

# Watershed News

A publication of the Greater Culver Lake Watershed Conservation Foundation | Summer 2022



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I hope everyone had a good winter and spring and is ready for some summer fun. The GCLWCF continued to be very active during the off-season including storm-water runoff mitigation and land preservation within the watershed. These projects take time but we are making substantial headway. Additionally we installed our second alum station located at Orchard Street that will help prevent phosphorus from entering Culver Lake during rainfall events. Meanwhile, the nearly fifty storm water inlet protection devices have done their job—these systems have captured hundreds of pounds of sediments and nutrients that would have otherwise flushed into the lake.

This season several drainage swales will be rip rapped (a layer of stone) which will help prevent erosion and prevent sediment from flushing into the lake. The Foundation would like to thank Frankford Township for its partnership and expertise in addressing various stormwater runoff issues around Culver Lake.

We are still diligently working on acquiring the Culver Lake Golf Course, plus another parcel of land referred to as the "Ridge Road Property", located directly across from the golf course. Both properties are owned by the Hutan Corporation. As you may be aware some environmental issues were discovered at the golf course property last year. The former golf course greens have contamination as a result of pesticides and fungicides used in the past and will have to be remediated. The Hutan Corporation has been cooperating in moving forward with the remedial investigation and work. We have been conscientious in our pursuit of these properties knowing how very important it is to restore, preserve and protect them.

The Foundation continues to encourage lake community homeowners to install alum treatment systems on their existing septic systems. Compared to installing a centralized sanitary sewer system, this is an inexpensive and simple way of reducing nearly 100% of the phosphorus in your system before it can seep into the lake via groundwater. Phosphorus is the main food source for the harmful algae blooms we've been dealing with.

I'd like to thank you for your continued support and please remember, you can play a big role in protecting our fragile watershed. Have a safe and enjoyable summer season!

Rick Ferruggia, President

## WHAT'S NEW?

### Foundation Awarded NJDEP Grant

The GCLWCF has been advocating the installation of inexpensive Waste Water Conditioning Systems to existing septic systems around our lakes. These easy to install, operate, and maintain, septic system modifications, developed by Clear Lake Technologies LLC, are currently working to significantly decrease septic-related phosphorus loading in the Culver Lake Watershed. Within the past two years we have installed and monitored units at the Normanoch Clubhouse, in two independent stations built by the GCLWCF, and in several private residences around Culver Lake.

We are proud to announce that the New Jersey DEP has awarded the GCLWCF a grant to carry out a study to validate the effectiveness of Waste Water Conditioning Systems in reducing phosphorus loading. The funds will be used to install up to 10 systems on residences located in the watershed which includes Culver Lake and Lake Owassa. The remaining funds will cover associated program expenses through fiscal year 2026 that include, but are not limited to, septic pump outs, administrative costs, lab fees and field-testing fees. The scheduled multi-year waste water conditioning system study will verify the reduction in phosphorus loading into the ground water, the lakes' primary source of water. Phosphorus is the main cause of harmful algal blooms.

### Fifth Annual Clean-Up at the Lakes Report

Thank you to all who participated on April 23rd. The event, co-sponsored by Frankford Township and the GCLWCF, brought out over 60 participants. The Township supplied gloves, safety vests, and trash pickers. Foundation members registered the volunteers and handed out the equipment and routes at the Normanoch Clubhouse.

Thank you volunteers!

GREAT JOB!

Pictured Right:

Haley Chrobock with Yogi.

Below left to right:

Dee Kinney, Barbara Church,

Shirley Warin and

Mary Weber.

Keep a Look-Out:

A Fall Clean-Up Day is in the planning stages. Date TBD.



Welcome  
New Board Members:  
Claire Allen and  
Chris Venezia

Neither needs an introduction to the Culver Lake Community, but for the rest of you...

Claire served as a director of the Normanoch Board, was Clubhouse Coordinator, managed the Canteen and Lifeguard Program, and served as editor of the Normanoch News. She works at Newton Hospital as a Patient Access Lead.

Chris has spent his entire life as part of the Culver Lake community and serves as the current president of the Normanoch Board.

