



Fall Newsletter 2012



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Inside This Issue

- P2** REGIONAL PLAN UPDATE
- P3** NEW OPPORTUNITY TO SHAPE TAHOE'S FUTURE
- P3** SHOREZONE DISCUSSIONS UNDERWAY
- P4** HIGH FASHION HITS THE NORTH SHORE
- P4** NEW BOOK "THE BAREFOOT SPIRIT"
- P5** NEW BOARD MEMBERS
- P6** COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES SPARK NEW INTEREST
- P6** FOREST STEWARDSHIP HIGHLIGHTS
- P7** NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- P7** PLAN YOUR LEGACY TO KEEP TAHOE BLUE
- P8** ASIAN CLAM CONTROL PROJECT TAKES SHAPE

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. We focus on water quality and its clarity for the preservation of a pristine lake for future generations.



www.KeepTahoeBlue.org

Regional Plan Update

League Presses for Tools to Protect the Lake

Regional planning could well be high on your list of significant activities, especially if you are the outdoorsy type who can't wait to hike the trails, ski the hills, or swim in the astonishingly blue waters of Lake Tahoe.

A strong regional plan that actively protects water quality and clarity can help ensure that the incredible recreational opportunities of the region—and its environmental integrity—remain intact. A determined effort to protect and preserve the lake and its environs is our mission here at the League to Save Lake Tahoe. That's why we have invested so heavily in making sure the next regional plan will give us the rules and tools we need to protect the lake and the basin.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency is now nearing the end of an arduous five-year process intended to update the existing 20-year regional plan. The League has tracked the evolution of the updated plan every step of the way. The Regional Plan Update, after all, could guide all aspects of land management, development, and planning for the next two decades. We are determined to do everything possible to ensure that the new plan is strong enough to protect the lake.

As you might expect, no planning document aimed at the Tahoe Basin could be proposed without drawing critics from across the political spectrum. The so-called "preferred" plan that was proposed last March was no exception. The League was no fan. We felt the proposal was an invitation to damage water quality and scar the basin's scenic beauty. The plan allowed subdivisions on all recreation land. It gave local jurisdictions permitting authority on projects up to 200,000 sq. ft. It allowed concentrated development near the lake. The League joined with others in the conservation community to say no.

In response, the governors of Nevada and California convened a small, bi-state working group to tackle the big issues. The League was invited to join this frank conversation, which included folks from both state governments, the regional planning agency Governing Board, conservationists, and the development community.

We entered these talks knowing that the regulatory structure now working to protect the lake was in danger because of Nevada's decision to leave the Compact. We knew we needed to move forward with a plan that would enable conservation interests in Nevada to help reverse the state's decision to withdraw.

Heading into these talks, we understood we would face a lot of tough topics, but we resolved to work collaboratively to suggest meaningful improvements and offer constructive compromises. We agreed that redevelopment is an essential element to improving Tahoe's built environment. But because redevelopment almost always entails development expansion, we wanted to be sure the improvements were used to leverage as much environmental gain as possible.

Through our talks, we were able to address many of our worries over the preferred plan. We eliminated development in recreation zones. We limited local permitting authority to projects of 100,000 sq. ft. or less. We created a workable appeals process, and we

built in a buffer along the shorezone. In short, we made real progress. The Regional Plan that will come before the planning agency for final approval before the end of this year is still not a perfect plan. But the conversations of

the bi-state working group showed us how much we all have in common. We were joined in those conversations by the Nevada Conservation League, and together, we were able to make clear why certain plan elements were harmful and get them eliminated.

Moving forward, if the plan is adopted with all of our agreed upon language intact, the League will continue to work as a cooperative stakeholder. We will remain intimately involved as a voice for the environment in the local planning efforts that emerge as the Regional Plan Update gains approval. And we will continue to push for the water quality improvements that will help us Keep Tahoe Blue.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency is now nearing the end of an arduous five-year process intended to update the existing 20-year regional plan.

Basin Residents

Have New Opportunity to Shape Tahoe's Future

Now that the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) is wrapping up its regional plan update, the League to Save Lake Tahoe is shifting gears to focus more on local planning efforts.

Some communities have already started drafting these more localized planning guidelines. The TRPA is calling them Area Plans, and under the new regional plan, communities throughout the Tahoe Basin have the option of developing them and presenting them to the TRPA for approval. The League wants to help make sure that local residents are able to bring a strong environmental voice to this new community planning process.

