

# OWASSA NEWS AND VIEWS

A Newsletter for Lake Owassa Community Association



SPRING 2023

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Peg Mullins

### LOCA BOARD MEMBERS

Peg Mullins | President

Phyllis Brown | Vice President

Larry Putera | Past President

Dan Benkendorf

Caren Berei

Ray Earle

Len Ferraro

Carey Weiss

Heather Ronco

Mark Vogel

---

Steve Weissman, Esq-Attorney

Trish Pomeroy | Secretary/Treasurer

Ted Roman, Patrolman

---

973-948-6866

locasecretary@hotmail.com

lakeowassa.org

I recently came across some Owassa History entitled "As It Was in the Beginning" which is a compilation of board minutes dating back to 1947. During the summer of 1948, by-laws were adopted and the name became Lake Owassa Community Association. That means LOCA is 75 years old and still going strong!!

Although the past winter was mild with little ice coverage, I think we all welcome the warmth of summer and the opportunity to greet those friends and neighbors who are not full-time residents. We look forward to the activities planned by the Recreation and Fishing committees, to learn more about the work of the Septic and Environment committees, and new opportunities available through our Partnership Committee.

The LOCA Board of Governors met many times during the fall and winter and into the new membership year. Our main concern and efforts have been the continued testing and monitoring of the water. Based on the data collected and analyzed, the Board, following the advice of our consultant, Dr. Stephen Souza, applied a nutrient inactivation treatment in May. The environment committee's report in this newsletter outlines the treatment and what will be needed in the future.

Over the past 3+ years, Mark Vogel has chaired the Environment Committee. He is now ready to step down as chair from this almost full-time volunteer position. The Board greatly appreciates his untiring efforts in helping maintain the health of Lake Owassa. Mark will be the first to acknowledge how much this committee has grown over the years and the number of volunteers involved in the many aspects of water quality management. Mark will remain a board member and he will continue the E-coli water testing with his wife, Carole.

CONTINUE ►

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Peg Mullins

Heather Ronco, who has been deputy chair on the Environment Committee coordinating the water monitoring efforts, is poised and ready to assume the chairmanship. Although new to the board last year, Heather and her family are long-time lake members. The Board appreciates her commitment to the lake and taking on this responsibility. Several sub committees have been formed to operate under the heading of Environment and there are many opportunities for membership volunteer involvement.

Many decisions will have to be made over the next several years regarding water quality management and the costs involved. After much deliberation by the board, analysis of data collected over the past 18 months, and a careful review of our finances, the Board of Governors has determined an assessment in the amount of \$1600 per membership will be required. Believe me, this was not an easy decision. As you will see on the attached ballot, we have divided this amount into three payments: \$600 due August 1, \$500 due Oct. 1 and \$500 due February 1, 2024. Please listen to and read all the information about the treatment of our lake and Harmful Algae Blooms.

Communication between the board and the membership will be most important. May we treat each other and our lake ecosystem with respect.

With my best wishes for a safe, healthy summer,  
Peg Mullins, President



# ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Chair | Heather Ronco

## Water Quality Monitoring

March 17th marked the beginning of the 2023 monitoring season. Our goal was to start earlier and monitor more frequently. The mild winter and lack of sustained ice coverage means the growing season for aquatic plants and algae started sooner. Every two weeks, then weekly in peak season, we will assess lake health by monitoring these key parameters: temperature, dissolved oxygen, clarity, phycocyanin, chlorophyll A, pH and phosphorus. Additionally, volunteers are taking daily secchi and phycocyanin readings from their docks.

We hope our increased monitoring will provide early detection of an emerging HAB.

We plan to fly a **blue flag** when we are water monitoring. We try to do our work when the lake is not busy. At times we may go above trolling speed outside of motorboat hours to visit all the locations we need to monitor within a reasonable amount of time. Water samples collected must be kept cool, delivered to the lab and analyzed within a limited time.

