

Behoes From Our Lake

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Volume 103

Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association, 100 Walker Lake Road, Shohola, PA, 18458, phone: 570-296-7788, fax: 570-296-4603, email: wlla@ptd.net, website: www.walkerlake.com

President's Message

By *Bernie Reyes*

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The ATV survey has been concluded. Of 597 postcards sent to the landowners, 282 were answered and mailed to the office. This represents 47% participation by the landowners.

The following is the tally of the results by question:

- 1. Do you own or intend to own an ATV? Yes = 39 No = 239
- 2. Do you feel that the use of ATVs should be permitted on Association property and roads? Yes = 55 No = 218
- 3. If ATVs are to be permitted on WLLA roads, would you be willing to pay an assessment increase or additional fees which may be required to adequately safeguard against potential liability? Yes = 26 No = 251

It is clear that the overwhelming majority of the respondents do not want ATVs on WLLA roads. The purpose of the survey was to determine the answer and leave no doubt as to the wishes of the majority. This has been accomplished. **The ATV ban therefore, remains in force and no further action by the Board of Directors is necessary.**

The fines stated in the Rules and Regulations for riding ATVs on WLLA roads will be imposed. Upon positive identification of the offender, the Board of Directors will pursue any and all legal means at our disposal to ensure that our rules are complied with.

Reminder!

General Membership Meeting

May 17, 2008 at 2pm

Read Clubhouse

Walker Lake Elections 2008

Yes, it's time to start thinking about the July election of Officers and Directors for the Board of Directors. This year elections will be held for the following positions: Secretary, Treasurer, five (5) Directors for a term of three years and one (1) Director for a term of 2 years. This year the nomination process will be different than previous years because of the 2007 adoption by the membership of an Absentee Ballot process.

Elections continued on page 3

Splash Back

By

Joe Gallagher

Ecological Solutions,
Inc.

Peter Wulfhorst

Lake Committee Chair

As I was looking back through my files on Walker Lake I found the first newsletter article I wrote for the Association ten years ago. Back then, I called my newsletter column “Splash Back”, and I will continue to use that title in future articles for the Association newsletter.

Ten years ago when I wrote that first article, its purpose was to introduce myself as your new lake manager and to describe what the major managements concerns were at the lake. In that article the management concerns were prioritized like this:

1. Stormwater management within the Walker Lake community, especially in the area near the firehouse.
2. Shoreline erosion and stabilization.
3. Aquatic plant management and control.
4. Sediment accumulation throughout the lake.

Interestingly enough, these same issues are a concern throughout the community now. Currently, the Twin/Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy has an engineering firm investigating alternatives to the stormwater management problem near the firehouse. I have been asked to address the concern of sediment entering the lake near Sandy Beach. This past summer I have mapped and evaluated the aquatic plant growth in the lake. In 2008, if it appears it is needed, I will chemically treat several areas around the lake that have excessive plant growth. In addition to evaluating plant growth, this past summer I did some preliminary evaluations on the accumulation of sediment in several portions of the lake basin. The data I have collected will become part of the baseline water quality database that has been established by your lake monitoring team. This data can then be used as a baseline to monitor the success of future stormwater management projects planned for around the community.

Splash Back continued on page 4

WLLA Office Hours

The Association Office is open for your convenience as follows:

Tuesday to Friday 10 AM to 1 PM

Saturday 9AM to 2 PM

Closed Sunday and Monday

www.walkerlake.com

Visit our website for links to local services, WLLA 2008 meeting schedule, current and past editions of the newsletter, as well as the current Rules and Regulations

Please note that office personnel have been instructed not to open the doors after normal business hours under any circumstances. Personnel working after hours are there to accomplish important tasks for the Association. Landowners knocking or ringing the bell to gain admittance cause a distraction and take valuable time from the tasks they have been assigned. If you cannot wait until normal business hours and you must speak to someone after hours call and leave a message or send an email. Your cooperation will save money by allowing our office staff to work without distraction and assure that you are given undivided attention when speaking with them.

Elections *from page 1*

Accordingly, this year, the May 17, 2008 General Membership meeting will be the last opportunity for nominations to be submitted in order to allow time for the absentee ballot process. Nominations **will not** be taken from the floor at the Annual Membership meeting on July 19, 2008, as has been the custom in the past.

