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Issue 1



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Kevin Dowd

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

President's Message - Pat Dawson

At our annual meeting in October, 2017, Irene DeVito was elected as Treasurer, and Pat Messineo as the Secretary to the Conservancy. We have two new board members, Bill Boehme and Kevin Dowd. Jim Deiner will take over the management of the volunteers and working with FX Browne for our water monitoring program this summer. Peter Loewrigkeit has been a valuable help over the years with this program and has recruited Jim, and we look forward to working together this coming summer. Matt Barr, the watershed specialist at the Pike County Conservation District, has offered to train with Jim and a couple of us to calibrate the probe used in the water testing. This collaboration between the Twin Lakes Association, the Conservancy and the Pike County Conservation District is extremely helpful for the monitoring program.

We had our first board meeting on April 20th at the Walker Lake Clubhouse and had a number of guests attending. Results of the water monitoring report by FX Browne was discussed in detail and the report will be available on the Conservancy's website (<http://www.twcwc.com/>). The Board decided to hold the photo contest again and the judging will take place at the Board's annual meeting on Saturday, October 6th. We will be contacting the Delaware Valley High School art department again to encourage student participation in this contest. We are hoping contestants will attend the annual meeting this fall.

The newsletter will provide an overview of our activities and projects for the coming year. All of the Board meetings take place this year at the Walker Lake Clubhouse on the following dates: June 15th, August 17th, and October 6th. The June and August meetings will start at 7 PM and the October meeting will be at 10 AM. The address for the Walker Lake Clubhouse is 100 Walker Lake Road, Shohola, PA 18458. These meetings are open and all are welcome to come! The April meeting was promoted on the Friends of Walker Lake Facebook page and we will continue to find other avenues to get the word out about our organization and meetings.

Please save the date! Our annual meeting will have Stephanie Sherman, Director of Education at the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC), present a program from 10 AM – 11AM on Saturday, October 6th at the Walker Lake Clubhouse. Details will be announced later.

The last page of the newsletter has a membership form, and the Conservancy appreciates your continued support for our activities.

Please feel free to contact me at president@twcwc.com

Pat Dawson, President, Twin and Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy

SEEDS: Who We Are and What We Do - John Hahn

The Twin/Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy's 2017 Annual Meeting was a presentation by Jocelyn Cramer, Executive Director, Sustainable Energy Education & Development Support or SEEDS of Northeastern PA. SEEDS began in 2008 to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable living in our region. Their goals are to improve the health of our environment and local economies. Awareness and participation in other sustainability initiatives include water conservation and recycling.

Jocelyn pointed out that SEEDS present free forums on topics like DIY (do it yourself) solar, weatherization, green cleaning methods, passive house and high performance construction, recycling and more. They also provide free energy assessments for homeowners in Wayne and Pike counties. They are the recipient of a 2016 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence and engaged in a community initiative such as the Pike/Wayne Conservation Partnership.

To stay on top of local sustainability initiatives, and to learn more about these topics, you are welcome to join their "Good" Newsletter at www.seedsgroup.net

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.

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 Shelby DeFreese in spring of 2017. 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. The student will be chosen based on character, academic qualifications and proven interest in the environmental field.

PA!! Environmental Rights Amendment - Kevin Dowd

In 1971, Pennsylvania amended the state Constitution with the following environmental amendment:

"The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."

The residents of New Jersey need to support their own state constitutional amendment at the following website - <http://forthegenerations.org/constitutional-amendment-to-protect-environmental-rights-announced-in-new-jersey/>

New Jersey has enacted strong protections in the last year - <http://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/adoptions.html> but they can be reversed. Contact your : Contact your state representatives <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp> to ask for their support of the legislation.

November 30, 2017, New Jersey Assemblyman Tim Eustace, joined by Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, Assemblywoman Pinkin and Assemblywoman Sumpter, announced new legislation that, if passed, would provide the people of New Jersey with a constitutional right to a healthy environment.

