



advocate | educate | collaborate



NEWSLETTER 2016

Protecting Lake Tahoe since 1957

photo: peterspajin.com



WE KEEP TAHOE BLUE BY

Combating pollution

① Lake Tahoe: the ultimate outdoor classroom

With your support, the League to Save Lake Tahoe's Keep Tahoe Blue Schools Program has taught 3,835 K-12 students, providing place-based environmental education using Lake Tahoe as the ultimate classroom. Here, League staff teach students from Carson Middle School about monitoring urban stormwater runoff from rainstorms and snowmelt, the largest source of pollution degrading the Lake's clarity.

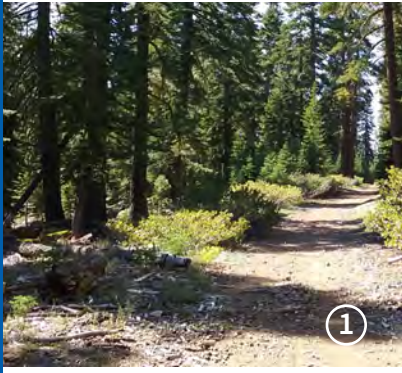
Some of our students apply sampling and analysis methods adopted from the League's citizen science program, Pipe Keepers. This year, League staff have analyzed nearly 400 Pipe Keeper stormwater samples collected by our volunteers from 16 pipes dumping into Lake Tahoe.

② Citizen science provides a snapshot of water quality

Over a hundred community members waded into frigid creek waters in May to take a snapshot of the Tahoe watershed's health as part of the 16th Annual Snapshot Day. League experts trained participants, who collected field data and water quality measurements from 31 South Tahoe sites.

③ Giving people a better choice than sitting in traffic

Traffic is already bad at Lake Tahoe, and traffic-related pollution drives clarity loss, both from winter traction materials and tailpipe emissions. A key solution will be improving alternatives to driving, such as making it more convenient for people to walk or ride a bicycle in our communities. This year, we advocated for the adoption of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's Active Transportation Plan, which highlights opportunities to address missing connections among Tahoe's bike trails and sidewalks.



WE KEEP TAHOE BLUE BY

Promoting restoration

① Victory: Brockway camping resort cancelled, land to be sold to U.S. Forest Service

Just as this Newsletter was being completed, the announcement came that the proposed Brockway camping resort was cancelled, with the land to be sold to the U.S. Forest Service. This followed years of advocacy by the League against proposed massive developments on the pristine ridgeline land, a remote location relative to Tahoe's communities.

"This is a major victory for all who love Lake Tahoe," said League Executive Director Darcie Goodman Collins, PhD. "The construction of the Brockway camping resort complex would have set a terrible precedent, as it would have added significant traffic and related pollution to the Tahoe Basin."

Support from members like you makes it possible for the League to engage in this kind of advocacy to Keep Tahoe Blue.

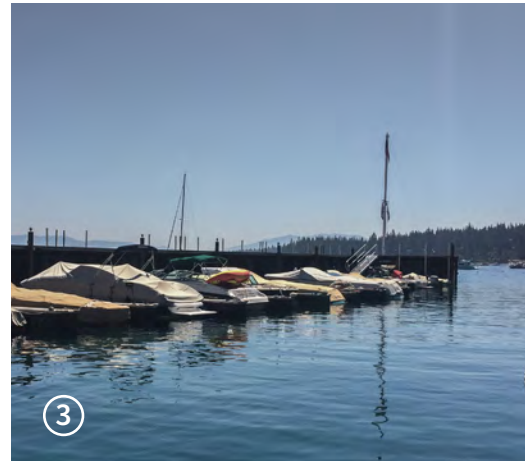
② Ensuring restoration succeeds to protect Lake Tahoe

Decades of unchecked development destroyed many of Tahoe's meadows and marshes, which acted as natural filters for the Lake. Restoration is the best method of bringing back these natural processes.

Here, a volunteer waters native shrubs during a May restoration event, which had been planted in 2015. Return visits to the same site can be the key to successful restoration.

③ Taking the case for Tahoe to Washington

Dr. Collins traveled to Washington, D.C. in March to advocate for reauthorization of the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act. This legislation would provide critical funds for environmental restoration projects, the control of aquatic invasive species and to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire.



