

# 'Possum Watch

Fall 2006

Volume I, No. 2

## Keep Those Cards and Letters Coming, Folks!

Keep the momentum going!

If you haven't written to Governor Rendell yet, please take a few minutes and do it now. You don't have to use fancy words -- just put your thoughts and feelings on paper. Listed below are a few statements to get you started. Ask your children to write a letter -- their feelings and opinions count, too!

If you've sent a letter but you feel very passionate about Opossum Lake and what's happening to it, send another one! The more often Governor Rendell is reminded of the plight of Opossum Lake, the more likely he is to release the needed funding.

🐟 Grass roots efforts by local citizens have helped achieve funding commitments for 45% of the total cost in just a few months time.

🐟 Ask/beg/plead with Governor Rendell to release the remaining \$1,675,000 in needed funding as soon as possible!

🐟 House Bill 2317 (pg 355, lines 7-9) authorizes \$3,050,000 for "Opossum Lake - design & construct a new dam according to current standards."

🐟 How has the current situation at Opossum Lake affected you and your family?

Send your letter to: The Honorable Edward G. Rendell, 225 Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120.

And – thank you for your help!

## Welcome New Members!

The Friends of Opossum Lake Conservancy (FOLC) membership roster is continuing to grow with a total of 139! Have YOU sent in your membership fee? Alphabetically, new members are as follows:

Chuck Adams	Susan T. Hartman
Sherry Adams	James Hocker
Paul W. Albright	Gary Klock
Diane Barrick	Beverly Lehman
Krista Barrick	Fred Lehman
Paul Barrick	Chuck McGarvey
Tim Barrick	Randy Meals
Tracey Bolen	Allen Mountz
Danielle Borsuk	Goldie Pringle
Denise Borsuk	Carrie Raudabaugh
Drew Borsuk	Danny Raudabaugh
Margie Braught	Patricia Reed
Mike Braught	Don Russell
Dorothy E. Day	Keith Senecal
Brittany A. Etter	Kris Senecal
Nicholas Etter	Alan Smith
Richard M. Etter, Jr.	Margie Spahr
Kim Fealtman	Tim Spahr
Joyce Frigm	Dennis Weidler
Phil Frigm	Jean Weidler
Mr & Mrs John Fry	

### **THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

If you have paid for a Family membership, you are entitled to have all members of your family listed! Or if you have paid membership dues and your name has never been listed, please contact Cindy Criswell, Membership Committee Chair, at 717-486-8904 or email at: [gc\\_criswell@peoplepc.com](mailto:gc_criswell@peoplepc.com).

## 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.**

## A Message From The President

Dear Friends and Members of FOLC,

*THANK YOU to all who have joined as members and to the many who have volunteered their hard work to insure the restoration of Opossum Lake. Over 75 volunteers turned out for Trail & Trash Day on Saturday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> and logged 285 person hours of work on the Angler's Access Trail. Thanks to all their hard work, the trail is now very walkable and well marked. Please get out and enjoy the fall colors. The trail dedication included Senator Pat Vance, Rep. Will Gabig, Commissioner Rick Rovegno, Tom Ford of the PA Fish & Boat Commission, and Lower Frankford Township Supervisor Tim Lush. With grant funds from the Cumberland County Land Partnership Grant (\$8,075), materials can now be purchased for bridges, picnic tables and benches. Upcoming work days to install these improvements will be announced.*

*FOLC's application to be a tax exempt charitable organization under section 501 C 3 has been approved. Donors and supporters of FOLC can now deduct contributions from their federal income taxes each year.*

*As most of you are aware, Lower Frankford Township Supervisors and the Cumberland County Commissioners have committed Township and County Growing Greener dollars to the spillway and dam reconstruction. The PA Fish and Boat Commission has promised to contribute 25% of the total project cost if all of the funds are committed. We are in close contact with Senator Vance and Rep. Gabig and have their support in advocating for \$1,675,000 in additional funding from Governor Rendell through the State's capital budget. If you have not already written, please send a letter (or the post card provided by Rep. Gabig's office) to Governor Rendell asking for his support in releasing these funds as soon as possible.*

