July, 2017

***Fish and Habitat update***

 For the last several years, L.C.P.O.A. has supported various ways to stock fish annually in Lake Camelot. At our July meeting, we had several association members discuss their concerns about fish and the fish stocking in our lake. In attendance was Jennifer Burgman from the WI. DNR. There was great discussion about fish stocking, restoring fish habitat and shoreline protection. At the meeting, the L.C.P.O.A. Board of Directors had decided to start a new committee to spearhead and work with volunteers to improve Lake Camelot’s water, fish population, reproduction and shoreline habitat. The new committee will be called Habitat and Restoration Committee and will be chaired by Bob Budjac. At this time the committee consists of five member volunteers and will have L.C.P.O.A. oversite.

 Lake Camelot has very limited natural habitat for fish reproduction. The lake is primarily sand and mud bottom which is marginal for panfish reproduction. Many types of fish require gravel and rock areas in order to lay eggs. To enhance the fish population in the lake, L.C.P.O.A. has budgeted approx. $3900. annually for fish stocking which has included primarily Northern & Crappies. An ongoing DNR program releases approx. 8000 Walleye fingerlings every other year.

 With the cooperation of L.C.P.O.A., the newly formed Habitat and Restoration committee has established a separate bank account to be directed toward Lake Camelot water habitat. Budget money allocated for fish stocking, donations and funds raised will be used to improve future fishing. The immediate plans for fundraising include a donation box that will be kept at Camelot Lodge, a donation table set up at the Frolics, proceeds from the Frolics Fish tournament and also the Winter Fisheree.

 At the committee’s first meeting, which included Jennifer, there were four initial priorities agreed on:

-coordinate future fish stocking in Lake Camelot with the input of the DNR.

-research areas for installation of fish sticks. (Possibilities include Walden Pond area, Adams County Dams and private lake fronts.)

\*fish sticks are 2 – 3 bundled trees, preferably oak, that are placed near the shoreline and extend into the deeper water. These are placed on the ice and will naturally sink in Spring to create excellent fish nesting area along with shelter.

-coordinate the construction of log fish cribs. These are generally 8’ x 8’ and filled with brush and branches. These will require a DNR permit and built to specifics. These also are put on the ice for Spring placement in the deeper areas of the lake. These will provide shelter and habitat for fish reproduction.

-research the possibilities for shoreline protection to be planted in specific areas on Lake Camelot.

 L.C.P.0.A. is moving forward with a positive approach to the future of our fish population and habitat that should enhance Lake Camelot’s fishing experience. If you want to volunteer to get involved with our group or to make a donation to our program, please contact our Association office during business hours. 715-325-5083.