

Echoes From Our Lake

March/April 2009
Volume 110

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

Fresh Start for Membership

by Rose Murphy

With the worst of winter behind us (we hope!) we can all look forward to WL waking up for spring. Now is a good time for all of us to make a conscious effort to stay positive and take a fresh look at our community. We can start planning for lazy days of summer and dream of the countless hours under the summer sun. All of us who live here at WL love our community. Did you ever say to yourself, "Too bad we don't have here like at those other communities" or "Wish we had a playground, our kids get so bored all summer", or "we could use a". Well, maybe we can. The only thing holding us back is you getting involved and telling us how you feel and what you would like to see or do that would enhance our community. Everyone is focusing on "more is less". Here at WL we say, "more is better!" We want more people to come out and join us. Give us your input. If you haven't joined up yet, do so now. We welcome new members. We are here to represent you, come get to know us and let us know what you are thinking. The next membership meeting is Saturday, May 16th.

Please email us or call and leave a message at the Clubhouse. Or better yet, come and join us at one of our upcoming Board or Membership meetings. Let us know how we can implement ideas you have to meet the needs of our members. You may want to be part of the change or work on a specific project or committee. Fantastic!! Or maybe you would like to make a suggestion, but do not have the time or knowledge to go about it. That's OK too. But don't let that hold you back from sharing your thoughts and ideas. We are waiting to hear from you. Do it now, so we can get started. Summer is right around the corner!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Fresh Start for Membership
News from the WLLA Office
- 2 Mom's Pancake Breakfast
Women's Club
Bocce Ball
Thank you, Bernie
- 3 Good Neighbors Corner
Recent Passings
- 4 Calendar of Events
Beaches
- 5 Splash Back
- 6 Board Elections
- 7 Important Forms

News from the WLLA Office

By Norma Prigge

Get your newsletter by email

In an effort to save paper, printing and mailing costs of the Association newsletter, WLLA will begin a newsletter email program. It's easy: for those members who want immediate access to the latest newsletter, we will email a web link to you as soon as it is ready to be viewed at the WLLA website.

If you want to receive the newsletter notification by email: Tell us so by sending an email to the office at wlla@ptd.net with the words *email the link to my newsletter* in the subject

line. We will include you in the program for the next newsletter.

If you want to continue to receive your newsletter via US mail:

No need to do anything. We will print it, stamp it and post it so that you continue to receive your newsletter via snail mail.

Permits and badges

Beach badges, parking and boat permits will be available soon. For those who are unable to stop in the office during normal business hours (Tuesday through Friday, 10 AM – 1 PM and Saturday from 9 AM to 2 PM), *permits and badges can be mailed to you if you submit a self-addressed stamped envelope along with the request form on page 7*. Please note that we cannot send the badge pins through the mail. If you don't have last year's pins and need them, they will be available in the office. If you have your Parking and Boat/Dock permit(s) and just need an '09' update sticker, kindly note the permit numbers on your request as well as the number of beach/tennis badges you required.

Mothers Day Pancake Palooza!

by Fran Orth

Come celebrate Mother's Day with a Pancake Breakfast, Saturday May 9th at the Read Clubhouse. Bring the family, it's time for the ladies to celebrate "Mom's Day", compliments of the Association.

We are also planning for a couple of bus trips - one to a Scranton Wilkes-Barre Yankees game at PNC field. A great trip for the family to see a ball game at a reasonable price! More details about future trips in the next newsletter. If interested please call Fran 296-5528; any ideas and suggestions are welcome.

Bocce Ball, Anyone?

We would love to start a Bocce League at Walker Lake. The game is easy, perfect for all ages, and needs very little equipment. A normal game takes 2 hours of gentle, fun play. We could play outdoors in good weather or indoors in the Clubhouse basement in poor weather. Please let the office know if you would like to participate.

Women's Club Fashion Tea

Thank you to the Women's Club for all the help they give in getting special mailings and newsletters out to the community. These volunteers are often found working behind the scenes, expecting nothing in return. They make Walker Lake a rich place indeed and we are very grateful to them. They are planning a Fashion Show and Tea on Saturday, June 6th. Mark your calendars for an afternoon of fun and fashion.

Thank you Bernie

Thank you to Bernie Reyes for his many contributions to the community over the last few years as the Association's president and before that, as treasurer. He has given unselfishly of his time and expertise and truly made this a better place to live, work and play. Bernie and Adele continue to be active members of the community. We look forward to working more with them in the future. Vice-President Frank Dubowski will chair Board of Director meetings and General Membership meetings and fulfill official executive duties for the remainder of the term, until the September 2009 Membership Meeting at which time new officers will assume their responsibilities.

