



ECHOES FROM OUR LAKE
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WALKER LAKESHORES
LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION
WINTER/SPRING 2014
VOLUME 133

President's Message

Brrrrrrrrrr...HELLO everyone! So sorry about this edition of the Newsletter being a tad bit late in production. Well, 4 days late to be exact, but I think that I, with just about everyone else, have finally dug ourselves out from underneath all of this ice and snow, (this winter being one of the coldest and snowiest on record). And now it's time to reach up...stretch out...shake off the winter blues...and move right in to the very fun and exciting times offered up here in our beautiful community of Walker Lake.

This past winter has produced the inevitable potholes around the community. In fact, due to the harsh winter conditions, you will have noticed numerous potholes on the roads outside the community as well. If you have any conditions on your road that you would like to be addressed, please let the Road Committee (296-7788) know as soon as possible so any conditions can be rectified during the upcoming warm weather months. WLLA now has a dedicated crew of 6 Road Committee members (non-Board Volunteer members) who will be actively participating in trying to address any and all concerns. Of course the number one fix-up will be the potholes in the community, and this will be the first priority in the next several weeks. Please also remember that it is never a first come first served, so to speak, situation. Your safety will always be the first priority with the roads, so it will be decided what needs to be done first, second, third, etc. There are also times when something is bound to be missed, so please don't call the office thinking that your road situation has been ignored and rip into someone concerning this. Things do get busy at times...so a FRIENDLY reminder from you is greatly appreciated. You know the ol' saying/song, "The more we work together, the happier we'll all be..." ☺

As you'll see further on in this Newsletter, more exciting things are being planned for our community. Last year we got the new mailboxes...new paved entryway to the mailboxes...a brand new refurbishing of the tennis court...a new basketball court...a "new" beach (Swezy Beach)...new ceiling and lighting in the Clubhouse...remodeling of the Clubhouse restroom facilities (entryway/hallway)...new boat dock at the boat docking/dam area...and whatever else I might be forgetting to mention.

This year we are in the planning stages for an addition of a bocce ball court surrounded by an oval or square walking/running/exercise track. Also hopefully situated within the track will be a Gazebo and sitting area. If brought to fruition, this area will be situated on a piece of the land right before the tennis court, (when driving towards the tennis court on Walker Lake Road).

It has also been suggested and asked for by a number of community members an addition of a dog run/park. While this seemed like an excellent idea and an idea that was ready to be moved on, it was discovered that having such an amenity would be a very large liability issue for WLLA. Hence, this amenity will be put on the back burner for the time being.

Okay...that's about all for now. I hope everyone is doing well and looking forward to another wonderful summer season here at the lake. If you ever need anything want to suggest anything...or just want to shoot the breeze...please feel free to call.

QUICK NOTE

We have been busy updating the email list so that most people can receive the newsletter electronically. This help save paper, toner and postage. All good for the budget and the environment. However, the list is not finalized so some will get the newsletter via snail mail this time.

SOCIAL STUFF

By Fran Orth

Ah yes, Punxsutawney Phil hit us hard this year. One of the nastiest winters in recent memory. A Board member opined that the weather harkens back to when he was but a wee lad in these parts.

Let's put the cabin fever aside and look forward to a very nice schedule of social events put together by me and my band of merry helpers. Read on and mark your calendars for those that tickle your fancy.

Shop the outlets at the **Sands in Bethlehem** or play the slots. Either way you'll leave some money in their local economy and have a great time. There will be something for everyone on **Wednesday, April 30th**.

We are planning a trip in **June 4** to go to the **Sight and Sound Theater** in Lancaster to see the play "Moses." The committee advises that seats will be limited. In addition to the play, the group will shop at the farmers market and enjoy a delicious smorgasbord dinner - all included in the price (except what you purchase at the market and elsewhere.)

Mark your calendars for an **oldies extravaganza** on **June 14th**. We will be having Jeff Krick, an Elvis tribute artist, coming to our Walker Lake Clubhouse to entertain us with oldies and of course, Elvis. The committee is still working on details for this. Elvis will be in the building at 5:00 PM.

The date for our **annual picnic** is **Saturday, July 26th**. It will be catered again with a delicious menu. Look for more details coming out soon.

September 21-26 is our popular trip to **Wildwood and Cape May**, this trip gets more popular every year and we always have a great time. Flyers are in the office.

There are some other activities that are in the planning stage right now.

~ Flyers will be posted or you can call Art at the office 570-296-7788 or Fran at 570-296-5528. ~

GOOSE NEWS

By Scott Rando

It is the day before spring, but because of the colder winter this year, the lake is still covered with ice. With the gradual moderation of temperature in the forecast however, the ice will soon break. Open water will herald the arrival of varied species of waterfowl including the much talked about Canada geese. Because of the amount of waste they produce (up to a pound per adult goose per day), problems such as goose waste on lawns, beaches, docks and public areas can occur due to flocks of geese. A potential health hazard can also occur with droppings in the water in the form of elevated coliform bacteria counts. Last summer, one of the beaches was closed to swimming for a short period of time due to an elevated count during water testing; it remained closed until the count returned to normal levels.

