



SEPTEMBER 2019

VOL. XXXI No. 2

STONE SCULPTURES

Elizabeth Pushaw

Ferdinand Sondern, at 96 years of age, remains the artist and generously shares his talent. A WWII Vet, an illustrator of children's books and an accomplished water colorist, he now creates whimsical and surprising stone sculptures as he walks the quiet streets and paths of BCL. The challenge is to arrange randomly found stones and to balance them, the balancing being the tricky part. When asked why he started creating these artful arrangements he said: "It needed doing." (Actually, he originally just wanted to disguise an unsightly plastic pipe in his front yard and his artist's perspective took flight from there.)

Thank you, Ferd, for finding beauty and art in the simplicity of stones.





Treasurer
Kevin McGrath

I would like to thank all of the members at BCLCA for your support during my 11 years of board service. It has been a pleasure to move the association forward over this time period.

The two major accomplishments that I would like to note, but cannot take credit for, are the updated association Bylaws, that Todd Wagner was instrumental in accomplishing and the adoption of a professional reserve study and putting the requisite funding in place.

I wish the new board well and I ask all members to consider getting involved. Our board is a working board, not just advisory. It takes many hours and a lot of effort to operate this community. We are blessed with many great volunteers, but we could really use more.

Please reach out to the office and express your interest. Someone will get in touch with you!

Editor's Notes
Elizabeth Pushaw

Best wishes to the retiring board members, the newly elected members and to those continuing their terms. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered time and talent to keeping BCL the safe and beautiful place it is. All the planned activities which we enjoy are the result of much dedicated effort by volunteers, too many to name. Don't take it for granted. If you can offer your time to help out in some way, please do so.

The cover page of this newsletter features the wonderful stone art of BCL resident, Ferdinand Sondern. His creations delight everyone, young and old. Thank you, Ferd, for enhancing our BCL paths.

Always check the BCLCA website for updated information. If you are not on FB, that may pose a problem since the two are not yet synced.

Peace and Blessings to all as we step into the beauty of fall and winter.

Maintenance

Bill Gullone

We had a slow start and were delayed in completing our Spring duties due to Monsoon season, but we are now back on track busy with building new bulletin boards around the development. They will be finished this fall. Also we will be preparing an area at the North beach for the new pavilion. We also built some new picnic tables and are working on boat racks for next summer season.

Lake and Dam

Gary Benedick

We had a fairly warm summer, and the fish were biting. Reports of quite a few large bass were noted. Aug. 28th the Fish Survey was completed by AEC, the results of which appeared to be very favorable. The final report will on the Members Only section of the web site when available. We also had a lot of rain this year so the lake remained at pool level nearly all summer. All Dam inspections were normal.

I want to thank everyone who supported the work of the Lake and Dam Committee in our plans to protect the lake and improve the fishing.

(from Ken Levitz)

Our dam engineers (Alfred Benesch) have submitted a complete response to DEP's Dam Safety Division's concerns dealing with our spillway capacity. This was due to a change in the calculation of the maximum storm event rainfall we could possibly anticipate. Our engineers have prepared and submitted a report detailing three potential scenarios: all of which show no increase or change in the original estimate of downstream impact, should such a storm event occur.

We have a strong belief that DEP will accept this response and seek no further action on our part.

Pool

Neil Mullen

The summer season has come and gone so quickly! And it was a good one for enjoying the pool as the weather cooperated.

The pool was in use almost every day this summer, between the regular swimming hours, water aerobics, lap swims and other activities in between.

As this also ends my term on the board I would like to thank our maintenance personnel for all their help, Jim, John and Joe who helped me keep the pool in good shape.

Hope everyone has a safe winter. Hope to see you all next summer!

Lifeguards Fall Newsletter

Ray Bradley

A recap of the summer of 2019. The guards had 9 saves this year 4 in the lake and 5 at the pool. They also responded to one medical emergency which required EMS to be called for hospital transport. A lap swim program was introduced at the pool and after a slow start momentum built and up to 14 members were participating. Additional buoys and rope have already been purchased so that there can be 5 designated lanes next year. A shortened pool day was held due to the extremely warm weather, in total 50 children participated, this is always a favorite activity for the guards. Many thanks to the candy cart volunteers, who helped cover some of our expenses.

An extra shout out to all those who support the guards throughout the summer and appreciate the job they do.

Communications/Technology
TJ McKeon

Our busy season may be ending but there are lots of community events that will continue through the end of the year. Remember to check out the BCLCA website, specifically our Announcements section, and the BCL Communication FB page for the most up to date information about our community and events. For the first time, BCL provided free WIFI to all our members at the Pool/Recreation area. The feedback has been extremely positive.

For new members to our community, on our FB page and website at bclca.org you can find forms for downloading, read past issues of our newsletter and other things. With a "Members Only" account you can access financial information for the association. If you are not on our electronic email list but would like to be, please send your name, BCL address, and email address to bclca.mailer@gmail.com. If you are interested in the private Bear Creek Lakes Communication page click "Join" to request access.

To share any feedback on ways to improve the website and communication process, send an email to bclca.mailer@gmail.com.

Stewart Hall Committee
Steve Sosnowski

As mentioned in the Spring newsletter, acoustic panels have been installed on the ceiling in the hall to improve the sound quality by lessening the impact of echoes and reverb.

Just a reminder, when you rent the hall, please read your contract and the information on the refrigerator in the hall kitchen. You must leave the hall as you found it. Remove all trash, decorations and clean up as needed.

Landscape Committee
Steve Sosnowski

I would just like to thank all of the volunteers who helped with the planting and ongoing maintenance of plants and flowers this Spring and Summer. If you have any ideas for landscape projects in BCL, please forward them to the office for consideration by the Landscape Committee Chairperson.

Environmental Committee
Ken Levitz

We are currently working with Penoni Engineering on the first of several storm water issues we intend to address in an effort to protect our members' property and the health of our lake. The current project involves the design of a plan to eliminate a runoff issue affecting Blue Jay and Larch properties; followed by the retention of a construction firm to install the necessary storm water control features.

We are also reviewing our Tree Preservation Plan. The first step will involve changes in the process of tree removal permit approvals and efforts to introduce replacement trees more resistant to the diseases and blights affecting several species.

Recreation
Madeline Ligenza

It is said a picture is worth 1,000 words. These pictures encompass some of the activities that took place this summer. The article would be too long if I expounded on each picture. But as you can see, all the events were enjoyed by many.

Many thanks to Linda Sott who assisted me with updating the sign at the entrance to Bear Creek.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who assisted in all the different functions.





If anyone would like to chair an event, please call me or contact the office. We would be happy to help you get started.



All these pictures are on the official Facebook Bear Creek Lakes Communication page. This page is most helpful with immediate updates. Also, please check the BCLCA website for information.

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Ladies Luncheon

Sue Whiteley

A BCL tradition continues

For many years the ladies of BCL have met for lunch once a month. Edie Boyer started the luncheons and Lona Nelson and Sue Whiteley have carried on that tradition. We meet at different local restaurants on the second Thursday of each month. Time and location are communicated through email. If you would like to be added to our email list, please send your email address to whiteley@ptd.net and lona7@msn.com. We look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new friends.

Library

Sue Whiteley

Books are Us

The volunteer library group continues to keep the library in the basement of Stewart Hall in order. We appreciate the BCL residents cooperating by donating gently used books (nothing dirty, old or musty, PLEASE!) only in March and September. We just finished a clean-up. Help us keep it clean. If you have questions, please call Sue Whiteley at 570 325 2549 or email whiteley@ptd.net.

TGIF

Diana Bochantin

Another summer has come and gone and I am happy to report that T.G.I.F. was again highly successful. Even though the weather threatened at times, we were able to enjoy many Friday evenings in the pavilion.

We welcomed new people, enjoyed many delicious dishes, had great fellowship, and played bocce. I am happy to say that although the men like to dominate, the ladies managed to show their bocce skills and win several games. Many thanks to George Kunkel for keeping the bocce court in tip top condition for us.

Save the date of Friday, December 13 for our T.G.I.F. Christmas Party. More information will follow.

Watch for our T.G.I.F. Spring Fling shortly after Easter.

Water Aerobics

Elizabeth Pushaw

Thanks to everyone who participated this season. Hopefully you enjoyed it all, even the "mermaid kick"! I appreciate your kind thoughts and generosity!! See you next summer with more delightful exercises!

