

Echoes From Our Lake



May/June 2011
Volume 122

Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association
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Message From the President

The Summer days will soon be upon us, and with this past long and cold winter finally behind us, I am sure that we are all looking forward to the beautiful summer weather we enjoy here in Walker Lake. Albeit, our summer months might not be great in length, but it gives us all enough time to enjoy the summer benefits that we have oh so much enjoyed over the years. Whether you are boating out on the beautiful pristine Walker Lake; swimming; canoeing; taking a dip in the tranquil water of the lake; fishing; or just enjoying yourself on the beaches Walker Lake offers, it is a time when you can really enjoy the beautiful atmosphere in which you are surrounded.

The month of June brings us the “Two Casino Bus Trip, once again promulgated by the Social Committee chaired by Fran Orth. And, of course, don’t forget our July activities, including the Beach Party and Picnic scheduled for Saturday, July 23rd. This year the Beach Party and Picnic will be known as, “The ClamBake,” with all other foods as well including hotdogs, hamburgers, salads, desserts, etc. You name it, we’ll try to have it! The Social Committee is hoping that once again this year various residents will bring their own homemade desserts for all to enjoy! ;) More information on the “Clambake” can be found in this Newsletter.

On a final note, I want to thank all of you for your support and encouragement during my two year reign as President of WLLA. What a wonderful two years it has been, (well, with a few not so positive things thrown in as well...but what is to be expected, right?). As I embark on another term as hopefully being President for the next two years, I continue to hope to have your utmost support and encouragement.

Happy summer! Enjoy Walker Lake! Utilize all that Walker Lake has to offer to you. And if you ever need my assistance in anything at all, please do NOT hesitate to contact me at the WLLA office.

My fondest wishes,

Art W. Politano, President/WLLA

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News from the WLLA Office

The 2011 WLLA Beach/Tennis badges, parking, dock and boat permits are here. Stop in to pick them up or mail a self addressed stamped envelope noting how many of each that you need. You may also put the envelope in the slot in the office door.

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

June 14 - July 5 – September 6

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



Calendar of Events

Saturday, June 18	Board of Directors Meeting 10:00 AM
Wednesday, June 29	'Two Casinos' Bus Trip (see details below)
Saturday, July 2	Penny Social – Doors open at 5 PM Calling begins 7 PM
Saturday, July 16	Board of Directors Meeting 10:00 AM General Membership Meeting 12:30 PM- Elections
Saturday, July 23	Beach Party and Picnic 1 PM – 5 PM
Saturday, August 20	Board of Directors Meeting 10:00 AM
Saturday, September 10	'Sip 'n Style' Fashion Show and Tea – 1 PM
Saturday, September 17	Board of Directors Meeting 10:00 AM General Membership Meeting 12:30 PM

Social Events at WLLA by Fran Orth

Lots going on this summer! There is a **'Two Casino' bus trip** on Wednesday, June 29. We will leave Walker Lake firehouse at 8:45 AM and Milford at 9 AM and arrives at Mt. Airy at 10 AM. Receive a \$25.00 voucher in free play and a \$10.00 food voucher. The bus leaves Mt. Airy at 3 PM and arrives at Mohegan Sun at 4 PM. We will stay until 9 PM, and the horses will be running! Receive \$20.00 in free play and \$10.00 for food. Price is \$30.00 – call Fran today (570-296-5528) to reserve your seat!



The Penny Social is Saturday, July 2 – check out the details in the Ladies Club article that follows. Two \$50.00-off tickets will be donated for the Wildwood excursion at the Penny Social.

The Beach party this year is on July 23 and will be a Clambake. Details will be on the bulletin board and in the office. You will need a ticket to attend so that we can have a count. This is free to paid members. There will be a charge for guests.

Looking forward to the fall, there **is a trip to Wildwood** on September 26-30. Included is a round trip motor coach, 4 nights accommodations at an ocean front property, 4 full breakfasts and dinners, 4 nights of entertainment, a day in Atlantic City, a guided trolley tour, and ice cream social and visits to the Cape May, Historic Smithville, Sunset Beach, Cape May lighthouse and more! For more information and reservations, please call Fran Orth at 570-296-5528. Cost \$336.00 pp/dbl - \$416.00 single.

Tentative plans: There will be a pancake supper in August. October- 'Sock Hop' with a live band. Soup night sometime in the fall or winter.

