

# OWASSA NEWS AND VIEWS

A Newsletter for Lake Owassa Community Association



SUMMER 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

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Steve Weissman, Esq.-Attorney

Trish Pomeroy | Secretary/Treasurer

Ted Roman, Patrolman

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lakeowassa.org

Here we are at the end of another summer season. It always seems to me that once we get through the July 4th holiday, the summer goes by in a blur. It's been an interesting summer....no rain in June, torrential downpours in July along with hazy/smokey days due to wildfires in Canada. However, whether there was rain or shine boats cruised the lake and laughter could be heard as members young and old enjoyed all the best that our lake has to offer. Many members participated in the July 4th Boat Parade and the LOCA Picnic on the island was a rain-free success. Thank you to the Recreation Committee for all your work on these two fun activities.

As of this writing, there have been two perimeter treatments for HABS. The first treatment was 35 acres on June 29th and the second was 60 acres on July 24th. These treatments were conducted after extensive testing by our Environment Committee and consultation with Dr. Souza. Additional information is presented in the Environment Committee's report.

At the August 27th General Meeting, we will be voting on 2-board positions and on salaries for the secretary/treasurer and the patrolman. The duties of the secretary/treasurer have greatly increased since the job description was established. The Board now meets 12-15 times/year rather than just 8 meetings as in the past along with the required accounting/record keeping due to assessments and the separate bookkeeping for HAB expenses.

With the approval of the assessment at the June General Meeting, the BOG determined that a new streamlined budget will NOT require a dues increase for the next fiscal year. At the same time, it is important that we acknowledge that the dues at Lake Owassa have continued to be lower than many other lakes in our area, primarily due to the amount of volunteerism.

CONTINUE ►

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Peg Mullins

The Board is also committed to exploring grants available to private lakes that may be used to offset expenses related to water quality testing, analysis, and treatments.

In closing, I want to thank the many volunteers who donate their time and talent to help preserve “Our Little Piece of Heaven” and encourage anyone who is interested in volunteering to please reach out to our secretary Patricia Pomeroy at [locasecretary@hotmail.com](mailto:locasecretary@hotmail.com).

Until next season....

Sincerely,

Peg Mullins, President



# ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Chair | Heather Ronco

Like the very creative entry in the annual 4th of July Boat Parade, our Water Monitoring Team have been real life “HAB Busters”, diligently surveying our lake’s health.

As of the August 1 submission date for this newsletter, we’ve had two strategic algacide treatments of our 275 acre lake – 35 acres on June 29 and 60 acres on July 25. Each time, the goal was to treat the smallest necessary area with the minimal dosage. Both of the emerging blooms were preceded 5-10 days prior by intense rainstorms that brought significant stormwater runoff into the lake. Such runoff contains nitrates and phosphorus, which we refer to as “external loading” that is a nutrient rich food source for algae.

Our monitoring efforts and quick response successfully averted any fully developed bloom that may have caused lake wide use restrictions. None of us want to go back to 2021, when lake use was limited by an uncontrolled HAB from mid-August through October.

Our continued goal is safe, healthy and full enjoyment of Lake Owassa.

We continue to monitor our lake water:

- Daily for clarity and cyanobacteria
- Weekly for dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, salinity, chlorophyll, conductivity
- Every two weeks for algae identification (more often as needed), phosphorus and cyanotoxins

Let’s focus on ways each of us can positively impact lake health by minimizing phosphorous and nitrates entering the lake via septic, stormwater and nutrient runoff.

Please clean the goose poop off your swim rafts, docks and lakefronts and dispose of it off site.

## Planting guide, Help stop a HAB on the next page.

**Green your Waterfront**

Even a few trees, shrubs and plants bordering a waterfront can help protect water quality.

**Help STOP a HAB\***

**Riparian Buffer** strip of trees, shrubs and plants that borders a waterway. Plants block and slow down polluted stormwater, allowing it to first percolate into the ground, followed by uptake by the roots. Plant tissues filter out dissolved nutrients, heavy metals and bacteria. Roots help anchor stream banks preventing sediment from entering nearby water bodies. Wide, dense plantings with trees and shorter plants filter the most stormwater but even a simple, narrow plant-of-border can help improve water quality!

