

autumn 2007 Moosic Lakes

A seasonal newsletter about management, conservation

and recreational happenings of the Moosic Lake community

CONSERVING THE FUTURE

news

FINDING *Your Place* IN THE Community

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

-- Margaret Mead

Do you ever wonder who maintains our roads? Or how we keep our lakes clean? In addition to the Board, the Moosic Lakes Club (MLC) structure consists of various committees. Some form as needed, and then disband when a need resolves. Others are more long-standing. Here listed are several current committees. And all need volunteers! As you read, think about what groups most peak your interest....

Advisors: Advisors allow for a streamlined way of addressing neighborhood challenges. They serve as key links between our Community and the Board. Advisors periodically survey assigned territories for such concerns as blocked ditches, branches too close to utility lines, dead trees, etc., and report these issues to the Board. An advisor might also inform the Board of residents' questions, concerns, and ideas for improvement.

Building: Serves as our liaison with Jefferson Township, and ensures that members who are building or making renovations on properties are both aware of and in compliance with rules and regulations.

By-laws: By-laws are a set of rules adopted by an organization for its own meetings or affairs. This group reviews and updates our by-laws as needed.

Community Center: Monitors the Center and surrounding area, and communicates needs and suggestions for upkeep. Establishes Center and beach use rules, schedules Center rentals, and secures summer lifeguards.

Environmental: Coordinates lake water, plant, and fish studies as appropriate, and communicates results of these studies back to the Community.

Membership: Maintains our membership listing to support various functions, including monitoring summer meeting attendance.

Nominating (Elections): Solicits member interest in running for Board positions, and presents nominations during the August General Membership meeting.

Roads & Commons: Works with our contractors on the upkeep of our roads, including ditches and commons areas.

Steering (5-Year Plan): Following receipt of a "5-Year Guideline", this group was formed in 2005 to assist in ensuring the long-term health of our lakes and surrounding area. This committee is charged with Community education and initiating the plan's suggestions whenever possible. Both our newsletter and several environmental studies are a direct result of this group's efforts.

Women's Club: Largely exists for the benefit of members' children, and hosts events and fundraisers such as recreation

nights, pasta dinners, and the annual regatta. Moosic Lakes T-shirts, glasses, and other apparel may also be purchased from the Women's Club.

We hope this information helps you better understand how things get done. **And we really need your help!** Please consider volunteering on at least one committee, and contact MLC to let us know where your interests lie. Also, let us know if you see a need for any additional groups. **The continued health and beauty of Moosic Lakes rests in the hands of its residents.**



Photo courtesy of John Menichello.
Early autumn's splendor over the big lake.

2007-08 Activities, Events, and Meetings

April
Earth Day Clean-Up

June
General Membership Meeting
Wine Tasting Event

July
Pasta Dinner
Regatta and BBQ



August
General Membership Meeting
(Election of Directors)
Annual Dance



Officers and Director Meetings:
7:00 pm on first Wednesday of each month at Community Center. Ideas, suggestions, and concerns are welcome. Any meeting date or time changes will be posted on community boards.

Jefferson Township Monthly Meetings:
Municipal building on Cortez Road, Mount Cobb, as follows:

- **Supervisors:** 1st Monday of month, 7:30 pm
- **Zoning:** As needed
- **Sewer:** 3rd Monday of month, 7:00 pm

- **Planning:** 2nd Wednesday of month, 7:00 pm

Reminders will be posted on community boards. Please attend whenever possible, as many decisions made during these meetings affect our community.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Moosic Lakers!

Beautiful!! As I meandered into our Moosic Lakes community today, I thought, "one can not express in words the extreme beauty that is bestowed upon us by the fall foliage". On that same point, my mother is chasing squirrels as they sneak out for a mid-day snack on her pumpkin decorations she adorned along the Cawley driveway, in only a way a grandma could do... to bring about the Halloween excitement for her 16 grand-kids.

Each of us should realize how unique our setting is. But with the migration of people into our county, our somewhat dormant community has started to awaken in the last several years, and will continue for years to come. I have had the fortunate opportunity to serve MLC as its Vice-President during the last two years, and will continue to serve for the next two years as your President. Board and director roles are often thankless positions. And, whether you agree or disagree with decisions made, please understand that as various officers and directors have come and gone, the common denominator was that ALL have had an extreme appreciation for the betterment of our community.

