

Echoes From Our Lake

September/October
2009

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President's Message

On Saturday, September 19, 2009, the first Board Of Directors and the first General membership meeting was held under the new WLLA administration. These meetings proved to be quite a success, and also proved how positive things can come about when we all work together as a team.

Another very important outcome of the meeting was that the 2010 budget for WLLA was approved by an overwhelming majority. As you know, the 2010 budget was first approved by the Board Of Directors, and then put forth before the General membership for a final vote. A lot of sweat equity was put into the preparation of the 2010 budget, and I want to give a special thanks to Bernie Reyes for his continuing commitment and dedication to our community. Also, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to the community members who attended the General Membership meeting.

A special welcome is in order for our two new Board members, Tom Tate and Nancy Olson.

Oh! Another very important and exciting announcement is that the increase in assessments on members' next invoices will be \$30.00 less than was originally proposed for the 2010 budget. This is due to improvements, to our infrastructure, that were paid for out of the 2009 budget and won't impact the 2010 budget. This is fantastic!

During my transition to the Presidency of WLLA, I was able to see, firsthand, the inner workings of the various committees we have. To my knowledge, all are doing extremely good jobs for the betterment of the WLLA community, and I know this will continue into the future. I do wish, though, to point out one committee that is presently the most visible right now - and the most important - and this is the Road Committee. Headed by Kathy Kilmer, a lot of projects have been completed, with others continuing to go forward. As all should be aware by now, the new storage shed is progressing as planned, and, in a short time, we will see it to completion. Also, Kathy is pleased to announce that the Onandaga project is complete and the road is now open.

Once again I thank all the committees of WLLA for their utmost dedication to the betterment of our community.

I wish you all the best for the upcoming Winter/Spring season. The next General Membership meeting is scheduled for May 2010. Until then - remember - be safe - be happy - be prosperous - and above all, keep us in your thoughts as we stay and work through the next eight (8) months to try to do our best for all concerned.

My warmest wishes,
Art W. Politano



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Social News *by Fran Orth*

- * Update on the bus trip to Radio City: Rockettes Christmas Show is scheduled for November 30th. All 32 tickets have been sold and we are taking names for a waiting list. There **are** tickets available for \$25.00 to go to NY City for that day and do your own thing.
- * We are also working on having a Costume Disco Dance & Potluck Dinner on October 30th.
- * The fire company is having a **Halloween Trick or Treat Party** for younger children at our Walker Lake Firehouse on October 31st, and later that night there will be a "Haunted House" for the older kids also at our Walker Lake Firehouse.



Fall Calendar of Events

Saturday, October 17	Board of Directors Meeting 10:00 AM
Friday, October 30	Costume Disco Dance & Potluck Dinner
Saturday, October 31	Halloween Party & Haunted House at the Firehouse
Saturday, November 21	Board Of Directors Meeting 10:00 AM
Monday, November 30	Bus Trip to Radio City Christmas Show <i>[sold out! Wait list only.]</i>
Saturday, December 19	Board of Directors Meeting 10:00AM

The Men's club is now meeting on the First and Third Wednesdays of the month for the winter, 7:00 PM in the Read Clubhouse.

SOLES 4 SOULS SHOE DRIVE *by Barbara Silver*

Thanks so much to all who donated shoes for our drive. One box containing 20 pairs of shoes/boots/sneakers/sandals was mailed to their warehouse in Alabama and the next one is packed with 22 pairs, ready to be shipped. Please keep them coming!!

For your information: the box and shipping costs amounted to about \$25 for the first carton, so I would appreciate any donations you can make to offset these costs. Please see Norma or Mary Agnes with your contributions. Thanks for "helping change the world one pair at a time."

The website is: www.soles4souls.com if you want to learn more. You can even sign up for a "shoe distribution trip" if you are so moved!



Caveat Emptor by Tom Tate

Most of you, dear readers, will have received a nice, glossy pale green postcard inviting you to a free dinner at the Dimmick or some other local eatery to learn how to save up to 35% on your electric bills. As the article title warns, "Buyer beware."

The card comes from Utility Management Associates, a firm offering products and services to help you reduce energy consumption by dramatic amounts. Their offering consists of two things. The first is radiant insulation for the home. This is a foil-faced board, about ¼" thick that is installed in the attic. The design concept is to reflect rising heat back into the home in the winter and reflect outside heat back away from the home in the summer. The second is a black box that claims to correct phase angles, increase load factor, store excess energy and generally reduce your electric bill by at least 11%.

Let's take both individually. Radiant insulation can be effective in helping keep your home comfortable and save money in the process. Properly applied, in conjunction with proper insulation of the normal kind, it will do as advertised. However, these folks charge a premium for the job over what you can find locally and their product is no better than any other radiant shield.

