

Moosic Lakes

summer 2009

A seasonal newsletter about management, conservation

and recreational happenings of the Moosic Lake community

news

Lake Health is a Top Priority

Notes from Vice President John Menichello

From road and ditch maintenance to new construction compliance to summer lifeguard scheduling, we need volunteers to preserve the health, aesthetics, and enjoyment of our lakes and community. We solicited for such by distributing a listing of volunteer opportunities during the June 2008 General Membership meeting. The response rate was somewhat disappointing. But the majority of those returning their solicitations indicated an interest in assisting with "lake health" issues.

Eight to twelve residents met during the latter-half of last year. Some were primarily interested in fishing; others were more concerned about the algae growth in the Little Lake; and several were focused on the goal of shoreline restoration and overall lake protection. But health and quality in any one area can only come about in considering all components of our fragile ecosystem as a whole.

Lively discussion and sharing of insights ensued around a variety of topics such as water quality and alternative methods of lake algae control. And within a few months, some noteworthy endeavors were accomplished. Here are some examples:

1 With help from the group, resident Frank Capoochia presented a proposal to the General Membership for the creation of artificial structures to help grow and sustain our fish population. The proposal was approved, and Frank recently stated,

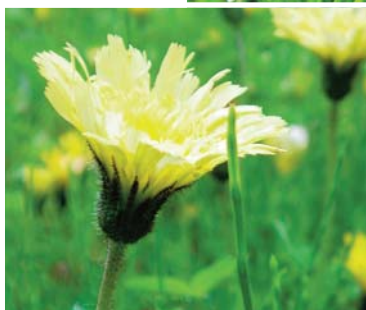
"We have successfully moved forward in attempting to provide artificial aquatic cover for our fish community within the Big Lake. The structures were

constructed and placed in four different areas of the lake by volunteers this past fall and early spring. These structures will help provide the much-needed habitat for our juvenile fish population such as perch, bluegill and crappie. Additionally, the structures will help provide fish the ability to mature and reproduce in the lake. This will ultimately encourage our fish community to be self-sustaining."



Photos courtesy of John Menichello.

Nature awakens with a variety of spring wildflowers at Moosic Lakes.



2 The group also came to agreement as to what types of fish were most beneficial to include in last autumn's

stocking. Resident Fred Tagliattera then arranged for such, and the lakes were stocked with appropriate ratios of crappie, bluegill, perch, and large-mouthed bass.

3 How do we address the increase of undesirable plant life in our lakes? Following brainstorming, a "notice" listing directives towards eliminating their growth was mailed to all residence and posted on the web site. In addition, resident Joe McGraw created two banners addressing this issue. The banners have been posted on our community boards since last September. Furthermore, Joe continues to educate our membership on the importance and specifics of what it takes to protect our shoreline. (See related article on back page.)

Upcoming Activities, Events, and Meetings

Softball: Every Sunday throughout summer. 6:00 pm in the ball park.

July

15 – Kid's Night.

Community Center. 6:30 pm.

26 – Family Fun Day / Pig Roast.

Community Center. Fun begins at 1:00 pm. Dinner is 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Adults: \$10 pre-pay, \$12 at door. Children ages 6-12: \$8.00. Children under 6: Free. Contact Mary Alice for pre-paying at (570) 489-2669.



August

15 – Annual Dance.

Community Center. Price TBA.

30 – General Membership Meeting

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

September

6 – 2nd Annual Brunch.

Community Center. Price TBA.

"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 usually 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, 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

Please attend whenever possible, as many decisions made during these meetings affect our community.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Moosic Lakers!

It was great seeing so many of you at our June General Membership meeting. Nearly half of our membership was present! I also appreciated receiving so many questions during our time together. This clearly reveals your strong interest and/or passion for concerns affecting our community. I presented some tough issues for decision-making, specifically around dues and assessments. I realize these are particularly challenging economic times, and I hope the information given at the

meeting provides clarity as to exactly where your monies are being spent.

Thank you again to the Women's Club for providing ice cream sundaes following our meeting – a refreshing way to welcome summer! I thank you each of you for your continued support, and look forward to a summer of progress, particularly around road infrastructure.

Chris Cawley – June 28, 2009



Important Reminders

(Contact MLC if you have any questions or concerns regarding these reminders. 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 cut down at the shoreline 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. (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.

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 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. No motorboats are allowed. 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. 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/New 911 Addresses. 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. Earlier this year, residents should have been notified by the Township of their new 911 addresses. For any questions, call the Township.