*The Lower Frankford Township Supervisors have also begun work on a site plan for a future picnic pavilion and rest rooms at the lake property. This basic site plan will play an important role when the township applies for DCNR funds next year to fund most of the cost of construction of the facilities.*

*Ed Franco , FOLC President  
(efranco99@comcast.net)  
(717) 243-9863*

## 'Tis The Season... Attention FOLC Members!



Members of FOLC and their families are cordially invited to a Holiday Open House on **Sunday, December 3, 2006** at the home of Ed and Mary Franco, 300 Mt. Zion Road, Carlisle (at the one lane bridge below the dam).

Stop by between 2:00 and 7:00 PM and join Ed and Mary and members of the Board of Directors for light refreshments and conversation.

"I'm A Friend of Opossum Lake" t-shirts may be ordered at a special price on December 3rd only. Samples will be available for sizing. Order some early holiday gifts!

Drawings will also be held for door prizes displayed at the Open House. Attendees may put their names in the drawings for one or all of the door prizes. Winners do not need to be present to win – prizes will be delivered following the Open House.

**We hope to see you all on December 3rd!  
Please join us!**

*(Need directions? Contact Ed or Mary Franco at 717-243-9863 or email efranco99@comcast.net.)*

I'm A Friend of Opossum Lake!

T-Shirts are now available  
in both adult and children's sizes.

Cost: \$15.00 ea.

(Discount prices will be offered  
at FOLC events!)

Get yours now!

Order by calling Mary Franco  
(717) 243-9863

Email: mfranco99@comcast.net

Make checks payable to:  
Friends of Opossum Lake  
Conservancy

## Trail & Trash Day a Success!

Thanks to the very hard work of over 75 volunteers, FOLC logged a total of 285 man hours on the trail on Saturday, September 16th. The weather couldn't dampen spirits and great progress was made. An almost walkable and marked trail around the lake now exists. And we can't forget to send a special thank you to Starbucks for providing free coffee to all volunteers!

Volunteers joined one of seven team leaders on assigned sections of the trail for three hours of hard manual labor. Teams included a group of twelve teenage boys and two staff (Eric Melder and Lucas Mellinger) from Diakon (formerly *Tressler*) Youth Center's "Weekend Alternative Program." They worked under the direction of master trail builder, Ron Kutz, to widen the "goat path" between the dam area and the inlet. They also began the construction of "stairs" leading downhill from the dam parking lot, making that portion of the trail so much easier to walk. The work was rugged, but so were the boys! They worked clear through until 3:30 pm and have promised to return at least every month over the next year to continue the trail building and grooming process. They look forward to helping with the bog bridges, which will span the wetter portions of the trail. At the end of day, Eric Melder played Ed Franco's phone message and the boys cheered when they heard how much their hard work was



*Mike Finkenbinder's hard working trail team!*

appreciated. Hopefully, this will be the beginning of a long and productive relationship between Diakon Youth Center, Lower Frankford Township, and FOLC!

Another team leader, Gary Criswell, stated, "I was so impressed with the enthusiasm of my team. They worked so fast clearing brush and trimming. A few of them even went home and brought their own tools back to use so we could work faster. What a great group of people!"

Craig Houston worked on the trail on September 16th and came back for more a week later! He gives us this account: "On September 23rd, a second, smaller party of seven braved the wet weather again to tackle an unfinished portion of the trail on the west side of the lake between the wetlands area and the red oak. One group attacked from the south while the other worked from the north to clear this portion of the trail, meeting each other in a congratulatory fashion at the major inlet across from the smaller boat ramp area, relieved to see each other and satisfied with a job well done. A later work party ingeniously applied lever and pulley technology to reposition the large red oak as the foundation for a future bridge."

### **More Work Days Are Scheduled!** **Volunteers Are Needed!**

Work days have been scheduled for the second Saturday in November and December: **Nov. 11th and Dec. 9th from 9:00 AM to noon**. There is much to be done! Join FOLC at the lake for one or both days – meet at the main parking lot at 9:00 AM. Contact Steve Fealtman (717-243-2027) or Gary Criswell (717-486-8904) with any questions. See you at the lake!




