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Volume 13

Issue 1



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*Pat Dawson, President*

*John Hahn Vice-President*

*Pat Messineo, Secretary*

*Irene DeVito Treasurer*

*Chet Dawson, Past-*

*President*

*Kirk Mackey*

*Peter Wulforth*

*Shirley Masuo*

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*Pat Wain*

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 - Pat Dawson*

Last fall a new slate of officers were elected and Chet Dawson turned over the reins to me and I will appreciate his guidance while I get used to this position. John Hahn is our new Vice President, and he has jumped in with both feet by presiding over our first meeting in April due to family issues at my end. Irene DeVito continues as our able treasurer, keeping track of bills and forwarding notices to me. Pat Messineo is our secretary, and is a fountain of historical knowledge. Scott Rando oversees our website and is a nature photographer extraordinaire. Peter Wulforth and Chet Dawson, are both past presidents. Joyce Laudise, one of the founders of our organization is an Honorary Board Member for Life. I would like to welcome our new board member, Barbara Whitney, and Matt Barr is the new watershed specialist at the Pike County Conservation District, an important partner and resource for our organization. We value our collaboration with the Twin Lakes Association and the help that Peter Loewrigkeit and Board Member Kirk Mackey, who provide for organizing our water monitoring program.

Our first board meeting this year was in April and organizing this newsletter was the main event. Our next meeting was June 16th, where we prepared the newsletters for mailing. Our last board meeting will be on August 18th at 7 PM. Our Annual Meeting will be on Saturday Oct. 7 at 10 AM with a short board meeting beforehand. Unless otherwise noted all meetings will be 7 PM at the Walker Lake Clubhouse, 100 Walker Lake Rd, Shohola, PA 18458. These meetings are open and all are welcome to come! We would like to encourage input, either by email or coming by to our meetings.

This newsletter will give you an overview our organization's activities from the past year and for upcoming events. We are trying something new: a photo contest with judging and winners announced at our annual meeting on Oct. 7th. We have reached out to the school district and are hoping for a number of student entries. Rules can be found elsewhere in the newsletter. Save the date and have fun taking photos of the wonderful nature we have in Pike County!

This year we will be monitoring three times instead of the four in past years. This is a good thing as past results have shown that the three lakes in our watershed are in good condition, with our year to year results being very stable allowing for reduced testing. If anyone is interested in learning more about the testing program or in volunteering to help please contact Peter Loewrigkeit or send a note to myself at the email address below.

Please feel free to contact me at [president@twcwc.com](mailto:president@twcwc.com)

Pat Dawson, President, Twin and Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy

## *Peter Wulfhorst- Joyce Laudise*



Peter Wulfhorst first became interested in the environment as a Boy Scout living in the suburban Philadelphia town of Havertown. He enjoyed scout sponsored hiking, camping and bird watching. Interests that he pursues today. After receiving a BA in Environmental Resource Management from Penn State he worked as a naturalist in state parks and for PEEC in Dingmans. He returned to Penn State for a Master's degree in Environmental Pollution Control. He learned much about environmental issues impacting communities.

Just before graduating and while aiding his graduate advisor at a conference about "on lot septic systems", he discussed with a Pike County planning commissioner the Pike County Planning Director position. In 1986 Peter took the job and moved to Pike County. In 1999 Peter joined the Pike County Extension Service\* located in Milford where he helps in land use planning and grant writing. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Part of his responsibilities with Penn State Extension is to educate adults and youth about local government, ponds & lakes and private water systems. Peter helps answer questions from homeowners about their private water system.

Peter was instrumental in the formation of the TWCWC back in 2000. He continues to advise and aid the Conservancy. In a county with pristine waters and pressure to develop Peter is a valuable asset in protecting our natural resources ensuring development proceeds in a thoughtful manner.