At our last general membership meeting, the officers and directors were given the leeway to enter into an agreement with a management company, and I expect to enter into the 1st phase of that agreement during this autumn season. This will result in a survey of all community properties -- the first step in moving toward enforcement of our rules and regulations in a fair, well thought-out approach. The company will also be sought to act as a representative with the

Township on any issues that affect our community. With the addition of the management company, along with more community volunteers, controlled, responsible development should protect our community internally as well as externally. I encourage all of you to not only partake in our monthly officers and directors' meetings, but to also attend monthly Township meetings. (Please refer to page 1 for a listing of those meetings). Remember that we are a part of Jefferson Township, and that information shared in respectful quorums only leads to better communication between the leaders.

On another note... In this day and age of better sharing of information, we expect the Moosic Lakes web site to be running live in the New Year. We envision this medium as an additional communications tool, and by no means will the site replace any current methods of correspondence. Furthermore, the web may prove an effective way for all residents -- year-round and seasonal -- to stay connected. Year-rounders should watch for the web site announcement on the community boards; and seasonal residents should check our web address soon after the new year (www.moosiclakes.com).

Lastly, if you have any questions, comments or issues that you feel should be addressed by the board, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other of the officers or directors. Until we all meet for those marathon summer meetings, please enjoy the rest of the autumn and soon-to-be winter season.

Sincerely yours,

Chris Cawley – October 2007

Big Lake or Little Lake, how clear is the water when you look down into it? Our summer lake studies provided some impressive results....

- Dr. Ann Rhodes, of the University of Pennsylvania's Botany Program, conducted a study of lake plant life. During the study, she obtained a water clarity reading of 4 meters in both lakes. This is equivalent to more than 12 feet! Furthermore, some of her readings were taken in very windy conditions, or just one day after a heavy rainstorm. (And such conditions tend to decrease water clarity.) Dr. Rhodes and her staff have surveyed 107 lakes in our state over the past 5 years. And in this time, she states she has found only one or two lakes with water clarity beyond 4 meters!

- Joe Gallagher, Consulting Ecologist at Ecological Solutions, Inc., recently conducted a fishery survey. As part of his survey, Joe obtained a water clarity reading of 20 feet. States Mr. Gallagher, "I've seen lakes all over the state in the past 20 years and I've never seen water that clear!"

- Dr. Joe Calabro, of Aqua-Tech Laboratory, provided the final results of our September 2007 Water Quality Study. To say that we had a good year would be a gross understatement! In his report, Dr. Calabro states, "The large lake

had the highest water clarity that I have ever witnessed." Concerning the overall data for both lakes, he states, "It does not get much better than this."

Congratulations are in order for all of our members and landowners. Take a bow! "It's all you, baby, and it's each one of you."

So, how do we maintain this superb water quality? Follow these "do's and don'ts"....

1. If you haven't already, connect to the sewer system.
2. Continue planting trees and bushes between you and your lake -- especially along the shoreline. Doing this helps absorb storm waters.
3. Don't feed the geese or ducks. And, don't sweep goose and duck droppings into the lakes. This fouls the water you swim in and can create an unhealthy condition. Instead, use a dustpan and a bag when cleaning droppings from your docks. Then, dispose of the bag in the trash. This is what our lifeguards do at the start of every working day.

4. Don't use soap in the lakes.

In summary, a simple rule... Don't put anything into the lakes permanently that did not come from the lakes.



Water Quality and Clarity

A message from Enviromental Committee member, Joe Kearney

*"I have never seen the lakes this clean and clear.
Keep up the good work!"*

Center Dedication

It was a beautiful fall day as family and friends gathered for the dedication of the new Moosic Lakes Community Center. The Center was dedicated to the memory of John R. and Jeanne Kane Hennemuth, whose major donation, along with donations from the Hennemuth children, allowed us to take the first step with building construction. Appropriately chosen for the dedication plaque were the words of William Butler Yeats:

"I will arise and go now, for always night and day. I hear lake water lapping with low sounds on the shore. While I stand on the roadway or on pavement gray, I hear it in the deep heart's core."

