

Welcome to our Summer newsletter - a place to catch up on neighborhood news and updates from your Lion Mountain Owners Association (LMOA). If you have information you'd like included in our next issue, email CarolineCompton@yahoo.com.

Lion Mountain

OWNERS ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2021

Your LMOA Board

Have a question or concern about our neighborhood? You can find answers on LionMountainHOA.com, or you can send an email to info@lionmountainhoa.com. Our website also lists contact information for the LMOA Board:

- Mitch Robinson, President
- Mark Svennungsen, VP
- Del Coolidge, Treasurer
- Gena Kelly, Secretary
- Ragnar Stoelzle
- Todd Votteler
- Kim Solem

WORKING COMMITTEES

ROADS: Mark Svennungsen*, Ward Foster, Ragnar Stoelzle, Bill Adams, Del Coolidge

COMMUNICATIONS: Caroline Compton*, Kim Solem, Joanne Jackson

SECURITY: Ragnar Stoelzle*

ARCHITECTURAL: Mitch Robinson*, Mark Blackwell, Jim Laidlaw

WATER & SEPTIC: Del Coolidge*, Todd Votteler, Mark Munsinger (Manager)

BEACH: Mitch Robinson*, Kim Solem, Jim Laidlaw (Manager)

FINANCE: Del Coolidge*, Steve Compton

WEEDS: Jane Decker*, Dugan Reber

*denotes Committee Chair



Neighborhood Weed Pull: Sunday, June 13, 11am

In celebration of National Weed Your Garden Day, our Weed Committee invites you to our first annual community weed pull at the Lion Mountain beach. Join like-minded neighbors who want to help protect our beautiful native plants from invasive weeds in our common areas.

Pulling weeds by hand helps us avoid chemicals that can be harmful to our families, our pets, our native flora/ fauna and our lake water. If you are not sure how to identify local noxious weeds, the weed pull is a great opportunity to learn. The Oxeye Daisies and Orange Hawkweed in these photos are both noxious weeds inhabiting our neighborhood.

Many hands make light work! Garbage bags will be provided, but bring your own gloves and weeding tools. We will begin at 11 am, rain or shine. Then starting at 1pm, all neighbors are invited to a barbeque at the beach.

A special shout out to new neighbors: please join us so we can introduce you to other residents. Your Homeowner's Association will provide burgers, brats, rolls and condiments. Please bring your beverage of choice and a side dish to share. We'll send a reminder and RSVP request via email.

"National Weed Your Garden Day on June 13th serves as a reminder to all gardeners to spend an extra 5 or 10 minutes weeding their gardens. One of the best gardening tips is to stay in control of your garden. Unfortunately, weeds grow and spread fast - very fast. With inattention, they can soon become overwhelming. Giving daily attention to your garden makes it easier to maintain. Weeding 5 or 10 minutes each day will make the job seem bearable. It might even be enjoyable. This way you will be in control, and the weeds will not!"



WHITEFISH FIRE SERVICE AREA ELECTIONS

On May 4, George Losleben and Ed McGrew were elected to the Whitefish Fire Service Area board. Both Losleben and McGrew are committed to retaining the professional fire and EMT services of the Whitefish Fire Department for the WFSA, rather than shifting to a volunteer fire department as some others have suggested.

Ed Lieser, our local FireWise expert, shared these thoughts, "Both George and Ed will bring improved transparency and represent the best interests of WFSA residents. This new board will prepare WFSA for the population growth and development that has occurred and is anticipated. That means satellite fire stations with staffing will be considered in strategic locations. Community involvement will be critical."



A Facelift for Our Neighborhood Entrance

Have you noticed our newly landscaped Lion Mountain entrance? The construction projects on State Park road necessitated a facelift, so a group of neighbors rolled up their sleeves and pitched in.

Dugan Reber and Kim Solem began the project with a hardscape and plant design, with guidance from the Center for Native Plants. The new plants include a mix of evergreen junipers and native flowering shrubs, groundcover and wildflowers in yellows, pinks and whites that will have color through spring, summer and fall. All plants are

local, hardy, deer resistant, snow and salt tolerant, low maintenance and should last many years.

Keith & Roseanne Quisberg put their new tractor to work clearing the area, and Chip Paquelet donated and delivered a beautiful collection of rocks. Mark Svennungsen and Ragnar Stoelzle built the rock wall and hooked us up to water and power, and Gena Kelly gave our sign a fresh coat of paint.

Our planting crew braved a wet, rainy morning to get plants in the

ground and spread bark: Mitch Robinson, Courtney, John, Sierra & Sydney Robles, Jessica Rasmussen, Joe Hess & Elyssa Spector, Ed Lieser, Del Coolidge, Mitch & Matt Ramsey, Dugan Reber, Jon & Kim Solem, and Colin Robitaille.