Special thanks to retiring Board Member Neil Mullen and the BCL maintenance crew for their conscientious care of the pool. You are awesome!!



BOOK CLUB

Leta Thompson

Our BCL Book Club will have its first meeting of the 2019-20 season on Tuesday, September 17th at 10:00 am in Stewart Hall. Our regular monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month. All of our books are selected by consensus, and we include both fiction and nonfiction titles. This year we will begin our season by discussing *The Lake House* by Kate Morton. Our October meeting is on Tuesday, October 15th at 10:00 am. We will be discussing *Women Rowing North: Navigating Life's Currents and Flourishing as We Age* by Mary Pipher.

Please feel free to join us. We always have coffee and snacks, too! If you have any questions about Book Club, please contact Leta Thompson at (570) 325-2121 or at drletat@gmail.com.

Children's Fishing Contest

Sandy and Gary Benedick

This year we had 12 participants for the Children's contest, down a bit from 22 last year. The fish were not cooperating, and only 3 pan-fish were caught.

The winners were:

In the 6-9 year group, Ashley Mermit caught a 9 inch Bluegill.

In the 10-12 age group, Julia Carlin also brought in a 9 inch Bluegill

In the 13-15 age group, Andrew Cowdan landed a 8.5 inch Perch.

There were no winners in the 2-5 year age group.

Every child received a participation certificate, and a gift certificate for either Scoops or the Snack cart at the pool.

As previously stated, we are retiring from running this event. If anyone is interested in taking it over, let the office know.

Many thanks to everyone who has assisted with this event over the years. This year's helpers included Henry Geyer, Linda Kunkel, Todd Wagner, and Paul Steiner.

Adult Fishing Contest

Gary and Sandy Benedick

The adult fishing contest was held June 15th, 2019. Four bass were brought in (and then released) to be weighed.

The winner of the Live Bait (bait native to the lake, or worms) category was Pete Hillman with a 3 lb 14 oz bass. Pete actually caught the bass on an artificial lure, but fell under the live bait category due to having fishing worms in the boat he fished from.

The winner of the artificial lure category was Tommy Larney, with a 3 lb 9 oz bass.

Both winner's names with the weight of their bass have been placed on the plaque in Stewart Hall with the past winners of the contest.

As we have mentioned before, this was our last year for holding the Fishing contests. If anyone is interested in taking over this fun event, please notify the office. Thanks to all who have participated over the years!

Golf Tournament

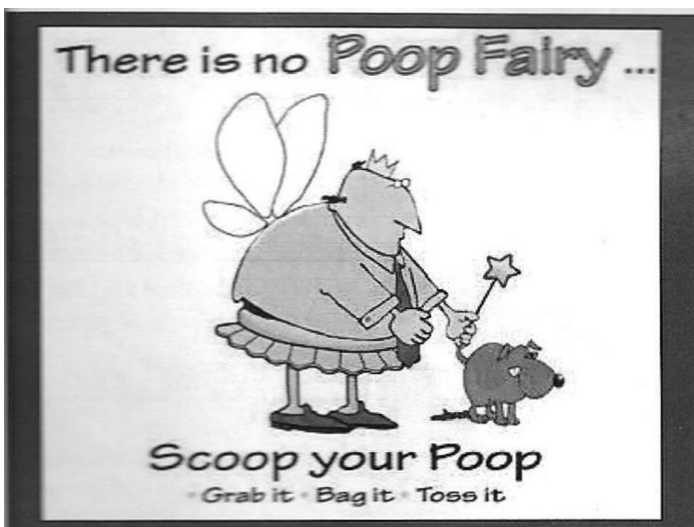
Bill Gullone

On Friday June 28th we had our annual BCL Golf Tournament at White Birch Golf Course. The weather was beautiful during the outing, luckily the torrential rain held off long enough for us to finish our game. The winners this year were.....

