

Moosic Lakes

News



Learning About Our Lake...

By: Joe McGraw

The shoreline of our lake may be the most readily identifiable feature of the community. Most if not all residents will tell you that the reason they own property or reside here is because of all that the lakes have to offer. Our shorelines don't just create a picturesque setting for homes and relaxation. The waterfront plays a crucial part in the health of a lake. It acts as the lungs, doormat, cafeteria and living retaining wall for the shore. When the shoreline is altered, even with well intentioned projects meant to improve waterfront living, the intricate balance between the lake, animals and plants can be severely impacted.

Our community is growing and with that growth comes many changes. Some of those changes can impact on the shoreline of the lake. In the hopes of better educating our neighbors and encouraging all members of Moosic Lakes Club to become better stewards of the lake, this and successive articles will provide readers with valuable information that can help us safeguard our lake for generations to come.

The natural shoreline has four components which begin underwater and extend upland. Each zone lays an important part in the health of the lake. Altering any portion of these zones can effect the lake as a whole and change its ability to support life on the lake. Careful consideration, a little education and a cooperative spirit among neighbors can go a long way in helping to protect Moosic Lakes.

Upland Zone: The Higher, Drier Ground

The higher, drier ground called the *upland zone* is typically forested with the kinds of trees that take advantage of better drainage, including sugar maples, white and red pines, red oaks, ash, hemlock, balsam, and birches. The deep roots of the trees stabilize the slopes, while their foliage buffers the shore from winds. The forest canopy also cools the area by maintaining shade and boosting humidity in the summer.

Riparian Zone: A Natural Doormat

Most parents install a mat at the cottage door so little ones can wipe their bare feet or remove their shoes. Lakes have a similar "contaminant" barrier: the riparian and upland zones. There are a lot of nasty things waiting to catch a lift down to the lake when a heavy rain courses down the slope, including seepage from septic tanks, fertilizers and pesticides, deposits from family pets, and oil or gas spilled on the driveway.



Shoreline Zone: The Glue for the Waterfront

Natural shores are among the world's most effective, least expensive erosion controls. The mix of plants, shrubs, and trees forms a complex web of roots and foliage that knits the waterfront together, holding the bank in place and fending off the impacts of wind, rain, waves, and ice. Overhanging vegetation shades and cools the water, and acts as a fast-food outlet for fish by producing a rain of aphids, ants, and other insects that slip from their perches above.

Littoral Zone: Home for 90% of the Lakes Spe-

This is the area from the water's edge to roughly where sunlight no longer penetrates to the lake bottom. The water in front of the shore acts as the nursery, daycare, and cafeteria for a range of species, offering foraging areas and hiding spots and a shallow, relatively protected area for young fish and amphibians to grow. Aquatic plants and downed trees are a crucial part of the system, with the plants acting as the lungs of the lake, converting sunlight into food and releasing oxygen in the process, and providing food and shelter for other creatures.

Treasurer's Note

First, thank you to all of the members who have continued to make their dues payments on time. Dues are literally the life-blood of our community. They allow us to carry out the necessary operations of the club, maintain the roads and commonly owned property of the association, and tackle the numerous projects that go along with maintaining our private community. Without the continued support of all members, we would not be able to accomplish any of these important goals.

Secondly, we are continuing our work on updating the membership list and property information. An accurate list is an essential tool for maintaining accurate club records. If any member feels that their contact, property or personal information is not up to date, please feel free to contact me via email at treasurer@moosiclakes.org. We also hope to open a new feature on the website which will allow club members to update their contact information.

Lastly, a major component of the treasurer's duties centers on the preparation of a yearly budget. This is no easy task. A budget should not only help the club to make sound financial decisions, it should also reflect the needs of the entire community. Keeping that in mind, it is important that members take an active role in the process of developing our yearly budget. I strongly encourage all members to attend the monthly Officers and Directors meeting held at the Beach House.

