



Spirit Lake Report

Periodic Update on Spirit Lake by the **SPIRIT LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION**

April 2023 Vol. 10

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.*

President Karen Cowan Resigns – Health Concerns

It is with deep regret that the SLPOA Board of Directors accepted the resignation of Karen Cowan from the board and the office of President. Karen informed the board in Late November that she had been diagnosed with a serious illness that would require her full attention toward treatment and recovery. Of course, we are in full support of her focus on her health. At the same time, SLPOA is left with a huge void of energy, creativity and drive. Among many things, Karen has been instrumental in coordinating entities to ensure the completion of the Weir this past fall. She has pushed for improved board of director processes so that the organization functions more efficiently and effectively. She has helped recruit a quality board of directors. We pray for Karen's full recovery and hope to see her on the lake soon. Messages of support and encouragement through the SLPOA website will be forwarded to her.

Paul Sturm Appointed President of the Board

In January, Paul Sturm was appointed by the board to serve the remainder of Karen's term as president. Paul has been a board director for five years and has been the vice president for the past two years. Paul and Karen worked closely together along with the executive committee that includes Jerry Peterson, Linda Pendleton, and more recently, Jane Clark as Secretary. Paul and the board of directors are committed to Spirit Lake, the SLPOA mission, and the effective efforts of the association.

Meet Your Board of Directors

Your SLPOA Board of Directors include diverse individuals who each have a love of Spirit Lake and bring a wealth of professional and life experience to lead our association.



Paul Sturm, President



Linda Pendleton,
Co-Treas.



Jerry Peterson,
Co-Treas.



Jane Clark, Secretary



Dan Beha



Don Finney



Ron Largent



Justin Morrison



Ed Niblock



Brad Pendleton



Kurt Peterson



Dustin Thiers



Margie Wilke



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

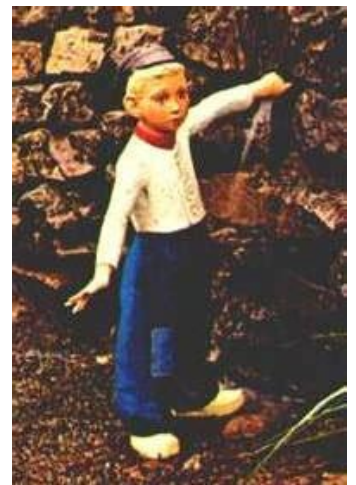
Sinkhole Discovered, Repaired in Spirit Lake

Your SLPOA Annual Sustaining Dues at Work (Who's your "Little Dutch Boy" now?)