## We value your observations!

If you see something questionable, please email [LOCAEnvironment@gmail.com](mailto:LOCAEnvironment@gmail.com)

Include detailed location, description and photo if possible.

---

Some Cyanobacteria/Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) start in localized areas and can overgrow in nutrient rich environments. Signs of overgrowth may include a blue-green or green discoloration to the water or a “spilled paint” or “pea soup” like consistency on the surface. If touched with a stick and the stick appears coated with paint, it may be cyanobacteria. Avoid contact and alert the Environment Committee. If the stick lifts out strands of material which may resemble hair, it is likely a filamentous algae or other type of aquatic plant.

## HAB vs Spirogyra



The filamentous algae Spirogyra was observed in shallow, shoreline areas around the lake at the end of May. Spirogyra grows in cooler spring waters and dies off as the waters warm up. It is not harmful or toxin producing. It is part of the food chain for aquatic organisms. If you find it undesirable, you can rake it out of your swimming area.

# ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Chair | Heather Ronco

## **Partnership with Montclair University's NJ Center for Water Science and Technology(NJCWST)**

Environment Committee volunteers Deb DiMattia (C-20), Gary Pomeroy (I-18), Tom Mangan (I-7) and Heather Ronco (F-10) have gone back to school! We are participating in Montclair University's NJCWST "Traveling HAB Lab" program, funded by US Congress and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). It provides our citizen scientists with additional training on harmful algae blooms, water and sample collection, phytoplankton identification and data management. There is no cost to LOCA beyond volunteer time. We have received \$6,000 worth of equipment (on loan) to use for the 2023 season and free cyanotoxin testing.

## **Stormwater Analysis**

Since March we have been in the field, in the rain and just after storms identifying locations where stormwater is entering the lake. Natural forest and native vegetation in our watershed act like a sponge, soaking up rainfall and filtering out pollutants. However, any time there is an impervious surface (pavement, rooftop, compacted soil) or pipe outfall, stormwater is quickly transported to our lake along with excessive phosphorus, nitrates and other pollutants from fertilizers, septic systems, and pet waste that can disrupt our ecosystem.

## **You can help**

- Slow down the flow of stormwater on your property. Install rain gardens, plant vegetative buffers and minimize impervious surfaces.
- Use biodegradable, phosphate free cleaning products. Good choices for outdoor cleaning are baking soda, Wet & Forget and Simple Green.
- Make sure your septic is fully functioning. Inspect and pump at least every three years.
- Deter geese from hanging out. Clean up geese and pet waste from your lakefront, dock and swim float. Please dispose of waste off site, not in the lake.

## **NJ SALT Watch**

This past winter, Volunteers Deb DiMattia, Brad Batastini (C-20), Gary Pomeroy (I-18) and Heather Ronco (F-10) partnered with the Foodshed Alliance and NJ Watershed Watch Network to monitor chloride entering our lake. This statewide project assesses the impacts of winter road salting on New Jersey freshwater nontidal waterbodies. We did not discover a lake wide impairment, however the less frequent winter storms and lower than normal salt use provided limited opportunity to collect data. There was no cost to LOCA to participate – all supplies were provided.

**As you can see, we are studying our lake and the surrounding watershed from many different angles to collect data that will guide decision making. We are grateful for your support and to our dedicated volunteers who are giving countless hours to these efforts.**

# ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Former Chair | Mark Vogel

## Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Mitigation Assessment

Over the past few years, we have started on a path to prevent HABs from interfering with lake use and affecting the health of lake members, guests, and pets. HABs left uncontrolled can create toxins that, in the worst cases, have been known to kill animals that come into contact with the blooms.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has a four-part classification alert system for HABs that ranges from WATCH to ADVISORY, to WARNING, and DANGER.

