



Welcome to the Flathead River to Lake Newsletter.

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 28 | August 2016

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Conservation and Restoration

North Shore Conservation Fund launched

Join River to Lake partner efforts to protect the North Shore of Flathead Lake with a donation to the new North Shore Conservation Fund!

Flathead River to Lake Initiative partners recently created the "North Shore Conservation Fund" dedicated to supporting on-the-ground North Shore conservation projects and other R2L conservation priorities.

The fund got a "kick start" through a raffle at our North Shore Boat Tour in July. We invite you to join us in protecting the North Shore.

Donations can be made by writing a check to "North Shore Conservation" and mailing it to the [Flathead Lakers](#) or the [Flathead Land Trust](#).

To learn more about the R2L Initiative, the North Shore conservation efforts, and our partners, please visit www.flatheadrivertolake.org.

150 people enjoy North Shore Boat Tour

We couldn't have asked for a more beautiful evening to celebrate Flathead Lake's North aboard the Far West tour boat. Flathead River to Lake Initiative partners

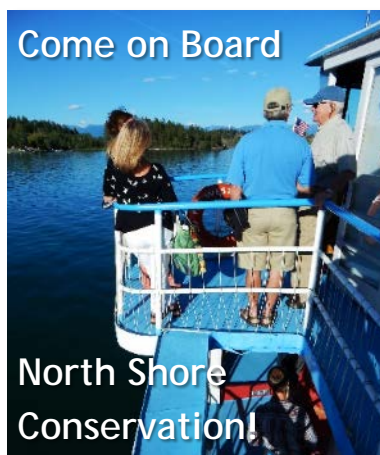
hosted the celebration and tour in July with over 150 friends, partners, and guests who love this rare gem of land and shoreline stretching over seven miles from Somers to Bigfork.

Since 2007, Initiative partners have been working to conserve this special place. Partners have completed

four conservation projects totaling 497 acres, adding to an existing 1,887 acres protected by the Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area and 186 acres of previously protected private lands.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has been instrumental in protecting the North Shore through creation of the North Shore Flathead Lake Wildlife Management Area.

The tour celebrated many of these accomplishments. Partners discussed the need to continue working with landowners to protect the remaining 1,200 acres from widespread development.



Thanks to the Flathead Land Trust and Flathead Lakers for organizing this fun and educational event. We also thank bird expert Dan Casey, Don Hauth, and Glacier Raft Co. for donating raffle items, Far West Boat owners Art and Susan Burch, and Mission Mountain Enterprises for helping with refreshments. And, special thanks to the 150 participants on board who shared in the fun and learning.

Flathead Lakers present 2016 Stewardship Award to Liz and Rusby Seabaugh

At the Flathead Lakers annual membership meeting, Constanza von der Pahlen presented the Flathead Lakers 2016 Stewardship Award to Rusby and Liz Seabaugh for their significant contribution to conservation that helps protect the quality and beauty of Flathead Lake and its watershed.



Liz and Rusby, shown here with Lakers President Greg McCormick, protected over 680 acres of important wetlands, riparian areas, and farmland along the Flathead River through conservation easements, and planted shrubs and trees to restore riparian areas along the river.

Furthermore, they inspired many of their neighbors to join in the conservation effort, contributing to the success of the Flathead River to Lake Initiative in protecting over 5,500 acres of critical lands so far. Rusby also served as Chairman of the Flathead River Commission and represents the Commission in the River to Lake partnership.

With population estimates in the Flathead projected to double in the next thirty years, Rusby stressed the need “to keep doing more to save all the farmland that you can and the mountain vistas” as “the river and lake are our greatest assets.”

New video showcases the R2L conservation and restoration vision

MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks videographer Winston Greeley produced a short video showcasing R2L partners’ vision for the Flathead River. [Click here to view the video](#), or search the internet for “Conservation partners preserve the Flathead River one property at a time.”



Flathead Audubon has new Conservation Educator

Flathead Audubon hired Denny Olson as its new Conservation Educator. Denny helped guide our Bike and Bird Tour last spring and has been helping Audubon with many of its education programs in the past. For information on Audubon’s education programs, contact Denny at 249-3987 or docwild.mt@gmail.com.

Events

September 14

Flathead River to Lake Initiative quarterly meeting

The next R2L Initiative meeting will be held Wednesday, September 14, from 9:00 am to noon at the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks conference room in Kalispell. For more information, contact Constanza at 883-1341 or criticallands@flatheadlakers.org

September 17

Flathead Land Trust Annual Barn Bash

Join the Flathead Land Trust on September 17 at 5:30 pm at the Diamond B. Ranch, a 190-acre conservation property along the Flathead River. The bash includes a local farm-to-table dinner and music. Call the Flathead Land Trust at 752-8293 for tickets and information or [click here](#) to purchase tickets.

September 24

Ashley Creek Restoration Tour

Wonder what techniques landowners and partners have been using to effectively restore riparian areas? Or how to keep deer or weeds at bay? Or what you can do to help improve the quality of our waters and corridors for fish and wildlife? Join us on Saturday, Sept. 24 at 10 am to learn about a simple yet effective project that will help restore the quality of Ashley Creek. For information call James Dillon, Flathead River Steward, at 752-4242 ext. 109, or flatheadriversteward@gmail.com.

September 24

Owen Sowerwine Natural Area Annual Work Day

Flathead Audubon Society is holding its annual work day to remove weeds and conduct trail and fencing maintenance in the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area on Sept. 14 from 9 to noon. For more information and to sign up contact Bob Lee at 270-0371 or RML3@centurytel.net.

October 13-14

Roundtable of the Crown of the Continent conference

The Roundtable of the Crown of the Continent conference, “One Backyard: Celebrating a Shared Landscape,” will focus on how culture inspires conservation, how climate and landscape changes impact culture and communities, and how increasing tourism intersects with culture and conservation. The conference will be held Oct. 13-14 in Fernie, B.C. The agenda is available at crownroundtable.org.

October 19

Wetland Council Meeting

The Montana Wetland Council is meeting October 19, from 9 am - 4 pm in Helena. Visit the Council’s [website](#) to view the meeting agenda (closer to the date). For more information contact the Council’s Chair, Jordan Tollefson, DEQ Wetland Program Coordinator, at 406-444-6652 or jtollefson@mt.gov.

October 24-26

2016 Watershed Symposium

The Montana Watershed Coordination Council is holding its annual Watershed Symposium “Improving Conservation through Partnerships.” For more information contact Erin Farris-Olsen at symposium@mtwatersheds.org.