDL industrial logging practices.

Dr. Wilhelm also suggested that we do our nutrient monitoring during the spring and early summer before and during the run off when most of the erosion takes place. Consequently, we will be out there beginning in April. If anyone wants to help us buy a turbidity instrument, the cost is about \$900. Stay tuned for a report next fall.



# Adopt-A-Stream

BY AMY ANDERSON, SCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**W**ould you like to know about the health of a stream near you? Are you concerned about a particular stream? SCA has an Adopt-A-Stream program in which community members can invest in a "Tidbit" and adopt an unmonitored stream they are concerned about!

SCA would like to thank our newest Adopt-A-Stream Program parents!

- **Karen and George Momany adopted Hunt Creek -2020**
- **The Hungate family (Jones / Ashburn) adopted Lionhead Creek – 2021**
- **Susan Beard adopted Indian Creek – 2021**
- **Melissa Quilter adopted Granite Creek - 2021**
- **Rolf Paulson adopted Caribou Creek - 2022**

**Did you know:** A majority of streams in the Priest Lake and River Watersheds are not meeting the Federal Clean Water Act temperature criterion for cold water! Our native cold water fish species cannot survive in warm streams. Warm water adversely impacts dissolved oxygen levels, fish spawning and survival.

In spite of increasing stream temperatures, fish die-offs and being listed as federally impaired, streams in the Priest Watershed have not been consistently monitored - until now!

SCA has established an organized Priest Lake Watershed STREAMS citizen science water quality monitoring program collecting water quality monitoring data on 13 primary Priest Lake tributary streams including; Lion Creek, Two-Mouth, Indian Creek, Hunt Creek, Soldier Creek, Caribou Creek, Kalispel Creek, Granite Creek, Upper Priest, Trapper Creek, Bear Creek, Lamb Creek and Cougar Creek.

SCA has been collecting water quality monitoring data on; air temperature,

stream temperature & pH (beginning in 2018) and nutrients (beginning in 2020) data for TP on 13 primary tributary streams feeding Priest Lake. Data collection and sampling activities occur from April-July at all 13 sites. Temperature data is collected continuously throughout the year with "Tidbit" temperature gauges that are fixed in streams being monitored by SCA.

## How can I Help? Adopt a Stream!

### Bubbling Brook Level:

\$150 donation -every donation is very much appreciated & your dollars really do go a long ways in expanding this program

### Cutthroat Trout Level:

\$250 purchases a "Tidbit" continuous temperature monitor which records downloadable temperatures of the stream every 15 minutes, 24/7 for two years and single laboratory for nutrient chemistries including Total Phosphorous.

### Bull Trout Level:

\$500 purchases a "Tidbit" temperature monitor, repeated annual chemistry testing as well as Stream Habitat and Physical Assessment. It also provides funding to help with education for water stewards to insure success of this program!

## What ELSE do I get for my donation?

Most importantly, satisfaction for being a difference maker in keeping Priest Lake pristine!

Have your name added as an adopter of your favorite stream - possibly on the Tidbit housing itself, for all the spawning Salmonids to see!

Walk and wade your stream with other SCA volunteers to monitor the data and record habitat and physical stream features!

Participate in educational opportunities to learn about stream biology & ecol-

ogy with the opportunity to become certified as a "Master Water Steward" through University of Idaho's - IDAH2O program!

## Be the first to see the data!

Recent changes to the National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act and other federal and state environmental regulations compounded with the effects of climate change and unchecked land use and development continue to threaten and harm the environmental health of our beloved Priest Lake Watershed.

Now, more than ever, it is imperative that individuals and communities become active stewards of their local environments, conserving, protecting and restoring our land, air, forests, wildlife & water!

Funding support for SCA's work is entirely dependent upon outside funding from members, donors, foundations and community members – YOU –Thank YOU for your support!



## Adopt-a-stream widget.

# Lake Wine: Summer Time is a Fine Time for Wine!

BY JON MILLER LEA, SCA BOARD MEMBER

It's hard to believe after a long winter, but summer is coming and that means more time at the Lake. And at the Lake I often like to relax with a glass of wine. Maybe you do too. If not, skip this article and proceed directly to an article about declining water quality, threatened wetlands, overzealous timber harvest, fish kills, forest fires, or climate change. Then, come back to this article and reassess whether you would like to relax at the Lake with a glass of wine. I don't recommend medical drinking, but in times like these.....