There are a few things you can do if you have a lake front lot to minimize the amount of “calling cards” that geese leave behind. Geese don't like visually obscured shore areas, so shrubbery or beach grass planted along the shoreline may help keep them off the lawn. Consider keeping a few of the native mountain laurel or other native shrubs intact near the shore. Speaking of lawns, geese love Kentucky bluegrass; if you are set on having a lawn, consider planting fescue, or other grass less desirable to geese. Reflective Mylar tape or pinwheels may help discourage geese from coming ashore if the tape or pinwheels are in the sun.



Figure 1: This is a typical goose nest; it is close to the water with a little bit of dried grass and lined with down. Adult geese incubating eggs are hunkered down and can be hard to spot from a distance.

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Your Association is working with our lake consultant as well as with state and federal agencies to minimize the impact of Canada geese have on our lake; see if

you can implement any of the suggestions for this upcoming season. If you see or suspect nesting geese on the lake, please contact the office.

SPLASH BACK

By Peter Wulfhorst

The 2014 winter season in some people's minds has been a long one. The lake has been frozen most of the winter and the ice fisherman are taking advantage of this season. For many of us, we are thinking about the coming spring.

The 2013 fishery survey by our consultant recommends that 800-1,000 5-6" pumpkinseed sunfish be stocked in Walker Lake. This recommendation is based on the 2013 study data that shows there is abundance of mature bass and plenty of older sunfish in the population. The bass population has become unhealthy due to an inadequate number of consumable-size prey. The 5-6" pumpkinseed sunfish of this size are too large to be consumed. However, they will spawn quickly and provide forage fish for the bass.

Finally, a water quality issue in Walker Lake is dog wastes. I am amazed as I walk my dog in our community, the number of people who don't pick up their dog's waste. According to an EPA bulletin on source water protection, a study in Seattle, Washington, found that nearly 20 percent of the bacteria found in water samples were able to be matched with dogs as the host animals. The greatest concern associated with animal wastes is pathogens. Many pathogens found in animal waste can infect humans if ingested. E. coli, Cryptosporidium, Giardia, and Salmonella – all found in animal waste - can produce a variety of symptoms ranging from skin sores to gastrointestinal illness. Dog droppings often contain roundworms and other parasitic nematodes. Infection by just a few roundworms usually causes no problems, but more severe infections may cause fevers, bronchitis, asthma, or vision problems.

The best way to keep pet waste and their potential health affects out of waterways is to properly clean up after your pet. Pet waste can be flushed down the toilet if it does not contain other materials, or bagged and disposed of in the garbage. It should never be used in compost piles, or disposed of in vegetable gardens or around other food-growing areas. When walking your dog, keep them from dirtying on stream banks or near ponds and lakes and pick up their waste with a plastic bag. This will keep the potential pollutants from getting into Walker Lake no matter how far you are from the lake. PLEASE PICK UP YOUR DOG'S WASTE as it hurts the water quality of Walker Lake.

CREEL SURVEY

By Scott Rando

One way we know what to stock our lake with is through the results of our creel survey. It is a simple task and can help the lake committee properly stock the lake for its health and your angling pleasure. The survey is conveniently located on the WLLA website. And in exchange for a couple of minutes of your time, you'll be entered in a drawing for a \$20 gift certificate from Hagerman's store in Shohola. According to the 2013 survey results, anglers caught crappies, yellow perch, sunfish, largemouth bass and chain pickerel.



CLUBHOUSE RENTAL

Have you thought about having a party, family get together, or a celebration? Have you checked into renting a hall and found it just too expensive? Did you know that we have a beautiful facility right here at Walker Lake? Our Clubhouse is available for a rental fee of \$75.00 for members of Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association (WLLA). This spacious hall has kitchen facilities, tables and chairs. INTERESTED??? Call the office at 296-7788 and start planning your next event!

COMMUNITY AMENITIES

By Tom Tate

Over the last few months, your Association has been hard at work creating amenities to enhance the enjoyment of Association facilities. Here are some of the highlights.

The new tennis court opened in late fall and is spectacular. There is a sign-up sheet at the courts themselves so if you want to reserve a time, please indicate it there. And we ask that everyone show tennis courtesy by observing the reservations. Motion activated lights provide security and illumination of you like to play under the lights. Also be sure to pick up any litter when you leave so the court can be in pristine condition for the next match.

At the same time the tennis facilities went into service, the new basketball half-court went into operation and is seeing a lot of use as well. No reservations needed for this as the tradition of hard court round ball is the pick-up game. Please be sure to take any littler from here as well and be mindful of automobile traffic. Yes, a car plying zone at the base line is a good defense but is also a hair too dangerous.

