



Spirit Lake Report

Periodic Update on Spirit Lake by the **SPIRIT LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION** • May, 2021 • Vol. 7

SLPOA Mission: *To develop the capacity within our community to provide a sustainable lake habitat that will allow all people who live, work and play within its environment an optimal North Idaho experience.*

Dam/Weir Replacement Update *by: Jerry Peterson, SLPOA Board Member*

By now everyone realizes that the priority project for Spirit Lake is the replacement of the “Failing and Hazardous Dam”. As of December 31, 2020, we had received \$55,780 in donations for the “Dam Replacement Project”. The estimated cost for the project is \$160,000, so we are almost 35% there!!!

Since the City of Spirit Lake is now going to be the applicant on the permit, per the Idaho Dept of Lands, an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) agreement between the City of Spirit Lake, Southwest Construction-the property owner, and SLPOA is currently being reviewed by all parties. This agreement will help the City, land owner and the SLPOA to work together to complete the planning, permitting, construction and maintenance of a new dam for Spirit Lake”. Once it is signed and recorded, the City will prepare and submit the application for the construction permit, then select a contractor to build the new dam.

The board continues to pursue different types of additional funding, but have yet to be successful. This means that we may have to self-fund this project, which means that your donations to the project is critical to its success... With an estimated 500+ families on or around the lake, it would only be a one-time \$320 per family!!!

Is this too much to ask to preserve the water in your lake?

(Experiencing a Covid-\$\$ windfall...donate a little to your favorite recreation place...)

REMEMBER:

- *This is a priority project for our Lake that needs to be completed sooner, rather than laterit will make a difference in our lake levels, our lakefront properties, and the value of these properties.*
- *There are 425 Lake Front parcels and if every one of those gave \$377 each, we would meet our goal of \$160,000. That is a cheap one-time price to ensure that you will still be able to access your docks and the lake during low runoff years; have less erosion during high water and still maintain enjoyment and value.*
- “WIIFM”...(What’s In It For Me?...think about it!)
- **Improved Recreation for EVERYONE!**
- **Flood Control (spring run-off)**
- **Water Conservation (maximum recreational season)**
- **Improved Fishery**
- **Increased Property Values**



Whether you are a property owner or someone who wants to continue to enjoy this beautiful lake, please contribute what you can to this essential project! Donate Online at: www.friendsofspiritleake.com

SAVE THE DATE: SLPOA Annual Meeting will be held on August 14, 2021

Fish and Game Update *by: Jerry Peterson SLPOA Board member*

Spirit Lake is 1 of 4 lakes being stocked with Chinook salmon. From 2016 thru 2019, Spirit Lake was stocked with 2,500 fertile and 2,500 sterile Chinook each year. In 2020 the lake was stocked with only 3,000 fertile Chinook. Since Fish & Game has not been getting many tissue samples turned in at the launches and not many reports of anglers catching Chinook, they are not making a long-term commitment to continue stocking and will survey Brickell Creek for the next couple of years to see if they are spawning or even surviving, before making a decision.



The reason Chinook were introduced to Spirit Lake was to help reduce the large Kokanee population, that was small in size due to the competition for food. By reducing the population, the Kokanee should increase in size due to less competition and increased food availability.

Night time netting survey of Kokanee is conducted every year and the last few years it has been low on adult sizes. 2020 had a good juvenile population, which should result in a slow adult harvest in 2021, but better in 2022. The last Kokanee stocking was in 2008.

Every year approximately 20-25,000 Cut Throat fingerlings are released into Spirit Lake and it is one of only a few lakes where harvesting of Cut Throat is legal (vs. catch-and-release).

Walleye are becoming more of an issue in Pend Oreille Lake and we don't want them in Spirit. There are also more Small Mouth Bass showing up in Spirit Lake. These were apparently illegally planted into the lake and are not native.

There have been some Boat Ramp issues with people, apparently visiting the city park, utilizing the trailer parking spaces. The parking lot stalls will be remarked and signs installed this spring to help define the "vehicle-with-trailer only" parking areas.

Every 3 years Fish & Game revisits the Fishing Regulations and are asking for your input for the 2022-2024 seasons. Visit their web site to find out how to make suggestions. <https://idfg.idaho.gov/about/rulemaking>

Historical Society and Museum *by: Paul Sturm, SLPOA Board member*

The Spirit Lake Historical Society and Museum board and volunteers continue developing the museum and vintage and gift shop in the historic Lutheran Church at Jefferson and 6th in Spirit Lake.

