

June 2008  
 Volume 5  
 Issue 1



*All about our Watershed - June 14 - Joyce Laudise*

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<i>Joyce Laudise, President</i>	
<i>Peter Loenwigkeit, Vice-President</i>	
<i>Joe Messineo, Secretary</i>	
<i>Ralph Cioppa, Treasurer</i>	
<i>Peter Wulfhorst, Past-President</i>	
<i>Pat Messineo, PD McCullough</i>	
<i>Kirk Mackey, Rich Schuster</i>	
<i>Linda Cioppa, Kathy Kilmer</i>	
<i>Glyn Eisenbauer, Nelia Wall</i>	
<i>Paul Palladino, Irene DeVito</i>	

We are blessed to live in a beautiful area and watershed in Pike County. The Twin/Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy is trying to keep our watershed from being polluted. On Saturday, June 14, the Conservancy will be conducting an educational meeting to discuss what is happening in our watershed and to introduce members to the new Pike County Conservation District Watershed Specialist Nick Spinelli. In addition, Conservancy President Joyce Laudise will talk about how trees, shrubs and ground cover on one's property can benefit our watershed.

Why should you come to the meeting? You will 1. Receive a small tree to plant, 2. Learn about the watershed and how it is being protected, 3. Get ideas of trees, shrubs and ground-cover to plant instead of grass, 4. Meet neighbors, 5. Enjoy a midmorning snack and 6. Show support for the Conservancy. We look forward to seeing you on June 14.

**All About Our Watershed** **June 14**  
**Walker Lake Clubhouse** **10 AM**  
 100 Walker Lake Rd.

*Upper Delaware Council Volunteer Award- Peter Wulfhorst*

The mission of the Conservancy is to promote a better understanding of the Twin/Walker Creeks Watershed and its ecosystems and to protect, restore and enhance the watershed through proper management and watershed stewardship.



The Conservancy was recognized by the Upper Delaware Council for its 2008 Volunteer Award at the Council's 20th Annual Awards Ceremony on April 27. The Volunteer Award recognizes the Conservancy's efforts in educating both adults and youth within the watershed. Members of the Conservancy in spring and fall 2007 participated in an Environmental Day at the Shohola Elementary School where the students learned about the precious nature of our water resources in their backyards. The personal

investment of the Conservancy's members time, creativity, finances and other resources have resulted in a greater awareness of the quality of life within the Twin/Walker Creeks Watershed. on its website. Paul Palladino & Pat Messineo accepted the award.

## *President's Message - Joyce Laudise*

The TWCWC board has been active on many fronts since our last newsletter and general meeting in October. Most importantly we have worked with Kiley Associates to develop a plan to reduce runoff on a section of Maple Dr and have contacted Brian Oram from Wilkes U who has reviewed our water quality data and made suggestions. Both these projects are reviewed in detail below.

Ralph Cioppa and I attended a meeting on stormwater management for Pike County. The homework was to map problem areas. Nelia Wall and Peter Wulfhorst mapped problem areas in Shohola with input on those in our watershed from Ralph. The purpose of this Watershed Plan Advisory Committee is to produce recommendations to the townships so that the governing bodies of the townships will enact ordinances to protect the existing quality of waters within their boundaries. Unfortunately it will be 2 years before the recommendations are made to the townships whose officials must then pass ordinances. In the meantime we must continue to protect our waterways on a voluntary basis. Board member, Rich Schuster, checked real estate transfers and secretary, Joe Messineo, sent letters to new property owners explaining what the conservancy does and inviting them to a general meeting. Since June of 2007 sixty two letters have been sent to new landowners.

Students in Mrs. Cavallero's Graphic Arts classes at DVHS worked on updating the Conservancy's logo. Senior Lindsey Anderson's design was picked by Board members as our new logo. She received a \$50 check as did the Art Dept as a thank you from the Conservancy.

The board welcomes new members Kathy Kilmer who lives in the Walker Lake community and Irene De Vito who lives in Sagamore. The Conservancy received an award from the Upper Delaware Council as reported on the front page.

The next General Meeting of the Conservancy will be on June 14 at 10 AM at the Walker Lake Clubhouse. Nick Spinelli, the new Watershed Specialist will speak on what the PCCD does and how they have helped us. The F X Browne report and the one from Brian Oram will be briefly discussed. There will be a short slide show on the importance of planting trees, shrubs and ground cover instead of grass on ones property. Everyone who comes will get a small Norway spruce to plant. Come to learn, to show your support for the watershed and to get a quick growing evergreen also.

## *Maple Drive Update - Peter Wulfhorst*

The Conservancy received a grant from a foundation in 2007 to address the stormwater runoff on Maple Drive in the vicinity of Pond Drive and the Walker Lake firehouse. The Conservancy has contracted with Kiley Associates to design and permit a Best Management Practice solution to the stormwater and sediment runoff into Walker Lake at the Dawson's property. Kiley Associates conducted a survey and hydrologic study to determine the overall drainage area and rates and volumes of stormwater runoff. After completing this work, Kiley developed 3 alternatives, which were presented to the Conservancy in January. The Conservancy Board, after reviewing the 3 alternatives, recommended to Kiley Associates a design involving additional culverts with outlet traps and a wet bottom retention basin. The Conservancy is looking for final design and construction cost estimates sometime this summer.