**Go Native, Go Wild!**

Native plants need less maintenance than non-natives because they're better adapted to local climates and soils. Native perennials and grasses have much deeper roots than turf grasses, so are better at preventing erosion. Seasonal colors brighten vistas. Look for recommended plants in the riparian buffer, trees, shrubs, and grasses sections.

**What is a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB)?**

A freshwater Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) is an excessive growth of phytoplankton toxins as cyanobacteria in a lake, pond or stream. Although not true algae, cyanobacteria are often referred to as “blue-green algae”.

**Typical HAB signs**

Some cyanobacteria produce dangerous toxins harmful to humans, pets, livestock and wildlife. Do not come in direct contact by swimming, touching, ingesting or inhaling aerosolized toxins within suspected HAB waters. Keep pets and domestic animals away from HAB waters.

**How to ID a HAB**

Cyanobacteria typically turn normally clear water a pea-soup green. The presence of patches like blue-green or off-white scums, parallel green streaks, green mats, foam on the surface or green dots or filaments suspended in the water column suggest a HAB. True non-toxic algal mats or tiny duckweed leaves are not HABs.

For more information visit: <https://nj.gov/dep/water/hab/>

**MOISTURE PREFERENCE KEY**

■ Aquatic ■ Wetland (swampy) ■ Wet (moist) ■ Average (but not dry) ■ None listed - algae resistant to dry

**Plants to help stop a HAB** Native trees, shrubs, woody and herbaceous plants, grasses, sedges, rushes and aquatic plants listed below. Many NJ nurseries now carry native plants (see links below). Plant in the spring after last frost to allow plants to get established but before soils dry out in summer's heat or plant in fall before first frost.

**TREES (leaf to shorter)**

<b>Shade Trees</b>	Red Maple   60-90'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	<b>Emotional/Small Trees</b>	American Holly   40-50', some var.   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>
American Sycamore   60-100'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Silver Maple   50-80'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Shadbush/Serviceberry   25-30', early fl.   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Konowood, A. Hornbeam   25-30'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>
Black Willow   30-90'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Sweet Gum   60-90'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	<b>Evergreen</b>	
Pin Oak   70-90'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Black Gum   35-50'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>		
Swamp White Oak   60-80'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Hackberry   25-50'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>		Eastern Red Cedar   40-50'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>
River Birch   40-80'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Sweetbay Magnolia   30-60', late fl.   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>		

**SHRUBS (many flowering Spring/Summer and/or colorful fall berries)**

Eastern Redbud   up to 40', early fl.   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Arrowwood Viburnum   6-10'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Highbush Blueberry   4-12', July   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>
Pussy Willow   6-20', late fl.   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Cranberrybush   6-12'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Swamp Rose   10-27', late July   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>
Spicebush   3-9', early fl.   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Smooth Alder   8-12', late Apr.   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Virginia Sweetpire   3-6', late fl.   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>
Redwing Dogwood   6-10', late fl.   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Red Chokeberry   5-10', late fl.   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Fragrant Sumac   2-4'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>
Silky Dogwood   6-10', late fl.   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Elderberry   4-12', late fl.   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	2nd Year* stems in the ground only.
Blackhaw Viburnum   10-15'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Buttonbush   3-8', mid-summer   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Winterberry Holly   6-10', winter white   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>

**PERENNIALS (the color and texture across the seasons)**

<b>Flowering Perennials for Sun</b>	<b>Flowering Plants for Shade</b>	<b>Little Bluestem Grass</b>   2-4'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>
Scarlet Beebalm   3-6', late Aug.   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Heart-leaf Foamflower   1-2', May   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Northern Sea Oats (grass)   3-5'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>
Cardinal Flower   10-15', late Aug.   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Alumroot, Coral Bells   1-3', late Spring   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Soft/Cannon Rush (rush)   10-15'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>
Blue Lobelia   10-15', late Sept.   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Virginia Bluebells   1-2', April-May   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Green Bulrush (rush)   10-15'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>
Wild Blue Indigo   3-4', April-July   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	<b>Evergreen</b>	Woolgrass (sedge)   3-5'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>
Joe Pye Weed   4-6', late Sept.   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Eastern Haystack Fern (see late dry season)   1-2'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	<b>Flowering Plants for Water's Edge</b>
Dense Blazing Star   10-14', late Aug.   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Sensitive Fern (see late dry season)   1-2'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Blue Flag Iris   2-3', May   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>
Swampcandy   1-4', August   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Orchid Fern   10-15'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Swamp Rose-mallow   10-15', summer   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>
Monkeyflower   10-20', July-Aug.   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	<b>Flowering Plants for Wetland</b>	Pinkleaf Waterlily   10-15', summer   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>
Foxglove Beardtongue   10-15', May-July   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Swiftgrass   10-15'   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>	Blackleaf Arrowhead   10-12', summer   <span style="color: blue;">■</span> <span style="color: green;">■</span> <span style="color: orange;">■</span> <span style="color: red;">■</span>

# ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Chair | Heather Ronco

## Planting guide, Help stop a HAB

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HOMEOWNERS' GUIDE TO PROTECTING THEIR LAKE, RIVER & STREAM FRONTS | NJDEP Bureau of Environmental Analysis, Restoration & Standards



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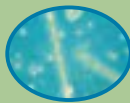
Typical HAB scum

### What is a Harmful Algal Bloom (\*HAB)?

A freshwater Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) is an excessive growth of phytoplankton known as cyanobacteria in a lake, pond or stream. Although not true algae, cyanobacteria are often referred to as “blue-green algae”.

### Toxic HABs

Some cyanobacteria produce dangerous toxins harmful to humans, pets, livestock and wildlife. Do not come in direct contact by swimming, touching, ingesting, or inhaling aerosolized toxins within suspected or confirmed HAB waters. Keep pets and domestic animals away from HAB waters.



© NJDEP, RFRM

### How to ID a HAB?

CyanoHABs typically turn normally clear waters a pea soup-green. The presence of paint-like blue-green or off-white scums; parallel green streaks, green swirls; foam on the surface or green dots or blobs suspended in the water column suggest a HAB. True non-toxic algal mats or tiny duckweed leaves are not HABs.

For more information visit: <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/hab/>

## Green your Waterfront



Even a few trees, shrubs and plants bordering a waterfront can help protect water quality

## Help STOP a HAB\*

### What causes a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB)?

HABs form in the presence of sunlight, nutrients, warm temperatures and calm waters. Heavy rains can mobilize fertilizer and other nutrients off lawns, washing them into lakes, rivers and streams. The sudden influx of phosphorus and nitrogen can trigger a HAB.

Lawns sloping all the way down to waterfronts, without any intervening

landscaping, allow those stormwaters to wash nutrients into waterbodies.

### Plant Riparian Buffers along edges of lakes and streams

You can reduce the amount of nutrients entering lakes and streams by planting a “Riparian Buffer”—a vegetated strip of trees, shrubs, and plants that borders



▲ Riparian Buffer along stream

◀ Trees & shrubs can buffer and filter stormwater run-off from lawns

Plant \*anything\* but lawn.



© EPA

a waterway. Plants block and slow down polluted stormwater, allowing it to first percolate into the ground, followed by uptake by the roots. Plant tissues filter out dissolved nutrients, heavy metals and bacteria. Roots help anchor stream banks preventing sediment from entering nearby water bodies. Wide, dense plantings with trees and shorter plants filter the most stormwater, but even a simple, narrow planted border can help improve water quality!

### Go Native, Go Wild!



Native plants need less maintenance than non-natives because they're better adapted to local climates and soils. Native perennials and grasses have much deeper roots than turf grasses, so are better at preventing erosion. Seasonal colors brighten vistas.

See back for recommended trees, shrubs, flowers, grasses, sedges, and rushes.



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CONTINUE ►

# ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Chair | Heather Ronco

## Planting guide, Help stop a HAB



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**Plants to help stop a HAB** Native trees, shrubs, woody and herbaceous plants, grasses, sedges, rushes and aquatic plants listed below. Many NJ nurseries now carry native plants (see links below). Plant in the spring after last frost to allow plants to get established but before soils dry out in summer's heat or plant in fall before first frost.











