

Moosic Lakes

autumn 2008



A seasonal newsletter about management, conservation

and recreational happenings of the Moosic Lake community

news

Water Quality & Clarity

A report from Lake Health Committee member, Joe Kearney

The water quality of both Big and Little Lakes was monitored about twice per month throughout the summer. Accordingly, 12 to 20 lake water samples were taken each time. These samples were

tested for the presence of fecal coliform bacteria (a by-product of all animal waste). Analysis was strictly conducted using approved methods at state-certified Aqua-Tech Laboratory in Mountain Top, PA. The result is represented numerically, where:

- 0 is optimal, and represents the absence of bacteria.
- Any number under 30 indicates very good swimming.
- Isolated samples between 30 and 50 are usually due to water fowl activity.
- If the number exceeds 200, the Commonwealth bans all swimming.

Out of 106 samples taken, we recorded (1) 18 and (2) 14's. The remaining revealed single-digit numbers, and fully one-third were at 0. In previous years, a few clusters of numbers between 50 and 85 (the highest ever) had been recorded. And further investigation revealed that, in all cases, these numbers could be attributed to weeks of dried goose droppings being swept from docks into the lakes. Apparently this year everyone got the word, and this practice has been curtailed.

In addition to the water quality monitoring, Dr. Joseph Calabro, Director of Aqua-Tech, visited both lakes to perform a wider range of tests covering both quality and clarity. Utilizing resident Bill Smith's boat and electric motor, Dr. Joe set off on his testing on September 13. The results? Dr. Joe states:

"In last year's report, I commented on the exceptional lake water quality, saying 'It doesn't get much better than this.' I was incorrect. This year's data is better."

That pretty much says it all.

Since the installation of sewers, we have seen a steady increase in water quality as measured by decreasing numbers associated with fecal coliform readings. These numbers have declined by 25 to 40% each year, and were accompanied by a very dramatic increase in water clarity in 2007. This year, water clarity remained excellent, even after heavy rains on the previous day. In addition, bacteria decreased roughly 40 to 50% over last year (which had been our best year to date).

In the past, other factors (ie. weather, time of sampling, increased vegetation) may have played a role in the improving water quality. However, it is now unequivocally clear that by far the major contributing factor to the pristine nature of our waters has been the

sewer plan. This fine water quality can also be attributed to dedicated common sense and diligence of all of our members. Specifically, I would like to thank resident Rita McNeal, who has been absolutely instrumental in this year's Water Quality Program. *Keep up the good work, all of you.*



Photo courtesy of Alison Bollard.

Moosic Lakes children gather at the Community Center during a June swim.

2009 Activities, Events, and Meetings

January

TBA – Winter Party

April-May

TBA – Earth Day Clean-Up

June

26 – Wine & Cheese Party

28 – General Membership Meeting

(Members intending to pay dues must arrive by 1:30 pm.)

July

TBA – Family Day

15 – Kid's Night

26 – Pasta Dinner

August

15 – Annual Dance

30 – General Membership Meeting

(Election of Officers)
(Members intending to pay dues must arrive by 1:30 pm.)

September

6 – 2nd Annual Brunch

October

TBA – Kids Halloween Party



"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

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

Jefferson Township Monthly Meetings: Municipal building on Cortez Road, Mount Cobb, as follows. Call the Township to confirm.

- **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! -- Fall is well underway. And if our first snow storm is any indication of the winter to come, we should all be in fine fitness shape come spring with all the snow we will be shoveling!

A goal of the current board has been to make governing and decision-making processes much simpler by creating specific guidelines. Initial areas of focus towards this endeavor have been around dues collection, road/ditch repair & maintenance, and violations enforcement. A learning curve is often involved as new officers and directors are elected each year. This has led to many inconsistencies through no one's fault. By creating written guidelines, our hope is that the governing process will become simpler for future boards. Development of guidelines is overseen by third parties (for example: legal, civil engineering), and we will seek membership approval for such guidelines, where needed. Consistency has become the one common word which we have been advised to follow. We

have seen great strides in guidelines development, especially around the collection of dues and roads infrastructure in the past few months.

Additionally, we have had an increased number of members pitching in to volunteer from almost every aspect of the Lakes' functions. This has helped us to act in a preventative manner on many items that seemed to fall by the wayside. Thank you to all of the new volunteers and of course, to the "main stays".