On October 9 & 10, 2020, the Society held a mostly outdoor rummage sale. The demand for an ongoing outlet for quality used items at affordable prices was evident. The sale was successful in that a large quantity of clothing and household items moved quickly to fill needs. In addition, the Society enhanced its financial situation from dire to sustainable for the coming year. It is obvious that an ongoing source of income is necessary to sustain the mission of the Society and Museum.



We are grateful for the new members and generous donations received over the past year. These assure a bridge of sustainability until we are able to open and generate a sustaining income. Your ongoing membership and donations will always be important in the overall developing and sustaining plans.

Looking back, the Society participated in the 4th of July Parade, the Labor Day festivities and the Holiday celebration in December. The Holiday event included a lighted parade, caroling in the park and free as well as for sale items on Main Street. It was a delightful evening. The Society is grateful to have located at Erin's Flowers and More for the event. There were vintage items, gift baskets, and simply gifts for attendees. Brad Sondahl did his magic baking and provided cinnamon bread and cookies. Plan to join us in December 2021.

Many members of SLPOA have generational roots on the lake and in the community. This history is an important resource for us and a source of rich historical memory and knowledge. We will continue to work to capture this local history and display it at the Museum. It is gratifying that the SLPOA board, friends and members have been so supportive of the Society.

Our goal is to open the Museum the weekend of Memorial Day 2021 for limited hours through the summer and into the fall. Volunteers continue to develop displays and prepare the museum for opening. If you have an interest in volunteering or have historical items that might be informative and of interest to visitors you are encouraged to contact us.

We invite you to become a member for only \$10 per year and to make a donation if you are able. Your help in keeping this dream alive is welcome and appreciated. Membership and donations can be mailed to Spirit Lake Historical Society, PO Box 1186, Spirit Lake, Idaho 83869. If you are interested in the museum project, donating time or other resources to the Society and/or Museum, visit the website at www.spiritlakehistory.org and contact President, Althea Sondahl at (208) 691-9533.

Thank you, SLPOA, for your support!

Going's On About Town by: Kaeren Winston, SLPOA Board member

There have been some significant changes around the lake and in town:

- Mr. Steven Ford has bought Silver Beach and plans for it are pending. He also bought 5 acres between Brickle Creek and Bronze Bay. Mr. Ford is a real-estate attorney in the Spokane Valley.
- The Tilford family bought Sedlmayers Resort and plans are to hire a new chef. It has been reported that Doug Freeland's daughter and son-in-law may be part owners and managers.
- Local hometown pub-style restaurant and bar. Brats and Brews has opened in the area with Fresh Air Bikes in town. They serve craft beers, mixed drinks, and wines to go with your brats and chowder. Wednesday through Saturday 11 to 8.
- Precision Fitness has opened a gym in the building that housed Funky Monkey.
- Salt and Pepper Restaurant will be opening soon on Maine Street (The old Terry's Cafe location under new ownership.)

Thank You Spirit Lake Submitted by Carol Capra... Poem by Bea Fand

Bea and Irwin Fand used to rent my place for weeks at a time. They loved Spirit Lake, reminding them of the finger Lakes in New York. They were both retired scientists and then artists. Bea played flute, sang & wrote poetry. Irwin played violin & drew art figures. Loved the acoustics in the house. Irwin would paddle to Hopkin's Island with Bea swimming there and back. They became friends with my artistic brother, Don Ealy, & looked forward to their visits. One winter, Irwin wrote that Bea had died suddenly. He went back to NY. Such nice, gentle, unforgettable people. I love this poem that Bea wrote her last visit.

