

*The Newman Lake Property Owners Association (NLPOA) is a volunteer organization promoting the continued improvement of water quality, protection of the Watershed, and enhancement of the quality of life at Newman Lake through education, visionary leadership, and community involvement of current and future generations*

## NLPOA Board of Director's Message March, 2011

We welcome you to another edition of the NLPOA Newman Lake Newsletter. Editors Lorne Burley and Susan Aldworth have included an interesting variety of articles from neighbors throughout the area. Hope you enjoy reading it as we wait for spring and summer that will soon come.

Please consider working with NLPOA members this year as we continue conducting lake water quality testing, milfoil surveys, shoreline demonstration and restoration plantings, the Adopt-An-Access Program, Clean Up Day, and other present and future projects.

The NLPOA newsletter editors also invite you to contribute your own news, wildlife articles, cabin and family stories, and anything else you may wish to share. Contact any NLPOA Board Member to become involved in our activities. We look forward to seeing everyone back enjoying the lake in the near future.

The NLPOA Board extends a very special thank you to Jan Swanson Praxel and Don Swanson for sharing the history of the Butterfly—the Swanson family

summer home—with our readers. We know you will enjoy this wonderful article and we encourage you to contribute your own Newman Lake stories and pictures for a future issue.

### **2010 NLPOA Officers**

**President:** Wendy Burley, 230-2812

**Vice-President:** Staci Lehman, 230-2812

**Secretary:** Lorne Burley, 226-0616

**Treasurer:** Bob Takai, 226-0294

### **NLPOA Board Members**

Linda Underwood, 226-0775

Kim Jones, 226-3387 / 1-206-440-1056

Mary Edmonds, 226-0050

John Townsend, 226-1010

Craig Aldworth, 747-0100

**Term Ending 2010–2011:** Lorne Burley, Bob Takai, John Townsend

**Term Ending 2011–2012:** Wendy Burley, Mary Edmonds, Kim Jones

**Term Ending 2012–2013:** Linda Underwood, Staci Lehman, Craig Aldworth

## Upcoming Spring and Summer events:

**April 16**—Spring Clean Up Day, pg. 2

**June 15**—Annual NLPOA Summer Meeting, pg. 2

**July** Hot dog and T Shirt Sale, pg. 2

**August and September**—Shoreline planting workshops, pg. 6

**September 17**—Annual Barn Dance, Food Fest and Auction, pg. 2



## Newman Lake Informational Website

The website for the Newman Lake Flood Control Zone District (NLFCZD) and the NLPOA is up and running with loads of information about what is happening in our community. In this electronic age, we will be putting more emphasis on this means of information distribution. We are busy working to keep all information current with Jacob McCann at the County, 477-7262. If you haven't done so already, please check out the website at [nlfczd.org](http://nlfczd.org).



## Newman Lake Fire And Rescue – CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

*Protect your dreams—volunteer!*

According to the National Volunteer Fire Council, 73 percent of firefighters in the United States are members of Volunteer Fire Departments. Newman Lake Fire and Rescue (Spokane County Fire District #13) is one of those Fire Departments. As with most volunteer organizations, we are looking for help. If you are a civic minded person who wants to become a part of the team who **“Serve Newman Lake with Pride”**, contact the District at 226-1482. We would love to talk with you about your involvement with us. Or check out our website at [www.newmanlakefire.com](http://www.newmanlakefire.com) for more information. Don't wait: we have an Orientation Class starting soon.

*Newman Lake Fire Needs You!*



## NLPOA Annual Spring Clean-Up Day 2011

The Annual Newman Lake Spring Clean-Up Day will be held on Saturday, April 16. Please be thinking about an area that you want to clean and ask your friends, relatives, and neighbors to join us this year. Sunshine Disposal and Recycling, our new Garbage Service, will be helping us out with disposal this year. Please meet at the Public Boat Launch between 8 am and 9 am for area assignments and to get your trash bags. A free lunch will follow at the Tri-Community Grange (on Starr Road) from 11 am to noon.

