

# Echoes From Our Lake

November/December 2008  
Volume 108

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

## Kids Make Halloween a Pumpkin-Smashing Success

More than thirty costumed children (and almost that many adults!) attended and enjoyed



a special Halloween event at the festive and spookily decorated Read Clubhouse on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. The place was buzzing with activity for most of the night. Favorite attractions were Esmeralda, the famous fortune-telling-gypsy-artiste, games of chance and daring (pumpkin and ring toss and the scary "goo" station) and many holiday crafts to keep all the little monsters entertained. There were tasty treats and drinks generously prepared by the Ladies Club. This was the inaugural event hosted by the WL Youth Committee: Kelly and Alison Wulfhorst, Diane and Sarah Brosch and Kim Boriin. We can't wait to see what they come up with next!

They say "Thank You!" to the many volunteers who created such a wonderful Halloween party.

(Pictured) Halloween Tot joins his friends at the Walker Lake Youth Group party.

## Presidents Message

By Bernie Reyes

There has been a significant increase of Gypsy moth egg masses in this community since last year. We suffered quite a lot of damage in 2008 and 2009 promises to be even more devastating to our trees. The Board of Directors has approved a special assessment to be added to the invoices for 2009. The amount for each landowner will be \$30.00 for property holdings up to one acre, \$35.00 for one acre to 2.2 acres, and \$ 56.00 for holding over 2.2 acres. It is imperative that we prevent further damage to our trees and thereby preserve the beauty of our community and prevent property values from dropping due to deforestation.

Please remember to keep your vehicles parked in your driveways and garages during the winter months. The roads must be kept clear for the snow plows to do their job. Your cooperation is needed and appreciated.

We have many programs available in which the community can participate. These programs need your support. Volunteers are the lifeblood of any successful program. Support your programs by attending them and if possible volunteer to organize and participate in bringing them to the community. If you have ideas about a program you would like to see here at Walker Lake,

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tell a member of the Board or bring it to the attention of Norma or Mary Agnes in the office. They will make sure your idea gets the attention of the right person.

**Board of  
Directors  
December  
Meeting  
Saturday  
Dec. 20, 2008  
10:00 pm**

Read Clubhouse

This is where the  
business of your  
association is conducted.

Members are welcome  
and encouraged to attend.

## News from the WLLA Office

Thanks to all the generous people of Walker Lake who donated to the McNamara family in Pocono Mountain Lake Forest who suffered a devastating fire.

Lost & Found: a large black and white umbrella in the office

Reminder: The office will be closed December 25 through January 2 and will re-open January 3, 2009

## Road Assessments

Roads owned by WLLA provide access to WLLA beaches, boat landing, and other deeded amenities. Historically, the cost of maintaining this access has been borne by a small segment of the WLLA population who pay WLLA road assessments even though all landowners have use of association roads to carry out their deeded rights to the lake. The records for explaining this inequity have been lost in time. Lawyers have told us repeatedly that legally all landowners should be paying for association roads.

### WHAT TO DO?

The Board of Directors has struggled with this problem for years. It has come up with a solution to remedy the inequity involved in the care and maintenance of association roads. The proposal is to establish a specific start date after which all NEW LANDOWNERS will be required to pay WLLA road assessments. THIS PROPOSAL WOULD NOT CREATE A CHANGE FOR CURRENT LANDOWNERS.

Because this issue is controversial, the Board has decided to put the proposal to a vote of landowners. This vote will be conducted by mail-in ballot. AGAIN, PLEASE NOTE: THIS PROPOSAL WOULD NOT CREATE A CHANGE FOR CURRENT LANDOWNERS.

*Ballots will be mailed to property owners. Please watch your mail and return your completed ballot promptly.*

## *Fall/Winter Calendar of Events*

**Saturday, December 6**

**10 am – 12 noon**

### **Breakfast with Santa**

Load Gramps, Gramm and the tykes in the sleigh and slide on over to the clubhouse for pancakes, sausage and all the fixins'. The big guy in the red suit will pick up the tab for association members. Bring a few bucks for photos of Susie and Johnny as they sit on his lap and whisper their lists in the jolly one's ear; word has it the Ladies' Club may bake some treats for you to buy to take home.

**Saturday, December 13**

**7 pm – 10 pm**

### **Men's Club**

A night of "tall" storytelling, games, and TV will happen every second Saturday of the month at the clubhouse from 7pm to 10pm. Bring your own refreshments and snacks. We are asking for \$2.00 each month in dues to pay for the cost of cable TV. Let's get together and share some laughs with some very interesting guys.

**Friday, December 19**

**7 pm – 10 pm**

### **Games Night**

There will be a games night each third Friday of the month from 7pm to 10 pm in the clubhouse. Card Bingo, Scrabble, Poker, you name the game. Bring our own refreshments and snacks and enjoy an evening with your friends and neighbors. The last game night we had was a lot of fun.

Take a break from Christmas shopping and relax and "bring your game".

**Saturday, December 20**

**10 am – 12 noon**

### **December Board of Directors Meeting**

**Thursday, December 25 -**

**Friday, January 2**

### **Office Closed**

Walker Lake Office will be closed

**Wednesday, December 31**

**7 pm – 1am**

### **New Year's Eve**

The clubhouse will be open. BYO food and drink and spend some time with your neighbors celebrating the New Year. There will be music and (hopefully) TV so that we can watch the ball drop. Let's have some fun together. We won't have to travel to do it!

