

'Possum Watch

Spring 2007

Volume 2, No. 2

You are Cordially Invited
To the
Annual Meeting
Of
The Friends of Opossum Lake Conservancy
On May 5, 2007

The Board of Directors of Friends of Opossum Lake Conservancy (FOLC) invites all members and guests to our non-profit corporation's first Annual Meeting to be held at the main parking lot at Opossum Lake at 12 noon on May 5, 2007, to be followed by a Pot Luck Picnic. In the event of rain, the meeting and activities will be held at the Lower Frankford Township building at 1205 Easy Road.

There will be various activities offered throughout the day (see Page 2 for details). We look forward to seeing everyone – come for any or all of the day's events; however, we urge **all members** to attend the business meeting. Following is the brief agenda for FOLC's first Annual Meeting:

1. Welcome (Ed Franco, President)
2. Updated Status Report and Comments from Officials (Ed Franco)
3. Treasurer's report (Wayne DeMoss, Treasurer)
4. Volunteers for Committees & Nominations for Board of Directors (Cindy Criswell, Secretary)
5. Election of Board of Directors members
6. Question/Answer Period
7. Adjournment

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,

Through the hard work of our board and volunteers, FOLC has been very effective in keeping Opossum Lake in the news and in making improvements to the lake property through our County Land Partnership Grant. We greatly appreciate your contributions and your continuing membership. The Board has re-affirmed it's commitment to raising private funds for the dam reconstruction project by establishing the Repair the Dam Fund. 100% of the Board have donated at least \$50 each, resulting in approximately \$20,000 in this fund. We are asking all members and friends to make a one-time donation of at least \$50 to FOLC this year. Your \$50 will be deposited in the Repair the Dam Fund and you will receive your annual membership as well. Lower Frankford Township made a donation of \$10,000 from their previous pledge of \$100,000 to help move the required surveying and pre-engineering geotechnical studies forward. Our revitalized Fundraising Committee, chaired by Allen Shank, will be making application to foundations and companies for grants and contributions to help us reach our goal of raising \$305,000.

We anticipate that the PAF&BC will commit some funding to the pre-engineering studies and we are working collaboratively to move the design of the new spillway and dam armoring forward.

FOLC is entering into a letter of agreement with PAF&BC to contract and pay for a comprehensive survey of the existing dam and surrounding area. Brehm-Lebo Engineering has agreed to provide these services for \$6,000 in payment and in-kind donation. We will also be contracting with URS Corporation to complete geotechnical studies, which will include soil test borings and piezometric monitoring of the existing hydrological pressures at the existing spillway. This necessary step will include re-filling the lake for a three to six month period while the monitoring is completed. The results of these studies and the design and engineering will enable a much more specific cost estimate and timeline for reconstruction of the spillway and armoring of the existing breastwork.

Finally, to help close the remaining gap in funding, FOLC has agreed to make a C2P2 grant application to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for \$775,000 to enhance the recreational opportunities at the lake. The current PAF&BC contribution of \$775,000 will be used as the required matching funds. Our thanks to Craig Houston, who worked very hard to pull this application together prior to the April 13th deadline.

Please join us on May 5th for our Annual Meeting and other activities.


Ed Franco , FOLC President


Annual Meeting & Pot Luck Picnic

May 5, 2007, the day of FOLC's first **Annual Meeting** will be full of activities for all ages and interests. Make sure you plan to attend all of them!


This is **NOT** a work day! Do not bring your carpenter's tools or work gloves along!


The schedule for the day's events on May 5, 2007 is as follows:


 **8:00 AM: Warbler Walk** hosted by Kim Van Fleet of the Audubon Society. Meet at the boat launch area on the west side of the lake (off Opossum Lake Road) at the small parking area and kiosk. This walk will last approximately 2 hours. Contact Craig Houston at 243-8941 for more information. The walk will be held in light rain/drizzle; in the event of heavy rain, the walk will be cancelled.


 **10:00 AM: Presentation by David Miko**, representing the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission. The presentation will be geared for all ages to enjoy. Meet at the kiosk at the main parking lot on the hill at the end of the access road.

 **11:00 AM: Children's Activities**

 **Noon – FOLC Annual Meeting** (meet by the kiosk at the main parking lot on the hill).

 **A Pot Luck Picnic** will follow the Annual Meeting. Board members will provide turkey, ham, rolls, condiments, utensils, and beverages. Members are asked to bring a covered dish. Space at the picnic tables may be limited – you may also want to bring a folding chair to use.

 After lunch, there will be a very brief meeting of the newly elected Board members for **election of officers and reorganization of committees**. All members are welcome to attend this brief meeting.

 Then – join us for a **hike on the newly completed Anglers' Access Trail**. This is a 4 mile trail and takes approximately 1.5 to 2 hours to walk. If individuals elect to hike only half the trail, car pools will be set up to bring those hikers back to the starting point. We will leave from the upper parking lot by the kiosk.



In the event of rain, all activities will be held at the Lower Frankford Township building at 1205 Easy Road (Easy Road is near the main entrance to the lake off Opossum Lake Road).

“Look What I Caught!”