The black box is a different kettle of fish altogether. Residential electric services cannot benefit from the technologies they claim they offer. You have to be a significant industrial user to realize benefit and then the equipment is massive. The black box claims to "store" energy in capacitors until you need it. Unless their product stores the power in a trans-dimensional space, there simply is no room to store any appreciable amount of energy. The power conditioning does nothing to help extend typical residential appliance life and you can get whole house surge protection for far less than the \$1000.00 or so they charge for their product.

If you want a free dinner, go ahead and attend. I like the Dimmick a lot. But under no circumstances, buy anything or agree to a visit from the firm. Maybe you can get a free lunch after all.

[The author, your future newsletter editor, manages the marketing and member services functions at Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative. Part of his job is to advise his consumers of scams and shake-downs. Consider yourself warned.]

News from the WLLA Office

Please note that the office will be closed on the following days:

Saturday, October 10 (Columbus Day weekend)

Saturday, October 25 – Office will close at 12:00 Noon

Wednesday, November 11 (Veteran's Day)

Thursday & Friday, November 26 & 27 (Thanksgiving)

December 25 through January 1 – Christmas & New Year's



Don't forget that you can get your newsletter by e-mail. If you have already signed up, we thank you!
(Email us with your request at wlla@ptd.net)

Lost and found: A PA trailer license plate, keys, sunglasses, a ring. Kindly stop in the office to claim lost items.



The summer that never happened is finally over and we are moving into fall. Fall is my favorite time of the year. Brilliant colors, crisp air, and the sounds of migrating geese are just a few of the things that immediately come to mind. However, it is also an important time of year as a lake manager.

During the early part of October we begin surveying fish populations in lakes throughout Pennsylvania. Walker Lake is one of the lakes we will sample again this year. The fishery survey is important because it not only provides us with information regarding the “health” of the fish population, but it also serves as a barometer of the overall “health” of the lake. Fish are the largest aquatic organisms found in the lake and represent the highest level of the food chain. Fish populations that are not “healthy” indicate a problem with some other part of the lake ecosystem. As your lake manager I strive to maintain a balanced ecological system, which in turn assures that your lake is “healthy”.

Controlling aquatic plant growth is a major part of our ongoing management program. We conservatively control aquatic plant growth with the use of selective aquatic herbicides. The goal of our plant management program is to maintain as much plant growth in the lake without restricting water use activities. This includes swimming, boating, and the overall aesthetic appearance of the lake. We have set a management goal of maintaining 30 to 40 percent coverage of aquatic plant growth in the lake. Only aquatic plants that restrict access to boat docks, prevent safe swimming, or are considered to be “invasive” are chemically treated. I know that this management philosophy is not always considered acceptable, but so far it has worked well at Walker Lake. Your lake is very “healthy”.

In the next few weeks we will be at the lake completing our end of the year sampling. By the end of the year we will provide the Association with an annual report detailing the results of the 2009 sampling program. The report will also include recommendations on aquatic plant control, fish stocking, and general management considerations recommended for the 2010 season. I encourage everyone in the community to read through this report so that you have a better understanding of how and why the lake is being managed the way it is. Your comments and input are critical to the success of your lake management program.



Carelessness = Euthanization by Roseanne E. Gargiulo

This year there were so many bears here at Walker Lake. We all loved seeing Momma Bear and her cubs. In fact, we are lucky enough to have 2 families of bears, and there were other bears walking through our lovely wooded area in which they have lived all of their lives. Some of these bears were tagged and had collars on them, which means that they are considered "nuisance" bears. The reality is that the bears are not the nuisance. The people who carelessly leave their garbage out overnight and days before garbage pickup are the nuisance. There is garbage on Maple Drive that was spread out by a bear in the early spring. Whomever that garbage belongs to must have thought that the bear was coming back to clean it up!

One day I overheard a conversation that one of our bears may be euthanized the next time he gets into someone's garbage. How unfair to our beautiful bears. Whoever it is that is so careless, perhaps they really should consider relocating. Our bears were here first, and they should not be killed because of the carelessness of people.

More Bear Information from the PA Game Commission

(From an email sent to the Walker Lake Office): "I read an article in your newsletter regarding bears. I was prompted to read it after being told that the Game Commission was to be contacted after a nuisance bear sighting. Just to clarify things, **a bear getting into garbage does not constitute a legitimate nuisance.** If a bear walks into an open garage and helps himself to whatever is there; that is not a nuisance nor are bears destroying birdfeeders. As the local WCO covering the entire half of northern Pike County, with only two bear traps, you can see where I must prioritize complaints to determine where a trap may be set. Bears causing property damage by actually breaking into garages, killing pets or attempting home entry are currently priorities.