Any suggestions, ideas and mostly help is greatly appreciated.

Walker Lake Ladies Club

The date for the **PENNY SOCIAL** has been changed to **Saturday, July 2nd**. Doors open at 5PM calling starts at 7PM. Bring your family, your visitors and your neighbors and join us for a fun filled evening. Refreshments will be served.



Sip and Style Tea and Fashion Show is still scheduled for Saturday, Sept 10th and the cost is \$6 which includes a light lunch and many door prizes. Tickets for this popular event sell out very fast, so make sure to reserve yours. We will start selling tickets in July. The proceeds are used for the Ladies Club community projects.

The Ladies Club always welcomes new members. We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 10 AM. Most members enjoy learning new techniques of quilting, but you do not have to sew to join. On the third Wednesday we work on our community projects. We are currently making doll clothes for 18” dolls as well as supplying the dolls as Christmas presents for some needy children. Come join us, just bring your lunch!

Fun and Fitness at Walker Lake Clubhouse!

Starting Wednesday, June 1: Zumba with an experienced instructor. We will meet every Wednesday from 7 PM – 8 PM. Cost is \$ 5.00 per session. Why spend gas money driving to the gym when you can exercise right here in Shohola?

Geese on the Lake

In the last few years, geese have been a concern due to their habit of leaving their “Calling Cards” wherever they visit. Goose droppings have been spotted on beaches and other public areas of the lake, as well as docks and shoreline properties. In addition, droppings make their way into the lake itself, which can cause a spike in bacteria counts and a possible health risk to swimmers in.

Fortunately, there are steps we can take individually and as a community to minimize the problems. If you have a lawn or dock that has turned into a goose hang-out, you can try mylar tape that has a shiny surface. Geese do not like the random reflected light when the tape moves in the wind. Tape located 4-5’ high right along the shore or dock works well.

If you have an open shore, consider planting ornamental bushes or other wide vegetation along the shoreline. Geese like an unobstructed view of the shore in order for them to scan for predators. Breaking up the view may discourage them from walking up on to the backyard.

Fencing has also been used successfully by some landowners to keep the geese out of yards. Geese like to have a little horizontal takeoff run when on shore, and they perceive the fence as an obstacle.

As a community, we try to manage the amount of resident geese by use of egg addling as regulated via a federal permit. Egg addling involves coating eggs with corn oil early in the incubation cycle; this renders the eggs non viable. The adults will continue to incubate these eggs past the normal hatch date, which decreases the chance of them “recycling” or starting another brood

If you find or suspect that there is a nest on your property or elsewhere, please do not disturb the nest, (that will just cause them to move to another location close by and start another nest) instead, contact the office with the particulars, and trained personnel will come to deal with the

nest. We need more “eyes” in this regard to locate nests; help in this regard will help ensure the quality of our lake and the land that surrounds it.



This is a goose nest found along the Delaware River, which has 2 eggs so far. This nest is near the water and low to the ground, with grass and leaves used for construction. Geese are very protective of their nest; intruders risked getting flailed with wings and pecked.

Walker Lake Elections 2011

The election of Officers and Directors of the WLLA Board of Directors will take place at the Annual Membership Meeting on **July 16th at 12:30 pm** in the Clubhouse. Members in good standing of the association are eligible to vote with only one vote allowed per membership household. If you are a member in good standing and would like to vote by absentee ballot, here is what to do:

1. Absentee ballots will be available through the WLLA office after June 1st. Members must sign for the absentee ballot either in person at the office or by written request to the office (WLLA address is on the front page of this newsletter). 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.
2. Only one absentee ballot will be issued for each membership household.
3. Absentee ballots must be postmarked and/or received by the WLLA office by **July 9, 2011**.
4. Members who request an absentee ballot may not later rescind the ballot and vote at the July 16th Annual Membership (Election) meeting.
5. Absentee ballots will be opened and counted at the July 16th Annual Membership meeting along with the votes cast at that meeting.

Here is the slate of nominees:

Art Politano (President and Director)

“I am completing my first term as President for Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association and I would like to continue in this capacity for another term. Looking out for the welfare and best interests of the community is, and always will be my top priority. With your support, I wish to continue an unbreakable continuum of my responsibilities to you, the members of WLLA.”

