

The Lake Carey Cottager's Association

A newsletter for the residents of Lake Carey



DECEMBER 2008

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**Our 2009
Membership
Drive will begin in
March.**

A message from the President's

Dear Neighbors—

As we write this message, we are 60 days away from spring. The Spring Equinox, also known as Ostara, occurs in the middle of March. It marks the beginning of Spring and the time when days and nights are of equal length. Until then, we continue to endure the brutal cold and snow. Ice fishermen are out in full force both day and night, and we have enjoyed skating parties and bonfires on the ice. All in all, the snow and quiet of winter are really quite beautiful.

As we think of spring, we also think of work that needs to be completed on the dam. At the end of the 2008 summer season the association was able to slow the water seepage at the dam. The annual inspection of the dam by Dr. Charles Givler, revealed that the dam is safe but some erosion has taken place on the wings of the dam. As spring approaches we will need to organize a work party to address the erosion problem. Dr. Givler has also completed a plan which provides a permanent solution to the water seepage around the dam and we will need to complete these repairs this year.

We are planning to put together a directory of all association members. This directory would be given to all members and will include their names, addresses (both summer and winter), a list of local points of interest, and available services. If any members do not wish to have their information included please contact us.

Until the sun shines longer and the air warms, we wish you well. Enjoy the remainder of the winter and we invite you to dust off your skates and join us on the ice.

Alan & Trisha Thatcher

The Chapel Bell will Ring Earlier this Year

By Lynn Bierly



Last year was a very busy year at Union Chapel. The Chapel provided non-denominational, inspiring, worship services, baptisms, and a communion service, but was also the site of weddings, a Bible study, a reception on Lake Carey Day weekend, and a program about bears.

At the request of many attendees, the Chapel will now open its doors in June this year.

Is there a wedding in your future, don't forget that the Chapel is available from April 1st through October 31st.

Please contact any board member for more information: Hollie D'Agata, Barry Breeser, Bill Lamoreaux, John Fassett, Frank Oliver, and year round residents Lynn Bierly 836-2530 and Nancy Davidson 996-0209.

Ice Fishing Returns

By Paul Brown

Ice fishing started prior to Christmas due to a more normal winter season creating some safe ice for ice fishing. However, it was short lived as warmer weather and rain created unsafe ice conditions to continue fishing. It only took a few days after Christmas for the ice to reform creating a safe surface once again for most winter ice sports. People are ice skating (once the ice is cleared of snow), ice fishing, and some are scooting around on snow mobiles and cross country skiers are once again making their way across and around the two lakes.



continued on page 4

Conserving Lake Carey's Beauty

By Walter Broughton, PhD

Lake Carey's first cottagers were drawn to the lake by its natural beauty—its romantic hemlocks and sparkling, clear waters, its uninterrupted views of forest and farmland. More than a century later, much of that beauty is still apparent, but it has suffered too from human use. Today, the lake's waters are clear and sparkling only after a major rain storm. Too many nutrients—the result of timbering, farming and home building—often turn them muddy and green. Uninterrupted views of forest and farmland are possible now from only limited vantage points.

The Association has endeavored to tackle this problem by replanting trees destroyed by the tornado, developing a master plan for the lake's restoration, endorsing zoning to control development within the lake's watershed, and through public education. Some of this effort was paid for by a Growing Greener grant; a second grant now pending has been submitted to 'catch' nutrients in roadside basins before they are carried into the lake by stormwater. But there's more that can be done. The Lake's Vision and Action Plan also encourages owners of as yet undeveloped properties to consider conservation easements.

Conservation easements are limitations owners voluntarily place on their land to protect it from future development. These agreements have been used successfully in many parts of the country whose natural beauty draws people to them (including our own Endless Mountains). Typically, this is achieved when acreage is protected by its owners who donate their development rights to a local conservancy. An easement restricts rights of subdivision, development, and land use to a level that the owner feels will preserve the land's conservation value. The value of these donated rights is appraised professionally and can then be claimed as a charitable deduction on the owners' federal tax returns. The conservancy, for its part, agrees to monitor future use of the land and to protect it in perpetuity from the development its owners sought to prevent.