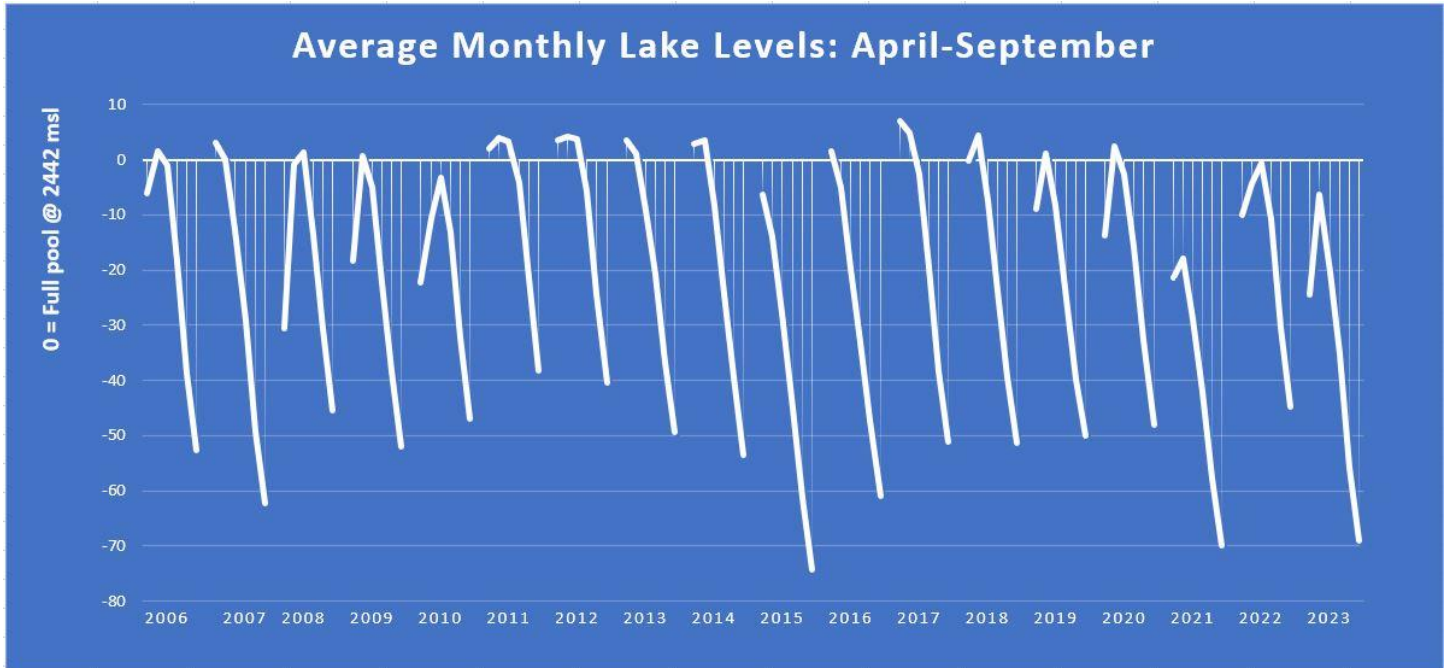


In June of 2023, one of our neighbors & SLPOA member, Galen Beem, heard the sound of rushing water while kayaking along the shoreline. He immediately reported it to us via our website (friendsofspiritlake.com). Upon investigation by Doug Freeland, Advisory Board Member, it was determined to be some sort of debris strewn sinkhole, appearing to be draining thousands of gallons of water per minute! We are fairly certain that the source of the breach is due to the deterioration of an approximately 16-inch wooden water pipe used to draw water out of the lake for the mill and possibly the town in the early days of Spirit Lake.

The Idaho Dept. of Lands was contacted, but they had no resources to address the situation. However, after some negotiation, they did allow us to apply and immediately receive an Emergency Encroachment Permit (which normally takes 3-4 months) to make the repairs before higher lake levels return. The hole was filled with concrete, then layered with fabric and native fill on the surface to prevent any future failure in this area. The total cost for permits, materials and labor was \$2,300. This is the second observed failure of this wooden pipe, the first being in about the mid 90's much farther southward down the shoreline. It appears that we may be facing a "The Little Dutch Boy" syndrome of perseverance by plugging the holes if and when they occur. This is a prime example of what the SLPOA does for our lake and why we need everyone to join and support this group.



Lake Level Data – Jerry Peterson, SLPOA Board Director/Treasurer



Committee Reports – SLPOA Board of Directors

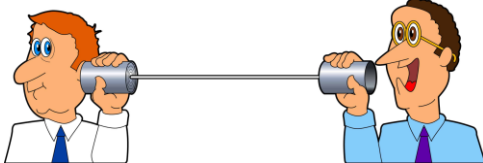
Two Committees Have Been Formed to Explore Solutions to Identified Concerns

Lake Shore and Property Damage – A number of members have expressed alarm with the increased number and size of boats on the lake. Concern about impacts range from wake action damaging property, erosion, and water quality. The board has formed a committee that has begun to investigate the extent of the problem, potential mitigating actions, and forming coalitions with other regional lake associations. The committee is finding useful research that will be helpful to support their efforts.



To be clear, it is not the intent of the committee or the board to ban any kinds of boat that is currently legally permitted to operate on the lake. Possible solutions focus on information and education about current boat operation regulations, ways boaters can help avoid damage to the lake itself, safety of swimmers and small water craft, and preventing damage to docks and other near shore property. To report an incident/violation go to the website, www.friendsofspiritlake.com and click on the “Lake Info” button.

Communications – The board recognizes that communication with our members brings value to the organization.



It is important to let members know what is being accomplished on their behalf, but also to have an ear for the perspectives and needs of each of you as members. To that end, a group of experienced, trained and skilled board members have undertaken the challenge to open up communications through improving our website, expanding the use of social media, and to

find ways to be more responsive to property owner members. Visit the website at www.friendsofspiritlake.com and [Spirit Lake Property Owners Association Facebook](#). You can send comments via the “Contact” button on the website.

Lake Business Highlight – Sedlmayers by the Lake and Boon Docks LLC

SEDLMAYER'S RESORT AND RESTAURANT

In the late 1940's, Sedlmayer's By the Lake Resort and Tavern was opened up by the late Ed Sedlmayer Sr, where you could get a choice top sirloin and broiled lobster tail combination dinner for \$5.95. In 1951, it was mentioned by Bing Crosby in his recording of Moonlight Bay when he used to be a regular customer here. For a number of years, it was a 'Destination' restaurant where people came from all over for nights out with dinner and dancing at the lake. It's had lots of changes in ownership and style through the years, but it has always been Sedlmayer's to me (and so many other people!)