Shannon Eckmeyer, the League's Land Use Specialist, has talked with folks at town hall meetings and planning workshops, providing advice and support for the local groups. Eckmeyer intends to continue the League's involvement as the local plans evolve.



TRPA's Local Government Committee listens as Planning Director John Hester outlines the agency framework for developing Area Plans for the Tahoe Basin.

"In order to ensure a strong voice of care and concern for the Lake Tahoe Basin, the lake and the communities that surround it, it is crucial that citizens participate in these local planning activities," said Eckmeyer. "The League is working to make sure citizens have the information and the organization they need to make their voices heard."

Over time, Eckmeyer also plans to connect with local governmental agencies to help ensure that the ideas presented during citizen planning sessions are incorporated into Area Plans.

"We want to be sure these new Area Plans represent the needs of the individual communities, while also providing environmental enhancement and improved water clarity in Lake Tahoe," said Eckmeyer.

The League to Save Lake Tahoe encourages all basin residents to participate in Area Plan meetings in their communities. We will keep members updated as this new planning process evolves.

SHOREZONE DISCUSSIONS UNDERWAY AMONG INTERESTED GROUPS



The League to Save Lake Tahoe is leading the effort to bring interested parties together to develop a new Shorezone plan.

The League to Save Lake Tahoe is moving forward to help forge a new shorezone plan.

The League is coordinating meetings with other groups involved in the shorezone issue in an effort to ensure that all interests are present and aware of the League's efforts to protect Lake Tahoe's water clarity.

"We are determined to move forward in a positive way that will allow buoy permit holders and pier owners to use the lake, while also protecting it," said League Land Use Specialist Shannon Eckmeyer.

The stakeholders will develop a plan to be presented to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency for review and approval.

High Fashion

Hits the North Shore at Annual Benefit



For the first time in eight years there was a new location for the League's annual soiree. As guests wandered down the cobbled drive in anticipation of the Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon featuring Oscar de la Renta's Fall 2013 Collection, curiosity grew.

Each bend offered a spectacular show of perennial gardens that hinted at what one could expect when they reached the location of the runway.

This year's venue did not disappoint. Cool green lawns for mingling and music, coupled with the dramatic expanse of the runway on the sandy beach made for a perfect day.

Our sincere thanks to Kern Schumacher for opening his home and welcoming 550 guests to his Tahoe retreat so we could enjoy high fashion, a decidedly delightful lunch and smartly dressed company.



High fashion in the sun and sand made for a perfect day for those attending this year's annual Fashion Show and Luncheon at Kern Schumacher's home. Photos by Drew Altizer

"The Barefoot Spirit" Soars Again with New Book from Wine Entrepreneurs

We'd like to share with you a book we think you'll love. "The Barefoot Spirit: How Hardship, Hustle, and Heart Built a Bestselling Wine," written by Barefoot Wine founders Michael Houlihan and Bonnie Harvey (with help from Rick Kushman), is a great read. It will appeal to entrepreneurs, business people, non-profit leaders, and anyone who is passionate about activism, unlikely success stories, and—oh yes—wine.

We at the League to Save Lake Tahoe love this book in part because we love the Barefoot brand, whose history is intertwined with ours. But we also love it because it captures a little slice of what we cherish most about humanity: that we have the drive to pursue our long-shot dreams and throw our whole heart into bringing them to life.

Michael and Bonnie began supporting our work to Keep Tahoe Blue back in 1997. They displayed our messages on their bottles and donated product and labor at our fund-

raising events. The occasionally controversial work of the League made their support controversial as well. Some wine buyers objected, but the company held to its principles.

Over time, people realized the health of the lake was in everyone's best interest and the phrase Keep Tahoe Blue resonated throughout the Tahoe community. Wine buyers came back to Barefoot, and the League kept growing, too.

Read more about The Barefoot Spirit at <http://www.keeptahoeblue.org/news/news-main/?id=456> and hear how you can get involved in a special promotion where Michael and Bonnie will donate back to the League 50 percent of their proceeds for all book sales to League members purchased before year's end. Visit www.thebarefootspirit.com and use the special code "KTB" to secure the contribution.



Bonnie Harvey and Michael Houlihan

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Keep Tahoe Blue News

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New Board Members

Paul Cohune

Bay area businessman Paul Cohune's career spans over 40 years of diverse management experience. Today, Cohune serves as an advisor, facilitator, and mentor working with CEOs and other business leaders. Paul was elected to the Board in August 2012.