Children at Moosic Lakes can now enjoy the new Center playground, also as a result of the generosity of the Hennemuth children.



Hennemuth children standing L-R in front of the Community Center dedication plaque: Susan, Judith Hennemuth Sweeney, John, and Kurt.

Value in Membership and Community

The cost of a Moosic Lakes membership is minimal to what may be gained. For instance, the beauty of our lakes community may bring solitude, inner peace, contentment, and immeasurable joy with family and friends. You just need look at the calmness of the lakes or the beauty of the changing seasons. As residents and landowners, we should be proud of our individual investments in personal properties, in our community, and in the annual investments we make to the improvement of our lakes, Community Center, and infrastructure.

In its 65-year history, many changes have been introduced at Moosic Lakes. Some of these have been difficult to accept. However, growth and development are a reality, and a greater understanding is necessary and vital if we are to protect our community.

We all play a part in moving our community toward its full potential. Let us commit to volunteering our time and efforts on one or more committees. By doing so, we can achieve a greater understanding of our needs and concerns and can work together towards resolution.

Ghosts and Goblins at the Community Center

The Community Center was transformed into a haunted house on October 27th for the children's Halloween party. An estimated 40 children attended and had a great time bobbing for apples, dancing, and painting pumpkins. Costumes included a police officer, cowardly lion, Darth Vader, and Dorothy in her ruby slippers. The children also enjoyed the piñata, delicious Halloween desserts, and trick-or-treat bags.

For the past several years, the Bogdanovicz family has graciously hosted this event. Resident Jo Ann Bogdanovicz explained,

"After Labor day, many seasonal residents are gone. And this event brings year-rounders together. Many call me to volunteer. They bake cakes, help decorate, and even stay to break down the sets. The party brings both parents and children of the community together, and we have a lot of fun! Each year, I try to add something new, and the response just gets bigger and bigger! The Womens' Club has been very supportive of our efforts, providing monies to enhance what we can offer our residents."



Photo courtesy of Mauri Rafalko.

Resident's children enjoy an evening of fun at the annual Halloween Party.

To the Rescue...

An interview with former MLC treasurer, Frank Kane

While it may be easy to list several benefits of country living, such a chosen lifestyle is not, of course, without some drawbacks. For instance, you might recall a major fire here just a few years ago. Although the Township's volunteer firemen were on the scene as quickly as possible, a resident's home burned to the ground. And battling the fire was a time-consuming process, which involved

- Laying out a large, plastic, swimming-pool-like structure and pumping water from the lake into this pool
- Pumping the water from the pool into the fire truck tanker
- Applying the water to the fire.

Why create a temporary pool? This method is common in rural areas. In order for the tanker truck to draw the water, access must be within a limited distance from the truck. The pool allows this to happen. Frank Kane explained,

"From a safety-standpoint, we had been researching the possibility of installing a dry hydrant for years. A permit process was overseen by former Security member, Sarann Wheeler. In September 2006, Kurt

Hennemuth and I were on-site with Fire Chief A. J. Bistran and Jefferson Township volunteer firemen, who oversaw and assisted in the installation. To the far right of the Community Center beach area, Contractor Jim Keating created the access road



Photos courtesy of John Menichello. In the trenches, installing the dry hydrant.

-- able to handle a fire truck -- and dug a trench into the big lake.

"The piping was placed under ground in order to stay protected, and extends to a necessary point, maintaining a minimum of 3 feet distance from the water's surface. The pipe needed to be placed below the frost line to ensure year-round access to the water. Close to 100 feet of pipe was installed for this hydrant.

"The couplings that allow the fire department to hook up their truck were provided by the Jefferson Township Volunteer Fire Department. Resident Chris Luciani donated equipment to anchor the pipe's extension and helped with the clearing of the area for the access road."

Simply put, a dry hydrant is a non-pressurized system whereby a pipe is permanently placed into a substantial body of water for quick access. In a matter of minutes, firemen can fill their tankers and drive to any site in our community. The dry hydrant eliminates the need for creating a "temporary pool" and speeds up the extinguishing process. Frank continued,

"The dry hydrant had been in the budget for years and had been approved by MLC members on many occasions. The total cost of the purchase and installation of the dry hydrant was \$2186.50. And this project came in more than \$1,300.00 under budget.