WE KEEP TAHOE BLUE BY

Tackling invasive species

① Addressing a new threat in Glenbrook

Thanks to your support, the League's Eyes on the Lake citizen science program helps prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in Tahoe's waters. League experts train community members how to identify and report the presence of aquatic plants found while out enjoying the Lake. Last year, Eyes on the Lake volunteers discovered a new infestation of aquatic invasive plants in Glenbrook on Tahoe's east shore.

② This year, League staff engaged property owners and the Glenbrook Homeowners Association about options to protect the area's waters. Preliminary surveys in early 2016 indicated the infestation was still small enough to be removed effectively by trained volunteers. In August, we trained 14 Glenbrook homeowners through Eyes on the Lake, giving them the skills to work with League staff at an upcoming event to remove the infestation and monitor their shoreline for years to come.

"I see this as a case of a negative situation turning into a positive one," said Hillary Marble, a Glenbrook homeowner. "It started from our discovery of aquatic invasive plants along

our shoreline, but it's led to so many Glenbrook residents becoming more educated and more engaged in efforts to protect the Lake."

③ Marinas embrace Eyes on the Lake practices

The warm, shallow and protected waters at Lake Tahoe's marinas are potential hot spots for the establishment of aquatic invasive plants. Worse still, boats are the primary means of spreading invasives throughout the Lake. It's critical that we monitor and control aquatic invasive species in Tahoe marinas.

Fortunately, most marina owners and staff are dedicated advocates for the Lake. Marinas are also tightly regulated through a five-year Marina General Permit to ensure their operations do not negatively impact water quality. The most recent update to the permit added marina participation in Eyes on the Lake as an annual reporting requirement and best management practice. Going forward, staff at marinas are required to be trained in Eyes on the Lake and conduct an annual survey of aquatic invasive species.



WE KEEP TAHOE BLUE BY

Protecting Tahoe's shoreline

1 Engaging the community to clean Tahoe beaches

Tahoe's shoreline is deteriorating in many areas. Rocks are covered in algae, invasive species are taking over, once-pristine areas are marred by trash and the shallow waters are getting dirtier. Your support helps us fight for solutions.

Over 300 community members gathered on July 5 at Tahoe beaches to remove more than 26,000 pieces of litter left behind on the Lake's shoreline after the July 4 holiday. "Community beach cleanups like these are a great way for people to get involved to Keep Tahoe Blue," said Marilee Movius, the League's community engagement manager.

2 Moving from cleanups to litter solutions for Tahoe's shoreline

The League continuously collects data on the trash we pick up. In the last two years, we identified hot spots where cigarette butt litter is a major problem (having picked up over **14,000 cigarette butts** in 2016 already). We will partner with local business leaders on a potential solution: installing

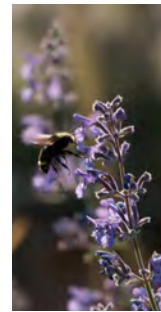
cigarette butt disposal canisters at key locations around the Basin to stop Tahoe's beaches from serving as ash trays. Cigarette butt filters contain plastics that remain in our environment for decades.

League staff will continue to collaborate with land managers and other stakeholders to find solutions to prevent litter in the first place.

3 Completing a Shoreline Plan for boating access at Lake Tahoe (formerly Shorezone)

Following advocacy by the League, Tahoe officials have launched a new comprehensive planning process to address boating access to Lake Tahoe — particularly the building of structures such as piers, buoys, boat ramps and slips. League experts sit on the Shoreline Steering Committee and a Joint Fact Finding Committee. We remain optimistic that this collaborative process will result in a plan that we can support and that includes the protections Lake Tahoe deserves.

Learn more at kepttahoeblue.org/shoreline.



League's Lake-friendly headquarters

Since arriving at our current South Lake Tahoe offices, we have reshaped the grounds to feature Lake-friendly practices. Last year, we replaced over 3,000 square feet of lawn with water-wise and native plants. Once plants are fully established, we will save over 50,000 gallons of water per year, while cutting fertilizer use. Hundreds of visitors have already enjoyed learning about Lake-friendly landscaping while touring our new garden.