- The WATCH level requires caution and avoidance of areas with green scum or other visible signs of HABs. Even at this low-level, allergic reactions and skin and respiratory irritation can occur. Ingestion of water by people or pets is of concern and fish caught in these waters should not be eaten.
- At the ADVISORY level, swimming in the water and direct contact with water needs to be avoided. Boating can still be enjoyed with caution.
- The WARNING level indicates a high risk of adverse health effects and basically means that all recreation on the water should be avoided.
- Finally at the DANGER level, a very high risk of adverse health effects exists and might warrant closure of the lake and possible restrictions on shoreline access.

The long-term objective of the LOCA governing board is to mitigate all HABs on Lake Owassa. The near-term objective is to reduce the frequency and severity of any remaining HAB growth to the WATCH level and destroy the HAB as quickly as possible. Relatively small amounts of algaecides can kill off cyanobacteria early before they create HABs. Our monitoring program is designed to recognize the optimal time to employ any needed algaecides.

Even though we are asking members to help reduce the nutrients (particularly phosphorus) entering the lake we must also deal with the legacy phosphorus in the lake bottom. It is phosphorus from the deepest part of the lake that is released during the summer and feeds the July and August blooms.

This May we initiated a nutrient inactivation program to lock up the phosphorus in the sediment. We contracted with Princeton Hydro to treat 60 acres of sediment in the deepest section of the lake. Over 20,000 pounds of a Lanthium-based clay was administered in a two-day period. This product is harmless to humans and aquatic life. Very precise records, including GPS coordinates of the treated area, were collected during the treatment process. Pre and post treatment water testing was done. Before the summer of 2024, we plan to complete this inactivation effort with a treatment of an additional 60 acres in the deepest part of the lake.

By reducing the available phosphorus, we can reduce the frequency of blooms. For the blooms that do arise, we plan to treat them with a quick application of algaecides to minimize the adverse impacts of the blooms. The combined efforts of lake members, the Environment Committee volunteers, and our close working relationship with Lake Management Sciences (LMS) is designed to meet our near-term HAB mitigation goals within the next three years. LMS provides algaecide treatments as well as vegetation surveys and herbicide treatments of undesirable weeds.

The Environment Committee has initiated an enhanced lake monitoring program that is a key ongoing part of our volunteer efforts. This effort will require yearly funding for equipment, maintenance, laboratory testing and associated costs. While we are still in a learning phase there are additional data gathering efforts.



# ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Former Chair | Mark Vogel

The current data gathering is expected to result in a targeted approach that will substantially reduce future expenditures.

Once the legacy phosphorus in the sediment is under control, the issue of nutrients from stormwater runoff, particularly in spring, will be a major focus of the Environment Committee. Data is being collected this year to begin additional efforts at nutrient removal from water entering the lake. Investigation of long-term methods for control of HABs that minimize chemical use are also going to be investigated.

**The long-term goal is to keep the Lake Owassa environment a safe and healthy place to live and recreate and maintain property values.**

# SEPTIC COMMITTEE

Chair | Caren Berei

Keeping LOCA members educated, is the best way for our members to learn how to maintain a clean, healthy waste water system. The committee encourages all members to read the information that is provided here and on our website under the title of "Septic" to remain educated on safe products, waste water regulations and maintenance tips.

Education through our contracted experts, the DEP and state has been our greatest asset for decision making. We have updated our rules to ensure new members have functioning systems and mandated members to pump every 5 years (the state recommends 3 years and we encourage members to follow state recommendations). The Septic Committee and the LOCA Board of governors are very thankful to all the members that have responded so positively and maintained healthy waste water systems. Healthy systems are important in order to keep Lake Owassa as clean as possible.