Regards,

Frank K. Sweeney

The Lakeview Water Company: A Brief History

By: Marie Cavanaugh

- The Lakeview Water Company was established in the early 1940's to supply water to residents.
- Many consider this to be a major step in the community's growth towards becoming a year round residence for many lakereers.
- The water company is an independent entity separate from Moosic Lakes Club.
- There are currently 22 members who receive water each year.
- In 1988 there were 59 members receiving water for their homes.
- A new pump was installed this summer to ensure continued service.

President's Message



As the officers and directors continue managing and planning for the future of the community, I would like to ask for your help in telling us your expectations and concerns. Drop us a note on the direction we should be going. I would like to re-establish committees that have fallen by the wayside including the building, finance, environmental and advisors committees. I would also like to see several new committees started such as a social, communication and strategic long range committees. These groups along with your continued support of the roads, fish stocking, by-law/rules and regulations committees will greatly benefit Moosic Lakes. These committees are the legacy of the community that will help to ensure that as officers and directors change, ongoing programs will continue. I believe we have a lot of enthusiastic people who want to make a difference in the quality of the lakes. With that being said, I ask anyone interested in being on a committee to contact us at info@moosiclakes.org to help get us rolling. Once established, the committees will be able to meet at the Community Center to plan and make their recommendations.

Officers and Directors meeting will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 from January through May. All are welcome.

Lack of participation at past general membership meetings has always been a concern of mine. I hope that increased involvement of the membership and our committees will allow us to have meetings that take care of key matters.

Finally, past due membership obligations must be addressed and met. We will begin the process of contacting members who are not current in dues payments shortly. Please pay your fair share.

Have a good New Year,

John Kubash

Preserving Moosic Mountain

Portions of this article and accompanying photographs are reproduced with permission from the Nature Conservancy website. For more information or to support the efforts of this group, access their website at www.nature.org.

Moosic Lakes is a beautiful community that sits near the top of the pristine Moosic Mountains. While some of the mountain has been developed for residential and commercial use, much of the land has been preserved for future generations through the efforts of several local organizations and private individuals. The sale of several large tracts of lands, some of which directly border our community, have allowed for the creation of the Dick and Nancy Eales Preserve at Moosic Mountain. Residents of Moosic Lakes have direct access to this beautiful property with miles of hiking and bicycling trails located just north-east of Scranton. It is the perfect location for getting out into nature.



The Dick and Nancy Eales Preserve at Moosic Mountain preserve provides sweeping views of Pennsylvania's northeastern corner and represents one of the best locations in the northeastern U.S. for ridge-top heath barrens. Contrary to its name, the Moosic Mountain "barrens" comprise a healthy mosaic of stunted pine and oak forest dominated by huckleberry, blueberry, rhodora and other low-lying shrubs that attract a broad array of birds, butterflies and moths — including the globally rare sallow moth and barrens buckmoth.

Because of its location on a cool, windswept mountain ridge, the wildlife inhabiting the Dick & Nancy Eales Preserve at Moosic Mountain has not been as well documented as other natural areas in Pennsylvania. However, the area has not remained immune to the development pressures and lack of fire that has led to a decline in these unique habitats across the state.



In 2001, The Nature Conservancy purchased 1,200 acres in the heart of Moosic Mountain that were slated to become a business park. With support from the state of Pennsylvania, the business park was relocated nearby to a former industrial site. This public-private partnership created 5,000 jobs, protected sensitive mountaintop habitat and reduced impacts to water quality from improper development. Today, the Conservancy works with state government and local partners to foster compatible uses and a sense of ownership among bird watchers, mountain bikers, sportsmen and other community groups interested in protecting Moosic Mountain's ecological resources.

In 2009, the Conservancy named the preserve after Dick and Nancy Eales, whose generosity has enabled the Conservancy to continue to expand the preserve, which today encompasses about 2,250 acres, and to conduct the robust prescribed burning necessary to maintain the fire-dependent natural community.

