

Echoes From Our Lake



Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association

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President's Message

Can't you just feel the fresh, clean crispness in the air as we enter another season of Fall here at Walker Lake? The changing of the foliage happening as if by "magic," and also this year's abundance of acorns dropping across our lawns, our cars, our homes, etc. We are also surprised at the very large size of the acorns this year...large enough to perhaps put a few dints on one's vehicle! But, alas, we can ponder that the wild animals will have plenty to eat this Fall, which, in turn, gives them plenty to store for the Winter months. For all you hunting enthusiasts, this will definitely mean a bit more bulk on the animals in which you hunt. There will probably be a few extra steaks on the table this year!

OK, let's get down to a bit of business that has taken place here at Walker Lake. On Saturday, September 18, 2010, very important meetings were held by the WLLA Board of Directors, and also the General Membership of Walker Lake. Besides the September 18, 2010 General Membership meeting being the last General Membership one of this year, it was the most important meeting of the year. At this meeting, a vote was taken to approve the WLLA 2011 budget. Success has been with us throughout the years, and this time was no exception. After ample time for the General Membership to pose questions about the 2011 WLLA budget, (and excellent answers provided by the WLLA Board of Directors), the budget was approved by the General Membership.

The three (3) parts of the budget were: 1) Approval by the WLLA Finance Committee; 2) Approval by the WLLA Board of Directors; 3) Approval by the General Membership. All three (3) of these parts were approved. Therefore we are set and ready for the 2011 year here in Walker Lake. We had a very nice turnout for the General Membership meeting on September 18, 2010, and for this I am very grateful. I thank all of you who attended this very important meeting.

On another note, I would also like to add a few comments on the new Collections Committee we have started since my Presidency of WLLA began. These collections are for homeowners who are very past due on their assessment payments. Yes, due to the economic climate currently facing us all, it may seem difficult to fully pay the assessments that are due on a yearly basis to WLLA. This is why there is also a payment plan in place for those who want to make payments on a regular basis to pay the assessments that they have due. These payment plans definitely alleviate much due hardship on those who can't make their payments in full when the assessments are due.

On the other hand, there are those homeowners who outright refuse to pay the assessments that they owe. These are the homeowners we are aggressively pursuing through the legal system, (i.e., Justice Cooper's Court). We are not putting liens on homeowners' homes, as may have been done in the past. Instead, after judgment is rendered in favor of the Plaintiff, (WLLA), the Defendant has thirty (30) days to appeal Justice Cooper's judgment for the Plaintiff. If no appeal is forthcoming, then the Sheriff's Office is engaged in going to the homeowner's home and taking an inventory of the homeowner's contents of the house. These contents will be sold at auction until such time as the amount auctioned equals the amount due to WLLA for past due assessments, (including attorney costs, court costs, and Sheriff's costs). This is the only effective way for WLLA to collect what is due. As of this writing, WLLA, through its Collections Committee, has had a 100% success rate. You can read more about the Collections Committee in this edition of the Newsletter.

One final thing to report...I know...bear with me with all my verbiage...is the new Road Committee. Everything has been working very smoothly, and will continue to do so. We have our snow plowing contract in place for the Winter season, which will begin on October 1, 2010, and run through April 15, 2011. Also, more important road work will be performed between now and the Winter Season...taken care of before our first snowfall.

In conclusion, I wish all of you a very happy Fall season in Walker Lake, and hope you are gearing up for the Winter season which will be upon us soon enough. There will be one more Newsletter coming out before the end of December, and we will list the accomplishments of WLLA for the 2010 year.

I wish you all the best!

Sincerely,

Art W. Politano
President/WLLA



Social Events at WLLA by Fran Orth

Summer at Walker Lake was filled with lots of good times: the Hawaiian Luau in July was a great success and the people who attended asked for a repeat next year. The planning is already in the works. The bus trip to the Sands in Bethlehem and Mt. Airy was sold out and was great fun as was the bus trip to Atlantic City.

