

Echoes From Our Lake

Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association
100 Walker Lake Road, Shohola, Pa. 18458

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President's Message

It is nice to be back in our community after a 10-day stint in the hospital. Contrary to what you may have heard, I am not suffering for any serious or fatal disease. While I have to take it easy for a while, I'll be back to full speed and strength soon.

Your Association is doing very well so far in 2012. Our lake is holding its own even with the odd weather we have been experiencing. We are stocking a few thousand blue-gills to provide extra fishing action and a food source for the bass. We are working to get the roads in good shape and address a variety of culvert issues. A new sign will shortly grace our entrance and the entertainment committee is planning some fun events for here and on the road.

I won't ramble on much longer other than to say thank you for your continued support and to invite you to take an active role in our community events. My best wishes to everyone for an enjoyable summer.

My warmest wishes,
Art W. Polatino, President/WLLA



WLLA Office Closings

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

Wednesday, July 4, 2012

Emails will be checked daily during this time. Any items left in the slot in the front door of the office are secure and will be picked up periodically.

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

Don't forget that items may be left in the slot in the office door (*Not the suggestion box!*)
Business may also be conducted by mail, e-mail, & fax.

Office Address:
100 Walker Lake Road
Shohola, Pa 18458

Email: WLLA@ptd.net

Telephone: (570)296-7788
Road/Snow complaint line:
(570) 296-7792

Fax: (570) 296-4603
Animal Control: (570) 226-3310
Security: (845) 656-5274

Calendar of Events

May 8-9: Overnight trip to Dover Delaware, Dover Downs and Rehoboth outlet stores.

Saturday, May 19: Board of Directors Meeting at 10:00 AM
General Membership at 12:00 Noon

Saturday, June 2: Bus trip to Mt. Airy.

June Dance and Potluck: Details will be posted at the clubhouse.

July 7: Penny Social at the clubhouse.

July: Picnic and beach party the last Saturday. Details in next newsletter.

Saturday, June 23: Board of Directors Meeting at 10:00 AM

September 24-28: Wildwood and Cape May trip.

Social Events *by Fran Orth*

Future Events

There is a Casino bus trip to Mt. Airy planned on Saturday, June 2nd. The cost is \$20 per person. Receive \$25 in slot play and \$10 for food. The bus leaves at 9:45 AM from the Walker Lake firehouse parking lot. We have room for 17 more people.

A trip to Wildwood and Cape May is planned for September 24-28th at \$350 per person double occupancy. Last year it was a lot of fun! There will be something to do every day and all breakfasts and dinners are included with entertainment every night. Call Fran 570- 296-5528 for more information. We have room for 18 more people.

There will be a penny social at the clubhouse Saturday, July 7, and are thinking about a dance/potluck in June. The annual picnic will be July 28.

We need suggestions for more events. Please let us know what you'd like to do!

LADIES CLUB NEWS

Spring is here and the Ladies Club is working on their latest projects. Aside from learning new techniques, we are busy working on blankets for the Linus Project

As Charles Schulz's Linus character from the PEANUTS® comic strip was comforted by his blanket, Project Linus strives to do the same and more for children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need.

Our annual Penny Social is set for Saturday, July 7, 2012. The doors open at 5pm with the calling starting promptly at 7PM. The prizes have been gathered and we are ready. Ask your friends, neighbors and bring your family to the Read Clubhouse. Refreshments will be served.

Office News

If you would like your newsletter e-mailed instead of 'snail' mailed, send an email to WLLA@ptd.net with 'newsletter' in the subject line and your name in the body of the message. This will save your association postage and save paper.

2012 Beach tags, parking permits, boat and dock stickers are in the office, stop by to pick them up. If the office is closed, please leave your request in the slot in the door, or email us and we will send them to you.

Annual Elections

It is time again for elections to the WLLA Board of Directors (there are four (4) open seats) and the positions of Treasurer and Secretary. Board Members serve a three (3) year term unless filling an unexpired term and the two officers serve two (2) year terms.

The WLLA Board and its officers provide a valuable service to all residents of our community. They are responsible for the proper and prudent use of the dues and other fees received from our residents and for making sure the roads and other facilities of the association are properly maintained.

To comply with the Absentee Ballot process, the May 19th General membership Meeting will be the last day for nominations to be submitted. Nominations can be made from the floor at this meeting but cannot be made at the July 21st Annual Membership meeting. If you are interested in running, now is the time!