### TREES (tall to shorter)

#### Shade Trees

- American Sycamore | 60-140'    
- Black Willow | 30-90'    
- Pin Oak | 70-90'    
- Swamp White Oak | 60-80'    
- River Birch | 40-80'    
















- Red Maple | 60-90'    
- Silver Maple | 50-80'    
- Sweet Gum | 60-90'    
- Black Gum | 30-50'    
- Hackberry | 25-50'  
- Sweetbay Magnolia | 20-60', late Spr    

#### Ornamental/Small Trees

- Shadbush/Serviceberry | 25-30', early Spr   
  - Ironwood, A. Hornbeam | 25-30'   
- #### Evergreens
- Eastern Red Cedar | 40-50'  
  - American Holly | 40-50', berries Fall-Win   

### SHRUBS (many flowering Spring-Summer and/or colorful Fall berries)

- Eastern Redbud | up to 40', early Spr  
- Pussy Willow | 6-20', Feb-Mar  
- Spicebush | 3-9', early Spr  
- Red-twig Dogwood | 6-10', late Spr   
- Silky Dogwood | 6-10', Jun-July  
- Blackhaw Viburnum | 12-15'  

- Arrowwood Viburnum | 6-10'   
- Cranberrybush | 6-12'  
- Smooth Alder | 8-12', Mar, Apr   
- Red Chokeberry | 5-10', Spr   
- Elderberry | 4-12', late Spr   
- Buttonbush | 3-8', mid-summer   







- Highbush Blueberry | 6-12', July   
- Swamp Rose | to 7', Jun-July   
- Virginia Sweetspire | 3-6', late Spr   
- Fragrant Sumac | 2-4' (also "GroLow" variety for very compact form)  
- Winterberry Holly | 6-10', berries Winter   

### PERENNIALS (for color and texture across the seasons)






#### Flowering Plants for Sun

- Scarlet Beebalm | 3-6', Jun-Aug   
- Cardinal Flower | to 5', Jul-Aug (also shade)   
- Blue Lobelia | to 5', Jul-Sept   
- Wild Blue Indigo | 3-4', Apr-Jul  
- Swamp Milkweed | to 6', Jun-Aug   
- Joe Pye Weed | 4-6', Jul-Sept   
- Dense Blazing Star | to 4', Jun-Sept   
- Sneezeweed | 4-6', Aug-Oct   
- Monkeyflower | to 3', July-Sept   
- Foxglove Beardtongue | to 3', May-July  



#### Flowering Plants for Shade













- Heart-leaf Foamflower | 1-3', May  
- Alumroot, Coral Bells | 1-3', late Spring  
- Virginia Bluebells | 1-2', Apr-May  

#### Ferns







- Eastern Hayscented Fern (can take dry shade) | 1-3'  
- Sensitive Fern (can take sun if moist) | to 3'  
- Ostrich Fern | to 5'  
- Cinnamon Fern | to 5'  

#### Grasses, Rushes & Sedges








- Switchgrass | to 6'  

- Little Bluestem (grass) | 2-4'  
- Northern Sea Oats (grass) | 3-5'  
- Soft/Common Rush (rush) | to 3'  
- Green Bulrush (rush) | to 5'   
- Woolgrass (sedge) | 3-5'    












#### Flowering Plants for Water's Edge

- Blue Flag Iris | 2-3', May   
- Swamp Rose-mallow | to 5', Summer   

#### Aquatic Flowering Plants

- Pickereel Weed | to 3', Summer    
- Broadleaf Arrowhead | to 2', Summer   

#### MOISTURE PREFERENCE KEY

   Aquatic    Wettest (wetlands)   Wet (moist)   Average (but not dry)  None listed = slightly moist to dry

For more information and where to find native plants

[Jersey-Friendly Yards](#)  
[Native Plant Society of New Jersey \(NPSNJ\)](#)

[Lady Bird Johnson Center's list of NJ Native Plant Suppliers](#)

[US Fish & Wildlife Service: Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat](#)

[& Conservation Landscaping, Chesapeake Bay Edition](#)  
[NPSNJ's Invasive Plant Species](#)  
[Lake Hopatcong Foundation's Lake Friendly Living Guide](#)

[Arboretum Foundation: Greening a Shoreline Garden](#)

[Understanding lake-shore ecosystems— Part 3: Natural vegetation](#)  
[Speaking of Landscapes: Lake Hayward buffer garden, year two](#)

