



League to Save Lake Tahoe



ADVOCATE | EDUCATE | COLLABORATE

2012
ANNUAL REPORT

About the League

The League is a solutions-based organization, focused on advocating for sensible environmental regulations backed by science and monitoring, devoted community engagement, grassroots involvement, and a collective ideology of working together to Keep Tahoe Blue. The League is Tahoe's oldest and largest environmental organization. Since our founding in 1957, over a million people have collected one of our Keep Tahoe Blue stickers, while many more have been inspired to protect and restore the national treasure that is Lake Tahoe.

Our Mission

The League to Save Lake Tahoe is dedicated to protecting, restoring, and advocating for the ecosystem health and scenic beauty of the Lake Tahoe basin. The organization focuses on water quality and its clarity for the preservation of a pristine Lake for future generations.



League to Save Lake Tahoe

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Forging a New League Committed to Community

In early 2012, when I joined the League as its first new executive director in 20 years, I was ecstatic to be rejoining the League staff. I was a League intern in 1996-97, and upon my return last year to lead our very talented staff, I quickly discovered that, although still the premier organization focusing on protecting the Lake, the League needed to rebuild relationships and reach out to the Tahoe community. So my team diligently started building a foundation for strong partnerships.

Now, as we head into 2013, the League is charting a revitalized course toward “Keeping Tahoe Blue.” We continue our relentless advocacy work as the voice for the lake while engaging more Tahoe stakeholders to protect our “Jewel of the Sierra.”

For 55 years we have worked to ensure a pristine and clear Lake Tahoe for all to enjoy, and in 2013 we will strengthen our presence as Lake Tahoe’s responsible and relevant environmental organization. Community



From the Executive Director:
Darcie Goodman-Collins, Ph.D.

partners will be encouraged to work with us as we investigate and implement innovative solutions to problems facing the Lake.

Among the tools we will use to accomplish this are:

- ♦ Education and engagement of the Tahoe community through outreach and hands-on, science-based stewardship programs
- ♦ Proactive collaborative and innovative efforts among all interests in the Tahoe Basin to build solutions to environmental issues facing the lake
- ♦ Grassroots campaigns that focus on strong environmental regulation and enforcement to protect Lake Tahoe for this and future generations

Take, for example, the League's new Pipe Keepers Program. This citizen-monitoring program provides the Tahoe community with an opportunity to learn how

pollution in their neighborhoods directly impacts the lake. The data and observations recorded will help to inform discussions with our stakeholder partners about solutions to this problem. Another example is our new social event series that gives Tahoe enthusiasts a friendly and fun venue to mingle while learning about low-to-no impact activities that can help to reduce our negative footprint while living and playing in Lake Tahoe.

I hope you enjoy this year's annual report. It highlights the accomplishments that you, our supporters, helped the League achieve. Your support allows the League to excel as we continue to work collaboratively, create solutions to current threats to the lake, and engage and educate more and more people.

Our primary goal remains the protection and restoration of Lake Tahoe while building broad support to Keep Tahoe Blue. Please share our enthusiasm for the big and bold objectives we have for 2013.



Upper Truckee Marsh circa 1930



Eye on the Lake

CLARITY IMPROVES, BUT SUMMER NUMBERS VEX SCIENTISTS

Lake Tahoe's clarity improved in 2012 for the second year in a row, the best in 10 years, according to UC Davis scientists who study the lake. The average annual clarity level was 75.3 feet, or a 6.4-foot improvement from 2011. Winter average clarity of 88.3 feet continued a long-term pattern of improvement. At 64.4 feet, summer clarity improved 13 feet from the 2011 value, but researchers say the persistent trend is still one of declining summer clarity.

SIERRA CLUB CHALLENGES RPU

In February, the Sierra Club filed a lawsuit against the Regional Plan Update that was adopted in December of 2012 with wide public support. As part of the bi-state negotiation process that developed the RPU, the League opposes this lawsuit and encourages a quick settlement so the important work of implementing the plan and protecting the lake can move forward. For more details on the League's involvement with the RPU and the most up to date news on this litigation, please go to our Web site, keptahoebblue.org.

RESTORATION PROJECTS PROCEED

Several large-scale restoration plans and projects continued throughout the region.