## *From the Treasurer - Ralph Cioppa*

In 2008 two households have already renewed their membership or initially joined the Conservancy. They gave a total of \$30.00. As of April 30th we have \$8264.68 in our checking account. Our CD has a value of \$12,711.57 as of April 2, 2008. The account renewed \$12,762.99 on May 6, 2008.

We have paid Kiley Associates a total of \$4125.71 toward the total estimated cost of \$8700.00. The January 2008 payment was \$1400.00. Kiley has been retained by the Conservancy to produce a site evaluation plan to alleviate stormwater runoff on Maple Drive near the firehouse.

One member made a matching corporate donation in December, 2007 totaling \$300.00. This is a very valuable method of donating and we appreciate it. We would appreciate similar action from any other members who can do so.

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## *About our Lakes - Joyce Laudise*

Chet and Pat Dawson from Walker Lake and Kirk Mackey from Twin Lakes collected data and water samples. They went out on the lakes monthly from June to September. Bill Andrews delivered the samples to F X Browne's Lab in Marshalls Creek. The F X Browne report calculates the Carlson Trophic State\* based on the chlorophyll *a*, transparency (Secchi disk) and the total phosphorus. F X Browne classified Walker Lake as eutrophic\* but the good news is that the total phosphorus in Walker Lake has been decreasing (improving) over time. The 2007 amount measured in Walker Lake was in the mesotrophic\* range for the first time during the 6 year study period. Big Twin Lake was classified as mesotrophic with all parameters lower (improved) than during recent years. Little Twin Lake was also classified as mesotrophic but there has been an increasing trend in chlorophyll *a*. The report concludes that overall the sampling showed improvement in 2007 over past years. The report also mentions that phosphorus may not be the only nutrient causing an increase in the phytoplankton (small plants) population.

The board contacted C-SAW (the Consortium for Scientific Assistance to Watersheds). Mr. Brian Oram from Wilkes University reviewed the water quality data and the Assessment of the Watershed done by F X Browne. He visited the watershed and made recommendations. He suggested the field data on dissolved oxygen, temp, pH, Secchi depth and water appearance be included in the F X Browne reports. F X Browne will attach these data sheets to their reports. Pat Dawson has volunteered to place the information from past data forms onto computer spreadsheets. Another suggestion was to monitor twice a month and a third was to expand the monitoring to include phytoplankton and zooplankton (small animals) analysis. Brian plans to calibrate and evaluate our equipment and to conduct on site surveys of areas where runoff and erosion are problems. Board members have offered room and board to any members of his crew.

In both reports nutrient reduction strategies were mentioned. These include maintaining properly functioning septic systems, Canada geese control and installing and maintaining appropriate stormwater controls on roads and on individual properties. Brian's report suggests all landowners manage stormwater on their own property using water gardens, maintaining native vegetation particularly along a shoreline and limiting the use of fertilizer.

The board agreed to continue collecting samples for F X Browne to analyze as in the past. We will need more **volunteers** if we are to do the additional sampling that Brian recommends. Please consider getting out on the lake several times during the summer. We will show you how to use the probe and record your results. It is a great project for children over 12 and an adult. "Many hands make light work" as they say. Won't you consider helping out?

\*The Carlson Trophic state is a measure of alive or recently dead living things (biomass) in a body of water. It can be calculated using the amount of chlorophyll *a*, the amount of total phosphorus or the water clarity. A mesotrophic lake has a moderate amount of biomass and a eutrophic lake has too much. Too many plants interfere with boating and swimming and their decay consumes oxygen that fish need, often resulting in fish kills.

## *Sell it to a Developer or Keep it Green Forever - Ralph Cioppa*

Perhaps you or your family are the owners of land that can be preserved or be developed. Selling the land to a developer seems like a wonderful idea but may not be such a good solution. If you leave the land to be inherited by your heirs, they will pay more inheritance taxes and more capital gains tax. If you make the land available for land conservation both you, your heirs and your community may actually save money. Here is how this works.

**IF YOU PRESERVE YOUR LAND:** You receive an income tax deduction of the appraised value of the land the year you donate it and the land is forever preserved. The value of the land is removed from your estate. Your heirs pay less tax.

**IF YOU SELL THE LAND:** You or your heirs pay capital gains tax based on the original purchase price of the land subtracted from the selling price, as well as possible estate taxes. If your municipality wants to purchase the land after it's been sold it to a developer, they pay a price above the amount the developer paid for it.

If your community approves a housing development, they will need to increase property taxes for all to pay for the increase in the number school children, and other municipal services caused by the new development. For every dollar in new taxes collects, they municipality will pay out more than a dollar for services. These numbers are well documented.

This decision is important; it involves much thought and expert advice. This advice is available from your attorney or The Delaware Highlands Conservancy at 570 226 3164.

Twin & Walker Creeks  
Watershed Conservancy

132 East Shore Road  
Shohola, PA 18458  
570-296-2244  
Www.twcwc.com

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*Next Meeting 10 am—  
June 14, 2008 at the Walker Lake  
Clubhouse*

Resident  
RR 1  
Shohola, PA 18458

## 2008 CONSERVANCY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*I am concerned with the future quality and quantity of the water resources in our neighborhood and would like to support the conservation efforts of the Twin/Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy through a yearly membership.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in learning more about volunteer monitoring efforts

### Check type of membership

Senior/Student—\$5.00

Individual— \$10.00

Family— \$15.00

Corporate— \$40.00

In support of the Conservancy's efforts, I would like to provide an additional gift in the amount of  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with check payable to:

**Twin/Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy**  
132 East Shore Road  
Shohola, PA 18458