As noted earlier in this Newsletter, pollution associated with auto traffic has become a leading threat to Lake Tahoe. In addition to advocating for Lake-friendly transportation choices, the League has improved our own practices. We offer incentives

for visitors and our staff to choose biking over driving to our Education Center and Store, and recently installed an improved bike rack with ample room for visitor bikes. Last year, the League became Tahoe's only Bicycle Friendly Business, as certified by the League of American Bicyclists.

These changes, along with the overhaul of our education center — and housing our staff of experts — make our offices a one-stop shop for how to Keep Tahoe Blue. Come meet us in person, tour our gardens and be part of the solution.

Clockwise from top: A guided tour through the League's water-wise plants; the League's new bike rack; the garden gives the front yard life.



About the Core Volunteer Program

Since 2014, the League has used our Core Volunteer Program to recognize our most dedicated volunteers — those individuals who, like the volunteers featured below, have given at least 15 hours in their first year volunteering with the League. Some have given more than 50 hours of their time and effort to protect Lake Tahoe. Collectively, our core volunteers have spent over 3,000 hours helping to Keep Tahoe Blue. We are proud to highlight our core volunteers and share their outstanding work. Learn more at keptahoeblue.org/core-volunteers.

Core volunteer highlights

Why do you volunteer to protect Lake Tahoe?



Barbara Brown

I have loved the Lake for 51 years and it feels right for me to do whatever I can to help keep it healthy.



Krystle Heaney

I volunteer so that I can stay engaged with my community, protect this beautiful place that I call home and make new friends.



Naomi Morgan

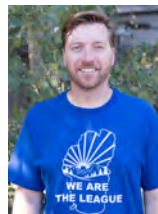
I volunteer with the League to ensure people are informed of the importance of Lake Tahoe's clarity and how their daily activities impact it. The more who know, the healthier the Lake.

What's your most memorable experience as a Keep Tahoe Blue volunteer?



Chad Laurence

Team leading at Tahoe Forest Stewardship Day. I had a group of young adults who really stepped up to the plate and we worked very hard to get our job done. I was overwhelmed with joy watching these youngins get their hands dirty while enjoying the work. Truly unexpected.



Philip Metting van Rijn

Strapping on my snowshoes and hiking up the edge of El Dorado Beach to get a stormwater sample for the Pipe Keepers program.

Photo at top: Many of our "We are the League" core volunteers are gathered in this photo at the Summer Kickoff in June.



Near-Tahoe development: looming threat to Tahoe?

Tahoe and traffic. Those two shouldn't go together.

People visit Tahoe to get away from it all, including traffic, but a typical Tahoe vacation is likely to include time stuck on our congested roads. And scientists have found that excessive car traffic poses a critical threat to Lake Tahoe clarity.

Traffic threatens Lake Tahoe's health by increasing air pollution that feeds algae. Scientists have also found that the top cause of clarity loss in Lake Tahoe is fine sediment pollution, predominantly coming from cars crushing the road sands used to make winter driving safer.

At the time this Newsletter went to print, two proposed massive projects near Tahoe are in the final stages of environmental review by local government officials: one at Martis Valley West, on a ridge overlooking Lake Tahoe, and the other in Squaw Valley. These projects would draw thousands of people to Tahoe, but do not fall under the direct oversight of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. Because they are located just outside the Lake Tahoe Basin boundary line, each circumvents standards that protect the Lake. Each would clog the area with traffic and pollute Lake Tahoe.

These projects, aimed at Tahoe visitors and second-home buyers, would degrade the Lake by adding pollution from traffic equivalent to 2,000 cars each driving 18 miles daily to get to Tahoe destinations.

"The League is concerned that nearby developments that circumvent Tahoe standards will become a new tactic for those looking to make a profit but hesitant to provide environmental benefits to the Lake as required by TRPA," said Darcie Goodman Collins, PhD, the League's executive director.

There are solutions to Tahoe's traffic problems. Thanks to your support, League staff have the resources to advocate at the local, state and federal levels for funding for innovative Lake-friendly transportation solutions. We are working with the Tahoe Transportation District to identify options to improve public transit. Our staff is collaborating with private developers and the business community to ensure redevelopment in Tahoe's communities makes it easier for people to walk, ride a bike or take the bus.

"We will continue to collaborate with local government agencies, TRPA, advocates and the project proponents when possible to insist developers of out-of-Basin projects provide reasonable solutions to the negative traffic impacts to Tahoe posed by their projects," said Dr. Collins.

