



A MID-WINTER THAW

LAKE LIFE

A
Newsletter for
The Friends of
Lake Carey

Winter 2023

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PRESIDENT’S LETTER

by Lewis Flinn

In a time of social media on laptops and smartphones, it is nice to know that this letter will be read on actual paper in an “old fashioned” newsletter. Settle into a comfortable armchair on one of these drab mid-winter days and enjoy.

I’m pleased to report our website refresh is now complete; view it at: www.lakecareypa.com. Thanks to Deb Tierney, Rob Baskin, and Endless Programming Solutions for helping to put it all together and to David Rineheimer for creating the original site

and managing it since . . . forever. We plan to use the website to provide “general info” about Lake Carey, for the public and ourselves.

For more ‘time sensitive’ communications we will continue to rely on our email list but will soon add a SMS texting service managed by Rob Baskin, our communications director. We’ll use it for shorter alerts: event and meeting reminders, weather warnings, and so forth. You will receive an email soon inviting you to ‘opt-in.’

A Fine Kettle of Fish

Lake Carey was formed 13,000 years ago when the Wisconsin Glacier halted and melted into a ‘kettle’ it had shaped. p 2.

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At the Sewer Authority’s January meeting, we learned that Harger Utility has now installed the main sewer line all the way along the eastern shore and for another 350’ of the western shore. Most of the grinder pumps on the eastern shore have been connected to the main line.

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A FINE KETTLE OF FISH

by Walter Broughton

Lake Carey is a lot older than most of us realize. Geologists report that it was formed at the end of the last glacial age, some 13,000 years ago. At this time, the northern half of North America was blanketed in thick sheets of slowly receding ice. Woolly mammoths, saber-toothed tigers and what must have been truly formidable, bear-sized beavers roamed the tundra in Northeast Pennsylvania. There's evidence as well, at least in the southwestern part of the state, of human hunters taking advantage of the herds of big game there.

As the globe warmed (for reasons that are still not well understood), the Wisconsin glacier began its gradual retreat from its farthest reach in mid-Pennsylvania. As it melted, parts of it would calve or split off in front of a moraine of gravel and rock it had pushed before it as it worked its way south. Its melt water then settled down into the resulting kettle-shaped depression, creating a 'natural' lake.

Pennsylvania is home to some 50 of these glacial lakes. Many are in the Poconos, and southwestern Pennsylvania has several. Lake Carey, here in the northeast, is noteworthy in several respects. At 182 acres, it is one of the state's largest (as well as one of its most beautiful). It is also one of the deepest, 35 feet in the center of the big lake. And it benefits from a 4.5 square mile, glacially carved watershed.

Glacial lakes are notorious in some quarters for their out-burst floods. These occur when a moraine dam fails. This is most likely early in a lake's history when the moraine

itself is thawing, but it is occurring today too as global warming thaws the moraines of present-day glaciers. Old moraine dams like ours can also fail due to gradual erosion or when an earthquake shakes up the structure's soil and rock.

Glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) have occurred in the last 100 or so years in several mountainous areas, those of Peru and Pakistan, for example. The recent, devastating Pakistan floods were caused in part by glacial moraine melt. Ancient GLOFs created the straits of Dover, separating England from France, and they also shaped the 'driftless region' of the Mississippi River. Perhaps Dam Safety's concerns about our dam are rooted in a fear of GLOFs; it's possible.

So that's the origin of our kettle of fish. The expression itself, appears to have arisen several centuries ago when Scots gathered at salmon-rich rivers to boil their catch in kettles. It was often a messy business and thus the expression's contemporary meaning. At this kettle lake, however, I like to think it refers to the attractive features of a lake where good fishing is but one of many pleasures.