On South Shore, plans are underway to restore what remains of the Upper Truckee Marsh, which abuts the Tahoe Keys development. The California Tahoe Conservancy, which owns the land, is exploring multiple options, which include

filling in the sailing lagoon, rerouting the mouth of the river, and adding sand dunes near Cove East.

Upriver, California State Parks has revised its proposal to reconfigure a golf course and restore the river. It's now proposing to move just five holes instead of nine after taking feedback from a neighborhood group, the Washoe Tribe and people working on the Meyers Community plan.

The Forest Service also continued its meadow and stream restoration work on the Sunset Stables site near the Upper Truckee River, and at Cold Creek and High Meadows.

On the North Shore, stream restoration and other improvements continued in the Third Creek and Incline Creek watershed, the highest source of sediment to Lake Tahoe from Nevada. The project is sponsored by the US Army Corp of Engineers, Incline Village General Improvement District and the Nevada Division of State Lands.

In late 2012, the Bureau of Land Management announced it will commit \$6.8 million for conservation and recreation projects in Nevada and Lake Tahoe. The funding was made available through the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act.

CRAZY FOR CRAWDADS

Over the summer, the Tahoe Lobster Company began harvesting non-native crayfish, the first commercial fishing company to operate at Lake Tahoe since the 1930s. Scientists estimate there are 280 million crayfish in the lake, after





Lake Tahoe environmental news from 2012.

their introduction over 100 years ago (Lake Tahoe does not have a native species of crayfish.) The critters compete with native species for food, and their excrement causes algae growth.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS HELP UNSEAT NEVADA SENATOR LEE

Sen. John Lee, a Democrat from North Las Vegas who introduced Senate Bill 271, was defeated in the November election by a more progressive candidate. SB271 was enacted in 2011 and sets a timetable for dismantling the TRPA. Lee's support of the bill drew the attention of the Nevada Conservation League, which worked with several other groups to defeat the incumbent.

TACKLING ASIAN CLAMS IN EMERALD BAY

Researchers at UC Davis began Tahoe's largest ever Asian clam control project in October, laying down rubber barriers across five acres of lakebed in Emerald Bay. Asian clams are an invasive species that excrete concentrated nutrients as waste, causing unsightly blooms of bright green algae. The clams could also increase the potential for other species, such as quagga mussels, to gain a foothold in the lake. Asian clams disrupt Tahoe's ecosystem by competing with native animals for habitat and food.

FIRE PREVENTION ON SOUTH SHORE

The Forest Service and Lahontan Water Board ironed out differences over how to thin 10,000 acres of forest on South

Shore and work began in the summer. The water board approved the use of machine thinning and pile burning near streams. Most of the work will take place on Forest Service land surrounding homes from Cascade Lake to Stateline. The project had been pending since 2004.

BOAT INSPECTIONS KEEP INVASIVES OUT

By midsummer, inspectors with the Tahoe Resource Conservation District had prevented at least four boats containing quagga mussels, zebra mussels or New Zealand mudsnails from entering Lake Tahoe. The boats had previously been in Lake Mead and the Great Lakes. In early 2013, the TRPA instituted an extra fee for boats that need decontamination, and shortened inspection hours in order to balance the budget for the program.



SAND HARBOR SHUTTLE SUCCESSFUL, NORTH SHORE MULLS FREE SYSTEM

A new shuttle between Incline Village and Sand Harbor State Park proved very successful in summer 2012, transporting over 12,000 riders during 81 days of operation. The park simultaneously banned walk-up visitors with the aim of preventing erosion, improving safety and addressing parking and traffic congestion along Highway 28. Meanwhile, Tahoe Area Regional Transit is mulling a free public transportation system modeled after Aspen to reduce congestion and emissions.

