



ECHOES FROM OUR LAKE
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WALKER LAKESHORES
LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION
2015 Edition
Volume 137

President's Message – Hot fun in The Summertime

Okay, now that you have that melody from Sly and the Family Stone running through your head, let me get into my message for this issue.

As you are all aware of, this past winter season was a brutal one...with extended below freezing temperatures. This caused quite an amount of havoc on our community roads (more so than ever before), and we have just begun repairing this damage. One of the main roads, Walker Lake Road, saw the most damage, and this has recently been repaired. Pear Drive was also repaired. These are asphalt roads and require a professional asphalt company, at a considerable expense, to repair. Sections of Birch Drive, also an asphalt road, is next to be repaired along with sections of Lake Shore Drive.

The other roads, normally called the side roads, are also being repaired by topping and widening. These roads include: Pawnee, Erie, Seneca, Cree, Algonquin, Oneida, Seminole, Neversink, Delaware, Piute, Hickory, Hemlock, etc. A new culvert was also recently installed at Cree & Birch.

All of these improvements have been accomplished without the raising of assessments for this year of 2015. It has been discovered, though, that WLLA's assessments are amongst the lowest, if not the lowest, in all of Pike County. One statement concluded, "WLLA's dues and assessments are dysfunctionally low compared with other community associations."

Moving forward, I want to thank those who have donated their time, blood, sweat & tears, in continuing to make our community the best place to live and have fun...especially during this past year. Further on in this Newsletter you will see the social activities that are planned for future dates. And...OF COURSE...do not forget Walker Lake's annual shindig that will be taking place this year on Saturday, July 18th. Each year's event seems to outdo the previous year's...and so it shall be again!

Okay...that's all for now. And after this past brutal winter, Walker Lake is ready to shout out and say, PLAY BALL!"

Save the Dates for these Social Events

As always, our social committee is working diligently to line up as many fun events as possible. Here are the ones in the works as of this writing. *Editor*

On **Thursday, June 25th**, there will be a bus trip to Mohegan Sun Casino. Our casino trips are always well attended and everyone has a lot of fun.

The annual Association picnic is scheduled for **Saturday, July 18th**, at the clubhouse. After excellent reviews of the food last year, we have asked Konrad's Kitchen to cater our event again. Jeff "Elvis" Krick will entertain us with oldies and his Elvis impersonation. Our theme this year is the 50's and 60's.

We will need a count for Konrad so if you plan to attend, please call the office or stop in to be put on our list by July 11th. WLLA residents attend at no charge (as do kids 10 and under) and guests can attend for \$10.00 each. We will supply water, iced tea and coffee, BYOB. Remember to bring your own chair and please no pets! There will be a 50/50.

Looking forward to **Saturday, August 29th**, there will be a Pot Luck Party at the Clubhouse with entertainment by Gary Owen. There will be a sign up sheet in the office. We ask everyone to please bring an appetizer, entree or dessert to share. BYOB. Coffee, tea, soda and water supplied.

The Annual Wildwood / Cape May soirée is scheduled for **September 20-24th**. You can pick up flyers and sign up in the office.

Finally, plans for a day trip to Lancaster (probably in the Fall for the colors) are in the works along with a trip to the Hunterdon Hills dinner theater across the Delaware in New Jersey. More details to follow.

If you have any questions, please call Fran at 570-296-5528 and look for postings on the bulletin board by the clubhouse.

General Membership Meeting

Saturday, July 25th, 2015

12:30 PM

Pizza and refreshments.

Come one, come all...meet your neighbors and take part in your Association's business meeting.

Wanted: Dog Walker for Lemon, the yellow lab, July 9 – 16. Needs to go out 3 to 4 times per day. If interested, please call Art in the Office at 296-7788.

Something Fishy Here

Counting Fish: the Walker Lake Creel Survey
By Scott Rando, WLLA Lake Committee Member

Some of you may have seen either the forms in the office or the menu item on the left hand navigation pane on the WLLA website regarding a creel survey. People may ask, "What is a creel survey?" or "Is it something run by the PA Fish and Boat Commission?" The aim of this article is to explain what a creel survey is and how we use it to improve the fishery of our lake.