DRBC Frac Ban Update - Shirley Masuo

The past seven years have seen a fragile moratorium on fracking in the Delaware River Basin. Now, with the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) proposing regulations that include a permanent ban on fracking, and with at least three of the five Basin commissioners said to be in favor, it looks good for the ban being passed. That's the good news. Unfortunately, the draft regulations do not prohibit the withdrawal of water from the Delaware for fracking in other areas, nor does it prohibit the dumping, storage or treatment of toxic fracking waste in the Basin. There have been numerous reports from both rural residents and industry workers of the illegal dumping of frack wastewater in creeks and streams all over our state so it's important for this issue to be addressed.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for the natural gas industry to dispose of or store frac waste. Research is proving that underground injection wells cause earthquakes and aquifer contamination, and in 2016, the EPA banned fracking wastewater from public sewage plants, citing the inability of those plants to handle the chemical content. Industry has been spreading the wastewater, which they benignly refer to as "brine", on town roads (often without a permit) as a de-icer and dust suppressant, exposing households to radioactivity, abrasive chemical laden dust and toxic heavy metals which blow into the air and runoff with the rainfall into creeks and streams.

Photo Contest Generated Some Interest - Irene DeVito



Last year at our General Meeting, we held the first annual Photo Contest. We were actually a little surprised at how well it was received. We invited Kathy Kaericher of the Artists Market in Shohola to judge the contest. She did a very able job and 9 prizes were awarded. There were three categories and three winners in each category as follows:

5th to 9th Grade: 1st Place: Andrew Phillips, 2nd Place: Gavin Munro,
3rd Place: Ava Nienstadt

10th to 12th Grade: 1st Place: Haleigh Olenick, 2nd Place: John Skrypek,
3rd Place: Dominick Corrieni

Adult: 1st Place: Herb Orlansky, 2nd Place: Jim Lockwood,
3rd Place: Carol Phillips

Because we had such a good response to this contest, we are going to have the Second Annual Photo Contest at our General 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. 6, 2018 10:00 AM Walker Lake Clubhouse, 100 Walker Lake Road, Shohola, PA 18458

We encourage all the photographers out there to go to our website at www.twcwc.com to find out more contest rules which can be accessed thru the Events Heading on the left hand side of the screen. Hope you enter, enjoy taking the pictures and have Good Luck.

2017 Water Quality Monitoring Report for Walker Lake, Twin Lake and Little Twin Lake - Chet Dawson

Conservancy volunteers again conducted water quality testing of the three lakes in our watershed. Overall Big Twin Lake and Walker Lake continued to show the small improvements we have been seeing while Little Twin Lake remained stable and had the best overall quality. All three lakes continue to be healthy and a recent fish study of Walker Lake showed bass over 5 lbs. We did see two changes from previous years. The natural tannins that are in Walker Creek before it enters the lake impact the secchi disc readings for Walker Lake. For the first time FX Browne took this into consideration in their report. During the warmer summer months both Walker and Big Twin Lakes show stratification around 4 meters. This results in rapid oxygen depletion below that depth. This is less common for Little Twin Lake but did occur during September of last year. This is a natural phenomenon and tends to disappear in colder months.

Lake testing in 2018 will be performed on the weekends of June 16, July 21 and August 18. Jim Deiner will oversee the testing program. FX Browne has asked us (if possible) to provide the data each month on a computer generated, spread sheet rather than on hand written sheets. We also need to make sure we calibrate the probe before each testing weekend. Our pH was high for all testing periods in 2017. Matt Barr brought the Pike County Conservation District probe to our April 2018 meeting to show us how it was calibrated and has offered a small amount of buffer solutions. Dr. Lung-Chi Chen, a Walker Lake resident, has offered to help with the calibration. Tentatively, the probe will be held by Pat and Chet Dawson and given to Dr. Chen on the Friday before testing for calibration and then brought to Jim. Twin Lakes will test on Saturday and Walker Lake on Sunday. All water sample bottles will be brought to Jim's and be picked up as before by the lab. Chet and Pat will hold onto the probe and download the test data before sending to FX Browne. If anyone is interested in being trained and assisting with the testing, please contact President Pat Dawson: president@twcwc.com or Jim Deiner at hphproducts@gmail.com.

Treasurer's Report - Irene DeVito

Because of your support in signing up for memberships and donating funds to us we are starting the year with good funding, with just over \$4,000 in our checking account and \$18,400 in CDs. Last year we closed out the money market account at NBT and opened two CDs at Wayne Bank. We also moved our checking account from NBT to Wayne.

This is all entirely due to you and your generous support over the years. We hope that you will continue to help us to fulfill our mission to "protect, restore and enhance the watershed." Please, consider renewing your membership or beginning a new membership today. We never know when we will be called upon to use these funds 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 6 at 10 am.

The speaker will be Stephanie Sherman, Director of Education, Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC)

**Twin & Walker Creeks
Watershed Conservancy**

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C/O Irene DeVito
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www.twcwc.com (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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