

December 2010

Volume 7

Issue 2



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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.

President's Message - Shirley Masuo

In our continuing effort to protect and manage our watershed, the TWCWC continues to monitor our lakes, identify and remedy stormwater runoff problems, educate on invasive plant species and much, much more. Our liaisons with the Pike County Conservation District, the Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act meetings, as well as the township Planning Commission's workshops on revisions of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, help us better understand how our watershed works and what we can do to keep it pristine. This year, through presentations, the Conservancy has begun to share our knowledge with other environmental groups, making us somewhat of a leader in Northeastern Pa! – quite an accomplishment for our quiet, little group of volunteers. It is through your support that this is possible.

The Conservancy will continue to focus on stricter regulation for natural gas drilling in 2011. We hope to minimize the effects of water pollution associated with the gas drilling process here in our area, that other municipalities in our state have experienced. For the past two years, we've researched the available information on hydraulic fracturing; attended meetings, seminars and hearings, and talked with experts and politicians on the subject. We continue to move forward on the issue, using facts and science as our guide, and hope to have input in Pike County's gas drilling task force which is now being formed.

All sorts of things are coming our way in this new year, both good and bad. Did you know that Pennsylvania is ranked third nationally in the number of solar projects operating today and fourth in installed capacity? We believe that new technologies like solar, will be one of the best ways to keep our watershed healthy, and with your help, the Conservancy will continue its work into the new year with our ear to the environmental ground and our best tool at hand - education. In 2011, we will again be holding Environmental Day at the Shohola elementary school, teaching a new generation about how our watershed works. Your contributions will help us to do that - to go where the latest information is being presented, giving us the ability to bring in experts for presentations and to show important films. We'll do our part, so please join us, contribute, and help keep our watershed, one little piece of paradise.

If you care about the water quality of our watershed and want to ensure that it remains healthy and pleasant, then **we need you to become a member of the Twin/ Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy.**

Membership information is found on page 4 of the newsletter. All membership contributions are tax deductible.

To learn more about the Conservancy or view previous newsletters, visit our website at www.twcwc.com.

Treasurer's Report - Linda Cioppa

As of October 31, 2010 we have \$7576.54 in our checking account and \$11,286.23 in our money market account. In June we received an additional grant from an anonymous organization to complete the Maple Drive project. We did additional work and contributed \$1000 to the cost of landscaping, with the home owner providing the additional monies necessary. We will continue to make sure that the basin and the culverts are maintained. We will again be adding rock to the berm on Maple Drive. This project has helped eliminate a substantial amount of the sediment that was running into Walker Lake.

We have completed the testing of all the lakes and have asked FX Browne to review some areas where storm water runoff continues to be a problem. We hope to work with parties involved to repair those areas and cover those costs. The testing costs approximately \$1200 annually.

We have had more than 30 individuals renew their memberships or join our efforts. We also received contributions from Twin Lakes Property Owners Association, Sagamore and Twin Lakes Park Association. Thank you all!!

We are continuing our work with the Shohola Elementary School. We presented a program in May and will do one again this spring. Walmart again gave us a \$250 grant to help defray some of these costs.

As always, we ask that you help us continue our work by contributing!! We are also interested in members who would like to become more involved. If you are interested, please contact our President, Shirley Masuo.

PLANNING TO BUILD? - ACT 167 MUNICIPAL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, CHAPTER 102 - EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL, SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE (SALDO) -

Ralph Cioppa & Susan Beecher

If you are considering construction of any kind on your property, you will need to be aware of both State and local laws and regulations related to land development. In our watershed, the agencies involved might include the following: Pike County Conservation District (PCCD), Pike County Planning Office, and Shohola Township.

The PA Stormwater Management Act, Act 167, was passed in 1978 and requires any person engaged in the alteration or development of land, which may affect storm water runoff, is required to implement measures to manage any resulting stormwater runoff to prevent damages to downstream properties. Act 167 further defines the responsibility of local agencies in planning for and regulating storm water from land development.

Pike County is currently developing a Act 167 County Storm water Management Plan through a cooperative project of the Pike County Commissioners, PCCD and Pike County Planning Office. Once the Plan for the county is completed, each municipality (including Shohola) must incorporate the requirements of the Pike County Plan as minimal standards in their own land development regulations. Shohola can incorporate more stringent requirements but not less stringent rules. These rules may not necessarily affect your plans. For example, if your construction activity involves less than a certain square footage of impervious surface (roofs, paved driveways, etc.), then you may be exempt from the requirement to develop a stormwater management site plan for your project, although subject to local building codes. PCCD is coordinating this project for the County and can be contacted with any questions.