*For more information, contact the Burleys at 226-0616.*

## NLPOA Annual Summer Meeting

The NLPOA Annual Summer Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 15 at the Tri-Community Grange on Starr Road. Come and learn about what's happening at Newman Lake and how you can participate. The complete agenda will be posted on the NLFCZD website and on the Post Office bulletin board in May. Paid members will receive a meeting reminder notice. Contact any NLPOA Board Member if you have suggestions for the meeting agenda.

Hope to see you all on Clean Up Day!

## NEWMAN LAKE FIRE AUXILIARY EVENTS

### July

The Fire Auxiliary and Newman Lake Chapter of S.C.O.P.E. are once again holding the July hot dog and T-shirt sale at the Moab Exxon station on July 2nd and 3rd to raise funds for the Fire Department and S.C.O.P.E. Please stop by, eat a dog, get some new duds and help support this great community.

### September

The annual Barn Dance, Food Fest and Auction will be held on Saturday, September 17. This is always a fun time for everyone with great music, eats and chatter.

***There is always a need for more volunteers for both the Hot Dog Sale and the Barn Dance, so step up to the plate and contact Laurie Hitchcock, 226-1979 or Katie Rulffes, 226-0744.***

# The Butterfly Cottage Story

by Jan (Swanson) Praxel



*The Butterfly Cottage as it looks today, above—and how it looked in 1947*

Located on the west side of the lake directly across from what was, in my childhood, Hampton's Resort, is the place I would quickly name as my favorite spot on earth. It's probably true that a large percentage of my immediate family would agree with this rating of 'The Butterfly'. We love this home away from home. My mother, Doris Swanson, wrote in her book *Dorie's Stories*: "Various things hold families together; love, joy of each other's company, common goals, history. But sometimes, it's just a place—a place to gather, relax and have fun together that makes possible the bonding of families. For the Swansons, the Butterfly Cottage, located at Newman Lake, northeast of Spokane, has served as a meeting place and a haven and escape from the stress and cares of everyday life for over 90 years."

It is the cabin built by our ancestor Frank Swanson, who emigrated from Gothenburg Sweden to the United States in 1887. "He left all he knew in Sweden to make good in this new land, but he must have brought with him a longing for the "old country" that can probably only be understood by transplants who have themselves experienced this type of dislocation.

Frank was a stonecutter by trade, establishing in his early years in Spokane a company that still exists today: "Washington Monumental and Cut Stone Company". At the beginning of the 20th century he traveled by horse and cart to Newman Lake to look for property on which to build a family cabin. The concept of a "summer home" close to water was becoming popular for many middle class residents from the Spokane area at about this time.

"Through the generations my family has passed on stories of Frank trekking around Newman Lake for more than a year, looking for the place that he felt had *the best sun*. This took place in the years around 1906. When Frank decided that one of the earlier lots he had camped on was his favorite, he realized this desired spot had already been purchased by a man named Gerlack, so Frank offered this man \$250.00, the same price Gerlack had paid for the entire property, to acquire a pie shaped piece of land at the tip of the tract. Luckily for Frank and for our family, Mr. Gerlack agreed. Thus the land was purchased on which five generations of Swansons have since called our "favorite place on earth".



*Dorie Swanson kayaking at Newman Lake  
— 1948—*

The first cabin was finished in 1910 (the date is chiseled into the stone on the walls of the cabin steps) and resembled many of the older cabins on the lake. It was two stories with a high basement, a large porch out front and, I would guess, a small kitchen and a few bedrooms—much simpler than the present day Butterfly. As fate would have it, in January of 1931, the night after a squad of Army Air Corp ski planes landed during a training run on Newman Lake and many from Spokane had headed to Newman for the festivities, something happened at Frank Swanson's cabin. An all-consuming fire took everything but the winding granite steps and the two large urns that decorated the sides of these steps. Frank was back to the drawing board and this time was filled with ideas that had been fed by a recent trip back to his homeland of Sweden.

Family stories tell us that Frank built the present day "Butterfly" cabin using a design that he saw in a Swedish cabin. The name, "The Butterfly", came from the shape of the roof, the front part of which comes to a peak with sides flaring up to resemble the wings of a butterfly. The present day structure was completed in 1932 just before Frank died. However, a visit by Swedish relatives in 2010 cleared the design myth up once and for all. These visitors believe that the cabin was not a copy of one specific cabin in Sweden but is rather what this couple described as a marvelous example of Swedish Nationalistic Romantic Revival Architecture, popularized

in Sweden in the early 20th century by Carl Larsson. It was a time during which industrialization brought about both a curiosity and respect for the advances provided by the industrial age and a true longing for things of the past.

