

The Lake Carey Welfare Association

A newsletter for the residents of Lake Carey



OCTOBER 2010

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A message from the President

Dear Neighbors—

As I remarked at the LCWA's September meeting, we seem to be suffering from a bad case of 'single issue politics.' For over a year now, we have been separating into two camps, each with a moral agenda of ultimate importance, each committed to saving the lake from those who would despoil it. You're either for central sewers or for an unhealthy lake, say some. Others assert you are either opposed to central sewers or for an over-developed lake stripped of its rustic beauty.

I had hoped that I could persuade representatives of the two camps to sit down with Ed Hetzel and me to hash out their differences and settle on a course of action with which we could all move forward. While those opposed to central sewers agreed, those I thought most representative of the pro central sewer party declined. Neither side, I suspected, believed that Ed and I were impartial nor that the Association was fully committed to their cause.

And they were correct. The Association and its officers are committed not to one but to *three* over-riding and sometimes conflicting goals—water quality, controlled development and safety. Striking a balance among them is not, and never will be, easy. We have water quality problems, we have been targeted for development in the county's comprehensive plan, and we continue to face problems of safety on our roads, at the Inn, and on the lake. Unless we are careful, progress on one could jeopardize another. Moreover, there is no single solution to any one of these matters; each requires a multi-faceted response; and headway on each will require the cooperation of state and local agencies in addition to our own efforts.

And so, I invite you to reject simple solutions and join the Association in its efforts to protect what we have and heighten the qualities of life we all desire at the Lake. You can begin by putting your shoulder to the wheel, working with your neighbors on one or more of the LCWA's committees. There are seven: Audit, Water Quality, Planning, Safety, Membership & Outreach, Property, and Lake Carey Day. What they do and how you can volunteer are described elsewhere in this issue.

I hope you will join us. Working together, I believe, we can make progress—on even the most stubborn of our problems—and enjoy a renewed sense of community.

Cordially,

Walter Broughton

Thanks to
everyone who
joined the LCWA
this year!

See you all next
summer!

Don't forget to
turn your clocks
back on Nov 7th!

Countryside Conservancy Adopts the Joint Conservation Plan for Lake Carey

By William Kern, Executive Director



At our October 7th meeting, the Countryside Conservancy Board voted unanimously to adopt the Lake Carey Joint Conservation Plan. The principles of that plan had already been approved by the Lake Carey Welfare Association.

The Board held its meeting, appropriately enough, at the lake's Union Chapel (for which we extend our sincerest gratitude to the Chapel Board for its use). While we have long been familiar with the environmental benefits of conserving properties around Lake Carey, our resolve was only strengthened by the beauty and charm of an autumn visit to the Chapel.

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A Piece of History—1962 Higgins Port Royal Ski Boat

By Don Wilsey

Our family has been coming to Lake Carey for 40+ years. We had a camp on Holbrook Road, and recently my wife, Christine and I purchased a seasonal home also on Holbrook Road.

My interest in wooden boats began at age 18 when I found my first boat, an 18' "Shoup" which we used at Lake Carey in 1972. We have had at least six other boats over the years, but our "Higgins" is our favorite and it is a crowd pleaser!

I bought her at the 1000 Islands (New York) Antique Boat Auction in 1994 and took her to Lake Carey that same year for short weekends of skiing and fishing. We have rebuilt everything from the waterline down and refinished the entire boat twice. The boat is all original—power and mechanical. The hull is mahogany marine plywood on oak framing and fully painted except for the solid mahogany dashboard. She is powered by a 327 cubic inch V8 engine and inboard mounted direct drive transmission—all original.

Higgins was a builder of World War II PT boats and landing craft that helped win the war in the Pacific and Europe. After the war, Higgins continued building pleasure craft in New Orleans, Louisiana, and we believe that we own the last model year, 1962, for the "Port Royal".

We have used our "Higgins" in rivers, lakes, and even at the Jersey and Delaware shores, but she is most at home on Lake Carey where we have pulled as many as five skiers at one time, from a deep water start!

I hope you will hear her again soon on the lake. She is laid up for the winter now at our home in Bethlehem, PA. Constant maintenance and fine tuning is all part of the fun for me.



Any Volunteers?

By LCWA

The LCWA can use your help. Please contact Walter Broughton (broughton@marywood.edu; 570-836-1787) or Ed Hetzel (longrunner11@mac.com; 570-909-8994) to sign up for one or more of the association's committees.

Audit—conducts an annual audit of the association accounts; prepares an annual budget

Water Quality—monitors the quality of the lake water; proposes strategies for improving water quality within the watershed; sponsors water quality programs and education

Planning—reviews progress on the LCWA's action plan; proposes changes to the plan's strategies; represents the LCWA to township, county, and state planning agencies

Safety—identifies safety hazards and makes proposals to reduce them; works with the PA State Police, the Fish & Game Commission, and the local fire departments; sponsors safety programs

Membership & Outreach—conducts an annual membership campaign; welcomes new residents; oversees the newsletter and website; organizes summer lectures, concerts, and other presentations

Property—maintains the association's property, including the dam; monitors the dam during storm events as required by the Emergency Action Plan; raises and lowers the level of the lake

Lake Carey Day—plans and executes the activities of Lake Carey Day

Lake's Aging on Hold

By Walter Broughton and Ed Hetzel

Is Lake Carey's water growing less clear, more clouded with algae? Has nutrient pollution been increasing? Has the lake been aging? Fortunately, we have data over several decades we can examine on this issue, especially for the big lake.

