

# Watershed News

A publication of the Greater Culver Lake Watershed Conservation Foundation | Spring 2024

## Happy Spring Neighbors and Friends!

The GCL WCF's Board members and consultants have been working diligently on protecting and restoring the watershed to help ensure improved water quality.



At this time, our **wastewater control system study** using liquid alum treatments is about to begin. This process treats and removes over 90% of the soluble phosphorus found in septic system wastewater. This wastewater can eventually get into the groundwater, which is a primary source of water for the lakes. The phosphorus, which is very harmful to the lake, contributes to fuel algae blooms and needs to be controlled. We have eight Culver Lake and two Lake Owassa homeowners who are participating in this important study.

The negative effects of **stormwater** continue to be mitigated through our efforts in working with Frankford Township in controlling silt and sediment loaded with nutrients from entering the lake. The Township has installed and maintained bags in the storm drains and added riprap (rocks) into storm water channels.

On the land preservation front we are pleased to announce the acquisition of Culver Brook Preserve East, formerly known as the Ridge Road tract. These 173+ acres lie directly across from the golf course on Ridge Road. The property, consisting of uplands and wetlands, when combined with the former golf course, will preserve over 260-acres of land within the watershed.

We are getting closer to acquiring the former Culver Lake Golf Course. The property owner is a few months away from having the last bit of environmental remediation work completed and we anticipate taking title to this property this summer. Grant monies sourced from NJDEP and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, through the assistance of the Upper Wall Kill Watershed Association, will be used to purchase native shrubs and trees as part of the restoration process of the property. A nearly 2-mile loop trail will be created and maintained through the property. The GCL WCF is also pursuing acquisition of an important, environmentally sensitive, property to the west of the old Millers' Marine on Route 206 in Frankford Township. Within this 64-acre property flows a primary feeder stream of Culver Lake. The stream emanates from Lake Owassa and Bear Swamp and flows into Culver Lake at the Carriage House Restaurant. Preventing any development on this property will help ensure continued high water quality entering Culver Lake.



**Please consider donating at this time** in order to help the Foundation maintain adequate funds for continuing its work in preserving, protecting, and restoring the headwaters of the Upper Paulins Kill River including the Lake Owassa and Culver Lake watershed areas.

Finally, GCL WCF wants to welcome Emily Allen as our **newest trustee**. I know she will prove to be a great asset to the Foundation. You can read about Emily and her background below.

Thank you again, I look forward to your support in helping us achieve our goals.

Best,  
Rick Ferruggia, GCL WCF, President



## Meet Emily Allen, Our Newest Board Member

Emily grew up in Sussex County, and after more than a decade away, she decided there was nowhere else she'd rather live. From her parent's cottage on the West Shore, she first fell in love with Culver Lake in the winter enjoying ice skating, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing — until she discovered that the lake was even better in the summer!

She has a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science from St. John's University and a Master's Degree in Fluvial Geomorphology (investigates how flowing water shapes and modifies Earth's surface through erosional and depositional processes) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is a firm believer in deep ecology (an environmental philosophy that promotes the inherent worth of all living beings regardless of their instrumental utility to human needs, and the restructuring of modern human societies in accordance with such ideas).

She currently resides just north of the Culver Gap in the Little Flatbrook watershed. She enjoys reading, yoga, gardening, and spending time on, in, or around bodies of water.

## EVENTS

### UPCOMING FOUNDATION EVENTS

#### 7th Annual Clean Up at the Lakes Day, Saturday April 20th, 8:30am - noon

Join us for the annual Earth Day Clean-Up at the Lakes, sponsored by Frankford Township and the GCLWCF. Register between 8:30am and 9:30am at the Normanoch Clubhouse, East Shore Culver Road. Pick-up materials: gloves, safety vests, and zone maps will be supplied. Return to the Clubhouse by noon to deposit your bags



**Did You Know?...** In calendar year 2022 Frankford Township, NJ recycled 5,623.71 tons of material.



Mark your calendars because on May 1st the GCLWCF will begin selling tickets for its Watercraft Raffle. Two winners will be chosen and this year's top prize includes the choice of a pair of matching sit-on-top, Perception Tribe kayaks, or, a HOSports Tarpon model inflatable stand up paddle board (ISUP) donated by Off Shore Marine.

**The twin, sit-on-top kayaks are 11'5" are fully stackable and include the following features:**

- New adjustable seat backs
- Comfortable padded seats
- Two adjustable paddles
- Molded footrests to accommodate paddlers of multiple sizes
- Large open storage areas with bungee lashings
- Center hatch for storage and much more

**The inflatable Tarpon 11'6" stand-up paddle board (ISUP) donated by Off Shore Marine, includes:**

- Heavy duty dropstitch construction in a wide glide profile
- Dual layer Marine EVA Deck Pad
- Double X front bungee storage zone
- Dual Action Hand Pump with pressure gauge
- Strike Adjustable 3-Piece Paddle
- Convenient Storage & Carry Backpack



Look for the kayaks and inflatable stand up paddle board to be on display this summer in the Normanoch Clubhouse canteen. Tickets (chances to win) are only \$10 and will be sold at most Normanoch seasonal events, at the Clubhouse office, and online on the GCLWCF website. Two lucky winners will be randomly selected at the annual Normanoch Stockholders meeting on August 3rd and announced on the GCLWCF website.



### UPCOMING PARTNER EVENTS

#### Paulins Kill Lake Communities Free Tree Program

To combat the tree mortality caused by the emerald ash borer (invasive insect), the SCMUA-Walkkill River Watershed Management Group secured grant funding to purchase native saplings for distribution throughout the Paulins Kill Watershed Lake Communities. The infestation of the emerald ash borer is killing ash trees throughout NJ which is leading to a dramatic increase in stormwater runoff into the Paulins Kill Lakes. Trees act like sponges, helping to soak up stormwater runoff that would otherwise flow into the lake. By helping to replace the tree canopy that was lost because of ash tree mortality, lake residents will be helping to protect the health of their lake.

Residents of Culver Lake and Lake Owassa\* are encouraged to participate in the SCMUA-Walkkill River Watershed Management Group's tree program. Each household can request up to 5 native trees to plant on their property. Your trees will be delivered in mid-May and will be provided to you at no cost thanks to grant funding provided by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection.



**Register no later than April 1st to select your desired trees, by visiting:** <https://forms.gle/WoWjyFVFRP9MWdS17>

\* Other lake communities invited to participate include Crandon Lakes, Kemah Lake, Swartswood Lake, and Paulins Kill Lake

Questions? Contact Kristine at [krogers@scmua.org](mailto:krogers@scmua.org)  
SCMUA-Walkkill River Watershed Management Group

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

#### 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. GCL WCF 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

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Protecting the Lakes and Tributaries of the Upper Northern Paulinskill Watershed

**BOARD MEMBERS:** Rick Ferruggia, *president*  
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