Fran Orth

(Vice President and Director)

“I have been serving on the Board of Directors for 15 years. As chairman of the Membership committee I visited new home owners, taking them a welcome basket. I served on the Nomination, Finance, Long Range Planning, Publicity, Crime Watch and Rules and Regulations Committees and headed the Clubhouse Committee during which new windows, new carpeting and a new air conditioning unit was installed. I presently head the Program and Social Events committee. Some of the events have been put lucks suppers, pancake breakfasts, New Year’s Eve and Super Bowl parties, Breakfast with Santa, bus trips to several casinos and the Hawaiian Luau and many more things to come! I welcome any suggestions you may have that will make Walker Lake a safe and viable community.”

Mary Iverson

(Vice President and Director)

VP statement: “Having completed (soon) a first term as VP, I believe the experience could enhance my effectiveness in a second term. My past years as a member of the Board as it has progressed through myriad problems provides a perspective that helps us avoid repeating the same mistakes when the same problems arise in new guise. Service on various committees has provided a background for dealing with a diversity of problems. These committees include: Lake, Rules & Regulations, Long Range Planning, Legal and Finance.”

Director statement: “Having served on the Board for many years, I have obtained a perspective on the various problems that have to be solved and the many administrative concerns in various solutions. I have chaired the Long Range Planning and Rules and Regulations committees and served on the Lake, Legal and Finance Committees. I consider it an honor to be elected to serve WLLA in this manner.”

Pegge Dodge

(Vice President and Director)

“I have been a year-round resident and WLLA member for 21 years. After years of varied business experience, in 1997, I opened Pegala Natural Foods in Mid-Town Shohola, winning The River Reporter’s Reader’s Choice Awards “Best Of” every year since 2002.

Since October 2010, I have been serving on the WLLA Road Committee. While previously on the WLLA Board of Directors for 6+ years, I served on the Legal, Finance, Rules & Regulations, Membership (Welcoming), Lake, Road Committees, as well as being Newsletter Editor.

Presently, I serve on the Shohola Township Park & Recreation Committee as secretary. Being a member of the Shohola Township Volunteer Fire & Rescue, Inc., I was in charge of Bingo for 3 successful years.

We should work together co-operatively to preserve the quiet peaceful nature of our Community, where neighbors are friendly, caring and willing to help one another out.”





Trespassers Will Be Eaten *By Tom Tate*

I saw this sign on several establishments in the Everglades and it never got old. Of course, with an unlimited supply of gators to back it up, it was both hilarious and deadly serious. Since no species of gator is indigenous to our area and deer aren't that type of critter, trespassers on Association property are not at risk of being eaten. It's a pity because your property is frequently used and abused by people who are not members. This is particularly true for the beach directly accessible from Walker Lake Road.

Our courses of action are limited but can be effective. The best bet is to call our security company to investigate. The number is 845-656-5274. Of special importance is the vehicle's license number. Make and model plus other descriptive details are helpful. You can also look to see if it has a WLLA sticker (bumper or windshield mount). A lot of non-members use our lake and depart leaving the beach a mess. You could also approach the people but a confrontation with a trespasser is not always pleasant so err on the side of caution.

Thank you for helping us keep our property enjoyable for our residents.

Purple Trouble: Purple Loosestrife on Our Shores.

Around mid July, you may see some attractive looking purple flowers by the lakeshore. Unfortunately, these flowers are most likely the Purple Loosestrife plant (*Lythrum salicaria*). This plant is an invasive species that favors wetlands such as lake shores and river banks. It chokes out native species of plants and can cause habitat loss for wildlife that depends on the native plants for food or shelter.

Fortunately, the number of these plants is still relatively small, and the simplest way to control them is to pull them out. During July and August, they have the purple flowers that are their namesake. Another characteristic trait is that if you roll the main stem between your fingers, it will feel "square". That is because the cross section of the stem is somewhat square.

If you pull them out, try to get the roots, if you don't succeed with removing the roots, at least you will have removed the possibility of seeds spreading for the following season. A week or so after the flowers are visible; seeds may start to form, so place the removed plants in a plastic bag to prevent seed spread.

We can nip this problem in the bud before they get out of control by taking a few minutes to survey your property and removing any of these invasive plants you may find. If you have any questions or need help in identification, please contact the Walker Lake office.