The upcoming schedule includes a Halloween Pot Luck (costumes optional) on October 30, a Holiday Flea Market on Saturday, November 6 - 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM and our popular 'Breakfast with Santa' for kids young and old on December 11. All events will be held at the Clubhouse. There will also be a bus trip to Pocono Downs–Mohegan Sun on November 17th. Please watch the bulletin board for flyers with details.



Calendar of Events

Saturday, October 16 - 11 AM – 2 PM: Pumpkins in the Park (Rohman Park)

Saturday, October 18 - 10:00 AM: Board of Directors Meeting at the Clubhouse

Saturday, October 30 - Halloween Pot Luck

Saturday, November 6 - 9:30 AM-3:00 PM – Holiday Flea Market

Wednesday, November 17 - Bus Trip to Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs

Saturday, November 20 - 10:00 AM: Board of Directors Meeting at the Clubhouse

Saturday, December 11 - Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 18 - 10:00 AM: Board of Directors Meeting at the Clubhouse

Pumpkins in the Park



The 5th Annual 'Pumpkins in the Park' will be held at Rohman Park, 120 Twin Lakes Road on Saturday, October 16, from 11 AM to 2 PM. This event is sponsored by Boy Scout Troop #76 . There will be games, crafts, food and music, with a Costume Parade at 12 Noon. Rain date is Saturday, October 23. See you there!



News from the WLLA Office

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

Saturday, October 9 (Columbus Day weekend)

Thursday, November 11 (Veteran's Day)

Regular Office hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 AM – 1 PM

Caveat Emptor By Tom Tate

The season is upon us to beware of less than scrupulous companies. Soon you'll see offers for handcrafted Amish heaters, for space-age heaters in the hundreds of dollars that will slash your bills by unbelievable percentages. You may receive calls and letters from companies offering to save you money on your electric bills by changing suppliers. And finally, you may also be approached for your personal and financial information by people with felonious intent. This is going to be especially intense as the economic malaise continues.

First let me address the electric heater offers with a parable, adjusted for the purpose at hand.

The King's New Heater

Once upon a time, the king read that an amazing new heater was available that would slash his castle's heating costs by as much as 60%. The flyer stated that he shouldn't be fooled by imitation infrared heaters, as all electric heaters are not the same. Now the king was wary of the claim. Once before, a dishonest tailor had sold him a set of very expensive and exclusive clothing. These were special, one of a kind, for one day only, clothes. They were irascible! The

king purchased the clothes and held a parade so all the people could admire them until a child pointed out that the king was actually naked. Then everyone realized that the king had been swindled, and everyone had bought into the lie.

Once bitten and twice shy, the king called his local utility where he found the answers he needed. All electric resistance heaters produce exactly the same amount of heat; 3,413 British thermal units, for every kilowatt hour of electricity. This is the same for electric baseboard heaters, infrared heaters, mobile cabinet electric heaters, or electric heaters built by authentic traditional craftsman.

The only way to increase the efficiency of an electric heating system is to use a heat pump. Heat pumps use the refrigeration cycle to transfer heat from one area to another, and produce more British thermal units of heat with one kilowatt hour than any other type of electric heat.

Armed now with the facts, the king went to a local merchant and purchased a much less expensive heater and enjoyed the same output. The money he saved went to a new clothing fund.

The moral of the story? If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. All electric heaters are created equal – that’s the law of physics, or thermodynamics. There are bells and whistles to equip them with different features that you may prefer. However, the amount of heat produced is identical. And, you cannot save as much energy as they claim. Buy an inexpensive heater, turn your home thermostat back a few degrees and use the new unit to supplement the heat where you are. Remember; do not leave it on unless you are there. Now you’ll save some money.

Next, the calls and letters from energy marketers have been in circulation for several weeks.