Here's how the nomination process will take place:

1. Eligibility for Nomination - Nominees must be Members in good standing of the Association with all assessments and dues paid in full prior to the May 17, 2008 General Membership meeting.
2. Self-Nominations - If eligible, you can fill out and submit a Nomination Acceptance Form to the WLLA office prior to May 17, 2008. A copy of this form can be found at the end of this newsletter, and forms are also available at the WLLA office.
3. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the **May 17, 2008** General Membership meeting. The individual nominated must accept the nomination either in person or in writing and must fill out a Nomination Acceptance Form.

***Deadline for
nominations for the
July 2008 elections
of the WLLA Board
of Directors is
May 17, 2008***

Here's how the Absentee Ballot process will take place:

1. The Nominating Committee will draw up an absentee ballot based on the eligible nominations received following the procedure outlined above.
2. Absentee ballots will be available beginning **June 1, 2008**.
3. Members are required to sign for the absentee ballot. Therefore, ballots may be picked up at the WLLA office or may be requested to be mailed by submitting a signed letter of request to the WLLA office.
4. Each absentee ballot will include a plain, non-identifiable envelope (in which the completed ballot will be placed and sealed) as well as an outer envelope that will show the name and address of the voting member.
5. Only one absentee ballot will be issued for each membership household as per the one vote per household rule.
6. Absentee ballots must be postmarked or if dropped off, received by the WLLA office by **July 12, 2008**.
7. Members who request an absentee ballot may not later rescind the ballot and vote at the Annual Membership (Election) meeting July 19, 2008.
8. Absentee ballots will be opened and counted at the July 19th Annual Membership meeting along with the votes cast at that meeting.

*“Use what talents you
possess: the woods
would be very silent if no
birds sang there but
those that sang best.”*

Henry van Dyke
(1852-1933)

Welcome Norma

Norma Prigge has joined the staff at the WLLA office. She has extensive office experience and is computer literate. She has been on staff since March 25, 2008 and is a delight to work with.
Bernie Reyes, President

Splash Back from page 2

I would like to introduce myself, Peter Wulforst, as the new Lake Committee Chair. In addition to working with Joe on the issues outlined, the lake committee will also be pursuing the control of the Canada Geese population by adding the eggs to prevent nesting. We have received a permit to conduct such activities. Other activities of the lake committee include monitoring the Walker Lake Dam and Walker Lake fishery.

For me it is a pleasure to be back as your consultant. I haven't really left the community, since I have been involved with the aquatic plant control problems that have cropped up occasionally over the past few years. I personally look forward to the challenge of solving many of the management issues and concerns that still exist within your community. Hopefully, I will see many of you out on the water this summer.

For the Health of the Lake

By Kim Boriin

It's time for our Spring chores and so please remember to think of the health of the lake.

As we each prepare our yards for the growing season it's our responsibility to use phosphorous free fertilizers, and for cleaning, phosphorous free soaps and detergents. Also, remember that if 2008 is the year to clean your septic system, now is a great time to schedule that.

From the WLLA Rules and Regulations, section III Ownership Responsibilities:

E. WATERSHED RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) Responsibility for the watershed. WL Landowners (and tenants) are responsible for maintaining proper drainage from contiguous roads and culverts contiguous to their property, as well as from their own lawns and property. This includes avoiding the dumping of leaves, dirt, sand, or other debris into the culverts and drainage ditches. Culverts adjacent to one's own property should be cleared on an "as needed" basis. Likewise, landowners MUST use phosphorous-free fertilizers, soaps and detergents wherever possible, because the phosphorous seeps out from the leaching fields and drains into the lake, even from higher up on the mountain. One source of phosphorous-free fertilizers is:
 - a) Lakeside Lawn Fertilizer, Aquatic Chems, Inc., P.O. Box 132, Caledonia, MI 49316, tel. 616-891-1294 or 313-735-4886

C.) USE OF PROPERTY

- 4) All septic systems must be in compliance with all applicable regulations. They should be cleaned at appropriate intervals and otherwise maintained in good condition. Suggestions for proper maintenance:
 - a) Clean the tank every three years. Households of low usage can probably manage with five years.
 - b) Do not use more than one shower at a time, or when running a dishwasher.
 - c) Avoid using a garbage disposal, as these add tremendously to the amount of solids entering the tank. This would also decrease the time between cleanings.
 - d) Install a lint trap on washing machines.