Candidates for Board include Tom Tate, Scott Rando, Frank Dubowski. Candidates for Secretary include Tom Tate and for Treasurer include Art Politano.

Please contact the office for your absentee ballot and instructions for completion. Once you have requested an absentee ballot, you cannot rescind that and vote in person.

Splash Back

By
Joe Gallagher

It wasn't that long ago that we finished our 2011 water quality monitoring program and ended another season at Walker Lake. However, the unusually warm spring makes it feel like the season never ended as we get ready to start the 2012 monitoring season.

I recently met with the lake committee and we began discussing our plans for this upcoming season. Based on the results from last year there are several areas that we intend to focus our efforts on this season. These include getting Association members more involved in the management of the lakes fishery, selectively controlling both floating and submerged vegetation in high use areas of the lake, adding additional monitoring sites in the surrounding watershed to get a better handle on what is washing into the lake from the surrounding area, and possibly establishing a demonstration area to show the benefits of "shoreline plantings".

In just a few weeks the lake will be stocked with bluegill sunfish and a few large "breeder" bass. The stocking is part of a multi-year program that was initiated to re-establish the fishery after the extended drawdown that occurred several years ago. The drawdown was necessary to complete work within the lake basin, but it did disrupt the balance of the fishery. Therefore, using the information from our fishery surveys we have been supplementing the fishery with stocked fish as a means to recreating a balanced, self-sustaining fishery. The

“breeder” bass will be tagged, along with bass we will capture from the lake this spring so that we can monitor growth rates and estimate the population size. Anglers are asked to record the tag number, date, location, and length of the fish. This information should then be given to the office along with letting us know if the fish was harvested or released. We are also looking for volunteers to participate in a “creel survey” this season. Anyone interested can pick up the survey sheets in the office. All you have to do to participate is record your catch on the survey sheets, and return the completed surveys to the office at your convenience. There will be a prize drawing for a fishing rod/reel at the end of the season for everyone that participated in the survey. All of the information from the tagging program and creel survey will be used to supplement the data we already have and will continue to collect this season. Our management goal is to develop and maintain a “quality”, self-sustaining fishery in Walker Lake.

This season we will be establishing four new monitoring locations in the Walker Lake watershed. A stream gauging station will be established at the inlet and below the dam, and storm water flows will be monitored at Sandy Beach and below the Firehouse. Stream flows will be measured at the gauging sites to help calculate “residence time” in the lake, and water quality samples will be collected at all four sites to monitor the sediment and nutrient load to the lake. The purpose of this monitoring is to identify potential “non-point” sources of pollution (sediment and nutrients) that trigger excessive plant growth in the lake.

Shoreline vegetation is a critical habitat component in lake ecosystems, and to a large extent most of this habitat has been removed from Walker Lake. Aquatic insects, frogs, salamanders, and juvenile fish require shoreline vegetation to hide from predators and as a place to feed. Our goal is to establish shoreline vegetation as a “demonstration” project to emphasize the value of this habitat to the lake ecosystem. Native emergent plant species will be established along the shoreline near Sandy Beach, and then the area will be monitored to show how quickly water dependent organisms become established in this newly created habitat. The types of vegetation planted will be colorful and provide a visual contrast to an otherwise uniform and non-descript shoreline. Hopefully, lakefront property owners will consider establishing their own shoreline plantings as an alternative to more conventional shoreline management practices.

As you can see we have a busy summer planned at Walker Lake. Your input and comments are always appreciated. So if you have any questions about what or why we are doing something at the lake please let the office know or stop us when you see us at the lake and let us know your concerns. Hope to see you on the lake this summer!!!

Drano Bomb Alert

There have been reported instances of Drano bombs in Pike County. If you find a suspicious soda bottle or Drano can in your yard, DO NOT pick it up. Call 911 for disposal. If disturbed, these bombs will explode and expose you to serious chemical burns and possible “shrapnel” injuries.

The Art of the Camera – WLLA Resident Scott Rando



Scott Rando, our local nature photographer par excellent and webmaster captured this fine specimen of a frog while paddling around Francis Island. He quips that the lighting wasn't the best but as he was in a kayak, the island was too big to turn around.

He is also a regular contributor to the River Reporter where his now award winning pictures can be found on a regular basis. When I asked Scott how he was able to get such magnificent pictures he advised the right lens and LOTS of patience. Having tired my hand at nature photography a time or two, I can attest to the accuracy of both bits. For me, I will stick with landscapes – they stay put while I get organized.



