



FALL 2020

STAY TUNED #2

VOL. XXXIII No. 2

PRESIDENT'S CORNER OCTOBER 2020



Labor Day came and went, and Fall descended with a bang! I hope everyone is enjoying the change in weather.

The new board has hit the ground running. We have new committee chairs, and everyone is settling into their new roles. There is a great deal of work to be done and many opportunities for members to become more engaged and involved in our committees. Please contact the office and let us know if you are interested in getting involved with one or more committees.

One of my priorities is to make sure that the association's rules are fairly and evenly enforced. Robert Frost said, "Good fences make good neighbors". In a community like Bear Creek Lakes, good rules make good neighbors. Clear rules protect the interests and property values of all members. I encourage everyone to review our rule book and make sure that you are in compliance. The rule book is on the website if you cannot find your copy. I will be highlighting some of our lesser known rules to help everyone know about them. The Board has no wish to punish members for infractions. We would much rather educate and encourage cooperation and compliance.

BUILDING RULES PARAGRAPH 2)

"All contractors who perform work within the boundaries of Bear Creek Lakes must be registered with BCLCA. Contractor work includes, but is not limited to, building, grading/landscaping, home improvements such as additions, roofing, siding, decks, the drilling of wells and the installation of septic systems."

RULES, PAGE 26 B) 4.

"All contractors working on projects must be registered with BCLCA and provide the Association with a certificate of (liability) insurance for one million dollars (\$1,000,000)."

These rules clearly require that contractors working in our community must be registered with the association. This registration is easy to get and there is no charge to register. The registration form provides the Association with contact information and proof of insurance for all contractors entering and working in our community. This protects everyone in the case of a liability issue.

Looking ahead to 2021 we are hoping and praying that things will be returning to "normal". The board is planning a full slate of activities for the coming year and we look forward to seeing our members, friends and neighbors at our 2021 events. Please watch the website and the official Facebook page for updates as we get into the new year.

We wish you all a safe, happy and healthy fall season.

Kevin G. McGrath, President

Treasurer
Derek Dailey



First off, I wanted to officially thank all of those individuals who voted for my Board Membership. Additionally, I was shocked, but humbled to receive the appointment of Treasurer. While this is new territory for me, I look forward to growing along with the entire leadership team.

As I transition into the Treasurer role, I've been working closely with Margo. She's been integral in sharing some of the responsibilities I'll have on my plate, as well as introducing me to several important contacts. We've been able to deal with some of the 'red tape' that's involved in changing hands. All in all, I'm absorbing as much information as I can at this time.

Moving forward, I plan on maintaining the integrity of our financial records & procedures. I've been working closely with our President, Kevin, on a number of efficiencies we're hoping to roll out in the future. As always, I'll look to improve our processes, keep things organized, and maintain our financial transparency.

Editor's Notes

Madeline Ligenza



Ask me to demonstrate how to do a tour jete or a tendu, no problem. Compiling a newsletter is not an easy task for me, but I am learning and it is never too late to learn. We are trying to do the best we can. And I say we, because I have faithful friends who help me (Pam and Rich Berger and Linda Sott). I would absolutely be remiss if I did not give a huge thank you to Dave Miller from Milan Printing. He certainly has gone above and beyond in his assistance to me (coaching me technically on a new laptop).

Our articles are written by your Directors, Committee Chairs and residents. If anyone wishes to have "news" placed in the next newsletter, please email the office at bclca@ptd.net or me at mlballet@ptd.net.

A little History lesson. Did you know Edie Boyer was the founder and Editor of the first Newsletter? The first Newsletter was published in January 1988. Edie's niece typed the three page format. The Newsletter was named "Echoes Around the Lake" by the third issue. The purpose was to keep property owners better informed about happenings at Bear Creek Lakes. We now have email "blasts", the Website, our face book page (Bear Creek Lakes Communications Page) and several bulletin boards around the lake and main entrance to spread the word. However, you are the voice.....therefore, please contribute!

ENVIRONMENTAL, LONG RANGE PLANNING & RECREATION COMMITTEES

Bob Skiffington



Greeting BCLCA members. First I would like to thank you for your support. I came in 5th in the election and was awarded a 3-year term. I have been asked by the president to chair 3 committees. I previously served on the Board and if there was an award for attending the most Board meetings I believe I would be in the running. I have also been on several committees over my 12 years in BCL.

I have reviewed the Newsletters and Board meeting motions to see what each of my committees has done in the past. I encourage all to do the same to get an idea of the past challenges. I also encourage you to submit your name to join my committee(s) when the "Call For Volunteers" invite goes out.

As I collect information from past committee chairs I will compare to By-Laws ARTICLE 10 COMMITTEES. If you are interested in joining one of my committees please become familiar with section 10.3. Committee Membership.

Our BCLCA property owners have been averaging over 50 deed transfers every year for the past 5 years. I am looking forward to combining new and old ideas in satisfying the By-Laws requirements. Thanks in advance for helping to keep BCL as one of the best in the Poconos.

Environmental Committee challenges include Spotted Lantern Fly, Gypsy Moth, Storm water Runoff, preserving the quality of our lake water and well water, tree preservation and invasive grass to name a few.

Long Range Planning challenges include the BCLCA Strategic Plan, the Reserve Study and the Capital Improvement Fee to be used for future community assets. What should BCLCA create over the next 3-20 years?

Recreation challenges center around scheduling events and working within the state guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic. As noted on the BCLCA website Stewart Hall is closed for the remainder of 2020. As noted on the Calendar of Events and posted on the BCLCA website: "Due to COVID 19, all BCLCA sponsored activities were put on hold." Our past activities included Pickleball, Tennis Tournament, Luau (Pig Roast), Nightwind Band, Moonlit Cruise, Yard Sale, May Information Meeting and Opening Festivities (no hot dogs), 5K & 3K Run/Walk, Church Service, Kid's Triathlon, Sand Castle, Christmas Decorations, Halloween, Christmas, Easter Egg Hunt, Paint Class, Sip N Paint, Golf Cart Parade (no hot dogs), White Birch Golf Outing and TGIF." At the time of this newsletter all BCLCA sponsored events are still on hold. Please note that some of these events occurred but were not BCLCA sponsored.

