



Living Lakes Canada News Stream

May 2018

Living Lakes Canada is gearing up for a great and busy season! We held our first field training workshop of the season with more trainings on the horizon, we're working on launching a new and improved website, and we're excited to share the results of the first Water Data Hub Stewardship Committee meeting as well as thoughts and resources on the United Nation's Decade of Water Action (2018-2028). Don't miss the Wings Over the Rockies workshop we're co-hosting with Canadian geophysicist/engineer Paul Bauman on May 11 in Invermere - details on all these items and more below. Happy reading!

~ The Living Lakes Canada team

CABIN and Canadian innovation: eDNA



Living Lakes Canada and partners, including Environment and Climate Change Canada, University of Guelph and WWF-Canada, are field testing the use of Environmental DNA (eDNA) for benthic invertebrates.

eDNA is an emerging tool for monitoring present biodiversity. It uses gene sequencing linked to DNA/RNA barcode libraries to allow for faster, more complete profile of biodiversity content from very small samples. Internationally, countries like Australia, the EU and Scotland are exploring working with eDNA. This is a made-in-Canada technology and now has the opportunity to move beyond proof of concept to demonstrating the possible. This will make benthic invertebrate analysis faster, more accurate and more affordable for community groups water quality monitoring initiatives.

For the 2018 field season, LLC and team will be in the **Liard watershed in Northern B.C.** (Canada's ninth largest watershed) in August working in partnership with the Lower Post Guardians to establish a biomonitoring program and host a two-day Program Manager/Field Tech CABIN field practicum.

LLC will hold the same course in partnership with a local organization (TBD) in the **Ontario Great Lake region** in September. We are actively seeking water stewardship groups in the Great Lake region that are interested in setting up a CABIN program in their area.

There will also be additional training in the **Skeena watershed** for a Field Assistant level CABIN practicum in partnership with the Environmental Stewardship Initiative of BC.


LLC will be holding a standard **Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN) course July 17 and 18 in Nelson, B.C.** that is open to the public.

[Click here for more information about the CABIN training and to register.](#)

Space still available in Groundwater Workshop at Wings

Groundwater, one of our most important yet least known natural resources, will be explored during an illuminating workshop at this year's [Wings Over the Rockies](#) festival. On **Friday, May 11 from 3 to 5 p.m.** at the Pynelogs Cultural Centre in Invermere, join Living Lakes Canada's Carol Luttmmer and Canadian geophysicist/engineer Paul Bauman for a discussion on the interconnectedness of groundwater within our global system, in keeping with this year's Wings Over the Rockies Festival theme ***Webs & Roots: Talk About Networking!***

[Learn more and find links to register here.](#)



Grassroots Groundwater Initiatives in the Columbia Basin and Beyond

The wetlands and surface waters that birds depend on are only one storage compartment for water as it cycles through our atmosphere, soil, rivers, lakes, and oceans. Across the world we are seeing grassroots efforts to help protect our waters— for human use and to support healthy ecosystems.

In the Columbia Basin, groundwater is important for contributing to base flows in rivers. Living Lakes Canada is a grassroots organization that is monitoring groundwater levels in the Basin to provide data that will help manage and protect groundwater resources. This work supports the recommendations in the Columbia Basin Trust's report on water monitoring and climate change, which concluded that more information is needed to effectively manage water resources across the Basin's different hydrologic regions.

Another example of a grassroots groundwater initiative is a project that was coordinated by Paul Bauman in Uganda with the Society of Exploration Geophysicists, the Geoscientists Without Borders Foundation, and IvisAID. Local Acholi people, whose homes and water systems had been destroyed during a 22-year insurgency, were trained in water exploration, manual drilling, and hand pump repair and installation.

Living Lakes and Paul are excited to be a part of this year's Festival as we explore the interconnectedness of our ecosystems— including groundwater.

Paul Bauman visiting Village of Liard in Northern B.C.

Water Data Hub Steering Committee Update



The **Living Lakes Canada Columbia Basin Water Monitoring Framework and Data Hub Steering Committee** is a group of volunteer advisors who are supporting the Water Data Hub initiative with their expertise and passion. The committee currently has 27 members representing government (federal, provincial and local), First Nations, Non-profit, private, industry, data hubs/technology, American partners and others. The committee held its first conference call meeting on March 5, 2018 and we had an exceptional turnout.

This first meeting was a great opportunity to update committee members on the current status of the Columbia Basin Water Monitoring Framework and Data Hub. We discussed who is doing what and included an exciting overview of the next steps that are planned. The following preliminary purpose statement was shared:

“This initiative will make credible Columbia Basin water monitoring information available for engagement, education and management decisions, all in support of watershed stewardship now and for future generations. This will be achieved by working towards creating cost-effective, open-source sharing of local, traditional and scientific information and knowledge and filling important information gaps while increasing local capacity and building healthy partnerships across the basin.”