March 31, 2007 – the first day of trout season dawned clear and cold at a much smaller Opossum Lake in Lower Frankford Township. Usually a very popular site for anglers and families, the lake was not “wall-to-wall” boats as in past years. Nevertheless, the lake, lowered 14.5 feet due to concerns of dam safety in 2005, was stocked with trout by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PAF&BC) and led to many anglers turning out to try their luck.



Members of Friends of Opossum Lake Conservancy (FOLC) were there as well, offering light refreshments for sale and providing information about the organization's efforts to work closely with the Lower Frankford Township Supervisors, Cumberland County Commissioners, State Legislators, and the PAF&BC to raise funds to rebuild the dam of the lake and improve the surrounding area with the recently completed 4 mile Anglers Access Trail.



Jacob Lord, age 3, and his mom

In addition to selling refreshments and t-shirts for our “Rebuild The Dam” fund, FOLC offered prizes to successful young anglers. Prizes for the youngest successful anglers went to Jacob Lord (bottom left), age 3, of North Middleton Township, who caught and released a small sunny, and Miles Failor, age 4, of Middlesex Township, for his catch of an 11-inch trout. His father said Miles was “very excited -- it was his first catch of the season!”



Both these young anglers are off to a great start!

Miles Failor, age 4, with his 11-inch trout

10-year-old Toni Failor of North Middleton Township first tried for the prize offered for the largest catch by a child with her 12-inch trout. She later beat her own record, and that of her father's that day, with a **19.5-inch trout!**

Toni said of Opossum Lake, “This is my favorite place to fish in the whole world.” And what did Toni have to say about her 19.5 inch catch? “I will never forget this day!”



Toni Failor, age 10, with her 19.5 inch trout

Anglers Access Trail Update

The Anglers Access Trail is nearly complete! Started in September 2006, the four mile trail follows the lake edge and includes four bridges. Hard work by FOLC members and friends has made the trail possible.

Thanks go out to the following area companies who donated time and/or discounted materials to FOLC's Anglers Access Trail project, which was primarily funded by an \$8,075 grant from the Cumberland County Land Partnership Program:

- Carlisle Cement Products
- Eberly Lumber
- Embarq
- Imprint Warehouse
- Neidlinger Excavating, LLC
- Peterman Power Equipment
- Sipe Mower and Equipment
- Starbucks Coffee
- The Lumber Yard



East Bridge
On the "goat
path" trail near
the dam

2007 Membership Renewal

If you became a member of FOLC in 2006, your membership is very much appreciated. Please consider renewing your membership for 2007. Your membership payment is due and payable before December 31, 2007. FOLC will not send you an invoice in 2007 and we will not send reminders that payment is due. If you paid your 2006 membership dues in July 2006, submit your 2007 dues in July. If you didn't join FOLC until November, submit your 2007 dues in November. All we ask is that you renew your membership before the end of 2007!

The growing number of members on FOLC's membership roster is a great benefit to us when applying for grants from various agencies to make improvements at the lake.

And remember FOLC's "**Repair The Dam**" fund. A one-time 2007 contribution to this fund of \$50 or more includes a "free" 2007 FOLC membership.

Welcome New Members!

WOW! The Friends of Opossum Lake Conservancy (FOLC) membership roster is continuing to grow and now totals **249!** Alphabetically, new members are as follows:

Beth Bachman	Zack Loudon
John W. Gleim Jr., Inc.	Carol McAnulty
Staley E. Bowers	Paul McAnulty
Matt Brittain	Constance Meredith
E. Richard Clelan	William Meredith
James Cullings	Frank W. Miller
Margaret A. Darhower	Kelsi Minich
Dan & Ann Delp and Family	Marjorie Mountz
William L. Drawbaugh	Michael J. Murphy
David W. Duerr	Rodger Myers
Harry Failor, Jr.	Mike Neidlinger
Helen Failor	Betty P. Nelson
Thelma Fegley	Bryan Nester
Chris Fowler	Steven Parrish and Family
Jonas Fowler	Clarence Peiper
Noah Fowler	Dan Peiper
Pam Fowler	Judy Peiper
Patsy Freed	Wyatt Peiper
Ron Freed	Anke Redden
Connie Gayman	Gerald Redden
John Gayman	Wendy Riggs
Brian Hair	William Riggs
Judy Hair	Janet Ritter
Angie Heishman	Raymond B. Ritter Fund
Ava Heishman	Lawrence Robertson
Ian Heishman	Barry Serviente
Mark Heishman	Gerry Serviente
Randy Heishman	June L. Shomaker
Jim Hippensteel	Gary Shughart
Ruth Hoffman	Mary Shughart
James "Woody" Hogan	Emily Singer
Jacob F. Hoover	James W. Smith
Nancy Horn	Larry Stabnau
Gene Horne	Robert Straining
Tom Jones	Janet Swarner
Vel-Velda Jones	Marlin Swarner
Bob Kahley	Patricia A. Tinney
Andrea Keck	Bill Turner
Les Keck	Dillon Turner
Eric Klinedinst	Laurie Turner
Gloria Kramer	Summer Turner
John W. Landvater	John P. Weaver
George W. Laughman	Mary Ann Wilson
Vincent D. Lightner	Ron Wilson
Gary Logan	Kerry Woods
Joan Logan	Wolfgang Woods
Brooke Loudon	Dennis Wyrick
Lori Loudon	

THANKS TO ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!