

BCLSS

February 2025 Newsletter



Lake Windermere Whiteway - The Whiteway is one of the longest skating tracks in the world. At 34km the groomed track runs all the way around Lake Windermere and is maintained by the Toby Creek Nordic Ski Club

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BCLSS Certifies 25 People for Lake Monitoring in 2024



This past year was very busy for BCLSS with our new Lake Ecology and Monitoring Certification Course. Four courses were held in 2024, attended by a total of 25 people. Attendees included environmental professionals from varied fields such as forestry, agriculture, mining, fisheries, including First Nations Guardians. The course was well received by participants.

The 3 day course is designed to give professionals in environment related fields a thorough grounding in the fundamentals of lake ecology and monitoring to prepare them for work in consulting firms, government agencies, and other organizations engaged in the monitoring and assessment of lakes. BCLSS has developed this course through the expertise in limnology of our staff and Board of Directors. Students gained proficiency in a variety of lake related field monitoring techniques through field sessions at a lake comprising approximately 30% of the course.

The course has the following learning outcomes

- Understanding of the fundamentals of limnology
- Understanding of the basics of lake water quality monitoring design
- Proficiency in the use of lake water quality monitoring equipment
- Understanding assessment of, and reporting on lake water quality monitoring data

More detailed information can be found [here](#).

The next course is scheduled for June 3-5 2025 near Williams Lake. If interested, please register early because the class size is limited to 12 people to facilitate the large field component. See below for details on how to register.

BCLSS Lake Ecology and Monitoring Course

Upcoming Course Details



June 3-5th, 2025



Held at Opheim Lake
near Williams Lake, BC



\$800 per person

Email us to reserve your spot!

info@bclss.org



BCLSS

The BCLSS Lake Ecology and Monitoring Course is a 3 day course designed to give professionals in environment related fields a thorough grounding in the fundamentals of lake ecology and monitoring to prepare them for work in consulting firms, government agencies, and other organizations engaged in the monitoring and assessment of lakes. BCLSS has developed this course through the expertise in limnology of our staff and Board of Directors. Students will gain proficiency in a variety of lake related field monitoring techniques through field sessions at a lake comprising approximately 30% of the course.

Learn more about the course on our [website](#) or contact the instructor for further details: norm@environmentalquality.ca

Download the registration form below to reserve your spot for June, or schedule a course for your group by reaching out to us at info@bclss.org

**Refundable \$50 deposit required to register, with the balance of the tuition to be paid by May 13 2025. Please register as early as possible as class size is limited due to the field session.*

Registration Form

Meet the Instructor

Norm Zirnhelt

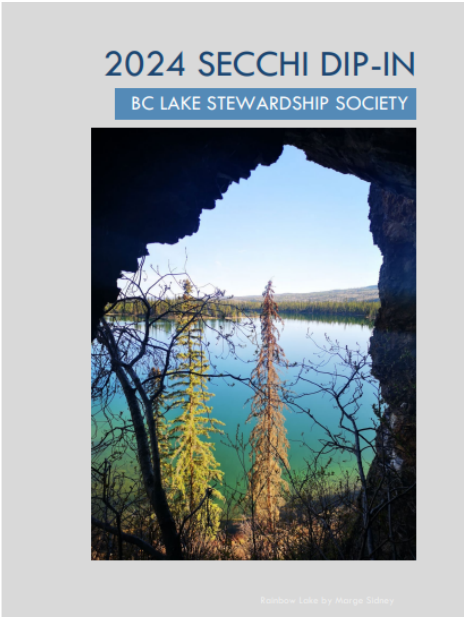
Norm is a Registered Professional Biologist with over 35 years experience in water and air quality. Norm was head of the BC Ministry of Environment's Air/Water Quality Monitoring and Impact Assessment Section for the Cariboo Region from 1989-2010. Norm has been Principal Consultant at his consulting firm, Cariboo Environmental Quality Consulting Ltd. (CEQC) since 2010. CEQC has completed projects on lakeshore protection in sensitive areas, aquatic benthic biology, fish tissue & water chemistry assessment in the mining sector, analysis of aquatic benthic data from a range of sites for the Ministry of Environment, and has developed & conducted training courses for impact assessment biologists for the MOE. Norm currently instructs a course for Vancouver Island University on Water Quality Monitoring and Design.



2024 Secchi Dip-In Report Now Available!

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Secchi Dip-In this year! We received 35 dips from 27 lakes. You can read the full Secchi Dip-In report linked below.

Please share this event with your friends and family so that we can increase participation in future years. These annual snapshots can be put together to form a changing picture of transparency over time.



2024 BCLSS Secchi Dip-In Report



Alpha Lake 2005-2012, 2021-2023
BC Lake Stewardship and Monitoring Program
Summary Report

The BC Lake Stewardship Society (BCLSS) and the Ministry of Environment and Parks (ENV) partner with local volunteers and stewardship groups to characterize lake water quality through the *BC Lake Stewardship and Monitoring Program* (BCLSMP). The BCLSMP's focus is on understanding water clarity, temperature, oxygen, and nutrients because these factors contribute to the basic understanding of lake processes which influence biological productivity. Concerns about productivity are common, specifically because high productivity can negatively impact recreation, drinking water and aquatic health due to harmful algal blooms. For more information about the BCLSMP please visit www.gov.bc.ca/lakestewardshipmonitoring.



Photo 1. Photo of Alpha Lake by John Doyle

New Lake Report! Volunteers from the Whistler Lakes Conservation Foundation

recently completed an enhanced Level 1 BC Lake Stewardship and Monitoring Program on Alpha Lake. Click the button below to read the report!

[Alpha Lake Report](#)



Not a member of the BCLSS yet?

Please consider joining our network of lake stewards! For more information on the benefits of membership, [visit our website](#).

Were you forwarded this newsletter? [Subscribe today](#) to get monthly updates on stewardship activities, lake science, and much more delivered to your inbox!

The BCLSS acknowledges that the lake stewardship activities of our staff, directors, and volunteers take place on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded lands of First Nations Peoples throughout British Columbia. We

recognize that Indigenous Peoples have stewarded these lands and waters for generations and we are grateful to the Elders, Traditional Knowledge Keepers, and youth that implement their knowledge and traditional laws to preserve water and life for the benefit of all.



We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Parks.



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