

SUMMER  
REVIEW  
2022

# CLEARWATER NEWS

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The Official Newsletter of the Clearwater Resource Council

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Photo by A. Zelnis



Contact Us at 406-677-0069

CLEARWATER RESOURCE COUNCIL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

# CLEARWATER NEWS

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## OUR MISSION:

The mission of the Clearwater Resource Council is to engage the community and facilitate efforts that will enhance, conserve, sustain, and protect the natural resources and rural lifestyle of the Clearwater Watershed for present and future generations.

## OUR GOALS:

- Build community capacity to resolve issues and promote a sustainable community;
- Create opportunities for interaction among citizens, businesses and agencies;
- Build common ground by consensus process;
- Facilitate timely collection and dissemination of information;
- Enhance the understanding of cumulative effects of land management practices; and
- Develop and support responsible resource stewardship and restoration programs.



Caryn Miske,  
Executive Director



Jon Haufler,  
President and CRC  
co-founder

## Clearwater Resource Council

P.O. Box 1471, Seeley Lake, MT  
59868

For additional information  
contact Caryn Miske, email:  
caryn@crcmt.org.  
by phone: 406-677-0069

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## SUMMER UPDATE

Ralph Waldo Emerson, a distinguished naturalist and poet, once wrote, "when summer opens, I see how fast it matures, and fear it will be short; but after the heats of July and August, I am reconciled, like one who has had his swing, to the cool of autumn."

Summers here in Montana often feel short. There are gardens to tend to, places to visit, and projects to finish. Summer at CRC has been a short but productive season. We have spent much time completing water sampling, hosting community events, and so much more. Thank you for your continued support!



Photo by E. Mcguirt

## TEA AND TINCTURES IN THE POLLINATOR GARDEN

In early August amidst the blooming pollinator garden plants, CRC hosted a workshop titled "Common Uses of Native Plants." This workshop was led by Susan Teitelman, an herbalist and master's student of ethnobotany at the University of Montana.

Participants were first given a tour of the pollinator garden which is filled with over 40 types of plants native to the area. Teitelman discussed the importance of native plants and highlighted a few of the plants in each of the garden boxes. Many native plants have medicinal properties and uses. For example, beebalm is used by Native Americans to cure colds, and prairie smoke was often turned into a root tea by early settlers to treat colic, fever, and cough.

After a guided tour through the garden, participants learned how to make a tincture and a tea using plants that you can find in our area. Teitelman explained that the Echinacea tincture boosts immune function, making it the perfect tincture to keep in your medicine cabinet in the winter. Participants also made a yarrow, mint, and elderflower tea. This tea is especially helpful for reducing fevers.



Photo by A. Zelnis

# CLEARWATER NEWS

## A SUCCESSFUL INVASIVE LILY REMOVAL EVENT

In July, CRC held its third annual “Make-The-Cut or Dig-It-Up” invasive lily removal event. Participants competed to cut and collect as many fragrant waterlilies as they could from noon-4pm at the outlet of the Clearwater Canoe Trail. By the conclusion of the event, 877 pounds of invasive lilies were removed and collected—that’s approximately the weight of a small moose!

Chuck and Heidi Uselman, Candy Bell, and Carrie Darrah collected the most lilies by weight and won a \$100 cash prize. Other participants won raffle prizes, featuring gifts from various local businesses.

We could not do any of this work without the support of our sponsors. Thank you to The Filling Station, Citizens Alliance Bank, Jackie’s Espresso, Rovero’s Ace Hardware, Cory’s Valley Market, The Ice Cream Place, Base Camp Bar, Heritage Outdoors, Garden City Compost, and Tamaracks Resort.



Photo by C. Long



Photo by A.Dixon

## *Invasive Lily 101*

### **So you want to dig or cut invasive waterlilies on your property?**

1. First, you must identify that the lilies on your property are, in fact, invasive. The Clearwater Watershed is home to multiple types of waterlilies, some of which are native to the area. It is important to not remove native waterlilies as they are vital pieces of the ecosystem. If you need assistance identifying whether you have native or invasive waterlilies, please give CRC a call.
2. Second, digging and cutting invasive waterlilies, in combination, has been shown to reduce waterlily populations. However, these efforts need to be consistent.
3. Third, make sure not to rake or pull out the invasive waterlily. While this may appear effective in the moment, pulling and raking the invasive waterlily actually helps it spread.

### **How do you cut or dig up invasive waterlilies?**

1. Cutting invasive waterlilies simply requires scissors and some patience! Cut the invasive waterlily’s stem below the surface of the water, making sure to also cut out the flowers.
2. Digging invasive waterlilies requires a bit more physical effort! Start by feeling the bottom of the invasive waterlily where the stem meets the sediment. Then, you must dig down into the sediment until you reach the rhizomes (clonal root systems). If you decide to dig out the invasive lilies, it is vital to remove all of this root system from the sediment.
3. After several years of cutting, plants will begin to die back due to their inability to photosynthesize, if they have been consistently cut.