Scott enjoys the outdoors and wildlife conservation; and is currently assisting NYSDEC with an ongoing eagle study taking place in the Upper Delaware corridor.

See more of Scott's outstanding work in the River Reporter. You can start with this link and then click on the others on the right side of the article.

<http://www.riverreporteronline.com/column/river-talk/7/2011/06/01/critters-rain>

Do you have an artistic bent of some type? Let us know and we'll do a little feature to share your skills and works with the rest of the community. Don't be bashful; we want to celebrate our local artists!



What do you do when you find a falcon in a restaurant? Go nose to nose with him!

Gadgets

By Tom Tate

People who know me know I love gadgets, pretty much of all kinds. When asked how I find all the interesting items that I write and talk about, I offer the following two sources: Woot and Uncrate. Both are websites and both are updated daily with the latest finds and values in the “gadget” genre. I have to admit that both also offer other items that do not necessarily qualify as a gadget but gadgets to abound.

Let's tackle Woot first. If you navigate to www.woot.com, you will find their deal of the day. The site specializes in this technique. They have a new item every day for sale at terrific prices. Once it is sold out, it is gone forever. So, if you snooze you lose with these folks. Another nice feature is the shipping and handling is always just \$5.00. They don't always use the speediest of delivery channels but for \$5.00, I can wait.

Uncrate is my second site of choice. Swing by www.uncrate.com and you will be treated to a range of interesting products. While Uncrate doesn't sell items directly, each item's description has links to the provider's page where you can find out how to buy. Anyone read my bacon

article last year? Every one of those bacon items has been featured in the Uncrate site. Yes, I know bacon isn't a gadget but it is delicious.

I have my gadget antenna always up and tracking and find many more items of interest in the magazines I read, the catalogs that grace my mailbox and emails that clog my inbox. Being a self-taught gadget meister I can only encourage buddy gadgeteers to do as I did and scour the world for gadget signs. Then share freely with the rest of us.

Check out our WEBSITE: walkerlake.com

Some of the ongoing features of the website include a the handbook (which has the rules and regulations, constitution and deed covenants); the latest budget and fee schedule; the extended version of the current and past newsletters; the 2011 and 2012 lake reports; the schedule of Board and General Membership meetings; lost and found and many great photos. It is a great resource of information.

No ATVs

Yes, it is nice again and that temptation to break out the trusty ATV or motorbike is strong indeed. However, you must resist that temptation as it is against the Association rules to operate these vehicles in the development and on development roads. If it isn't licensed for operation on PA roads and highways, it isn't allowed in our development either. Violators will be reported to the Shohola and Pike County authorities.

Thank you for helping keep our neighborhoods safe and quiet!.

Boat Regulations Refresher By Mary Iverson

One of the benefits of our community is our beautiful Walker Lake. To keep it beautiful and insure that everyone has an equal chance to enjoy the lake, Association members with water craft need to abide by the Boating Rules and Regulations as detailed in our Handbook. If you cannot locate your handbook, you can obtain one from the office.

Rather than reproduce those here, a little summary is offered. First and foremost, all watercraft must comply with State regulations and laws. Your best source for these is the Pennsylvania Boating Handbook and its current supplement. You can view it online at <http://www.fish.state.pa.us/bookboat.htm> and download a pdf version by clicking the link in the upper right corner. To request a hard copy try calling this number: 1.800.723.4741.

The regulations formulated and approved by your Association include the following:

1. The watercraft must have a current WLLA ID sticker.
2. The State license number must be on file with the Association office.

3. No watercraft may be operated within 100 feet of the marked and designated swimming areas of the Clubhouse and Sandy Beaches.
4. Please launch and retrieve watercraft from the designated launching areas adjacent to the dam and Sandy Beach.
5. Do not operate at speeds higher than the slow, no wake limit when within 100 feet of shore.
6. Remove all boats when WLLA announces maintenance of the docking areas. Individual notice will not be given – it is the boat owner's responsibility to keep track of the public announcements.
7. Unattended boats in non-docking areas are at risk of being removed and stored at the owner's expense after 24 hours.
8. Please inspect and scrub your watercraft if you have used it on another lake to prevent the introduction of the Zebra mussel and other nuisance aquatic pests.

There are more but this summary hits the high points. Thank you for observing all regulations and helping keep our lake safe and enjoyable for everyone.

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To:

