

'Possum Watch

Fall 2007

Volume 2, No. 4

Land O'Lakes Gift



L to R: Steve Fealtman (FOLC), Jan Ruby (FOLC), Brandon Weary, Dennis Garman, Craig Houston (FOLC)

In September, Land O'Lakes presented the Friends of Opossum Lake Conservancy with a check for \$5,000 in support of FOLC's efforts to preserve and restore Opossum Lake. The Land O'Lakes Foundation helps ensure that local community needs are met through their matching grant program. Local members of the Land O'Lakes co-op recommended FOLC to the corporate headquarters. FOLC presented Land O'Lakes with a small plaque to be placed in their local and/or corporate offices.

On hand to present the check to FOLC were Brandon Weary, Newville, and Dennis Garman from the Land O'Lakes facility in Mt. Holly Springs.

The Latest on the Lake

Since our last newsletter, a number of very positive developments have occurred. We are hopeful the current Growing Greener II funding of \$775,000 from the PAFBC, \$609,308 from Cumberland County, and \$100,000 from Lower Frankford Township will be increased by monies from the state's capital budget. Senator Pat Vance's office has been working diligently to explore possible funding. We are hopeful that with your continued support, our goal of spillway redesign and reconstruction is within reach!

The PAFBC agreed to take on the construction of both a concrete outlet structure extension (30 feet) and the construction of a parapet wall (approximately two feet in height) to help defray the total costs of spillway reconstruction.

A very productive meeting was held with various agencies and FOLC on September 28th to discuss alternative spillway designs as well as possible funding sources. The Department of Environmental Protection and Dam Safety staff were extremely helpful in assisting PAFBC complete an "incremental analysis." This incremental analysis, along with spillway and overtopping redesign, have led to a current estimate of \$3.1 to \$3.25 million dollars for the project. This represents a saving of almost \$1 million dollars over estimates for a previous design, that included more elaborate overtopping protection. FOLC will work closely with the PAFBC to obtain materials and in-kind donations to further reduce the cost of these PAFBC-completed engineering projects.

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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.

Lower Frankford Township and FOLC Cooperative Efforts

Cumberland County Commissioners approved FOLC's request for additional funds from the Land Partnership Grant Program to help defray the costs of the recently completed Anglers Access Trail and we have received an additional \$4,790.65. FOLC has agreed to help Lower Frankford Township purchase a high quality commercial mowing machine with a grant from Representative Will Gabig (\$5,000) and \$3,500 of the above funding from the Land Partnership Grant Program to maintain the lake area in 2008 and beyond.

Township Park Initiative

Lower Frankford Township has been awarded a 25-year lease by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to develop the area around the lake for a township park. Through the efforts of Senator Pat Vance and FOLC, the Township will *not expend any township monies for improvements at the lake.*

Lower Frankford Township is anticipating approval of a \$60,000 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant to construct a picnic pavilion and restrooms at Opossum Lake. FOLC has agreed to increase its matching contribution to \$12,000, funded in part by a grant from Senator Pat Vance's office for \$10,000 to assist in purchasing materials for the pavilion. These new developments at the lake are expected to begin in the spring of 2008.

The Latest on the Lake (continued)

FOLC has also paid for the initial survey completed by Brehm Lebo (\$6,000) and the geotechnical studies completed by URS (\$25,000). Lower Frankford Township already donated its portion of the \$25,000 (or \$10,000) to FOLC. The cooperative agreement between Lower Frankford Township, the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PAFBC), and FOLC has also been completed and will result in the PAFBC reimbursing \$11,000 to FOLC to help defray these pre-engineering survey costs.

Thank you to all of you who have been working so hard to help this become a reality. **STAY TUNED!**

by Ed Franco
President, FOLC

Just Do It!


Maybe you've thought about becoming a member of FOLC....


OR

Maybe you're already a member and know you should have renewed your membership for 2007, but you never got around to sending a check....

NOW is the time to do it!

FOLC needs your support now more than ever. Review Ed Franco's article, "The Latest On the Lake" and you'll know why. While FOLC has or will be receiving funding from a variety of outside sources, we still need to maintain the general fund and add to the "Repair The Dam" fund established earlier this year.

 The general fund is used for day-to-day expenses such as postage, insurance, etc. Other incidental costs are donated by Board members and other FOLC friends.