At the next steering committee meeting the following will be reviewed and discussed:

1. A two-year work plan
2. Questionnaires submitted from top Canadian data hubs
3. Plans for future in-person planning sessions
4. All upcoming action items

If you have any questions about the steering committee or are interested in getting involved in this exciting initiative, please email Avery Deboer-Smith at avery@livinglakescanada.ca.

The 2017 Water Data Hub conference was convened by Columbia Basin Trust, Living Lakes Canada, Columbia Basin Watershed Network & Selkirk College.



Living Lakes kicks off field training season



On April 11, LLC program manager Heather Leschied gave the first stream monitoring training of the year. A certified [Streamkeepers](#) Instructor, Heather has taught Streamkeepers Workshops for the Columbia Basin Trust's Know Your Watershed (KYW) Program regularly over the years.

In the training, 12 educators from the KYW Program learned about macro invertebrates and water quality sampling in a half-day Streamkeepers Workshop as part of their Educator Training Workshop. The group spent the afternoon at Pass Creek Regional Park in the West Kootenay collecting bugs and water samples and talking about healthy watersheds - knowledge that the Educators will share with Grade 9 students from across the Columbia Basin.

Know Your Watershed is a regional education program delivered throughout the Columbia Basin that's directly linked to the Grade 9 science curriculum. The education team leads the program and students take part in two classroom sessions and a full-day field trip that increase their knowledge and awareness of their watersheds and water-related issues in their communities. Visit <https://wildsight.ca/programs/knowyourwatershed/> to learn more.

20 years of Global Nature Fund



On April 27, LLC Executive Director Kat Hartwig attended the 20th Anniversary Celebration of Global Nature Fund in Germany. Kat serves as a member of the Board of Directors for Global Nature Fund, the lead organization for Living Lakes International.

Living Lakes International will celebrate its 20th year in Valencia, Spain in April 2019, with a gathering of more than 100 partners working for effective protection of water in the most important lake areas around the world.

Kat is pictured here with Global Nature Fund staff (top) and founder and board member Jorg Durr Pucher (below middle), and president Marion Hammerl (below right).



Living Lakes joins Friends to restore Duck Bay



Living Lakes Canada has been integral in supporting the creation and success of the [Friends of Kootenay Lake Stewardship Society](#), a non-profit focused on the health and stewardship of Kootenay Lake.

On April 28, the Friends of Kootenay Lake in partnership with Selkirk College worked all day restoring an area in Nelson, B.C. called Duck Bay. Twenty students worked hard to plant 200 native species and expand the existing built wetland to mitigate for additional runoff from a nearby parking lot and soccer fields.

Living Lakes has supported this restoration project historically and continues to support Friends of Kootenay Lake in the process. Students were excited to have LLC Program Manager Heather Leschied attend as a guest speaker to inform them on opportunities such as CABIN training.

This restoration project will continue into the fall. If you live in the area and are interested in getting involved, you can contact Friends of Kootenay Lake at info@friendsofkootenaylake.ca or visit their website at www.friendsofkootenaylake.ca.

The Duck Bay restoration project was funded by the Columbia Basin Trust and Environment and Climate Change Canada.



Vancouver to host 2018 Canadian Water Summit

The [Canadian Water Summit](#) was launched in 2009 and has grown into Canada's largest and most diverse annual gathering of business, government, academic, and non-profit water leaders, attracting 300+ attendees each June. The 2018 event will include three days of dynamic programming, including young professional skills training, women in water networking reception, field excursions, live theatre, dynamic exhibitor sessions, and the Water's Next awards gala. The week showcases the industry's best, while offering an enjoyable forum to building meaningful relationships to improve your business.

Save the date!



CBM relevance at Climate Change Conference

At the Wildfire and Climate Change in the Kootenays Conference on June 26-28 in Nelson there will be a lot of crossover and relevance to the Community-Based Water Monitoring framework and great opportunities for networking. Topics such as Ecosystem Resiliency, Community Protection and Landscape Level Management will be covered as will local, national and international actions being taken to address wildfires and climate change.

Day 1 and Day 2 of this conference will feature multiple keynote presentations delivered to attendees in two different streams. The first stream will be targeted at licensees working in the forestry industry. The second stream will be targeted at community members who are dealing with wildfire threats and climate change. After the first two days, all attendees will together create a "Blueprint

for Action” to be included in the summary report of the conference and distributed widely throughout British Columbia.

[Learn more about the conference and register here.](#)



A Decade of Water Action

Ling Lakes Canada Stewardship Coordinator Raegan Mallinson has compiled this excellent blog explaining the United Nations' recently announced Water Action Decade in the context of Living Lakes Canada's work.

[What a Decade of Water Action means for Living Lakes Canada](#)



If you missed our 2018 World Water Day article featuring Dr. Hans Schreier, a professor emeritus with the Faculty of Land and Food Systems at UBC and Living Lakes Canada advisor, you can find it [here](#).

New LLC website underway

The Living Lakes Canada team is working closely with the Nelson Design Collective to roll out a revamped LLC website that will present comprehensive information on all our projects and be an improved resource for the water conservation community.

Stay tuned!

Visit www.livinglakescanada.ca to learn more.



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