While at the clubhouse area, why not poke your head in and look at some of the work there. New ceilings and lighting have brightened up the space and it is perfect for a family get together or party. The rental rates precede this article.

We are looking into creating a bocce ball court above the tennis courts and hope to have that ready to roll in early summer. Grab you bocce set and get them ready for some serious competition.

The porta johns will return from their winter hiatus and be available at Sandy and Swezy Beaches. Yes, Swezy. As noted in the last newsletter, the Association now owns Swezy Beach and will be making improvements there.

Down on the water at the dam, a set of new boat racks has been promised by an Association member. When complete, they will provide convenient spots to store your watercraft while not in use. They may be reserved at the office. A small fee will be charged.

SUMMER TIME RULES

By Mary Iverson

With warmer weather, we can finally get back outside and enjoy the fresh air and summer activities. Let me take a couple of moments and highlight some of the rules and regulations in place to make sure everyone can enjoy the nice weather equally.

Get your car and beach tags at the office and be sure to display them prominently. Security will ask you to leave if you cannot prove you have a right to be here.

Register your water craft with the office, providing your PA registration number. This helps us keep track of the boats that should be on the lake and if one turns up somewhere, we can be sure it gets back to the rightful owner.

No boat with a gasoline motor in excess of 5.5 horsepower is permitted on the lake. ALL occupants in a boat on the lake are required to wear an approved personal floatation device.

No motor bikes or four-wheelers/quads may be operated within any area of the Association and development.

Noise should be kept to a minimum so everyone can have peaceful enjoyment of their property and the neighborhood. Please mow lawns and use power equipment at reasonable hours. Pets must be kept on a leash and not allowed to run free. Wandering animals may be reported to animal control for capture and impoundment.

Your WLLA Red Book has all the rules and regs. If your copy has gone missing, please check with the office for a replacement.

Tags and Stickers and Passes, Oh My!

While on the topic of those pesky rules and regulations, it is registration time for 2014. Stickers / tags for your vehicles, passes for beach privileges and decals for your watercraft are being produced and will be available in the near future. These are important “credentials” in that they allow your association manage access to the amenities we have available and return boats and other watercraft to their owners should they slip a mooring and drift off. Check with the office or the website to learn when they are available.

LIGHTNING SAFETY REPRISED

By Tom Tate

By the time this newsletter is in your hands we will (hopefully) be enjoying our first taste of spring! After this past winter, it will be a blessing indeed. In fact, while driving in to work this morning (early March), there was a forecast of possible thunderstorms. We are fast approaching the lightning season.

As the weather warms, we all tend to congregate outside to enjoy the nice days and take part in outdoor activities. Along with warm weather comes a lightning hazard. In years past, the common advice when faced with a lightning storm was to seek shelter inside a structure away from openings. If caught outside, you were advised to stay away from trees and other tall structures, find a depression in the ground and lay flat.



A couple of years ago I was asked to give a talk on lightning safety to a local community group. To prepare for that talk, I researched lightning safety and was surprised to find one key element in the previous advice had changed. Rather than lying flat in a depression, the new advice is to crouch as low as possible, keeping your feet close together and avoid any additional contact with the ground. Think of the catcher's stance in baseball and you have the idea.

At first it seemed an odd suggestion. Then I thought about my other safety presentation and realized that this suggestion matches that given if you need to exit a vehicle with live electric wires present. The entire concept has to do with a difference in electric potential. Electricity flows from its source to areas with less or no electricity. So, when lightning strikes the ground, it will flow outward from that point (lots of electricity at the strike point flowing to the ground around it with no electricity). If a person is lying on the ground, the electricity will flow through their body as it radiates away from the point of impact. If a person is crouched with feet close together, the electricity will simply pass them by.

Why does this happen? Now I feel like the Science Guy. As the electricity flows out from the strike point, its power drops. If a person is lying on the ground, their body touches points where there is a difference in the amount of electricity and this causes it to move through their body. When that person is crouched with feet close together, they are contacting the ground where the electric level is the same and as a result, the electricity continues on its way through the ground.

When out this summer, keep a watchful eye on the weather. Thunderstorms average 15 miles in diameter and generally last for 30 minutes. Lightning from these storms can reach out 6 – 8 miles so when you hear thunder it might be time to take defensive measures. Here is a rule of thumb for calculating the distance of a storm. Count the number of seconds between a flash of lightning and the rumble of thunder. Divide by five and you have the distance in miles.

Of course, it wouldn't truly be one of my articles if I didn't reference some nifty gadget to address the situation. Personal lightning detectors do exist and if you want to find out more, follow the link or scan the QR code to the right with your smart phone. It's the perfect gift for the golfer and outdoor enthusiast.

<http://www.strikealert.com/>



Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association
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Address Service Requested

TO: «Name»
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This WLLA newsletter may contain legal notification of information from the Board of Directors and the WLLA office. Please read it carefully.

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