

Lake Samish Storm Water Plan Presentation

Our Purpose:

The purpose of the Lake Samish Association is to promote, encourage, protect, and enhance the social, public safety and environmental qualities of life in the greater Lake Samish basin and adjacent interdependent areas.

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LSA Spring Meeting

Thurs., April 22nd
7:00pm
at

Camp Lutherwood

LSA Board Elections

&

Lake Samish Storm Water

Plan Presentation

by Liz Sterling
Wilson Engineering

The Whatcom County Storm Water Division has recently initiated a stormwater planning effort for the Lake Samish Basin, the purpose of which will be to develop a comprehensive storm water management plan for the area. The planning effort includes hydrologic modeling, a review of current codes and regulations governing stormwater issues, a review and summary of pertinent low-impact development (LID) techniques for stormwater management, identification of an action plan to address stormwater issues in the basin, and identification of funding sources for implementation of that action plan.

Work performed on the project thus far includes; research and assemblage of pertinent basin data such as topography, drainages & streams, existing stormwater infrastructure, land use, soil type, and historical monitoring records regarding water quality and lake level. The design team has used this background information to develop an electronic, hydrologic model of the basin which will be used to develop a water budget for the lake and model lake responses to nutrient loading.

The County has also developed a multi-faceted plan to encourage public participation in this planning process which includes provisions for public and stakeholder meetings, newsletters, a dedicated website page and presentations to local public and private organizations such as the Samish Water District and the Lake Samish Association. The first public meeting is tentatively scheduled for mid-April, 2010, and a **project presentation will be given at the April 22nd meeting** for the LSA. Details regarding meeting dates, status of the planning effort and general background information will be posted on the County's website in the next couple of weeks.

- Liz Sterling, Wilson Engineering LLC.

LSA Members Get Propane Discount

The LSA, working to promote the Association and its members, and Propane Gas, Ind. have agreed to a special pricing offer on propane extended to any current or new member of the Association. Join the LSA and qualify for the following benefits:

- Discount on annual tank rental fee. A typical 500 gallon tank, which rents for \$55.00 annually, would be reduced to \$25 annually. Those who have 1,000 gallon tank should call for special pricing.
- Special pricing on propane. Variable pricing will be based on a "cost plus margin" formula but typical savings would be around 10%. For example, regular propane pricing in February 2010 was \$2.199 per gallon. Special pricing for LSA members would be \$1.999 per gallon or 20 cents less.
- Free leak test and safety gas check for all new customers.
- Free tank switch subject to tank accessibility.

New accounts are subject to credit approval; must participate in "Keep Full Delivery Program"; Will-Call option available, subject to District Manager approval.

If you are not yet a 2010 LSA member send in the coupon on back page to join today! Contact Joan Ellsworth (756-7577) for your member number. Then call Propane Gas (360-384-4922) and ask for your special LSA member pricing to compare.



Calendar of Events



Saturday, April 4th - Egg Hunt at Camp Lutherwood Starting at 10:00 a.m.

Help is needed, if interested please contact
Dan Bult 752-5771/dbult@yahoo.com

Saturday, April 10th - WWU Rowing vs. Puget Sound - see details below

Monday, April 19th - Women's dinner @ 6:30 p.m. - see details below

**Thursday, April 22nd - Spring LSA Meeting
7:00pm @ Camp Lutherwood**

- LSA Board Elections -
- Stormwater Plan Update -

Coffee, juice and donuts will be provided

Saturday, May 1st - Join Hands Day at Camp Lutherwood - see page 3

Sunday, May 9th - Mountain Bike Race - page 3

Saturday, June 12th - Lake Samish Community Day - page 3

Sunday, July 4th - July 4th Boat Parade - details to be announced

Saturday, August 7th - Try-a-Tri & Sprint Triathlons - page 3

Sunday, August 8th - Lake Samish Open Water Swim - 5K & 1.5 Mile - page 3

April 10, 2010

**WWU Rowing vs. Puget Sound
Men & Women**

Start time will be 10 a.m.