"In the summer, middle class Swedish families took to their 'summer houses', a new concept in itself... large wooden houses with verandas spread along the shores and among the islands of the Stockholm archipelago. These houses were built with a nod at the past, a time of Nordic myth with elves, trolls and water sprites and the rockwork surrounding many of these cabins left little places for the imaginary beings of the past. The cabins themselves were ornate. Carl Larsson especially believed in combining practicality with stylish design and valuing and promoting the hand-made, but not particularly the well made.\*



*Herb and Magnhild Swanson on the right  
with friends Bill and Erma Phiefer  
on the Butterfly porch — 1944*

moting the hand-made, but not particularly the well made.\*

For those of us who have been raised in The Butterfly, this discovery explains so much. We often wonder how the cabin has remained standing for so many years and why so much attention was given to the ornate but so little to structure. It isn't post and beam construction; there isn't a stud in the building. What you see from the outside is the same wall that we see from the inside. It is creatively hand made by a dreamer, but it is far from well made by modern standards.

The cabin is undeniably ornamental. The high-pitched roof with the swirled decorative front has not been practical to care for and painting the structure is a major task. Each room is a charmingly different color and personality, Scandinavian Rosemaling covers some of the walls, yet very little inside was made to last for so many generations, so part of our history in this cabin includes repairing and rebuilding to help the cabin remain a part of our life.

We now realize that the little elves we see tucked into the concrete of the ornate rock work reflects not only Frank's work in the granite industry but also the "look back at the past" that the Swedes during the turn of the century included in their country cabins. We've wondered about the colorfully painted furniture that was part of this cabin long before furniture painting was popular in the United States, but we've learned that this again copies much of the work that Carl Larsson's wife Karin did on furniture in their famous Swedish country home.

Many in our extended family have had fun sitting on the porch and listening to the voices of strollers from the path or boaters on the lake in front of us. We've heard people say, "It was a hotel once you know," or, "it's



*Jack Praxel, Jan (Swanson) Praxel, Don Swanson, Wendy Swanson, back row, with Dorie and Byron "Bud" Swanson — celebrating life — 2002*

the most beautiful place on the lake," or "it's the ugliest monstrosity on the lake," or "I wonder what the story is of that place anyway.. When my parents, Byron (Frank's grandson) and Doris Swanson lived summer-long at the cabin, they had many people stop by to ask for a tour. Everyone seems to be quite surprised at simplicity and old charm of the interior and the link to so many generations of the same family.

Design aside, the cabin and the lake that it is on, has provided memories for hundreds, if the well-kept guest books going back to 1931 are to be believed. The cabin was passed down from Frank to Herb and his wife Magnhild (my grandparents) who entertained weekly at the cabin often serving up to 50 for a dinner created in a kitchen that, in the beginning, had a wood oven, a sink, and no countertop. With the raves I've read regarding the food that was enjoyed there and with the smiles I see on the tintypes revealing ladies in hats and dresses and men in white shirts and ties, sitting on the steps that still remain on the side of the cabin, I'd guess that none of the imbibers suffered from the lack of modern conveniences in the kitchen.

In these early days, horseshoes were set up on the beach while swimmers in one-piece wool bathing suits frolicked in the water. Old movies show very large gatherings of children and adults clowning for the camera as they pushed one after another into the lake. The guest books tell of singing around the fire, of fishing early in the morning, of riding "The Gypsy", owned by Mr. Fletcher, to the Butterfly from the other end of the lake. They tell, through the years, of hundreds of children learning to swim or water-ski at this cabin. Those children are now grandparents and even great grandparents themselves. Now and then they include the price of a dinner that Magnhild and Herb served at the cabin and today we are able to marvel at eggs for 10 cents a dozen and a chicken for under a dollar!