"My involvement in the League is driven by the fact that, as a homeowner in the Incline area for nearly 40 years, I want to be involved in a strategically focused endeavor that will help preserve Tahoe for generations to come," says Cohune.



Jennifer Cormier

Born and raised in suburban Philadelphia, Jennifer Cormier moved to the Bay Area in 1994. A lover of the outdoors, Jennifer was drawn to the serene beauty of Tahoe. Jennifer and her family split their time between Mill Valley and a cabin in Tahoma, where they enjoy the many recreational options Tahoe offers.

Jennifer is a partner in the San Francisco office of the Walsworth Franklin Bevins & McCall law firm. She is a graduate of the University of Delaware and holds a law degree from the Paul M. Herbert Law Center at Louisiana State University. She was elected to the Board in August 2012.

Paul Gillen

Paul Gillen joined the Board of the League to Save Lake Tahoe in March 2012. He currently works for Mountain Hardwear, an outdoor apparel and equipment company based in Richmond, CA. As an outdoor enthusiast, Paul is passionate about conservation and brings several years of non-profit experience to the board.

Born and raised in the Bay Area, Paul is committed to preserving the beauty and balance of the Tahoe Basin. Paul graduated in 2004 from Wake Forest University.



Luke Giordano

Luke Giordano is a founder and partner in the investment planning firm Main Street Wealth Group in Sacramento, CA. Luke is a graduate of Westmont College in Santa Barbara where he holds bachelor's degrees in philosophy and business economics.

Luke was born and raised in South Lake Tahoe, CA and grew up ski racing. He became involved with the League to help ensure the Basin's future. "I want my family and friends to continue to enjoy the beauty of the Tahoe Basin," he says. Luke was elected to the Board in August 2012.

Community Activities Spark Renewed Interest in League & Lake

The League launched a revamped community engagement and volunteer program this past summer designed to reengage and cultivate Lake Tahoe community members as well-informed stewards of Lake Tahoe. Our goal with this new effort is to build a group of committed members and local activists to help protect and conserve the Tahoe Basin's unique and sensitive environment.

As part of our community engagement activity, we hosted our first volunteer projects focused on invasive species removal. In the Tahoe Keys, for example, our volunteers pulled invasive weeds growing along the neighborhood waterways.

"We were gratified by the enthusiasm our volunteers demonstrated during these tremendous events," said Community Engagement Manager Flavia Sordelet. "We're working on bringing a new generation of lake enthusiasts into our membership base and volunteer corps."

The League continued the success of the annual National Beach Cleanup this year by hosting two additional beach cleanups during the summer when Tahoe's beautiful beaches see the most visitors and the most litter.

In addition to these great Keep Tahoe Blue volunteer

projects, the League has also been very active in the community this year by attending numerous events and festivals focused around Lake Tahoe, including regional Earth Day celebrations, local Wild & Scenic Film Festivals, Children's Environmental Science Days, and other community events. Don't forget to check out the Keep Tahoe Blue website events calendar to see what other events are happening at Lake Tahoe.



Volunteers fanned out in the Tahoe Keys late this summer to tackle and uproot invasive weeds taking hold in the area.

Forest Stewardship Highlights League's other Community Activities

In late September, the League hosted Tahoe Forest Stewardship Day at one of South Lake Tahoe's hidden treasures, the Tahoe Paradise Park in Meyers. The day was made possible through a generous \$10,000 grant from Wells Fargo.

Volunteers from all over the region helped to Keep Tahoe Blue by working on numerous stewardship projects. The League thanks the Tahoe Paradise Resort Improvement District for providing the site, as well as



Volunteers of all ages came together for this year's Tahoe Forest Stewardship Day. New fence posts were installed as one of the stewardship activities at Tahoe Paradise Park in Meyers, CA.

Aspen Hollow Nursery and the Tahoe Resource Conservation District for donating native garden plants.

In addition the League recently joined forces with the very successful and rewarding South Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition (STEEC), and the Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Program (SNAP). The League will be hosting an AmeriCorps member for the 2012-2013 season as our new Community Engagement Coordinator.

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New Director Steers League Toward People & Science

Darcie Goodman Collins, Ph.D., stepped into her role as the League to Save Lake Tahoe's executive director with an eye toward greater community engagement and a commitment to science in developing good public policy.

