

# MOUNT MASSIVE LAKES, INC.

P.O. BOX 1981

LEADVILLE, COLORADO 80461

"A Tradition of Fishing Excellence"

Shaun Mulligan, Pres. 303-513-0624    Greg Anderson 303-324-9893    Colin Perry, Sec. 719-471-7200    Joe Angleson, V.P. 303-916-2654    Janice Good 719-207-1596    Ham Lokey 303-204-6300    Kevin Lentz 303-425-7373

## TROUTLINE                      FEBRUARY 2017

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Rampart Supply, 1801 N. Union Blvd., Colorado Springs, at 9:30 a.m. The BOD will be finalizing the 2017/2018 budget at this meeting. Please feel free to attend and share your ideas.

**ELECTIONS BOD:** Any member wishing to run for a term as Director, please contact Kevin Lentz at 303-425-7373 or klentz4@comcast.net. The BOD elections will be held at the annual meeting in May.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** The annual meeting will be held on May 20, 2017. We will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the club shop. The Board of Directors along with Club Staff will be reviewing 2016 and discussing the outlook for the 2017 season.

**ICE CONDITIONS:** If you are at the club recreating during the winter months, please keep in mind that the thickness of ice varies from inlets to outlets and also from lake to lake. The most unstable ice will be by the inlets, outlets, and any place where springs enter lakes. With a snowy winter, ice conditions have varied. Some lakes have a substantial amount of slush on top of the ice, with a layer of good ice beneath. Please be careful anytime that you are on the ice.

**SNOWFALL:** MML has experienced significant snowfall this winter, particularly in January. If you are planning on coming to your cabin this winter, please be advised that the staff only plows the main roads needed to complete the daily chores. All other roads are untouched and full of hard, drifted snow. There are several snow removal services available from Leadville.

**BOAT CLEANUP:** In an effort to clean up lake shorelines and fishing access areas, MML staff will be conducting a boat clean up. We previously asked that members ID their boats before October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016. We realized that we began this project too late in the summer, as some members would not be back at MML until 2017. We will extend this project until May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 so all members have an opportunity to ID their boat(s). ID stickers are located in the guest badge box at the office. Please write your cabin number and place the sticker(s) on your boat(s). After May 31<sup>st</sup>, MML staff will move unidentified boats to the boneyard.

**2016 CATCHABLE STOCKING:** In 2016 we stocked a total of 11,884 triploid rainbow trout. These fish averaged 16.3" and weighed 28 ounces. We stocked 9,406 triploid

rainbows which averaged 17" and weighed 32 ounces, with the biggest being 18" and weighing 39 ounces (2.4 pounds). We also stocked cutbows to increase our total stocking numbers. We stocked 2,478 cutbows which averaged 15.5" and weighed 24 ounces. Our 2016 catchable stocking significantly increased from 2015, which we only stocked 8,889 with an average size of 15" weighing 23 ounces. 2016 was a step closer to achieving MML management goals of stocking 16,000 catchable fish with an average weight of 28 ounces, which will resume in 2017. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped stock!

**2017 FISH STOCKING:** We will be stocking our 2017 Kamloops rainbows and cutbow super catchables on May 1, June 5, 26, July 5, 24, and August 14. We expect to stock 16,864 fish this year. 2017 will be the first year of stocking super catchables since 2013. If you would like to help stock on any of these dates, please contact Brent at 719-293-5441.

**2017 KAMLOOPS RAINBOWS:** We currently have 19,375 and they are 16" and weigh 24 ounces (1.5 pounds). As spring nears and the ice recedes from the ponds, we will continue feeding these fish to increase their size before stocking. We will hold back 2,500 of these fish next summer for our super catchable program in 2018. Along with these rainbows, we have 2,141 cutbow super catchables to stock 2017. These cutbows are 19" and weigh 46 ounces (2.9 pounds). We plan for 10% unaccounted mortality each winter from predation (coyotes, eagles, etc.). As of February 1<sup>st</sup>, we plan to have 16,864 fish to stock next summer, which is up 5,000 from last summer. Our 2017 fish stocking will provide excellent fishing as we return to our management goals of stocking 16,000 fish with an average size of at least 28 ounces. The 2017 catchables and super catchables are located in New Pond, Pasture Pond, Rainbow Pond and Pond 2 for the winter.

**2018 TRIPLOID RAINBOWS:** We currently have 23,742 and they are 10". They are slightly larger than the 2017 rainbows were at this time last year and we also have 1,994 extra. Instead of getting rid of extra fish after our fall grading, we decided to keep 2,500 – 4,000 fish to hold in Hatchery Pond over the winter so we can replenish our numbers of lost fish due to disease and predator loss this winter. These fish are in Pond 1, Jones Pond, and Hatchery Pond for the winter.

**2019 TRIPLOID RAINBOWS:** Our triploids are growing fast and they are already at 2.0". We currently have 40,113. When these triploids reach 3" this spring, we will grade them and save the biggest 29,000. We will keep the extra fish to help replenish our numbers if we have substantial loss to disease and predators throughout the summer. Grading allows us to keep the bigger fish, keep uniform size, and gives us an accurate number of remaining fish. These fish are on spring water which is consistently 48 degrees. As these fish keep growing, we will continue to move them into additional tanks to keep them thinned out and healthy.

