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NEWSLETTER · JUNE 2016

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Readings taken on Friday, May 27, 2016

Lake Tahoe Natural rim 6,223' Elevation 6,223.85' | Elevation in 2015 6,222.96'



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Beating Aquatic Invasive Species At Tahoe

By Joanne S. Marchetta

Around the world, invasive species are notorious for their ability to out-compete native plants and animals. Once introduced to an area, they can spread out of control and fundamentally change both landscapes and ecologies, and then pose incredible challenges to manage or eradicate.

With another boating season underway at Lake Tahoe, invasive species remain one of the greatest and most persistent threats to our mountain lake's unique environment and clear blue waters, as well as the recreation-based economy that it supports. Fortunately, Tahoe is a national leader in the fight against invasive species.

Our region has taken major steps to protect Lake Tahoe. More than 40 agencies and private and nonprofit partners are working together to prevent new introductions of invasive species and control populations of invasive species already in the lake. But we can and must do more.

Last month, TRPA received an update on plans to fight invasive aquatic weeds in the Tahoe Keys. The canals, lagoons, and marina are ground-zero for invasive weeds and warm water fish. The Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association is spearheading a plan, which has generated significant discussion because of its proposal to test and potentially use herbicides to fight the weeds that choke the lagoon's waterways.

While specially-designed herbicides are used to fight invasive weeds in other lakes, some of which likely could not be cost-effectively controlled or eradicated in any other way, their use would be a first for the Lake Tahoe Region. And the subject has rightly prompted serious discussions about potential impacts to drinking water, other plants and animals, and the environment at large.

While conversations continue about whether herbicide use is appropriate for lagoons so close to Lake Tahoe, there is no doubt a problem with invasive species in the Tahoe Keys. Every summer, weeds must be cleared from its waterways to keep them open. The harvesting or "mowing" process costs hundreds of thousands of dollars. It also creates small weed fragments that threaten to spread and colonize the lake and leave the weeds growing back year after year.

...continued on page 2

PFDs: Are you properly prepared?

All boats, powered or non-powered, must carry at least one wearable Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices (PFDs), or life jackets, for every person aboard the vessel. Failure to have a sufficient number of approved PFDs aboard constitutes a violation of state (California State Legislature bill AB 638) and federal law. All PFDs must be readily accessible and all throwable flotation cushions must be immediately available. Inflatable PFDs must be worn to be considered readily accessible.



Under state law, if the vessel is 26' or less in length, every child under 13 years of age on board must wear a PFD at all times. This law does not apply to a sailboat where every child under age 13 is restrained by a harness tethered to the sailboat or on a vessel on which every child under age 13 is in an enclosed cabin. In 2015, the California legislature amended AB 638 to state that children under age 13 must be wearing a PFD at all times while the vessel is underway, even when the boat is idle or turned off.

Remember that all PFDs must be kept in serviceable condition. If they are badly torn, damaged, rotted, punctured or otherwise unserviceable, they no longer meet legal requirements and should be replaced. Failure to have the proper safety equipment, including PFDs, flotation cushions, fire extinguisher, safety flag, smoke flares, paddle or noise making device may result in large penalties to the vessel owner or driver. All of these items can be purchased at Tahoe Marine Supply at the Tahoe City Marina. Contact them at (530) 583-0925 for more information. •

Beating Aquatic Invasive Species At Tahoe ...continued from page 1

This is a difficult issue to work through. But it should inspire each of us to see Tahoe Keys property owners cooperating with agencies, scientists, researchers, and community members to find innovative solutions to the problem.

Once fully analyzed and approved, the comprehensive weed management plan for the Tahoe Keys will contain a suite of options. For example, the plan calls for better ways of using barrier mats to block out sunlight and kill weeds, improving harvesting methods to reduce the number of weed fragments, and reducing the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus pollution from lawn fertilizer and other sources that washes into the lake and helps weeds grow. One researcher is even testing new ways to use ultraviolet lighting systems to kill the underwater weeds.

The community and agencies are embracing innovation and new technologies along with more cost-effective ways to fight invasive species at Tahoe. Our work is already paying off.

Tahoe's boat inspection program is nationally recognized as a model for the rest of the country. This frontline defense has successfully stopped any new introductions of invasive species since its launch in 2008. Boater outreach and education is paying off, too, with fewer boats needing to be decontaminated because they are showing up "Cleaned, Drained, and Dry." The Tahoe Keepers program has educated more than 3,000 people with kayaks, paddleboards, and canoes about how they can ensure their boats and fishing equipment aren't spreading invasive species.

Researchers at University of Nevada, Reno, have created a lake-wide plan to control existing invasive species populations before they do any more harm to Tahoe's environment and ecology. The plan will guide future control projects, outlining what invasive species we have the best chances to manage or eradicate, treatment techniques, research needs, and locations where projects will be most successful.