He is a civil engineer with 30+ years experience in the environmental field and is a New Jersey Licensed Site Remediation Professional.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

### Wash Your Boats and Other Equipment

Remember to wash your equipment that has been in an outside body of water before entering the lake. This includes boats, trailers, kayaks, canoes, paddles, oars, fishing equipment, wake-boards, and waders.



Why you ask?

It's pretty simple. Microscopic, and sometimes not microscopic, creatures can hitch a ride on your favorite water equipment. The next thing you know, your lake will have an invasion of new weeds, algae or animals that simply do not belong there.

So what?

It's fine (until there's a problem). Then the powers-that-be have to figure out how to get rid of these new tenants; the solution usually costs a lot of money that no one wants to pay for (but you will). So, if you want to keep your lake beautiful, and clean, WASH ALL EQUIPMENT that has been used in outside waters!

## UPCOMING PARTNER EVENTS

### 4th Annual Northwest NJ Rivers Conference

Coordinated by the New Jersey Highlands Coalition, with the support of our partner organizations in the Highlands and Ridge & Valley regions of New Jersey.

Saturday, September 17 from 9:00-4:00.

Centenary University's Lackland Center • 715 Grand Avenue, Hackettstown, NJ 07840

This year's theme is tourism and recreation in Northwestern NJ, covered by 15 different workshops, including: Places to Visit, Things to Do, Places to Learn, The Business of Tourism and Recreation, and Funding Tourism

Early bird registration is \$20 if you sign up by August 15th. For workshop descriptions, presenter bios, or to register, go to: [www.northwestnewjerseyrivers.org](http://www.northwestnewjerseyrivers.org).

## PROJECT UPDATES

### New Website: [gclwcf.org](http://gclwcf.org)

The Foundation, with the help of a grant, has created a beautiful new website aimed at providing all visitors with current information on our projects and opportunities for volunteer involvement.

Follow our activities and projects; see how we are putting your monetary contributions to work within our watershed communities. Without your contributions, none of the Foundation's work would be possible, so please respond to our appeals!

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!...** especially folks willing to work on fundraising goals as well as keeping the new website fresh and updated. Contact any Board member to volunteer, whether you have only a little bit or a lot of time to share.

### Rain Garden Site Visits

Representatives from the Wallkill River Watershed Management Group and several Foundation Board members toured the properties of the Culver Lake residents who had Rain Garden designs prepared by Rutgers Environment and Natural Resources Department prior to the COVID epidemic.

They have identified the site where the first rain garden is planned to be built this year. The WRWMG has received funding to help to cover some of the installation costs, but the homeowners are expected to help in the process.

The GCLWCF and the WRWMG were co-sponsors of the event.



RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station



### Storm Water Management

In addition to the permanent storm water protection devices, we continue to utilize 6 to 8 temporary inserts in key basins around the lake. We are searching for our third alum drip station location to mitigate phosphorus inflow during rain events. Another area of continued focus is rectifying the erosion of several ROW culverts with rip rap stone installation, similar to the Center Street ROW.

### How can you help the Watershed?

- Plant a Rain Garden, or Riparian Buffer.
- Reduce Impermeable Surfaces in your yard.
- Maintain your Septic Tank.
- Add an Alum Injection System to your home.

### Send a Generous Gift to the Foundation NOW

to help us preserve and protect the precious waterways and lakes in the Upper Northern Paulinskill River Watershed that we love so much. GCLWCF is a 501(c)(3) environmental charity. All donations are tax deductible.



Greater Culver Lake  
Watershed Conservation  
Foundation

Email: [info@gclwcf.org](mailto:info@gclwcf.org)  
Web: [www.gclwcf.org](http://www.gclwcf.org)  
Mail: PO Box 967 • Branchville, NJ 07826  
Phone: 973-250-8122

DONATE NOW

Visit the Website

Protecting the Lakes and Tributaries of the Upper Northern Paulinskill Watershed

**BOARD MEMBERS:** Rick Ferruggia, *president*  
Claire Allen, Danae Dotz, John Fabian, Judy Nylen, Chris Venezia, Dorothea Wefing

**CONSULTANTS:** Paul Sutphen, Terry McQuillin, Scott Myer