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very happy and healthy holiday and winter season. As beautiful as the Lakes are in the summer, they maintain their beauty in a different fashion during the winter season. Take the time to really enjoy the surroundings that bestow us here at Moosic Lakes.

Chris Cawley – November 2008

Important Reminders

(Contact MLC with any questions or concerns. Messages left on voice-mail will be returned within one week.)

Club Property. MLC owns property along both the shoreline and on either side of the roads. Cutting of any tree along the shoreline of the lake and in the right of way of the road is allowed only after MLC has been contacted and permission has been granted.

As the roads right of way varies greatly throughout the community (can be anywhere from 25 feet to 150 feet), members do not own all of the trees that appear to be on their property.

Opening of the shoreline should be limited to lake access of approximately 20 feet. The less trees cut down the better, as this area serves as the filter for all runoff going into the lakes. Clear cutting of the shoreline is absolutely forbidden.

These restrictions are to ensure that the lakes are protected from unnecessary runoff and the community maintains its rural quality. Contact MLC in order to review property lines before tree cutting. Also, for the preservation of our woodlands and natural scenery, property owners are asked to consider maintaining as many trees on their property as possible.

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. If you need to make special arrangements, please contact our Treasurer, Betty Burns, at (570) 489-7163.



Photo courtesy of Jim Nicastro.

*Tuesday morning's lunch for new member.
(Remember to seal your refuse well!)*

Trees. The Officers and Directors will continue to monitor the cutting of trees where deemed appropriate for safety or infrastructure needs. Residents should contact PPL Electric Utilities at (800) 342-5775 to report any trees or limbs posing danger via potential damage to power lines.

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 to give new owners 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 ATVs.

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. No motorboats are allowed. Every watercraft, (i.e., rowboats, sailboats, 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. To prevent unwanted lake vegetation and ensure the pure quality of the Lakes:

- All boats (rowboats, sailboats, paddleboats, kayaks, etc.) must be thoroughly cleaned prior to launch.
- Do not transfer boats between lakes.
- Dispose of live bait at least 100 feet from shore.

Guests at Moosic Lakes. Guests must adhere to all rules and regulations of Moosic Lakes, including boating, swimming, hunting and fishing regulations. Guests must also have resident members' cards for use of lake facilities.

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. For purposes of safety and emergency issues, residents are asked to consider providing specific directions and addresses to their Moosic Lakes home/property, not only to Jefferson Township responders, but to any home security providers residents may use as well.



Additional news from the Women's Club:

Women's Club meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of every month starting in June of 2009. New members (both men and women!) are welcome and encouraged to join at any time.

Moosic Lakes Hoodies, Crews, and Pants are available for purchase. Hoodies are \$25, Crews are \$20, and Pants (with either open leg or elastic cuff) are \$20. Sizes are adult small to 3XL in tops and adult small to 2XL in pants. Buy a set and get \$5 off! E-mail info@moosiclakes.org to place your order. Or Call Alison Bollard at (570) 489-4173.

Remember, these items make great winter holiday presents!



Moosic Lakes hoodie.

FROM THE *Treasurer*:

We are on course with our collection of dues. Less than 8% of MLC members have overdue account balances. This is a significant improvement from previous years.

All overdue accounts are posted in the Community Center, which is used by members throughout the year. In addition, we have filed collection claims on many Delinquent Accounts over 1 year. We are confident that we will have more accounts paid in full by the year's end.

While we are happy to arrange payment plans for overdue accounts, members with account balances should contact me regarding a payment schedule. After we file claims with our local magistrate, we will not be able to make payment arrangements. I can be contacted at (570) 489-7163.

We thank all members who have paid their dues in full, and promise to continue our efforts to collect dues from all members.

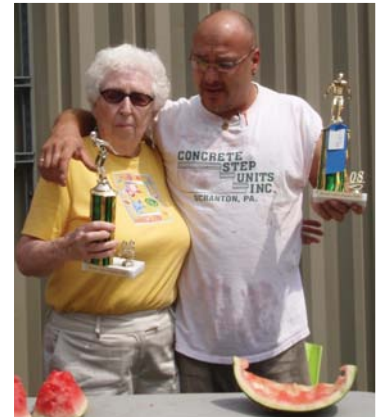
Betty Burns

Women's Club Sponsors Series of Events

By former MLC Director, Barbara Cawley

A whirlwind of activities were sponsored by the Women's Club this year. Kudos to the Officers and to the many volunteers who made each activity and event successful!