The Septic Committee and LOCA Secretary are documenting all supplied septic maintenance information from our members. This information will allow LOCA to identify possible areas of concern for water testing and can be provided to the experts to assist with future treatments. As info, the following shows how close we are to achieving our goals:

**2016 – 2023** | 38 members  
- New waste water systems installed

**2022** | 46 members  
- Pumped that had not pumped prior to 2018

**2023** | 12 members  
- Pumped that had not pumped prior to 2018

## As of April 2023:

**177 members**  
- Within 3 year pumping recommendation

**37 members**  
- Within 5 year pumping recommendation

**12 members**  
- Outside the 5 year recommendation\*

\*we continue to work with these members to encourage maintenance

\*\*the remaining memberships have no house, are revoked or are not being utilized

For members who have not pumped since January 2019 or prior - the date specified in the October 2022 Board resolution – please be advised that the expectation is that you will have your systems pumped in 2023. Kindly submit the receipt provided by the pumping company to the LOCA secretary as soon as the possible to avoid jeopardizing the renewal or delay of your membership for the 2024 season.

According to the North American Lakes Management Association (NALMS), "A lake is a reflection of its watershed." All members of our LOCA community are within the watershed of Lake Owassa, Culver Lake and the Paulinskill River regardless of how many feet their system is away from the lake and therefore are held accountable to proper pumping/inspection and maintenance of their waste water systems. We all must work together to help maintain a healthy lake.

Please reference the below link for more information, including a map of our watershed boundaries.

Greater Culver Lake Watershed Conservation Foundation  
[www.gclwcf.org](http://www.gclwcf.org)

Members using lakefront property without a house on it or, are in the process of renovating, are highly encouraged to have a porta potty when on the property.

This particular website is international but provides great information.

[www.safehouseholdcleaning.com/phosphates-cleaning-products/](http://www.safehouseholdcleaning.com/phosphates-cleaning-products/)

Products recommended:

- Tide PurClean
- Meyers and Seventh Generation- many products are phos-free including hand soap and dishwashing liquid.
- In 2010 phosphates were banned from dishwasher products, all should be OK.
- As of 2012 all over the counter lawn fertilizer sold in NJ is phos-free. However, landscapers can apply for and receive exemptions, especially for the establishments of new lawns or planting trees. Kindly work with our contractor to minimize their use of products with phosphorous.

Once again, we thank all the members who are cooperating with our clean water efforts.

Have a wonderful Spring and Summer Season.

The Septic Committee

# LOCA FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair | Phyllis Brown

Phyllis Brown, Chair of the finance committee along with Trish Pomeroy, member, Secretary/Treasurer and Joel Weintraub, member, have continued to monitor the association's finances throughout the year and report that our finances, including dues collections, are on track and in general alignment with the projections presented during the August 2022 General Membership Meeting. The approved budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 is posted on the LOCA website for your review.

In addition, the committee continues documenting expenditures associated with last year's \$1000 assessment to research, test, analyze and identify long-term strategies to mitigate possible HAB on our lake. Specifically, we were able to move forward with our commitment to execute long term strategies for controlling HAB by the application of EutroSorb the week of May 24th. The cost of that application was \$135,000 materially exhausting all existing funds that remained in the HAB account. That step was the first of two treatments recommended by our water quality consultant Dr. Stephen Souza. An additional \$30,000 was allocated and transferred from the LOCA reserve account to the HAB account to cover possible algaecide treatments in June as well as the cost of lab fees for testing, analysis and meetings with Dr. Souza.

At our June meeting we will discuss the need for an additional assessment that will fund the second EutroSorb treatment projected to cost \$141,000 and provide funding for possible algaecide treatments and the purchase of necessary equipment for testing and analysis. The assessment presented will fund expenses projected to be \$500 for the remainder of this fiscal year (2022-2023) as well as an additional \$1,100 for next fiscal year (2023-2024) to cover anticipated expenses through August 31, 2024 for a total assessment of \$1,600 per membership. Installments will be scheduled so that funds are received when needed throughout the next 15 months. Additional details related to the HAB account including how funds from the first assessment were expended as well as discussion related to both near and long term financial planning will also be provided at the June General Membership meeting.

As a community we continue to benefit from the high level of volunteerism including the provision of professional and other services by members without charge.

