

# Echoes from Our Lake

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WALKER LAKESHORES LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION  
MARCH 2019  
VOLUME 143

## *From the President's Pen*



Since announcing my resignation as President of WLLA effective May 18, 2019, I reflected on the many comments received during my tenure which quickly recalled the saying “you can please some of the people all of the time, you can please all of the people some of the time, but you can’t please all of the people all of the time”. These words are attributed to John Lydgate of Bury, England (c. 1370 – c. 1451) who was a monk and a poet. I wonder how he would react knowing his words ring true even today, so many centuries later.

In the midst of our financial crisis when I accepted the position of Interim President, I fully understood the impossibility of pleasing everyone all of the time. That was never my focus, but a very common practice throughout previous years. Rather, as each challenge presented itself, I chose to manage with our Red Book as a guide coupled with a sincere attempt to practice consistency.

To those displeased with either some or all of the past outcomes, I suggest a path to alleviate any frustration lies in the choice to serve in a decision-making capacity. I urge each and every member in good standing to come forward, submit a Letter of Intent and volunteer for your community. Granted, it must be understood a leadership position has a success rate that you “can’t please all of the people all of the time”.

I can utilize the remaining space allotted to me by reflecting on past actions, reasons and choices; but, instead I choose to take this time to thank all who have crossed my path during my service. I want to acknowledge those who brought concerns that spurred a heated and sometimes passionate debate, recognize all who brought critical thinking skills to discussions and meetings, and salute the past and present Board of Directors and who helped manage the Association to this point in our recovery. It has been my pleasure to serve alongside all of you, as we worked tirelessly toward the betterment of our Community.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President.

— Janice Hahn

## WLLA BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS - 2019



Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association (WLLA) will hold an election at their Annual General Membership Meeting on Saturday, July 20, 2019, in compliance with our Red Book Rules and Regulations. This year, the election will be to fill four (4) At-Large Director positions and two (2) Officers, those being President, and Vice President.

A nominee **MUST** be committed to serving a three-year term; be in good standing; be prepared to attend a minimum of nine (9) Board of Director Meetings during the year; serve on at least one (1) committee. Most importantly, all Directors and Officers have a fiduciary responsibility to act in the best interest of the WLLA Community.

Any member in good standing is eligible to submit a Consideration for Nomination Letter to include a short biography describing life experience, acquired skills and what can be offered for the betterment of the WLLA Community. This information will assist voters in determining their best choices for the available positions. The letters and biographies can be e-mailed, dropped off or mailed to the WLLA office no later than May 25, 2019. Each submitted biography will be posted in the clubhouse, placed on the WLLA website and included in the June newsletter along with the slate of candidates.

Nominations from the floor from members in good standing will be heard at the May 18, 2019 General Membership Meeting. If in attendance, the nominees from the floor should verbally confirm acceptance of the nomination. It would be helpful, as well as beneficial to all nominees, for those individuals to come prepared to speak briefly about themselves. If someone is nominated by another member, but unable to attend the meeting, they need to confirm their interest in running by sending a Consideration for Nomination letter to the WLLA office no later than the May 25, 2019 deadline. If they would like a short biography to be posted on the website and newsletter, they should include it with their letter.





***The Nomination Committee encourages all members of WLLA in good standing to consider running for a Board of Director position so we can give the membership a choice of candidates and provide a wider range of people who are both involved and represented. The WLLA Community is very fortunate to have a selection of diverse members with many talents and skills that could greatly contribute to the important decisions currently being made and will affect our future as we move forward in our endeavor to continue to make our community what we want and need it to be.***

The Membership/Nominations/Elections Committee - Vicky Perrotta-Chair, Michael DeVita, Margaret Lisciandrello, Rose Murphy, Paul Palladino, Linda Tremain, Andre Verge, John Weber

## 2019 WLLA ELECTION TIMELINE

- **Monday, April 1, 2019** - Consideration for Nomination letters accepted from any WLLA member in good standing.
- **Saturday May 18, 2019 (General Membership Meeting)** - Nominating Committee presents candidates who submitted Letters of Consideration for Nomination. Nominations from the floor are heard and recorded.
- **Saturday, May 25, 2019** - Deadline for submitting hand delivered and/or postmarked Letters of Consideration for Nomination and biographies.
- **Saturday, June 1, 2019** - Absentee ballots will be available in the WLLA office Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9am-2pm, and **must be signed for**. The slate of candidates is posted. June Newsletter will be released listing the slate of candidates and the submitted biographies.
- **Saturday, July 13, 2019** - Deadline for sealed absentee ballots to be postmarked and/or received at the WLLA office by 2pm.