This is an article about Lake wine, part of an informal Sightlines series about things we like to do at the Lake. I've written before in these pages about sailing and huckleberry picking; others have written about hiking, baking, and Nordic skiing, among other fun activities. We can't always be about gloom and doom, or even about our successes in slowing down the advancing forces of destruction and decay.

I'll make wine recommendations in this article. Feel free to ignore all but the first, which is to drink what you like. Wine is a very personal thing. I'll share my preferences, and I'd love to hear yours. I was born an economist and was lucky enough to have a career in economics. In the last decade of that career, I did research in wine economics. I know, tough work, but somebody's got to do it. Wine economics research has shown that there is a positive relationship between a wine's price and its quality, but it's fuzzy and loose. Like most wine drinkers, I love bargains, and they come in all price ranges and at all quality levels. A wine isn't a Lake wine unless it hits the sweet spot, the right relationship between price and quality. We went for cocktails at a neighbor's and the choice was red, white, or pink. You pick the box. Perfect.

I buy most of our wine at Total Wine, Costco, and grocery stores. I like to get quantity discounts, 10% on a "mix 6," for example, or even 15% or 20% on occasion. My target price is between

\$9-20, and, for Lake wine, near the lower end of that range.

I always have red wine on hand for cool, rainy days, or when grilling meat. One of our favorites here is the bargain cabernet sauvignon from Argentina, Ed Edmundo, at Total Wine (\$9-10). But in July, August, and September, when it's hot, my wine preference turns from red to white or rose. Here's my test. If you can drop an ice cube into your glass of wine and not wretch, it's a hot-weather Lake wine. A cabernet or merlot on the rocks doesn't ring my bell. That said, members of my extended family adhere to the aphorism, "Life's too short to drink white wine." That's OK, too. Different strokes for different folks. Remember the first rule, drink what you like.

So here are a few recommendations. First, summer is rose time. I prefer dry rose. We're in luck in the Pacific Northwest. No need to import dry rose. My favorite from last summer comes from a family winery in central Washington, Jones of Washington. Try their Rose of Syrah (\$14). I also like Barnard Griffin Rose of Sangiovese (\$10).

For those of a certain age, it's hard to shake the "Blue Nun effect," a memory of cloyingly sweet, cheap Riesling. But forget about it. Riesling is a very malleable grape, and in the right hands can make a wonderful wine, especially a Lake wine. No need to go to the Mosel or Rhineland for good Lake Riesling. You can't go wrong with Poet's Leap from Long Shadows in Walla Walla (\$15-16 at Costco), or Eroica/Dr. Loosen (\$17-20) from Chateau Ste. Michelle of Woodinville, but the widely available Chateau Ste. Michelle Dry Riesling



is a tremendous value (\$7-9) and a perfect Lake wine. Charles Smith (Not Charles Shaw) has the best hair of any winemaker, and he makes good wine, too. It's hard to keep track of what he's started and abandoned and what he currently has his hand in. Charles and Charles (\$14) or Kung Fu Girl (\$9-11) are two of his past or present Riesling options.

I'm not strict on wine-food pairings, but sauvignon blanc is good with fish, especially salmon, which I grill at the lake. I prefer sauvignon blanc not from New Zealand. Our favorite last summer again came from Jones of Washington (\$11-14). Martin Ray, from the Russian River Valley in California, a pricier option (\$16-18), is a favorite. South African Sauvignon Blanc is also a staple in the Miller cellar (the floor of the closet). Spier is a possible choice here, and it's cheap (\$9-10). Spier Chenin Blanc also gives good value (\$9-10).

If you are willing to break into the low to

# Book Review: Great Montana Bear Stories

BY ELEANOR HUNGATE JONES, BOARD MEMBER

mid double digits in price, say \$11-18, interesting European whites await. Try the four Vs, Vernaccia, Verdicchio, and Vermentino, and Viognier. Good local options for Viognier exist, such as Maryhill (\$12). Vernaccia from San Gimignano is one of our favorites. Albarino, from NW Spain is also refreshing. I like Albarino Val Do Sosego from the Rias Baixas region (\$15-17 at Total Wine). We recently had a delicious Idilico Yakima Valley Albarino at Veix Carre NOLA Kitchen in Spokane. I haven't found it locally yet, but it appears to be available west of the Cascades.