Questions and comments regarding the budget and can be sent to the LOCA Secretary/Treasurer or Phyllis Brown at [pbrownaaa@aol.com](mailto:pbrownaaa@aol.com).

# COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Chair | Judy Roman

It is more important than ever that we keep our members updated and informed on all matters pertaining to our lake! In this newsletter you are reading reports from each Committee Chair informing you of needed information at this time. Additional information will be sent via E-news as needed. Our website is updated regularly and should be checked frequently.

Each June we host a New Member Meeting to welcome new members. Each will be given a New Member packet, have questions answered, be informed of important and need to know facts, and get to meet other "Newbies"!! Our 2023 Summer Events is included so mark your calendars and come enjoy time with other LOCA members!

If you have questions or concerns, you can reach me at

**973-948-7171**-Judy Roman

2023 Calendar of Events

- **June 24 | Buddy Bass Tournament** | 8AM -1PM  
Weigh in at Lipari's dock-C-19
- **June 25 | LOCA General Meeting** | 10AM  
At Lafayette Firehouse
- **July 1 | Sunny Contest** | 2:00 weigh in on the Island
- **July 4-Boat Parade** | 11AM start from the Cove
- **July 15 - LOCA Picnic**-Rain date July 16
- **Aug 11 | Golf Outing** | 5pm
- **Aug 12 | 2022-2023 Fishing Contest** ends
- **Aug 13 | 2023-2024 Fishing Contest** begins
- **Aug 26 | Wine & Cheese** | 4 to 8PM on the Island
- **Aug 27 | LOCA General Meeting** | 10AM | TBD

CONTINUE ►



# PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs | Carey Weiss & Heather Ronco

The LOCA Partnerships Committee coordinated with the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority (SCMUA) Walkill River Watershed Management Group for LOCA members to learn about and then qualify for financial assistance with rain garden installation, and also with replacement of ash trees killed by the ash borer. The engagement with LOCA members in both these programs was excellent, and trees are now being ordered and rain garden funding finalized.

Another opportunity, currently underway, is a grant being offered to members of LOCA by the Greater Culver Lake Watershed Conservation Foundation (GCLWCF) for two full time residents to receive installation of equipment for a Waste Water Conditioning System (WWCS) that has the potential to reduce over 95% of phosphorus in the septic tank before it reaches the property's leach field, where that phosphorus may be transported by groundwater and stormwater flows into the lake. This control of phosphorus at the source is thought to be an effective strategy in LOCA's goal to reduce external phosphorus loads to achieve a recommended 50% reduction in septic sources of phosphorus. Members looking to participate in removal of phosphorus from the septic tank are currently being selected.

Anyone interested in participating should contact [careyweiss1@gmail.com](mailto:careyweiss1@gmail.com)

Finally, the same SCMUA Walkill River Watershed Management Group that provided the rain garden and ash borer programs above also provided grant funding for two floating wetlands last fall. These wetlands both did well over the winter and were reviewed for any maintenance needs on May 12th. Thanks go to Ted Roman, Ed and Peg Mullins, Heather Ronco, Larry Putera, Gary Pomeroy, Len Ferraro, Carey Weiss and Kevin Healy for their help with renewal of the plants, and repair to the one wetland that lost its anchors and floated to shore near the island. Repairs have now been made, and both wetlands will be put into service in areas where they may help to reduce nutrient loading in the lake.



# DOCKS, FLOATS, SHORELINE RESTORATION COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs | Dan Benkendorf and Len Ferraro

## Important Reminder

Board approval is required PRIOR to installation for any dock, float or shoreline restoration.

All applications as well as guidelines are available online at [www.lakeowassa.org](http://www.lakeowassa.org).

If you have any questions, need assistance with application submittal or want to discuss your project, please contact a member of the committee.