1st place Team Burkhardt- Eric Burkhardt, Dirk Pompa, Max Pompa, Jake Burkhardt
2nd place Team Bott- Bernice Bott, Shari Beers, Lisa Maderica, Denise Eisenhower

Longest drive Sr- Bob Skiffington
Longest drive Jr- Dee Eisenhower

Closest to the pin- Brian Yarsevich and Pat Malia
Straightest drive – Mark Donski



Snack Cart

Linda Kunkel

We had a great summer this year. Lots of sunshine and plenty of pool time with just a few pop-up storms. This made way for a very successful sales year from our snack cart. We started the year with a balance of \$1,169.52; of which we purchased a dozen noodles, 15 chairs, 3 umbrellas, and a new clock for the pool. We still had the needed balance to purchase the amount of \$472.20 worth of munchies and goodies for our snack cart. Before the summer was over we purchased 2 chairs and a cash box to be used with our snack cart, prizes for the golf cart parade and paid for the kids' pool day. Prior to the summer, we donated funds toward the house Christmas decorating contest and purchased hot cups for use at our book club and ladies bingo. All in all, we spent \$904.88 for snacks and sold \$1,822.65, making a profit of \$917.77. Our balance to start the next season is \$1,262.78.

We are indebted to a lot of our donors and wish to thank the following: Bill and Lisa Gullone for their monetary donation, given from funds left from the golf tournament; Cathy for her candy purchases that she donates each year, "our Grace" who "graciously" bought out all our remaining snacks on Labor Day weekend and had it passed out to all the kids at the pool; and to all our anonymous donations, too numerous to count. I wish to especially thank Bettie, Mary, Bill, Rosie, Marge A, Marge S, Lona, Sue, Marion, Hugh, Diana, Carole, Harriet, Cathy and our buyers Carole, Cathy, Bob and Mary Alice. These individuals are a very dedicated and very much appreciated group of BCL friends. We are a self-sustaining group of volunteers, who enjoy helping giving back to our community, with our purchases and donations from the sales to make our community a better place. All our proceeds go toward the purchase of items and donation of funds needed for recreational events in BCL.

If you know of anything you think might be needed for recreational purposes, please email me at genie.ljk@verizon.net. We are very grateful to all who help out in any way, especially our little ones who enjoy purchasing our goodies. We plan to be back again next year with the hope of another great season. See you at the pool, or better yet, see us at the pool!!!

Bike and Golf Cart Parade

Linda Kunkel

We all woke up to sunshine on July 6! Perfect day for a parade! The pavilion was being decorated. The liquid refreshment was delivered and being cooled. The grill was ready to be fired up for hot dogs. And registration was setup to begin by 10:30. Then it happened; a dark cloud appeared, constant thunder, then . . . the deluge of rain hit. It rained steady for almost an hour, causing us to make a decision to delay the parade for an hour. We were very happy to be able to get the word out through our BCL Facebook pages. A big THANK YOU to everyone for passing on the information so quickly. We were then fortunate enough to have 28 fully decorated golf carts show up for the parade. Our disappointment was in only having 7 bikes. We only hope the rain hadn't stopped intended entrants from coming. By the time the parade started, the sun was shining bright again. The competition seems to get tougher every year. Our winners in the bicycle division were Maggie Blisard, Kerry Creighton, and Conner Jackson. Golf cart winners were the Spangler family whose theme was "Dunkin Donuts," the Stewart Family whose theme was "5 O'Clock Somewhere," and the Minulaudis family whose theme was "Uncle Sam." Thanks to all our parade participants for your patience and understanding along with our special Military Veterans' carts for leading the parade. Special thanks goes to everyone of our volunteers who have helped in any way. You are more appreciated than you could ever imagine. Don't forget to plan ahead for next year. It will be here before you know it.

BCL Office

Barb Skiffington

As you are reading this article, the dues invoices will be mailed out mid-September. The new 2020 badges are here, and both the badges & placards are ready to be handed out once the dues have been paid. For the members who come to the office to make your payment, remember to ask for your badges. It will save you that trip in the spring. The office only accepts checks, we do not accept credit or debit cards.

The office (Barb Skiffington, Pat Crain & Linda Sott) would like to thank all the volunteers that come forward every time we ask for help. Throughout the year we have mass mailings (close to 1,000 pieces) that require folding, taping, sealing and sorting. Thank you again for your dedication and support. Volunteers make this the community it is. The best in the Pocono's.