We don't eat much shellfish at the Lake, but if you import some, I like Muscadet, a white from the lower Loire, near Nantes. It's "flinty," to my modest palette, inexpensive, and great with oysters. For all whites, my rule is to buy the most recent vintage, i.e., drink them young. Be careful at Total Wine, they keep costs down sometimes by stocking older white wines. They also have different vintages in the same bin. Grocery stores do this too. Always check the label for the year.

Pinot noir is a good red Lake wine. It goes with a variety of foods, including salmon. Forget about real pinot noir from Burgundy, way too expensive. Even local pinot from Oregon can be pricey. But for the Lake, low-price pinots are a good bet. Start at the low end, A to Z (\$14-17) or Erath (\$14-17). Hahn Pinot Noir (Monterey County CA) (\$12-14) is my wife Solveig's recent fav. I also like Samuel Roberts from the Willamette Valley (\$14-17).

I'm not a chardonnay fan. I burned out on oak taste long ago. I know, there are un-oaked chardonnays I should explore. Solveig likes chardonnay. She likes the Ws for the Lake, Waterbrook (\$9) and Wente, Morning Fog (\$12). The latter is apt in September at the Lake, especially north of the narrows, though I'd wait long after the fog lifts to pour a glass.

Finally, no lake cellar is complete without bubbly. We have summer birthdays and anniversaries at our place, and if you have a cabin, you're sure to see old (and new) friends. Unless I'm going to spray it around the boat-house after winning the greased watermelon contest or a water volleyball game, I won't buy Cooks. Italian and California Prosecco

## Great Montana Bear Stories

by Ben Long

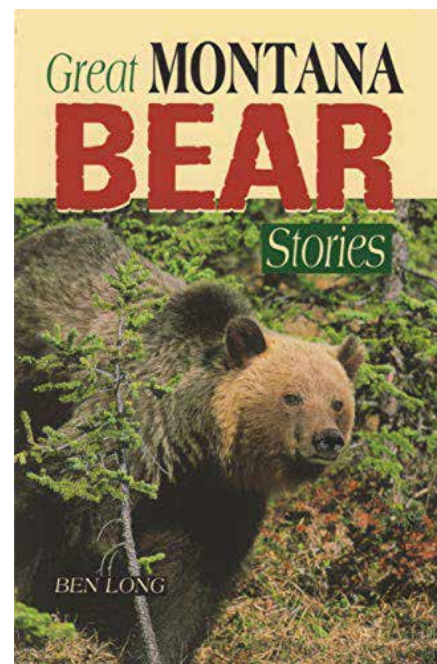
Let me first say that in no way should "Montana" in the title stop you from selecting this book if you are an Idaho lover. After all, Idaho and Montana are neighbors, friendly ones at that, and bears roam freely in our shared Selkirk mountain range with no regard for state lines.

One of the delights of being in a forest are the chance encounters we experience with wildlife—deer darting across the road as we drive to the cabin, a chipmunk scurrying along a log or a moose swimming across the lake. But a bear? That's a different kind of story.

A wide spectrum of emotions arise when one thinks 'bear.' There are the 'teddy bears' celebrated in song, story and film, and that remain as an ever-popular stuffed animal gift for children and even adults—to signify affection or congratulations as well as sympathy.

But put the word 'grizzly' ahead of 'bear' and a fear factor suddenly appears. In fact, as the author states, "Bears seize our imagination quite unlike any other animal."

Why are we so fascinated by bears' is the overarching question that this



story collection so entertainingly and informatively responds to story by story. The stories are of grizzly bears and of black bears and of their interactions with hikers, campers, wildlife officials and others, such as a Grandmother, who have come face-to-face with a wild bear.

Each tale is easy to read – "some are comical, others tragic, some inspiring and others simply terrifying."