These companies offer to save you 10 - 15% on your energy bills. Choose carefully and check the PA PUC website to be sure they are approved,

http://www.puc.state.pa.us/electric/electric_suppliers_list.aspx. Your savings will be on the energy part of your bill, not the entire amount. This means you will save on about 1/3 of your bill. I made the switch and have saved a few bucks every month. You will see suppliers offering green options for a premium in most cases. Renewable power is more expensive and if you select this option, you will not actually receive green power. Your power comes from the nearest generation source – blame physics. Buying green power means it displaces other power somewhere else in the system.

Finally, calls occur sporadically to people asking them for personal and financial information. Sometimes the caller pretends to be a company you are familiar with, sometimes not. Such calls will often come at odd hours for the express purpose of catching folks unawares and possibly tired or distracted. Most reputable companies do make such calls, especially at odd hours. If you receive one of these calls, ask for identification and a call back number. Hang up and call a number you know to let them know what happened. If they were trying to reach you, this is an acceptable approach.

These days it is important to exercise caution in matters of personal information and finance. When times are tough, the crooks get cleverer. Not a very good paraphrasing but I think you get the idea.

Meet Our Members

Talent abounds in Walker Lake. One of them is Scott Rando who was featured in the latest edition of the Upper Delaware Council. You can read about it here:

<http://www.upperdelawarecouncil.org/pdf/publications/udcnewsletter.pdf>

or stop in the office to read a copy. Scott is Shohola townships representative to the Upper Delaware Council and also serves on the WLLA Lake Committee.

Thank you Scott, for all you do for the community!



SHOES4SOLES UPDATE:

Two more boxes, containing 23 pairs of shoes, sneakers and boots, were mailed on September 23, with Pegge Dodge's help. I want to publicly thank Pegge for providing the cartons, helping to pack them and for "sponsoring" a box by paying the postage on one of the cartons. I would also like to give thanks to the anonymous donors: one who left \$15. in one of the shoeboxes and another customer at Pegala who donated \$10. *That really helps a lot!*

Thanks to Pegge, we now have another way to defray the cost of postage: sponsor the cost of the postage for one carton. If you let me know of your interest, we can work out the details. You can email me at: barbsilver@gmail.com

Thanks to all of you who are contributing in so many different ways,
Barbara Silver

Collections Report

As of this date, we have won all our cases and are proceeding with judgments. We are moving forward with the next batch of homeowners who are seriously in arrears.

We have even collected from people who have been in arrears who have sent in their past due assessments so as to avoid the collection process through the courts, which would be a costly expense to incur on top of what they currently owe. We look forward to continue collecting outstanding balances now and into the future.

A big "Thank You" goes out to the Collections Committee for a job well done!



Ringin' Rocks Park By Tom Tate

Our country is remarkable in the sheer variety of interesting phenomena to be discovered. New Jersey has a magazine devoted entirely to the weird and unusual aptly titled, "Weird New Jersey." www.weirdnj.com They happen to have a free issue offer at the time of this writing. There are some pretty interesting features near us, one of which I ran across recently on television, Ringin' Rocks Park. This park, just outside Philadelphia, has an unusual collection of boulders that make a distinct ringing tone when struck with a hammer or another rock. As a geologist, this caught my fancy right away. I have clunked hammer on rock many times but never received anything more than a thud for my efforts.

Naturally, my inclination was to research the park. Here are the results. The park is located in Bucks County, Upper Black Eddy, PA. Overall, it covers 128 acres with between 7 and 8 acres covered with the ringin' rocks. For the other rock hounds in the audience, the rocks are diabase, a volcanic basalt and were thought to have broken up about 12,000 years ago in the Pleistocene Epoch. As a geologic feature, it is the largest collection of diabase in the US. It is further unusual in that it is not clear how the boulders got there. It cannot be a landslide as they are near the top of a mountain. It isn't from a glacier pushing them in from further up North as glaciers aren't thought to have advanced this far South in PA. So, their origin is open to conjecture and speculation and you know what this means. Theories run the gamut up to and including supernatural, paranormal and force line convergence. Take your pick or make up your own. I think an intergalactic construction vehicle dumped them there as part of some interstellar

freeway project. Regardless of the reason for their existence, why not make a day trip to Upper Black Eddy and strike up your own rock concert? In any other park, you'd be arrested for banging the rocks with a hammer. Here, you may get a recording contract. Get more information at:

<http://www.buckscounty.org/government/departments/ParksandRec/Parks/RingingRocks.aspx>

Cook's Corner By Tom Tate

Krispy Kreme Cheeseburger

You read that correctly, a cheeseburger with a Krispy Kreme donut as the bun. This culinary masterpiece made its debut, as far as this reporter can ascertain, at the 2010 Wisconsin State Fair. <http://www.jsonline.com/entertainment/100091819.html> As we all know, many culinary trends have started at State Fairs: corn dogs, fried dough, deep fried butter to name but a few.

Short of a trip to Wisconsin, you'll have to create your own. Since Krispy Kreme is not readily available in our neck of the woods, stop by your nearest donut dispensary and buy a dozen raised, glazed donuts. Slice them like a bun and place a burger cooked to your doneness level on it. Lay on a nice piece of cheddar cheese. The recipe calls for chocolate covered bacon. Regular bacon and a couple of squares of Hershey milk chocolate should serve as well (think of this as a s'more). Add onion, lettuce tomato or other condiments and enjoy. No calories here!

As a side note, did you know that the Texas State Fair offers about 400 deep fried food items? They offer a prize to the top choice each year. In 2010, the honor was split between Fried Beer and Deep Fried Texas Frito Pie. We are in the presence of genius.

NOTICES

- ⊗ Dogs are not allowed on the beaches.

Complaints about animals which bite, bark continuously, run free or uncontrolled should be reported to the Pike County Humane Society at 570-296-7654 or the Animal Control Officer at 570-488-9526.

Help Wanted! We can always use help on WLLA's committees: please share your talent and time with us.





After a very long dry summer I'm back in the office attempting to get caught up with the piles of paperwork that seem to be everywhere!!!

2010 proved to be another great summer at Walker Lake. Our monthly water quality monitoring continues to indicate that the lake has excellent water quality. Nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous remain relatively low. As a result, Walker Lake did not experience nuisance algal blooms. Blue green algae blooms did occur later in the season, but they did not

create conditions that restricted use of the lake. Water transparency was great all summer long. It was possible to wiggle your toes in six feet of water and still see them! The lake did stratify in June, which resulted in low oxygen concentrations at depths greater than 10 feet from the surface. The low oxygen concentrations in the deeper, cooler water of the lake forced fish into shallow, warmer water for most of the summer. This may have caused stress to the fish, but we'll know more after we complete the annual fishery survey in October.

This past season a limited amount of aquatic herbicide was used in the lake. Aquatic herbicides were only applied to a few small patches of water lilies in the northeast corner of the lake. The limited use of aquatic herbicides and algacides is consistent with the management objectives of the lake committee and the lake management plan established for Walker Lake. Our management goal is to maximize the availability of quality aquatic habitat without reducing recreational use of the lake. So far we have been able to achieve this goal with limited use of chemicals.

This year we had several pairs of Canada Geese nest in the vicinity of Walker Lake. The lake committee has a permit to addle the eggs of any nesting Canada Geese. However, the Canada Geese seem to be nesting farther away from Walker Lake. If you suspect a nesting pair of Canada Geese, please contact the office.

Our lake consultant will be at Walker Lake to complete the remainder of the water quality monitoring and the fishery survey. If you have any questions or comments (good or bad...) please don't hesitate to stop him if you see him on the lake. Lake management is challenging and without your input, the Lake Committee can't implement management strategies that will continue to protect and maintain the quality of Walker Lake.





Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association, Inc.
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Address Service Requested

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Treasurer: Art Politano
Secretary: Carol Mihail

Board of Directors

Fran Orth
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