

June 2007
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Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>What is a Trophic State?</i> | 2 |
| <i>Lake Monitoring Report</i> | 2 |
| <i>Treasurer's Report</i> | 3 |
| <i>Juneberry</i> | 3 |
| <i>Wells Needed for Groundwater Study</i> | 3 |
| <i>Membership Application</i> | 4 |
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Who are We?

By Joyce Laudise

The Twin /Creeks Watershed Conservancy was founded in 2000 to promote a better understanding of the Twin and Walker Creeks Watershed and to protect the high quality waters we enjoy. Since we are all residents of the watershed and concerned about the local environment one could say WE ARE YOU! Join us if you have not already done so as we need your yearly support to continue to understand and protect our watershed through grant applications, advocacy, monitoring and education. Anyone who contributes \$50 or more will receive a laminated map of the watershed. The map will also be available at the **June 16 meeting** for a contribution of \$10.

I am the 3rd president ever of the Conservancy. Ralph Cioppa was the first and Peter Wulfhorst is the immediate past president. They have done an awesome job and continue to serve on the board. I am humbled to follow in their footsteps.

Planning for the FUTURE by Peter Wulfhorst

The Lackawaxen and Shohola Township Boards of Supervisors know residents want to preserve and enhance the quality of life in their towns. The Supervisors must establish infrastructure and land and development regulations that make this possible.

Because both townships recognize cooperative involvement and planning work best they have adopted a Multi-Municipal Cooperation Agreement according to state law (the Municipalities Planning Code, MPC).

Because both townships also recognize citizen involvement is essential they have established a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) with authority to cooperatively guide the development of a **multi-municipal comprehensive plan and open space, greenways and recreation plan** then implement the plan in accordance with the MPC. In February, a consultant was hired to oversee the Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Planning process is an opportunity for residents of Lackawaxen and Shohola to provide their ideas on the future of both townships.

The Twin/Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy invites residents to learn more and better understand the Comprehensive Planning process that will determine the future of our township. **The meeting will take place on Saturday, June 16 at 10 AM at the Walker Lake Clubhouse. Speakers include citizen members of the Committee who are also members of our Watershed Conservancy. They are Jeff Seeds, Nelia Wall and Peter Wulfhorst.** It is a chance to learn about the committee and offer suggestions.

JUNE 16

10 o'clock

Walker Lake Club
House

PLANNING

For the FUTURE

Please Come

It's Your Watershed!

What is a Trophic State?

The Trophic State of a lake is a measure of the biological activity in a lake. If there is too much biological activity a lake is **eutrophic**. In a eutrophic lake fish can die because of a lack of oxygen. The oxygen is consumed as dead organisms decay. Also there may be a superabundance of plants that interfere with boating and swimming. If there is a moderate amount of biological activity a lake is labeled **mesotrophic**. If there is no biological activity a lake is considered **oligotrophic**. The lakes people enjoy most are in the mesotrophic range. In 1977 Dr Carlson from Kent State University in Ohio developed a logarithmic trophic state scale using secchi disk, total phosphorus and chlorophyll *a* measurements. On the scale the number 50 is the beginning of labeling a lake as eutrophic.

Lake Monitoring Report

2006

On the last weekend in June, July, August and September volunteer monitors were out using the probe and collecting water samples from all 3 lakes. Chet and Pat Dawson covered Walker Lake. John Laudise, Kirk Mackey and I collected at Big Twin and Little Twin Lakes. In spite of Kirk's first experience in a driving rain he has offered to continue. Bill Andrews took samples to the F.X Browne Lab in Marshalls Creek.

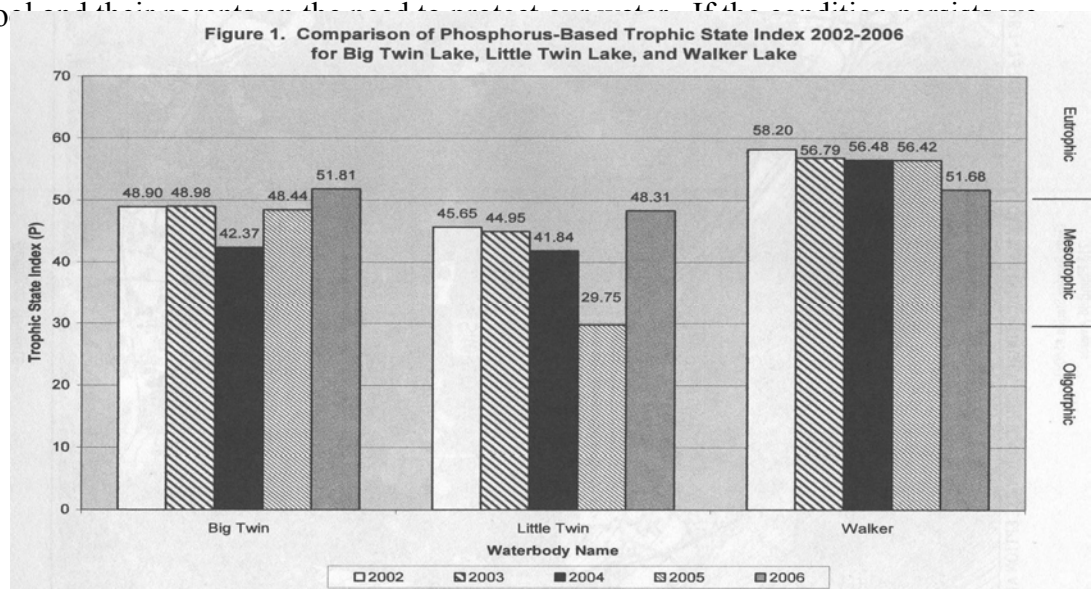
In their report F.X.Browne noted "trophic state indices for Big Twin Lake and Little Twin Lake for secchi depth, total phosphorus and chlorophyll *a* were all higher than 2005 values. All 3 trophic state indices for Big Twin Lake exceeded 50 for the first time since F.X.Browne began monitoring in 2002 indicating that eutrophic conditions may be becoming more prevalent in this lake. All 3 trophic state indices exceeded 50 for Walker Lake as well, indicating eutrophic conditions. See the graph. Trophic state indices for Little Twin Lake were somewhat lower and were all below 50 indicating primarily mesotrophic conditions."