# RECREATION COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs | Laura Esposito Ferraro and Terry Casaletta

## You may have heard LOCA is 75 this year!

We have our events planned for the summer, hope you can join us and if you would like to get involved with the committee, please reach out to us.

### BOAT PARADE

**TUESDAY, JULY 4 | 11 AM**

- Community Float

Boats will be judged on LOCA's 75th Anniversary, Design, Patriotism and "Best in Show"

### LOCA PICNIC

**SATURDAY, JULY 15 | 12 - 4 PM**

- LOCA Island | Rain Date July 16

This year's theme is LOCA's 75th Anniversary! Tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served from 1-3pm. Please bring your favorite hot or cold side dish or dessert.

### LOCA GOLF OUTING

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 11 | TEE OFF 5 PM**

- Hidden Acres Golf Course

Groups of 4 (2 of the 4 golfers must be lake members) Passing of the Trophy and gathering will be held at Len & Laura Ferraro's afterward.

If any questions, contact Ed Mullins 201.739.2763

### WINE AND CHEESE

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26 | 4-8 PM**

- On the Island.

BYOB and an appetizer to share. We will have live music for your entertainment.

# FISHING COMMITTEE

Chair | Ray Earle

I hope everyone is excited to start a great fishing season. It is looking to be one of the best years ever. Spring fishing has been good to excellent. In October 2022, we stocked 1000 Large Mouth Bass in the 8 to 10-inch range. At a cost of \$4,531.56. The fishing club budget is mainly made up of generous individual contributions. Therefore, any amount you can give is greatly appreciated.

Just a reminder the fishing club has a great underwater camera system if anyone needs to use it. Please feel free to call me. I have used it to monitor the condition of our fish habitats and found a lost boat anchor, a fishing pole valued at over \$200.00, and a pair of glasses.

Keep these dates on your calendar June 24, The Buddy Bass contest, July 1, Kids sunny contest for children up to and including 15 years old, weight in at the island at 2 o'clock. Prizes will be awarded after all entries are recorded. Great prizes and something for all entries. Remember, state law is 25 sunfish per child. Teams are not accepted, only individual entries. The summer fishing contest ends on August 10, 2023, and the 2024 contest starts on August 11, 2024. Please weigh as many fish as possible it gives us helpful information about our fish population. We would like to know how much they have grown since we stocked them.

To find any of our 8 weight stations, look for the fish flag on the docks of C-20, E-21, G-22, B-23, H-27, and I-8. At the stations, you will find the scale and pad. If no one is there to assist you, please weigh and enter the fish as per instructions found in the chest on the dock.

After fishing or boating on other waters, all members, please remember to clean your boat and gear before using them in our lake. Buying or catching fish and putting them in our lake is also illegal. We must get a permit from the state Division of Fish and Wildlife before any fish can be introduced into the lake.

If any member wishes to share any photos or would like to assist the fishing club in any way, please e-mail me at [rayearle65@gmail.com](mailto:rayearle65@gmail.com)

Thank you again, good luck, and remember to take a kid fishing this summer; you will have as much fun as they do.

# PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs | Dan Benkendorf and Len Ferraro

The Property Committee has been busy, all buoys are in place, the boat launches are in good condition, the island dock is installed and we started maintaining the grass. The Porta john delivery is in the near future. The public float will be repositioned and the ladder installed after it is in place.

As always we welcome volunteers.

Enjoy the Summer

Len Ferraro

# RULES ENFORCEMENT

Chair | TBD

The Board of Governors regrettably announces the resignation of Andy Retz as a board member. Andy is a lake member since 1972, former Patrolman for 8 years and Board member for many, many years. Due to health issues, Andy decided it is now the time to step down. We thank Andy for his many years of service and volunteerism.

He is recovering and continues to make progress each day and hopes for a full recovery in the future. Our thoughts and prayers are with Andy and his family.

In accordance with the Bylaws, the Board filled the vacancy appointing Carey Weiss (H-19) to complete Andy's term of office through August 31, 2023.

