



Community spotlight Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District

Monitoring and improving water quality for 30 years

By Nick Spinelli

The Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District, a community-based nonprofit corporation, was founded in 1979 in response to water quality issues in "the big lake." Thirty years later, we're the only organization to continually monitor water quality in the lake.

During that time, we've implemented more than 65 watershed improvement projects and water quality studies, totaling more than \$2 million. These projects have helped to improve water quality, but our lake community must continue to nurture progress.

Recent projects include stabilization of the eroding hillside in Mangan Cove (across from the dam) and a major agricultural improvement in Jefferson Township. Additionally, the hugely successful Lake Wallenpaupack Cleanup Day, sponsored by the district with generous support from PPL, has collected more than 40 tons of debris in the last three years.

We've also developed a new cost-share program that will provide funding for watershed improvement projects and help the district continue its commitment to protecting, maintaining and enhancing the water quality of Lake Wallenpaupack and its tributaries. The program will debut this year.

With continued community support, our organization stands ready to face



Nick Spinelli, Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District's executive director, is a lifelong resident of the lake region and a graduate of Wallenpaupack High School. Keenly aware of life around the lake, Spinelli manages the daily operations and challenges associated with running the district.

the challenge of protecting the lake region and our great quality of life. For more information about LWWMD and our programs, call 570-226-3865 or visit www.wallenpaupackwatershed.org.

PPL donates \$10,000 to support visitors center

PPL Corporation has donated \$10,000 to the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau for use at its new Lake Wallenpaupack Visitors Center on Route 6 in Palmyra Township.

The funds will be used to produce 10,000 trail maps for the Wallenpaupack Lake Trail, extending from the Tafton Dike to the dam, and the Wallenpaupack Creek Trail, which starts at the dam and travels between the water pipeline and old creek bed.

In addition, the landscaping will be updated this spring, outdoor lighting will be installed for the main sign along Route 6 and an interior display of the eight major fish species found in Lake Wallenpaupack will be installed.

The visitors center is a partnership of the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, Palmyra Township, Pike County and the Hawley-Lake Wallenpaupack Chamber of Commerce. PPL Corporation played a significant role in making the center a reality by donating to the township 10 acres of land, which includes the location of the center and the Palmyra Township public beach.

Don't light the night, be kind to your neighbors

Here on Lake Wallenpaupack, front-lot owners are permitted to install lighting fixtures to illuminate a dock, float, buoy or the shoreline for walking access. Poles with lighting fixtures shouldn't be taller than 10 feet and may not be placed below the normal high water mark of the lake. Please be considerate to your neighbors, and make sure your light is not too bright and that it faces downward. This will help keep boaters on the water at night safe. Also, those who enjoy stargazing will thank you.



Buoys (ATONs) are here to protect you

By the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Boat operators should learn the rules of the road because there are no traffic lights or signs out on the water. Instead, aids to navigation (ATONs or buoys) provide boat operators with warnings about safety issues or other information.

Diamond buoys warn of dangers such as rocks, shoals, dams or stumps. Always proceed with caution near a diamond buoy and keep a safe distance. Never assume that every hazard will be marked by a buoy.

Navigational aids are often moved by storms, heavy currents or vandals. This past summer, as in years past, many of the shoal and rock buoys (especially Martins Cove) were moved or cut loose. This situation is very dangerous for boaters. It is illegal to move a buoy, even if you think it's in the wrong location. Boaters should also be aware that water levels fluctuate at Lake Wallenpaupack, causing buoys to float away from their designated area.

Please contact the PPL Lake Office at 1-877-775-5253 or the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission at 570-477-5717 if you think a buoy is in the wrong location.

Boaters should also remember that it is illegal to operate a boat at greater than slow, no-wake speed within 100 feet of the shoreline, docks, launch ramps, swimmers or downed skiers, anchored, moored or drifting boats, and floats. "Slow, no-wake" means going at the slowest possible speed that motorboats can operate and maintain maneuverability while still minimizing the amount of wash or size of their wake.



Do you know what size dock you're permitted?

All front-lot properties around the lake have a Standard Shoreline Use Permit or a License Agreement issued to them for use of PPL's property. Your permit or license lists what size dock you are permitted, whether you are permitted a mooring buoy or float, as well as specific land uses you are permitted to have on PPL's property.

Often during our inspections we find docks that exceed their permissible width or length. As a front-lot owner, please take the time to review your permit or license to understand what is permitted.

If you are planning a new dock, consider providing a copy of your permit or license agreement so the builder or contractor knows what dimensions are permitted. It can be very costly to reduce the size of your dock.

Also, keep in mind that while you may install a ramp onto your permitted dock for personal watercraft, be sure that the ramp or lift does not extend beyond the permitted dock width. This is a common cause for docks being over their permitted width.

PPL measures docks beginning with the first section that contains flotation underneath.

If you would like a copy of your permit or license agreement, please contact the PPL Lake Office at 1-877-775-5253 or lakewallenpaupack@pplweb.com.



Eagles among us

Last year, Lake Wallenpaupack's first known bald eagle pair was successful in raising one eaglet at Kipp Island. This survival is a testament to the good habitat and water quality that Lake Wallenpaupack provides for an eagle to thrive.

Because the species is federally protected, PPL has closed Kipp Island until the end of July. Portable toilets can still be found at Cairns and Epply Islands. In August, Kipp Island will open for public recreation again.

Thank you to everyone who reported sightings and helped protect this majestic national bird.

Email list:

Would you like to be notified by email about upcoming programs and workshops by the Lake Office? Please contact us with your email address at 1-877-775-5253 or lakewallenpaupack@pplweb.com.