Crews start the 2000m meter races near East Lake Samish by the freeway and race towards the bridge

**Official race schedule will be found soon at:
www.wwuvikings.com then Sport, Rowing**

**Thanks to the Lake Samish Community for helping us collect over 1000 lbs of food for the Bellingham Food bank on November 14th!!!!
John Fuchs**

**WOMEN OF LAKE SAMISH
SPRING GATHERING**

Please join the Women of Lake Samish for an early Spring gathering this year.

*Lisa Troupe will hostess a
casual dinner in her*

*home at 535 Summerland Road
on Monday evening, April 19, 2010
starting at 6:30 p.m.*

*Please bring a Food Bank donation
& \$4 for expenses*

*RSVP to Lisa at 738-3161 or
to volunteer to help with preparations.*

Camp Lutherwood Events

We want the neighbors to know what is happening for two reasons. Some may want to participate and others may not but want to leave the area on these days due to the increase in traffic. Our hope is that they would choose to participate.

Join Hands Day is Saturday, May 1st , 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Join Hands Day is a nation-wide day of intergenerational volunteerism, sponsored by fraternal organizations including Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. We need lots of folks to offer themselves in service to prepare the camp for its summer ministry. Singles, families, youth groups, retirees - all are welcome! Last year over 100 camp supporters participated in Join Hands Day. We completed many projects; splitting firewood, trail building/clearing, gardening, campsite rehabilitation, painting, carpentry, and fence building. It was a grand day of hard work, fellowship and fun. We were also able to raise over \$4,000 to support summer programming. **We invite our Lake Samish Neighbors to come out for a fun day of service.** Contributions of materials and money are welcomed!



Sunday, May 9th - Mountain Bike Race on the Lutherwood Trails

We think there will be approximately 200 - 300 participants.

On **Saturday, June 12th Lutherwood will be hosting Lake Samish Community Day.** We are working with the Lake Samish Association and the fire department to put on this day. It is a day for all the neighbors to come together to celebrate who we are as a community. We will be working to get local businesses to come out and have a presence at the event. There are a lot of vendors that provide services to our community and we want them to be part of this event. We hope to involve the WWU women's crew team and the WWU water ski team. In addition to that Fred Wefer will be working to bring out a helicopter along with some of the fire apparatus for the day. We will be working to provide some fun events such as a giant inflatable slide, a bungee wall, and possibly the blob.

Lake Samish has a great history of community. We want to rebuild that sense of community and get folks together so they know who their neighbors are.

New camp this year -Two weeks of Lake Samish Music Camp

Middle School Week:
July 4th -10th

High School Week:
July 11th-17th

See <http://www.lakesamishmusiccamp.org> and www.camlutherwood.org for more camp info.

Saturday, August 7th - Try-a-Tri & Sprint Triathlons

The big fundraiser event of the summer is the Lake Samish Fire Department's Try-a-Tri and Sprint Triathlons on Saturday, August 7th. A maximum of 450 participants are expected for this event. Check the website <http://lakesamishtriathlon.com/> for more details.

Sunday, August 8th - Lake Samish Open Water Swim - 5K & 1.5 Mile

On that same weekend on Sunday, August 8th the organizers of the triathlon will be running an open water swim in the north end of the lake, starting and finishing on the shore of Camp Lutherwood. No motorized pleasure boats will be allowed into the race area (west of bridge) during the race. The cap on this event is 300 participants. A portion of the funds raised will go to our campership fund, so that any child can come to summer camp. The website <http://lakesamishswim.com/> has complete information about the event.