A huge thank you to all the neighbors who shared their time and talent to get the job done, and to the Board for supporting the project. We also thank the Center for Native Plants for their advice and a generous 30% discount.



NEIGHBORLY REMINDERS

The following are a few neighborly reminders from your Homeowners Association:

- To help manage fire risk, fireworks are not allowed in Lion Mountain.
- Keep all pets on leash, and clean up after them no matter where they are “doing their business” on Lion Mountain. Remember, other pet owners and hikers are walking in those same places. Help keep Lion Mountain fresh and clean!
- The speed limit throughout Lion Mountain is 20 MPH. Please drive carefully.
- Trash and recycling bins should be put out in the morning and put away in the evening on collection days. Please store them out of sight and inaccessible to bears and other wildlife. Bear-proof receptacles are highly recommended, and can be ordered through our local garbage & recycling company, Republic Services.
- If you store a boat, trailer or camper on your lot, it should not be visible from the roadway or adjoining property.



NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT

Jane Decker & Dugan Reber

If you see a neighbor out walking with her pockets full of weeds, good chance it's Jane Decker or Dugan Reber, our neighborhood weed experts.

"I spend half my time walking, and the other half pulling weeds," laughs Jane. Her interest in plants came from her grandfather, a professor of botany at Iowa State. His flora fascination led him to help found the Nature Conservancy.

Jane grew up in the Ozarks in Missouri and studied microbiology at Oklahoma State. Her first job took her on a detour into sales with Armour/Dial, where she was the only female out of several hundred employees. "It turned out to be a great detour," she says, "because I met my husband Gary." Her customers were major supermarkets in Wyoming and Colorado, several of which were owned by Gary's family. The two married and settled in Gillette, Wyoming and raised four girls together. They watched that area go through four financial booms of oil, gas, methane and coal before moving out of town near Story in the Big Horn Mountains.

In search of something new once their girls were grown, Jane and Gary moved to Lion Mountain in 2000. In winter, Gary and Jane can be found soaking up the sun in Arizona. "Whitefish is the healthiest place we've ever lived," Jane says. She loves the local food, wellness-focused education and healthcare, the farmer's markets, and hiking in local mountains. Jane values the natural beauty of our area and is passionate about keeping it weed-free.

Like Jane, Dugan also has mining in her life story, but in another part of the world. Dugan was born in Kwakwani, Guyana where her dad managed a bauxite mine for Reynolds Aluminum. The mine was located deep in the jungle, accessible only by a boat or five-passenger plane, "which was a wonderful place for a young girl who was fascinated with plants, animals and insects," remembers Dugan. From there, her family moved to Arkansas, Algeria, Spain and finally to Missoula.

Dugan graduated from Montana Tech with Mining and Environmental Engineering degrees. She went to work as a project manager for MSE-Technology Application in Butte, where she met future husband Paul through a mutual client. She moved to Washington DC where Paul was living, and started her own engineering company working with clients like the DOD and EPA. To escape the hustle of DC for a few weeks a year, they started coming to Whitefish in 2000. They eventually sold their companies and retired here in 2003.

Dugan's favorite thing about Lion Mountain is the expansive areas of native vegetation. "I love the feeling of being out in the forest just seconds from my door, without the mowing and blowing that are present in most neighborhoods," says Dugan. She and Paul love to spend their free time hiking and camping in the backcountry.

Dugan and Jane, thanks for safeguarding Lion Mountain's native vegetation. We're grateful!





Protecting Whitefish Lake from Aquatic Invaders

Whitefish Lake is everyone's favorite swimming, boating, and fishing spot, and also serves as a drinking water supply for the City of Whitefish during part of the year.

Since 2011, the Whitefish Lake Institute and the City of Whitefish have been working hard to safeguard Whitefish Lake and downstream water sources from the introduction of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). These non-native aquatic species invade ecosystems beyond their natural, historic range. They are spread either

(i.e. someone dumps his aquarium contents into a lake) or unintentionally by way of fishing, hunting and/or boating.

To control AIS, all watercraft and equipment must be cleaned, drained and dried after visiting any other water body before launching in Whitefish Lake. This includes both motorized and non-motorized watercraft such as rafts, paddleboards, kayaks and canoes.

Watercraft Inspection & Decontamination Stations

All watercraft must be inspected to obtain an Aquatic Invasive Species sticker prior to launching in Whitefish Lake. Inspection stations are located at City Beach and Whitefish Lake State Park, and are open 7am – 9pm from May through August.

There is also a decontamination station at City Beach. Decontamination must be performed before launching in Whitefish Lake—whether or not you have been inspected at another inspection station—on all of the following watercraft:

- Boats with ballast tanks or bags
- Boats that have been in a mussel infested waterway in the last 30 days
- Boats with standing water
- Boats that inspectors deem are too dirty to inspect.