**2017 BROWN TROUT:** Our annual fall spawning took place during the last week of September this year. We used an electro fisher this year to collect brown trout in the ditch between Upper and Lower Granite. Electro fishing allows us to collect all of the fish needed at one time and select the fish with the best milt and eggs for spawning, which improves the survival from egg to hatch significantly. We currently have 5,719 fry which is 92% survival rate, typical for this species of fish at MML. We will stock these fish next summer when they reach 3”.

**2017 TIGER TROUT:** We used an electro fisher to collect brown and brook trout from various ditches throughout the club for tiger trout spawning. We took 14,340 tiger eggs in late September. We currently have 1,343 tiger trout fry that began feeding mid-December. The survival rate of tiger trout from egg to hatch was 10%, which is substantially lower than all the other species we have at MML. The low survival of this cross is due to crossing fish from different genera.

**2016 ARCTIC CHAR TRANSPLANTS:** We implemented an arctic char transplant program in 2016 to provide additional arctic char fishing opportunities at MML. We used gillnets to catch and transplant 50 arctic char over 12” in length from High Lake (#20) to Cokely Lake (#8) in the fall during the arctic char spawning run. The larger fish size will provide better survival than fingerlings. During our winter sample of Cokely, we caught several of these transplanted arctic char.

**2016 BROOK TROUT REMOVAL:** Each fall during the brook trout spawning run, we cull several brook trout to prevent them from overpopulating, becoming stunted, and out competing other species of fish at MML. This year we removed close to 1,000 brook trout under 12” in length from ditches and lakes throughout the club. We use gillnets, traps, winter sampling, and electro fishing techniques to collect these fish, which allows us to keep the bigger fish alive and return them to the water. We hope our efforts will keep the brook trout population in check, which will be determined from our summer samples in 2017. Members can help with this program by keeping all brook trout under 12” that they catch.

**2016 REVIEW:** 2016 was a step in the right direction towards achieving our fishery goals at MML. We had minimal fish disease due to a great water year, keeping all of our fish thinned, and running the proper water flow requirements throughout all of our fish rearing facilities. Our catchable rainbow stocking program increased by 2,995 fish stocked for a total of 11,884, along with an increase in fish size from 23 ounces in 2015 to 28 ounces in 2016. Rainbows averaged 31 ounces and cutbows 24 ounces. Our winter lake samples have shown that the sizes of all species of fish are improving and we expect many great fish available at ice off next spring. We exceeded our guest permit revenue goal of \$48,000 by \$780. The extra money helps to replenish the emergency fund moving into 2017-2018 budget year. Creel census data shows that we increased our catch per man hour (CPMH) to 2.29 in 2016 from 1.76 in 2015. The winter months provide extra time for the staff to further our education which gives us the knowledge,

current research, and updated fishery information so we can continue to make improvements necessary to make MML better each year. We are highly involved with the Colorado Aquaculture Association, United States Trout Farmers Association, American Fisheries Society, Lake County Conservation District, and various other programs throughout not only the state, but the country. Greg continues to represent MML interests on the Colorado Fish Health Board, the Colorado Aquaculture Board, and the Colorado Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. Club Manager, Brent, currently serves as vice president on the board for the Lake County Conservation District. Contact and cooperation with these programs allows staff to maintain relationships with other fishery professionals, businesses, and offered opportunities to take advantage of the latest tools and knowledge needed to run a successful fishery. During 2016, Brent also acquired a qualified supervisor chemical applicator license, certified in agricultural weed control and aquatic pest control. This license allows MML to evaluate weed problems, recommend control methods, mix, load, and apply any chemical, including restricted use pesticides on club property. This license is important as MML has strict programs in place to treat our lakes and ponds each summer, including terrestrial weeds such as Canada thistle. It takes years of planning and implementing the proper steps to achieve our goals at MML from year to year. We strive to make each year better than the last and we look forward to an even more successful 2017.

**2016 CREEL CENSUS DATA:** Total hours fished dropped slightly from 12,445 hours in 2015 to 11,839 hours in 2016. Although the hours were down, the CPMH increased from 1.76 in 2015 to 2.29 in 2016, which is our target for MML. The “Big 6” Lakes, which are Lakes 5,6,9,12,19, and 20, had 73% of the total hours fished in 2016. The CPMH for the Big 6 Lakes was 2.26 in 2016 and 1.88 in 2015. This data shows that our catchable stocking schedule for 2016 was well planned and implemented. With more fish available to stock in 2017, we will work through our 2017 catchable stocking schedule to make improvements for each month, lake by lake, to keep our creel numbers comparable to 2016 and provide better fishing.

**WINTER SAMPLING VOLUNTEERS:** During the winter we sample each lake to check the abundance and condition of the fish population by ice fishing. Our sampling so far has provided excellent data and great fishing for all species of fish. We still have seven Lakes remaining, 6,10,14,15,17,18, and 26. Don't have ice fishing gear? No problem, MML has extra gear available for those who would like to help out. If you are interested, please contact Brent at 719-293-5441.