In addition to this newsletter the Board uses email, Facebook, website and monthly Board meeting minutes to keep the membership informed. Here is to Transparency in Fiscal Year Ending 8/31/2021.



Bill Malone

Hi, my name is Bill Malone I was appointed to the BOD at the October 17, 2020 meeting. My wife Mary and I have been members since 1995 full time since 2013. I Retired from the Philadelphia Police Department after 33 years and am a past BCL Board member. I was on the board for 12 years. I am looking forward to working with the present board and for the members of our community. Thank you.

ATTENTION LAKEFRONT PROPERTY OWNERS

Before installing a dock or doing any bank rehabilitation / bank protection (Bulkhead), you must register for a permit with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. In addition, per deed covenant, BCLCA requires that docks be approved by the Association. A copy of the permit(s) will be kept on file in the Association office.

All boats are to be off the racks by 12/1/2020 including kayaks!

BCLCA Lake & Dam Committee

Jack McGeehan



WOW! What a summer. It has been an exceptional year for the recreational activities afforded to all members of this fine community! I honestly don't think I can remember a period of time when we had so many watercraft on the lake....general boating, fishing, sailing, kayaking, swimming and evening sunset cruises. So great to see our little slice of heaven being enjoyed by all!

From the Fishery Management angle (pun intended): we stocked 10,000 Golden Shiners last fall and will do the same this fall. This was a recommendation from our aquatic biologist in harmony with the results of our fish surveys. I have had reports from several dozen fishermen regarding the fish they were catching this past year. This feedback is important to us so if I paddled up to you to chat, or I talked to you as passed my dock, I appreciate your comments. The Lake and Dam Committee is very responsive to feedback we receive from the membership. We have attached our regulations regarding the use of live bait into this newsletter. Please be sure to make all of your family and guests aware of our rules regarding fishing. Also, not really fishing related, but if you are at the boat launch area, please be mindful of boats trailering in and out of the lake. We are going to stripe a launch zone on the asphalt to keep it free of parking and golf carts and ultimately safe for everyone.

This past year we saw an enormous increase in usage at the beaches. I have to give kudos to the lifeguards for the oversight and keeping control of the sanitary conditions with COVID protocols. With that being said, the beaches are one of our amenities that are used by a large majority of members. Please be mindful of others when launching paddle craft at the beaches. This fall we are installing some additional measures to control the sand from migrating to the lake. Replenishing sand is costly and we need to make sure we are maintaining our environmental stewardship in our attempt to keep sand out of the lake. Our plan is to install an additional stone bulkhead (15'-20'), using the same Redi Rock product, just upland of the existing bulkhead to catch any sand wash in the center of the beach, while still maintaining the existing walkway in the center.

If you plan to rent a rack next year, either at the Boat Ramp or the North Beach, be sure to fill out the lottery form that is attached in this newsletter. There is also an online version of the form that you can access on the BCLCA website. PLEASE KEEP IN MIND – we try and honor special requests but sometimes it is impossible to accommodate every request.

Next summer we are bringing back the sailboat races on several weekends throughout the summer. We are honoring a great past member of our community - Randy Boyer and are calling the sailboat race series the "Boyer Cup" – Randy faithfully used to host the races and made a real fun event that included his handmade certificates that he would hand deliver to you if you won the race. Stay tuned for more information on the recreation calendar.

The biggest challenge that we have in front of us is the impending evaluation of the Spillway capacity of our Dam. The state has reviewed our engineers report, using the

States updated rainfall computer model, and has responded that the existing BCL dam and spillway does not have sufficient capacity convey the Probable Maximum Flood. They have asked that the Association and its Engineer start to explore options to increase capacity to bring the Dam into compliance to DEP's protection regulations. The BCL Board has formed a subcommittee to work with the State and our engineer on this project. We have a great committee of BCL members with a vast amount of knowledge in this field. There are several design options that we will look at for this undertaking and it's important to point out that this is not a project that we may see happen in the immediate future. The review of a design by DEP, once we get to that stage, is likely to be 12-15 months. I want to make one thing clear, there is no imminent threat to the safe operation of our Dam - it is the extreme hypothetical storm event that is driving this initiative by DEP to all Dam owners in the State.

Live Bait

Greetings fellow Fishing lover!

It has come to the attention of the BCL Lake & Dam Committee that an increasing number of people (members and non-member guests who are using the lake) are using non approved live bait. A number of fishing boats have been seen with minnow buckets secured to the side or stern of the boats over the past year. The use of live bait other than worms and nymphs has been forbidden on our lake now for a number of years.

The Lake and Dam Committee would like to remind all members that a lot of thought and effort (and liaison with professionals who understand the intricacies of balancing the eco system in OUR lake) goes into managing the lake for the use of boaters, swimmers and fishers alike. As you may know we fund a tri-annual assessment of the lake as an eco-system, which quantifies the number of fish in the lake by species, and size, and just as importantly the quantifies the water quality. In our attempts to keep the water clean and as weed free as possible for swimmers and boaters, we have out of necessity, compromised the natural fish habitat. In addition, it is hugely important that we do not introduce any unwanted species of fish into our lake eco system. We therefore have over the years restricted the harvest from the lake to four fish total daily. We have restricted the fishing methods to lures, plastic worms and plastic "creatures" only, plus live worms and nymphs and of course fly fishing. ANY OTHER LIVE BAIT IS PROHIBITED. Historically, we have been successful in keeping a very healthy fish population for those who like to fish and very clean water for those who use the lake for other water recreation. So with your help, we can keep it that way.

Please ensure that you adhere to the fishing rules. Once again, you are allowed to cull (harvest) only four fish per day and that is inclusive of any bait fish you might catch.