Other than the inventions that came with motor transportation, including the ease of getting to Newman Lake by car and the various motor boats that have been a part of our outdoor life at the cabin since the 1950's, very little of the summer-time fun has changed since Frank brought his son Sven Herbert to the lake back in 1909. I don't believe that there is a woman in any generation of my family who hasn't been pushed into the lake by a brother or cousin or parent. I couldn't begin to count the number of times I went in fully clothed! I would guess that most of us have gone tule exploring by day, skinny-dipping by moonlight, and frog catching at dawn. Every child raised at that cabin has, at one time or another, been tricked into joining a moonlit "snipe hunt" conducted on the path towards Honeymoon Bay. We've all put our dripping toothbrushes on nails all in a row above the old sink in the upstairs hallway. We've slept in bedrooms protected from the snorer in the next room by paper-thin walls. When the cabin is full, or the mood strikes us, we've slept on the porch lined up with 14 cousins in a row, in the boat, on the dock, in the fort, in tents pitched on the beach and in the back yard when the relatives outstripped the floor space in the cabin. We've all learned to use an ancient outhouse and numerous jokes have been played though out the generations revolving around that little house at the top of the hill. We've annually measured the growth in height of every family member, going back to 1931, on the pillars on the front porch. Even

Design aside, the cabin and the lake that it is on, has provided memories for hundreds, if the well-kept guest books going back to 1931 are to be believed. The cabin was passed down from Frank to Herb and his wife Magnhild (my grandparents) who entertained weekly at the cabin often serving up to 50 for a dinner created in a kitchen that, in the beginning, had a wood oven, a sink, and no countertop. With the raves I've read regarding the food that was enjoyed there and with the smiles I see on the tintypes revealing ladies in hats and dresses and men in white shirts and ties, sitting on the steps that still remain on the side of the cabin, I'd guess that none of the imbibers suffered from the lack of modern conveniences in the kitchen.

In these early days, horseshoes were set up on the beach while swimmers in one-piece wool bathing suits frolicked in the water. Old movies show very large gatherings of children and adults clowning for the camera as they pushed one after another into the lake. The guest books tell of singing around the fire, of fishing early in the morning, of riding "The Gypsy", owned by Mr. Fletcher, to the Butterfly from the other end of the lake. They tell, through the years, of hundreds of children learning to swim or water-ski at this cabin. Those children are now grandparents and even great grandparents themselves. Now and then they include the price of a dinner that Magnhild and Herb served at the cabin and today we are able to marvel at eggs for 10 cents a dozen and a chicken for under a dollar!

Other than the inventions that came with motor transportation, including the ease of getting to Newman Lake by car and the various motor boats that have been a part of our outdoor life at the cabin since the 1950's, very little of the summer-time fun has changed since Frank brought his son Sven Herbert to the lake back in 1909. I don't believe that there is a woman in any generation of my family who hasn't been pushed into the lake by a brother or cousin or parent. I couldn't begin to count the number of times I went in fully clothed! I would guess that most of us have gone tule exploring by day, skinny-dipping by moonlight, and frog catching at dawn. Every child raised at that cabin has, at one time or another, been tricked into joining a moonlit "snipe hunt" conducted on the path towards Honeymoon Bay. We've all put our dripping toothbrushes on nails all in a row above the old sink in the upstairs hallway. We've slept in bedrooms protected from the snorer in the next room by paper-thin walls. When the cabin is full, or the mood strikes us, we've slept on the porch lined up with 14 cousins in a row, in the boat, on the dock, in the fort, in tents pitched on the beach and in the back yard when the relatives outstripped the floor space in the cabin. We've all learned to use an ancient outhouse and numerous jokes have been played though out the generations revolving around that little house at the top of the hill. We've annually measured the growth in height of every family member, going back to 1931, on the pillars on the front porch. Even



*Good times at the Butterfly Cottage with the kids of all ages! 2005*

a few dear friends have made it onto those hallowed pillars. A few returning family members with great senses of humor have been re-measured in their 70's to see "how much I've shrunk!"