"The money for the access road was from the Commons Maintenance line item. The access road cost \$3975.00 to construct and serves the dual purpose of creating a safer community and allowing members a convenient and easily-accessible area from which to launch and retrieve their boats."

Although there are no guarantees that a home or land area can be saved from fire devastation, the speed at which the fire company can now respond is greatly increased by having a dry hydrant. Many thanks to those involved in this endeavor towards a safer Moosic Lakes.

Go Live!

Seasonal thoughts from former MLC President, Barbara Giovagnoli

Why not consider planting a living tree for the holidays?

- Choose a healthy tree whose roots are balled and wrapped in burlap.
- Prepare a hole for planting the tree before the ground freezes. Be sure it is deep enough for the root ball, with adequate room on the sides. Place a layer of leaves on the bottom of the hole and have a pile of leaves available to place around the soil after planting. Consider mixing the soil from your dig with compost or peat, and cover the pile to make it less likely to freeze solid and easier to use when time to plant your tree.
- Keep the tree outside until you're ready to bring it in for decoration.
- Make sure the tree remains well watered.
- Keep the tree inside for no more than two weeks, in a cool area of the room.
- When taking the tree outside, plant it immediately in the prepared hole. Mulch and water well.

Enjoy your tree for years to come!

Present and Former Members of Board and Directors for Moosic Lakes



Seated (l-r) Kristen O'Donnell, Secretary; John Menichello, Vice President; Betty Burns, Treasurer. Standing Barbara Cawley, Director; Frank Kane, former Treasurer; Chris Cawley, President; Barbara Giovagnoli, former President; Jim Bollard, Director; Alison Bollard, former Secretary. Absent from the photo is P. J. Dempsey, Director.

Working the Five-Year Plan!

The Five-Year Plan is developing as a well thought-out study that will encompass the history of the past as well as take into account present concerns. It is to serve as a guide for taking care of the lakes and surrounding areas, a blueprint for the future health and well being of our entire community.

We are most grateful to the agency representatives and to our residents assisting in this project. Former MLC Secretary, Alison Bollard, and residents, Joe Kearney and Mary Jo Gunning have been instrumental in moving us forward. And agency representatives continue to provide key information to help with various aspects of the studies, including the implementation of any changes that may need to be made. For instance:

Alana Roberts, Watershed Specialist with the Lackawanna Conservation District, assists with watershed and environmental issues. Alana has also provided grant information and educational programs and presentations. Furthermore, she has introduced MLC to several specialists and organizations that are now helping with the Study.

Tim Matechak and Jerry Stiles, also with the Lackawanna Conservation District, are specialists in erosion and sediment control. They have assisted MLC directors with road and ditch issues.

Dr. Joe Calabro of Aqua-Tech Laboratory tests the water in our wells. He also monitors the water quality of our lakes.

Joe Gallagher of Ecological Solutions conducted our fish study this summer. Such studies are used to determine both the health of our fish and any stocking needs.

Tim Eichner of Keystone Water Discovery assists with the water studies of our lakes.

Dr. Anne Rhodes and Dr. Timothy Block have produced a report of our lakes as part of the PA Flora Project, charting the species of plants and water quality.

Bill Kirkpatrick of Aquatic Environmental Consultants is attempting to limit the growth of water shield (a perennial plant) in the Little Lake.

Representative involvement and guidance are lending a fresh and objective look to the planning process.



Important Reminders

(please contact MLC if you have any questions or concerns regarding these reminders):

Club Property. MLC owns property along both the shoreline and on either side of the roads -- from 10-20 feet. Trees along the shoreline and roadsides cannot be cut down without permission. Contact MLC in order to review property lines before tree cutting.

Dues and Assessments. Because we are a private community, all roadwork, snow removal, insurance, and maintenance of facilities, to name only some responsibilities, are financed solely on the dues from property owners. Residents are invoiced annually in early April, and all dues and assessments must be paid-in-full by May 31. Delinquent payments are subject to an additional \$30.00 fee. (Keep in mind that MLC must pay its bills on a timely basis. And, if residents fail to pay their dues on time, MLC will also incur late charges.) Please understand our policy and pay any outstanding fees as soon as possible. If you need to make special arrangements, please contact our Treasurer, Betty Burns, at (570) 489-7163.