Good Neighbors Corner

Give it up by Andy Milne

How y'all doing? Can I get you anything? Coffee, newspaper, cigarettes? Anything else? What is it that makes your life enjoyable, easier, and satisfying? Being confident that you can depend on someone or something? Have you ever wondered what coffee, newspapers, and cigarettes have to do with living in a community like Walker Lake? Still interested?

Perhaps by sharing a bit of my personal involvement with the community, I can shed some light on what I'm getting at here. I moved here about 4.5 years ago from Brooklyn because I wanted to get away from the city, own a piece of property, keep to myself and enjoy a quiet existence in the country. Many of my experiences over the last 4 years have been surprises, including my becoming a member of the WLLA board of directors. I've enjoyed this particular surprise because I've made some good friends, learned a lot about the community (and myself), and the importance of collaboration. I volunteered to write a letter to the WLLA community because I believe Walker Lake, like the rest of America and the world, is facing a period of transition. And that like it or not, during these times we're all forced to re-evaluate some of our old expectations of the various communities with which we interact.

WLLA is truly at a crossroads. We have been experiencing rapid growth, a change in demographics, land usage and government regulations. From conversations I've had with members of the community who have been here since the 1950s, I understand that back in the old days, WLLA residents pulled together for just about everything and in fact did *the work* themselves. The terracing at Clubhouse Beach and the construction of the clubhouse itself are two huge examples. Today by comparison, our tendency is to *farm out* everything (security, lake, road and infrastructure maintenance), a change which is mirrored throughout society. Here's the problem. As we become more reliant on outsourcing tasks which service our common interests, we can lose sight of what our own responsibilities are. Perhaps it's because our self-interests and those of our communities overlap in ways which are invisible.

I realize that all of us lead busy lives, with our own individual responsibilities and needs. During the past three years as a member of the WLLA board of directors, I've grown to appreciate the efforts of everyone who serves this community. Unlike elected civic officials, board members are not employees, but our neighbors who volunteer to assist in the management of the community, doing so to the best of their abilities. Speaking of abilities, I think among our residents, is a broad cross-section of talents and skill sets that need to be more fully utilized so that we can share the workload more efficiently and create a greater sense of pride and community. I thank you for taking the time to read this.

If you want to write a column for Good Neighbors Corner, email wlla@ptd.net or contact the office.

Recent Passings

Jack Rauch

Survived by wife Lois, son, daughter, and grandchildren, Jack served as WLLA vice president and road chair. He was a great neighbor and friend and will be greatly missed.

Lou Trebony

Survived by wife Elizabeth, a son, daughter and grandchildren, Lou and family were very active in the community; in the hey day of jazz, he played with all of the greats.

Spring Calendar of Events

April 3rd & May 1st, Friday		Games Night Changed to first Friday of every month
April 15th & May 20th, Wednesday		Men's Night Held the third Wednesday of the month
April 18th, Saturday	10 am	WLLA Board of Directors Meeting
May 16th, Saturday	10 am	WLLA Board of Directors Meeting
	12:30 pm	WLLA General Membership Meeting
June 6th, Saturday		Women's Club Fashion Show & Tea see related article, page 2
June 13th, Saturday	10 am	T&W Creeks Watershed Conservancy Mike Lovegreen from Bradford County

Conservation District will make a presentation dealing with history and development and stream dynamics, especially geared to a lake community. His presentation will include a marvelous slide show, with a very knowledgeable narrative. It is a great opportunity for everyone in our Walker Lake and Twin Lakes community to hear and see the pros and cons of how, water, which is one of the most valuable commodities here in Pike County affects us and the future generations who will follow.

Upcoming Events

July 11th, Saturday	Penny Social
July 25th, Saturday	Annual Beach Party The date has changed to the last Saturday of July for this year's beach party. Tell your neighbors to come to the Clubhouse beach; party volunteers, note the date change!

Beaches

In 2007 and 2008, beaches in local Community Associations were visited by Pennsylvania Dept. of Health Inspectors. Walker Lake was no exception. The DOH determined that they have jurisdiction over our private beaches, despite the fact that we have been maintaining our beaches without their help for many years. Several members of the WLLA board met recently with other local association leaders to determine a strategy for dealing with the rules the state wants to impose on us. Later this month, this group will meet with a DOH inspector to determine the scope of state oversight and how we might satisfy some of their demands without incurring unnecessary, potentially unaffordable expenses to meet their specifications.

Walker Lake has been a water quality leader, testing the lake waters on a weekly basis during swimming season. Our lake has some of the finest swimming and fishing around; we'd like to keep it that way while keeping it private and accessible to members only.

Splash Back

By

Joe Gallagher

Ecological Solutions, Inc.

Peter Wulfhorst

Lake Committee Chair

Finally the snow is gone, the ice has melted, and it's time to begin thinking about the busy lake management season ahead of us. As a lake committee, we have already had our first meeting of the season. At that meeting, we discussed our plans for the upcoming summer. Here are just a few of the things that we have planned for this year.