Just over 50 years ago my Dad, Doug Freeland, was pumping gas on the docks and doing maintenance at Sedlmayer's Resort. My family lived in one of the cabins that used to be along the north side of the property when I was brought home from the hospital, making Sedlmayer's my first home. I spent most of my summers at my grandparent's place on the lake, and have many memories of drinking Shirley Temples at Sedlmayer's as a child. That's why, when my husband, Colin, and I had the opportunity to purchase the resort in 2020, we did everything we could to make it happen. We didn't want to see it bought by a developer and turned into private homes or condominiums. We wanted it to remain a place for people to relax, bring their kids, and continue to make memories for generations.

We decided to keep the name Sedlmayer's Resort and Restaurant as well as the original logo, and tried to keep the feel to the resort. The old Sedlmayer's sign is hanging inside the restaurant.

We rent The Lake House that sleeps up to 11 people and have 31 full and partial hook-up campsites nestled among the cedars that fill the property. Camping includes the use of our beach and lawn area, which are not open for public use, as well as the option to rent a boat slip for the duration of their stay with us.

Sedlmayer's Restaurant is a full-service restaurant offering a wide range of dishes from Hand Battered Fish and Chips and our Peanut Butter Burger, to Prime Rib on Saturday and Sunday nights, Beef Wellington, Chicken Kiev, or Braised Lamb Shanks. We have draft beers, a great wine list, and fun Signature and Seasonal Cocktails (including our 'Not Your Mother's Shirley Temple' – to add to the nostalgia!).

For more details visit: <https://sedlmayers.com> and <https://www.facebook.com/Sedlmayers>

We can't wait to see you! Mandi and Colin Conway

BOONDOCKS LLC

BoonDocks LLC is a family-owned and operated small business that provides comprehensive seasonal maintenance and service for docks, exclusively for the residents of Spirit Lake.

For those who haven't met me, my name is Dustin Thiers, and I am a locally grown Idaho Native, Air Force Veteran, Married Father of 4, and have worked for Steve Peters and Boon Docks since 2014. I purchased Boon Docks from Steve in 2023, and will be carrying the flag forward with my wife Stephanie and 2 teenage sons, Seth and Ayden. We are committed to continue providing reliable, honest, reasonable, and comprehensive dock services to the property owners on Spirit Lake, so they can enjoy their time on beautiful Spirit Lake without worry!

The services we provide are:

- Dock Set-Ups and Winterizations
- Dock Adjustments
- Repairs of Hinges, and other Damage
- Rebuilds, Re-Decking, and Beam Replacement
- Anchor System Installs, Resets, and Repairs
- New Dock Construction, and Additions
- New Gangways, Swim Ladders, Cleats, Bumper Stripping and Misc. Dock Products
- Flotation Improvements (Barrels and Pontoons)
- Old Dock and Debris Removal.
- Snow Plowing for Residents of Spirit Lake, and Properties on the Spirit Lake and Nautical Loop Roads.

We look forward to serving Spirit Lake for many years to come, and seeing everyone out on our wonderful lake enjoying the season! Contact us at (208) 627-2848 or boondocksllc.dustin@gmail.com.

With Appreciation, The Thiers Family

Wier Construction Complete – SLPOA Board of Directors

“Mission Accomplished” - (Replacement Dam Completed)



BEFORE

Well, we finally “got-r-done!” After working towards a replacement dam structure since 2018, it is in place and “Mother Nature” tested it. The weir held the water back until it reached and flowed over the top around the first of April.

The total cost for the project was approximately \$223,000 and every penny of your donations went into the project. The dam was constructed by Dave Simon, South West Construction, who is also the current project site land owner. The South West Construction bid was extremely competitive at almost \$15,000 below the other bidders. The City of Spirit Lake also contributed to the

project by covering some of the engineering costs. The success of this project is because of all our members who so generously contributed all these years and especially those members who contributed \$10,000 each to challenge our membership for 3 highly successful matching donation campaigns that finally made it possible.

“THANK YOU!”



AFTER

Excessive Boat Wake Impact - SLPOA Board of Directors

Wake surfing and boarding is a burgeoning activity on many waterways, including Spirit Lake. It is an exciting and enjoyable activity for some. For others, it can be disturbing and even dangerous. With consideration and responsible boat operation, water sports such as waterskiing, wake boarding and surfing can coexist with other water recreation activities.