Summer activities were off to a great start with the 2nd Annual Wine and Cheese Party, held on June 27th. Neighbors and friends joined in this early summer event. The Ferrone Family Winery delighted its audience with a sampling of a variety of nine wines, which were nicely complemented by trays of cheese and fruit. In addition, Rich Good of the Ferrone family, spoke with guests about their wine-making business and answered questions. A raffle was held, with winners being announced by Club President, Chris Cawley. The party ended with a spectacular fireworks show by Tom McDonald. Thanks to Chairwoman, Peggy DeVivo-Kubash, for making the party so special.



Children and teen activities remain one of the central initiatives of the Women's Club. During Kid's Night in early July, children enjoyed the Beach-Party themed evening which included dancing, games, and a cook out.

The annual Regatta was held in late July. On the occasion of Mary Jo Gunning's retirement as Co-Coordinator of this event and the water activities at Moosic Lakes, the Women's Club presented her with a plaque in appreciation for her 28 years of service.

Another highlight of the summer was the Pasta Dinner, this year catered by DePietro's. As usual, the dinner drew a large turnout for a delicious dinner with family and

friends. Furthermore, a beautiful August evening was the setting for the Annual Dance. Residents enjoyed the opportunity to mingle with friends and neighbors, partake of great food, and dance to the music of the Fabulous Fortunes.

Towards the close of the season, the Williams family spearheaded the first ...and what is sure to be an annual... Labor Day Weekend Breakfast Buffet on Sunday, August 31st. Over 190 residents were served a terrific, piping-hot breakfast buffet which included eggs, bacon, sausage, Pina Colada French toast, cinnamon rolls, a selection of juices, coffee, and tea. The event was one of Moosic Lakes' most successful. Congratulations and thank you to the Williams family. Bravo!

Finally, the annual children's Halloween party was held at the Community Center on the evening of October 25th. Special thanks to resident Jo Ann Bogdanovicz, who has continued to take a lead role in organizing the event.



Photos courtesy of Alison Bollard.

July's Regatta included a competitive watermelon eating contest. Co-coordinator Mary Jo Gunning is holding the megaphone. The winners? Marie Cavanaugh and Chris Luciani.

Eco-Tips for the Holidays

From former MLC President Barbara Giovagnoli

Did you know that the amount of household garbage in the U.S. generally increases by 25% during the holiday months, from 4 million to 5 million tons per week? Buying over-packaged items and using disposable instead of washable tableware are big contributors to this increase. Keep your celebration green and still warm the hearts of your friends and families by rethinking standard gifts, entertaining and decorating techniques, and shopping methods. For instance:

Shopping bags are an easy way to cut down on trash. Keep reusable bags in your car to take with you into stores. According to Earth Share, if you shop once a week, in 5 years you'll keep 250 to 1000 bags out of the landfill. When 1 ton of plastic is reused or recycled, the energy equivalent of 11 barrels of oil is saved. Refuse bags whenever you can or ask the clerk to put your purchases in a bag you already have from a previous purchase. Shopping bags make great presents too!

Paper or plastic? Consider the source: paper from trees – plastic from oil. Some cities are banning the use of plastic bags by their vendors. Consider what you'll do with the bag after you've emptied it: If it will be recycled – great; or reused – even better. If it will end up in the trash -rethink...

Replace your old string of decorative lights with LED lights. LED lights may initially cost more, but you'll save money on electricity costs because LEDs reduce energy use by 90%. And you'll never have to replace burnt-out light bulbs again!

Soy candles are made from a renewable resource and are completely biodegradable. They emit no carcinogens, and burn much cleaner than paraffin-based candles. Furthermore, they support farmers and make great gifts!

Bamboo clothing is softer than cotton, naturally anti-microbial, and is made from one of the most sustainable resources in the world! Such clothing is becoming increasingly available in our local stores. Search for bamboo items on the internet, or visit www.shirtsofbamboo.com

Water-powered alarm clocks use no electricity or batteries! Fill up the fuel cell with water to enjoy four modes of water-powered usage: clock, alarm, countdown timer, and thermometer! www.thinkgeek.com (I've got to get one of these!)

Think globally, act locally. That can mean whatever you want, really. But basically, use less, waste less; reuse and recycle more.

January sunset on the Big Lake.

Photo courtesy of John Menichello.

