

Save the Lake

Group seeks support

*Paula Grubbs, Staff Writer
Butler Eagle, October 5, 2011*

Middlesex Twp -- The group that wants to have Glade Run Lake repaired and refilled is looking for support.

Siggy Pehel, president of the Friends of Glade Run Lake, gave a presentation last week at the township supervisors meeting.

Pehel said the group, which had a dozen of its member attend the meeting, is getting its 401-C non-profit status. After that designation is complete, Pehel said, fundraising can begin.

He said the group is working with the state Fish and Boat Commission to have the lake repaired.

Gary Moore, the commission's legislative liaison, said at the meeting it will cost about \$4.2 million to repair the dam and spillway deficiencies that caused the lake in July to be drained by the commission.

Pehel said Friends of Glade Run Lake organizers elected officers and directors, and created bylaws, a mission statement and a values statement, all within two months.

Voting directors, who act as consultants, are Jack Cohen of the Butler County Tourism and Convention Bureau, Middlesex supervisors Chairman Mike Spreng, and David Fowler, who owns a home on the lake.

Pehel said the group is working on a brochure and logo, but mainly it is seeking support from local government officials..

Pehel said the group will initially raise funds for seed money and then seek larger funding sources for donations such as corporations and charitable foundations.

The group will also set up an informational booth at community events to raise awareness regarding the plight of the 52-acre lake and to raise funds.

He said Friends of Glade Run Lake hopes to work with scout groups, environmental and nature organizations and large and small businesses.

"We need youth involved, and we need the community to be aware of us," Pehel said.

He added that garnering the support of legislators such as state Rep. Daryl Metcalfe, R-12th, and state Sen Jane Clare Orié, R-40th, also is imperative to the group's mission.

"Hopefully the politicians will say "This translates into votes," said T. Lyle Ferderber, the board's treasurer.

He said the group, which hopes to have the lake refilled in three to four years, initially is requesting support from people in a 5-mile radius from the lake.

The effort will then be expanded to a larger and larger area, as many of those who enjoyed glade Run Lake came from several and far-reaching communities.

"I know funds are tight, but I won't quit pushing," Pehel said.

He said the group plans to learn from two other "save the lake" groups in Pennsylvania, which saved Leaser Lake in Lehigh County and Opossum Lake in Cumberland County.

Leaser Lake's repairs are nearly done, and Opossum Lake is undergoing spillway construction, installation of fish habitats and other activities leading up to its refilling.

Both projects resulted from grassroots groups that raised funds and awareness to restore the lakes.

Spreng said Friends of Glade Run Lake can expect full cooperation and support from the supervisors.

"They are doing an excellent job," Spreng said of the group. "I'm really impressed with the organization."

Pehel said the group meets every two weeks, and new members are welcome.

Information on the group is at www.savegladerunlake.com or www.friendsofgladerunlake.org. The group also has a Facebook page.

"We want to leave a legacy for our children's children so they can come back here and fish and ice skate and walk a trail," Pehel said.