In addition if you lease or rent your property and allow your visitors to use your boat or kayak for fishing, please ensure they are aware of the requirement.

And finally, please make sure all of your fishing vessels and trailers are appropriately tagged in accordance with BCL and State requirements and also observe PA Fish & Boat Commission rules & regulations regarding Fishing and Boating.

Maintenance

Bill Gullone



It was a busy summer season for our maintenance crew. We were lucky to have been able to open up our facilities and have a "somewhat normal" summer. Protocol required more cleaning and sanitizing. The crew kept up with routine maintenance along with the additional tasks. Also, the Behrens road crosswalk and signs were installed. Fall clean up is upon us and the guys will be getting ready for the winter months ahead.

CONNECT and PARTICIPATE

Ned Ramm

This year has certainly brought about many changes in our daily lives, both personal and business. As personal contact became difficult we were forced to turn to technology for everything from school and business to family visits and recreation. As with many other things in life, there was both good and bad, both Yin and Yang. On the positive side, we have been able to have meetings, attend classes and visit with our remote family members in minutes or seconds rather than hours or days of travel. On the negative side, the impersonality of the web seems often to promote a loss of civility and warmth that we may not find when face to face. This has been evident during past Zoom meetings and sometimes on social media.



Our goal for 2021 as your board of directors will be to make the electronic interfaces easier to use, provide more resources for you as members, and hopefully to reduce the number of unanswered questions or unaddressed issues that create rumors and uncertainty. As the new chairman of the Communications Committee, I have been working with the board members and our president to add more news items, more methods for you to receive association information, and more formats for your questions and suggestions. Some are already in place, and I encourage you to visit the website and see some of the changes. There will be many more to come over the following weeks.

The website and Facebook offer the best means we have now to connect with each other in our community, but it's not a one-way street. We can offer information and increase the ability for you to provide feedback, but without your participation the goal cannot be reached. When board meetings resume at Stewart hall, attend them when you can. A great deal can be learned by listening to the board's deliberations. Join one of our numerous committees. Help steer the boat of our community rather than simply being towed behind. Let's Connect and Participate in 2021!

**No fireworks
permitted!**

Office Staff

Rand Asher & Madeline Ligenza



As Bear Creek Lakes grows, so does the responsibilities of the office staff grow. New technology is always being introduced and our office staff "goes with the flow". More homes are being built and new policies are taking place. Any change, brings change.

At this time of the year members are paying their dues and picking up their badges. As they do this, the office staff is updating their information. Nothing is simple.

Members are asked to provide identification for several reasons. New staff does not know everyone and important documents need to have identification before being released. Please bear with our staff, they are doing their job.

We now ask members to sign in when they are in the office. We have lists for everything. It is necessary to keep track of all the different duties our staff performs. Our staff not only is taking care of a member at the window, they are answering a phone call and trying to assist a Board Member who needs something all at the same time.

Thank you Nicole, Linda and Pat for all you do.

BOCCE

Bob Skiffington



Some say bocce in Italian means kiss. But it really means bowl. And you won't find any kissing at the bocce court. Do you know the sounds of bocce? Shoot red! Shoot green! I can see that red is in from here. Get the cup with the string. Who threw last? That's too short or too long. Too close to the edge. You threw the wrong ball! Nice shot! What team are you playing on?

Hi Bocce Players! We have some dedicated bocce players in BCL that meet every weekend from March through October and sometimes during the week. I am writing this article after playing bocce on October 10 and we had a total of 10 players ranging in age from their 20's to 80's.

We start bocce on the weekends at 1 PM and will continue playing until it snows. All adults are welcome to play but we do let the curious children throw a ball or two with parental consent. Today we had 1 female player but have had more than 4 on the weekends. During the week we usually have an equal number of men and women and typically play the men against the women. We have had over 20 players at one time and had to play a shorter game to give everyone a chance to play.

The bocce court was built by volunteers many years ago. Time has taken its toll on the wooden sides. Settlement

makes the game interesting because even the most skillful players don't know how the ball will turn when it hits a divot or crosses over a deer hoof print. Hopefully the wood will be replaced and the base will be leveled in the near future.

Looking forward to an extended season. Come join us and enjoy the fresh air and some fun comments if you miss or make a good shot.

Bear Creek Lake Community Yard Sale

Michael & Dawn Gallo

Mike and I would like to say Thank You to everyone that participated in this years yard sale and making it a success! We had 62 families that register this year which was a excellent turn out despite the covid virus. We look forward to next year's yard sale which will be on Saturday June 26, 2020 and Rain Date Sunday June 27, 2020.

Thank you and Have a great winter.

BCL BOOK CLUB

Leta Thompson

If you love to read books and discuss them with others, then the BCL Book Club is just for you! We meet the third Tuesday of each month, September through June, at 10:00 am in Stewart Hall. We have a carry in luncheon as part of our December meeting, and we go out to lunch as part of our June meeting. We take turns providing light refreshments for each meeting. Due to Covid, we are currently meeting on ZOOM and will be doing so until it is safe for us to return to Stewart Hall. ZOOM has been working well for us, and we thank Margo Schaefer for assisting us with this. She sends us a link for our meetings each month.

The great thing about our Book Club is that all members have input into our selections for the year. We read both fiction and non fiction books. For example, in November we will be discussing "When I Was You" by Minka Kent. Our book for December is "Unorthodox" by Deborah Feldman. We share the role of facilitator throughout the year and have a month devoted to book sharing, where each person tells about a great book they are reading. This gives us additional ideas for "good reads". Our discussions are thought provoking, and our members express a variety of opinions and points of view about the books we are discussing. In this way we learn from each other and broaden our perspectives. You are welcome to join us at any time!

If you have any questions about Book Club, please call me, Leta Thompson, at 570 325-2121, or e-mail me at drletat@gmail.com

BCL Garden Club

Kristine Robinson



A warm "Hello" from the BCL Garden Club! This spring I started a wonderful group of Bear Creek Lakes residents to share my love and knowledge of gardening (especially in native Pennsylvania woodlands). Since then it has quite literally blossomed into a welcoming group of like-minded individuals who are helping each

other learn about the natural world. The BCL Garden Club's

purpose is to share ideas related to gardening with a special focus on Pennsylvania Native Plants, Woodland Gardens, and Wildlife Gardening. This private Facebook group is open only to homeowners in the Bear Creek Lakes neighborhood, where we experience specific garden challenges with wildlife pests (like deer), invasive species (like stiltgrass, autumn olive, honeysuckle, etc.), dense rocky soil, and extreme conditions from lakeside winds to dense woodland shade.

Members are encouraged to share anything garden related, like photos of their yards and gardens, progress with gardening, plants they wish to identify, information on invasive species and garden pests, or ideas for others to implement in their own gardens. The BCL Garden Club recently held it's first in-person gatherings: first, when we volunteered with invasive Stiltgrass removal near the clubhouse and pool, and second, an open house in my own mossy garden on September 19th. It was such great fun to meet fellow garden club members face-to-face and share our love of trees and plants! Our plan is to continue this practice in the future with more in-garden visits, neighborhood garden projects, and even educational opportunities. Please join us on Facebook and be sure to answer the required membership questions in order to be welcomed into our little garden club. Hope to see you there!



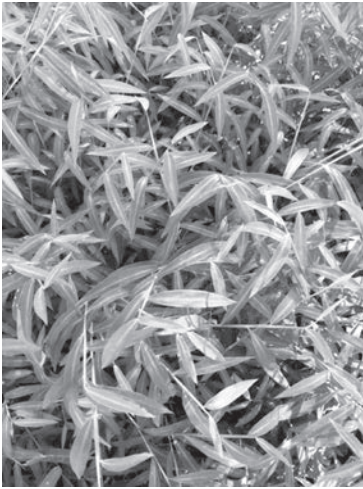
BCL Library

Sue Whiteley

The BCL Library located in the basement of Stewart Hall has been closed because of restrictions due to COVID-19. We hope to reopen as soon as the Board gives us permission. Please do not drop off books until further notice. We also hope to start a collection of DVD's for borrowing. As usual, please only donate books of general interest and in very good condition. Donations accepted in March and September only. Thanks for your help keeping the library in good condition.

Invasive Weeds Threaten BCL

Mike Gogal



This past summer, you probably noticed tons of tall weedy grass growing along the roadsides and covering many properties. In fact, you probably have some on your own property. This is Japanese Stiltgrass and it has been spreading across our community for years. Wherever it grows, almost no other plants survive. Japanese Stiltgrass is listed as a "Severe Threat" by Pennsylvania DCNR and if left unchecked, can change

soil chemistry, killing shrubs, and even the forest trees.

Stiltgrass is not the only invasive plant taking over our community. Garlic Mustard, Japanese Barberry, European Barberry, Lesser Celandine, and Multiflora Rose can be found across Bear Creek Lake. All of these are listed as "Severe Threats."

This invasive plant problem will only get worse if we don't do something about it now. Fortunately, we have started. Eight volunteers from a Facebook page named "BCL Garden Club" joined me for two days of work at the clubhouse. Together, we cleared almost two truckloads of Japanese Stiltgrass. The results were amazing and we're hoping to organize other projects in the future.

Going forward, I'm hoping to share detailed information on invasive species through our BCL Website, the BCL Facebook page, and the BCL Garden Club Facebook page. If there is interest, I would like to organize small seminars and guided tours to help residents better recognize and manage invasive plants on their own properties.

We all need the knowledge to identify and manage these weeds before we can hope to control them on our properties.

Pete Matone



Hello, my name is Pete Matone and I live on Bear Creek Lake drive. I have lived in Bear Creek for 19 years part time. I recently retired and decided to give some of my newly available free time back to the place my wife and I enjoy so much. My background is in engineering and project management and I am hoping to be able to contribute in any way to make our community a welcoming, safe, and friendly place for everyone. Last year was my first year on the board and I was involved with the pool. Needless to say, this presented a unique set of challenges. I hope this year brings us a return to normal and we can more fully take advantage of all the great amenities our community has to offer. Being someone who enjoys fishing and kayaking I hope to be more involved with the lake and Dam this year as we try to satisfy any new requirements put forth by the state.

Permits

Todd Laudenschlager
(Permits coordinator
and inspections)
Ron Kerwood.
(inspections)



This year has seen an increase in new home construction and modifications. Permits are required for tree removal, additions, new homes, driveways, sheds and anything else that is outside of your existing house foundation footprint. In total we have issued 8 new home permits, four decks, one addition, five sheds, several driveway permits and numerous tree permits. Permits are not required for roofing of the existing home, windows, doors, and siding on outside of your home and any interior renovations.

The permit rules are detailed in the BCLCA rulebook and certain setbacks are described in the original or full form deeds. On the BCLCA website, under Documents and Forms, a link to the rule book and various checklists that apply to different projects can be found.

When applying for building permits in BCLCA you will be asked for all approved Penn Forest Township permits and a copy of your original deed. This shows the permit committee the side yard, rear yard and setbacks from the front pins near the street.

The pins mark the boundaries of your lot. Note that the original BCL deed may be more stringent than the township requires.

We strongly urge you to contact Todd if you have any questions about what is required, in order to avoid costly problems or delays in your project. Keep in mind that the permit committee is a volunteer position and we have other commitments in life that take up our time. We strive to get approved permits back to the member within a 2 to 3 week time frame. When planning your next project or cutting of trees I can be reached through the office to answer any questions you may have before you proceed.

Welcome New Members

Rich Berger

I left the Board of Directors in 2018 and I know that in the preceding few years many of the properties at Bear Creek Lakes were sold to new owners. That trend has continued and most likely accelerated during the last year. New construction is taking place on vacant lots all over the community. Simply put, we have many new Members in our community.

