

MT. LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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Winter 2021 Edition

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BOARD'S MESSAGE:

A sincere thank you to all of our members, donors and partners for their generous support in our efforts last year! It was a challenging year – with Covid-19 limiting gatherings and volunteer work and the continuing impact of the harmful algae bloom at Mountain Lake. It also was a year used to forge strong partnerships, inspire new volunteers, educate leaders and residents, and outline a strategic plan for action in 2021.

Last summer, our actions and partnerships helped remove almost 1 million pounds of aquatic plants, which will in turn decrease the amount of excess nutrients in the lake. Why is this so important? The best way I heard a professional explain it to me is this: consider nutrients as food. Our lake is being overfed in various ways; from what we put in the ground, what decays in the lake (all of those aquatic plants and leaves), and what washes off the land (pet waste, goose poop, fertilizer, soil). Let's all do our part to put our lake on a plan for better health. Your support, volunteerism, and donations will continue our efforts for better watershed health and cleaner water.

Thank you for your membership!

Respectfully,
Shannon Schaaf, President

2021 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Feb. 27th – Venison Dinner to go *MLFC event

March 23rd – Virtual Lake Management
Meeting via Zoom

March 26th – Fish & Chips *MLFC event

April 3rd – Easter Egg Hunt *MLFC Ladies Auxiliary

April 25th – Spaghetti Dinner *MLFC event

May 7th – Wine Tasting *MLFC event

June – Father's Day Raffle *MLFC Event

July 25th – Annual Car Show *MLFC event

*MLFC event info can be found at
www.72fire.com

MT. LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 2021 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Our new fiscal year has begun. Please detach, complete form and mail to:

MLCA & WAG
P.O. Box 275
Great Meadows, NJ 07838

Or use PayPal
on our website

A \$30 contribution for membership dues helps to support various activities, projects and educational opportunities. MLCA is a 501 c3 nonprofit organization and all donations and memberships are tax deductible.

Here are some past/future supported MLCA projects/sponsorships:

- Lake monitoring to ensure health and recreation opportunities
- Annual newsletter mailings & continuing to work toward developing a Lake Management Plan
- Annual Scholarship Program
- Biannual Newsletters (our goal this year is to increase to three mailings)
- Large scale weed harvesting and hydro-raking project at the lake which removed 1 million pounds of biomass in partnership with Liberty Township

Get in the Know: NJ's Plastic Ban

Starting May 2022, both plastic and paper single-use bags, as well as disposable food containers and cups made out of polystyrene foam, will be banned. Paper bags require resources and energy to produce, contributing to pollution.

Did you know that plastic bags don't biodegrade? They photodegrade, meaning it just breaks down into smaller toxic bits of itself continuing to leach and further contaminate our environment. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, which is a floating landfill of garbage in the Pacific twice the size of Texas, is mostly composed of plastic.

Each one of us has the opportunity to protect wildlife, our waters, and ourselves, by being recycling plastic and reducing plastic use. Select stores and organizations/schools recycle bags. The Liberty Twp. Environmental Commission collected over 1,500 pounds of plastic. Those bags were recycled and turned into benches for public use.

Water Monitoring Program Update:

The Mt. Lake Community Association has worked with volunteers for many years to collect data about our water quality. Over the past few years, newer instruments and parameters have been added to provide additional insight as to the health of our lake's water. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and the incredible assistance of Bob Ballou, a number of changes have been proposed to enhance the program.

The Lake Association will be including dissolved oxygen in our monitoring and are looking to do our own blue/green algae sampling with equipment. This will provide us the flexibility to regularly test in the lake at various locations. To learn more, please attend our March workshop or email us.

LAKE MANAGEMENT GOALS

Attend the Lake Management Workshop on **March 23RD at 7:00 pm** online VIA Zoom (You will need to download the Zoom beforehand). Link will be posted on website and Facebook. Or you can go to Zoom and enter the following information to join:

Meeting ID: 837 2939 7957
Passcode: 120034

Agenda will cover: hand harvesting, combined harvesting option, water quality monitoring update, and proposed 2021 projects.

“THOUSANDS HAVE LIVED WITHOUT LOVE, NOT ONE WITHOUT WATER.”
~ W.H. AUDEN

KEEP OUR WATERSHED CLEAN!

Volunteers are needed to help keep our community clean! Reach out to us to learn about our litter pick-up program.

Last year, residents picked up garbage and recycling along daily walks, bike rides, and hikes. All of those volunteers removed over 100 lbs. in trash and recycling from our community.

Membership Registration - Our membership year ends December 31st.

*Some people wish to contribute more than the amount of their dues. A **Life Time Membership** is available for a donation of \$1000. This includes corporate funds matched in your name.

Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Check here to switch to sign up for e-newsletter:

Active Member dues: \$30

Additional Contribution _____

TOTAL: _____