I love thinking about Newman Lake and I often think of all the cabins on that lake and all the families who are forming memories that correspond with and rival the experiences we have lived at the Butterfly. My grandparents watched the delivery of the morning paper come and go, the great lake touring boat The Gypsy come and go. My mother and dad danced at Honeymoon Bay, and were saddened to see that time end. My mother has such a hard time giving up the thought that she no longer feels free to walk on paths around the lake greeting various people as she walks. My brother Don and I met friends and danced at the slab behind Hamptons, we ran the path to Honeymoon or to Thom's Store to get milk needed for breakfast. We hauled water from town to drink. All of this is gone. My children got penny candy at "The A-Frame" and bought gas to feed their water-skiing, tubing addiction at the same place. That is gone also. But what holds us as a family to this place still remains. It is a place of beauty, of pleasurable days spent in the sun, of nights reading, playing cards or just looking at the unmoving lake with the moon reflecting brightly across the stillness. It is the joy of listening to rain on the metal roof and memories of those thunder storms that every child lives for. It is the relatively new Fourth of July boat parade. The Butterfly Cabin on the west side of Newman Lake welcomed a sixth generation a few years ago. Modern conveniences (a shower, a composting toilet, running water, electricity, refrigeration) have been added to the cabin, but what we value remains the same. Six generations have now sat on that beautiful porch with our plates on bright white boards that Frank so cleverly added to seat 24 people looking out on the lake while they eat. The Swedish emigrant created a marvelous family summer home that is cherished today 124 years after he first came to the United States and 80 years after the cabin was built.

\*Carl and Karin Larsson: *Creators of the Swedish Style*, Michael Snodin and Elisabet Stavenow-Hidemark published 1997, Bulfinch Press.

## About the Newman Lake Historical Society

The Historical Society continues to look for your help in gathering articles, pictures, family stories, history, and general information about the early days at Newman Lake to be saved for future generations

**For more information contact:**  
**Wendy Burley at 226-0616.**



## McKenzie Conservation Area Native Plant Shoreline Demonstration Garden

Participate and learn about shoreline gardening at the McKenzie Conservation Area on the northwest shore of Newman Lake near the shoreline boat house.

Volunteers are needed for four morning workshops this summer —9-noon each day.

Two morning workshops will be held for site preparation on August 20, 27—and two for the actual planting will be held on September 17, 24.

To volunteer and receive more information for any or all of the site preparation or planting workshops, please call Linda Pool at 226-0405 or Wendy Burley at 226-0616. We will let you know what to bring (shovel, etc.) and what will be provided for each work day. Donations to help with the costs would also be appreciated. Checks can be sent to:

**Jacob McCann**  
**Newman Lake Flood Control Zone District (NLCFZD)**  
**Spokane County Division of Engineering and Roads**  
**1026 W. Broadway Ave, Spokane, WA 99260.**

The Spokane County Parks Department and the Spokane County Conservation Service are also participating and supporting the garden project

This should be lots of fun and a good chance to talk "dirt" with your neighbors. See you there!



## Coir Logs and the Permitting Process

by Laurie Keaton

Shoreline Erosion and Subsidence. Our cabin, "On the Rocks," is situated on a rocky point on the Peninsula. Waves constantly hit our point from every direction. The wave action, particularly when the waves hit our waterfront at an angle and move along the bank that characterizes most of our waterfront, is constantly eroding and undercutting the bank. After the bank is undercut by several feet, the bank will subside. Shortly after we took possession of our property, we became aware that the bank was eroding at an alarming rate. We started collecting rocks to put in front of the bank to try to slow the process (see the before picture below), but the wave action simply under washed the rocks. During our first year at Newman Lake, we lost from four to six six inches from the shoreline. During our second year, we lost an alder tree.

We found a large log, obviously a relic from an old dock, which we stationed in front of the bank that was showing the worse destruction. But it became obvious that the log was not a satisfactory solution. When the water level was high, the log itself became an instrument of destruction as it was carried by high waves, particularly high boat wakes, against the bank. The log was doing serious damage to the bank and the trees it was placed there to protect.

**Coir Logs:** Made from coconut fiber and covered by a strong netting, also of coconut fiber or other biodegradable twine, coir logs are perfect for protecting shorelines by reducing wave energy. The logs protect the lakeshore and provide a medium in which vegetation can be established. Over time the logs will blend into



the shoreline. Plants can be planted in the logs, creating a natural method of shoreline protection (see the after picture below). Coir logs are perfect for Newman Lake, because the lake level drops in the fall and the coir logs can be placed tight against the bank and secured with stakes and rope. Then plants can be established in the logs or just behind the logs so the roots can grow into the log.