Bear Creek Lakes was established in 1964. When my wife and I started renting here in the early 1990s, many of the original owners were active in the community. Now, most of them are gone, and many of the activities that were popular in BCL have gone, too. The community is changing and its future will be shaped by desires of the new residents. Maybe you would like to start a new activity — get in touch with our Board of Directors. Perhaps you are enjoying BCL as a respite from your work during the week and enjoy walking around, bicycling or using the Lake, or maybe sitting on your deck or by the fire. Make yourself comfortable and meet your neighbors (or not)! Welcome to Bear Creek Lakes.

Summer 2020 – One to Remember or One to Forget?

Rich Berger

On March 6th the virus from Wuhan, China reached Pennsylvania as the first cases were reported. By the end of the month, the schools were closed and most of the state was subject to stay at home orders.

Here in Bear Creek Lakes, Stewart Hall was closed and community functions were suspended. Board meetings were held remotely via Zoom. The traditional start of the summer season would not occur. No spring meeting, no hot dogs and beer but in a last minute decision, the pool opened with masks required to enter or use the restrooms and a limit on capacity. In June, restrictions in Carbon County were eased – gyms were open, restaurants were allowed to operate at 50% capacity, churches were open again.

A short-lived requirement to wear masks at the beaches was quickly reversed and Members and guests enjoyed the warm summer weather. Thanks to the efforts of our badge checkers, a potential influx of unauthorized visitors was kept in check. Restrictions on Beltzville State Park led some of the overflow to our lake, but our checkers politely turned them away. Restrictions in New Jersey and New York made Bear Creek Lakes a welcome oasis of relative freedom and the rental activity was the strongest seen in a long time. This brought problems at the boat dock as many guests brought their own watercraft. Although not permitted by our rules, it was difficult to stop and the parking spots were often packed.

Most BCL functions were suspended during the summer and Board meetings continued over the Internet. With the warm weather, water aerobics at the pool had a very good season. Pickle ball continued at the tennis courts and the Book Club met over Zoom. The golf cart parade was held for the 4th of July and it was great to see all the flags and patriotic feeling along the route. At the beginning of the summer many residents were wearing masks and keeping their distance. As the summer wore on, many people relaxed and resumed normal sociability. Positive tests remained low and the bulk of the deaths in Carbon County occurred in nursing homes.

As autumn heads toward Halloween and Thanksgiving, the schools are back in various learning regimes, high school sports are active and our community is back to a quiet, relaxed time. How soon will the remaining restrictions be lifted and how will we remember this unusual year?



Annual BCL Tennis Tournament

George Moosburner

Summer 2020 was a busy time on the courts as tennis proved to be the perfect socially-distanced (and social) form of exercise and recreation. Holiday weekends saw some waits for court time, but never too long. The Annual BCL Tennis Tournament was held August 22nd and judged a success by all. Thanks to those who turned out and joined the fun. Look for more in 2021!



The Night Sky

Janet Hermann

Our lovely Bear Creek Lakes community is getting brighter and brighter. As our area builds up, both within our community and generally within the area, more and more lighting is being erected. Many of these lights are all night lights which emit light not only down on the ground, but also out horizontally and up into the sky.

For our own homes, many of us want to provide light at night for security, ornament, or just to help us find our way home. There are many ways to do this - and to do this economically - which light up the area we need but leave the surrounding area dark.

Low lights, such as path or driveway lights, lights which are directed downward, lights which are fitted with caps or shields, lights on timers or motion detectors, all are efficient and effective sources of light which do not radiate light in every direction. The measure, they say, is that light fixtures should be focused downward so that the angle of light does not exceed 45 degrees from the ground. This is sufficient to light up a driveway or house front without sending light into the sky or over to your neighbors.

Brightening the night sky is not only costly, it is known to disrupt wildlife and the ecosystem and it also can interfere with our own sleep/wake cycle.

There is a wealth of information available for the asking – www.darksky.org is a good place to start.

Let's keep the stars shining over Bear Creek Lakes!

Events

Marty Palmer



After most recreational events for 2020 were cancelled due to the pandemic, for 2021, we are hoping to once again have the kids Triathlon and Scavenger Hunt as well as the 5K Run/3K Walk in Bear Creek Lakes. More details on the dates will be announced in early 2021 so please keep an eye out for further details!

Quilters Club

Irene Pyne

What a year this has been! The BCL quilters finished two beautiful quilts by the end of February and were set and ready for their annual raffle at the Spring meeting. Needless to say, that didn't happen. The quilters usually meet on Monday afternoons in Stewart Hall at 2:30 pm and that hasn't happened since March either. The quilters are anxious to gather again. We love to sew, laugh and learn new things together and have made many dear friendships through this wonderful craft. New members are always welcome, beginner to advanced. We'd love to have you join us Monday afternoons as soon as Stewart Hall is available for use. In the meantime, stay well and stay happy!



WATER AEROBICS 2020

Elizabeth Pushaw

We were truly fortunate this summer to have had water aerobics at the pool with usually 18-19 happy participants. Grateful to be together during this "covid-19" summer, we exercised, shared concerns, solved ALL the world's problems and had a lot of fun. Nothing is better than movement in water!

We did aerobic exercises, poolside toning exercises and some water ballet because yes, we are that talented. You do not need to know how to swim to participate and if you haven't yet tried the program, please consider it when we once again take to the pool in June, 2021, date to be determined.

My heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated and made each session wonderful!. Stay well. Stay safe. Keep an attitude of gratitude and let nothing touch your inner peace.



Security

Madeline Ligenza

This indeed was a very unusual summer dealing with Covid-19. Normally there were not very many outsiders in our beautiful development. However, with nearby State Parks closing or full to capacity, people were looking for a perfect respite. And guess what? Their GPS brought them to the Diamond of the Poconos, Bear Creek Lakes!

This created a stronger control regarding placards and badges. Our Security Guards and Badge Checker, Grace, had a different summer.