The recently revised Chapter 102, Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management Regulations, went into effect on November 19, 2010 superseding past provisions. Chapter 102 requires persons proposing or conducting earth disturbance activities to develop, implement and maintain practices to minimize the potential for erosion and sedimentation and to manage post construction stormwater. The purpose of the regulations, which are administered locally by PCCD, is to protect water quality. The complete regulation is available on the web, (see below). PCCD staff understands the regulations thoroughly and they will be happy to assist you in answering questions or meeting the requirements.

Shohola Township is currently revising the Township's SALDO (Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance). Again, these Ordinances must incorporate the minimal requirements of the DEP. Shohola can incorporate more stringent requirements, but not less.

Each construction job is subject to the fine print of the actual acts. Make sure the decisions that affect you are correct. Use the following references as the correct authority to insure that you are doing what is right and required for protecting the environment:

Pike County Conservation District PCCD, pikeconservation.org, 570-226-8220

Shohola Township, shoholatwp.org, 570 559 7354

Act 167, stormwaterpa.org/org-act167.html

Chapter 102, dep.state.pa.us/dep/subject/rbi/102

Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance SALDO newpa.com/get-local-gov-support

Pike County Office of Community Planning - planning@pike.pa.org - 570 296 3500

Pennsylvania Department of Environment Protection DEP - Depweb.state.pa.us

Shoreline Buffer Strips: The Riparian Buffer And Lake Ecology – Kirk Mackey

The interrelationship between a lake and its shoreline is important. The shoreline, or riparian zone, is the last line of defense against forces that may otherwise pollute a healthy lake. A naturally vegetated shoreline filters runoff generated by surrounding land uses in the watershed, removing harmful chemicals and nutrients. At the same time, plant roots bind to the soil helping to keep it in place and prevent soil erosion. The riparian zone also provides critical habitat for aquatic insects, microorganisms, fish and other animals. Ecologists, water quality specialists, land planners and lake managers all agree that naturally-vegetated buffer strip along the edge of a lake (or a stream or wetland) is critical to maintaining the health of a water body. The buffer concept is fairly simple. A riparian buffer should ideally be comprised of a mixture of trees, shrubs or grasses that naturally exist in an area. Buffers usually require little maintenance, and the use of fertilizers and pesticides is strongly discouraged. Unfortunately, as watershed landscapes are developed, natural lake shorelines often are damaged. A benefit of buffer strips are filtering of pollutants and sediments. Excess nutrients from nutrient sources such as failing septic systems and surface runoff can be taken up and used by plants. In addition, buffer grasses can help slow down the velocity of surface runoff. Depending on the width and characteristics of the buffer, as much as 70 to 95 percent of incoming sediment, and 25 to 60 percent of incoming nutrients and other pollutants can be removed from the runoff

Another benefit of buffer strips is the preservation of fish and wildlife habitat. Buffers provide a critical transition zone between upland and lowland aquatic wetland areas. Buffer plants also can shade shorelines providing necessary habitat for fish and other wildlife. Depending on the width, buffers also can shield sensitive species, particularly birds, from potentially disruptive activities occurring on adjacent land uses. Buffers also deter geese. Canada geese don't like to nest in or walk through tall grasses, plants, or shrubs. Extending a buffer strip around the whole lake will make the entire lake less desirable as a habitat.

The Buffer Concept

Ecologists, water quality specialists, land planners and lake managers all agree that a **Buffer Strip Benefits**

- **Runoff filtering:** As runoff from adjacent lands flow through a buffer, pollutants and sediment are filtered and removed. Excess nutrients from animal manure and failing septic systems, for instance, can be taken up and used by plants. In addition, buffer grasses can help slow down the velocity of surface runoff.
- **Bank stabilization:** Natural buffers that extend down to the water's edge can be very effective in stabilizing lake banks and preventing erosion. In contrast to conventional turf grass (which is shallow-rooted), natural riparian vegetation often has dense, deep root systems that firmly anchor shoreline soils.
- **Preservation of fish and wildlife habitat:** Many aquatic organisms, particularly insects, spend substantial portions of their life cycles in upland environments.
- **Screening noise:** Beyond protecting wildlife uses, buffers also can preserve the quality of lake recreational uses by filtering noise. Forested buffers, in particular, can effectively intercept noise from adjacent highways and industrial operations.
- **Preservation of aesthetic values:** Lakeside property owners often have varying opinions about what constitutes "appropriate" shoreline landscaping. However, most will agree that "natural" is better than "artificial." Even a narrow buffer can enhance the view across a lake. In addition to reducing noise levels, forested buffers can help provide privacy from surrounding developments.

This article was adapted from *Lake Notes - Shoreline Buffers*, a publication produced by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc.

**Twin & Walker Creeks
Watershed Conservancy**

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2011 CONSERVANCY CONTRIBUTION

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 contribution

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 _____

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