A Life of *Dedication*

By former MLC Director, Barbara Cawley

One of Moosic Lakes' generational stories is that of Dr. Mary Jo Gunning, Director of Athletics and Recreation at Marywood University. Mary Jo is the daughter of Michael and Mary Gunning, Moosic Lakers for more than fifty years.

Mary Jo's love of Moosic Lakes grew with age, and her work on behalf of our community began at the age of fifteen when she became a life guard for more than ten years. Her initial work branched out to supervising the life guards for thirty years. And her ongoing volunteerism included:

- developing and overseeing the Recreation Program for young children
- developing and implementing the Learn to Swim Program for all ages
- coordinating the annual Regatta (a natural family tradition begun by her grandfather, Joe Boland)
- serving the Women's Club as its President, Vice President, and



Photo courtesy of Alison Bollard.

Thank you, Mary Jo! Pictured left to right: Kurt Hennemuth, sister - Mary Lisa Gunning, father - Michael Gunning, Mary Jo, and Margaret Christiano.

Secretary (note: the opportunity to serve as Treasurer was faithfully discharged to her mother, Mary, who has held that position for over fifty years!)

The quality of the Lakes remains of particular interest and importance to Mary Jo. With watchful eye, she initiated both the weed treatment and water quality programs for the Lakes.

Last year, Mary Jo resigned as overseer of the life guards and coordinator of the annual Regatta. She states, *"It has been a privilege...a lasting gift is the life-time friends I have made...four generations of friends. It is time to give these opportunities to other people."* Still, her passion and interest in the environment and the

pure quality of the Lakes remain.

Mary Jo's life is one of caring for and serving others, both in her professional career and as a Moosic Laker. We are grateful to Mary Jo for the person she is, for her tremendous passion for all that is good, her striking personality, her love and dedication to our community, and her insight into helping to maintain the quality and beauty that surrounds us. *Thank you, Mary Jo!*

Bonfire's Away!

By Vice President John Menichello

When life throws you lemons, you make lemonade, right? Well, when Mother Nature throws you an October snowstorm, leaving behind acre upon acre of fallen branches, what do you do? Kurt Hennemuth has the answer. How about a bonfire? Kurt got the idea while hauling truckloads of branches to the Community Center parking lot. And on a frigid, late-January night, up to sixty hardy residents convened in the lot to have fun and laugh in the face of a grueling winter. Kurt says, *"It was so cold that night that red wine froze in our glasses! But we had a great turnout, and many new faces. And so many people requested that we do it again."* So...

Following the success of this "Winter Party", a second bonfire was held in March. Rita MacNeal states, *"Between fifty and sixty people showed up. It was nice to see so many young kids*

"It was so cold that night that red wine froze in our glasses!"

there. The fire was huge as everyone took turns throwing on more branches. And with the winter storms, there were plenty of those around! The finale was the Christmas tree on top. It ignited so quickly, it was like a fireball, and crackled like firecrackers. Everyone enjoyed mingling and meeting with residents old and new.

"Kurt and his planning crew had tables all set up which were quickly filled with goodies that everyone brought to share. The portable grill was always hot as the burgers and dogs cooked all evening. Someone even brought Texas Weiner sauce! I'm hoping this becomes more than just a winter event."

Residents were not the only ones who attended... the Jefferson Township Volunteer

Fire Department paid a visit to the March blaze-fest after someone called in to report a fire! False alarm!



Photos courtesy of Rita MacNeal. Dee Hennemuth and Barbara Giovagnoli share a moment at the March bonfire.



FROM THE *Treasurer:*

Thanks to all who continue to pay their dues on time. As you know, we have increased our annual dues for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

As previously mentioned, our costs during the past year were higher due to bad weather last autumn. We had one serious ice storm in October which destroyed hundreds of trees and resulted in a major cleanup (some residents were without power for days). In addition, the winter '09 snow started in October, so we had several extra calls for snow removal and cinderling (for ice).

I mentioned last year that I would focus on unpaid dues. I am happy to report that our Delinquent Account List, which is posted in the Community Center, now lists only nine (9) accounts. We have collected Club Dues & Assessments from 80% of our membership. We have also collected more than \$12,000 in unpaid dues, and are actively pursuing remaining delinquent accounts.

Since this is my last season as Treasurer, I want to thank you for your help and encourage everyone to VOLUNTEER – it helps keep our costs down and it's a great way to meet your neighbors!

Please feel free to contact me directly at (570) 489-7163 if you have any questions or wish to make payment arrangements.

