

## **Help Glade Run Lake**

*Butler Eagle*, September 1, 2012

I remember taking my golden labrador puppy to Glade Run Lake to learn to swim. My wife often took our young son there to see the fish and birds and watch the fishermen and boaters. I also have fond memories of canoeing, walking and bird-watching. The lake wasn't just for the warm weather either; I often loaded our snowblower into the car as we headed out to play hockey. I'm sure others have their own memories about visiting the lake.

Many generations learned to fish and boat with their parents and grandparents. It truly is a jewel nestled in Middlesex Township. The lake and park, owned by the commonwealth, were there for everybody to enjoy.

The lake was drained in July 2011, bringing a temporary end to many happy traditions. I say "temporary" because a grass-roots effort of concerned citizens formed a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization (pending) called the Glade Run Lake Conservancy (GRLC). As I write this, we have more than 700 members and close to \$50,000 pledged to bring back the lake. The cost to bring the lake back is estimated to be \$4 million, and that is only to rebuild the dam. If the silt needs to be removed and trucked away, the cost will go up.

We need a lot of help, so we also will be asking area businesses to donate their equipment, resources and manpower to keep costs down. What can someone do to help? The easiest thing one can do is become a conservancy member. A large membership is important to demonstrate community resolve to large funding agents.

Membership for a three-year period is \$5 for students under 18, \$10 for other individuals, and \$20 for families of two or more. We also are asking people to take a further step and make a tax-deductible contribution of \$20 a year for the next three years. Along with the family membership, that's a total of just pennies a day. We also need people to tap into their personal network of family, friends and neighbors, as well as their professional network, to get the message out about Glade Run Lake Conservancy and its effort to restore the lake.

We have modeled our recovery actions after two successful lake organizations that were in a similar situation seven years ago. Leaser Lake in Lehigh County and Opossum Lake in Carlisle both worked diligently and were successful. They restored their lakes and we will too.

The conservancy has compiled a list of 10 reasons why Glade Run Lake is important:

- (1) To restore fishing, boating and outdoor recreation.
- (2) To restore wildlife habitat.
- (3) To boost the regional economy (generates \$1.2 million per year).
- (4) To contribute to property values.
- (5) To preserve natural recreation for youth groups.
- (6) To feed the Connoquenessing watershed.
- (7) To enable veterans in rehabilitation to enjoy again the lake's solace.
- (8) To enhance educational programming.
- (9) To supply training and a water source once more for fire and emergency responders.
- (10) To ensure lake legacy for future generations.

We ask people to become GRLC members. That can be done at [www.gladerunlakeconservancy.org](http://www.gladerunlakeconservancy.org).

**Sigmund J. "Siggy" Pehel**  
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