You might like bears or you might be quite the opposite – but no matter which side of the tree you stand on, these true stories are page turners. I urge you to give it a read.

and Spanish Cava are OK and won't break the bank. I like my bubbly dry. Treveri Blanc de Blancs Brute, from Wapato, WA is a good local bet (\$12-15). Jacqueline Leonne Brut (\$14-16), a spin-off or second line of the Gruet franchise in Albuquerque, NM is my go-to bubbly. Not only does "Champagne" from Albuquerque prove that you are not a wine snob, you also can say, "A Champagne so dry you can taste the desert."

Again, remember the rule, drink what you like. But I hope this article sends you on a fun Lake wine adventure to try something new without spending too much. It's not difficult to be more knowledgeable about wine. Just be bold and try something new. However, as your wine knowledge grows, be careful, your friends might start handing you the wine list at Elkins, Hills, or Cavanaugh's.



# SCA Staff:

## Introducing SCA Office Administrator Jennae Pegg

**M**y name is Jennae and I have been so excited to be a part of SCA for the last six months as their office administrator/ office manager. This organization was truly built by the heart and soul of the people that live and love this area. I, myself, have fallen so in love with it, I will hopefully be calling it my new home soon.

I moved to Spokane from Ketchikan Alaska four years ago and have been working in the medical field until I heard about the administration position and couldn't apply fast enough. As much as I loved working in the medical field, I really wanted to do more to help. I wanted to make a change, and be a part of something that I believe in; Selkirk Conservation Alliance is exactly that.

I grew up in an off-the-grid cabin in Montana, outside of a small logging town, a lot like Priest River and have always loved everything the outdoors had to offer and would often be camping, hiking and exploring. As an adult, not a lot has changed, other than now I have my own three children to take on these adventures with and show them the amazing things mother earth has to offer such as: plant identification and their uses, foraging and making tinctures, soaps, teas, and lotions, rock hounding and geocaching. Before life got so busy, I volunteered as a mentor at The Boys and Girls Club, spent time as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (C.A.S.A) for abused and neglected children, was involved with the meals on wheels program and worked with the local animal shelter. Being a part of the amazing things that the SCA does, brings back that feeling of purpose that my other jobs just weren't fulfilling anymore.

Coming into SCA I had some pretty big shoes to fill with taking over for Robin, the previous office manager, however she was an awesome (and patient) teacher and now friend. Being a small



**Office administrator Jennae Pegg manages education materials.**

organization, you can't solely do what's outlined in the job description, and having been on the job just a short time, I still have been able to experience so much. From bookkeeping, payroll and all the administrative duties to designing and creating educational material, social media posts, flyers, invitations and post cards, planning and attending events, fairs, and community presentations and outreach, and even the not so glorious but still important, janitorial duties. But what makes the job truly amazing though is the people I have met being here. It's the friendly and always caring smile from the baristas at Tyee Coffee, or the fun and bubbly women at Columbia Bank who know your whole gang of children by name and love spoiling them (and patrons) with treats, or the always hard-working folks at the post office and printing shop that remind me every day what an amazing this area is and how important it is to protect it. Not just for today but for my kids and their kids and for many more generations to come.

In addition to the people I have met outside of this job, my statement about the truly amazing people would only be half true if I didn't mention those that make up the foundations of SCA; the board and its phenomenal executive director! Having only just recently been able to get the Board of Directors together to meet face to face due to covid, was incredible. The energy and knowledge this group of people offer to the organization powers it to be all that it is, and they found the one in a billion executive director who has carried SCA into a whole new era.

With role models like this it doesn't just make this a job or a paycheck, but a truly rewarding experience and I'm ecstatic for this new journey and I look forward to, not only what I have to bring to this organization, but also all the incredible knowledge and experience I continue to gain through it!



**Office administrator Jennae Pegg is joined by long-time SCA member Anne Ashburn as Jennae tables a Earth Day event in Coeur d'Alene, April 2022.**

# Volunteer Profile:

## Meet 15+ Year SCA Volunteer Sarah Hungate Stoner

**Volunteers are the backbone of SCA. From our all-volunteer board to our road clean up crew to our water quality monitors.**

**We'd like to highlight one of our longtime volunteers and supporters, Sarah Hungate Stoner.**

**Sarah has provided layout and production services as a volunteer for SCA since 2007. From two to four times a year, she's turned a jumble of Word files and an assortment of images into a cohesive Sightlines newsletter for SCA members.**

We wanted to find out more about Sarah, her work for SCA and beyond SCA. Here's what she had to say.