The inspection staff recommends getting your inspection done before school's out. Go first thing in the morning or last thing in the evening for the fastest turnaround.

AIS Online Self-Certification Tests

The City of Whitefish has started a self-certification test for non-motorized, hand-launched watercraft users. This online program is designed to get low risk watercraft on the lake more quickly and to alleviate congestion at the City Beach and Whitefish Lake State Park boat launches.

By taking and passing an online training and test, users can obtain a five-year sticker that eliminates the need for a full inspection each time they visit the lake.

The sticker must be displayed to inspectors at City Beach and Whitefish Lake State Park. You can access the test here: [Non Motorized Sticker Test](#).

Why all the fuss? The photo below is one of our greatest threats: zebra mussels. These invasives reproduce quickly and filter out algae that native species need for food. They also attach to and incapacitate native mussels.



Lion Mountain Invasive Weed Identification

To help us all identify Lion Mountain's most prevalent invasive weeds, Dugan Reber put together this useful chart. Thanks Dugan!

ROADS REPORT

Thanks to everyone who helped with our spring brush collection. Brush clearing is a critical effort to help with fire prevention. As we enter fire season, we ask that you be very cautious with any open burning or fire pits, and remember that fireworks are not allowed in Lion Mountain.

Our Road Committee has retained the services of Brandon Theis, a professional engineer from Robert Peccia & Associates, who is providing us with a "road map" of our immediate and long term road maintenance projects. Mr. Theis' early observations are encouraging. He believes our road base in the lower 4.5 miles has held up well over the years. He has advised us to continue to enforce road load limits during the late fall and mid spring to minimize damage.

During June and July, we will be crack sealing all roads to help maintain our dry sub-asphalt road base. We were fortunate to be included in the recent area crack seal bid along with Flathead County, City of Whitefish, and FVCC, providing us with a significant discount in cost.

Any major road/asphalt overlay or reconstruction will not commence until a year from now.

	Pull and throw flowers in trash.	Look for this in spring to pull.
Oxeye Daisy		
Knapweed		
Common Mullein		
Orange Hawkweed		
Hawkweed		
Thistle		
Toadflax		

REIMBURSEMENT FOR SHORELINE SEPTIC MAINTENANCE

The Montana Association of Conservation Districts has announced a special new reimbursement program to assist landowners in Lake and Flathead Counties with the costs of septic system pumping and inspection. This program targets homeowners living within 500 feet from lakes and streams.

Because pollution from septic systems is becoming more of a threat to clean water in the Flathead Basin, this program was developed with the goal of reducing nonpoint source pollution coming from potentially malfunctioning septic systems.

The program offers 50% (up to \$200) reimbursement for pumping and inspection per system. Pumping tanks ensures the longevity of a system, saving more money in the long run.

You are eligible for the reimbursement if your system is in need of pumping (hasn't been pumped in 3+ years) and is located 500 feet or less from any surface water (lake or stream).

For more information, visit either the [Flathead Conservation District website](#) or the [Lake County CD website](#).



Summer is here and the Lion Mountain community beach is open and ready for fun!

All owners will be issued a new personal security code for the Beach Lane gate to access parking and the path down to the beach. The new codes can be obtained by logging into our LMOA website (lionmountainhoa.com) with your owner passcode. Starting June 1, the beach gate will be locked for the season, requiring a passcode to open.

Boaters: please remember that all boats at the LMOA marina must observe a 150-foot no-wake zone. No jet skis are allowed in the marina. All kayaks and paddleboards must have the owner's name on them as well as

current AIS inspection sticker issued by the state upon completion of the online exam. AIS stickers are good for five years.

Pet owners: please remember to use the designated dog park/swim area for off-leash play time. In all areas other than the dog park, dogs are required to be on-leash at all times. Please come prepared with plastic bags to clean up after your pets. We will also try to keep the plastic bag canister down at the beach stocked all season. Paddleboard, canoe, kayak racks and storage lockers are available to owners for annual rental on a space available basis. For more information, contact Whitefish Financial Services at whitefishfinancial@gmail.com or 406-863-9638.

EMERGENCY & FIRE EGRESS

As we enter fire season, remember that we have three routes to safely exit our neighborhood in the event of an emergency.

In addition to the main Lion Mountain entrance/exit at State Park Road, you can exit via Wolf Tail Pines access gate at the top of Good Medicine Road, or via the Goguen/Two Bear Ranch property access road in Lion Mountain Ranches. You can find maps, gate codes and other details on the LMOA website. We strongly encourage you to become familiar with these options. A tip: print out egress information and store a copy in each of your vehicles.