Conservation easements are popular, because they assure owners that the beauty and integrity of their land will be preserved for future generations. They are popular too in the wider community because the value of the developed property around the protected land typically increases once the beauty of the area has been assured.

Resorts like Lake Carey present special conservation problems because they are already densely settled and much of the remaining open land has been platted for development. While a number of properties within our watershed still contain 100s of acres, most are smaller. Progress is therefore likely to be slow. Yet places like Nantucket Island and Martha's Vineyard have successfully protected large segments of open space—sometimes protecting with easements properties as small as ¼ of an acre. Ironically, the more densely settled an area, the greater the value of a small protected parcel.

Our local conservancy, Countryside Conservancy, was founded to protect the lands within the Tunkhannock Creek watershed in 1994. It now protects nearly 1,200 acres of farms, streams, and wetlands—open spaces which preserve the beauty of the area and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation. You can learn more about Countryside at its website: www.countrysideconservancy.org. You will also soon be receiving a complimentary copy of its newsletter.

Lake Carey has been represented on the Conservancy's Board since 2003, first by Penny Davis and now by me. The Conservancy has been a partner with us in our Growing Greener grants and shared a booth with us at Tunkhannock's Founder's Day. This spring, we will be working together to develop a conservation plan for the lake. We hope it will be ready to present at one of this summer's LCCA meetings, possibly in July.

If you would like to help with this initiative, contact me at 570-346-4676 or broughton@marywood.edu.

Web Site Update

By Chris Ziemba

It has been one year now that the Lake Carey Cottager's Association has had their own web site, lakecareypa.com. The first half of the year, the site was in the developmental stage and is now fully functional and contains a wide variety of information.

The main page is used to keep website viewers up to date with upcoming events and changes to the web site. The status of the sewers will be a high priority on the home page of the web site, and is listed under PA ACT 537.

Work parties will be displayed on the top of the screen with scrolling marquis weeks in advance. An advertisement for Walter Broughton's book *Images of America LAKE CAREY* is also posted on the site.

Lake Carey Sportsman's Club

By Paul Brown

The Lake Carey Sportsman's Club has already begun filling their calendar with some very exciting events.

The annual Daytona 500 Race Day Chicken Bar-B-Que will be held on Sunday, February 15 from 11:00 AM till 2:00 PM or until it is sold out. Complete dinners or halves only, will be available including homemade desserts and salads. Eat in or take out - the choice is yours. Reservations are strongly recommended as we sell out fairly early. Please call 570-561-6040 to reserve your chicken. We have kept the prices the same as last summer—\$8.00 for dinners and \$4.50 for halves.

The Lake Carey Sportsman's Club's annual Wild Game Dinner/Dance is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, from 6:00 PM till 11:00 PM. A \$20.00 donation will entitle you to try some of the best wild game our keystone state can provide. Venison chili, beaver meat balls, wild turkey, venison meat loaf, rabbit, pheasant, bear, domestic-turkey (slow roasted as well as deep fried), and fish caught locally as well as some mule deer from out west. This is just a sampling of a few of the foods being provided as well as a bounty of homemade desserts, coffee and tea, draft birch beer, assorted sodas and when dinner is over dance the night away to a live band playing all the favorites. BYOB, beer is free, plenty of free giveaways, and a few raffles will make for a great night out. Tickets are limited to 200 and go very quickly (we haven't advertised this event for 20 years because it sells out so fast). This event is held at the Triton Fire Hall in Tunkhannock. Call 570-836-4744 after 5:00 PM for tickets and more information. See you there!

A Big Thank You

By Deb Tierney

During the Lake Carey Day festivities, we took up a collection for the Delaware Valley Raptor Center (DVRC).

We collected about \$60.00 and a box of towels.

The note to the right is from the DVRC thanking everyone for their ongoing support.

As you will see, the towels do come in very handy.