More information about coir logs can be found online. Other plans for and directions for installing the logs are also shown at various web sites. Just Google coir logs. A 20-foot log will cost about \$160.00.

Local sources are available—the logs pictured here were obtained at Arrow Construction on Trent Avenue.



## Permits and the Need to Streamline the Permitting Process

Currently the permitting process is expensive and requires plans submitted to numerous agencies at county, state and Federal level. It is in the interest of every shoreline property owner at Newman Lake to demand that the process be streamlined. It should not cost \$300 to \$800 to obtain a permit to do good things for the lake. Coir logs stop bank subsidence and erosion and leaching of contaminants into the lake. Subsidence and near shore run-off increase the phosphorus level in the lake and that is costing all of dollars in terms of the fees we pay to the Flood Control District. Bank subsidence will eventually result in an even shallower lake and more problems. I urge everyone to demand that a permit streamlining process be developed now.

before—and—after installation



## I Love Baby Trees And Hate Grass

*by Bob Takai*

Each Arbor Day trees are planted with enthusiasm, and a 60-year plus journey begins for a conifer seedling to realize its full potential. However, often I wonder has this journey had the proper preparation?

For a seedling tree, which is a foot or less in height and a correspondingly short root system, water is life. Since planting is during our wet spring, one would initially think that water would not be a problem. However, often seedlings are planted amongst their greatest enemy, GRASS. Grass has insatiable thirst, and with grassroots in the upper few inches of soil where the seedling has been placed, there is a battle for water. Well-established grassroots will out-compete the under-developed seedling roots. No matter how much water initially, grass will suck it dry depleting all soil moisture. When the grass turns brown, it has done its job of dehydrating the soil and in most instances the tree seedling will turn brown also. Larger established trees with deeper roots can tap deeper soil water beyond the zone of grass.

Site preparation to eliminate the grass in the immediate vicinity of the seedling to a two-foot or more radius gives the seedling an opportunity to grow those deeper roots necessary for survival. In my experience it can mean the difference in 90% seedling failure or 90% seedling success. Site prep is readily accomplished by scraping away the sod roots with hand tools and a strong back. However, an easier and I would argue a more effective method, is to kill the grass in place prior to planting. Dead sod will help the soil retain moisture against the effects of sun and wind while also temporarily inhibiting germination of other grasses and weeds. Though we all would like to minimize the use of herbicides, they are a life saver for seedlings when correctly and sparingly used. Though there are more specialized forestry herbicides [available from vendors such as Wilbur-Ellis] that can be applied at the time of plant-

ing and not kill the very seedling you are trying to grow, spot application of more common and less expensive herbicides such as Roundup also work. If you are proactive and think ahead, kill off the grass and even some surrounding brush the previous summer-fall prior to spring planting. Mark the spot with a bit of surveying ribbon on brush or place a flag in the soil since next spring foliage may not be mature enough to show the brown spot where you applied herbicide. Coming back after the seedling is planted to kill off competition is much more difficult and time consuming.

Having personally planted more than 40,000 seedlings over the years, I have made most every mistake possible. Enthusiasm alone is not enough. When planting trees, be a Boy Scout and "Be Prepared".



## Newman Lake Inhabitants

*by Craig Aldworth*

In the summer, we frequently sit outside at the cabin as the air cools and watch the sun set. Visitors frequently comment on the amazing lack of biting insects around Lake Newman. And then we point out the bats flitting across the darkening sky as they come out to feed on the day's hatch of flying insects. Each night they devour up to 50% of their own body weight of moths, wasps, beetles, gnats, mosquitoes, midges and flies.

The local bats around Newman Lake are called the Little Brown Bat. They have light brown fur on their back with a lighter gray coat on their front. It is a small mammal with a body length between 2 and 4 inches; a wing span of 9 to 11 inches; and each weighs approximately 1/2 ounce.