Trees. The Officers and Directors received bids to cut down dead trees along roads and property belonging to the MLC this past winter. Trees

removed were considered safety hazards. The Officers and Directors will continue to monitor the cutting of trees where deemed appropriate for safety or infrastructure needs.

Renters. Rentals of property are not allowed at Moosic Lakes.

Resale Certificate. Any member considering selling property is required to have a resale certificate at closing. The purpose of this requirement is that new owners will have an opportunity to learn of membership requirements, dues, by-laws, and policies.



Roads. The speed limit is 15 MPH for all vehicles including automobiles, trucks, motor and mountain bikes, golf carts, snowmobiles, and ATV's.

Pets. Dogs are not permitted to run wild and must be leashed when off the owner's property, and restrained when on the owner's property. Also, please clean up promptly after your pet. Pet waste can contaminate our lakes.

Boat Requirements. Every watercraft, i.e., rowboats, sail boats, kayaks, other water vessels must be equipped with a PFD life preserver per person and noise activating device (Ex. a whistle). This is in keeping with the PA State Laws. Children must wear PFD at all times when in a craft.



Lakes and Waterfront. Waterfront rules must be observed. PA rules apply for boating and fishing. Only members' boats with identifying stickers are allowed on the Lakes. To ensure the pure quality of the Lakes, residents and guests are requested not to take boats from one lake to another. Boats are to be washed down if being brought from another lake.

Guests at Moosic Lakes. Guests must adhere to all rules and regulations of Moosic Lakes, including boating, swimming, hunting and fishing regulations.

Community Center Regulations & Aquatic Safety. All users of the lakes and Community Center must adhere to the Center's rules and regulations, to all posted main beach rules, and to those rules enforced by lifeguards. For information about renting the Center, or to schedule any activities or events at the Center, please contact MLC.

Safety and In Case of Emergency. Be sure to provide both specific directions to your home and emergency contact numbers to any home security provider service you may use. Jefferson Township responders may need to find your home quickly in case of an emergency. Also, be sure your home is appropriately marked. Your action on this matter could save a life. It could save your home, neighboring homes and even our Moosic Lakes community!



History in the Making: *Did you know that...*

- The **FIRST ANNUAL MEETING** of the Moosic Lakes property owners was held on July 5, 1942?
- Formation of the **MOOSIC LAKES WOMEN'S CLUB** occurred in 1962?
- **TELEPHONES** and **ELECTRICITY** were not available to our first residents?

Moosic Lakes Club

The Moosic Lakes Club is a non-profit organization that acquires, holds and maintains real estate, roads, and lake rights for the purpose of the private community. MLC promotes civic, community, and environmental interest via volunteerism among its residents. MLC also promotes recreation by maintaining a community center and fostering social activities for the enjoyment of its members.

Officers & Directors

Chris Cawley *President*
John Menichello *Vice President*
Betty Burns *Treasurer*
Kristen O'Donnell *Secretary*
Barbara Cawley *Director*
Jim Bollard *Director*
P. J. Dempsey *Director*

The Moosic Lakes Newsletter is produced by the Moosic Lakes Club. Please consider writing for our publication! And if you have events, workshops, or any other information you would like to submit for the next edition, please e-mail the information to bacawley@yahoo.com or to jmenichello@hotmail.com, or call MLC. All information must be received by *March 15, 2008*, and is subject to editing.

Moosic Lakes Club (MLC)

(570) 489-2664

For questions regarding rules & regulations, by-laws, and general questions or concerns. Messages left on voice-mail will be returned within one week.

Security

Jefferson Township Police (available 6:00 pm through Midnight) can be contacted by dialing 911.

Contact **Pennsylvania State Police** at (888) 992-6833 when Township police are not available.

Jefferson Twp. Sewer Authority

(570) 689-9522

Jefferson Twp. Municipal Building

(570) 689-7028



MOOSIC LAKES

Moosic Lakes Newsletter
Box 30
Jefferson Twp. PA 18436

*"I was taught that the way of
progress is neither swift nor easy"*

*- Marie Curie
(1867-1934)*

Become a volunteer in your
community today!