# PATROLMAN'S REPORT

Ted Roman

- **STICKERS-STICKERS!!** These should be on all boats, kayaks, and paddleboards by **MAY!!** Boats under 25 HP are **GREEN**, 25 HP and above are **LIGHT BLUE**. Violations will be issued if not put on immediately!
- **JUST A SUGGESTION!** During the hours of 1:00 to 6:00 PM, no drifting, or anchoring in the middle of the lake. Please, use the inlet south of the buoy marker or inside the cove markers. This allows the skiers, wake boarders, and tubers a safe area to enjoy.
- Hours of boat operation are from 8AM till 1PM at trolling speed (little or no wake). From 1PM till 6PM Maintain Counter Clockwise Pattern at faster speed. **FROM 6PM TILL 1/2 HOUR AFTER SUNSET TROLLING SPEED. BEFORE DARK YOU SHOULD BE TIED UP BACK AT YOUR DOCK!**
- Notify the secretary of any additional boat, kayak, or paddle board purchased. This will be registered to your master list of boats owned.
- Please, put kayak stickers on either side near the seat opening! This makes it easier for me to see. Stickers for a paddle board should be on both curved sides.
- Remember to have life jackets on all boats, kayaks, and paddle boards!
- Children under 13 are required to wear life jackets when on any boat, kayak, or paddleboard!
- It is strongly suggested to remain outside the **SWIM FLOATS** when boating around the lake! The area between the floats and shoreline is a main swimming area for children and adults.
- Please keep at least 50 feet outside the swim float when towing.
- Please keep gates closed when pontoon boat is moving. Occupants are to remain in the enclosed area! Passengers in power boats are to remain seated while boat is moving!
- There are 2 floating islands, one at the inlet and close to the E-COVE. Please keep 50 feet away from them.

# IMPORTANT REMINDER

LOCA prohibits fireworks aimed over our water from any LOCA property-including private docks or floats. If you see anyone shooting fireworks over or onto the lake you are to call the state police by calling 911.

# LOCA STORE

Chair | Lisa Diller

Lake Owassa's 75th Anniversary will be celebrated with a new t-shirt design! Stay tuned.

Email questions: [lakeowassa.store@gmail.com](mailto:lakeowassa.store@gmail.com)

Shop here: [www.lakeowassa.itemorder.com/sale](http://www.lakeowassa.itemorder.com/sale)

**Gear up for 2023!** The LOCA online store is open! Just go to <https://lakeowassa.itemorder.com/sale> to order. If you have questions email [lakeowassa.store@gmail.com](mailto:lakeowassa.store@gmail.com)



Sport-Tek Adult PosiCharge RacerMesh Raglan  
Heather Block Polo  
4 colors- Embroidered- choice of 5 designs  
\$24.95



Unisex Adult and Youth sizes  
Lake Owassa Long Sleeve T-Shirt  
5.5-ounce 50/50 cotton/poly  
5 colors - \$28



District Made® - Ladies Perfect  
Weight® V-Neck Tee  
9 colors 100% cotton  
\$16



Youth DryBlend T-Shirt  
18 colors  
50/50 poly cotton  
\$15

**Coming soon-  
75th Anniversary special  
tshirt design!**



New Era® - Adjustable  
Unstructured Cap  
3 colors  
\$20



Custom Lake Owassa Mugs  
\$6 each

AVAILABLE FROM  
JUDY ROMAN OR PEG MULLINS



**Lake Owassa Neoprene Can Coolers**

\$4 for 1, 2 for \$7 or 4 for \$12  
Buy more, save more  
Teal, red or blue- 2 sided



# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## **Additional Volunteer Opportunities in the Area:**

Separate from LOCA, one of our members, who happens to be on the LOCA Board, has established a New Jersey Nonprofit with 501(c)(3) status as a tax-exempt organization. Daniel Benkendorf has established the Lake Owassa-Paulinskill Headwaters Conservation Foundation, (the “Foundation”), which seeks to ensure abundant, clean water throughout the Paulinskill Watershed, which includes Lake Owassa, Culver Lake, and the Paulinskill River, by protecting the water quality of Bear Swamp, Lake Owassa and other headwaters to the watershed through the reduction of runoff and contaminants, including phosphates, entering the headwaters. This objective will be accomplished through the environmental education of area residents, ecological engineering, and lake quality management and planning. The Foundation will also support land management planning measures to protect the watershed from runoff damage and preserve the natural environment.