Our Work

2012 Highlights



THE REGIONAL PLAN UPDATE AND BI-STATE COOPERATION

In December 2012 the TRPA governing board approved a new 20-year Regional Plan Update for Tahoe, bringing to a close over a decade of uncertainty over the future of development in the Basin. The League worked vigorously for several years to get the best RPU possible, including participating in a select bi-state working group last summer to iron out differences. The League suggested meaningful improvements and many concerns were addressed, including eliminating widespread development on most of Tahoe's open land and designated recreation areas, providing an appeals process, as well as limiting increases in development height. While the final plan is not perfect, the League is satisfied that it will not put the lake at risk while also providing much needed revitalization to communities. The Sierra Club and Friends of West Shore filed a lawsuit against the RPU in February 2013. The League opposes this lawsuit because it endangers the bi-state compact. To learn more about the League's stance and for updates, visit our Web site at keptahoeblue.org

A clear path forward is important for Tahoe's communities and collaboration is the most effective approach for getting there. The League is rebuilding relationships with state, county and local leadership.

The League has positioned itself at the table where it can have a meaningful influence on the next steps, RPU implementation and assessment.

SIERRA COLINA: COURT HALTS DANGEROUS PRECEDENT ON SUBDIVISIONS

The US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with the League in October 2012 that a private drive to a gated subdivision project could not be exempt from coverage limitations. If the development had been allowed to proceed as proposed, large lots throughout Tahoe would have become easier to subdivide and develop, increasing pavement and coverage that endanger Tahoe's clarity. The League is now working to build relationships with the TRPA and area developers so that, in the future, differences will be resolved during the permitting phase.



From our new Pipe Keepers program, to our social events series, 2012 was a year of exciting changes for the League.



PIPE KEEPERS: WHAT'S DRAINING INTO THE LAKE?

The League's Pipe Keepers program kicked off its pilot year in 2012 with eight dedicated volunteers braving inclement weather to monitor outflow from seven drainage pipes in their communities. The program will measure pollutants in water flowing into Tahoe and its tributaries, and determine if they should be an area of concern. The program will also raise awareness of potential impacts to water quality from storm drains. Trained Pipe Keeper volunteers take water samples and visual observations at each pipe outlet during storm events. The data and photographs are posted on our Web site to engage the public in these issues. Much of this work was made possible by our

new AmeriCorps position, the first at the League in nearly a decade. As the program gains momentum in 2013 the League will be training more volunteers, adding more pipes and collaborating with other agencies.

CONTINUING TO FOSTER LAKE STEWARDS

As threats to Lake Tahoe evolve so must the awareness and engagement of the community who appreciates Tahoe for all it offers. The League continued developing its community outreach program by offering a new range of volunteer opportunities aimed at controlling aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. The expanded program tripled the number of volunteer events the League holds each year engaging and educating hundreds of enthusiastic participants. Volunteers finish the day knowing they've made a tangible difference in Keeping Tahoe Blue by holding these threatening invaders at bay. They can then share their knowledge with friends and family, growing communal awareness of invasive species impacts. We also continued to offer our educational Walk and Talk Tours to members (a series

of outdoor walks with a staff environmental expert).

RENEWING THE LEAGUE

2012 was a year of transition and renewal for the League. Building on over five decades of environmental advocacy work that protected the lake from catastrophic overdevelopment, the League is focused on engaging the new generation of Tahoe supporters to ensure continued protection of the "Jewel of the Sierra" for this and future generations. Beginning in February by hiring new Executive Director Darcie Goodman-Collins, the League reunited its team in South Lake Tahoe to better address environmental issues as they arise and to be part of a collaborative effort with other stakeholders to implement effective solutions. One major focus was the development of a new natural resources manager position, which will help bridge the gap between science and policy by providing a League presence in science-based technical working groups. With new leadership, a new motivated staff, and a progressive mindset, the League is ready to Keep Tahoe Blue in 2013.

Our Work

2013 Objectives

2013 rings in a new mindset of progress in the Basin and a new League ready to lead the way. The League is still the environmental watchdog for Lake Tahoe that it has always been. But it will also work to support collaborative, science-based solutions to environmental issues, educate and engage the Tahoe community, and continue to advocate for strong environmental regulation and enforcement to protect the lake.