Crime Watch was so very vigilant and showed a great presence on holiday week ends and when the other facilities were closed.

BCL even had several board members staffed at the both beaches to check on identification. It's amazing how our volunteers jumped in when needed.

Since there were so many placard checks, it became evident there was a need to try to remedy the situation. Therefore, a new placard format is taking place. It is the same information, only now, it WILL BE HUNG FROM THE REARVIEW MIRROR. This is to ensure it does not fall off the visor, blow out the window, fall on the floor and/or any other excuse.

As of 12/31/2020, THE PLACARD FROM THE PRIOR CALENDAR YEAR WILL NOT BE ALLOWED AT ANY AMENITY.

Badges and placards will need to be picked up by 12/31/2020 (if using any amenity or parking at the boat dock or beaches, pool, etc.)

Security is trying to maintain our slice of heaven, so please comply.



This is the dispatch number in case it is needed. The signs are placed at Hawthorne entrance, main entrance to BCL and the pool!

Crime Watch

Madeline Ligenza

Crime Watch is a group of BCL residents who dedicate their time and gas to keep a watchful eye over the activities in Bear Creek Lakes. The schedule is sent out once a week and they pick their day they wish to serve. It has been filled each week even in the worst weather conditions. CW is year round. I was surprised to hear residents tell me they thought it was only in the summer. The volunteers have magnetic signage and also have a badge identifying them as Crime Watch.

This past summer was most effective keeping things under control. Our CW members dedicated many extra hours patrolling to keep an eye out for intruders at the beaches and boat dock. With all the signage at entrances it seems there were still "outsiders" who didn't see the signs. Our Badge Checker Grace, did an excellent job this year, as always, and she kept busy all summer.

If anyone is interested in being a badge checker this coming summer, please contact either the office at bclca@ptd.net, or me at mlballet@ptd.net. It's a great way to meet members. If anyone is interested in becoming a member, please contact the office or me.

BCL Ladies Luncheons

Lona Nelson and Sue Whiteley

The women of BCL have been gathering at local restaurants once a month for many years. This year was a particular challenge due to restrictions. We met at our own pavilion by the pool a few times in the Spring...socially distanced, of course. It was certainly nice to get out and see old friends. The last 2 or 3 luncheons we were able to go to a restaurant. Lona arranges the luncheons for the summer and Sue does the Winter months. We notify everyone by email a week in advance. Over the Winter we will get together in November, December, and January. Then we'll start up again in March. We will make it breakfast instead of lunch occasionally. If you are not on the email list, please forward your email address to whiteley@ptd.net. We look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new members of the BCL community.

Stewart Hall

Roger Green Stewart



We had fresh October snow this morning, a reminder that our lake is 1,500 feet higher than surrounding communities like Jim Thorpe and Lehighton. A reminder also that my Board responsibilities now also include Stewart Hall itself which bears my father's name. Right now, there isn't much to say about the Hall itself since the Coronavirus has closed down all activities in Stewart Hall until at least mid-December. However, some of Stewart Hall's history is actually quite interesting . . .

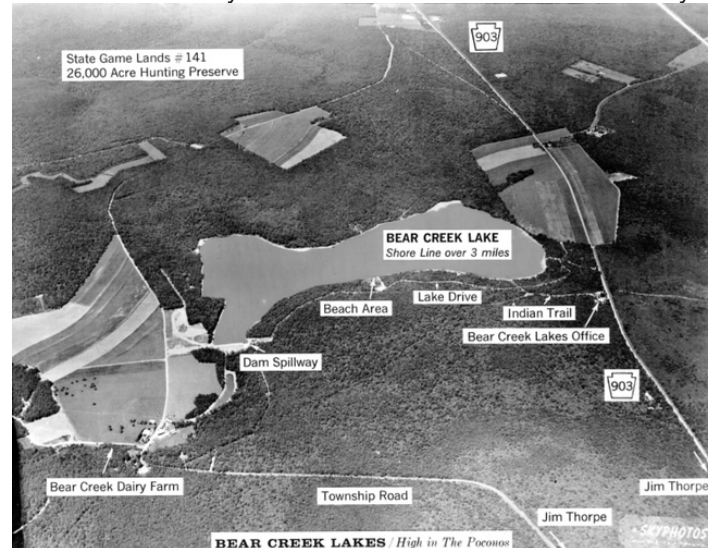
Stewart Hall itself dates back to the beginning of the Bear Creek Lakes development in 1964 – and was built by my Great-Uncle, Josiah Behrens, along with the dam and a recreational development for up to 1,100 homes. Historically, our current 120-acre Bear Creek Lake was actually the third lake built on Bear Creek. The first was a 5-acre lake built by Francis Behrens in 1906. It was located about 300 yards west and downstream of the narrow Behrens Road bridge which now crosses Bear Creek itself. The second 2-acre lake was built by Josiah Behrens in 1930, still exists and includes a millrace extending from our current dam to a waterwheel at the eastern end of the old barn 100-yards east of Behrens Road. The millrace & pond are currently owned and maintained by Nancy (Behrens) and her husband, Tarone.

Meanwhile back in 1960 my dad, Roger Daniels Stewart and his wife Julia, were very excited to hear about this “new Bear Creek Lake” in development. In 1960 they bought and moved into one of the dozen single-room hunting cabins on the south shore of Bear Creek itself. A small iron stove, outhouse, and a nearby spring -- but otherwise no heat or water.

Even so, Dad quickly fell in love with our lake and its rapidly developing and friendly community. While his professional work for the USA Naval Research Laboratory included designing telescopes and photographing nuclear explosions, his afterwork passion was in painting: signs, cartoons, party announcements, historical Mauch Chunk

scenes -- plus other things of dubious legality. Like the naming of our road -- which had for years been called just “Star Route A” by the Jim Thorpe Post Office. One night Dad just put up official-looking signs calling it “Behrens Road”, and the name stuck. It's been officially called that since.

