

# MT. LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Winter 2020 Edition  
[WWW.MLCAWAG.ORG](http://WWW.MLCAWAG.ORG)



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## **BOARD'S MESSAGE:**

Mountain Lake Community Association began its work in 1967, and for 53 years the number one priority has always been water quality maintenance; we put our money and focus our efforts towards actions which strive to keep the lake healthy.

Despite our efforts, Mountain Lake is in crisis at this moment. A "harmful algae bloom" (HAB) was confirmed in November at the lake and has persisted through January. This type of toxic algae thrives in cooler temperatures. The persistence of cyanobacteria in our lake is a call to action.

As such, our lake association needs to evaluate and investigate our priorities, to find the most impactful, important, and appropriate actions to be taken. Our community needs to work together, with all stakeholders, to understand and identify the issues causing these toxic blooms and put into action steps to prevent future blooms. We urge each resident to share ideas, donate time or funds, so we can keep this special gem in our community healthy and pristine for us and future generations.

Respectfully,  
Shannon Schaaf, President

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Shannon Schaaf  | President/Editor |
| Vacancy         | VP               |
| Susan Dingsor   | Secretary        |
| Carolyn Pullman | Treasurer        |
| Liza Thomas     | Trustee          |
| Lorraine Thiel  | Trustee          |
| Alice Bechok    | Trustee          |

## **2020 COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Feb. 29<sup>th</sup> - Venison Dinner for Mt. Lake Fire  
March 10<sup>th</sup> - Lake Management Workshop  
March 27<sup>th</sup> - Evening with Lorraine Moore  
April 4<sup>th</sup> - Comedy Show  
June 13<sup>th</sup> - Community Day  
July 11<sup>th</sup> - Tri Mountain Lake triathlon  
August 7<sup>th</sup> - Annual Membership Meeting

All events will be at the Mt. Lake  
Firehouse.

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## **MT. LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 2020 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**

A \$30 contribution for membership dues helps to support various activities, projects and educational opportunities.

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

- Lake treatment & monitoring to ensure health and recreation opportunities
- Sponsorship of Community Day, community events and other environmental education events that work towards our mission.
- Annual newsletter mailings & continuing to work toward developing a Lake Management Plan
- Annual Scholarship Program
- Quarterly Newsletters

## **Health of Our Lake**

Our lake has a nutrient pollution issue – where too many nutrients, mainly nitrogen and phosphorous, are added to our water and act like a fertilizer, causing excessive growth of algae. Excessive nutrients can lead to algae blooms and other issues, such as reduced dissolved oxygen – which fish need to live.

A harmful algae bloom is a bacterial bloom caused by cyanobacteria population increases. Cyanobacteria is naturally present in lakes and streams in low numbers, but under the right conditions, can form dense blooms. The presence of cyanotoxins associated with the bacteria is what makes the bloom harmful to people, pets, livestock and wildlife. Learn more at [www.nj.gov/dep/hab](http://www.nj.gov/dep/hab)

In January, stakeholders from the Lake Association, Twp. Committee and Environmental Commission met to discuss a plan of action to further prevent HAB's at Mountain Lake. These are the proposed projects discussed: Develop a Lake Management Plan, Conduct a nutrient and septic leachate study, Increase education about nutrient pollution, Investigate a shared services leaf collection program, Plant native buffers along shoreline, Install porous asphalt at the beach parking lot to reduce run-off pollution, and for a town partnership weed harvesting program this spring.

## **2019 Accomplishments**

- Water monitoring showed good quality with clear water up to 7 feet in April (very good). July's visibility was 5'6" - also good.
- A Lily Pad subcommittee was formed to investigate weed management options, especially at the south end of the lake. We can't wait to hear their findings. Stay tuned!
- 2019 marks the 21st year for the Clean Communities Grant. We received a \$300 grant! Thank you to our volunteers!
- Muskies Inc. will be installing 24 porcupine cribs to enhance our fisheries at the lake over the next year!
- Liberty Township received a grant to establish a wildflower garden down by the pavilion. More info on the Twp. website.
- Congratulations to our Ruth Ballou Award winners – Lorna and Phil Wooldridge!

## **SAVE OUR LAKE: What Can You Do?**

Attend the Upcoming Lake Management Workshop on **March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm** at the Mt. Lake Firehouse

**Be Aware** - What we use on our lawns, driveways, and roads all wash out into our lake.

**Be A Good Septic Owner** - Every system should be visually inspected and pumped out at least every three years. Our septic systems store nutrients in the ground, which then seep into the ground water and then into the lake.

**Do NOT feed the geese!** Geese are not meant to eat the same food as us. Not only is it illegal to feed the geese, but our food can harm them.

**If you see something, say something** - It is illegal to dump yard waste, chemicals, leaves, and soil into the lake. Let your neighbor know, reach out to the Township for concerns and if you see a suspicious algae or slime on the lake call the WARN NJDEP anonymous hotline at 1.877.WARNDEP.

**Buy A Magnet!** I♥ Mt. Lake magnets are available for purchase on our website at [www.mlcaawag.org](http://www.mlcaawag.org) Proceeds support our mission.

**Stay informed!** Sign up for our newsletter, like us on Facebook and volunteer to help out!

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## **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: \_\_\_\_\_