Top left: Pollution from traffic has become one of the most significant threats to Lake Tahoe's clarity. Top right: Stormwater pipes such as this one carry fine sediment and nutrients off Tahoe's roads into the Lake.



Photo: Courtesy of UC Davis

Saving Lake Tahoe with Dr. Goldman's science



The founder of clarity measurements at Lake Tahoe and the godfather of lake science

Dr. Charles Goldman not only is a household name in Tahoe, being the premier scientific researcher on the Lake; he's also the godfather of limnology — the study of lakes — throughout the world. He founded the University of California, Davis' Tahoe Research Group, which later became the Tahoe Environmental Research Center. For six decades Dr. Goldman has advised presidents, governors, senators and countless other leaders about the environmental health of Lake Tahoe.

"When I came west in 1958 and made the turn off of the highway up to Lake Tahoe and saw it for the first time, it reminded me exactly of the untouched lakes on the Alaskan peninsula, where I'd done my doctoral dissertation work," said Dr. Goldman.

His research methods from his graduate field studies at Alaskan lakes allowed him to hit the ground running at Lake Tahoe, where the still-pristine Lake was already at risk.

From the moment he arrived, Dr. Goldman has provided ground-breaking science upon which the League to Save

"My science and the League to Save Lake Tahoe's influence were the perfect marriage that saved the Lake."

- Dr. Charles Goldman

Lake Tahoe has based our advocacy. We caught up with him recently to discuss his and the League's early days at Tahoe.

"Tahoe was already becoming popular," he notes. "Then the Olympics at Squaw Valley created a real interest in Tahoe. The developers had moved in en masse and were developing as rapidly as they could, which was a pretty serious threat I felt for the future, both from erosion around the watershed and just destroying the visual beauty of Tahoe."

Dr. Goldman's research in Alaska had provided him tools to measure exactly which nutrients were driving an increase in algae growth in Lake Tahoe. He also set up the long-term measurements of the Lake's clarity, using Secchi disks. His Tahoe studies told him there needed to be rapid changes to protect the Lake: controls on the unchecked development in the Basin, and an end to the dumping of treated sewage in Tahoe.

(continued on page 10)

Top: President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore aboard the John LeConte with Dr. Charles Goldman (far right) in 1997. Inset: Dr. Goldman, the godfather of modern lake science and the foremost Tahoe researcher.

(continued from page 9)

“The League had just been founded in 1957. Starting from our earliest days, Dr. Goldman worked closely with us in our efforts to protect Lake Tahoe,” said Darcie Goodman Collins, PhD, the League’s executive director.

“What the League was able to do is take the science and immediately make it public information, so that people became aware of the threat to Tahoe,” says Dr. Goldman.

Dr. Goldman gave frequent talks at the League’s public meetings and teamed with us to successfully press lawmakers to pass stronger protections for the Lake.

“One of our most significant early successes was the late ‘60s passage of legislation to require comprehensive environmental planning for Tahoe, creating the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. Dr. Goldman’s science provided the evidence needed to get adoption of the Bi-State Compact to protect Lake Tahoe,” said Dr. Collins.

The League’s and Dr. Goldman’s attempts to protect Lake Tahoe faced stark opposition at times. Some developers believed it was their right to build wherever and whatever they wanted, regardless of threats to Lake Tahoe.

After what Dr. Goldman describes as “many, many public meetings,” the conversations eventually changed. We still have challenges. But, he notes, people now “recognize the fact that it is in everybody’s best interest to preserve the quality of Lake Tahoe. And that certainly was the most important thing that the League and I achieved over the years. And we worked together on that. And I’ve really been proud to be a member of the League for all these years.”

When he speaks in public, Dr. Goldman often says that without the League’s efforts, we would have lost the battle to save Lake Tahoe back in the 1960s and ‘70s. To that, we would reply that without Dr. Goldman’s scientific research, the League would have lacked his unshakeable evidence, on which we built years of advocacy to Keep Tahoe Blue.

Below: A still from our video of Dr. Goldman reading his famous “I dream a dream of Tahoe” poem, set to video of Tahoe scenery. Listen and watch at youtube.com/keptahoeblue.