REPEALING NEVADA SENATE BILL 271

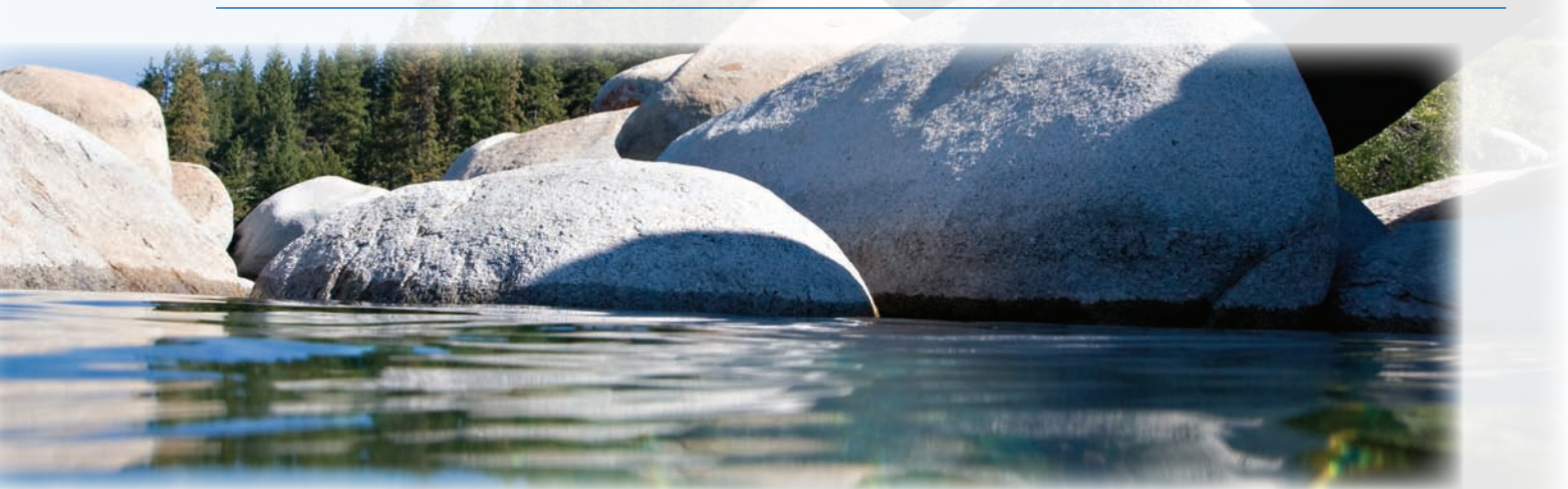
In 2015, Nevada is set to pull out of the bi-state Compact that provides consistent and strong environmental regulations for the Basin, including environmental thresholds. If this happens we lose any momentum we have gained in developing a new regional plan. Another year of stalemates with no environmental improvements will not help protect the lake. The League will work with Nevada environmental groups and lawmakers to ensure a strong strategy for repeal, while leveraging its strong brand to engage the public in this important issue. We need SB271 repealed this year and Nevada to recommit to the Compact.

A RESOURCE IN COMMUNITY PLANNING

We helped write some of the code for the Regional Plan Update to ensure proper environmental protections for the Lake. Now we need to make sure those get implemented efficiently and correctly at a local level. We will be dedicating a considerable amount of our advocacy efforts to influencing the community planning process to ensure that local governments have strong plans in place that incentivize environmentally appropriate development. Aging buildings and infrastructure continue to threaten the Lake. Well vetted and implemented community plans will be road maps to this long overdue revitalization.

KEEP TAHOE BLUE SOCIAL EVENT SERIES

As 2012 wound to an end the League launched a monthly social event series to engage like-minded Tahoe enthusiasts in our mission to Keep Tahoe Blue. These events target younger generations and provide attendees with a casual and fun venue to learn about the footprint we leave behind when we live and play in Tahoe, as well as how we can take easy steps toward protecting our lake every day. To appeal to a larger range of people the League partners with local restaurants, bands and other businesses who provide a venue, entertainment, refreshments and raffle prizes. We held five successful events in 2012 and have plans for 10 to 12 more in 2013. Come join us next time you are in the area and see what all the buzz is about.





EXPANDING INVOLVEMENT IN THE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM

Many agencies worked extensively in 2012 to treat some of the invasive species that already call Tahoe home, including Eurasian milfoil, curly leaf pondweed and Asian clams. These agencies monitor for new infestations and previously treated areas for any regrowth, but the Lake is so large it is difficult and expensive to monitor every part of its shoreline. More eyes on the Lake are needed. The League will fill this gap by partnering with other groups in 2013 to develop a volunteer monitoring and reporting program for divers, snorkelers, paddlers and boaters. This program will train everyday Tahoe recreationists in aquatic plant identification and monitoring as well as provide a venue to report any new infestations. The information can be used by resource agencies to treat invasives before they become established and spread. Early detection often results in cheaper and more effective treatment.