**Saturday, July 20, 2019 (Annual/General Membership Meeting/Election Day)** - Polls open at the Clubhouse from 8am until 10am for voting. Board of Directors' Meeting at 10am followed by the **Annual/General Membership Meeting** with announcements of election winners.

 <b>WLLA MEETING CALENDAR 2019</b> <b>All Meetings at the WLLA Clubhouse</b> 		
<b>March 16</b> Board of Directors 10 AM	<b>April 6</b> Letters of Intent for Interim President due	<b>April 27</b> Board of Directors 10 AM
<b>May 18</b> Nominations for President, VP and 4 Directors at General Membership 10 AM Board of Directors to follow	<b>June 15</b> Board of Directors 10 AM	<b>July 20</b> Election Day – Vote 8 to 10 AM Annual General Membership 10 AM Board of Directors to follow
<b>August 17</b> Board of Directors 10 AM	<b>September 21</b> July Elected Board Sits General Membership 10 AM Board of Directors to follow	<b>October 19</b> Board of Directors 10 AM
<b>November 16</b> Board of Directors 10 AM	<b>December 14</b> Board of Directors 10 AM	<b>Volunteer Committee Members Needed. Contact the office for info!</b>
<b>Attendance at Meetings:</b> In accordance with the WLLA Red Book Rules and Regulations, I. INTRODUCTION, B. PRIVILEGES, 1.e., page 3: Board of Director MONTHLY meetings are open to members only. Non-members may attend the three General Membership meetings in May, July and September. The July meeting is known as the Annual meeting.		



The Following Events are Presented by the WLLA Program Committee

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

(All events take place in, or originate at, Clubhouse, unless otherwise indicated)

April 13, 2019
SIP & PAINT NITE
TIME: 7pm
COST: \$15 PP

Bring out your inner artist and have a night of fun with friends. All supplies will be provided. BYOB and snack. 14 years old to paint and 21 to sip. Must sign up and pay in advance with a check at the clubhouse.

May 4, 2019
COMMUNITY YARD SALE
Time: 9:00am to 2:00pm
Location: your home
Fee: \$5.00 per home

Sell your unwanted items (see article below)
Come one, come all and find that treasure you've been looking for. Pick up a map at the clubhouse with addresses of WL yard sales.

May 27, 2019
Wildlife Talk, Show, and Answers
TIME: 2pm
Talk by our own Scott Rando

June 8, 2019
Fishing Contest
TIME: 9am-2pm
LOCATION: WL Dam Area or in Boats
FISHING LICENSE: Anyone over 15 needs one
SIGN UP: At Clubhouse

It's fishing season let's go reel 'um in. Spend the day in nature and on the water. Must sign in by the dam when you arrive. THROW BACK ALL BASS. Age groups: ages 3-6, 7-10, 11-15, 16 and above. Prizes for EACH age group for biggest fish and also most fish

July 20, 2019
Member Picnic
TIME: 2pm - 6pm
LOCATION: Clubhouse grounds
COST: Members free & Non-members \$5

Remember the good times at the past annual picnics? Well it's here again. The Program Committee will supply dogs, burgers & rolls and everyone bring a covered dish. Looking for 2-3 people to bring their grills. We need a count for this event. We do not want to waste food and money. Everyone must sign up @clubhouse and get a wristband to wear at the picnic. Guests must pay at the clubhouse and get their wristband.

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*A note from your treasurer...*



## A Note From Our Treasurer

Please let me take a moment of your time to appeal to you to include membership in your 2019 assessment payment, and to remind you that assessments are due by April 1. Membership in WLLA is very important to our community. Please don't let the fact that membership is optional for most of us keep you from joining.

You personally benefit from greater use of amenities (use of Clubhouse Beach, opportunities to rent the Clubhouse, use of tennis courts,...) and from voting rights (enabling your influence over the direction of the Association). Members can also seek board and committee positions.

Most importantly for the greater good of the community itself, membership dues help to fund essential operations. Utilities, office staff, insurance, and so much more of these essential costs are funded in part by dues. Without this essential support, it would be incredibly difficult to pay the bills, much less find the resources to improve.

I hope that this information helps you make the decision to join. Walker Lake is great place, but it is dependent upon this voluntary support.

— Carol Gillen, Treasurer

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### **IMPORTANT** ANNOUNCEMENT

### OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT REQUIRED CLEANING OF CULVERT DITCHES

During the past several months we have noticed an increasing problematic situation with the water draining from some portions of the WLLA owned roads. The problem stems from the roadside drainage not being cleaned out regularly.

Falling autumn leaves to severe winter and summer storms that took down limbs and in some cases entire trees have reduced our culverts and drainage ditches capacity, with some areas having little to no ability for the water to run off from the road. This must be corrected.