Nonprofit groups and research partners at Tahoe have also launched innovative new programs for people to get involved. The League to Save Lake Tahoe's Eyes on the Lake program trains people to spot and report invasive species infestations while they are recreating at Lake Tahoe, compiling information that helps monitoring programs and guides future removal projects. The Lake Tahoe Citizen Science App created by the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center helps people report all sorts of useful information about invasive species and beach and water quality conditions.

There are many ways for people to get involved to protect Tahoe from the harms of aquatic invasive species. To learn more, please attend an upcoming public event about the past, present, and future of aquatic invasive species control and prevention work at Lake Tahoe. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences in Incline Village. By working together and bringing forward our best ideas for innovative solutions we can and will make a difference, and help ensure the lake we all treasure is passed on for future generations to enjoy. Please join us in this important work. •



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Boating Licensure coming in 2018

Beginning in 2018, the Division of Boating and Waterways will implement a program of boat operator licensing. All drivers of vessels propelled by an engine, regardless of whether the engine is the principal source of propulsion, will be required to carry a vessel operator card as proof that they have passed a vessel operator examination. The examination will be available online and will cost approximately \$30. Once you have been issued a vessel operator card, it is good for life and there is no renewal required.

The commencement of the process of obtaining the vessel operator card will be subject to age guidelines. Beginning January 1, 2018, anyone 20 years and younger must obtain their card. In 2019, anyone 25 years and younger must have a card; 2020: 35 and younger; 2021: 40 and younger; 2022: 45 and younger; 2023: 50 and younger; 2024: 60 and younger; and in 2025 all persons regardless of age. This staggering of age requirements will make the implementation of the program more user-friendly and allow anyone older than 20 more time to comply with the new policy.

This program is being implemented to increase boating safety and awareness in California. Many other states have already put boating licensure into practice. You can read the new policy in its entirety, Senate Bill 941, on the State legislature website.



2016 Tahoe Basin Construction Season



583-SAIL · parasailtaho.com

89 California State Route 89

Where: ED 89 PM 8.6-13.8, 89/50 "Y" to Cascade Road
What: Drainage improvements, sidewalks, road widening, paving
When: May - October Up to 20 Minute Delay

Where: ED 89 PM 13.8-18.0, Emerald Bay
What: Drainage improvements, paving
When: May - October Up to 20 minute delay
Note: The highway from postmile 14.7 (just north of Cascade Road) to postmile 16.2 (Inspiration Point) may be closed for up to two weeks (Monday through Friday) during the off-peak season to accommodate paving operations. There will be a window of 4-8 p.m. when it would be open each day during the closure.

Where: ED 89 PM 24.9-27.2 Meeks Creek to Wilson Avenue in Tahama
What: Drainage improvements, paving
When: March - May Up to 10 minute delay

Where: PLA 89 PM 2.2-3.1, Fawn Street to Cherry Street in Homewood
What: Multi-use path, connecting to existing path
When: May - August Up to 5 minute delay

Where: PLA 89 PM 4.0 PLA 89 8.1, Tahoe Pines to Granibakken Road
What: Drainage improvements, road widening, paving
When: April - October Up to 20 minute delay

Where: PLA 89 PM 8.0 - 9.4 and PLA 28 .1 mile east of junction with Highway 89 to junction with Highway 89 in Tahoe City
What: New highway alignment, two roundabouts, new Truckee river bridge, drainage improvements, and frontage road improvement at Caltrans maintenance
When: June - October Up to 20 minute delay

Where: PLA 89 PM 9.0-12.5, .5 mile north of the junction of Highway 28 in Tahoe City to .1 mile North of Alpine Meadows Road
What: Paving
When: May - August Up to 20 Minute Delay

Where: PLA-NEV 89 PM 21.4-21.7, 0.0-0.4, Truckee "Mousehole"
What: Multi-use path and railroad undercrossing
When: May - July Up to 10 minute intermittent delays

*Projects not administered by Caltrans
4* Tahoe City Public Utility District project
6* Tahoe Transportation District project
8* Town of Truckee project
9* Placer County project

KEY
Major Construction

28 California State Route 28

Where: PLA 28 PM 9.3-10.2, Junction of Highway 267 to Secline Avenue (Phase 2) and from Secline Avenue to Chipmunk Street (completion of Phase 1) in Kings Beach
What: Streetscape and drainage improvements
When: April - June and September - October Up to 20 minute delay

431 Nevada State Route 431

Where: Mt. Rose Highway, Washoe MP 0.268 to 0.651
What: Truck escape ramp
When: May - September Up to 20 minute delay

28 Nevada State Route 28

Where: SR 28 from US 50 to Incline Village, Douglas 0.00 TO 1.23, Carson 0.00 to 3.95 and Washoe MP 0.00 to 6.00
What: Safety enhancements, water quality improvements, and initial work on shared use path
When: August - October Up to 20 minute delay