YOUR KEEP TAHOE BLUE TEAM

Board of directors

President | Ash Daggs

Vice President | David A. Brandenburger

Treasurer | Dennis Neeley

Secretary | Lorie Sinnott

David H. Blau

Jennifer Cormier

Robert A. Damaschino

Scott Drummond

William D. Evers, Jr.

Paul Gillen

Lucas Giordano

Anne C. Harper

Thomas Mertens

Ellen Rosenbaum

Steven Spurlock

Richard D. Stubblefield, Jr.

Allyson Willoughby

Michael J. Zukerman

Associate board

This group of young professionals serves as liaisons for the League, building awareness for how all Tahoe enthusiasts can take action to Keep Tahoe Blue.

Board Chair | Maxwell Hayman

Event Officer | Emily Schwartz

Integration Officer | Ben Evers

Seth Chanin

Jeff Collins

Alyssa Gagliani

Laura Wainer

Kelsey Miklavcic | Staff Liaison

Staff

Executive Director | Darcie Goodman Collins, PhD

Deputy Director | Jesse Patterson

Finance & Human Resources Director | Karen Hodges

Development Director | Erica Mirich

Policy Analyst | Shannon Eckmeyer, Esq.

Natural Resources Manager | Zack Bradford

Communications Manager | Chris Carney

Community Engagement Manager | Marilee Movius

Operations Manager | Jennifer Marshall

Executive Assistant | Jessica Enciso

Membership Manager | Amanda Rothstein

Database Associate | Martha Lopez

Education Center Assistant | Gina Craig

Natural Resources Associate | Savannah Rudroff

Policy Associate | Marissa Fox

Development Assistant | Kelsey Miklavcic

Community Engagement Associate | Jess Siegel

Development Consultant | Kristin Keane

League to Save Lake Tahoe Headquarters

2608 Lake Tahoe Boulevard

South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

530.541.5388 | keptahoeblue.org

info@keptahoeblue.org

© League to Save Lake Tahoe. Photos by League staff unless otherwise noted.



Photo: California Department of Transportation



Protecting Tahoe for 60 years

A small group of advocates founded the League to Save Tahoe in 1957. It's hard to believe today, but at that time California and Nevada officials were pushing plans for a four-lane highway around Lake Tahoe, including a bridge across iconic Emerald Bay. The League was founded to push back on the freeway plans and related proposals for an urbanized Lake Tahoe Basin, with a resident population of over 200,000.

The League prevailed, with Emerald Bay protected. Over the past sixty years, the League has continued to fight to protect the Lake, with numerous victories: enactment of Basin-wide environmental protections; the end of treated sewage being dumped in the Lake; and leveraging our influence to secure millions in public funds to protect Lake-protective regional planning.

During his speech at the 20th Annual Lake Tahoe Summit

in August, President Barack Obama spoke of future generations “who deserve clear water and clean air that will sustain their bodies and sustain their souls — jewels like Lake Tahoe.” Thanks to your support, we have had success in arresting the decline of Lake Tahoe’s clarity; we need a renewed commitment to Tahoe to buoy us against new threats, including climate change.

As we look forward to celebrating the League’s 60th anniversary in 2017, we’ll not only look back at past victories, but explore how together, we can Keep Tahoe Blue.

Top left: the proposed bridge across Emerald Bay, plans for which were shelved following a decade of advocacy by the League to Save Lake Tahoe. Top right: Emerald Bay as it remains today, protected now and for future generations.



Photo: peterspain.com

2016 MEMBERS EXCLUSIVE

Friday, November 18 | 11 am - 3 pm
Presidio Officer’s Club in San Francisco

Gavin Newsom, California Lt. Governor
Keynote speaker

Free to attend for all current League members | keeptahoeblue.org/rsvp
Lapsed member? Renew today at keeptahoeblue.org/renew.



League to Save Lake Tahoe

LEAGUE TO SAVE LAKE TAHOE
2608 Lake Tahoe Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Forwarding service requested

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
P S P



Inside:
Near-Tahoe development: the next big threat to Tahoe? | *page 8*
How science from wild Alaskan lakes saved Lake Tahoe in the 1960s | *page 9*

Photo: peterspain.com



OUR MISSION

The League to Save Lake Tahoe is dedicated to protecting and restoring the environmental health, sustainability 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. Learn more at keeptahoeblue.org.