Water on the roadway can freeze in the winter and although I would hope no one is driving that fast around here that they could hydroplane, water retained on the roadway is just not safe. Also, poor drainage also reduces the life of the pavement. Yes, I am realist, our roads need a lot of work but we do not need to accelerate further deterioration.

Section III, Part E subpart 1 in the WLLA Rules and Regulations states ***“culverts adjacent to one's own property should be cleared on an 'as needed' basis”***. Therefore it is the landowner's responsibility to make sure this is done.

All landowners along WLLA owned roads must make sure their culverts, pipes and roadside drainage areas adjacent to their properties are cleaned of leaves, litter, debris and trees. The Road Committee will start doing an assessment of the ditches after July 15, 2019. Please make every effort to have yours clean before then. We cannot go into next winter with the drainage looking as it is now.

# Thank You!

It was a dark period for Walker Lake at the end of 2017 when it became known that our past, deceased president had used the Association's finances as his personal piggy bank. It appeared to become worse when President Fran Orth stood up at the January 2018 Board meeting, made a brief statement, and then, she herself resigned. Other Board member resignations quickly followed until it seemed nothing that could be built – or rebuilt – upon was left.

But, within minutes and, one might say, miraculously, WLLA started its recovery when Janice Hahn was selected as Interim President, and accepted that position. There are not many people in this world – let alone our community – who would have the guts to dive into the mess that lay before us at that time. But Janice did so, with ultimate dedication and the passion not only to make things right but to do things right.

Janice has put in countless hours on behalf of our community at the sacrifice of her own personal life. She put many personal things on hold the past two-plus years. That not only affected her, but her husband, John, as well.

In her farewell message on the first page of this newsletter, Janice speaks of not being able to please everyone. She also refers to spirited and passionate debate amongst Board members. Yes, that is true, but debate is healthy for the wellbeing and growth of any organization. Doing the right thing for the majority of the community even when there are some that disagree is a sign of strong leadership.

Janice Hahn has been a strong, dedicated and righteous leader, fueled by her personal integrity. She put WLLA back on the right track, though we still have several years to go before we're out of the shadow of the financial mess she inherited. Most important among her accomplishments, perhaps, was her insistence upon following the rules: the rules of the Association's Bylaws and the time-honored rules of good organizational management.

We can't thank Janice and John enough for putting the WLLA community ahead of themselves. While some may take issue with certain specific matters, there's no question that, in the main, under Janice's leadership, WLLA has been guided to the threshold of a bright future.

A BIG THANK YOU TO BOTH JANICE AND JOHN!



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## Pat Dawson – Walker Lake Keeper

One would never know that modest, soft-spoken Pat Dawson, who hangs back in conversations and whose posture is always that of service:

- Is an Associate Professor - Librarian at Rider University in New Jersey who speaks at major international conferences on information research;
- Has travelled the world and been to all seven continents;
- Is the mother of two young men, one a structural engineer, the other an astrophysicist who is the principal investigator in mapping the universe;
- Is the President of the Twin and Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy (TWCWC).

That's just a top-line description of Patricia Dawson, wife for 48 years of Chet Dawson, and a resident at Walker Lake for almost 50 years. "We've seen a lot of change in that time," says Pat, who remembers the Sweezy property eyesore – roughly across the lake from the home built in 1970 by her parents, Gordon and Connie Hanson. That property, for years, was adorned with a hulking grey concrete foundation – like a shoreline military bunker, fronted, oddly, by a fastidiously maintained lawn. Pat also remembers when one could look up and down the lakeshore from her waterfront and see virtually nothing – nothing manmade at least.

The biggest change, Pat says, was the area's rapid development after 9/11 which brought with it challenges to the quality of our lake. "Topographically, our lake is situated in a bowl that takes in a large area," Pat points out, "and almost anything that changes in that bowl has an impact on the lake."

"Anything" includes runoff from septic systems, chemicals from fertilizers and herbicides and silt from cleared ground. The latter she regards as a special threat. Pat sees this in front of her own property where runoff from a huge area across Maple Drive and behind the firehouse drains down a stream along her property line carrying mud and gravel that forms a delta stretching out into the lake that she and Chet – more than once – have paid to have dug out.

A confluence of ecological concerns, professional scientific background and self-interest as a property owner led Pat to become, first, a member of our Lake Committee, and, recently, president of TWCWC. Among other duties, TWCWC members monitor water quality of the lake, analyzing trends over time and, in conjunction, comparing it with data from Twin Lakes.

Now, in a giant leap forward, TWCWC, under Pat's leadership, has joined the Pocono Lake Ecological Observatory Network (PLEON), a regional lake monitoring program headquartered at Lacawac Sanctuary Field Station and Environmental Education Center in Lake Ariel, PA, that's focused on educating the public and lake associations on water quality and lake management.