Now we are asking for another kind of help. The BCL office is going through some changes and we are looking for help. We need someone to help at the window a couple of days a week for 3-5 hours. If interested, please contact the office or send an email to BCLCA@PTD.NET



Memorial Weekend Worship Service
Rev. Brad Leight

For the third year, Grace-St. Paul's United Methodist Church had the privilege of leading an outdoor worship service at the South Beach area. On Sunday, May 26th a large group of BCL neighbors were blessed with a beautiful Sunday morning! Sunny skies, a light breeze, uplifting music and fellowship with friends beside our beautiful lake provided a powerful example of the beauty and blessing of God's presence in our lives. On a weekend when we remember and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, coming together as a community in prayer and worship served as important reminder to pause and give thanks for the many blessings in our lives – blessings that are often taken for granted.

On behalf of the congregation at Grace-St. Paul's, thank you for the opportunity to offer the beachside worship service. Thank you for your wonderful generosity as well. A freewill offering of \$359.00 was received and given to Turn To Us, Inc., a local nonprofit organization that supports individuals and families struggling with major or chronic illnesses. We at Grace-St. Paul's are blessed to be members of this amazing community... and look forward to another beautiful and meaningful morning of worship on the beach next year!

Winter Events Linda Kunkel

Beat the winter time doldrums with the following events:

Ladies Dirty Bingo

Back by popular demand, our ladies bingo will be scheduled again for our cold winter months, starting in Jan 2020. Mark you calendar for 6:30 the first Fri of each month; Jan 3, Feb 7, Mar 6, and possibly Apr 3. Each lady is requested to bring a gift wrapped or bagged prize costing between \$12 and \$15 along with \$1.00 to donate toward refreshments. If you'd rather bring a gift card, it must be valued at \$15. We will play bingo until all the prizes have been taken and then take a short break, after which we will play another round of bingo for 45 min, whereby you have the choice of taking another lady's prize. What you have after the 45 min is yours to keep. Two bakers will be requested each month to help with the refreshments. If you'd like to volunteer for a month, please let me know. All BCL ladies and their guests are welcome!

Winter Dance Party with Karaoke

At the start of the new year, we will prepare to get ready for our winter dance parties. The first one will be scheduled for Fri, Jan.10. All other dance parties will be announced prior to the event (please check Facebook). The entertainment will begin at 7pm. Don't want to sing? You don't have to; BCL has plenty of vocalists to entertain you. You also get a choice to kick up you heels and dance, or just sit and relax, enjoying the music and the company of your friends and neighbors. Come and join us; we'd fa la luv to see you there!

Obituary

Madeline "Madge" (Park) Frantz of Jim Thorpe passed Monday, August 19, 2019 at her residence. She was 76 years old. Born in Philadelphia, Madge was a resident of Jim Thorpe for the last 16 years and was formerly of Bensalem. She loved spending time with her family and friends, especially her grandchildren. Madge will be sadly missed by her beloved husband of 58 years Lester "Bud" Frantz. She will also be sadly missed by her 5 loving children: Donna McNellis (Michael), Christina Weight (Michael), Ann-Marie Dunn (Steve), Daniel (Cindy) and James Frantz (Kelly); Her sister: Patricia Henry; 17 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild on the way. In lieu of flowers, the family request Mass Cards in Madge's memory. www.tomlinsonfh.co.

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

No earlier than January 1, 2020 and no later than March 31, 2020

To be eligible for the lottery.

Name: _____

BCL Address: _____

Non-BCL Address: _____

City & State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Type of Boat/Weight: _____ Sticker #: _____

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 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/boats from the boat rack and store it at a storage charge of thirty dollars \$30.00 per boat, 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 each rack has a maximum capacity of: a-1 rowboat; b-1 canoe; c-2 kayaks
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: _____

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George & Ken Boltman

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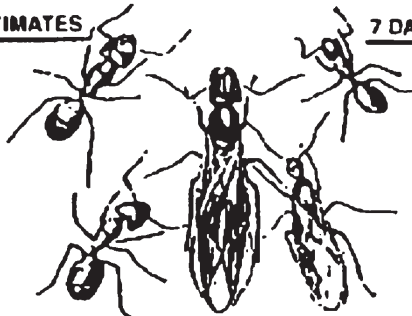
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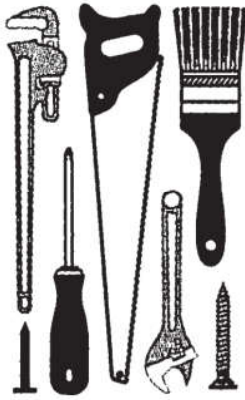
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