



## Letter from the President

August 29, 2017

Dear CLCC Member,

Welcome to the Labor Day weekend edition of the President's Letter. I want to open this letter with a heartfelt "thank you" and best wishes to our long-term Board Member, Rick Bishop. After many years Rick and his wife Leslie have decided to sell their home at CLCC, which has left a vacancy on our Board of Directors. Though we will miss him greatly, we look forward to welcoming a new member soon. If you have any interest, please let us know. Additionally, we are looking to add one or two people to our Architectural Review Committee, and would love to hear from any of you who might be interested. Please send your interest summary and qualifications for either position (*no later than Monday, September 7th, 2017*) to us at [office@columbinelake.com](mailto:office@columbinelake.com).

Many of you may have noticed that there was significant construction on Columbine Road recently. Three Lakes Water determined that one of the lift stations on our lake needed to be replaced, and therefore chose this opportunity to upgrade several of the sewer lines in the neighborhood. Though it was a bit inconvenient for our residents for a few weeks, we now have a few new sewer lines, and as a bonus, about 4" of new road base on a section of Columbine Drive! On the topic of capital improvements, we also want to mention that the road improvements and upgrades approved in this year's budget will begin this next spring. We will begin outlining these improvements early next year, in addition to outlining other projects that we believe will continue to improve our beautiful neighborhood.

It's been an exciting summer, and I'd like to thank our GM, Chris Atencio, on his continued efforts to improve our community, and thank all of our volunteers who have helped in so many capacities this summer. Camp Columbine was a success, as was our July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday picnic and Slash and Trash. Chris has spearheaded many beautification projects including the new decks at the clubhouse and office (which are nearly complete). From what I hear from the homeowners, the general mood is tremendously positive. We still have a few challenges, including what to do about the surface area around the pool in the clubhouse (as the new floor we put in a few years ago just isn't holding up), but we are considering multiple options and will keep you informed of our recommendations.

We have also hired an expert to help us address growing concerns about pike and gill lice in the lake (Jon Ewart, Grand County's only fish biologist). The situation is a bit worse than originally thought, so stay tuned for more developments. We will be dragging the lake in the next few weeks to see if we can get an idea of how prevalent the problem is, and kicking off several initiatives (such as putting bounties on Pike, and maybe even a contest or two!). REMEMBER: If you catch a trout with GILL LICE (see the next page for a current summary of the initiative) or if you catch a PIKE, **do NOT throw them back in the lake**. We have been told that trout with gill lice are safe for consumption, though a bit unsightly.

**Finally, we would also like to invite you to our quarterly MEET AND GREET of the Board Members**, to be held at the Clubhouse at 5:00 pm this coming Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is the same day as our annual Pancake Breakfast. Please stop by for complimentary snacks and beverages and take this opportunity to get to know your Board of Directors personally.

Thank you for your continued support of our community, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. We look forward to our next update in Q4.

Kind Regards,



Brian D. Owens  
CLCC Board President

**CLCC BOARD:**

Brian Owens, President  
Mark Woltkamp, Treasurer  
John Amerman, Secretary  
Neal Cross Director

Liza Eilers, Director  
Pieter Knight, Director  
Kirstin Reimann, Director  
Vince Verbel, Director

## TROUT IN DANGER! WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Columbine Lake is the jewel of our community and it operates under a private lake license. In our last month's newsletter, we told you someone had put Northern Pike in our lake. At our Board of Director's meeting, August 19th, we invited Jon Ewert, Grand County's only fish biologist with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to address our challenge with the pike and reports of gill lice on our trout.

Mr. Ewert has been combating pike infestation in Green Mountain Reservoir and Wolford Reservoir for the last few years. Mr. Ewert explained one possibility for pike in those reservoirs and in our lake is "bucketing". This is when fisherman find pike to be a challenge and dump buckets of pike in lakes for sport. The problem is Colorado lakes have less variety of fish in general and the pike voraciously feed on the trout. Our surface water in Columbine Lake connects with Shadow Mountain Reservoir. If pike were to reach Shadow Mountain it could proliferate throughout the entire 3 lakes region and the upper Colorado River system, forever changing the fragile and unique habitat.

Gill lice are a parasitic crustacean that feed off the gills of fish. They appear as round puffy grains of rice attached to the gills of trout. Though the fish are still safe for consumption sans the gills, they are unsightly and contagious to other fish. Gill lice cut off the oxygen to the fish, risking the health of our trout in Columbine Lake. Ewert portends we could have imported gill lice through a hatchery that was supplied through out-of-state trout as Colorado fish hatcheries are regulated by the fish health board.



*Image of Trout with Gill Lice*



*Image of a Northern Pike*

### Here are the actions we are taking:

1. Mr. Ewert suggested we screen our outlets from Columbine Lake so no pike nor trout with gill lice can reach neighboring lakes that have surface water connections to our lake. Our GM has applied ¼" mesh screen to our lake outlets and is cleaning them regularly.
2. A Fishery Committee has been formed by Mark Woltkamp, Board Treasurer, to create a plan to monitor the pike, and reduce gill lice in our lake. Contact the office if you are interested in volunteering on this committee.
3. Jon Ewert will begin to research our pike infestation with a 6-hour set of nets following Labor Day to drag the lake and discern the population. He will continue to consult and work with the Fishery Committee.
4. Future Colorado fish hatcheries will be researched and approved as licensed by Ewert before we accept a shipment. The day of delivery the shipment will be inspected for gill lice to ensure safe trout.

### What we need from you:

1. If you catch a fish that you assume has gill lice, never throw it back.
2. Clean and disinfect your fishing gear after fishing as gill lice can be present on fishing lines and hooks without your knowledge.
3. If you catch a pike, no matter the size, keep it, do not throw it back.
4. Purchase lures specific to pike fishing and actively troll, cast in order to catch pike.
5. Communicate what you have learned in this newsletter to neighbors, family and friends as our best defense is knowledge.