The Secchi disk is the most commonly used measure of water transparency or clarity. While a number of factors influence clarity, the most common is algae fed by the nutrients of phosphorus and nitrogen. And so, Secchi readings are often used as a simple measure of eutrophication, or the aging of a lake.

To take a reading, a circular disk divided into black and white quadrants is lowered from the shady side of a boat into the water until the black and white pattern is no longer visible. The depth is then recorded in meters (one meter equals a little over 3.3 feet). Year to year comparisons need to be made in the same month, because water clarity varies systematically from spring to summer to fall. We have the most data for August.

August Secchi Disk Readings (meters)		
Author/Tester	Date	Big Lake
Ulanoski, et al. (DER)	8/26/81	1.2
Wilkes & Wills (DEP)	8/22/92	2.1
F. X. Browne (LCCA)	8/23/03	1.0
F. X. Browne (LCCA)	8/9/04	1.4
E. Hetzel (LCCA)	8/29/09	2.0
E. Hetzel (LCWA)	8/5/10	1.3

The first recorded Secchi reading at Lake Carey was made in 1981 by the Department of Environmental Resources (now DEP). The water was clear that August to a depth of almost 4 feet (1.2 meters). The table below indicates that the transparency of the lake's water has varied between one and two meters ever since then. (Higher numbers indicate clearer water.) The amount of rainfall, sunshine, and water temperature influence algae growth and thus transparency. As a result, variations in these factors will yield differences in Secchi readings from year to year, even though the amount of nutrient pollution is unchanged. This series appears to fall within a range that reflects weather variation.

While there is no evidence here of a decline in water quality in recent decades, that is no cause for complacency. We can certainly do better. Improved waste water disposal, stormwater control, lake shore and stream buffers, and tree cover will all contribute to making Lake Carey's waters cleaner and clearer.

Another Successful Lake Carey Day

By LCWA

The LCWA would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make Lake Carey Day successful. A special thanks goes out to Chris Ziembra for stepping up and chairing the event this year. We look forward to yet another successful Lake Carey Day in 2011. Don't forget to mark your calendars... July 30, 2011. Remember, Lake Carey Day is the last Saturday in July. See you there!

Countryside continued from page 1

The Conservation Plan for Lake Carey attempts to provide a detailed way to identify and compare the conservation values of properties there, to help guide us in seeking, selecting and comparing conservation projects. Its purpose is to ensure, through evaluation against relevant criteria, that lands targeted for conservation are of high conservation value. The Conservancy will use the criteria outlined in this plan to guide us in identifying conservation-minded landowners, partners, and funding sources.

The Countryside Conservancy aims to protect aspects of the landscape that are important for preservation of our region's quality of life and its natural and cultural heritage. These include greenways, waterway corridors, farms, forests, and scenic and recreational areas.

By conserving land and water resources, we are ensuring future generations have the same opportunities that we have to lead healthy, productive lives within the Tunkhannock Creek watershed.

To that end, the Conservancy is pleased to join efforts with the Lake Carey Welfare Association to preserve open space around Lake Carey. It is, we believe, a privilege to work with willing landowners around Lake Carey to preserve the natural characteristics of the lake that we all hold so dear.

Editor

Deb Tierney

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Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

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TIP

To copy a photo onto your computer from the website using Windows, right click on the photo, click "Save as" and follow the instructions.

Fun Facts...

Lake Carey's first hotel was built in 1877 on the west shore with a capacity to hold 60 guests. This hotel served the lake for 12 years until it was destroyed by a tornado in 1890.

*Facts from "Lake Carey" part of
Arcadia's Images of America series
by Walter Broughton*

Summer 2010 Water Quality Update

By Ed Hetzel

This summer's water quality testing of the lake consisted of bacteria samplings and water clarity tests. We tested for fecal coliform – the standard bacteria used to detect contamination from septic systems or waterfowl. The bacteria testing continued to indicate that there were no issues with the lake waters. The State of PA requires that public swimming waters have less than 200 bacteria /100 millimeters. The big lake results were <10/100 mls and the pond results were 160/100 mls. The water clarity testing uses the standard "Secchi Disk" - a black and white disk that is lowered into the water until it can no longer be seen. This depth is then recorded. The average "Secchi Depth" for the big lake this year was 1.8 meters which is typical for where the lake has been in previous years. The pond clarity averaged 0.5 meters which was a little lower than past history. The weeds we have seen for several years now are know as Eurasian Millifol. The level of weed growth did not appear any worse this year and was actually somewhat lower than the major "bloom" we had several years ago.

Test Your Well Before Drilling Begins

By Hetty Biaz



On Sunday, September 12, we heard from two Professional Geologists (PGs), George Turner and Brian Oram. They stressed the importance of having drinking well water tested before gas drilling begins near one's property in order to establish a baseline. The sampling must follow chain-of-custody practices and be completed by a certified laboratory using approved methods in order for it to stand up in court.

Both geologists perform this type of testing. They also recommended that the testing be done after the drilling has begun in order to determine if there have been any negative impacts to the water supply.

For more information contact either:

George Turner, PG
GET Technology
570-836-1055
<http://getturner.tripod.com>

Brian Oram, PG
B.F. Environmental Consultants
570-335-1947
<http://www.bfenvironmental.com>

Septic Wise

By Deb Tierney

Conserve water and reduce water flow in your septic tanks from toilets, baths, showers, kitchen sinks, dishwashers, and laundry machines. Space out your usage when possible.



Notes and Reminders

- ◆ **Dam Boards**—the boards will be removed as soon as we receive the permit (approval) from the State.
- ◆ **Township Monthly 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.
- ◆ **Website**—when e-mailing photos for the website, please try and keep them under 3 megabytes or compress them into one file and deliver them to Chris Ziemba.