First and foremost, we will begin our resident goose control program in April. If you are unfamiliar with this program, it involves maintaining or reducing the number of resident geese that make Walker Lake their home. When too many geese reside at the lake, health issues become a concern. Unfortunately geese like to frequent the swimming

beaches just as much as we do, but the feces they leave behind can make the beaches unsafe for swimming. Our control program involves locating the nesting geese and destroying the eggs before they can hatch. The eggs are punctured and then placed back in the nest so that the adult geese will continue to incubate the eggs. Because the eggs have been punctured they will never develop and hatch. We need your help in locating the nests as soon as possible so that the eggs are punctured before they begin to develop. If you find or know the location of any goose nests, please contact the office and let us know where the nest is located. Your help in the program will ensure that the beaches and lake remain a healthy place for us to swim this summer.

Once again we will be monitoring and treating aquatic vegetation in the lake. Our goal is to maintain a healthy, balanced aquatic plant community that is comprised of native plant species. As you know, this is a challenge because often times plants grow around docks or grow in excess, creating a variety of management problems. We will continue to chemically treat areas around docks where plant growth restricts access to the docks or where plants prevent access to the shoreline. Another concern is the establishment of non-native plant species such as common reed (*Phragmites australis*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*). Your help identifying populations of these non-native species will be greatly appreciated.

The Walker Lake dam was inspected last fall and is in good shape. The engineer recommended some additional riprap along the spillway retaining walls and vegetation removal below the spillway. Finally, the lake committee will be stocking 6"-8" Largemouth Bass this spring. This is based on two years of fisheries studies conducted by Joe Gallagher. As always, the lake committee and our consultant look forward to working to provide a great resource – Walker Lake – to our community. Together we will do our best to make Walker Lake the best lake in the Poconos. See you on the water!

Walker Lake Elections 2009

It's time to start thinking about the July 18th election of Officers and Directors for the Board of Directors of the Association. This year the election is for the President, Vice President and five Directors. If you are concerned about what happens in the community, here is your opportunity to be part of the solution.

As it was last year because of our absentee ballot process, the May 16, 2009 General Membership meeting will be the last opportunity for nominations to be submitted. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the May 16th General Membership meeting. Nominations **will not** be taken from the floor at the Annual Membership meeting on July 18, 2009.

Here's how the Nomination process takes 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 16, 2009 General Membership meeting. Candidates for President must have served at least one year as a member of the Board of Directors.
2. Self-Nominations – If eligible, you can fill out and submit a Nomination Acceptance Form to the WLLA office prior to May 16, 2009. 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 be accepted from the floor at the May 16, 2009 General Membership meeting. The individual nominated must accept the nomination, either in person or in writing and must fill out a Nomination Acceptance Form.

Here's how the Absentee Ballot process takes 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, 2009.
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.
6. Absentee ballots must be postmarked and/or received by the WLLA office by July 11, 2009.
7. Members who request an absentee ballot may not later rescind the ballot and vote at the Annual Membership (Election) meeting July 18, 2009.
8. Absentee ballots will be opened and counted at the July 18th Annual Membership meeting along with the votes cast at that meeting.

If you'd like to find out more about what's involved in being a member of the Board of Directors, please contact the WLLA office and a member of the Nominating Committee will get back to you.

Nomination Acceptance Form

(Due in WLLA office by May 16th, 2009)

I, _____, agree to accept the nomination in the WLLA 2009 for the election, 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.)

2009 Badge/Parking/Boat/Dock Permit Request	✓ Number of Beach/Tennis Badges:
	✓ Number of <u>New</u> Parking Permits:
	<i>Please note the vehicle license plate # for each new Parking Permit:</i>
	✓ Number of <u>New</u> Boat/Dock Permit(s) :
	<i>Please note type & model of Boat for each new permit:</i>
	Please list the Parking and/or Boat/dock permit numbers for which you need '09' update stickers:
	Please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope with your request. Note that badge pins cannot be mailed.

Address

Name

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

Address Service Requested

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
Paid
Shohola, PA
Permit No. 14

Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association
Officers

Vice President: Frank Dubowski, Jr.
Treasurer: Art Politano
Secretary: Paul DuBrow

Board of Directors

William Carpenter
Barbara DiMiao
Roseanne Gargiulo
Mary Iverson

Charlie Kieselmann
Kathy Kilmer
Keith LaPan
Judy Mays

Andrew Milne
Rose Murphy
Fran Orth
Art Politano

Bill Reese
Jeffrey Seeds

Non-Board Chairpersons

Peter Wulfhorst-Lake
John Innaco-Crime Watch
Kim Boriin-Youth
Nancy Olsen-Beach and Grounds

Key Contacts

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