WINTER'S WOOD PILED HIGH

LAKE LIFE

A Newsletter for The Residents of Lake Carey

Winter 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

LCWA NEWS

by Walter Broughton

Welcome to 2020.

It's been a warm winter, with temperatures well above normal. That's been good for our wood piles, but a disappointment for the hardy few who fish on the ice.

Dam Boards: Ed Hetzel reports he plans to install the dam boards and raise the lake's level on Saturday, March 21st.

Sewers: Easements permitting the Sewer Authority to enter property owner's land in order to install and service the grinder pumps have been distributed to future customers. The estimated hookup fee is now $3,000 and the monthly residential user fee, $87. System construction will begin this year and should be completed by the Fall of 2021.

For more information, please visit the authority's website: http://www.lemtunksa.org/.

Stark Mill Turbine Display: Randy Percival has been preparing the site where the turbine and gear shaft he retrieved from Billings Mill Brook will be on permanent display. Weather permitting, he hopes it will be installed before summer near the entrance for all to see, completing this Eagle Scout project.

Dam: There has been no further word on Dr. Givler's design for the new dam from Dr. Givler or Dam Safety.

The Fourth Dam

by Walter Broughton & Deb Tierney

Fig. 1 Flood Waters Cascade Over the Dam in 2004

Lake Carey will soon have to replace the dam at the lake's outlet. Pennsylvania's Dam Safety, a division of the Department of Environmental Protection, contends the existing dam cannot withstand the waters of a one in one thousand year flood. Work on a design for a dam that will is in progress.

The outlet's first dam was built in the early 1800s to enhance its water power for use in milling. Over the years, there have been several lumber mills, a shingle mill, a grist mill, a cider mill and a toy factory at work on Billings Mill Brook. The LCWA (Lake Carey Welfare Association) acquired the dam and two-acre plot in 1944 from John Stark. He and his family had been operating a saw mill there since at least the 1860s. The price was $500, not a lot even then; it's the equivalent of no more than $7,200 today.

Fig. 1 John Stark Clears a 1940 Log Jam

Fig. 3 Wangling a Spillway Board

The existing dam, the lake's third, was built by the LCWA in the 1980s. It has stood up well to high waters since then, but its use of rock-filled wire nets or gabions no longer satisfies Dam Safety. Moreover, its spillway lacks an operable gate. In order to raise or lower the lake's waters, someone (Ed Hetzel in recent years) must balance with care on the top of the dam, while wrestling several thick boards into or out of slots on the spillway sides.

A new 501(c)(3) entity (the Lake Carey Dam Association) has been established to raise the monies needed. Because the IRS has designated it a charitable organization, *i.e.*, 501(c)(3), contributions to build the new dam will be deductible on the donor's federal tax return. The Dam Association board will begin meeting soon to develop fund raising plans. Member, Deb Tierney, warns that raising the money needed, "is going to be a monumental task" and "welcomes any ideas that our Lake Carey community has to offer." Ideas, questions or concerns can be forwarded to her at lakecareydam@gmail.com.

Backyard Wildlife

by Jane Farr Ireland

Figure 1 Two Hungry Fawns

Linda Pallis has lived full time on the lake's east shore since 2007. Some years back, her husband, Jere, bought a trail camera at a yard sale, and three cameras later, Linda is still recording the unending parade of wildlife in the field behind their cottage.

Her most common visitors are deer. They come alone or in groups of eight or nine. Most are female of various sizes and ages, some with fawns. Linda has seen some kicking and fighting among them. She suspects on these occasions she is witnessing a Mama Deer forcefully telling last year's offspring to find their own way, as she prepares for this year's arrivals. Besides the more common squirrels, rabbits and woodchucks, the trail cam also has photographed a lone coyote, but not frequently.

Some of the wildlife is seen only at night. Skunks, racoons and foxes are nocturnal. Linda now can identify one skunk as an individual by its unique stripe. The trail camera photos also show gray foxes, but once in a while there is a red one—they have a slightly different shape. And turkeys and vultures often get their pictures taken, along with lots of cats. One trail cam captured an odd group of crows watching a long black snake move slowly through the field. Most of the backyard photographs show wildlife eating. Linda often puts out old apples or pumpkins for them to enjoy.

I asked Linda about the infamous Lake Carey bear. Linda said that she has seen, and the trail cam has often captured, this hungry visitor. In fact, Linda now makes her own bird feeders from orange juice cartons because she has lost so many feeders to the bear. For a time, she moved the cam close to her house; then she was treated to photos of the bear drinking out of the humming bird feeder, relaxing on her stonewall, and wandering around her back porch. Most often, her trail cam captures a single bear, but at least once there were three together. Seems the lake is home to more than one rummaging Pennsylvania black bear.

Besides enjoying the photos her trail cam captures, Linda takes a camera with her when she kayaks on the lake early in the morning, weather permitting. She watches deer coming down to its waters for a drink. Green and blue herons can always be spotted, along with an occasional beaver. And, every time she's out, she sees our majestic eagles. One thing she used to see along the shore, but no longer, is mink. Of course, our ever-present Canada geese, including Mary, the white goose, greet her every day. Linda reports Mary now has two white offspring.

Linda often posts interesting photos to the Facebook group, Friends of Lake Carey. Take a look. Her photos there portray so much of the wildlife that helps to make our lake the wonderful place it is.

Figure 2 Back to the Woods

LAKE LIFE

Lake Carey Welfare Association
PO Box 637
Tunkhannock, PA 18657

Walter Broughton, Editor
broughton@marywood.edu

Association Officers

President & Webmaster:
David RInehimer
dbrinehimer@gmail.com

Vice President:
Ed Hetzel
570-836-4733
Longrunner11@mac.com

Treasurer:
Deb Tierney
Thelake2013@gmail.com

Secretary:
Patty Skrynski
pjseas@gmail.com

Association Website
www.lakecareypa.com

Sediment Sealing to Resume

Last spring's plans to seal the big lake's sediments had to be post-poned. If they had been sealed in time, the phosphorus within them would not have escaped. Without this food, the algae would have starved, preventing later blooms. But last spring, the release and bloom came too early to prevent.

Fig. 2 Small Lake Floating Wetland Island

This year, Fred Lubnow of Princeton Hydro will try again, sometime between late March and mid-April, depending on the weather. As before Fred plans to use poly-aluminum chloride, a buffered alternative to alum (aluminum sulfate). Unlike Alum, poly-al will not affect the lake's pH. Moreover, poly-al is inert and does not harm fish nor any other living things.

"Our goal," Fred states, "is to apply the product in the spring to trap a large portion of that deep-water phosphorus, making it unavailable. In turn, this should help to reduce the magnitude of the cyanobacteria

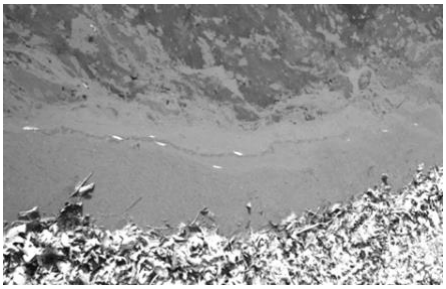

Fig. 3 Big Lake 2019 Bluegreen Algal Bloom

blooms." Some humans and dogs are allergic to a toxin cyanobacteria, *i.e.*, blue-green algae, produce.

Funded by the LCWA's Growing Greener grant, the project includes water testing before and after the treatment. While Fred is here he will also inspect the floating wetland islands Princeton Hydro placed in the small lake last year to consume phosphorus in its waters. The small lake is too shallow to seal its sediments.