Check out our new website

For information about our shoreline management program including our policy book, FAQs and applications, visit www.ppllakewallenpaupack.com.

Save the date:

PPL will be holding tours of the dam and power plant during LakeFest this summer. The tours will be offered from 10 a.m to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 27, and Sunday, Aug. 28. No registration is required.

How to find the PPL Property Line



Have you ever wondered where your property ends and PPL's property begins? The property line, which is the PPL property boundary around Lake Wallenpaupack, was originally marked with numbered steel monuments, most often at points where the line turns. It is also marked blazes on trees along the property line.

Trees were originally "blazed" by removing a thin layer of bark from a palm sized area of the

side of the tree that faces the property line about four feet above ground level.

The property line is maintained by painting the monuments and blazes with yellow paint as needed. Painting does not harm the tree since it is placed on the outer bark of the tree on the healed over blaze and does not get absorbed into the layer of the tree between the bark and wood.

PPL has been inspecting its property over the last three years and re-marking the property line so that it is visible to front-lot owners and PPL employees. Yellow flagging is most often used and will be found tied around trees. Yellow flagging is used all along the property line to mark the general location of the property line (within about five feet), given that monuments may be up to 300 feet plus apart. Triple flagging is used to mark a nearby monument.

While widely believed, it is not true that the property line is the same as the normal high water mark at elevation of 1,187 feet above sea level.

If you have questions about where the property line is in your area, please contact the PPL Lake Office at 1-877-775-5253 or lakewallenpaupack@pplweb.com.

Did you know?

"Gifford Pinchot was serving his first term as governor of Pennsylvania when the licenses and permits were being negotiated. It was he who called for the four areas of public access on the lake to be provided and maintained by the power company. This reflected his lifelong enthusiasm as a sport fisherman and demonstrated a remarkable foresight." —Arthur Watres, grandson of Louis Arthur Watres, original visionary of Lake Wallenpaupack

Plan ahead for lake drawdown this fall

PPL will lower the level of Lake Wallenpaupack by about five feet more than normal after Labor Day in September to allow for scheduled maintenance and inspection of the dam and power plant. The drawdown of water will stop at about elevation 1,175 feet in mid-October.

The drawdown is done every five years to allow PPL to perform routine maintenance and testing, including a test required by the plant's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license.

"Lowering water levels will not affect businesses around the lake," said Paul Canevari, PPL's regional community relations director for the Pocono Region. "We still encourage people to visit the lake and take advantage of the area's many attractions. However, lake users should pay attention to potential submerged hazards that are not normally a concern when lake levels are higher."

The maintenance and testing will take several weeks. PPL will then gradually allow the lake to refill naturally.

Residents may want to consider removing docks from the water earlier than they normally would, although this is not mandated by PPL. PPL does require docks to be stored above the normal high water mark (elevation 1,187) by Dec. 1.

The generation schedule, the elevation of the lake, and PPL's plans regarding the drawdown are subject to change without prior notice due to changing system and weather conditions. PPL's generation schedule and lake level are available online at www.lakelevelppl.com.

Public Programs

Lake Wallenpaupack Environmental Preserve

What does it mean to be a front-lot owner?

July 9, 1:30-3 p.m.

Aug. 13, 1:30-3 p.m.

PPL's Lake Office invites you to come see a presentation about what it means to own a home here on Lake Wallenpaupack. Learn more about the history of the lake and our Shoreline Use Permitting Policy. We will cover the types of uses that are permitted, how to find the project line and normal high water mark, as well as the common violations and how to avoid them.

Whether you've lived here for generations or have just bought a home on the lake, we'd like the chance to meet you. Choose from a couple dates being offered. Registration is required as space is limited. To register, contact Katie Lester at 570-251-6196 or kelester@pplweb.com.

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PPL Lake Wallenpaupack
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Public Programs

Lake Wallenpaupack Environmental Preserve *(Continued from page 3)*

Basic Boating Safety Course

Two classes offered:

Saturday, April 30, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

or

Saturday, June 11, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Presenters: Bob Plumb and Curt Tereschak, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and Meg Welker, PPL WELC Auditorium

Get an early jump on the boating season by taking a safe boating course. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's eight-hour boating safety class gives boaters practical information so they can make more informed decisions on the water. Topics include boat terminology, legal requirements, water activities, and safety and rescue. Students who pass the exam at the end of the daylong course can apply for their boating safety education certificate from the commission. Please bring your own lunch and snacks for the day. A \$10 certificate fee is payable after class. Must be 12 or older. Registration is required. To register, contact PPL at 570-253-7076 or pplpreserves@pplweb.com.

National Trails Day - Hike the Shoreline

Saturday, June 4

1:30-3:30 p.m.

Presenter: Meg Welker, PPL supervisor of public programs
Meet at the PPL Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center

Have you heard about the new walking trail along the shores of Lake Wallenpaupack? There's no better time than on National Trails Day to check it out. Join PPL's Meg Welker as she leads this leisurely stroll from the PPL Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center by the dam over to the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau's Visitors Center. Hear about the history behind the construction of the lake, and explore other surprises nature may reveal, as we make our way over to the Visitors Center. Keith Williams, Visitors Center manager, will introduce us to this facility and share the many exhibits including some photos of the Hensel Collection, fish exhibits and two large reference maps that were recently installed. The hike will be about 3 miles of easy to moderate terrain. Please wear proper footwear and bring some drinking water.

For more information on public programs at the Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center, please visit www.pplpreserves.com.