Left: This is the flower stem or inflorescence of the Purple Loosestrife. It grows in a near vertical orientation, and a dozen or more flower stems can be present on one plant. Flowers usually appear by mid to late July and persist through August.

Below: This is a close-up of the stem of a Purple Loosestrife plant showing the square stem and pointed leaves. By rolling the stem between your fingers, you can feel the telltale square cross section of this plant.



Crops and Culture *By Tom Tate*

Crops – for Homegrown Goodness:

Barryville Farmers' Market runs every Sat. 10:00 am - 2:00 pm May 21 - Oct. 8; Route 97 in Barryville, NY rain/shine. Check them out at www.BarryvilleFarmersMarket.com

"Farmers Teach" at 11:00 am on select market dates: educational/demonstration series.

Market features: locally grown produce, flowers, free range meats, eggs, baked goods, jams, artisanal cheeses + more.

Master Gardener assistance is available free at Pike County Extension office at 514 Broad St. in Milford: PikeExt@psu.edu; 570-296-3400

Information about Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares available at: greg@willowwisporganic.com or www.willowwisporganic.com

Culture:

Milford Theater: Now under new management, the landmark Milford establishment has been remodeled and given a new lease on life. A recent soft opening saw packed houses. Look for a wide variety of events there including Broadway actors, local musicians and more. Be on the lookout for more news.

Brook House Gallery featuring artists of the Upper Delaware region; 5 Austin Rd, off Rt. 97 at the junction of Rt. 97 & Rt. 55 in Barryville. Hours: Thursday - Friday 4 - 7 PM; Saturday 1 - 7 PM; Sunday 1 - 5 PM; 845-456-0066

The Artery Gallery in Milford through June 6: Paintings, photos, sculpture & jewelry celebrating flowers and nature's awakening; Thurs. - Mon; 570-409-1234 <http://arteryonline.com/>

Also not to be missed is the **Art after Dark** event in downtown Milford when, on the second Saturday of each month from 6 – 9 PM when the galleries are open and special food and other events are combined for a wonderful evening out.

Open Mic Night: Local artists showcase their talents: Muir House in Milford, Wed. 6:00 pm 570-296-6373 www.muirhouse.com

Milford: **Grey Towers** mansion tours include both the house and garden; 570-296-9630 <http://www.fs.fed.us/na/gt/>

Achtung! Schpeeding ist verboten...*By Tom Tate*

Yeah, yeah, my corny attempt at German got your attention. While corny, the topic is serious – residents of our community must observe the speed limits. Unless otherwise posted, the speed limit is 25 MPH. While there is a school of thought that contends speed limits are merely suggestions, that isn't the case, especially in our community. The roads are narrow and hilly. People walk and wildlife is unpredictable at the very least. Anything over 25 MPH is simply reckless. Please make sure every driver in your home knows to follow the speed limit scrupulously.

Now, for those who do not observe the rules, residents observing the infraction are asked to call the police. Not 911 but the police directly. If you are not near a phone, make note of the license number and make/model of the vehicle. Even better, if you have your camera-equipped cell phone, snap a picture. What, your cell phone doesn't have a camera? What are you, a Luddite? You can upgrade to a fancy new phone for practically free. Of course, you must sign a multi-year contract at outrageous prices but isn't community safety worth it? No, okay, carry a pencil and paper and do it old school:>)

Splash Back



By Peter Wulforth

Walker Lake is the gem of our community that many residents enjoy. The lake committee works diligently to have Walker Lake provide us recreational opportunities such as swimming, boating, fishing and beauty. In order to protect Walker Lake from uninvited guests, it is important that watercraft that uses our lake clean their boat if they are coming from somewhere else. Aquatic plants from other bodies can be transported or hitch a ride on boats that can then get into Walker Lake. These species can serve as agents

of habitat degradation and responsible for biological diversity loss throughout the world.

Introducing species accidentally from one habitat into another one can pose a serious risk to the ecosystem. Species introduced into new habitats often overrun their new home and crowd out native species. Once established, aquatic nuisance species rarely can be eliminated. However, as a boater, there are several steps you can take to help stop the spread of invasive aquatic species:

1. Inspect your boat and trailer. Remove aquatic plants and animals from all parts of your boat, trailer and accessory equipment. Make sure to dispose of this material in the garbage either at home or at a handy garbage can near the water access area.
2. Don't transfer water from one water body to another or release live bait or aquarium pets into any waters.
3. Wash your boat and trailer thoroughly with tap water when you get home. Make sure to flush water through your motor's cooling system, live wells and other areas that hold water.
4. Allow your boat to dry a minimum of three days in a sunny location before transferring it into a new water body.