Green Living for a Healthy Lake

Walker Lake property owners met in February for a Forum to discuss who is shaping the future of Walker Lake. Twenty-two of us spent two hours discussing:

- The health of Walker Lake and how much building can the environment withstand?
- Maintaining a rural setting
- WLLA building codes
- Conservation of open spaces by WLLA and Private Residents
- Quality of life issues

We all agreed that it is important for the association to create stronger rules and regulations to maintain the water quality and stewardship of the lake as amount of development continues to increase.

A survey was passed out and we have seen now how important the quality of the environment is to our members. This survey will be taken at the next two Forums as well.

One being low attraction on the scale, ten being high attraction

What is it about Walker Lake that attracted you to buy property here?	AVERAGES
Water Quality / Health of the Lake	8.9
WLLA Beaches and Boat Landings	8.2
Rural Character	9.8
Fish and Wildlife	8.6
Wooded Landscape	9.7
Peace and Quiet	9.6
Affordability	8.4

One being low concern on the scale, ten being high concern

There has been an increase in development recently. How concerned are you about the following?	AVERAGES
Noise Pollution	9.1
Contamination of Ground Water/Wells	9.7
Lake Water Quality	9.6
Pressure on Wildlife Habitat	9.0
More Vehicular Traffic	9.3
Storm Water Runoff	9.6
Adherence to Building Codes	9.1
Increased Density of Homes	9.4
Personal Safety and Property Security	8.0

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

To continue the conversation we are organizing additional WLLA community events to be held at the Read Clubhouse:

May 10th Saturday 2 - 4 p.m.

“Native Plants for a Healthy Environment”, Sheila Salmon, Penn State Master Gardener

Learn how to select native plants for woodland, meadow, moist or wetland conditions: plants that are easy-care, deer resistant, and attractive to birds, butterflies and other friendly creatures. Penn State Master Gardener Sheila Salmon, will bring some plants and present an illustrated talk. She will also try to answer your questions about native plants, what to plant instead of a lawn, how to garden in rocky soil, and how to decrease runoff and topsoil loss with a rainwater garden.

Sunday May 11th and Sunday July 13th at 2 p.m.

Two more Forums on, **“Who is shaping the Future of Walker Lake?”** will take place at the Community House. The July forum will host guest speaker, Hella Hendrickson of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy who will discuss the benefits of land preservation.

We look forward to everyone’s participation at all of these events.

Help the Humane Society

By Kellee Cicala, WLLA Office Manager

As you may have read in the Dispatch, the Pike County Humane Society is in dire need of donations. WLLA has donated money to the shelter, but we need your help. Here is a list of the items needed:

- Monetary donations
- Used ink jet cartridges, all brands EXCEPT Epson. You can drop them off at the WLLA office, the shelter, or the Grand Union.
- Canned dog and cat food
- Dry food (no Gravy Train)
- Kitty litter
- Treats
- Dog toys (old tennis balls are perfect)
- Blankets for bedding
- Cleaning supplies like sponges, ant-bacterial dishwashing liquid, paper towels, and Clorox bleach
- Collars and leashes

Website: http://members.petfinder.org/~PA90/pchs_frames.html

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

Plans are underway for a few activities but help and volunteers are needed! Here are some of our plans:

Pancake Breakfast
50’s Dance
Bus Trip

Please call Fran Orth at 296-5528 with any other ideas and to volunteer to help. All suggestions are welcome.

This is a great way to meet your neighbors and be part of our community.

The Humane Society is now accepting PayPal donations on their website. The biggest need is for VOLUNTEERS. Please pick up a volunteer application at the WLLA office or simply download it from their website. For more information please contact Kellee at the WLLA office, 570-296-7788 or the shelter directly at 570-296-7654.

Please use the form below if you are interested in running for a seat on the WLLA Board of Directors. The openings are Secretary (two year position), Treasurer (two year position), 5 Directors (three year position), 1 Director (two year position).

Please note: Certain qualifications apply for the positions of Secretary and Treasurer

Nomination Acceptance Form

(Due in WLLA office by May 17th, 2008)

I, _____, agree to accept the nomination in the WLLA 2008 election, for the position of

Print Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Personal Statement: (This is optional, but we would like to include your statement with the absentee ballot & in the newsletter to better familiarize the membership with all of the candidates. If additional space is needed, please use the back of the form.)