The Association continues to receive reports that violations of boating regulations are resulting in unsafe situations and dock and shoreline damage. In addition, rapid acceleration in shallow waters stirs up sediment from the lake bottom, disturbs plant and aquatic animals, and can degrade the water quality.

Many violations may be committed by neighbors or renters who are not aware of the rules. We urge everyone’s consideration for others’ safety and property, the lake habitat and to understand the rules. It is the owners’ responsibility to educate renters or guests about lake ordinances.

Current County Rules:

Speed limits for all public waterways except the Coeur d’Alene and Spokane Rivers, Fernan Lake, and Lower Twin Lakes are as follows:

- NO EXCESSIVE WAKE ZONE, within (300’) three hundred feet of shoreline or any dock, pier, breakwater, or any person in the water.
- 5 MPH, a NO WAKE ZONE, within (200’) two hundred feet of shoreline or any dock, pier, breakwater, or any person in the water.
- 50 MPH during daylight hours
- 15 MPH, or less, within (100’) one hundred feet of any other vessel.
- 25 MPH, or less, at night unless otherwise restricted.

You can find the full Kootenai County boating regulations at <https://www.kcgov.us/448/Boating-Rules-Regulations>.

SUBMIT A LAKE INCIDENT REPORT

Purpose: Our goal is to make Spirit Lake welcoming to all. Our residents can ensure this by reporting any violations. We encourage residents to submit a Lake Incident Report if you witness excessive wakes or boating violations. These reports will be consolidated onto a single public map that displays locations and information about the incident(s).

Your info (email) is not displayed publicly

Report at www.friendsofspiritlake.com – click on the “Lake Info” button at the top of the page

Conservation Easement Project

The Spirit of Mount Spokane Conservation Easement Project – Robin Kirby, IEP Forester



Concrete, steel, asphalt, and vinyl are quickly spreading across the once wide-open space of the Rathdrum prairie and farmland where herds of elk, deer, moose, and various bird species once thrived. Wildlife habitat is being fragmented and degraded by housing developments in Kootenai County and Bonner County. Building new homes to accommodate the population growth of the Panhandle is causing degradation of the land. With expansion, there is a loss biodiversity of flora and fauna. Water quality decreases, productive soils are paved over, and access to green spaces for recreation is lost. Inland Empire Paper Co has experienced extreme pressure to sell its timberlands to developers of subdivisions or 5-10 acres tracts. The world has discovered what a wonderful place this is and everyone wants a piece of it. If it's not making memories and experiences, the land is providing jobs and income for local contractors/businesses that in turn take care of their families and the community as a whole. Stories of a first successful hunt, a hidden trove of huckleberries, a great hike, a first date under the stars, a family day cutting a Christmas tree, or a logger's harvest of timber are what makes up the roots of Inland Empire Paper forests.

With growth on the horizon, Inland Empire Paper Co is working with Idaho Department of Lands and the Trust for Public Lands to establish a conservation easement. A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement that will permanently prohibit subdividing and development of IEP forest lands, while maintaining the local tax base and protecting property rights. The easement project is called the 'Spirit of Mount Spokane Forest Legacy Project.' The first phase of the easement includes 33,989 acres of contiguous IEP timberland in Idaho down to the foothills Spirit Lake and Twin Lakes. The planned second phase will include the IEP timberlands in Washington in the headwaters of Brickel Creek and Fish Creek.

IEP will continue to be the legal owner and operator, performing sustainable forest practices under the Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan. Forestry practices will continue to be performed in a way that promotes conservation values such as the scenic, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreation.

The conservation easement allows for free public non-motorized access. IEP asks that permitted guests and foot traffic continue to have consideration towards local contractors working on the ground. Active logging harvest, hauling, road maintenance, and other activities will continue in our working forests. Please remember that the rules found in your handbook or online are in place to protect the ground that you recreate. Access Recreation Management will continue to have gate camp hosts, and patrol IEP grounds to ensure safe recreation. Motorized recreation will still be managed under IEP's existing fee access program with little change. Some Inland Empire Paper lands are surrounded by private lands so public access is not permitted. Please respect those surrounding private property owners.

Inland Empire Paper has valued its timberland ownership since the first tract was purchased in 1952 and has practiced sustainable forest management since. Establishing the conservation easement secures that our forests will continue to be working forests while also halting the fragmentation of habitat as development closes in on our borders. Our goal is preserving our land, providing forest recreation opportunities for future generations and to continue to manage our forests.