**Groundbreaking for the Trail!**


Front row from left: Chloe and Stevie Fealtman, daughters of Kim and Steve Fealtman;  
Back row from left: Tom Ford (PA Fish & Boat Commission), Rick Rovegno (Cumberland County Commissioner), Ed Franco (FOLC), Tim Lush (Lower Frankford Township Supervisors), Senator Pat Vance, Representative Will Gabig


## What's Going On Now?


Many people have been wondering what's happening with the lake. Maybe you've read about the lake in the paper recently. Maybe you participated in the Trail & Trash Day at the lake in September. In an effort to keep everyone "on the same page," FOLC will use this newsletter to bring you the latest news.


Happenings since the last newsletter:


 PA Fish & Boat Commission commits \$775,000 to rebuilding the dam and spillway.


 Cumberland County Commissioners commit \$500,000 to rebuilding dam and spillway (from Pennsylvania's Growing Greener program).


 Lower Frankford Township Supervisors pledge \$100,000 to rebuilding the dam and spillway.

 FOLC receives 501c(3) status from IRS. Givers may now deduct donations from their income tax returns.

 FOLC receives Partnership Grant of \$8,075 from Cumberland County's Land Partnership funds for projects at lake.

 A very successful Trail & Trash Day was held 9/16/06 -- over 75 volunteers -- 285 person hours were accumulated (see Page 3).

 **Back by popular demand! More Trail Days are scheduled for Nov. 11 and Dec. 9, 2006! (See Page 3 for more information)**

 FOLC is offering "I'm a Friend of Opossum Lake" t-shirts for sale (see Page 2 for details).

 FOLC membership total now totals 139!

### FOLC Wish List

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

- ***39-cent postage stamps***
- ***Plain #10 white envelopes***

***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 17013.***

## Tidbits...

Not a member of FOLC yet? It's **easy** to join! Go to our web site ([www.opossumlakefriends.org](http://www.opossumlakefriends.org)) and fill out the membership form on line, print it and mail it to the address shown. Or just call Cindy Criswell at 717-486-8904 to have a form mailed.



We all have that one difficult person on our holiday gift list who's impossible to buy for, right? Or maybe you're looking for that unique gift for a relative or friend who's very "nature conscious." Why not consider giving a Friends of Opossum Lake Conservancy membership? The perfect solution!

*P.S. – "I'm a Friend of Opossum Lake" t-shirts also make wonderful gifts for any occasion!*



**Help is needed on FOLC committees!** Contact any of the committee chairs listed below to volunteer or for more information, please refer to our website:

**[www.opossumlakefriends.org](http://www.opossumlakefriends.org)**

#### – Media Relations

Committee Chairman: John Alden (email: [pa61pilgrim@peoplepc.com](mailto:pa61pilgrim@peoplepc.com)).

#### – Fund Raising

Committee Chairman Steve Fealtman (email: [steve@sdf-consulting.com](mailto:steve@sdf-consulting.com) or phone 717-243-2027).

#### – Projects/Trail/Adopt An Access

Committee Chairman: Ruben Lao (email: [rubenlaojr@bellsouth.net](mailto:rubenlaojr@bellsouth.net) or phone 717-323-1002).

#### – Membership

Committee Chair & Newsletter Editor: Cindy Criswell (email: [gc\\_criswell@peoplepc.com](mailto:gc_criswell@peoplepc.com) or phone 717-486-8904).

#### – Grants/Legislation

Committee Co-Chairs: A. Craig Houston (email: [houstona@epix.net](mailto:houstona@epix.net) or phone 717-243-8941) and Hal Gardner (email: [Hrldgrdnr@aol.com](mailto:Hrldgrdnr@aol.com) or phone 717-258-6932). Contact Hal Gardner for information on the availability of FOLC's **Speakers Bureau** to present our program to your organization – free of charge.

#### – Finance

Committee Co-Chairs: Wayne DeMoss (phone: 717-241-4086 and Ed Franco (email: [efranco99@comcast.net](mailto:efranco99@comcast.net) or phone 717-243-9863).