# CLEARWATER NEWS

## CRC'S ANNUAL PICNIC

New and old friends of CRC gathered at the end of July over burgers, hotdogs, and refreshing drinks. In the midst of the mingling, we reflected on the work that CRC has done this year and looked forward to future projects.

During a presentation at the picnic, executive director, Caryn Miske, spoke at length about the village of volunteers who make CRC's work possible. From the pollinator garden to aquatics programs, our volunteers dedicate many hours of their time to support CRC's mission.

Jeff Holm won this year's dragonfly award. The dragonfly symbolizes CRC. The dragonfly award is meant to recognize an outstanding volunteer. Holm has been a longstanding volunteer with CRC. In years past, he has dedicated time to complete both stream and lake water sampling. This year, Holm volunteered to take the aquatics techs onto Lake Alva and Lake Inez to complete five rounds of water sampling. Thank you, Jeff, for all the volunteer work you do for CRC!

Thank you to all of our other volunteers! We are grateful that you are part of the CRC team. Thank you also to our business sponsors who have supported CRC's work and programs. We could not do the work without you.

*Thank you,  
volunteers!*

- Brian & Kerry Bertsch
- Susie Crisswell
- Jean Dickey
- Lavonne Dunster
- Suzanne Esber
- Rachel Feigley
- John Fulton
- Cathy Harrits
- Jeff Harrits
- John Fulton
- Sherry Fulton
- Jon Hauffler
- Jeff Holm
- Tom Joehler
- George Leighton
- Ted Schuester
- Joann Wallenburn
- Ginger Williams

*Thank you,  
sponsors!*

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- Cory's Valley Market
- Base Camp Bar
- Garden City Compost
- Tamaracks Resort



Photo by J. Harrits

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## THANK YOU, SUMMER AQUATICS TECHS

Teagan Nap and Haley Yarborough were CRC's aquatics techs this summer. As aquatics techs, Haley and Teagan completed five rounds of water sampling at six lakes. They spent countless hours out on the water collecting data that helps us understand the health of our lakes. They graciously dealt with challenging weather, unforeseen circumstances, and early mornings. Thank you, Haley and Teagan, for all your hard work! CRC wishes you the best of luck in your future endeavors.



### HALEY YARBOROUGH

"I'm a junior student majoring in journalism and field ecology at the University of Montana. I have an interest in doing work in the field and I thought water monitoring was a great place to start. I also worked as an intern for the local newspaper, the Seeley Swan Pathfinder. I hope to graduate from the University and pursue a career in environmental and/or science journalism. I'm happy to have the chance to work for CRC!"



### TEAGAN NAP

"My name is Teagan Nap. I graduated in April with a Bachelors degree in Computer Science from Western Governors University and I'm now working full time as a software developer. I was looking for a part time job this summer that would preferably allow me to work outside as I'd spent the majority of the last couple years sitting at a computer doing schoolwork. I've always loved being out on the water so when I heard about this job doing water sampling for CRC it sounded like a perfect fit. I enjoyed my time working for CRC immensely and I'm so glad I had this opportunity."

# CLEARWATER NEWS

## LAKESIDE LIVING: A NEW CRC PROGRAM

Here in the Clearwater Valley, so much of our lives revolve around healthy lakes. The lakes in your backyard may be where your kid caught their first fish, where your family has had a cabin for decades, where you find refuge from your busy life, or where you call home. Whatever it is that lakeshore living means to you, we all want to make sure our lakes remain healthy.

Lakeshore property owners play a critical role in maintaining healthy water quality and aquatic habitat. In fact, there are many small things that property owners can do to dramatically improve lake health.

CRC recently launched a program called Lakeside Living. This program seeks to work with lakeshore property owners in the Clearwater Valley, providing free 1-on-1 consultations that will enable homeowners to identify ways to simultaneously improve their lakeshore property and the health of our lakes. Homeowners will leave the consultation equipped with the knowledge and resources to enhance and implement sustainable practices on their property. One-by-one, lakeshore homeowners can ensure the health of our lakes is maintained for many generations to come.



If you own property on the shore of a lake and are interested in signing up for this voluntary program, please visit our website at <http://crcmt.org/lakeside-living>.

Finally, if you have any questions or inquiries, please reach out to Amanda at [crc.watshd.coord@crcmt.org](mailto:crc.watshd.coord@crcmt.org) or at (412) 956-0208.



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Clearwater Resource Council, P.O. Box 1471, Seeley Lake, MT 59868