

Fall Newsletter
2011

A Blue Tahoe
means

A Clear Shore

...clear down to your toes



Inside This Issue

NEVADA LEGISLATION
HOMEWOOD
CITY GENERAL PLAN
LANE NATIVE GARDEN

The League To Save Lake Tahoe



**KEEP
TAHOE
BLUE®**

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State of the Lake

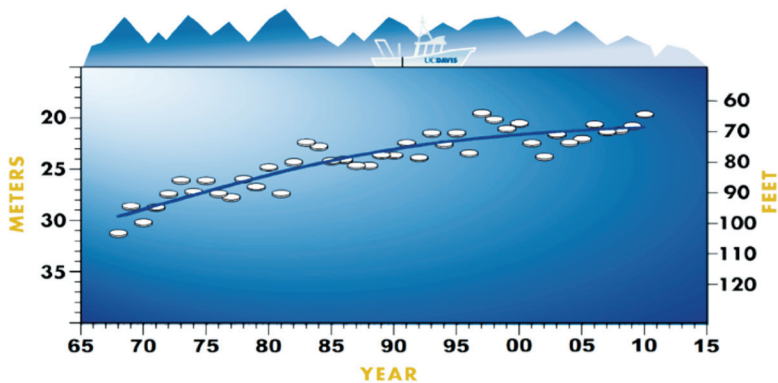
Tahoe loses 3.7 feet of clarity in 2010

Tahoe lost 3.7 feet of clarity in 2010, the second lowest measurement ever taken. Scientists suspect the decline is related to climate change and nutrients. For the first time, data is available that shows clarity near the shore is worse

than clarity a mile off shore. Scientists also report that clarity during winter is better than summer, leading them to suspect that efforts to control urban runoff are working. However, Lake Tahoe is not mixing as much, so warm water that favors algae is remaining near the surface longer.

"The decline in summer clarity may be related to the impacts of climate change," reads the 2011 State of the Lake Report by UC Davis. "Stabilizing of the water column is producing conditions that strongly favor *Cyclotella*, a tiny (4-10 micron) diatom-algae cell. Numbers of *Cyclotella* have grown exponentially in the last four years."

DECLINE OF WATER CLARITY AT LAKE TAHOE



Graph courtesy of UC Davis



In early August, Keep Tahoe Blue supporters hopped aboard the UC Davis research vessel, the *John Le Conte*, for a lesson about the science behind Tahoe's famed clarity. Dr. Geoff Schladow and Captain Brant Allen led the talk, and demonstrated how to measure clarity with a Secchi disk.

Quagga mussels discovered near Reno, and on Tahoe-bound boat

Mussels are now one step closer to Tahoe, with the discovery of juvenile Quagga mussels in Lahontan and Rye Patch Reservoirs near Reno.

Also, inspectors at Spooner Lake discovered dozens of quagga mussels on a boat bound for Tahoe in August. The boat had been moored in Lake Mead, where the mussels have destroyed the ecosystem and clogged infrastructure and boat equipment. The infested boat was released after several rounds of decontamination with hot water. Inspections and decontaminations have become more efficient after all inspection stations moved to off-ramp locations this summer, according to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.



Quagga Mussels

Protecting Tahoe's Shore

Threats and Solutions

THREATS TO SHORELINE BEAUTY INCLUDE:

- Road sand runoff
- Water weeds
- Invasive clams and mussels
- Non-native fish
- Nutrients from: fertilizer, animal waste, sediment



Photo by www.PeterSpain.com

SOLUTIONS:

Road sand: Jurisdictions should use low-nutrient sand, less sand, better street sweepers, and sweep more often.

Boat inspections are critical to preventing invasive species that will destroy the shoreline ecosystem.

Nearshore threshold: Strong standards and regulations are essential to protecting the shore. TRPA should strengthen its nearshore standards and create a strategy to achieve those standards.

Watershed protection: TRPA must retain strong limits on building footprints, and ensure property owners comply with requirements to install BMPs. Tahoe needs continued federal and state funding to upgrade old drainage infrastructure and restore disturbed wetlands.

Raising public awareness: The vast majority of people experience Tahoe's clarity from shallow areas. People are noticing deterioration. Public concern is rising. Help us spread the word that Tahoe's shoreline needs to be protected.