Bats are the only mammals that engage in truly active flight. They also use echolocation to navigate and locate prey. They send out signals and listen for those signals to return. Their hunting seems silent to us because the human ear cannot sense the high frequencies the bats emit. When the bats detect an insect, they chase it down and use their wing and tail membranes to help toss the insect into their mouths.

Little brown bats roost in the summer in buildings close to water. They will crawl up under the clap-

boards or under the eaves of cabins. Males and females roost apart. Males roost in smaller colonies, and may use tree cavities as well as buildings.

The females prefer to roost in hot spaces, such as right under the roof. The increased heat from the roof and multiple bat bodies helps the pups to grow faster. A little brown bat can live 20 to 30 years. The young are born from mid-June to early July. Little brown bats generally have one offspring per year, rarely two.

Because of their low reproduction rate, their population can quickly decline if habitat is lost or they succumb to disease. Recently, little brown bats began dying by the hundreds of thousands in the east from a fungus, causing white-nose syndrome, that has infected their hibernation caves. If this fungus spreads to bat colonies in the west, the bats around Newman Lake may disappear.

Bats lose habitat every time an old cabin is remodeled or torn down. You can help bats increase their roosting habitats by erecting a bat house on your property.

You can learn more about bats, including how to build or buy a bat house at the Bat Conservation International website <http://www.batcon.org/>

## Help Save Our Native Species from the Invasive Knapweed.

*by Mike Frasco*

It's spring, and time to consider the impact of invasive plant species occurring in our area. A worrisome trend we've noticed during our walks along the roads around Newman Lake is the increasing incidence of the purple flowered Knapweed.



*flower & flower heads*

Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*), originally native to Eastern Europe was probably introduced to North America as a contaminant in alfalfa seed and/or ship's ballast in the late 1800s. In 1920, the distribution of knapweed was limited to the San Juan Islands, but by 1998 had spread to 326 counties in the western United States. Montana has been particularly hard hit and is now in danger of losing the native grasses that inhabit the benchland, below the treeline on mountain slopes.

The ill effects of knapweed are numerous. Knapweed reduces forage production, plant species diversity, and wildlife habitat, and increases bare ground, which contributes to surface water runoff and stream sedimentation. It takes root and gains foothold in disturbed soil, as in areas surrounding new construction, along road banks and trails, and in open spaces associated with Ponderosa pine or Douglas Fir forest.

Knapweed is particularly invasive due to its aggressive and early deep fine root development. Several plants can grow along the same root system. Chemical allelopathy, the secretion by the invasive plant of compounds interfering with the growth of native competitive plants, is also a factor in knapweed's success.

Spotted knapweed overwinters as roots, rosettes, or seeds. Rosettes bolt early, before most native species. Knapweed seeds also germinate in early spring, giving the plant a competitive advantage over many natives for soil moisture and mineral nutrients. Flowering occurs from July through September. Flowers are pollinated by bees and by wind. Mature seeds are formed in the seedpod as early as mid-August. In 2 to 3 weeks, the seeds have dried and the seedpods open. From August through September each plant produces 2000 seeds which are distributed outward and downwind.



*rosette*



*seedling*



*seed pod*

Dispersal over long distances is facilitated by animals and birds. The seeds survive easily in excrement, and roadside plants contribute to distribution by passing vehicles. Buried seeds can survive at least 5 years and nothing but the most severe fire will effect them.

### Management.

Regular removal of newly established spotted knapweed plants along road corridors is critical to prevent their spread into adjacent natural areas. Monitor for weed emergence annually, especially in areas where there is vehicle or livestock movement, areas

of wildlife concentration, public use areas, and locations where sand, gravel, or fill materials have been imported, soil has been disturbed, or vegetation or overstory has been removed.

Manual control of Knapweed, as opposed to chemical control, may be desired, particularly when in proximity to bodies of water. It is recognized that manual control offers less risk to water quality and fish and wildlife than chemicals.

In spring and early summer, when soil is still relatively damp, hand pulling is particularly effective. Entire plants, including roots, must be removed. Repeated annual mowing may tip the competitive advantage in favor of desired grasses. Chemical control, such as Roundup, applied directly to each individual plant can be effective. Each of these methods need to be

done before the plant has gone to seed and surveillance of an infected area is necessary over several years to exhaust the seedbank.