A New Plan for Our Infrastructure

By former MLC Treasurer, Frank Kane and Vice President, John Menichello

As approved by the General Membership, nearly 50% of MLC's 2008-09 budget is allocated for road-related expenses. Are you among the residents who, considering this allocation, wonder why our road repairs began so late in the season this year? Rest-assured, the delay was for good reason. Repairs in years past consisted mostly of simply throwing dirt on top of dirt. And this year, Road Committee members felt budgeted monies would best be spent on supporting the road infrastructure. For instance, our roads require ditches that can handle water run-off and remain stable. And focusing our current efforts on areas such as ditches should result in less time and effort spent on our overall roadways in the future.

This year, Acker Associates, Inc., a professional consulting civil engineering firm, was hired to provide both design specifications and construction monitoring for our road maintenance and storm water management. In other words, our contractual agreement includes not only the provision of specifications, but also inspection/follow-up on the work of any contractor hired by MLC. This firm has been involved in several engineering projects throughout our area, including the planning for the sewer project. Road repairs were delayed for several reasons. For one, defining the areas most in need of repair took time. Also, getting bids from contractors based on the engineering firm's specifications took longer than anticipated.

Here are just a few other road-related expenses we are incurring:

- Vacuuming of leaves from most problematic ditches.
- Ongoing snow removal (consider the 17 inches of white stuff dumped upon us in October!)
- Replacement of stolen and/or vandalized road signs.

In early September, we embarked upon ditch repair. Areas of focus included a 330-foot stretch of Old Lake Road and sections along both Sunset Drive and the ball field. Following ditch repair, potholes were actually "dug up" and repaired. (That is, per the specifications, materials were used both to firm up and roll sections of roadway rather than to just fill in holes.)

What next? You may have noticed recent repair work at the paved areas where our roads meet Route 247 (at the main and mailbox entrances). And further projects include road and driveway cross-pipe recommendations as well as inspection services during construction.

In summary, months of focus and careful consideration have resulted in a sound set of road infrastructure specifications covering areas such as ditch planning and maintenance, pothole repair, and pipe design. These specifications will be passed on for use by future boards.

Moosic Mountain Nature Preserve Offers New Trails and New Lands

By Vice President John Menichello, with excerpts from *The Nature Conservancy* October 5th press release.



Anyone with a profound love of nature should be familiar with The Nature Conservancy, whose mission is to preserve ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. The Conservancy has protected more than 119 million acres of land, including 5,000 miles of rivers, and operates more than 100 marine conservation projects globally. And we at Moosic Lakes are very fortunate to have such protected land literally in our own back yard, known as the Moosic Mountain Nature Preserve...

A decade ago, this 2,200-foot peak off of Route 247 was slated for a business park. Then in 2001, the Conservancy purchased 1,200 acres of the land and worked with local development officials to re-site the business park. The Conservancy engaged the assistance of local mountain bike clubs and community groups to establish the Preserve, and an additional 300 acres were added last year.

Volunteers, under the direction of Nature Conservancy Director of Volunteers Molly Anderson, cleaned up the Preserve the old-fashioned way — with hard work. Since May of 2007, they removed more than 500 abandoned tires from the site.

Recently, Conservancy staff hosted two events at the Preserve. Project Manager Ellen Lott and Naturalist Patti O'Keefe treated Moosic Laker, their families, and friends to a private, guided nature walk on August 17th. Nearly 40 people attended! Patti pointed out native vegetation such as scrub oak and various knee-high shrubs, and described wildlife present at the Preserve, including bears, coyotes, rattlesnakes and hares. We also saw blueberries (both high and low bush), of course, sassafras and mountain laurel. And we ventured into a spring-fed wetland area where the temperature cooled considerably and the ground was soft underfoot.

The second event was a trail dedication ceremony held on October 5th. Conservancy Stewardship Manager Jenny Case had high praise for the dozens of mountain bikers from