In 2012, the WLLA Lake committee was discussing fish stocking plans and it became apparent that we needed more data to make intelligent decisions for this effort. It was decided in 2012 to initiate a voluntary creel survey in order to get direct feedback from the fisherman who angle on Walker Lake.



One of the largemouth bass released a few years ago.

The creel survey was successful in providing feedback data, and along with our consultant's trap and release survey, is used for any fish stocking or any other lake management decisions.

So what is on this survey, you may ask. There are basically 5 target species groups that are being tracked: largemouth bass, pickerel, pan fish (sunfish, bluegills, etc.), crappie, and yellow perch. We are looking for size class for each fish, and if you don't have a ruler, "best guess" is fine. Whether you harvest the fish or release it, please record species and size class of every fish caught. If you catch a fish that is out of season, that's fine; record species and size, and then release. Also on the form is a "comments" section. If you see anything noteworthy, catch any unusual species, etc., that can be noted here. A couple years ago, some tagged largemouth bass were released into the lake. If you catch a bass that has a 4 digit lip tag, we do NOT need the physical tag. Just record the number on the tag and the size in the "comments" part of the form.

Aside from helping us improve the fishery of the lake, there is another reason do fill out a creel survey and send it in. If you supply contact info on the form, you are entered into a drawing at the end of the year, and you stand a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate for fishing tackle at Curt's Sport Shop in Shohola. Last year we drew 5 winners. The more survey forms you fill out during the season, the better your chance of being a winner at year's end.

Creel surveys can be picked up at the office; take a few for the season. An electronic form is also posted on the WLLA website that will submit your data by the push of a button (use the "Tab" or "Mouse" key to navigate the form, and then hit "Submit" when complete). By using the creel survey, you help us better manage the fishery of the lake so it can be enjoyed for years to come.

Noise and Vehicle Ordnances to Heed

WLLA is a beautiful and peaceful part of nature, a big reason why folks make their homes here. So, the Association has developed rules that limit noise and vehicular activity that can spoil this peacefulness. Here is a brief summary of the rules. You can get all the details in the red handbook. Can't find yours? The Office has a supply on hand just for the asking.

1. No quads, dirt bikes, ATVs or other off road vehicles can be operated at any time within the Association. Offenders will be fined and can be issued tickets by the police. In fact the exact legal language regarding such vehicle use is presented on the next page.
2. There is a noise limit during certain hours. After 10 PM and before 9 AM, please respect your neighbors and keep music, party noise and lawn care equipment use to a minimum.
3. There are fire pits in certain locations for evening get-togethers. Please be sure the flames do not extend above the rim. The intent is to create an inviting environment, not generate a signal the International Space



Yes, it is Rat Fink by Ed Roth, as seen on the Internet. Now that I have your attention, please read this article and remember, "No driving, vehicles or noise like this in our Association!" Thank you.

NOTICE OF ATV BAN

Only vehicles which may be lawfully operated on the public highways of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania may be operated on the roads, streets, drives and other right-of-ways owned or controlled by the Walker Lake Landowners' Association. Such motor vehicles shall only be operated by drivers licensed to operate motor vehicles on the said public highways. **Without limitation to the foregoing, the use of all-terrain vehicles, motor driven cycles, dune buggies, pocket bikes, golf carts, trail bikes, snow mobiles, racing carts, and vehicles of similar design and nature are specifically prohibited from use on any lands owned, controlled or maintained by Walker Lake Landowners' Association.**

Upon written application substantiated by medical proof as required by Walker Lake Landowners' Association, exceptions to the prohibition against the use of the aforesaid prohibited vehicles may be made for legitimate medical necessity. Violation of this rule shall result in the imposition of a **\$200.00 fine** for the first offense, a **\$300.00 fine** for the second offense, and a **\$600.00 fine** for each subsequent offense. Fines are doubled for violations on Clubhouse, Sandy and Swezy Beaches.