Once you learned his artwork style, you would find hundreds of examples of it all around the lake on signs, trees, houses, boats -- including “Frisky” the bear cub still featured on our shirts and signs today. When he wasn't volunteering for the Lake, he taught weekly painting classes at the “Stewart Hall”. After Dad passed on in 1992, the Board unanimously named it “Stewart Hall” in his memory.



Obituaries

Bill McKissick



Bill, a former long time resident of Bear Creek Lakes, passed away on September 23, 2020. He purchased his lot in BCL in the mid 70's and shortly thereafter built a house on what is now 134 Midway Drive. In the 80s Bill was in charge of security in BCL. He enjoyed participating in the golf cart parades for the 4th of July.

He was devoted to the community of Penn Forest and the Penn Forest Volunteer Fire Company # 1. He was a life member and was instrumental in raising funds for the Fire Company, organizing block shoots and working bingo. He served as President and was Captain of fire police for years. When the Fire Company housed the Penn Forest ambulance, Bill and his late wife Marie volunteered many hours along with Walter and Joan Hunsinger.

James E. Smith Jr.



James E. Smith Jr. of Bluejay Drive peacefully passed away in the Coaldale Hospital on January 23, 2020.

Jimmy, as he was known to all his family and friends, was a native Penn Forest resident and was one of the few residents of our community left that could remember when everyone knew who lived on the mountain or as it was known as the "Pine Swamp".

Jimmy was a very community minded man who loved his family and neighbors and was always there to lend a helping hand when needed. He was one of the charter members of the Penn Forest Fire Company and spent many hours working to form the Fire Company and securing the first ambulance service to our community.

He held the position of Fire Company president for many years. Not many people knew how kind he was. It was his wish that the community have a full time ambulance service on the mountain so he and Barbara donated the property on 903 where the Leighton ambulance is housed in memory of his parents, J. Edgar and Violet Smith. He always said if it "saved one life, his purpose in life was fulfilled".

Jimmy also served on the Board of Directors of the Mauch Chunk Trust Company, was a member of the Jim Thorpe Masonic Lodge, the Rajah Shriners (for which he was known to hold car shows in his yard and donate all the proceeds to the Shriners Children Hospital), he was also a member of the Jukebox Cruisers Car Club and was President of the former Western Pocono Association.

His love for Bear Creek Lakes began at its inception. All of the roads in our development are made of a shale base from the pit he and his family owned and many of the original driveways were put in by his company. When he sold the business, due to health reasons and could no longer maneuver in his two story house, it was never a question on where he wanted to live.

He is survived by his wife Barbara to whom he was married to for 53 years.

Stanley Turel

(Editor's note)



If you have ever gone to Penn Forest Fire Co. #1 for breakfast, more than likely, you have met Stanley Turel. You might have seen him standing behind the potatoes (with or without onions), ham, bacon or sausage, or possibly handing out toast.

BCLCA lost Stanley on September 11, 2020. He was a member since Columbus Day of 1963. Stanley's daughter Cheryl Turner Daumer came to the fire company breakfast in October and gave us a little information about her dad.

Cheryl Turel Daumer

My dad was born with a collapsed lung, weighing 3 pounds and given his last rites before he was one hour old. His mother had pneumonia and they were not sure either one would make it. The nurse's named him. He had rheumatic fever as a child and had to eat bananas at every meal. Afterwards he hated bananas. He loved to play basketball and knocked a front tooth out when he got hit by one when he was younger.

He was involved with two fire companies for many years. Se-Wy-Co, Bethlehem PA and Penn Forest Fire Co. #1. He was a CPR, Standard and Advanced, first aid instructor. I was his "dummy" since I was in third grade and I could pass all three courses just from listening to him teach. He worked for Bethlehem Steel and when he was younger he was a pin boy at Liberty Bowling alley. After his retirement he worked for ARP Healthcare then for Summit Bank which became Bank of America.

Dad was also the lower Saucon Township treasurer from 1976 to 1980. He was also the tax collector.

One of his most proud moments was when he was given the Young Man of the year award from Hellertown, Lower Saucon, Jaycee's in 1974. My dad loved his 57 years with SE-WY-CO, Bethlehem and roughly 37 Penn Forest Fire Co. #1. He was a Fire Police Captain for many years, was also an EMT and a Fire Police for us.

Dad was always a great mentor, taking someone aside to correct them, rather than saying what was wrong in front of others.

The pager/scanner was always open so he could hear what everyone else was being called for. That is why he was buried with a scanner.

My sister Lori lives in Effort and has an antique and collectibles store called "The Copper Goose. In case you are in the area, stop in and say your are from BCL.

My husband Bob and I own R E Daumer Trucking and will be spending time in BCL. We absolutely love the area.

BCL BOAT RACK LOTTERY REGISTRATION FORM – YEAR 2021

ALL information must be completed (including Sticker #(s)) and returned to the office

No earlier than January 1, 2021 and no later than March 31, 2021

To be eligible for the lottery.

Name: _____

BCL Address: _____

Non-BCL Address: _____

City & State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Type of Boat/Weight: _____ Sticker #(s): _____

In order to be eligible to participate in the lottery for a boat rack, I hereby agree to the following terms and conditions concerning the use of the boat racks for the year identified above:

1. Annual boat rack rental fee is \$25.00 payable within 10 days of being notified with your rack assignment.
2. I understand and agree, during any period when the boat is in the boat rack, Bear Creek Lakes Civic Association (hereinafter referred to as (“the Association”) is not responsible in any manner if the boat is stolen or damaged and I expressly waive any right whatsoever to seek damages from The Association if the boat is stolen or damaged.
3. I agree to remove my boat from the rack area prior to December 1st of the year identified above.
4. I understand and agree, if my boat is not removed by December 1st of the year identified above, the Association has my expressed permission to remove the boat from the boat rack and store it at a storage charge of thirty dollars (\$30.00) per month, which I agree to pay. I also understand and agree, during any period when the boat is stored by the Association, the Association is not responsible in any manner if the boat is stolen or damaged and I expressly waive any right whatsoever to seek damages from the Association if the bot is stolen or damaged.
5. I understand the Association will only store boats for a maximum of nine (9) months and any boat remaining in storage after nine (9) months will be disposed of by the Association as it deems appropriate and I expressly waive any right whatsoever to seek damages from the Association if the boat is disposed of.
6. I understand only one rack will be assigned in the original lottery. Any additional racks may be requested (on separate form) after the Memorial Day weekend of the current year.
7. I understand that the rack may hold a maximum of either one rowboat, one canoe, or two kayaks, or two SUP's.
8. I agree I am the owner of the property listed above and understand only the member may apply for the boat rack.

