



BALD EAGLE AT THE TAIL-END OF ITS LAKE CAREY CATCH (PHOTO DON GRAY)

LAKE LIFE

A
Newsletter for
The Friends of
Lake Carey

Winter 2024

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President's Letter

by Lewis Flinn

I consider myself a "semi-seasonal" resident of Lake Carey. My family resides here "full-time" from June to September, yet we, or some contingent, manage monthly visits from our New York City home throughout the year, particularly around the holidays. This back and forth creates quite a welcome juxtaposition, particularly in winter when the tranquil atmosphere of the lake (as I write this at 1 pm without a car passing by since 8 am) offers uninterrupted serenity. Quite a change from the traffic and noise on E. 16th St in NYC.

Our family's holiday season at the lake commences with Thanksgiving—a time for a grand family gathering—and our annual Christmas kickoff trip to the "Festival of Lights" at Stonehedge. I want to give a special shout-out to Lake Carey residents Bill and Karen Ruark for creating this absolutely spectacular experience.

As I write this on New Year's Eve looking out at the lake, I can't help but reminisce about the vibrant summer months filled with events like the golf tournament, Lake Carey Day, and barn parties, as I also prepare the

The Bald Eagles Return

After a decades-long absence, Bald Eagles make their home here once again. p 2.

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'to do' list for the upcoming flurry of 2024.

Anticipating 2024 as an election year, and with so much turmoil abroad, I expect it to be a wild ride. However, I look forward to the reassuring embrace of Lake Carey, its enduring serenity, oblivious to the chaos swirling in the world around us, welcoming us once again.

The Bald Eagles Return

By Jane Ireland

If you are like me, one of the fun things to do at Lake Carey is watch our nesting pair of Bald Eagles and their young. It occurred to me how little I knew about our national bird and so I had a conversation with Joe DeMarco, past president of the PA Audubon Society, who knows all things about birds. Here are a few things I learned.

Bald Eagles are a uniquely American species. They were seriously endangered in the 1960s when fish they were eating were infested with the insecticide DDT which then weakened the birds' eggshells. After DDT was banned in 1972 and eagles were reintroduced where once they had flourished, their population expanded until they are now no longer in jeopardy.

Today, there are four nesting pairs in Wyoming County. The pair at our lake has nested here

only in recent years. Eagles mate for life and begin breeding around age five. They will use the same nest for many years, adding sticks again and again, so it can grow quite large; older nests can be as big as 10 ft. in diameter.

Here as elsewhere, Bald Eagles can live for up to 30 years, weigh 10 to 14 lbs, with a wingspan of 5.5 ft to 7.5 ft (females are bigger). They are primarily fish eating, although they are opportunistic and will eat rodents, snakes and other critters. Joe has seen them eating a deer carcass.



Fig.2 Bald Eagle with a Single Nestling



Fig. 1 A Lake Carey Eagle at Rest

He has also observed them chasing down an Osprey who had a fish. I have seen a Bald Eagle and Great Blue Heron fighting over territory in front of our cottage; the eagle won.

A female can lay one to three eggs with the average being two. Each egg is laid three days apart and takes 35 days to hatch. Egg laying can take place from early February to mid-July. The young eaglets remain in the nest for 10-12 weeks and then stay around, learning from their parents and honing their flying and hunting skills for another 1-2 months. Their distinctive white head and tail feathers appear only after they reach four to seven years of age. Bald Eagles range over great distances, but generally nest within 100 miles of where they were raised.

We're so lucky to have such magnificent birds here at our lake.



Fig 1 Club President Scott Wetherbee Supervises the BB Gun Shoot

Observers of American life have long thought there was something very special about our affection for, and ability to form, community groups. These clubs and voluntary associations have been credited since colonial times with promoting democracy and preventing the isolation and alienation 'mass' societies can induce. The Lake Carey Sportsmen's Club serves as a fine example.

Founded in 1954, its 50 or so members meet now in their Lake Carey clubhouse every month from April through December on the second Tuesday. The club has full agendas; planning and organizing its many educational, service, and social events takes time and effort. Over the years, it has raised turkeys and purchased pheasants and snowshoe rabbits for release, held game dinners and raffles, and even built its

present clubhouse, after first clearing the site.

Perhaps its most important activities today are those that further safe hunting and fishing, especially among kids. These include stocking the lake every fall with Walleye fingerlings and a full-day course every October for children 11 years and over in hunter safety, authorized by the PA Game Commission. And on Lake Carey Day, there's a BB gun shoot for youngsters using club-owned guns.

Once a month, from April through



Fig. 2 Rhonda Wetherbee & Lucy Miller Pack Gifts of Xmas Cookies

Promoting a Sporting Life

By Walter Broughton

September, the Members hold popular chicken BBQs (since the pandemic they even offer drive-through pickup). Horseshoe games in the yard beside the clubhouse are regular Wednesday night features. In addition, the club hosts wine tasting events, and bakes cookies every Christmas for the Seven Loaves Soup Kitchen in downtown Tunkhannock.

Now, the club must raise the money for a new clubhouse. Originally an open-air pavilion, the existing structure lacks indoor bathrooms, and its kitchen is much too small and cramped to accommodate the larger events the club hosts now.

What makes it all work? Crystal Posten, club secretary, credits the men and women involved: "Our members are really great. Everyone pitches in gladly to help out."

LAKE LIFE

Lake Carey Welfare Association
PO Box 637
Tunkhannock, PA 18657

Walter Broughton, Editor

broughtonwalter@gmail.com

Association Officers**President:**

Lewis Flinn

lewis@lewisflinn.com

Vice President:

Ed Hetzel

longrunner11@mac.com

Treasurer:

Deb Tierney

lcwa637@gmail.com

Secretary:

Patty Skrynski

pjseas@gmail.com

Association Website & Email

<https://www.lakecareypa.com>

lcwa637@gmail.com

Lake Carey's Union Chapel

by Hollie Dagata

Many years ago, when the Lake Carey community was new, residents felt the need for a chapel: a place where people could meet and greet each other, a place to find guidance and peace. Newspaper reports tell us that the chapel was built on donated land, opening in 1890. The beautiful stained glass windows installed in 1929 miraculously survived the devastating tornado of June 2, 1998.

In the early days, rowboats brought participants to the chapel. Today some nearby residents walk, while most of us drive. As in the past, the chapel still is used for Sunday services. In recent years, services have begun in mid-June and continued through Labor Day Sunday. Everyone is invited.

Lake Carey Chapel belongs to the lake, and we hope to present, more

opportunities for all Lake Careyians to see this beautiful building. The chapel is available for Sunday services as well as weddings, memorial services, Bible studies, etc. Special music enhances Sunday services. We welcome musical talent.

As the chapel ages, it needs repair. We want to preserve this historic building. We welcome help and ideas from Lake Carey residents. Board members include Hollie Dagata, Crystal Posten, Deb Tierney, Lynne Bierly, Jennifer Sherwood, Gladys Bernet, Nancy Davidson, Lynn Daniels, and Jane Eppley. Please contact me at 570-881-9239, if we can be of help.