**CONDOLENCES:** It is with great sadness to report the passing of Gene Carnahan. Gene passed away peacefully on January 19<sup>th</sup> in Tucson, Arizona, with Phyllis at his side. A service will be held at MML in August. Please pass along your condolences to the Carnahan family:

1 East Desert Sky Road  
Unit 5

Tucson, AZ 85737

**CABIN SALES:** Joseph Lanier recently sold his cabin (#29) in December to current member Larry Scriptor. 2016 was a great year for selling cabins and memberships with a total of 7 sales, which is additional income for MML to replenish the emergency fund.

**WATER FLOWS:** Our water flows have been stable and we are still running water throughout the entire system. We had a snowy January which brought about 2-3 feet of snow to the club. According to USDA Colorado SNOTEL, the Arkansas River Basin is at 159% snowpack. Although this number is hard to relate to the club, Weston Pass has a considerable amount of snow. In order to have a good water year, we rely on late winter/spring snow storms which provide a lot of moisture to add to the current snowpack, along with a cool spring to allow spring runoff at a steady rate.

**ROADS:** Club roads are managed in three tiers:

1. All weather roads for the year around management of the club.
2. Primary fishermen roads that allow about 80% of our fishermen access to the lakes (ex: around Snowden or #6).
3. All other roads.

If you have a cabin or travel the tier 3 roads be advised that, except for general maintenance once a year, these roads will not be weatherized until all the other roads are weatherized.

If members, their guests or their contractors abuse or misuse any roads the responsible member can expect to receive a bill to repair that road.

When roads become full of water, please refrain from going around the hole/puddle. We don't want to ruin the vegetation or create a bigger hole. We repair these issue areas with road base or slag when the time is appropriate.

**FOR SALE LIST:** Is no longer part of the "Troutline" but is located on the MML website. Please contact Shaun Mulligan (303-513-0624) if you wish to list a membership or other items for sale.

**MML WEBSITE:** If you have not had a chance to check out the new website, please do so at [mountmassivelakes.org](http://mountmassivelakes.org), password Fishing1. The "for sale section is now up and running and also check for updates in the "Managers Corner" section for the latest news and recent activity from MML staff, including pictures. The website will also provide information such as fishing status, club updates, BOD meeting dates/times/locations, annual meeting date/time, and previous club material such as the Troutline. We would like to thank BOD member Gregg Anderson for all the great work he has done to make this new website successful and updated with the most current information.

**MML VEHICLE WINDOW STICKERS:** We have new MML stickers (old ones don't need to be replaced) for members to place on the window of their vehicles. Please stop by the office next time you're at the Club if you would like one.

**DUMPSTERS:** As spring nears, please remember that our dumpsters are for household trash only. Construction materials, furniture, appliances, oil, paint, tires, auto parts, etc, are prohibited and must be hauled to the dump. To save money, we remove three dumpsters after Labor Day weekend until May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Lake County Landfill is located at 1500 CR 6, Leadville, CO 80461. The hours are 8am to 5pm, Friday – Tuesday. For more information, please visit <http://www.lakecountyco.com/landfill>.

**NEED COPIES OF MT. MASSIVE LAKES BY-LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS, LAND USE APPLICATIONS AND RULES AND REGULATIONS OR MAPS OF THE CLUB?** They are available to the membership and can either be downloaded from the website or are available in plastic file holders mounted on the wall inside the Clubhouse, just to the right as you enter the Clubhouse door. If you elect to acquire them at the Clubhouse, limit one per member, please!

**LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATIONS:** Remember, if you are planning a construction project at your cabin you will need to follow Mt. Massive Rules and Regulations governing Land Use. These rules, published on the website or available at the Clubhouse, include submitting a Land Use Application to the Land Use Committee for their approval, **prior** to starting construction. The rules state "**A PERMIT IS REQUIRED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR INSTALLATION OF NEW CABINS, OUT BUILDINGS, ADDITIONS TO PRESENT CABINS, OR CONSTRUCTION OF SEPTIC SYSTEMS, FENCES, ANTENNAS, FLAGPOLES, SIGNS, PARKING AREAS, ROADS, CONCRETE, OR ANY DISTURBANCE OF THE LAND**". If there is a question about whether or not you need to submit an application, or to submit an application, please call Land Use Committee members, Pat Jones at (719) 293-1898, Janice Good at (719) 207-1596, Brent Groenke at (719) 293-5441.

**IS YOUR CABIN TITLED PROPERLY?:** The Lake County Assessor wants to remind Club Members that when they transfer their cabin and membership to a new owner, to an heir or to a trust, they will also want to change the title to their cabin by deeding it to the appropriate entity. If you have recently acquired a membership and cabin or put your membership and cabin into a trust, be sure to record the appropriate document (ie. a "Quit Claim Deed" or "Bill of Sale") with the Lake County Clerk and Recorder so that the title to your cabin matches how you want your membership titled. This will prevent Lake County Tax notices being mailed to the wrong address and eliminate a lot of headaches for you down the road. Simply filling out a Mount Massive Lakes "Transfer Form" will not officially transfer the cabin into your name.