\*Penn State is a land grant college. In 1862 Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Act that gave each state public land for establishing a college that educated people in agriculture and other "practical" professions. The Morrill Act enhanced the scope of higher education from only classical studies by adding applied sciences and by making higher education available to all. Extension Services developed later to spread the useful

## *Updates on Pesticides in our Environment - John Hahn*

Consumers must be aware of the health consequences of using pesticides and consuming products that have been sprayed with pesticides since we now have an EPA that we cannot trust.

We should all be taking steps to put pressure on many fronts such as asking retailers, administrators and elected officials to take action to eliminate or curtail the sale and use of Roundup (weed killer) and bee-harmful neonicotinoid pesticides. A California judge recently ruled against Monsanto which will allow the state to proceed with listing "glyphosate", the active ingredient in Roundup as a chemical "known to the state to cause cancer" in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986.

Best solution is to buy certified organic food, test and filter drinking water for residues, and ensure lawn and garden practices and products used in homes, parks, and school yards are organic compatible.

## *Joseph Messineo Scholarship - Pat Dawson*

The Joseph Messineo Memorial Twin & Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy Scholarship was awarded to Paul Matarazzo in spring of 2016. The criteria for this \$500 award is given to a graduating senior who plans to continue his/her education at a two- or four-year college in environmental studies or a related field. Student will be chosen based on character, academic qualifications and proven interest in the environmental field.

## *Private Well Testing - Peter Wulfhorst*



Pennsylvania currently has no state regulations when it comes to the maintenance and protection of private wells. Improperly constructed or poorly maintained wells can provide a pathway for pollutants to enter your home. The first defense against the contamination of your water supply is the homeowner. Preventing contaminated water supplies protects the health of you and your family and is less expensive and easier to fix than once a well is polluted.

To ensure that your drinking water is healthy to drink, you should have your water tested on a regular basis. You should test your water annually for coliform bacteria and every 3 years for pH, nitrates and total dissolved solids. In addition, you can test your water for other potential contaminants based on either the condition of your water or what could be a possible threat to your water.

For example, a blue-green stain around your plumbing fixtures indicates the presence of copper and you should test for it. An orange or black stain indicates either iron or manganese. If well is located near agricultural operations, you might want to test for pesticides if they are being used on the farm. Or if you live near a landfill or factory, you should consider testing for metals or Volatile Organics.

Have your water tested by a certified PA DEP laboratory. If you have questions about testing your water, contact Peter Wulfhorst at 570-296-3400 at the Penn State Extension office in Milford.

## *TWCWC Photo Contest “Nature of Pike County” - Chet*



Pike County is a place of natural beauty from its mountain vistas, to its lakes and streams and an abundance of wildlife. Beginning in 2017, the Twin Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy will be holding an annual photo contest “Nature in Pike County” open to all county residents. Ribbons for first, second and third place will be given in four categories: children up through 4th grade; 5th through 8th grades; Senior High and adults. We welcome photos from board members; however, they will not be eligible for recognition. The winners will be judged and chosen at the TWCWC Annual Meeting in October.

Contest Rules: Pictures can be of any natural scene but should not include man-made objects. Incidental structures such as a dock or house in a landscape shot are permitted but they cannot be a major feature.

Photos must have been taken in the past 12 months prior to the time of the October annual meeting.

Photos should be submitted as 8 ½ by 11-inch prints or smaller with the name and contact information of the photographer (age if 18 or younger) and location and date of the photo on the back.

Photos may be digitally edited but montages will not be accepted.

Photos should be mailed to: Twin & Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy 102 Warpath Place Shohola, PA 18458 or they can also be brought to the Annual Meeting

**Oct. 7, 2017 10:00 AM Walker Lake Clubhouse, 100 Walker Lake Road, Shohola, PA 18458**

TWCWC reserves the right to use any submitted photo in its mailings, postings, letters, brochures and web page.

There are many YouTube videos offering tips on taking photos; here are two websites aimed at helping children with photography:

<https://digital-photography-school.com/13-lessons-to-teach-your-child-about-digital-photography/>

<http://clickitupanotch.com/2012/07/photography-for-kids/>

DISCLAIMER: the Twin and Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy does not endorse either of these websites and commercials, and the links are only for information.