 The "Repair The Dam" fund was established to be used specifically for the repair and reconstruction of the dam and spillway, not for general expenses. To date, this fund has been used to fund the survey by Brehm Lebo (\$6,000) and the geotechnical study completed by URS (\$25,000), both of which were required pre-engineering processes.

We appreciate the many members on our roster now and would hate to drop any names. Emailing newsletters and announcements costs FOLC nothing; however, not everyone has an email address. As you are aware, the cost to mail newsletters and announcements has gone up in the past year. While paper, printing, and envelopes are all donated, the postage costs come directly from FOLC's general fund.

FOLC has established a new membership category to make membership easy: **Lifetime Membership!** For an individual or family, the cost is \$275; the cost for senior citizens over 65 is just \$150.

See our website (www.opossumlakefriends.org) for a membership form or send your check to FOLC, 1205 Easy Road, Carlisle, PA 17015. **Please renew by December 31, 2007!**

JUST DO IT!

And -- Thank You!

Welcome New Members!

The Friends of Opossum Lake Conservancy (FOLC) membership roster keeps growing and growing and growing and now totals **342!** Alphabetically, new members are as follows:

Bob Ackerman	Deb Gingrich
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Ankabrandt	Keith Gingrich
Barbara Bistline	Elizabeth Katoski
John Bixler	Joanne Katoski
Miriam Bixler	Michelle Katoski
Elinor Broman	Mary M. Kelso
John Broman, Jr.	Marlin Long
Karen Cullings	Peter Lusardi
Amanda Drawbaugh	NuTec Design Associates, Inc.
John Drawbaugh	Harold E. Reed
Katelyn Drawbaugh	Dieter Rollfinke
Rob Drawbaugh	Jackie Rollfinke
David A. Eakin	Dennis Salerno
Sharon Eakin	Joann Varner
Scott Fickes	Ray Varner
Vincent Gajewski	Arland Wagonhurst
Clare Garfield	D'Arcy Wagonhurst



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



I'm A Friend of Opossum Lake!

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

Cost: \$15.00 ea.

(Discount prices will be offered at FOLC events!)

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

Order by calling Mary Franco
(717) 243-9863

Email: mfranco99@comcast.net

Make checks payable to:
Friends of Opossum Lake Conservancy

Volunteer Hours Tabulated

A condition of the Land Partnership Grant received from Cumberland County for development of the Anglers Access Trail required FOLC to track total volunteer hours during the construction of the trail. In addition, other volunteer hours were also tracked during 2006 and 2007. These are interesting numbers!

Trail hours include the original clearing of the trail and construction of the treadway, construction of four bridges, assembling and placement of benches and picnic tables, construction and placement of kiosks, construction and placement of mile markers and nature signs, and construction of a tool shed.

In addition to the items above, Work Hours were tracked for trash pick-up around the lake and on-going maintenance of the trail including trimming and mowing.

	<u>Total Trail Hours</u>	<u>Total Work Hours</u>	<u>Total People</u>
2006:	450.5	783.9	111
2007:	522.5	703.0	63
Total:	973.0	1,486.9	174

In summary, 174 people assisted FOLC with the Anglers Access Trail and other projects over the past eighteen months. The volunteer hours over this time equal approximately 62 days or just under 9 weeks!

THANK YOU ALL for your help!



Residents of Opossum Lake take a swim!

Anglers Access Trail Completed

The four mile long Anglers Access Trail around Opossum Lake is completed! FOLC celebrated this milestone with a hike on September 30, 2007.



Mile markers were placed every half mile around the lake beginning and ending at the kiosk at the main parking area.



Signs painted by Hal Gardner were placed at appropriate locations around the lake. Above is the "Hardwood Forest" marker denoting species of hardwood trees in the area. Below "Wetland Plants" are highlighted along the trail.



Yes, there are beavers at Opossum Lake (at least there were beavers at Opossum Lake)! A convenient bench is located for watching!



Prairies in Pennsylvania? Two types of prairies are located around Opossum Lake – one is in the process of being restored by FOLC.



Above is the "Little Bluestem Native Prairie," named for the primary grass it contains. Below is the "Remnant Native Prairie" containing native plants. Both prairies will be reseeded by FOLC with native plants this fall.