Since taking the lead of the organization in February 2012, she's moved those two ideas forward. She's created many opportunities for people to get involved in protecting the lake through hands-on volunteer activities like beach clean-ups and projects to help eradicate invasive species in and around the lake.

"Collaboration, both inside and outside the organization is critical for success, and sound science must play a crucial role in decision-making if we are to make wise choices on how we engage with and preserve our outdoor treasures for all to enjoy," says Goodman Collins.

Goodman Collins has a long history of connecting with the treasures available in the Tahoe Basin. She grew up in South Lake Tahoe and has deep roots in the community.

"I'm very excited to be back in Tahoe. I grew up skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, and waterskiing on our beautiful lake. I am passionate about science, education, and the lake. I am dedicated to leading the League's efforts to restore the lake, and I am committed to working hand in hand with the local community to do so," says Goodman Collins.



Darcie Goodman Collins, Ph.D.

Plan Your Legacy to Keep Tahoe Blue Forever

Leave a gift that will last so future generations can enjoy Lake Tahoe as you have enjoyed it. The League to Save Lake Tahoe's mission is to Keep Tahoe Blue. By supporting the League through a planned giving gift you will ensure that the mission is able to thrive. Won't you please take a moment to consider one of the ideas listed below to ensure that your wish to Keep Tahoe Blue is realized.

YOU CAN:

- LEAVE A BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL OR LIVING TRUST. THIS IS THE MOST DIRECT APPROACH TO GIVING.
- DESIGNATE IN A LIFE INSURANCE POLICY NAMING THE LEAGUE AS ONE OF THE BENEFICIARIES.
- LEAVE STOCKS OR BONDS.
- NAME THE LEAGUE AS THE BENEFICIARY OF YOUR IRA, 401K, OR OTHER RETIREMENT PLANS.
- DONATE A RESIDENCE, VACATION HOME, OR UNDEVELOPED LAND.

If you have already named the League as a recipient of this lasting legacy, we thank you. If you want to talk further about creating a gift that will last, we would love to hear from you. Please contact 530-541-5388 or email Karen@keeptahoeblue.org.

THE LEAGUE TO SAVE LAKE TAHOE

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Asian Clam Control Project Takes Shape in Emerald Bay



Asian clams have taken hold at the mouth of Lake Tahoe's picturesque Emerald Bay, and a team from the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Program is now working to get the infestation under control.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and its partners are leading the project, which is the largest Asian clam control effort in the history of Lake Tahoe. In a recent news release, the agency reported it plans to treat up to five acres of lake bottom in an effort to get control of an isolated population that is living on a shallow, gravel sill about 15 feet below the surface.

The treatment involves dispatching scuba divers to cover the infested lake bottom with thin rubber barriers and woven sheets of organic matter which are weighted with steel rebar. The idea is to reduce available oxygen beneath the barrier and smother the invaders.

"The Asian clam control project will help preserve Lake Tahoe's extraordinary biological diversity, protect its most valued natural and cultural resources, and maintain opportunities for high-quality recreation," said Patrick Stone, senior wildlife and fisheries biologist and project leader for the TRPA.

Project leaders say the Asian clam infestation at Emerald Bay is in the early stages and still small enough to manage through an effective prevention and control program. Scientists report that

without treatment, the population would likely grow rapidly and become extremely difficult and expensive to control.

Gaining control of the Asian clam population in Lake Tahoe is deemed crucial because the clams have a variety of negative impacts. The clams help enhance potential habitat for the quagga mussel, another invasive species. They also promote the growth of algae, which reduce water quality and change water color. Asian clams also compete with native species for habitat and food, which disturbs the food web.



Divers work to secure bottom barriers with steel rebar as part of an effort to control invasive species in Lake Tahoe. A new control effort was launched in late October to control Asian clams at the mouth of Emerald Bay. (Photo courtesy Tahoe Resource Conservation District.)

Control efforts began in late October, and were set to continue for roughly six weeks. Work will occur mainly in the early mornings, but boaters entering Emerald Bay may be asked by on-site coordinators to delay their entrance into the bay for short periods to ensure diver safety.

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and California

Department of Parks and Recreation are leading the control effort, while the U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station is funding continued research on the infestation to monitor the effectiveness of the control effort.

The League to Save Lake Tahoe is among the 40 public and private partner organizations working to support the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Program through our public information and outreach efforts.