



# 'Possum Watch

Summer 2009

Volume 4, No. 3

## Progress at the Lake

Many people have been hard at work out at the lake recently.

More improvements to the Opossum Lake property are in the process of being completed!



A pavilion has been constructed by Lower Frankford Township with assistance from members of the Friends of Opossum Lake Conservancy (FOLC). Remaining work includes additional landscaping and a ceiling soffit in the pavilion to prevent birds from roosting in the rafters.

Funds for the purchase of materials were provided by a Community Revitalization Grant

through Senator Pat Vance's office. Completion of the pavilion marks the fulfillment of Senator Vance's grant to FOLC and Lower Frankford Township.

Lower Frankford Township's supervisors Mort Fegley and Dave Bachman put in long hours on the pavilion and FOLC would like to thank them for their efforts. The Diakon group also assisted with the landscaping efforts around the pavilion.

Nine picnic tables will be painted and assembled by FOLC members and friends and installed in the pavilion. *(more on Page 2)*



### Our Mission

***Friends of Opossum Lake Conservancy is a non-profit organization committed to restoring and preserving the lake through working collaboratively with the Township, the County, the Fish and Boat Commission, The Department of Environmental Protection, and the State Legislature.***

## From the President

Dear Friends,

As summer rolls along, I've been asked more and more "What's the status of the lake?"

As far as we know, the final permits are still yet to be issued. Initially, we hoped for more progress this summer, but recently have learned that there are additional fine details to be ironed out. Despite this slight delay, progress is still being made and 2010 is expected to be the year that construction begins.

On a more positive note, the Lower Frankford Township guys, with more volunteer help, have constructed the pavilion and will be working on the restroom installation. The pavilion compliments the main boat launch area – a sign of things to come. Additionally, Adams Electric Cooperative has generously donated to the Opossum Lake cause and installed the electrical lines from the main access road to the pavilion area. If you've not been back to check it out, please stop and take a look. We'd like to hear your feedback.

Recently, FOLC received recognition by Dickinson College student, Stevie Lewis. She published an article in the 2009 edition of "Stream of Consciousness" outlining the past four years of activity at the lake and reviewed the proposed new spillway.

As we enter our fourth fall at the lake, I'd like to leave you with one final word: Optimism - a tendency to expect the best possible outcome or dwell on the most hopeful aspects of a situation. (dictionary.com). Please keep this in mind as we finish out 2009 and head into 2010!

Your membership renewals and volunteer efforts are still a vital part of the restoration of Opossum Lake. We appreciate all your support during the past four years and look forward to the future!

– Steve Fealtman, FOLC President

## Progress at the Lake (cont'd.)

Adams Electric Cooperative is preparing to install the electric to the pavilion and restrooms. Adams Electric has generously donated in-kind services for this service using "unclaimed patronage capital."

A grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) included funds to construct restrooms at the lake. Moving forward, Lower Frankford Township utilized these funds to purchase two prefabricated restroom units, which will soon be installed at the lake. Preliminary work, also funded through the DCNR grant, must still be done on the required foundations for the restroom units.

Lower Frankford Township's new park continues to take shape at Opossum Lake! Here's a "sneak peek" at the unique new restroom facilities.



## Welcome New Members!

The Friends of Opossum Lake Conservancy (FOLC) membership keeps growing and growing – FOLC membership now totals **416!** Our new members for this period are:

Rodney Drawbaugh  
Carlisle SynTec, Inc.

And

New Lifetime Members:  
Mike, Tricia, Michael and  
Matthew Raudabaugh

Thank you to our new members for their support of FOLC!

*If you have not renewed your membership for 2009, please take a minute and do it now - you'll want to stay informed and involved in the exciting things that will be happening at Opossum Lake!*

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### **Just the Facts About Membership**

#### **Membership (Per Year)**

Individual	\$10
Family	\$15
Student	\$1
Sponsor	\$50
Benefactor	\$100
Corporate	\$250

#### **Lifetime Memberships**

Family	\$275
Senior Citizen	\$150

Make checks payable to "Friends of Opossum Lake Conservancy" and mail to:

*Friends of Opossum Lake Conservancy  
1205 Easy Road  
Carlisle, PA 17015*

*If you have any questions about your membership,  
please contact Cindy Criswell:*

*Phone: 717-486-8904*

*Email: [cecriswell@embarqmail.com](mailto:cecriswell@embarqmail.com)*

And – thank you for your continued support!