**Saturday, January 17**

**10 am – 12 noon**

### **January Board of Directors Meeting**

**Saturday, January 17**

**1:30 pm**

### **Gas Drilling Meeting**

"What is Fracking?" presented at the Delaware Valley High School by Pike County Citizens for Clean Water, Twin and Walker Lake Creeks Conservancy, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, WLLA and other local community associations to explore the health and environmental impacts of gas drilling in our area.

## Good Neighbors Corner

Just a few observations around Walker Lake:

It was quite refreshing to see a young woman last week clean up after her 2 dogs while walking on Walker Lake Rd! Finally, someone has the decency to be considerate of others walking in the same area. Stepping in "it" can be quite frustrating and messy, especially on one's own property, when one doesn't even own a dog! Not only is this considered rude, but unhealthy as well. Animal waste containing E. Coli, coliform bacteria, salmonella and giardia drains into our lake and is unhealthy to other pets and people that come in contact with it. It only takes a second to scoop it up. And using a biodegradable bag is a plus. Kudos to this young woman for being what I consider a good neighbor. Her consideration should be appreciated by all. - *If you have an idea for Good Neighbors Corner, email to [wlla@ptd.net](mailto:wlla@ptd.net) or bring it to the office. Perhaps we will use it in the next newsletter.*

## What Do You Think?

By Keith LaPan

The article at left, submitted by a member of our community, got me to thinking. Have you ever said something like "why don't 'they' do something about (fill-in-the-blank) problem in this community?" The answer is that 'they' are **you** and your neighbors. You probably know that most of the things that get accomplished here happen because of the volunteers that do them. After all, no one is going to do it for us. So, next time you find yourself grouching about what 'they' are doing or not doing, ask yourself what you are doing to be a part of the solution. And then come join us in volunteering to make WL the best it can be. If you have great ideas to improve our community, you will find a lot of folks down at the club house who want to help you make it happen. Just remember, there is no 'they', there is only 'us'.

### CALL FOR STUDENT ARTISTS

DRAWING, PAINTING, PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEO, COMPUTER GRAPHICS,  
MUSICAL COMPOSITION AND PERFORMANCE  
REPRESENT YOUR LOVE OF THIS BEAUTIFUL AREA  
THE LAKES, THE RIVERS, THE STREAMS  
FISHING, HIKING, SWIMMING  
RUNNING, PLAYING, ROLLING IN THE GRASS  
CLEAN AIR & WATER,  
RESPECT FOR PEACE & QUIET

# SAFER

Student Arts Forum for  
Ecological Responsibility

(it's a mouthful, but share your creativity!!)

*Bring your offerings to the WLLA Office*

*Or call Judy: 570-296-2134 for information.*

# Splash Back

By  
Joe Gallagher  
Ecological Solutions, Inc.

Peter Wulfhorst  
Lake Committee Chair

The leaves have fallen and winter has begun. It's hard to believe that just a few short weeks ago we were on the lake in shorts and T-shirts doing the annual fishery survey.

The results of this year's fishery survey were quite different than last year. We caught many "quality-size" largemouth bass, numerous panfish, and several large chain pickerel. The bass averaged 10 to 12 inches in length, with one measuring just over 22 inches!!! Pumpkinseed sunfish and yellow perch were the primary panfish species captured, although there were bluegills in the sample. Most of the panfish were 4 to 5 inches in length. The results of the survey indicate that the quality of the fishery has improved since 2007, and that the fish are doing

well. Supplemental stockings planned for the spring and fall of 2009, which should only improve the fishery. Part of the stocking program includes the introduction of black crappie as an alternative to bluegill since the bluegill don't seem to be doing as well as the other panfish species.

We concluded the aquatic plant management program in September as well. Several individual property owners had contacted the office requesting that we treat the water lilies that were growing along their lake fronts. The lilies were sprayed with a chemical herbicide and on a follow-up visit it appeared that they had begun to die back. The lake committee's & Ecological Solutions philosophy is to only use chemical herbicides when and where they are needed. We have tried to use chemical herbicides in areas where plant growth has encroached on docks. Areas adjacent to docks and those portions of the lake not utilized for boating and/or swimming have been left alone to provide much needed habitat for fish. Unless directed otherwise, we will continue this same management philosophy at Walker Lake in the future.

Another issue the lake committee discussed is the introduction of invasive aquatic organisms from boats that are on Walker Lake that were used at other lakes. It is important for boat owners to clean their boats before they are used at Walker Lake to prevent the possible introduction of aquatic organisms from those other water bodies.

To finish out this season we are developing conceptual designs for a proposed sediment and erosion control basin adjacent to Sandy Beach. This area receives a large amount of runoff from the roadway and residential developments to the north. The basin will be designed to collect the sediment and prevent it from entering the lake, which will help maintain the excellent water quality of the lake.

We personally have enjoyed working with your Association in 2008, and look forward to continued work with your community in the future. Happy holidays to everyone, see you in 2009!!!

Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association, Inc.  
100 Walker Lake Road  
Shohola, PA 18458

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John Innaco-Crime Watch

**Key Contacts**

Norma Prigge-Office  
Mary-Agnes Dorney- Office  
Jeffrey Seeds-Webmaster