If you are interested in volunteering opportunities, or would simply like to donate to the Foundation in furtherance of its purpose, please contact Mr. Benkendorf at **(201) 602 3461** or you can reach him by email at **[dan@askinlaw.com](mailto:dan@askinlaw.com)**.



# MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

SUNDAY | JUNE 25, 2023 | 10AM | LAFAYETTE FIREHOUSE

The Regular General Membership Meeting of the Lake Owassa Community Association will take place on Sunday, June 25, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the **Lafayette Township Firehouse 126 Route 15, Lafayette Township, NJ 07848**. A proxy for the meeting is included in this newsletter. At this meeting, matters to be decided include but are not limited to the following:

**Discussion and Approval of an Assessment: The Board of Governors has recommended and is asking the General Membership to approve an assessment of sixteen hundred dollars (\$1600) per proprietary membership due in three installments as follows: six hundred dollars (\$600) due on August 1, 2023, five hundred dollars (\$500) due on October 1, 2023, and five hundred dollars (\$500) due on February 1, 2024. The purpose of this assessment is to provide additional funds for the mitigation of harmful algae blooms (HABs).**

Please make every effort to attend. If you cannot attend, please make every effort to execute and return the proxy included in this newsletter. Proxies are important to assure a quorum. The proxy can be found on the last page of this Newsletter and can be copied and printed. The proxy must be signed by the Voting Member.

CONTINUE ►

LAKE OWASSA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PROXY

Discussion:

No official business can be conducted at Association General Meetings unless a voting quorum is present. It is preferable that members of the Association attend meetings in person; however, members may appoint someone as a "Proxy" to represent them in their absence. If you should subsequently attend the meeting and decide to vote in person, the assigned Proxy may be canceled at that time.

You may indicate on the Proxy how you wish to vote on each subject to be voted upon at the meeting and your representative is obligated to vote accordingly. If you do not indicate a preference or if any subject should arise during the meeting which is not covered in the meeting notice, the Proxy is free to vote in accordance with his or her best judgment.

To ensure a quorum at the General Meeting, the Board of Governors requests that you appoint the Secretary of the Association as your Proxy by signing this Proxy form and returning it promptly to the Secretary (LOCA, P.O. Box 657, Branchville, NJ 07826), or as an attachment to an email to locasecretary@hotmail.com, especially if you do not plan to attend.



PROXY:

The undersigned Voting Member of the Lake Owassa Community Association hereby appoints the Secretary or \_\_\_\_\_ (other designated person), his or her lawful Attorney and Proxy, with full powers of substitution, to vote at the General Membership Meeting to be held on June 25, 2023, and at any adjournment thereof, upon all matters that may properly come before the Meeting; provided, however, that such vote shall be as specified below with respect to the matter described in the Meeting Notice (Spring 2023 LOCA Newsletter):

Approval of an Assessment: The Board of Governors has recommended and is asking the General Membership to vote for an assessment of sixteen hundred dollars (\$1600) per proprietary membership due in three installments as follows: six hundred dollars (\$600) due on August 1, 2023, five hundred dollars (\$500) due on October 1, 2023, and five hundred dollars (\$500) due on February 1, 2024. The purpose of this assessment is to provide additional funds for the mitigation of harmful algae blooms (HABs).

For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Area Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Voting Member's Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (L.S.) Date \_\_\_\_\_