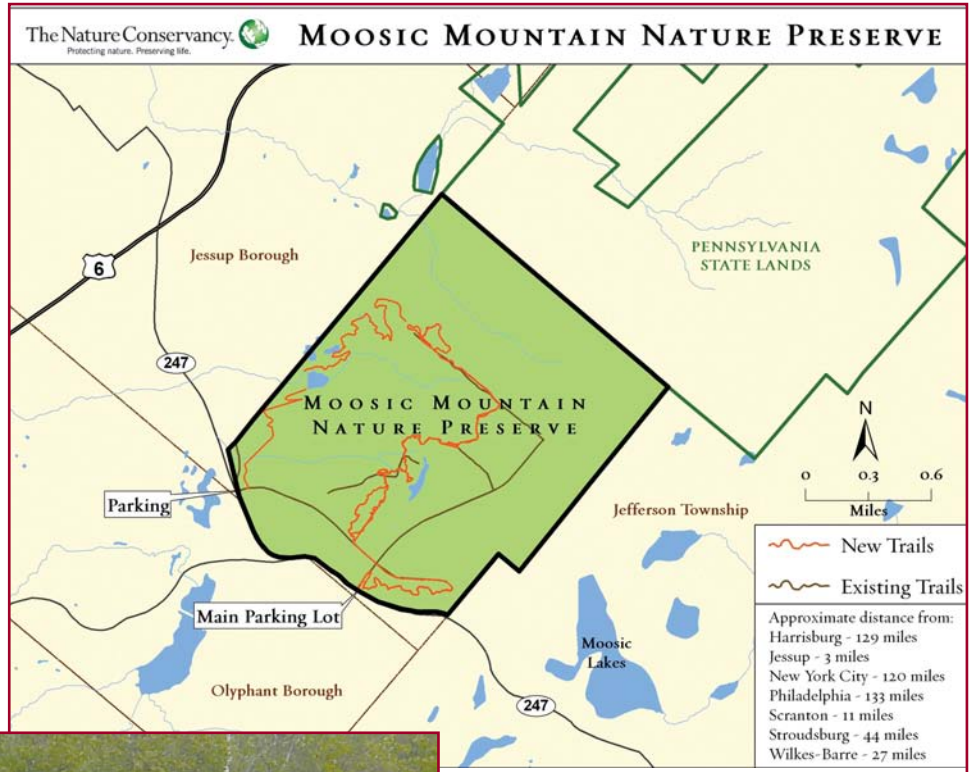


Photo courtesy of Ellen Lott. Conservancy Naturalist Patti O'Keefe leads Moosic Lakes' residents on guided nature walk.

the Hubbard Bike Club and NE PA Mountain Biking Association, who designed and developed five miles of new hiking and biking trails. She noted that their trails are ecologically sensitive and FUN to hike or bike. All volunteer efforts were recognized during the ceremony.

At the same time, residents and neighbors celebrated the expansion of the Preserve, with Bud Cook, Conservancy Senior Project Manager, sharing news of additional lands to be protected there. That is, through an agreement with Richard McLaughlin, President of Moosic Lakes, Inc., 747 acres along both sides of Route 247 are expected to be added to the Preserve by

2009. The total cost of protecting all 747 acres and creating a land management fund is expected to be around \$5 million. The Nature Conservancy has applied for state funding and will seek private donations for the entire acquisition project.

Immediate next steps for Preserve management include expansion of the parking lot, putting up trail signs, and continued prescribed fire management. Note that vehicular traffic and ATV use are prohibited throughout the Preserve. Also, visitors are reminded to wear blaze orange during hunting season, since public hunting is permitted on the property.

"Moosic Mountain is an ecological gem," says Ralph Cook, Director of The Nature Conservancy's Northeastern Pennsylvania Office. "Although the Preserve harbors rare species, it's also a hardy, rugged place, with austere beauty through the winter months, blueberries and wildflowers in summer, and stunning year-round views of the Lackawanna Valley."

For more information on the Moosic Mountain Nature Preserve, call The Nature Conservancy at (570) 643-7922 or visit our web site, www.moosiclakes.org.

Present and Former Members of Board and Directors for Moosic Lakes

Photo courtesy of Barbara Cawley.

*Seated (l-r) Chris Cawley, President;
Betty Burns, Treasurer.
Standing Chris Luciani, Director;
Kristen O'Donnell, Secretary;
Barbara Cawley, former Director;
Jim Bollard, former Director;
Liz Kenny, Director;
P.J. Dempsey, Director;
John Menichello, Vice President.*



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

Please remember that all residents are members of MLC 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 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*
Kristin O'Donnell *Secretary*
P. J. Dempsey *Director*
Chris Luciani *Director*
Liz Kenny *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 info@moosiclakes.org or call MLC. All information for the next edition must be received by March 30, 2009, and is subject to editing.



MOOSIC LAKES

15 Moosic Lakes
Jefferson Twp. PA 18436

*"It's better to light a candle
than to curse the darkness"*
— Eleanor Roosevelt

Become a volunteer in your
community today!