**Q: How did you end up putting together the Sightlines newsletter on behalf of SCA, in a volunteer layout and production role?**

I've always had one volunteer job or another. From volunteer shifts on the King County Crisis Line or helping bag bulk food for the local food bank or collecting water samples for a County stream team. When my first child was born in 2006, the thought of a volunteer commitment—a shift I had to drive to and arrange childcare for—seemed overwhelming.

As a longtime SCA member, SCA's Sightlines newsletters showed up regularly in my mailbox. I remember looking at the layout and thinking *Hmmm. Could use a little help.* But I was busy with short nights and spit up. It was a backburner thought until one particular issue showed up in my mailbox.

I'm a person who keys into design and communications, and boy, it caught my eye—it was a disjointed layout to be honest, and hard for me to see content so poorly presented for a topic so near and dear to me... Good thing because that issue spurred me into action. I

knew I could volunteer my time around my child's schedule, doing layout from home. I contacted the SCA director at the time, with my son on my hip, and I explained how I wanted to help. He told me how they'd lost their layout person, and struggled to put that particular issue together. So it was perfect timing for everyone to give and receive help.

**What's your background for this type of work?**

I added a minor in Graphic Design to my college Language studies. I'm glad I did. I learned how to work with type and design, and how to use Aldus Page-maker—the predecessor to Adobe InDesign that's used today for publication layout. It may seem intuitive, but the professors also taught us how to manage our computer files. They stressed the concept that you can't work in design if you can't stay organized in the digital world.

**What do you like about your work with Sightlines?**

I love working up close and personal with the content of each issue. That, in addition to the great satisfaction of supporting SCA in a way that I can.

The work SCA does means a lot to me and to my family. Our extended family shares time at the lake each summer, as they have for generations of cousins and aunts and grandma matriarchs—all the way back to the 1900s when my great-grandfather built a cedar log cabin with his five sons at Canoe Point.

**So, you do this work for free. What do you do for a living?**

I have several clients for whom I've freelanced for a good decade and a half, in addition to working parttime in marketing and communications for our city. It afforded me a lot of flexibility while my kids were younger.



**Sightlines newsletter layout and production volunteer Sarah Hungate Stoner flanked by her two children Noah and Katherine and her mother Eleanor Hungate Jones.**

A year ago now, I was offered a fulltime job with the county, managing their farmland preservation program. My client work with a state-wide organic farmer network as well as my work with a regional land trust paid off. Plus, toss in my personal love for nature, growing things and honoring our natural resources.

Pretty sure that appreciation came from spending every summer of my childhood at Priest Lake, hauling water from the spring and listening to the grownups fire up the Old Majestic wood stove every morning.

*Do you have skill or service you'd like to offer SCA? Please contact us!*





Selkirk Conservation  
Alliance

## 2022 Celebasin Celebration

Yes! I want to help raise \$15,000 for SCA's Film Festival in support of scientific research, education and advocacy for the Priest Lake watershed AND for all those who live, love and recreate here in the Selkirks!

**\*\*All donations are tax deductible!\*\***

### SPONSORSHIP LEVELS & BENEFITS

Please check your membership type



#### ☐ \$100 Wetlands

- Verbal sponsorship recognition during opening speech
- Sponsorship recognition in closing credits
- Sponsorship recognition in Sightlines newsletter



#### ☐ \$250 Creek

- Verbal sponsorship recognition during opening speech
- Sponsorship recognition in closing credits
- Sponsorship recognition in Sightlines newsletter
- Sponsorship recognition in our e-newsletter the Selkirk Sentinel



#### ☐ \$500 Priest River

- Verbal sponsorship recognition during opening speech
- Sponsorship recognition in closing credits
- Business Card ad in Sightlines Newsletter
- Ad featured in e-newsletter
- Sponsor recognition on social media platforms



#### ☐ \$750 Priest Lake Thoroughfare

- Verbal sponsorship recognition during opening speech
- Sponsorship recognition in closing credits
- Half page ad featured in Sightlines Newsletter
- Ad Featured in e-newsletter
- Sponsor recognition on social media platforms
- Sponsor recognition on boat banner throughout the season