Date _____ Registrant _____

Special requests & notes: (rack location preference- Boat launch, North Beach)

Penn Forest Fire Co. #1 Treated the children of Bear Creek Lakes to a special Halloween Treat!



Sirens, Whistles and Sparky!

Rules Committee

Ron Kerwood

A number of BCL Rules were updated this past year and some others are being reviewed. Rule changes are discussed at Board meetings so please attend these meetings to keep up to date on what is happening in our community. As always, a wealth of information is available on the BCL site and in the 'Members Only' section. www.bclca.org
Here are the rules that were added or revised for this past year;

- **Building Regulations and Property Maintenance section, Rule #23.**

Due to the possible presence of unknown contaminants and/or pollutants, the use of Road Millings within the Bear Creek Lake boundary is prohibited. It includes any millings whether mixed with any other material or covered in any way.

- **Health, Safety and Environment Rule #5**

Littering i.e., the discarding of trash, garbage, or other waste including pet waste upon property owned by BCLCA without regard for placement in proper containers, is not permitted. No warnings will be given and violators are subject to a fine up to \$300.00. Pet owners that do not clean up after their pets may be subject to a littering fine.

- **Pet Rules and Regulation Rule #4**

Pet owners are expected to clean up after their pets if off of their property. Pet owners that do not clean up after their pets may be subject to a littering fine.

- **General Rules Rule A2**

No person shall use any BCLCA common area or unimproved private lot for overnight camping.

- **Swimming Pool and Beach Area Rules #9**

Reliance on diapers of any kind is prohibited in the lake or main pool. Non-potty-trained or incontinent individuals are prohibited from swimming or wading in the lake or pool while at a BCLCA facility. It is a violation of this rule to remove the diaper or covering prior to entering the water. Those that are not potty-trained, or incontinent can use the wading pool located at the pool. Repeat offenses will be considered a littering violation. See fine schedule.

- **Swimming Pool and Beach Area Rules - Information Section**

Swimming at the beaches when there is no lifeguard on duty is at the risk of the swimmer and/or the responsible person for children under the age of 12 as noted in Rule 7 above.

- **Building Regulations and Property Maintenance - Information Section #4**

Accessory buildings include the following: detached garages (built prior to 9/07); storage sheds; boat/car/ RV storage; shelters, gazebos; swimming pool. Temporary structures such as fabric covered metal/wood framed structures to follow all requirements except for Township permitting.

- **Building Regulations and Property Maintenance - Information Section #7**

Storage units not considered permanent structures can be maintained only for the duration of the permitted construction. Storage units for any other temporary purpose, sometimes known as 'Pods', are allowed on site for no more than thirty (30) days.

- **Business/Commercial Ventures and Yard Sales Rule 1 d.)**

All Garage/Yard Sales must be registered with the BCL Office.

- **General Rules for Motor Vehicles – Rule #3**

Vehicles belonging to BCLCA Members must have a BCLCA sticker prominently visible from the rear of the vehicle, or a BCLCA vehicle placard/permit hung from the vehicles rear view mirror in plain sight for security checks. As of January 1st vehicle placards/permits from the previous year are expired and therefore will no longer be valid at any BCLCA amenity. Vehicles without the proper BCLCA identification are subject to citation.



Please wear badges at all times when in community areas

The complete Rule Book and lots of great information can be found at www.bclca.org

Bear Creek Lakes Board of Directors

Exec. Officers	Term Exprs	First Name	Last Name	Committee Assignment(s)
	2021	Rand	Asher	HR & Office Management
Treasurer	2021	Derek	Dailey	Finance & M. Services
	2023	Bill	Gullone	Co-chair Maintenance & Roads
	2022	Ron	Kerwood	Rules, Permits Co-chair
VP	2023	Todd	Laudenschlager	All Permits Co-chair, Co-chair Maintenance & Roads
Secretary	2023	Madeline	Ligenza	Security & Office Management
	2022	William	Malone	Co-Chair Rules and Recreation
	2022	Pete	Matone	Pool
	2021	Jack	McGeehan	Lake & Dam
President	2021	Kevin	McGrath	Ex Officio all committees
	2023	TJ	McKeon	Lifeguards
	2022	Ned	Ramm	Communications/tech, Special Projects-Documents
	2021	Margo	Schaefer	M. Services
	2023	Robert	Skiffington	Long Range Planning, Recreation, Environmental
	2022	Roger	Stewart	Stewart Hall & Landscaping



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T	8 - 5:30
W	8 - 5:30
T	8 - 5:30
F	8 - 5:30
Sat	8 - 5:30
Sun	Closed

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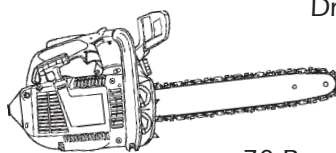
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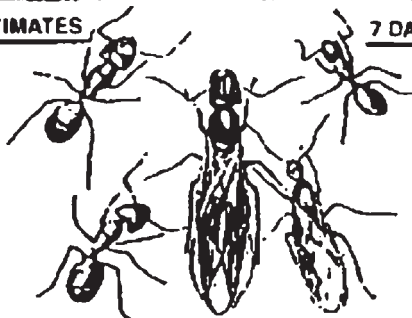
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		Middle Initial
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