For updates go to the Twin & Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy Web Page (<http://www.twcwc.com>)

## *2016 Water Quality Monitoring Report for Walker Lake, Twin Lake and Little Twin Lake - Peter Loewrigkeit & Chet Dawson*

Conservancy volunteers again conducted water quality testing of the three lakes in our watershed. Testing occurred on the third weekend of June, July, August and September. The new probe that was purchased in 2015 performed very well and measured: temperature, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, pH and total dissolved solids. Measurements were made every ½ meter down to 7.5 meters. A Secchi disc was used to determine water clarity and water samples were taken near the surface to measure total phosphorous and a composite taken every ½ meter down to twice the Secchi depth to determine chlorophyll a. The water samples were sent to F. X Browne for quantitative analysis.

QC Labs, which performs the quantitative chemical analysis for F. X. Browne, was going through reorganization last year and was not able to provide precise total phosphorous readings but the approximate readings still gave us a good picture of overall water quality showing slight improvement for all three lakes. As we have seen every year, Little Twin Lake has the highest overall quality and Walker Lake the lowest but all three continue to be in good shape.

In late spring or the beginning of the summer temperate lakes develop stratified layers in their deeper sections. As the warmer water near the surface and cooler water near the bottom become more extreme they can become stratified and mixing of the two layers decreases or ceases all together. This past year all three lakes showed stratification with the bottom layer of Walker Lake and Big Twin Lake becoming depleted of oxygen. This is a normal occurrence and is no cause for alarm.

This coming year the TWCWC Board has decided to reduce the testing to three months: June, July and August. If anyone is interested in being trained and assisting with the testing, please contact President Pat Dawson at Walker Lake or Testing Coordinator Peter Loewrigkeit (154ploew@gmail.com for Twin Lakes

### *Treasurer's Report - Irene DeVito*

Once again, I can report to you that we are beginning the new season in financially good condition. All of the bills have been paid except for one in the amount of \$200 and we expect to pay that one shortly. We have about \$4,000 and \$16,000 in savings - a very good state of affairs.

This is all entirely due to you and your generous support over the years. We hope that you will continue to be generous in helping us to fulfill our mission to "protect, restore and enhance the watershed." Consider renewing your membership or beginning a new membership today. If you cannot do that, just support us by doing all that you can in service of protecting, restoring and enhancing the watershed. Thanks for your support and generosity. It is much appreciated.

**The Twin/Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy will be hosting a public meeting at the Walker Lake Clubhouse October 7 at 10 am. The topic of the meeting will be:**

**The speaker will be Jocelyn Cramer, Sustainable Energy Education & Development Support (SEEDS)**

**Jocelyn will share a brief history of the work SEEDS has been doing in Northeastern PA for nearly 10 years. She will discuss the inspiration for forming SEEDS, some of their major accomplishments, and future goals. A slide show presentation will include many of the water conservation and energy efficiency projects SEEDS volunteers have had happen over the years.**

Twin & Walker Creeks  
Watershed Conservancy

102 Warpath Place  
Shohola, PA 18458  
www.twcwc.com

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U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #15  
MILFORD, PA 18337

Resident  
RR 5  
Shohola, PA 18458

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C/O Irene DeVito  
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Shohola, PA 18458  
[www.twcwc.com](http://www.twcwc.com) ([president@twcwc.com](mailto:president@twcwc.com))

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

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

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

Memberships: (Circle One)

Individual (\$15) Family (\$25) or Student/Senior (\$10)      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Donation:      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Opportunities (please circle any areas that are of interest)

Lake monitoring Education (Children, Brochures, Other)

New programs (please note if you would like to participate or just learn more through our education program)

Invasive plant identification & control      Macro-invertebrate stream testing      Other interests \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions for TWCWC \_\_\_\_\_

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