#### ☐ \$1,000 Crown Jewel of Idaho \*Presenting Sponsor

- VIP table for 6 day of the event
- VIP reception during the film festival
- Verbal sponsorship recognition during opening speech
- Recognition as presenting sponsor in all print
- Recognition plaque
- Sponsorship recognition in closing credits
- Full page ad featured in Sightlines Newsletter
- Ad featured in e-newsletter
- Top sponsor recognition on social media platforms
- Top Sponsor recognition on SCA's boat banner throughout the season

**\*\*Please see reverse side\*\***



*A live event to benefit*

**SELKIRK CONSERVATION  
ALLIANCE**

*First Annual*

# *Celebasin Celebration*

# FILM FESTIVAL

*Immerse yourself in the wild Selkirks*

Be a part of this community event featuring local environmental films, great food, drinks and members and supporters of SCA!

***Saturday, July 30th***

***2PM - 6PM***

***Coolin Civic Center***

*5361 Dickensheet Hwy, Priest Lake ID*

**Sign up as a sponsor\* and receive :**

- **VIP seating and a Table for 6 during the event**
- **Recognition during opening and closing credits**
- **Sponsorship recognition plaque**
- **Sponsorship recognition on all printed materials for the event**
- **and so much more!**

*\*for presenting level sponsor*

For more information or to become a sponsor visit [www.scawild.org](http://www.scawild.org)

# Member Profile: Meet Pam Hilty, Longtime SCA Member

BY ELEANOR HUNGATE JONES, SCA BOARD MEMBER



Help us with a member drive—by helping drive up member numbers

It's as easy as 1-2 and not even 3.

1. **Encourage friends and families and regular visitors** of the lake to join SCA. Membership dollars are the bread and butter of SCA's work.
2. **Keep your membership current** with SCA. It makes a difference!

**M**any current SCA members have ties to the Selkirks that began in their younger years. Pam Hilty, whose children and grandchildren are now summer lake visitors, began her love of the area in her early teens, with thanks to her parent's connection to Washington State University. Dr. Compton, WSU President, bought the Beaver Creek property in 1948 as a retreat for professors and administrators.

The Hilty family soon bought a cabin and it stands to this day as one of the Association's original cabins. While there were trails along the Lake from South to North, the early mode of transport to Beaver Creek was a \$7.00 to-and-fro launch trip from Stevens Moorage at Granite Creek. It was no small task to wheelbarrow your necessities to the dock, settle everyone in for a 7 ½ mile up the lake, and as fate, or as some kids said luck would have it, there were usually high waves to battle.

Upon arrival you once again loaded your goods into wheelbarrows but this time pushed them to your cabin. Mrs. Compton later bought two ship-to-shore military launches that Pam remembers riding in to-and-fro and remembers especially well the one time it failed to show up! She and her Father could wait no longer so taking just a backpack they hiked the shoreline trail from Granite to Beaver Creek!

The early days, while consuming more on-task time, are remembered fondly. Water wasn't piped into the cabins- you went to the creek with pails and to the spring for drinking water. No refrigerator but there was ice. It was a trip to the ice house where the block was dug out of the sawdust, weighted

and carried back to the cabin. A trip to the privy, especially at night, brought forth spooky images, and sometimes the reality of bears. Some memorable times for Pam were around the campfire.

While occasionally Dr. Compton played his guitar, it was Philosophy Professor Don Wells who was the regular leader who led the singing of old and new. Tales were told and many stories shared. Upon hearing the Geisinger story, Pam was inspired to write the story into song. It has been sung many summers around the campfire to the tune of "Go Tell Aunt Rhody."

One well remembered incident began while the Hilty family was sitting around the dinner table. Bangs and bumps began to be heard from under the cabin floor. Pam was insistent that a forest creature needed help. With Pam holding the flashlight, her Dad searched under the dark of the decking. Voila! A skunk emerged - a skunk that had a glass jar over its head. "Hit it hard" was heard so with a quick and mighty blow the jar was broken - and yes, the skunk sprayed!!!

It is in keeping with these treasured memories, now coupled each summer with new adventures, that Pam is a SCA member. The two SCA missions Pam speaks of as of great importance are 1) a healthy habitat that supports native animal life and 2) keeping the waters pristine.

Thank you, Pam, for your long-time commitment and financial generosity that helps SCA toward reaching these goals.