Bob Merrill
Camp Director
Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center
360-734-7652
www.camlutherwood.org





Boater Money Fund

Last summer we all noticed the lack of marine patrol on Lake Samish. The LSA Board was immediately in contact with the Sheriff's office voicing our concern. One of the main reasons for this was due to repair of the Lake Samish (and Lake Whatcom) boats. According to Sheriff Elfo, when the cash was cut off by the Whatcom County Executive the boating safety work was stopped during the summer months. The Sheriff's Office had no discretionary money in its budget to pay for needed repairs and marine patrol hours. A letter from the Washington State Auditor was sent later in the year to the Whatcom County Executive reporting "improper procedures" and the need for the County to repay \$127,373 for boater safety and education programs. Sheriff Elfo said that he hopes most of these funds will be available before the start of the busy 2010 boating season. As a community, let's hope we see the marine patrol back out in force this year.

Speed Regulations on Lake Samish

Last summer's LSA Lake Views Newsletter included an insert of the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol Program **Boating Safety Laws** Summary. This summary specified that a 6 MPH speed limit must be maintained "within 300 feet of docks and shoreline on Lake Whatcom."

Apparently, this led to some confusion about whether the same speed restriction distance applied to Lake Samish.

So, the LSA Board confirmed with the Sheriff's office that for **Lake Samish a 6 MPH speed limit must be maintained within 150 feet of docks and shoreline.**

Buoys may mark that 150 foot distance from docks and shorelines.

Deputy Smith Retires

As many of you may have read in the Bellingham Herald a few months ago, Deputy Stewart Smith retired after 20 years in the Whatcom Sheriff's office. Smith started his career as a patrol deputy, moving into the marine division 10 years later and finally ended up in the US Customs & Border Protection unit. Smith spent many hours patrolling Lake Samish as well as frequently attending our Community Meetings. We wish Deputy Smith a well deserved retirement and hope that he returns to our lake - only this time for **recreation!**

PROTECT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Phosphorus is a naturally occurring nutrient found in water, soil and air. It helps stimulate plant growth and is essential for animal and plant life. However, human activities continue to increase phosphorus levels in Lake Samish, which in turn leads to excessive growth of plants like algae, clouding the water and killing other aquatic life. Bacteria eat the decomposing plants and use up oxygen in the lake, so more aquatic plants and animals die which then depletes more oxygen. Rainwater or outdoor water use carries phosphorus into the lake. Water runs quickly off hard, impervious surfaces carrying phosphorus-containing pollutants directly into lakes and streams.

HUMAN SOURCES OF PHOSPHORUS:

- Lawn fertilizers
- Leaves and grass clippings
- Pesticides
- Exposed soil from construction and landscaping
- Pet and wildlife droppings
- Failing septic systems
- Automobile exhaust and car washing
- Phosphorus-based soaps, detergents and chemicals



IT'S THE LAW: No commercial fertilizer that contains more than 0% phosphorus may be used on residential lawns/public properties (except for first season newly established turf/lawn areas.)

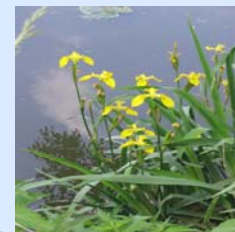
No commercial fertilizer of any type applied on frozen ground. No commercial fertilizer on impervious surfaces (whether spilled, applied or deposited in any way.) City of Bellingham Ordinance 2005-06-044 and Whatcom County Ordinance 2005-038.

YOU CAN HELP! *Use only phosphorus-free fertilizer, such as **Lake Whatcom Blend**. * Reduce lawn in your landscape and use native ground covers to filter and slow runoff. * Plant or leave vegetated buffers along streams/lakeside. * Use commercial car wash that recycles and uses wastewater treatment. * Use pervious surface (gravel or lawn) for car equipment washing at home. * Septic tank inspected/pumped every 3-5 years. * Scoop your pet's waste, don't let it decompose. * Use phosphorus-free products.

DITTRICH PARK UPDATE

Whatcom County Parks and Recreation Director, Michael McFarland, recently confirmed that NO planning activity is scheduled to take place in 2010 regarding development of a new county park on the 30 county owned acres located on East Lake Samish Drive, generally known as Dittrich Park. Previously, the Parks Department conducted watershed studies and wetlands delineation activities at this site. There are plans to take down and salvage the existing barn in the June/July time frame of this year. The LSA Board has requested that McFarland contact the Board in the early stages of the planning process to obtain input from Lake Samish residents prior to the standard public comment meetings. We will continue to monitor status of this project. Please contact Joan Ellsworth at 756-7577, if you have an interest in this project.