Approved by the Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association

Station can see. Large fires have been reported and they do interfere with other folk's *quiet enjoyment* of their property (that, by the way, is a legal term that repeat offenders might encounter.)

4. Observe all posted speed limits. More children are out and about because of summer. Sight lines are limited in many areas so, GO SLOW. If in doubt, do not exceed 20 MPH.

Preventing Storm Water Damage to Our Lake and Neighbors

By Chet Dawson, WLLA Lake Committee Member

Walker Lake sits in a basin and receives storm water from a large area surrounding it. Our natural uneven terrain of large rocks, trees and bushes slows

the flow of storm water, filtering out many of the contaminants and allowing for much of the water to be absorbed into the ground. That of course has changed over the years as more and more homes are built, lawns and driveways installed and trees removed. Silt and chemical contamination of the lake has been going on for some time but now we are seeing an increase in sheets of storm water rushing towards the lake causing increases in erosion and complaints from downstream neighbors of flooding.

There are a number of things each of us can do to help minimize this damage. We live in a forest environment and the more trees and natural terrain you leave on your property the better it will be for the lake and your downstream neighbors. A mowed lawn is only minimally better than a paved area in slowing storm water. Where you do have a lawn don't cut it too short and limit your use of chemicals as most of these will wash off and end up in the lake. There is an old adage that says, "Green lawns make green lakes." If you live on the lake, a buffer of dense vegetation by the water will help catch some contaminants, limit lakeside erosion and it will also deter geese from going on your property. Geese also like new shoots of grass, so limit mowing and avoid using Kentucky Blue Grass, which is candy to geese.



Geese Control Tips

A downside to living in such a pleasant, natural area as we do is that geese like it too. Well, geese seem to like it everywhere when you think about it. They are majestic creatures but a royal pain as avian neighbors. Loud, aggressive, destructive and leavers of large droppings...what's not to love here?

As hard as they are to get rid of, there are some things you can do to make your lawn and property less inviting. Here are some tips from the Humane Society, reprinted verbatim from their website (http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/geese/tips/canada_geese_habitat.html?credit=web_id266485793):

The buffet is closed

Like most of us, if Canada geese find their favorite food spread out in easy reach, they will eat it. But you can close the free buffet!

- *Reduce the total amount of lawn.*
- *Where you keep lawn, reduce the young grass shoots geese like the most. Let grass grow taller—at least 6 inches and leave taller grass over winter. Stop or limit watering and fertilizing in the spring.*
- *Replace Kentucky bluegrass (a.k.a. "goose candy") with other grasses such as tall fescue. This works where geese can eat somewhere else. They will eat fescue and almost any short grass or legume if that's all there is.*
- *To reduce food for a short period, treat grass with chemical repellents. Anthraquinone triggers a strong, harmless digestive irritation and teaches geese to avoid treated areas. Methyl anthranilate is a grape flavoring in our food. To geese, it just tastes really bad. Repellents must be reapplied after heavy rains or when growing grass is mowed, so plan their use when it can be most effective.*
- *Do not feed geese! Human food is not healthy for them and geese will gather where they are fed.*

Don't give them shelter

Geese feel safe from predators where there are open sight lines, so they can see predators coming, and where they can easily escape onto open water.

- *Use dense tall plantings along shorelines to make a barrier between the food and the water.*
- *Add variety to landscaping with clumps of taller plantings where predators could hide.*
- *Locate ball fields and other grassy expanses as far from open water as possible.*
- *Maintain or establish stands of trees between water and grass so geese can't fly through.*

The site lists other tips and provides numerous resources. Your Association has invested in a green laser which is quite effective at scaring off geese (and other birds for that matter). By shining the laser on the ground near the geese, especially at dusk, they are frightened into leaving. As a result, they'll spend the night elsewhere and may find it more to their liking. Contact the Office for help with the laser.

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Address Service Requested

TO: EMAIL RECIPIENTS

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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