*TWCWC's Board of Directors, lake testing volunteers and spouses.  
Pat standing, 4th from right. Chet behind the camera.*



*Pat has visited all seven continents.  
Here in Antarctica.*

PLEON, Pat reports, is assembling a database of conditions for ten lakes in the region – now including ours – a process that will enable us not only to double-check our monitoring, but also to compare our lake water quality with that of others in the region. “We can see the trends, see how we stack up, and become part of a research group that’s tied in with Miami of Ohio, Drexel and Lehigh University, among others,” Pat says.

In her “day job,” Pat, who has an MS in microbiology, an MLS and a teaching certification, and whose page at Rider University’s website contains a long list of peer-reviewed journal articles and appearances at national and international conferences, focuses on the instruction programs at the school.

One of her major concerns is that students, in their research, know how to get “authentic, valid and reliable” information. Research libraries have to have access to repositories of “original, full text information and data, not just abstracts,” she says. And that costs money because “information has value.” So there are issues of access and also of quality and reliability, a subject Pat addressed at recent conferences in Brisbane, Australia, Crete and Istanbul.

Pat’s husband, Chet, was, prior to retirement, VP for Global Environmental Management at Sony Corporation’s International Disc Manufacturing Division. In the “it’s a small world” department, it turns out that Chet met our own Carol Reynolds annually at Sony’s environmental and safety conferences.

Pat and Chet’s sons, Bradley, a structural engineer who lives in the Denver area, and Kyle, the astrophysicist at the University of Utah, were outdoorsmen from the get go, always off as teens and college students on white water adventures in remote parts of Canada and Alaska.

Their love for the wild reflects the respect their parents have for nature and the determination not to take it for granted. “Lakes are complex ecosystems,” Pat says, “that are affected by so many intervening factors. If someone cuts down trees and puts in a lawn, thinking it’s their property to do with what they wish, they may not fully appreciate the impact on the lake, which is, after all, in relation to property value, our most important asset. We all live downstream from each other.”



### **WLLA OFFICE HOURS**

The WLLA Office is open  
Wednesday and Saturday  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.





## **SPLASH BACK** at Walker Lake



# **PROTECTING WALKER LAKE**

by Peter Wulfhorst

The biggest asset for Walker Lake is the lake itself. The Lake Committee works hard to maintain the lake's water quality.

An important part of maintaining Walker Lake is the dam. Every year the dam is inspected by an engineer to make sure that it is structurally sound and not in danger of breaching. Our dam is in good structural health and in most years, we only need to remove deep rooted vegetation growing along the dam. However, several years ago we had to replace rip rap next to the spillway. This rip rap, basically rocks, maintains the face of the dam. The reason we had to replace the rocks is that some individuals threw the rocks into the lake. Recently a Lake Committee member saw two individuals throwing rocks onto the ice. It is important that these rocks stay where they are. If not, the Walker Lake community will have to bear the cost of paying to replace the rocks after the next dam inspection. **SO PLEASE LEAVE THE ROCKS.**



Another important part of Walker Lake is the fish. Residents and guests enjoy fishing year-round. The lake committee has conducted fish stocking over the years based on fishery studies completed by our lake consultant. These studies determine the fish populations and what species would be best to stock in the lake. However, they are taken on one day only. Long term health of our fishery would benefit from additional information. That is where those who fish Walker Lake come in. If you catch fish in Walker Lake, we'd be interested in knowing what type and size of fish you catch. The Walker Lake website <http://www.walkerlake.com> has a link on the home page to creel survey. We'd appreciate all fishermen to provide us this information. It would assist the lake committee in having a better understanding of our fisheries.

Finally, as we approach the spring/summer season at Walker Lake, we will continue to monitor the lake's water quality. Let's enjoy the lake this summer.

## **SELL YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS AT THE WLLA COMMUNITY WIDE YARD SALE**



Do you have some items around the house you wish you had the chance to sell? Well, here's your chance! The WLLA Program Committee is holding a Community Wide Yard Sale on May 4, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will promote the sale on many different Community Facebook pages in the Tri-State area, on Craigslist and other means to make people aware of the sale.

You must register with the office as the Program Committee will be providing maps with a list of houses that are selling items so those that come looking for bargains can find you. The \$5 registration fee which covers the costs. Any additional monies collected will be used by the Program Committee to help sponsor other events such as the Fishing Derby and the Community Picnic in June.



Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association  
100 Walker Lake Drive  
Shohola, PA 18458

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TO:

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### Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association Officers

**President:** Janice Hahn

**Vice President:** Carol Reynolds

**Treasurer:** Carol Gillen

**Secretary:** Rose Murphy

Office Hours: Wednesday & Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Office Assistant: Kathy Zimmermann

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#### Board of Directors

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