Invasive Plant Warning



Be Alert!
purchase a
plant or
your garden,

Before you
non-native
seeds for
contact the

Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board, Laurel Baldwin, at 715-7470 or 676-6700 ext.50680 or go on their website: www.nwcb.wa.gov for a list of noxious weeds in Whatcom County.

(photo of Iris pseudacorus - "Yellow flag")

LAKE SAMISH MANAGEMENT DISTRICT #1

Whatcom County is looking to fill **2 board positions** on the LSMS #1. Applicants must own land within the district. This advisory committee is integral to the operations and management of the district, reviews the county plan for the retention dam facility and Friday Creek stream enhancement, and makes recommendations in coordination with the county engineering division to the district board. Meets quarterly and members serve a five-year term. Call 676-6717 for more information or how to apply.



The Fishes of Lake Samish

Barbara Dykes

David Beatty of the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (www.n-sea.org) provided LSA with the following information:

The native salmonids in Lake Samish are cutthroat trout, kokanee (resident sockeye salmon derived from anadromous sockeye) and coho salmon.

The Lake Samish cutthroat are likely a mixture of the original Lake Samish native cutthroat and the Lake Whatcom native cutthroat which were used in the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's (WDFW) Whatcom Falls trout hatchery to produce juvenile cutthroat for planting in other lakes including Lake Samish. There is limited cutthroat spawning in Mud Creek, Barnes Creek and possibly Finnegan Creek.

Lake Samish kokanee also may be a mixture of the original Lake Samish native kokanee derived from anadromous sockeye ancestors, some of which as juveniles did not outmigrate to the ocean and remained as resident fish and of plants of juvenile Lake Whatcom native kokanee from the WDFW kokanee hatchery on Brannian Creek (SE end of Lake Whatcom). The latter plants have occurred on a relatively regular basis for many years to supplement the lake's resident kokanee population which has declined over time. Small numbers of sockeye may have occurred in Lake Samish at the time when native Americans were the principal inhabitants and prior to the extensive settlement of immigrants in the area. These sockeye would be the fish which are the ancestors of the lake's kokanee if a native population of kokanee existed prior to the plantings of juveniles from other localities. Kokanee spawn in Mud Creek, Barnes Creek, Finnegan Creek, in an unnamed creek at the entrance to Camp Lutherwood and along certain areas of the lake shore where there is suitable gravel and upwelling ground water. In the fall of 2009, Mud Creek and Barnes Creek each had several hundred spawning kokanee, the largest numbers in recent time. Somewhat unusual, numerous kokanee occurred in Friday Creek upstream

and downstream from the Nulle Road bridge. If they spawned, the juveniles would have to swim upstream to enter the lake, the reverse of the typical lake tributary spawning.

The coho are of Samish River stock and spawn in Mud Creek and Barnes Creek and occasionally in Finnegan Creek. The juveniles leave the creeks in the spring and remain in the lake until the following spring when the smolts outmigrate via Friday Creek and the Samish River to the ocean.

The other fish in Lake Samish are the non-native largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and likely other freshwater sunfish including bluegill and pumpkinseed, all which have been planted due a decision by WDFW; or intentionally (illegally) or accidentally (from illegal use of live bait) by sport fishers.

The lake has a sizable perch population among its other game fish species mentioned above.

The non-game fish species include the northern pike minnow (formerly named "squawfish", a derogatory word) and peamouth chub, sticklebacks, perhaps goldfish and whatever other home aquarium fish that unfortunately are dumped into a tributary or the lake.

