

2013 Presidents Letter

John Wesley Powell, scientist geographer, put it best when he said that a watershed is: "that area of land, a bounded hydrologic system, within which all living things are inextricably linked by their common water course and where, as humans settled, simple logic demanded that they become part of a community." Your TWCWC's prime mission is to protect our watershed. We define our watershed as that area of land that drains to Twin and Walker Lakes and extend that to also include the streams that drain from those lakes and in doing so become part of a greater community that is concerned with the preservation of the Delaware River. We have an elected board that we hope represents your interests and want to hear from you and at times will need your assistance to carry out our mission.

During the past two years the most obvious threat to our water shed has been the activities that have occurred in installing the gas pipelines through our area. We have provided educational talks and updates on this work, have been part of an active monitoring program aimed at minimizing any impact this construction has had and provided support to other organizations that are looking out for our interests. Lori Colgan, from the Pike County Conservation District, attends our board meetings as an active participant and liaison. This coming year, the Pike County Conservation District has selected some of our streams for their macroinvertebrate monitoring program. In addition, several of our Board members are active in a number of local and regional environmental programs and bring this experience to our meetings.

We have been using sophisticated equipment to monitor Walker Lake and both Twin Lakes from June through September for 11 years now. This data is very important in tracking the health of these lakes and will help post an alarm if we see any noticeable change. We are considered a regional innovator in using trained volunteers to conduct this monitoring, and for the second time in three years have presented our work at the Schuylkill Watershed Congress. Our lakes are OK but could be better and a summary of some of the testing results and what they mean is reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

This coming year we want to expand our efforts. For example, we will look at ways to control some of the invasive plants such as Japanese knotweed that are threatening our watershed and provide expanded educational materials to new and current homeowners on how they can help protect our lakes and streams. To continue these efforts we need your help. We ask that you consider joining TWCWC as a member and also voice your ideas as to where we can best meet our mission. Some of our efforts, such as our lake monitoring and educational programs, are expensive and your membership and donations will help cover these costs but just as importantly we want your involvement. We need help with lake monitoring particularly for Big and Little Twin Lakes, with identifying where certain invasive plants are found, and with our education programs. TWCWC will provide training this year on lake monitoring, for identifying invasive plants and macroinvertebrate testing. Attached to this mailing is a return form for you to use to join TWCWC. It also includes space for you to indicate if you would like to be contacted to help with some of our programs, participate in one or more of our training programs, or if you have suggestions. Please support TWCWC by becoming a member and letting us know if you want to become involved. To learn more, view our website at (www.twcwc.com).

Chet Dawson
President Twin Walker Creeks Waterched Conservancy