League assists with invasive species program

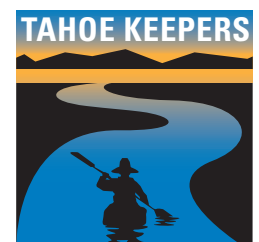
Tahoe Keepers launches online self-inspection tool for non-motorized watercraft

In 2011, the League collaborated with a group of agencies to create the Tahoe Keepers program, a tool that helps non-motorized watercraft users inspect their boats for invasive species. The League hired a consultant to help plan and implement outreach and education portions of the program. Funds came from the Lake Tahoe Quagga Mussel Prevention Fund, which the League formed in conjunction with the Tahoe Lakefront Owners Association.

Tahoe Keepers is a voluntary online self-inspection training for those using canoes, kayaks, paddle boards and other hand-launched watercraft. The training teaches users how to correctly self-inspect and decontaminate their equipment before and after every use.

The program will help prevent the introduction of invasive mussels into Lake Tahoe. It will also help prevent the spread of milfoil, curly leaf pondweed and Asian clams from Lake Tahoe into Fallen Leaf Lake, Echo Lake, and Spooner Lake, where these species are not yet found.

The program was created by the Non-motorized Watercraft Working Group consisting of the Tahoe Resource Conservation District, the TRPA, Forest Service, and others. Information on the self-inspection training can be found at www.TahoeKeepers.org.



Oscar de la Renta & Saks

On August 6, 2011, Lake Tahoe once again dazzled attendees at the 42nd annual Oscar de la Renta luncheon and fashion show, presented by Saks Fifth Avenue to benefit the League. This tradition, started in 1969 by famed designer Bill Blass, along with then Saks chairman Jim Ludwig and long-time member Adolphus Andrews, has become a summer highlight for 600-plus members of the League each year. These fashionistas, along with family and friends, have never been disappointed.



The custom continued this year as de la Renta presented his Resort 2012 collection. Both the music and the fashion exhibited the designer's roots in art and Caribbean Island heritage. The models paraded in Picasso and Braque inspired looks for a full 20 minutes, leaving the audience clamoring for more.

The League's annual event has become a family outing for many members, with de la Renta following suit. This year he was accompanied by his son-in-law, de la Renta CEO Alex Bolen, and his grandson, Thomas Bolen, who enjoyed drawing the winning raffle tickets for the guests. Mr. de la Renta spoke for all when discussing his involvement in this annual event. "It's a great privilege to come here. I'm honored to have this beautiful lake as a background for my clothes. But the most important thing is we're raising money to protect the magic that is Lake Tahoe."

Saving the lake requires the dedication of many. In the League's 54 years, this annual event remains the single greatest collaborative effort to secure the financial resources required to accomplish our mission. The juxtaposition of stunning natural landscape, extraordinary fashion, and unwavering support from our members were once again the ideal recipe for a festive day.

Thank you Bill Callender

The League would like show its great appreciation to Bill Callender for his 18 years of service on the League board of directors. Bill concluded his last term this year.

An investment banker by trade, Bill provided valued guidance on the League's investment policies over the years. He served in many roles, including chairman and treasurer.

Bill was raised in Homewood, where his father owned a small restaurant and bar. The League will always remember Bill's pointed questions on program matters, as well as his warm and jovial nature. Bill once described himself in a questionnaire for board members as a "magnificent trumpet player, decent skier and swimmer, not so good at golf."

Thank you Bill, for your generous years of service helping to Keep Tahoe Blue.



Bill Lane & Jean Lane Native Garden

The League is pleased to unveil the new Bill and Jean Lane Native Garden at its Information Center in South Lake Tahoe. The new garden was designed and installed with generous consideration by John Fellows of Aspen Hollow Nursery and funded by contributions from the Lane family among other donors.



The garden's lively array of shrubs includes woods rose, currant, snowberry, thimbleberry, arctic willow, chokecherry and serviceberry. Trees include aspen, birch, mountain ash, cedar and spruce. Perennials like yarrow, lupine and strawberry will provide summer-long floral color. Vegetation is incorporated into a mosaic of river rock and stone to minimize water use. These native plants will naturally thrive in Tahoe's unique environment with limited watering and fertilization.

The garden has been designed as an example of landscaping in the Tahoe Basin that incorporates proper BMPs, native and adapted plants, and consideration of natural resources in an attractive and functional way.

The League plans to host events and educate visitors in the new garden. We encourage those who want to learn more about native landscaping to visit us anytime at: 2608 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe (Highway 50 and Rubicon Trail).

Save the Date

Walk & Talk Photo Tour of Paige Meadows, Sunnyside: October 8

A series of open meadows and aspen stands, Paige Meadows is an excellent place to view fall colors and learn about Alpine meadow ecology. The meadow provides an example of the aspen restoration projects taking place throughout the Tahoe Basin. A League staff member will be your guide, providing information on forest fuels reduction efforts and the importance of preserving and restoring wetland habitats within the Tahoe Basin. The hike will feature a professional photographer to point out best camera techniques for "snappers" of all ages. This outing is suitable for families.