## 2009 Bird Walk Results

On the morning of the third Friends of Opossum Lake Conservancy Annual Meeting on May 2, 2009, the third annual bird walk was also held, expertly led again this year by Ann and Dave Grove and Don Orris. Many birds were sighted; however, the total was down approximately 20% from 2008, most likely due to the lowering of the lake level and the absence of many of the water birds seen in 2008.

The 2009 list includes the following:

Song Sparrow, Yellow-breasted Chat, Northern Rough-Winged Swallow, Gray Catbird, House Wren, Common Yellowthroat, Turkey Vulture, Killdeer, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Black-capped Chickadee, Goldfinch, Great Crested Flycatcher, Black and White Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Eurasian Starling, American Turkey, Yellow Warbler, Barn Swallow, Mallard, White-breasted Nuthatch, Tree Swallow, Rock Pigeon, Fish Crow, Brown-headed Cowbird, Blue Jay, Wood Thrush, Field Sparrow, Ring-necked Pheasant, American Crow, Chipping Sparrow, White-Throated Sparrow, American Robin, Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, Red-Bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Ovenbird, Mourning Dove, Tufted Titmouse, Red-Eyed Vireo, Northern Cardinal, Carolina Wren, Yellow-Rumped Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, Cedar Waxwing, Chestnut-Sided Warbler, Common Grackle, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Black-Throated Blue Warbler, Canada Goose, Northern Goshawk, Red-Tailed Hawk, Red-Shouldered hawk, Broadwinged Hawk, Greater Yellowlegs, Pileated Woodpecker, Downey Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Acadian Flycatcher, White-Eyed Vireo, Ruby-Throated Hummingbird, Northern Parula Warbler, Eastern Bluebird, Northern Mockingbird, and Brown Thrasher.

FOLC would like to thank Ann, Dave and Don for leading the bird walk and we look forward to the 2010 annual Bird Walk!

## Cub Scouts Help Out

The Cub Scouts have been a big big help to FOLC and Opossum Lake this past spring.

Cub Pack #186 conducted a trash pick-up at the lake on March 28, 2009 and also assisted with the April FOLC Trash & Trail Day in April. On their March 28th visit, they removed 20 trash bags and assorted other garbage from the Opossum Lake area (see the photo below).



From left: Andrew Runyon (scout); Mike Raudabaugh (den leader); Adam McKeehan (scout); Matthew Raudabaugh; Ethan Runyon; Emily Franklin; Seth Franklin (scout); Tyler Blais (scout); Michael Raudabaugh (scout); Rebecca Franklin; Clayton Shaw (scout); and Samantha Shaw.

And on May 17, 2009, Cub Pack #174 planted approximately 100 trees (including flowering dogwood, chinese chestnut, white pine, and douglas fir) from 12:30 to 2:00 PM. Those from Cub Pack #174 helping with the tree planting were: Wade Barrick, Brooke Barrick, Tim Barrick, Cody Breon, Tony Breon, Brock Fetchkan, John Fetchkan, Karen Fetchkan, Nathan Fetchkan, Dominick Kyle, Luanne Kyle, Zachary Roars, Diane Rodgers, Dakota Shopp, Aric Smoker, Bryce Smoker, Carl Smoker, Mason Thrush, and Roger Thrush.

**To comment on "Possum Watch" or request additional copies, contact the editor:**

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## Slight Timeline Delay

The PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) permitting process for the large dam repair/restoration project is currently under review. The permit may not be issued until late fall 2009 or January 2010, several months later than originally anticipated.

While this will delay the start of the dam repair/restoration, it should not have a significant impact on the completion date of the project.

There are no problems with the funding and the complete funding package remains in place.

### FOLC Wish List

***Everyone can help by donating an item from our "Wish List!"***

- "Forever" postage stamps
- White 20-pound paper
- Work gloves (for use on Work Days)
- Large outdoor trash bags

***Items on the Wish List will change depending on upcoming FOLC programs and projects. Drop off your donation at the Lower Frankford Township Building at 1205 Easy Road, Carlisle, PA 17015.***

### I'm A Friend of Opossum Lake!

FOLC T-Shirts in  
NEW BRIGHT SAFETY GREEN  
are available in Youth Sizes &  
Medium, Large, XL and 2XL  
Adult Sizes.

Cost: \$15.00 ea.

(Discount prices will be offered  
at upcoming FOLC events!)

FOLC Baseball Caps (in deep blue)  
are also available for only \$5!

Order by calling Mary Franco  
(717) 243-9863