Lake Samish is open throughout the year for fishing. The minimum size for retaining a cutthroat is 14 inches and the daily possession limit is two. For kokanee, there is no minimum size for retention and the daily limit is five. However, I believe if bait is used, any fish caught, whether released or retained, is counted as part of the daily limit.

There is some confusion on common names. Kokanee are commonly called silvers, but in the ocean a coho is also known as a silver. Juvenile coho (may be of a size of 5-6 inches) when caught should be released, however most fishers would probably not distinguish them from a young kokanee.

The Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (www.skagitfisheries.org) continues to conduct spawning surveys in the lake's tributaries.

Update on Blanchard Forest

On February 24, 2010 Commissioner Goldmark issued a press release regarding the establishment of a Natural Resource Conservation Area (NRCA) on Blanchard Mountain. The NRCA would be consistent with the original strategies, the same 1600 acre core area but would protect the area permanently. As you recall, the original strategies had DNR managing the core in a NRCA-like manner (for conservation and recreation purposes). DNR estimated the value of the trees in the core to be \$12 million. So far legislature has appropriated \$5 1/2 million to compensate the trust for the trees. Expecting to use the entire appropriation by this year, DNR has purchased and is in process of purchasing, forest land at risk of conversion to homes located around Blanchard Forest and elsewhere in Skagit County. However, just compensating the trust for the entire \$12 million for the timber value does not provide long-term protection of the core area. In another timber rotation (50 to 60 years) the trust would likely need to be compensated again for the value of the timber. By putting the core area into an NRCA, the trust is fully compensated one time for both land and timber and the area is no longer trust land.

Information provided by Bill Wallace, Manager, NW Region WA State Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR)
360-854-2801
bill.wallace@dnr.wa.gov
DNR website: www.dnr.wa.gov

Lake Samish Boat Launch Proposal Opposition

To my neighbors on Lake Samish,

My name is Denise Beard and I am an 8 ½ year part-time resident of Lake Samish.

I am concerned about the Boat Launch Renovation and Expansion Proposal as presented to the Lake Samish Association Meeting in October of 2008 by Kye Iris of the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). I have formed a group, "Keep Lake Samish Safe" (KLSS), and developed a Mission Statement (posted in full on the LSA website) to give a stronger voice to those who are opposed to this Boat Launch Renovation and Expansion Proposal.

The opposition to this proposal comes down to one basic and critical issue and that is **safety**. The safety **OF** the water and **ON** the water will be negatively impacted if this proposal is completed as presented due to degradation of our drinking water quality and increased boat/vehicle traffic creating safety hazards.

To give our group an idea of how quickly we need to move on this issue, I requested a timeline from Kye Iris for when the DFW expects to re-submit the same proposal, which was not funded for 2009.

The proposal will not be re-submitted in 2010 since the ROC (Recreation and Conservation Office) is not funding any boating proposals this year. DFW **WILL re-submit in 2011**, likely the SAME proposal with no further input from Lake Samish homeowners, because, as DFW states, they completed the required Public Notification Process to the Lake Homeowners (which, in fact, did not happen) prior to the October 2008 LSA meeting. DFW has also stated that renovating this boat launch is and will continue to be a priority of the agency as part of their agency mandates.

I would like to ask all who oppose this proposal to join me in doing what we can to prevent it from being implemented. Please contact me with your feedback and suggestions as to what steps the group needs to take in order to implement a plan to proceed. Even though the proposal will likely not be resubmitted until 2011, that time will come very quickly and we need to be prepared. Some ideas to consider:

1. Start working with Whatcom County Council to make them aware of this issue and find an advocate on the Council before the DFW comes to the County for permits.
2. Start working with a State Legislator to make our case, so they will deny any future funding requests if they are aware of our opposition in advance.
3. Develop an email petition (based on the Mission Statement) for all opposed lake residents to sign and submit (and add a personal comment if desired) to the DFW and/or the Whatcom County Council to make the most impact.
4. Each individual lake resident write their own letter, with one person (me) collecting and submitting them together, to create the most impact. The impression of the DFW is that there was little opposition to this proposal.