**Thank you Spirit Lake
for being there for me each summer
an old friend welcoming me back
to my home away from home
when I need to drop out for awhile
to see your clear waters sparkle with swaying light
bubbling to the surface like stars rising to dance
with wind and clouds**

**I can gaze at you all day, lost in mystery
forgetting to open the book on my lap**

**Thank you, Spirit Lake
for being a jewel of flowing jade
surrounded by pristine mountains and pine forests
preserving your quiet beauty for my eyes
hidden from tourists**

**a secluded sanctuary where a gray-haired lady
can rejuvenate her spirit drinking from
your ancient well**

**becoming a child again in nature
carried back to a simpler time
when all living things shared a clean fresh
playground unstained by pollution and blood**

**Thank you, Spirit Lake
for the sweeping passion of your storms
hammering the roof
whipping branches into flapping arms
till you run out of steam**

**and tiptoe away on toddler feet
leaving a rainbow smiling upside down in the sky
over eagle and osprey glad again to fly
thank you for your luscious purple berries
ripe for plucking
as I walk through your bracing balsam woods**

**Thank you also
for the sudden perfume of wild roses
out of sight as I canoe along your shore
thank you for storing solar heat in your shallows
where I bathe and swim before dusk
watching the setting sun crown the hills
with rosy afterglow
reflected in your mirror like trembling petals**

**Thank you
for your moon shimmering across the lake
with healing magic
like a silver serpent celebrating its new skin
comforting me with reborn light
in moments when dark shadows steal the night**

**Thank you Spirit Lake
for being old as the glaciers that formed you
and new as today's dawn
inspiring me as few places I've known
to sing, make music and write love poems
to you, the greatest poem of all**

This poem by Bea Fand speaks to the heart of what most of us feel about Spirit Lake, a great commonality that could be used to help others who have been silent, but love the lake, to move a step closer in helping to preserve our treasure.



Friends of Spirit lake
Spirit Lake Property Owners Association
PO Box 363
Spirit Lake, ID 83869

Help Us Fund The Spirit Lake Dam Project by Making a Donation at: www.friendsofspiritlake.com

Tale of Two Websites?

by: Sid Wurzburg, SLPOA Board member

When you are looking for SLPOA online there are two websites spiritlake.org which is the older original site which is updated regularly as water levels and lake conditions change. Our new community focused website is friendsofspiritlake.com is where you will find proposed projects, descriptions and updates, plus, you can pay dues and email board members with questions.

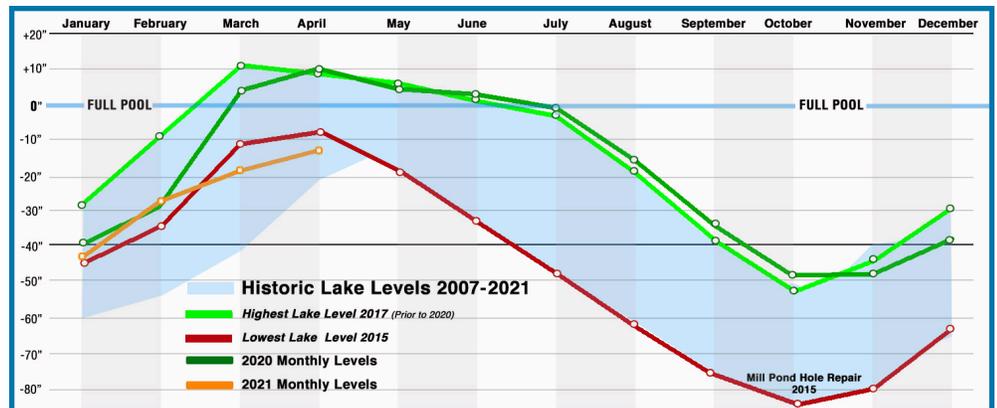
We know it has been confusing, but for now we now have links on each site to the access the other site. On the Friends of Spirit Lake site, click “**Latest News**” at the top to go to news about lake levels and conditions. On spiritlake.org, click “**Friends of Spirit Lake**” to go to that site.

Lake Conditions and Water Level

by: Sid Wurzburg, SLPOA Board member

Because of early runoff and unusual weather, predictions about summer levels are difficult. The spiritlake.org website will be updated weekly until high water. Check it out if you want timely water level data.”

As of April 21st the lake is 15.6 inches below top of dam, with 10 inches water on Mt Spokane. We should be close to top of dam by May 1st and soon the city will need to decide whether to remove a board from the dam to prevent possible flooding.



Become a “Friend of Spirit Lake” and Join the SLPOA today!

...for only \$40 per year you can be a supporter and ensure a healthy future of your lake.

Become a Member, Donate and Pay online at: friendsofspiritlake.com