The Conservancy continues to expand the preserve, which today encompasses about 2,250 acres. The preserve was made possible thanks to the following partners: Dick and Nancy Eales, Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Game Commission, The Conservation Fund, Jessup Borough Council, Moosic Lakes Property Owners Association, Lackawanna River Corridor Association, local municipalities, sportsmen's groups including the Hubbard Bike Club and the Deer Run Club.

Why Do We Test Our Lake Water?

By: Rita MacNeal

Every year Moosic Lakes spends roughly \$2000 on our water testing program. Why? The first reason is to ensure our lake waters meet state standards for safe swimming. At the start of each swimming season which begins in late June, 12 to 16 samples are drawn from the lake every two weeks. These samples test for the presence of fecal Coliform bacteria. One sample is always drawn at the beach area along with one at either the inlet or outlet as well other drainage areas. There are times we often recognize and take samples from "hot spots." Some examples of these would be an area with a lot of swimming activity, a dock heavy with goose droppings or an area showing discoloration or odor. Besides these areas that warrant special attention, all other samples are taken randomly at depths ranging from 3 to 30 feet. The state also requires us to test the main commons swimming area weekly for E. coli. All samples are properly labeled and promptly transported to the Aqua Tech Laboratory. State standards for fecal Coliform are less than 200/100mL and E. coli must be under 235/100 mL. Swimming is prohibited if ratings are above these levels. A level of 0 meets drinking standards. Our levels this past season ranged from 4 to 20 on average for fecal Coliform. These levels are considered excellent. The



highest reading of the season was 89 and was traced to the sweeping of dried goose droppings into the lake. This leads to the second reason we test our water which is to find sources of possible contamination. It should be noted that not all readings are so easily traced and may never be linked to a definitive source. Despite

these difficulties, we continue to test and retest any reading that is over 50/100 mL until the reading returns to an acceptable range.

At the very the end the swimming season, the lakes are tested on a much larger scale by Dr. Joseph Calabro from Aqua Tech Labs. This round of testing consists of 30 to 33 samples being taken from the lakes. These samples are tested for Strep. and Staph. as well as E. coli and Coliform bacteria. The water is also tested for the presence of phosphates and nitrates. These



chemicals can come from various sources such as cleaning compounds, fertilizers, waste or sewage. These elements are a problem because they affect the chemical balance of the water which can result in issues such as algae blooms, weed overgrowth or changes in the water's oxygen levels. These issues can in turn impact on the health of the fish and aquatic life in the lakes. So far, out testing has identified these specific compounds in negligible quantities. Samples also provide information on water temperature and pH which also affect aquatic life.

Following the all testing, we receive a yearly report from Dr. Calabro which includes important trending information and an overall summary of the health of our lakes. This is really the third reason why we test. We want to be certain that our community's number one asset, our lakes, remain safe and healthy. Throughout the year, we obtain and test 80 to 120 water samples. This takes a significant amount of time and effort from volunteers. The water testing committee always welcomes anyone who is willing to give any amount of time. If you are interested in helping, please contact Joe Kearney or Rita MacNeal. The committee and lake community would also like to extent our thanks to Mr. Bill Smith for the use of his boat for testing purposes.

Roads Committee News:

When preparing the club's yearly budget, one area of focus accounts for the vast majority of expenditures: roads and road maintenance. The club maintains just over six miles of privately owned roads which require constant attention to address potholes, water management, dust control, and snow removal. None of this would be possible without the extraordinary efforts of the road committee, its volunteers and most of all, Kurt Hennemuth. This year we were able to complete several major projects along with the yearly maintenance regiment. These projects included the completion of the inlet rehabilitation project, improvements to Tulake and Hickory Commons, several smaller water management projects and installation of new signs throughout the lake. There are also many projects already slated for the upcoming year including:

- Pothole repair of all roadways around the lakes.
- Application of AEP oil on all roads including Old Lake and Wagon which were not treated in 2011 due to increased construction traffic.
- Water management projects at multiple commons including Maple and Oak.