For more information about the DVRC and how you can help, visit their website at www.dvrc.org.



*Deb + Lake Carey Cottages Association,
Thank you so much
for the donations that will be
put to good use. In fact,
today a great horned owl came
in after sitting out in the rain
all night before being rescued.
Now, he's resting on a dry,
warmed towel. Thank you
so much for helping!
Sincerely,
Jan
DVRC*

Dam Update

By Ed Hetzel

Our dam engineer has submitted a new repair plan to the State and it has been approved. It is supposed to be less costly to install this option of the repair. As of this writing, we haven't received any bids. We don't have any details on the new repair so it's not known whether a lake drawdown is needed or if a coffer dam must be used. Our attempts at slowing the leak down this past summer was successful and helped to buy us some time.

The PADEP has mandated that the repairs must occur this year, so it is very important that we have sufficient funding in place to cover the costs. We would like to thank everyone again for their generous donations. We are still accepting donations, so if you haven't had a chance to donate yet, please consider donating...no amount is too small. Every penny helps!

We will keep you posted as to where we stand with the dam repairs.

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Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

E-mail us at lake_carey@yahoo.com

Moving? Change of address?

Send your new contact information to
lake_carey@yahoo.com

**Happy
New Year!
See you all
soon!**

Fun Facts...

The Fern Cliffe Hotel,
built in 1894 for \$8,000
was to hold 250 guests.
It was destroyed in March
of 1906 by a fire.

Facts from "Images of America LAKE
CAREY" by Dr. Walter Broughton

Zoning Administration Course

By Chris Ziemba

At one our last meetings, the members voted to send a couple of people to a Zoning Administration course. The course was instructed by former professors of Penn State University. The course in itself was very informative, but was designed for the more advanced zoning individual. Zoning is implemented for the safety of the people that occupy the land. It defines what can be constructed as well as proper usage of the land in relation to the occupants. It was stated at the course that zoning may only be implemented for entire communities which would include Tunkhannock and Lemon Townships. Adopting zoning is a completely different issue to sewer implantation on Lake Carey. Decisions are made at the township level then presented to the County Commissioners and finally to the state of Pennsylvania.

Ice Fishing *continued from page 1*

I know most people think the lake is so beautiful during the summer and fall seasons (and it is) but you are really missing out on something special when there is a cold crisp bite in the air and a fresh coating of snow blanketing the trees and ice and idle cottages. The quiet of this serene picture is interrupted by the sound of the lake making ice, it's a sound that can be intimidating to the uninformed and you happen to be standing on the ice when it groans and creaks and cracks under your feet. It is a good sound as it means the lake is making more ice and this sound is the ice expanding. The lake surely will be noisy the next few nights as the temperatures are set to dip to a minus five degrees, or lower, over the next few nights and daytime temps are barely going to reach the teens. Now this is what winter is all about. Maybe a cup of hot chocolate, a cup of hot tea, or even a good glass of wine; a warm fire; and a big bowl of popcorn...it doesn't get any better than this.

Web Site *continued from page 2*

On the left side of the web site is the menu for useful information. On that menu, is the Visions Statement and Bylaws. Coming soon will be meeting minutes and a donation form. Also included is the photos page, watershed assessment, links to tunkhannock.com, tunkhannocktownship.org, current weather, visitor count, previous newsletters, and an application for membership.

The resources link has current DEP grants that will help fund future projects at Lake Carey. Included on the resources link is a way that all the citizens of Lake Carey can help protect the lake.

Thank you for all of your ideas on the web site, please keep them coming in.

Notes and Reminders

- ◆ **The Boards**—will be are scheduled to be put back in the 3rd Saturday in March; weather permitting.
- ◆ **Work Parties**—work parties will begin in late Spring once the weather breaks
- ◆ **Township Meetings**—

- ⇒ Lemon Township meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at 2 Tague Rd, Tunkhannock.
- ⇒ Tunkhannock Township meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at 438 SR 92 South, Tunkhannock.

