My grandmother was in love with Montana. Thirty years ago, on a trip to the Flathead Valley and Swan Lake area, she discovered and bought a Morley tandem kayak that she brought back to northern Wisconsin. She was 60 then and would fling the kayak up on her car and explore the many beautiful lakes and rivers in northern Wisconsin and Montana for many years.

I grew up in that kayak, learning my birds with her, getting tips on my fly casting, and enjoying those very quiet moments on the water with her, observing the movements of the lake and its creatures.

I have inherited the kayak and fate has brought me to the Flathead Valley. She now fights Alzheimer’s, but on her good days she still remembers her time in her kayak on the water. I feel her with me when I’m in her kayak. She is quite a woman. She is why I grew to love the natural world and feel peace on the water. She is why I fight to keep the lakes that I am fortunate enough to live near clean and healthy. She is why I am proud to be a Flathead Lakers member and its Education and Outreach Coordinator. I hope to inspire not only my three sons, but the Flathead Lake community, to respect, love, and protect our precious land and waters, just as she inspired, and still inspires, me.

...I work to protect our lake and watershed.

-Hilary Devlin
Education and Outreach Coordinator