Community Involvement Opportunities

If you are looking for an opportunity to get more involved in the business of your community, consider becoming a part of one or more of our committees. More information can be found by accessing the club website at www.moosiclakes.com or contacting us via email at info@moosiclakes.com.

- **Advisors:** Advisors allow for a streamlined way of addressing neighborhood challenges by serving 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 kinds of issues to the Board. An advisor might also inform the Board of regional residents' questions, concerns, and ideas for improvement. Advisors meet with the Board of Directors and club officers once a month.
- **Building Committee:** This Committee 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 Committee:** 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. We are currently undergoing a revision process which hopes to yield an updated set of rules and regulations for consideration by the general membership this year.
- **Community Center Committee:** This Committee monitors the Center and surrounding area, and communicates needs or suggestions for upkeep. This includes the establishment and communication of Center and beach use rules/regulations, scheduling Center rentals, and securing summer lifeguards.
- **Environmental Committee:** This Committee coordinates lake water, plant, and fish studies as appropriate and communicates results of these studies back to the Community.
- **Membership Committee:** This Committee maintains our membership listing to support various functions, including monitoring summer meeting attendance.
- **Nominating-Elections Committee:** This Committee is named by the Board and solicits member interest in running for Board positions. The Nominating Committee presents nominations prior to the August General Membership meeting, and the election of officers and directors is then made at the meeting. (Note: Nominations can also be made from the floor.) This year, all of the advisors' positions are up for election.
- **Roads & Commons Committee:** This Committee works with our contractors on the upkeep of our roads including ditches and commons areas. Prior to contracting with any vendor, the work must be approved by the MLC Board and Officers.
- **Social Committee:** This newly formed committee works within the community to create social opportunities for all residents.

Women's Club News

By: Dee Hennemuth and Mary Alice Golden

If you are a part time or permanent resident with or without children, like to eat, enjoy a glass of wine or a good party then you have probably attended one of the Women's Club activities this summer. Though our mission is not to provide the social and recreational activities for the lake we do and sure have a lot of fun meeting our goal of enhancing the lives of the children.

The summer calendar started with the very successful Wine and Cheese Party where a wine expert shared his knowledge and some of his favorite wine selections with a lively group. The Kid's Night theme was "Drive Ins" and several attendees made their own cars to sit in while enjoying two movies, hot dogs, popcorn and candy. The Pulled Pork Family Dinner fed 200. The Beatles Party had many adults singing and dancing to a

live band while the weekly Rec. Nights gave the children a time to have fun together. Our Labor Day Weekend Brunch again proved to be one of our biggest and most popular fundraisers. Finally, the summer season came to an end with a dinner at Rossi's Restaurant during September.

With the money raised, the Women's Club purchased indoor and outdoor games for the kids, added a sandbox to the beach area and along with the help of the Men's Horseshoe League refurbished the playground with additional drainage and mulch.

The Women's Club and our sponsored social events are open to everyone. Joining us gives you a great opportunity to meet new people and have fun with your neighbors. We look forward to seeing you in 2012!

ADVISORS WELCOMED

Anyone interested in becoming an advisor to the officers and directors and representing your neighbors is welcome to join!

Meetings will be at 7:00 PM on the first Tuesday of every month at the MLC Beach House.

If you are interested in offering your time and input on behalf of your neighbors and the MLC community, please feel free to contact Tom McDonald at 570-489-3344 or info@moosiclakes.org.

Moosic Lakes Club

The Moosic Lakes Club is a not for 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 and Directors

John Kubash	President
Tom McDonald	Vice President
Frank Sweeney	Treasurer
Maura Farr	Secretary
Patti Donaghy	Director
Joe McGraw	Director
Ian Farr	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 our next edition, please e-mail the information to infor@moosiclakes.org or call MLC. All information submitted for the newsletter is subject to editing.



MOOSIC LAKES

25 Beach House Drive
Jefferson Township PA 18436

570-489-2664

*Become a volunteer in your
community today!*