Prevention of knapweed establishment is the most cost effective control strategy. Prevention techniques begin with the maintenance of healthy, desirable vegetation that is resistant to weed establishment. This includes minimizing soil disturbance in all activities and reestablishing desirable vegetation promptly whenever ground cover has been altered, as in construction activity, road building, or landscaping.

If we are all vigilant in controlling this weed on our property and driveways we will be protecting the variety of native species that grow and live around Newman Lake.

## There's Nothing Like Farm Fresh

by Marisa Intinarelli

Summer can't get here soon enough. Not because I want to go boating or fishing (we don't even own a boat or a fishing pole), but for these reasons:

1. Strawberry shortcake
2. Raspberry jam
3. Pickled beets
4. Roasted peppers
5. Stuffed zucchini
6. Eggplant parmesan
7. Broccoli salad
8. Gingered carrots
9. Potatoes au gratin
10. Green beans with bacon
11. Pasta sauce
12. Pesto
13. Summer squash casserole
14. Cole slaw
15. Vegetable soup
16. Walla Walla onion pie,
17. Corn chowder
18. Bread & Butter pickles
19. Salsa
20. Pumpkin pie



All of these recipes call for a trip to Carver Farms to pick the main ingredients straight from the fields. Going to the farm is one of my favorite things to do on the weekends from July to October. Driving five minutes for fresh veggies and berries sure beats the 15 minute drive to the grocery store to get days-old produce from who knows where.

I usually go to the farm with the intention of picking for the coming week's meals but often get carried away by picking enough for a month. Much of the bounty gets canned, frozen or shared with friends. If I'm in a pinch for time I'll often stop by the farm and choose from the bins of items picked earlier in the day by the farm helpers.

Carver Farms not only harvests vegetables and berries but they grow rows and rows of gorgeous gladiolas and statice in a variety of colors. Since our resident deer prevent us from growing a flower garden, I like to make bouquets out of their gorgeous gladiolas. I also pick and dry several bundles of statice in the summer for brightening up dark rooms in the winter.

On any given weekday in the fall you might see a bus load of children from area schools that come to get a little farm education and a great

field trip. During the weekends in the fall, there are hay rides to and from the pumpkin patch. It's entertaining to watch parents trying to juggle five or six pumpkins that their kids have picked out for carving.

After the fall season comes to an end and the weather turns cold and snowy, the farm transforms into a winter wonderland. On the day after

Thanksgiving the farm starts selling fresh cut Christmas trees. It is so magical to drive up the snowy road and be welcomed by an outdoor bonfire. Several feet away inside the warming hut is another roaring fire in a wood stove with the smell of fresh boughs and wreaths filling the room.

The Carver family and their loyal staff are friendly, helpful and knowledgeable. For decades they have provided our community with a wholesome and natural environment that is truly treasured. The Carvers have generously donated all the corn-on-the-cob to

the Newman Lake Barn Dance fundraiser every September and have also donated some of the decorations like corn stalks and pumpkins.

If you've never been to Carver Farms, you are really missing out. We are so fortunate to have a family owned country farm in Newman Lake. While hundreds of people drive from all around the region to enjoy the farm's beauty and bounty, it's in our own backyard. If you're not familiar with the location, it sits less than a half mile off Trent on Idaho Road at



*Carver Farms*  
9105 N. Idaho Rd  
Newman Lake WA  
226-3602,  
[CarverFarms.com](http://CarverFarms.com)

## **Please help support NLPOA...**

**Clean-Up Day, Water Quality Testing, Milfoil Surveys,**

**the NLPOA Newsletter and Other NLPOA Activities!**

**Please pay your \$10 annual dues.**  
Mail your dues and this form in the  
enclosed self-addressed envelope to:

**NLPOA**  
**P.O. Box 83**  
**Newman Lake, WA 99025-0083**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address (if you want to receive your newsletter electronically):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



**Remember—Annual NLPOA Clean-Up  
Day 2011**

**Saturday, April 16, 2011.**

Pick up bags and gloves at the Public Launch  
on the east side of the lake from 8-9 a.m.  
followed by lunch at the Grange from  
11a.m. to noon!



NLPOA  
P.O. Box 83  
Newman Lake, WA 99025-0083