What does this mean? It means we all must work very, very hard to keep nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen from entering Big Twin Lake and Walker Lake so that mesotrophic conditions can be reestablished in these lakes.

What is the Conservancy doing? We will continue to monitor the lakes. We have applied for 2 grants that are aimed at reducing runoff into Walker Lake. We have applied for a 3rd grant to educate students in the elementary and middle schools and their parents on the need to protect water. If the conditions improve we will hire a consultant.

What Can You Do?

- Keep your septic system functioning properly.
- Avoid fertilizers.
- Reduce stormwater runoff from your property into the lakes and streams of our watershed.



Treasurer's Report

June 2007

Ralph Cioppa

The Conservancy has continued to receive monies from many residents of the watershed, the Twin Lakes Property Owners' Association and several smaller associations but the number of citizens and families making contributions has dwindled dramatically. The Walker Lake Landowners' Association continues to provide the Conservancy with lab space and use of the Clubhouse. The Conservancy received an individual donation of \$10,000 that was included in \$12,000 put into a CD. At maturity on May 30, 2007 it will be worth \$12,209.31. There is \$3,167.46 in a checking account.

The Conservancy will monitor Big Twin Lake, Little Twin Lake and Walker Lake as we have in the past because they are a vital part of our watershed. The charge in 2007 is \$1250. for the tests and end of year report by F X Browne. The two large lake associations collect samples and pay for the bacterial testing that must be done for safety reasons. Our insurance coverage through the PA Organization of Watersheds and Rivers (POWR) cost \$230.00. We already have the Certificate of Coverage. Other expenses include printing and mailing of the twice yearly newsletter to all watershed residents and any expenses incurred by speakers at general membership meetings.

We have applied for three grants to help us with our goals as outlined in the 2003 Watershed Assessment. One goal is to reduce the impact of stormwater on Walker Lake. Two of these grants are aimed at this goal. The third grant will help fulfill our obligation to educate students and their families about their watershed and the need to protect the groundwater and surface water of the watershed. These are matching grants and if we receive them we will need to provide the matching funds.

We can only continue to work for the benefit of the Watershed with the financial support of the people who live in the Watershed. We need your contribution not just once, but every year.

Wells Needed for Groundwater Study

Pike County Conservation District is leading an effort to establish a **County-wide Observation Well Network** to monitor groundwater levels. We are currently seeking landowners in Pike County Willing to make their wells available for monthly water level measurements from 2007-2009.

To be eligible, a well must be: **No longer in use** or a **low use well**, such as a well for an infrequently visited seasonal residence or a hunting cabin, or a **back-up well not in use**.

If you have a low use well, or a well that is not in use, please contact John Jose at the Conservation District for more information. Telephone: 570-226-8220 or email: jjose@pikepa.org. With your cooperation, we can make this very worthwhile project a success!

Juneberry, Serviceberry, Shadbush or Amelanchier

Juneberry is a shrub or a small tree with alternate, simple leaves that has showy white 5-petaled flowers in early spring about the time daffodils and forsythia are in bloom. The small apple-like fruit that ripens in late June is an important food for birds and mammals. It is also a tasty fruit for human consumption. The fruits can be eaten as is or made into a jelly. This early bloomer is also called Shadbush because it appears about the time shad are coming upriver to spawn. Serviceberry is also another popular name. Often people waited until the Juneberry was in bloom to have a wedding or to bury the dead after the frost was out of the ground; hence the name Serviceberry. It is an attractive native tree that grows well in this area, is disease resistant and a reminder of simpler times. If you are looking to add a tree to your yard, the Juneberry is one to consider.

Twin & Walker Creeks
Watershed Conservancy

Box 92
Shohola, PA 18458
Www.twcwc.com

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*Next Meeting 10 am—
June 16, 2007 at the Walker Lake
Clubhouse*

Resident
RR 1
Shohola, PA 18458

2007 ANNUAL 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 3 - Year Member - \$30.00

Family— \$15.00 Corporate— \$40.00 5- Year Member - \$50.00

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
Box 92
Shohola, PA 18458