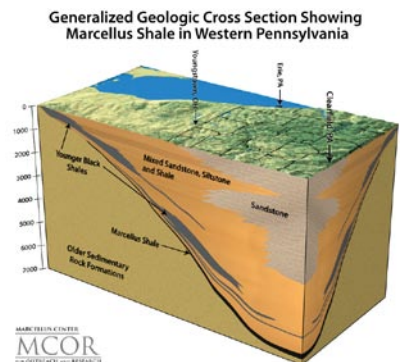
In addition to protecting the water quality of Walker Lake, it is important that residents of Walker Lake have a 2011 sticker. If you have a canoe, kayak or other boat that you use or store at Walker Lake, you will need to get a 2011 sticker from the office. Your assessments and dues need to be current order to receive a 2011 sticker.

Marcellus Shale Research Site *By Tom Tate*

Reader alert – this IS NOT a political article. The Marcellus shale resource in PA and other states generates a lot of conversation and controversy. Being a geology major at one point in my academic career, I am fascinated by most things geologic. So, when I heard a speaker talk about the Marcellus formation at a recent conference, I jumped on the terrific geologic charts and information their site offers. I am a sucker for a topographic map and geologic formation cross section. Maybe you are too. Check them out at:

<http://www.marcellus.psu.edu/> - a sample is included at right...

Ah, the strata!



The Doggone Rules *By Tom Tate*

Hoo boy, has this been one long winter. It sure is nice to see the last of the snow and freezing temperatures. Now that we can all venture outside, it's time to remind folks about the rules regarding dogs:

1. **No animals of any kind**, except for service animals, are allowed on WLLA property which includes beaches and common areas. This includes birds, cats, marmosets, pachyderms, reptiles and goldfish in baggies of water, to mention a few. *If it isn't human, it isn't allowed on WLLA property.*

2. **Animals must be under control at all times.** This is especially important for dogs. Dogs **CANNOT** (*capitalized for emphasis*) be allowed to run free. We have already had several complaints of loose dogs creating problems including harassing residents walking (with and without their own dogs on lead) and adorning neighbor's property with assorted droppings.



If you fail to observe this basic rule, here are the consequences:

- a. When caught, **you will be fined** by the Association in accordance with the damage created.
- b. The **Animal Control Office of Shohola** will be called and loose animals will be taken off the street which carries another hefty fine.
- c. **Animals that attack** another animal or person **are typically destroyed**. Plus, the owner is subject to personal litigation for damages.

Don't risk it. Follow our community's rules for keeping you animal under control at all times. One caveat here, the rules do define under control to include on a leash or obedience-trained at your heel. If your animal is difficult to walk on a leash, try this sure fire remedy, the Gentle Leader, available online at

<http://www.buygentleleader.com/View.aspx?page=dogs/products/behavior/gentleleader/descripti on>. We have used these with our Irish Wolfhounds for years and they work beautifully. A child can manage a 160 pound wolfhound. So there are really no reasons why you wouldn't use a leash.

Animals add joy to all our lives. Please control yours so that joy isn't marred.

Let me close with the most basic of dog management – pick up after your pet. Carry a plastic bag when you walk your dog. If they relieve themselves, regardless of where you are, pick it up. Any plastic bag (without holes or tears – I found out about this the hard way) will do. Put your hand inside the bag like a glove and pick up the droppings. Slide the bag down over your hand and tie it off. No fuss, no muss. Dispose of properly at the end of your walk.

In Memoriam:
Don Duthie, who passed away
on March 16th, 2011.



Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association, Inc.

100 Walker Lake Road
Shohola, PA 18458

Address Service Requested

Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association Officers

President: Art Politano
Vice President: Mary Iverson
Treasurer: Art Politano
Secretary: Carol Mihail

Board of Directors

Fran Orth
Nancy Olson
Andrew Milne
Charlie Kieselmann
Kristine Guardino

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Mary Iverson

Rose Murphy
Frank Dubowski, Jr.
Keith LaPan
Carol Mihail

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