I look forward to hearing from you about your ideas and suggestions and I look forward to working with you.

Thank you,

Denise Beard, 206-282-0258 or dkbeard@comcast.net

Protecting Our Fisheries

According to the state WDFW website, we must use caution when recreating on or near the lake during the fresh- water spawning and rearing phase of the salmonids' life cycle. In Whatcom County, that turns out to be most of the year, since there is spawning and rearing during different times of the year. July and August are the only months in which we do not have to worry too much about destroying redds. A redd is a spawning site where eggs are buried in the clean fresh gravel of a stream or lake shoreline. To survive and develop, the eggs need clean, loose gravel. If silt fills in the spaces between the gravel, clean water cannot circulate and eggs may die from lack of oxygen or from accumulated waste products.

The following are statements come directly from the WDFW website regarding recreational activities and salmonids and steelhead:

Recreational Activities Even seemingly casual recreational activities may decrease the spawning success of the very fish we enjoy. Many recreational activities cause impacts we don't even consider.

Boating, Jet Boats and Jet Skis When boats, jet boats and jet skis speed across salmon or steelhead nests they often create turbulence that may churn up gravel, dispersing or crushing eggs. Stirred up sediment can cover redds, causing the eggs to suffocate or die from exposure to their own wastes. When boaters drop and retrieve anchor in spawning gravel the anchor can also damage or destroy redds.

Off-Road Vehicles (ORV) Off-road vehicles, such as mountain bikes, motorcycles, three-wheelers, quads, and four-wheel drive trucks and cars are capable of being driven into aquatic zones where they can impact redds. When driven through vegetated areas along streams and lakes ORVs can cause erosion or destroy vegetation that benefits fish. When driven through streams ORVs can cause siltation, gravel compaction, and disruption of eggs. Even seemingly dry gravel bars may contain redds. Salmon and steelhead may have spawned in those areas during high water flows.

Wading and Fishing Although it's fun to wade and play in streams, this can injure fish. Temporary dams that are created to provide wading pools can block fish trying to get to spawning areas and the pools can strand young fish. Walking on spawning beds while wading or fishing can disrupt incubating eggs, compact gravel, or stir up silt.

The above information was provided by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Please consider protecting fish and especially the juveniles and fish eggs by not disturbing gravel deposits. **Healthy fish means a healthy lake!** - Barbara Dykes



Lake Views

C/O Joan Ellsworth
156 Shallow Shore Rd.
Bellingham, WA 98229-8504

Dear Neighbor,

It's time to pay your annual membership of \$15.00 to the Lake Samish Association. Your dues help pay for the *Lake Views* newsletter and our Lakesamish.org website, which keep you up to date on issues in our community. Please return this card with your check, payable to **Lake Samish Association**, to Joan Ellsworth (Treasurer), 156 Shallow Shore Road, Bellingham, WA 98229. Thank you, Your LSA Board

Mail my *Lake Views* newsletter to: _____ **\$15 Annual Membership**

I'm interested in the following issues around our lake (i.e. boat launch, water quality, boat wakes, etc.) **\$100 SPECIAL 10 - Year Membership**

I would like to help the LSA in the future or receive special news updates, please contact me at _____ (phone) and / or _____ (e-mail) **Additional Donation** _____

I'm new to the Lake Samish neighborhood

Please remit by May 1, 2010

(Your e-mail address and phone number will enable us to communicate with you regarding Lake Samish issues only and will not be shared with a third party.)



Lake Samish Association

Lake Samish Association - Board of Directors

President	Dan Bult.....752-5771
Vice-Pres	VACANT
Secretary	Pam Nolan.....756-0233
Treasurer	Joan Ellsworth.....756-7577
At Large 1	Gordon Iverson.....733-8349

At Large 2	Steve Brinn.....303-3427
Comm.Chr.	Kathy Ploeger.....733-5826
Support Chr.	VACANT
Issues Chr.	Barbara Dykes.....303-7884
Website	Lakesamish.org