A NEW SHOREZONE PLAN

Where do most people foster their relationship with Lake Tahoe? Along the shoreline and in the water. Everyone can appreciate experiencing Tahoe's stunning clarity near its shoreline, whether it's from a private home, a public beach, a trail or a boat. The League is ramping up efforts to get a protective shorezone plan that properly addresses boating infrastructure, access and impacts. Continuing its collaboration with the Tahoe Lakefront Homeowners Association, the League is working on developing some common ground points

that can then be presented to the TRPA as a unified voice for a new shorezone plan. The League believes that a good plan should properly assess the impacts of boating, allow for streamlined maintenance and renovation of legally existing piers and buoys, properly incentivize environmentally beneficial improvements to infrastructure and outline a fairly distributed fee structure used to monitor and mitigate impacts (pay to play). Visit our Web site for more information.

DAVID AND FRITZI HUNTINGTON EDUCATION CENTER

Named in honor of the Huntington family, long-time Lake Tahoe and League supporters, the education center at the new League headquarters in the heart of South Lake Tahoe is becoming the beacon for Tahoe-based environmental advocacy and community engagement. In this new and highly accessible location, more Tahoe visitors and locals are learning about how they can make a difference and Keep Tahoe Blue. In 2013, we will continue to grow the educational materials and resources available to those eager to make a difference. We are also developing a speaker series where experts on environmental issues facing Tahoe can present their research. We also plan to install a sustainable landscape demonstration garden that will feature the most innovative and effective BMPs, where our skilled staff can give tours to visitors, local schools and other interested parties. Come pay us a visit and see what we can do together.



Your Lake Tahoe:

Celebrating Volunteerism

We know that when people have the opportunity for hands-on volunteerism, their love for a place grows, as well as their appreciation for its challenges. That's why over 15 years ago, the League launched the first Tahoe Forest Stewardship Day. Our volunteer programs then grew to include beach cleanups and storm drain marking. Then in 2012, the League tripled its volunteer opportunities with new programs to tackle weeds, both on land and in the water, and to monitor pollution flowing into Lake Tahoe from road drainage pipes through our new Pipe Keeper program. As volunteerism grows, so does the community's understanding of environmental issues, which brings forward more minds to craft solutions. Here's to another 15 years of successful volunteerism.



League Financial Statement

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (Year ending December 31, 2012)

Assets	
Cash	\$292,509
Investments	802,959
Restricted Investments	284,622
Merchandise Inventory	44,905
Property and Equipment	761,593
Prepaid & Deposits	14,990
Total Assets	\$2,201,578
Liabilities & Net Assets	
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$17,269
Accrued Expenses	25,347
Total Liabilities	\$42,616
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$1,836,753
Temporarily Restricted	88,709
Permanently Restricted	233,500
Clarence E. Heller Endowment	
Lane Family Endowment	
League to Save Lake Tahoe Endowment	
Total Net Assets	\$2,158,962
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$2,201,578

Audited financial statements are available at keeptahoebblue.org.

Thank You!

Special thanks to the law firm of Saveri & Saveri Inc. of San Francisco, and R. Alexander Saveri, for their generous donation to further the mission of League to Save Lake Tahoe, now and forever.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS Jan. 1, 2012 – Dec. 31, 2012

Revenue	
Membership	\$451,319
Benefit	469,902
Contributions	191,481
Foundations	30,000
Sales (net)	23,114
Earned Income	15,068
In-Kind	181,841
Total Revenue	\$1,362,725
Expenses	
Personnel	\$609,090
Operating	134,443
Communications	29,484
Special Projects	17,108
Member Education	99,934
Consultants	136,108
Travel	22,707
Fundraising	169,511
Depreciation	27,979
In-Kind	181,841
Total Expenses	\$1,428,205
Change in net assets	\$(65,480)

PROGRAM EXPENSES FY 2012