50 U.S. Highway 50

Where: US 50 from Cave Rock to SR 28 Spooner Junction, Douglas 6.79 to 12.35
What: Water quality and erosion control improvements and westbound tunnel extension
When: May - October Up to 20 minute delay

Where: ED 50 PM 75.4-77.3, 89/50 "Y" to the Trout Creek bridge, South Lake Tahoe
What: Utility relocation work
When: May - October Up to 10 minute delay

Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
NEVADA DOT
Rudy Malfabon, P.E.
Director of NDOT

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor of California
Caltrans
Malcolm Dougherty
Director of Caltrans

NDOT - Public Information Officer: Meg Ragonese (775) 888-7777
Visit NDOT's website at www.ndot.gov
Select "Projects", Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvements
Caltrans - District 3 Public Information Officer: Steve Nelson (530) 741-4566
Visit Caltrans website at www.caltrans.gov or www.caltransnevada.com

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2016 Tahoe City Summer Events

Check out more events Tahoe City: www.VisitTahoeCity.com

May 14-Sept. 11: Tahoe City Sidewalk Saturdays (2nd Saturday monthly)

May 19-Oct. 13: Tahoe City Farmers Market (Thursdays)

June 29-Aug. 24: Movies on Commons Beach (Wednesdays)

June 4: Tahoe City Clean-up Day

June 9: TCDA Tahoe Gal Fundraiser Cruise

June 16-19: Tahoe City Solstice Festival, featuring Wine Walk

June 19-Sept. 4: Concerts at Commons Beach (Sundays)

July 4: Tahoe City July 4th Fireworks & Funky Beach Bash

July 27-29: Lake Tahoe Dance Festival

Aug. 5-8: Tahoe City Days

Aug. 19-21: Pacific Fine Arts Festival

Sept. 2-4: Tahoe City Labor Day Sidewalk Sales

Oct. 1: Tahoe City Oktoberfest

To see a complete event listing & to sponsor, donate or volunteer,
Visit: www.VisitTahoeCity.com

The Center for Spiritual Living Tahoe-Truckee, located at 700 North Lake Blvd., Tahoe City, above the marina, is a spiritual community dedicated to empowering individuals to discover an inner power that has the ability to transform their lives and make the world a better place. We believe that there are many paths to God and that every religion and path has value and purpose. We honor each and every path, recognizing that all paths end in love. We celebrate life and the unique preciousness of all beings.



- We are a loving community, providing spiritual tools and practical teaching to promote awakening and personal transformation, creating a world that works for everyone.
- We are a "New Thought" Community, but our philosophy is based on ancient wisdom. We're an alternative to traditional church; we are spiritual, yet have no strict religious dogma or doctrine.
- We believe that there is a Power for good in the Universe greater than we are and we can use it to create lives that are happier, healthier, loving, prosperous and purposeful.

If you are looking for a warm, dynamic, loving community of like-minded people where you are respected and accepted for who you are and want the inspiration and support to grow to your highest potential, look no further. With a variety of services available, our center meets the needs of families, singles, children, adults, and seniors. Please accept our invitation to visit us soon!

Sunday Celebration Services	10 am with childcare provided
Sunday Meditation	9:25 -9:50 am
Thursday "Be Here Now" Meditation	9:00 am

We also offer a variety of workshops, classes, inspirational cinema, concerts, and special events. For more information, check our website tahoecls.org or contact us at admin@tahoecls.org, phone (530) 581-5117.



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With a calendar designed for fun on and off the water, the Tahoe Yacht Club is the place to be to meet people and enjoy the best that Lake Tahoe has to offer. Boat ownership is not a requirement.

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Member: Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association (PICYA), Yacht Club of America (YCA), Antique and Classic Boat Society (ACBS), Yacht Racing Association (YRA) of San Francisco Bay, US Sailing Association

STOP BEFORE YOU LAUNCH

Roadside stations for inspections and decontaminations of motorized boats and watercraft are officially open for the 2016 boating season. From 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., seven days a week, inspection will take place at Meyers at the junction of state Route 50 and state Route 89; Spooner Summit at the junction of state Route 50 and state Route 28 in Nevada and Alpine Meadows on state Route 89.

Opening on May 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursday through Sunday, is the Truckee-Tahoe station on state Route 267, off Truckee Airport Road.

All motorized watercraft require inspection for aquatic invasive species before launching into Lake Tahoe, Fallen Leaf Lake and Echo Lake. The Tahoe In & Out inspection ranges from \$35 for personal watercraft and vessels less than 17 feet and up to \$121 for vessels more than 39 feet. The Tahoe Only inspection sticker is \$30. An additional fee of \$35 is charged for any boat requiring decontamination and an additional \$10 fee for the decontamination of ballast tanks or bags.

For more information on aquatic invasive species prevention, control and early detection, boaters can attend the Spring Public Forum at the U.C. Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center at Sierra Nevada College on June 14 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. | (888) 824-6267 or tahoeboatsinspections.com

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