



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!

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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 suggestions 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

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.



Submerged Fishing Pier at Mountain Lake

July 16, 2023

Photo Courtesy of Dave Snyder

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 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 signs of being remarkably resilient. After about two weeks, the lake returned to a still high, but near normal level. Monitoring conducted by the Lake Association on July 10, after the second storm, and July 24, after the fourth storm, revealed no significant water quality impacts.

How do we know precise rainfall amounts for Mountain Lake? We rely on volunteers participating in the Community Collaborative 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.



Photo Courtesy of Fran Salerno

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.

The Mountain Lake Community Association (MLCA) helped to spearhead the grant proposal and will partner with Princeton Hydro on the project. Princeton Hydro is widely regarded as a premier lake management firm in the northeast, and the Lake Association's excellent working relationship with Princeton Hydro helped to galvanize the grant opportunity and award. The project is slated to commence this fall and run through 2024. The new plan, developed in accordance with EPA and NJDEP guidelines, will serve to identify and prioritize water quality issues pertaining to Mountain Lake, both internal (in-lake) and external (watershed). It will also strengthen the community's eligibility for future funding for a range of projects, particularly those aimed at improving and protecting water quality and ecological conditions.

The grant award is a significant achievement for the Mountain Lake community. Over the past 56 years, the MLCA has been committed to the protection of Mountain Lake. Recent efforts have focused on enhanced water quality monitoring to better track water quality conditions in the lake. The Association has long recognized that a comprehensive watershed plan is needed to protect the lake from harmful algae blooms, excessive nutrient and sedimentation loading, invasive species, and other issues. That need will now be met. The grant award will cover the entirety of the project, at no cost to the MLCA. The MLCA's lake monitoring program will complement the project and serve as in-kind match.

During development of the plan, the MLCA will host meetings and provide updated information to support community awareness and participation.

The plan will include recommendations for both in-lake and watershed management initiatives best suited for immediate or long-term implementation. Each recommendation will include a preliminary cost estimate and an analysis of any necessary regulatory issues or constraints. The recommendations will be prioritized and broken out into short- and long-term timeframes.

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At the upcoming Annual Meeting of the MLCA, Chris Mikolajczyk, CLM, from Princeton Hydro will provide a brief presentation on the project and respond 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

Email: _____