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Mountain Lake Community Association Summer 2023 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Community Day

Saturday, September 23, 3-7 pm. Fireworks at 7:30 pm

[Rain date: Sunday, September 24]

Family-friendly games & activities, plus food, drink, and live music.

More info coming at libertytownship.org

Litter Clean-up

Lakeside Drive. Early October, date and more info to follow

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 29, 2-4 pm at the Lodge at Mountain Lake

Volunteers Needed

The Lake Association is an all-volunteer organization. We rely on volunteers to do what we do. There are many ways to lend a hand, such as with events, lake & stream monitoring, data management, fundraising, communications, and more. We are planning a new initiative pertaining to the natural and cultural history of Mountain Lake and seek help on this exciting project. If you're game to help out, in any way, please email us at mlca.wag@gmail.com or message us on Facebook. Thanks!

Board of Trustees

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MLCAWAG.org



Follow us on Facebook @MLCAWAG

Annual Membership Meeting Set for Thursday, August 17th

The 2023 Annual Membership Meeting of the Mountain Lake Community Association will be held Thursday, August 17 at 7 pm at the Mt Lake Firehouse. Guest speakers will include Peter Miller, Unmanned Systems Specialist/Flight Operations Manager, Warren Community College; and Chris Mikolajczyk, CLM, Sr Project Manager/Sr Aquatic Ecologist, Princeton Hydro. The agenda will include a review the Lake Association's activities over the past year, as well as our ambitious agenda for the year ahead. Drone mapping of the lake, the new grant award to support a lake and watershed plan, lake monitoring, weed management, goose control, litter control, and annual events will all be discussed, along with other matters of interest. We welcome and appreciate input from our members and the community, so if you have sug-



gestions or questions on any topic the floor will be yours. If you would like to add an agenda item prior to the meeting, email us at mlca.wag@gmail.com. All meeting materials will be posted on our website, MLCAWAG.org, prior to the meeting.

July Storms Cause Flooding and Record High Waters

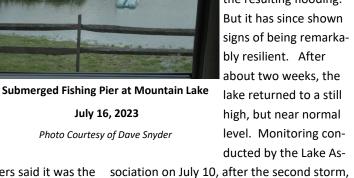
After an unusually dry period to start the summer, Mountain Lake and its watershed received a whopping 17.8 inches of rain over a 21-day period, primarily from four intense

storms, each dumping 4 to 5+ inches of rain. The fourth storm on July 16 proved too much. With the water table already full and the lake level already high, the 5.2 inches that fell hard that morning overwhelmed the tributaries, especially Mountain Lake Brook, and caused the lake to rise

some 4 feet. Longtime lakers said it was the highest they've ever seen it. There was considerable flooding, and several homes were significantly impacted. Liberty Township, the Mountain Lake Fire Co, and many from the community stepped up to assist those who needed help.

The Lake Association thanks everyone who rendered assistance. We extend our best wishes to friends and neighbors who were impacted, some who are still recovering.

The lake took quite a hit, both in terms of the amount of runoff that entered the lake and the resulting flooding. But it has since shown bly resilient. After about two weeks, the lake returned to a still high, but near normal level. Monitoring con-



no significant water quality impacts. How do we know precise rainfall amounts for Mountain Lake? We rely on volunteers participating in the Community Collabo-

and July 24, after the fourth storm, revealed

rative Rain Hail & Snow Network, found at cocorahs.org. Thanks to the volunteer monitors on Tamarack Rd and Quenby Mountain Rd. for providing the rainfall data via this network.

New Grant Award from NJ Highlands Council to Fund Development of

Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan for Mountain Lake by Princeton Hydro

On July 20, 2023, the NJ Highlands Council awarded \$80,215 to Princeton Hydro to develop a Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan for Mountain Lake. The funding is part of an overall \$334,915 grant awarded to Princeton Hydro for the development of watershed plans for lakes in Roxbury and Jefferson Townships, as well as Mountain Lake.

bility for future funding for a range of and serve as in-kind match. projects, particularly those aimed at improving and protecting water quality and ecological conditions.



Photo Courtesy of Fran Salerno

The Mountain Lake Community Associa- The grant award is a significant achievetion (MLCA) helped to spearhead the ment for the Mountain Lake communigrant proposal and will partner with ty. Over the past 56 years, the MLCA The plan will include recommendations Princeton Hydro on the project. Prince- has been committed to the protection for both in-lake and watershed manageton Hydro is widely regarded as a prem- of Mountain Lake. Recent efforts have ment initiatives best suited for immediier lake management firm in the north- focused on enhanced water quality ate or long-term implementation. Each east, and the Lake Association's excel- monitoring to better track water quality recommendation will include a prelimilent working relationship with Princeton conditions in the lake. The Association nary cost estimate and an analysis of Hydro helped to galvanize the grant has long recognized that a comprehen- any necessary regulatory issues or conopportunity and award. The project is sive watershed plan is needed to pro- straints. The recommendations will be slated to commence this fall and run tect the lake from harmful algae prioritized and broken out into shortthrough 2024. The new plan, devel- blooms, excessive nutrient and sedi- and long-term timeframes. oped in accordance with EPA and NJDEP mentation loading, invasive species, guidelines, will serve to identify and and other issues. That need will now be prioritize water quality issues pertaining met. The grant award will cover the to Mountain Lake, both internal (in- entirety of the project, at no cost to the lake) and external (watershed). It will MLCA. The MLCA's lake monitoring At the upcoming Annual Meeting of the also strengthen the community's eligi- program will complement the project

> updated information to support community awareness and participation.

The project will involve data collection and modeling of Mountain Lake and its watershed throughout the 2024 growing season and culminate with a final plan. The plan will review the results and findings from the data collected during the year; assess the water quality status of Mountain Lake relative to established lake standards, as well as recent and historical data for Mountain Lake; and address any water quality issues identified during the study.

MLCA, Chris Mikolajczyk, CLM, from Princeton Hydro will provide a brief During development of the plan, the presentation on the project and re-MLCA will host meetings and provide spond to any questions the community may have.

MT. LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 2023 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Mountain Lake Community Association P.O. Box 275 **Great Meadows, NJ 07838**

Send form with check made out to MLCA. Or use Paypal on our website, at MLCAWAG.org

We hope that everyone who enjoys and cares about Mountain Lake will support its long-term protection by being a member of the Lake Association. Your \$30 annual membership donation helps to support our many activities and projects. Those wishing to contribute more than the annual membership amount help to boost our effectiveness as an all-volunteer organization. A Lifetime Membership is available for a donation of \$1,000. The MLCA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and all donations and memberships are tax deductible.

Name:			
Address:Street	Town	State	Zip
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