Your advice on the ammonia or bleach was good. Bears will also break into sheds when there's smelly garbage available. The ammonia will help even when the garbage is in a shed. Bears have a sense of smell equal to, if not better than, a bloodhound. You can see why it's hard to keep them away! If a bear does get into ones shed, remove the garbage and put it in a garage or basement and continue to use the ammonia. A "bathroom sized" paper cup in each bag before it is tied tightly and then again on top of the garbage in the cans should be the very least amount used.

Trapping bears only provides temporary relief. An adult bear will return to its home range in a matter of days. A bear would have to be taken over 200 miles to "hopefully" assure it would not come back. A sow removed from her cubs will make a beeline back to where she was caught to look for her cubs. It is nearly impossible to remove a sow and all of her cubs. If the sow is caught in a culvert trap, the cubs usually retreat high into the trees, making them next to impossible to remove.

Hope this helps and should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully, Bob Johnson, WCO Pike County PA Game Commission"

[Note: There is more information on the website: <http://www.pgc.state.pa.us> with specific sites under 'Wildlife' for Nuisance Management, Living With Black Bears and NeighBEARhood Watch, among other interesting information.]



SUGGESTION BOX

There is now a new SUGGESTION BOX located adjacent to the Clubhouse's office main door. Please feel free to drop in any suggestions or concerns you may have. Whether you submit something anonymously or personally signed, be assured that you will be answered. If you sign it personally, I will respond to you personally. If you wish to remain anonymous - depending on the content - perhaps it will be addressed in a future issue of the Newsletter.
Thanks, *Art Politano*

Post No Bills by Tom Tate

Many will recognize this phrase from growing up and seeing it plastered across blank fences and walls in cities and towns across the US. The purpose of the signs were to warn people to not attach flyers, advertisements, campaign posters and such on these inviting, uncluttered spaces.

We have need of a Post No Bills update here in the Walker Lake community. Our community signs at the entrance to the development on Maple and at the mailbox cluster close to the fire house are no longer to be used to post announcements, signs and please of any type. Here's why:

1. The postings are frequently left well past the event's conclusion and rapidly become an eyesore.
2. They obscure the sign itself.
3. The constant stapling will eventually lead to damage to the community sign and an untimely need to replace the same.
4. It is illegal to post anything on US Postal Properties, i.e., the mailboxes.

The Board of Directors determined that these signs must not be used for any other purpose than to identify the community. A bulletin board is being acquired and will be installed near the mailbox cluster for use by residents. Please do not staple anything to the community signs from this point forward. If you have an event to promote or an animal to recover, post signs of your own construction along the road ways, if necessary. You should also refrain from stapling signs to the power and communications poles in the development as utilities typically restrict that activity. A pole covered with signs is harder to climb making it a hazard for their employees. While they infrequently enforce their regulation, sign posters run a risk since identifying information is almost always part of the sign.

We will look for additional means to promote events but in the meantime, please keep the signs off the community boards and poles. Consider using eBay and Craig's List to reach the electronic crowd.



Gas and Water Don't Mix: Advice for Landowners *by Peter Wulfhorst*

Shohola Township and Penn State Cooperative Extension in Pike County is offering a program for landowners who may be located near existing or future gas well-drilling activity. The Natural Gas Wells and Drinking Water program will include an information session by Bryan Swistock, Water Resources Extension Specialist, Penn State University & Penn State Extension Educator Peter Wulfhorst on gas well drilling basics, how gas wells can impact groundwater wells, regulations to protect private wells, potential water pollutants, testing strategies to ensure the safety of your water, how to collect water samples and interpretation of water test results.

The program will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Shohola Township Building on Twin Lakes Road. In addition, Shohola Township will be offering a gas/oil water test package through Penn State's Drinking Water Lab for the first 40 residents of Shohola Township at a reduced rate of \$27. The water test bottles will be returned to Shohola Township on Monday, October 26 by 9:30 AM. The basic package for gas/oil concerns includes tests for pH, total dissolved solids, barium and chloride. During the program, Mr. Swistock will also explain how to interpret your test results.

The program is free and is being supported by a grant from the Upper Delaware Council. For more information or to register, contact the Pike County Cooperative Extension office at 570-296-3400.

This program is for educational purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice.



~ Announcements ~

- ✓ Don't forget that Onandaga Road is now open for use!
(See 'President's Message' for details)
- ✓ The Men's Club will meet on the First and Third Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 PM
in the Read Clubhouse.

As always, your contributions and suggestions are welcome. The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is November 24, 2009. Please send submissions via email to the WLLA office at wlla@ptd.net, or in writing to WLLA, 100 Walker Lake Road, Shohola, PA 18458.

Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association, Inc.
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Address Service Requested

Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association Officers



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Peter Wulforth -WLLA Lake Committee Chairperson

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