

Duke Lake

Friends of Duke Lake

Brandy Tuttle

Melissa Black

Diana Whipkey

Marie Carter

Shelly Richardson



August 16, 2005

Dear Fellow Citizens:

This letter is written from Duke Lake's perspective for our children. I, Duke Lake, was formed in 1960 as part of Ryerson Station State Park. Since that time I have watched many children and their families come and go. We have enjoyed each others company regularly. Today, I no longer exist.

For a number of years, older children and young adults would come to rent boats from Terry Jones. Oh, how they loved to go out on the paddle boats and splash around with their friends. Parents would often observe with contentment. Still other folks came for the use of row boats. Excitement would float across my surface when they'd hook a fish. Once, I even saw a young boy, who came to fish here regularly, bring along a neighbor boy who was a very troubled youth from a broken home. Now this neighbor boy had been into drugs and theft, but I sure couldn't see it that day as the two of them fished their hearts out all day. I was certainly glad to have been here for those fellas on that day. I was also here for the young man who's father passed away. The only thing that seemed to be of comfort to him was fishing. He has been fishing here for eight years. He comes regularly rain or shine. His name is Craig. Oh, and I can't forget that other young man who came for picnics, family reunions, swimming, and volleyball at my shorelines. He actually showed up one day with a photographer to get his senior pictures taken. It was truly an honor for me. His name is Dan. He joined the USAR and didn't come back for a visit until his training had ended a year later. I was sure proud to have served him.

Some of my happiest days were with my namesake, Ron Duke, and his family. Ron blessed me with his children and their friends. I had the privilege of watching them all grow up learning the value of nature and how to respect it. Ron would jog around my shoreline every morning like clockwork until one morning he died of a heart attack. His family moved on taking their memories and I was given another caretaker. I was ecstatic that his son remembered me and came back to reminisce with friends and visit me a couple of years ago.

Up until recently children would still come and wade in my shady creeks. Often times they would catch crabs (crayfish) and frogs. I was marveled daily to watch them discover nature at it's best.

On the day they quietly drained me the children came. They showed up knowing there was no hope in saving me that day. A couple even came to sit throughout the night. They sat up and told our stories of happier days. However, the next day they showed up on a mission. When it

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occurred to them that it was too late for me, but not too late to save some of my fish they didn't think twice about lending a hand. Why, they worked their little hearts out all day. They rescued trapped fish from shallow water and put them into deeper water. They trudged all day with the hot sun beating down and they were glad to be of help. They walked to the pay phone to recruit help from their loved ones. They would load up heavy coolers with water and dying fish. When the coolers were full they were transported by loved ones down stream and into nearby ponds. I was in awe. Yes, things had come full circle. The children were trying to protect the wildlife. What a lesson they had learned that day. A hard lesson taught by nature and man.

There are many stories of how I have been here to help parents keep our youth on the right track, but I cannot begin to tell you all of them. Today I am on another mission. My mission is to make an impression upon you. One you will not soon forget. I want you to carry around in your heart the desire to refill and restore me, Duke Lake. Don't let me die join my friends and write your legislator. The youth and residents need me back and they need me back as soon as humanly possible.

Glad to have served Pennsylvania Youth and Residents with you,

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Republican Leader:

Representative Sam Smith
PA House of Representatives
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Harrisburg PA 17120

Senator:

Senator Barry J Stout
Senate Box 203046
10 East Wing
Harrisburg PA 17120

Congressman:

Congressman John Murtha
PO Box 780
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Minority Chairman of the House Game and Fisheries Committee:

Representative Edward G. Staback
Minority Chairman of the House Game and
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225 Irvis Office Building
Harrisburg PA 17120

Members of Committee

Addresses of members can be retrieved via website: www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/member

Game and Fisheries

Majority (Room 41A EW)

Smith, Bruce, Chairman
Forcier, Teresa, Vice Chairman
Gillespie, Keith J., Secretary
Beyer, Karen D.
Causer, Martin T.
Denlinger, Gordon
Geist, Richard Allen
Good, Matthew
Keller, Mark K.
McNaughton, Mark S.
Miller, Sheila
Pickett, Tina
Rohrer, Samuel E.
Sonney, Curtis G.
Wilt, Rod E.

Minority (Room 225 IOB)

Staback, Edward G., Chairman
Goodman, Neal P., Vice Chairman
Gergely, Marc J., Secretary
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Haluska, Gary
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Readshaw, Harry A.
Sainato, Chris
Shaner, James E.
Surra, Dan A.
Wojnaroski, Sr., Edward P.