Very truly yours,

Betty Burns



Women's Club Still Going Strong

By Alison Bollard and Mary Alice Golden



Moosic Lakes hoodie. Remember, these and other items from the Women's Club make great gifts!

In 1962, four big-hearted women started the Moosic Lakes Women's Club, then called "Ladies Club", for the sole purpose of providing entertainment for the children of Moosic Lakes. The late Alice Golden, along with Mary Gunning, Marian McGraw, and Marie Cavanaugh laid the foundation for a group that continues to flourish and spread community spirit nearly fifty years later!

Early events sponsored by the Women's Club were numerous and included weekly movies (does anyone recall Vince Gorski selling candy bars out of his briefcase?), a "wiener roast", and a hay ride. To bait a little neighborly competition, the club also hosted scavenger hunts, a "crazy hat" contest, the "tiny tots" dance, and a "donkey" baseball game.

The Women's Club has grown over the years and continues to annually sponsor popular summer events such as the regatta/family day and dance. (Refer to the events calendar.) Our spirit is kept alive when all of the Lakes' members partake in such events. And monies raised from events have been used solely for the community's benefit. One year, the Women's Club was able to purchase benches for the ball field!

Our recognizable logo may be found on glasses, T-shirts, caps, flags, aprons, sweats, pants, crews, and most recently, the popular Moosic Lakes hoodie. Glasses are back for 2009, but supplies are limited. These and other merchandise are available from June through September by calling Mary Alice at (570) 489-2669 or Dee at 489-7039. After September, you may call Alison at 489-4173 for orders. Or, inquire about supplies anytime at info@moosiclakes.org.

Lastly, we are delighted to welcome new members (both men and women!) Generally, our meetings are held at the Community Center on the first and third Tuesday of every month throughout the summer season. But watch the community boards for postings.



Photos courtesy of Carole Kovalchik. Residents and children alike enjoy Sunday baseball throughout the summer. Come join us at 6:00 pm in the ball park. Here, Cory Kovalchik and Brendan Smith swing the bat while Trish DeNicolais and Nancy Luciani sit it out.

REMEMBER WHEN...

Did you know that the Moosic Lakes web site contains a "Gallery" section dedicated to our Community's history, events, and time periods of yesteryears? Think of this area of the web site as a scrap book of sorts.

Resident Anne Mullen provided these photos of a famous lion trainer's visit to our community more than sixty years ago. Anne explained *"I found these in one of my Uncle's scrapbooks from the 30s and 40s. My Uncle, Frank Langan, lived in Jessup."*

If you have computer access, simply go to our web site, moosiclakes.org, and click on "Remember When..." (located on the right side of the home page). At present, the site includes only a handful of picture post cards for viewing. But one dates back to 1908! We will be posting Anne's contribution momentarily. (Thank you, Anne!) If you have any Moosic Lakes memorabilia to share via a web site posting (pictures, news clippings, etc.), please send to us at 25 Beach House Drive, Jefferson Township, PA 18436. Or e-mail a copy to info@moosiclakes.org.

*Photos courtesy of Anne Mullen.
Famous lion trainer
visits Moosic Lakes,
circa 1930s or early 1940s.*



Improving Our Lake Community

Notes from Lake Health Committee member, Joe McGraw

We can all share in preserving, restoring, and protecting our environment. I am pleased to report the ongoing progress on the restoration of our shorelines. In just a few short years, nature has reclaimed its shoreline and created a natural buffer to protect our lakes. Still, remember these tips...

Plant a buffer between your lawn and our lakes. It will help decrease run-off from your property, and geese will stay away to boot! Keep in mind this includes second tier properties which border roadside ditches. Unfortunately these areas on our lakes are not as encouraging as more and more second and third tier residents are planting lawns right to the road side. We all know water flows downhill and, in our case, that means into our lakes.

Reduce or eliminate pesticides or herbicides. Weed killers like Round-up and Weed-B-Gon are coming under scrutiny by the Consumer Products Safety Commission as well as other environmental groups. Such products should not be used around our waterways. Pesticides also kill good bugs; can poison birds and fish; and should be used sparingly around children and pets. In addition, many of these chemicals take years and years to break down in nature and may pose a danger to our well waters as well. Consider environmentally safe alternatives to eliminating weeds. These include the old-fashioned weed puller, boiling water from your tea kettle, or the Benzomatic Weed Torch (available at Bill's Ace Hardware in Moscow, PA. Phone 570-842-7645. Item #JT850, cost \$40.99).



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 November 15, 2009, 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

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

25 Beach House Drive
Jefferson Township PA 18436

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

Become a volunteer in your
community today!