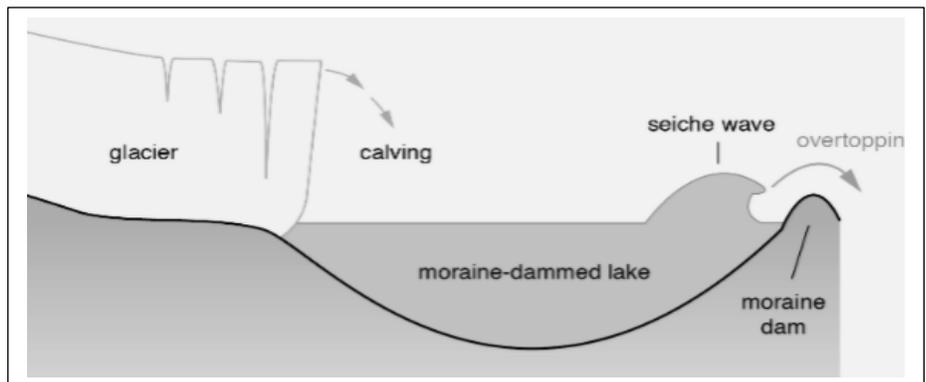


Fig. 1 Glacial Lake Formation



Fig. 1 Alan with one of his Guitars

A CORONER'S TALE

by Walter Broughton

LCWA past-president, Alan Thatcher, retired last January after 32 years in the Wyoming County Coroner's Office. I don't believe he received a watch, but he left with vivid memories and a wealth of stories. "People do crazy stuff," he remarked, "and it only takes one unlucky, careless moment to bring about a calamity." So, there was tragedy, as you might expect, but comedy too.

During those years he was one of three deputies (the coroner's an elected office, he explained). When called to a case, he had three responsibilities: to determine the manner and cause of death; establish the identity of the dead person; and personally notify the next of kin or assure that another qualified official did so. Alan completed a 40-hour course at the State Police Academy before he began this work and another 8-hour workshop every year thereafter.

"So, tell me about an interesting case," I said. "Well, you know the

truck traffic on Route 6?" he replied. And soon his tale unfolded.

Seems Alan was called out to a truck stop when a driver parked there failed to respond to his cell. When Alan arrived, he found the 400-pound man dead in his cab, with no sign of foul play. Within a day or so, Alan obtained a copy of the driver's medical records, including his current prescriptions, revealing a history of heart disease. When he finally tracked down a family member (it took 10 days and many phone calls), he discovered the man was twice divorced, and living in his cab. Socially isolated, overweight and suffering from heart disease, the cause and manner of his death were clear, and tragic. Removing the corpse from the cab without damaging the \$200,000 truck took some doing.

But, Alan reminded me, there had been humorous times too. When a teenage boy found some bones in Mead Brook, the State Police were

called. Fearing the worst, they dispatched six cars and a diving team. With five officers watching from Alan's porch, the sixth and the boy set out by kayak, following Alan in his canoe. Evidently, kayaking wasn't part of the officer's police academy training; paddling erratically, he broadsided Alan's canoe, again and again. When at last they reached Mead Brook, battered but still afloat, the boy took them to a cache of bones in a garbage bag on a muddy shore. Ah hah, they all thought. Alan began to remove the contents, as the other two watched in silence. The bones of most mammals are very similar, Alan noted, but not so for clavicles. When one was at last withdrawn, Alan realized it was that of a deer!

Now, in retirement, Alan has turned to making stringed instruments. He doesn't miss the calls in the middle of the night, but he does miss the friendships that grew out of the work and the sense of satisfaction he achieved from doing it well.

LAKE LIFE

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SAVE THE DATE

by Deb Tierney

The Lake Carey Dam Association will be hosting its 2nd Annual Lake Carey Golf Tournament on Monday, June 12, 2023 at the Stone Hedge Country Club in Tunkhannock, and I am already working on the details. Make sure you mark your calendars so that you can attend this awesome event. All proceeds will go towards our dam replacement project. Last year we

raised over \$13k and we hope to do better this year. More information on available sponsorships and how to register will be available in the coming weeks. Don't hesitate to forward any questions to me at: lakecareydam@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, I am pleased to report the LCWA online store did well over

the past holiday season. Although the store is closed until next fall, we'll be offering our merchandise again on Lake Carey Day, July 29th.

President's Letter Continued.

Harger plans to keep drilling for as long as winter weather permits. The remaining grinder pumps and man-holes will be installed later, in the spring. The Authority projects the first grinder pumps can be hooked-up in June. The procedures owners must follow before their hook-up can be completed are still being finalized; we will forward them once the Authority has done so.