

# **Public forum set to discuss Glade Run Lake Metcalf, Orie will co-host meeting**

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*Butler Eagle, July 24, 2011*

Middlesex Twp -- Constituents spoke about their disappointment over the draining of Glade Run Lake, and two legislators listened.

State Rep. Daryl Metcalf, R-12th, and state Sen. Jane Orie, R-40th, will co-host a public forum regarding the lake at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the Middlesex Township Municipal Building.

The state Fish and Boat Commission drained the lake a few weeks ago because seepage was detected under the faulty dam. The commission said costs to repair the dam would be about \$4 million, and that the lake would remain dry until the dam is repaired.

Glade Run Lake was stocked with fish each year and served as a popular outdoors venue for generations of families.

Mike Sarfert, Orie's chief counsel, said that Orie's office has received about a dozen calls about the lake.

Sarfert said Orie is co-hosting the event to give residents a chance to tell their concerns to the state Fish and Boat Commission as well as to hear the commission's plan for repair and improvement of the site.

Middlesex resident Russ Matchett has started a group called Friends of Glade Run Lake, and said he hopes to get more members at the meeting.

"We're generating some interest," said Matchett.

He hopes to get information from the Fish and Boat Commission representative at the meeting regarding what will be involved in repairing the dam, which the state Department of Environmental Protection placed on a hazardous dam list in 2002.

"We have found the interest in this is pretty far-reaching," Matchett said.

The Friends of Glade Run Lake website is [www.savegladerunlake.com](http://www.savegladerunlake.com).

David Fowler of The Woodlands, Texas, owns a house and property abutting the lake, where he and his wife hoped to retire in a few years. Fowler was heartbroken to learn the lake was drained, and it wasn't because of the potential impact on his property value.

"It kind of ripped my heart out that they're shutting down the little lake," Fowler said Tuesday.

He said the friends renting his house have reported that a pair of osprey have nested at the lake for seven years, and loons, herons, snow geese and bald eagles could be seen taking advantage of the cool, clear feeding ground.

Fowler also said he taught several children how to fish at the lake, and hopefully increased their appreciation of nature.

"My property value may go down a little bit, but it's insignificant compared to losing the lake."

Fowler, a geologist, said he and his wife lived nomadically, spending a year or two in several towns as employment called. He said seven years ago he worked in Pittsburgh and snapped up the property adjacent to Glade Run Lake.

The couple became so enamored of their property that they decided to spend their retirement there.

"We had never had a home for 30 years," said Fowler. "We've traveled all over, and this was going to be our first real home. And now they've eliminated the lake."