For details and to RSVP, contact events@keeptahoeblue.org. Check with us early next year for details on summer 2012 Walk & Talk events.



Photo by www.PetersSpain.com

League Priorities

PRESERVING THE TAHOE COMPACT

In June, Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval signed into law SB271, a bill that withdraws the state from the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact in 2015 unless California and Congress agree to certain demands. The bill attempts to change the voting structure of the TRPA governing board in a way that will make it easier to approve development, and weaken environmental standards and regulations. SB271 passed in the final 15 minutes of the 2011 Nevada Legislative Session, despite much opposition from a broad coalition of conservation groups and scientists. The legislation undermines the movement to protect Lake Tahoe at a time when environmental threats like invasive species and climate change are greater than ever before. The League will be working with stakeholders and decisions makers in both California and Nevada to ensure that bi-state cooperation continues at the Lake.

CITY OF SOUTH LAKE TAHOE GENERAL PLAN

The League has challenged the City of South Lake Tahoe's general plan, which poses significant environmental harm to Lake Tahoe. The city's general plan violates the TRPA's current regional plan and proposes illegal increases in development height, density, coverage, commercial space, and hotel rooms. The plan proposes over 1,000 new high-density residences, which will increase traffic, air and water pollution. Science has shown that cars are grinding up road sand into fine dust that is a cause of lake clarity loss, and traffic increases will only exacerbate this problem. The League is working to ensure the city's plan complies with state, federal and TRPA regulations.

TRPA CODE STREAMLINING - REGIONAL PLAN UPDATE

The League has been invited to review a new, "streamlined" version of its 600 pages of ordinances. The effort was meant to clean up the code, remove redundancy, and fix non-substantive errors like grammar and punctuation. However, the League found substantive changes and some entirely new material. In one case, League staff discovered that an ordinance from the late '90s that significantly enhanced Lake Tahoe's water quality was inadvertently deleted. League and TRPA staff are collaborating to correct the error. However, the League is concerned that what started out as a streamlining of the code has ended up as a rewrite that warrants environmental review.

HOMEWOOD

The League is continuing its review of a proposal at Homewood Mountain Resort for a large all-season resort with hundreds of residential and hotel units. The plan requires substantial code changes, zoning changes and even changes to TRPA's goals and policies. Much less development would be allowed at the site under current rules. The League is looking for a project that decreases traffic, supports the revitalization of Tahoe's West Shore, while also providing substantial air and water quality benefits and protecting the character of the surrounding community. A vote on the project is expected in late 2011.

PROTECTING TAHOE'S SHORELINE BEAUTY

The League has launched a public awareness campaign about protecting Tahoe's shoreline beauty. Public concern is on the rise as Tahoe's shoreline ecosystem experiences rapid changes and deterioration. The League is committed to working with agencies, scientists and decision makers to find and implement solutions. See pages 1-3 for more.

League in the News

The summer was very busy one in terms of media attention on Lake Tahoe, particularly SB271, the Nevada bill to pull out of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact (see above). The League appeared on NPR's Morning Edition, and was featured in stories by the Los Angeles Times, The Associated Press, Sacramento Bee, and San Francisco Chronicle sending the message that continued bi-state cooperation is essential to protecting Lake Tahoe's environment.

League Announces Transition in Leadership

Rochelle Nason has announced that she is stepping down in early October as Executive Director of the League to Save Lake Tahoe, a role she has held for 18 years. After a wonderful 20-year tenure with the organization, she has decided to make her permanent home in the San Francisco Bay Area. Rochelle led the League to much success and leaves the organization in a strong position for the future. Program director Carl Young will guide the League on an interim basis. We will quickly begin a national search for her replacement.



We thank and honor Rochelle for all that she has accomplished.

In Memory of ...

January 1 – August 11, 2011

MAX ABBOTT

Daniel Areshenko

SHAIKH J. AHMAD

Regina-Celeste Ahmad

LISELOTTE BALKIE

Deborah & Otto Sterba

SANDY BATES

John Ross

MARY BRINTON

Kaethe Sullivan

THOMAS CLARK - HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAD, YOU ARE WITH US ALWAYS

Amy Gooch

MARTHA CORONADO

Tina Anastasiou
Mary Sue Conaway
Meladee Davidson
Janice Mastbrook
David & Eileen Uribe

TOM COUBERLY

Mrs. Jean Port

MARIE DAMASCHINO

Christine Iversen
Piziali Family

ROBERT GALIATA

Gino & Doris Bava
Jane M. Bresnahan
E. J. Fanucchi
Gary & Deanna Reed
Mary A. Saylor

BRENT GLEAVES

Lynda & Jerry Canfield
Kassandra Harris
Curt & Darrelyn Holzgang
Sherelda & Jim McCrary
Gail Schaefer

RICHARD GOLDMAN

Jessica Hay

SUSIE & HANK HAMATAKA

Lynn Folsom

NICHOLAS CONNOR HAUFFMAN

Matt Hauffman

HOMER HAYWARD

R. Mark Shepherd

FRITZI JANE HUNTINGTON

Adolphus & Emily Andrews
Marion P. Avery
Ken & Gail Berry
Drs. James & Lorraine Brinton
William & Lynn Callender
The Capital Group Companies, Inc.
Conyes Foundation
Leslie A. Cordone
Jim & Pat Crafts
Patricia H. Graham
Kenneth & Janet Gray Hayes
Michael & Candace Humphreys
Bill & Marilyn Marken
Stephanie Mooers
Lacey Neuhaus
Joe & Helen Pickering

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Paige Qvale

Larry Richman

Anonymous

David G. Sherman

Joe R. Straus, Sr. & Emilie F. Straus

Charitable Trust

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HOWARD MCELDOWNEY

Sheila Cooper
Judith & Alexander Glass

DONALD MOOERS

Tom & Suzanne Vinzent

HELEN SANDBERG

Patricia Grant Bentley
William & Barbara Reyn
Tina Rutsch

PATRICIA MAUREEN ROSS SCOTT

Fran & Cameron Wolfe, Jr.

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Carol Sisco

ALEXANDER TELOW

Dr. Deborah Telow

KEITH TREMBLEY

Jerry & Marti Zimmerle

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Membership in the League to Save Lake Tahoe is \$25 per year and includes the Keep Tahoe Blue News. The League is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization under the federal tax code. Dues and contributions to the League are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Your gift helps fund the League's educational, legal, scientific and advocacy efforts. We thank you for your support.



In Honor of ...

January 1 - August 11, 2011

MR. & MS. JOE ANAKATA IN HONOR OF YOUR WEDDING DAY

Lisa Anthony

JOHN BARROWMAN HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Nikki Montgomery

IN HONOR OF MARK BEUERLE & ALICIA KRAMER

Anonymous

IN HONOR OF HOWARD S. BLOOM'S BIRTHDAY

Stuart W. & Gaye G. Seiler

IN HONOR OF BLAKE BOCKIUS FOR HIS BIRTHDAY

Amy Crossland

IN HONOR OF STAN & JUNE BOICOURT

Anonymous

IN HONOR OF CECIE BOSTON

Camila Rosa

IN HONOR OF SANDY BUDDE

Kristen Budde

TERRY BULLER & LAURA SHAN GRAW-BULLER'S WEDDING

Sue Vinella & Bill Brusher

IN HONOR OF HEATHER "KICK A-- AND TAKING NUMBERS" CHOI

Wendy Wu

IN HONOR OF TED CONRADS & A. J. CRANE MAY YOU SHARE A LIFETIME OF BEAUTY & JOY

Linda Dickey

IN HONOR OF ANNE HARPER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Patricia & Robert Ronald

MARK & KELLY LOEWENSTEIN IN CELEBRATION OUR WEDDING!!!

Mark Loewenstein

IN HONOR OF JANE MILLER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Patricia & Robert Ronald

IN HONOR OF MEG MURPHY'S BIRTHDAY

Elaine McCarthy

IN HONOR OF PAMELA RONALD FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Patricia & Robert Ronald

IN HONOR OF RONALD ROSENBERG

Daniel McMahan

IN HONOR OF UNA JEWEL RUBOVITS

Michael Rubovits & Bronwen Lodato

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM RUSSELL-SHAPIRO

Ellen Rothmann

IN HONOR OF ANDY SCHWAB'S 40TH

Samuel Brown & Amanda Countner

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF S LAKE TAHOE BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Apex Construction Company

IN HONOR OF RICK'S 40TH BIRTHDAY

Anonymous

IN HONOR OF NICO WEDEKIND

Shannon Coulson

IN HONOR OF DOUG & VALERIE WELCH

Tara Miller

IN HONOR OF CLIFF "PAPA" WETZEL

Shannon Wetzel

IN HONOR OF JAMES D. WHITTEN

Christa A. Whitten