[The Wetlands Initiative: Nutrient Removal](#)  
[Landscape Plants Rated by Deer Resistance \(Rutgers NJAES\)](#)  
[NJ's native trees, shrubs & vines beneficial to birds](#) by Patricia Sutton



Sycamore, pin and swamp white oak, magnolia, shadbush art by Metcroy

# SEPTIC COMMITTEE

Chair | Caren Berei

The septic committee was formed in 2015 to help LOCA Board of Governors protect our lake waters and our members investments. There are 6 members on the committee, which, along with the LOCA board of governors make decisions on monitoring, maintenance and new member applications. The members of the septic committee are:

**Caren Berei (Chair), Dan Benkendorf, Len Ferraro, Ann OConnor, Vickie Simpson, Mark Vogel**

As our consultant, Dr. Souza has mentioned, Septic Systems are only a part of the factors that could contribute to Hazardous Algae Blooms and one that we can play a proactive role in managing.

Through awareness, education and commitment, the response from our community has been spectacular. The LOCA Board of Governors and the Septic Committee would like to thank all the members for their efforts in pumping and properly maintaining their waste water system.

The designated 3-5 year maintenance time period offers more than just pumping. It is also about the visual inspection that septic companies provide while pumping that helps us ensure that the waste water system is functioning properly. Malfunctions can happen even if you are not here full time.

This is a reminder that all members who had their septic pumped in 2018 and 2019 will need to have their septic pumped before next April in order to maintain membership for the 2024 season.

As good stewards, we recognize that all members of our LOCA community are within the water shed of Lake Owassa, Culver Lake and the Paulinskill River, regardless of how many feet their system is away from the lake.

On the new membership application, new owners must have a fully functioning septic system in order to become a LOCA member. Questions 7 & 8 request information pertaining to the existing septic system and a certified septic inspection report must be completed and supplied at the time of application. Please send all documents to [locasecretary@hotmail.com](mailto:locasecretary@hotmail.com) or [locaseptic@gmail.com](mailto:locaseptic@gmail.com)

On the LOCA website [www.lakeowassa.org](http://www.lakeowassa.org) under "Septic", you will find the inspection report, information on maintenance and care of your waste water system and names and phone numbers of local septic pumping companies.

# LOCA FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair | Phyllis Brown

**Finance Committee:** Phyllis Brown, Chair of the Finance Committee developed the proposed 2023-2024 budget in collaboration with members Patricia Pomeroy, Secretary-Treasurer and Joel Weintraub. The proposed budget was then presented to the Board of Governors for discussion and concurrence. The budget along with updated figures related to this fiscal year's expenses will be posted to the LOCA website by August 21, 2023.

Inflation and its impact on fixed expenses continue to be a concern however; expenditures were, once again, controlled through continuously monitoring discretionary spending. Of particular concern, and an area that our insurance committee continues to research, is the cost of insurance. Although the cost of insurance did not see a significant change this year it is an area where there continues to be vulnerability with few companies interested in insuring private lake communities.

After careful review of the LOCA budget and understanding that the HAB assessment was a critical expense needed to ensure that funds remain available for testing, analysis and treatment of the lake a recommendation was made by the Finance Committee and approved by the Board of Governors to not request an increase in dues for the coming year. However, it was acknowledged that an increase in dues for fiscal year 2024-2025 is expected.

The responsibilities for the secretary-treasurer continue to increase in part due to administrative tasks associated with additional monitoring of the lake and maintaining separate billing and accounting of the HAB assessment. In addition, Board meetings have increased from 8 meetings up to-15 throughout the year and include meetings with our consultant as well as continuously reviewing costs associated with the treatment of the lake. After taking all of this into consideration the BOG is asking the General Membership to approve a cost of living increase in the salary of the Secretary/Treasurer from \$20,000 to \$21,750.

The Compensation Committee has also recommended, and the Board of Governors asks approval of a cost of living increase in the salary of the Patrolman from \$7,201 to 7,831.

The approval of the HAB assessment of \$1600.00 at the June meeting allowed the environment committee to immediately move forward with their work. The payment schedule of \$600 that was due August 1, 2023, \$500 due Oct. 1, 2023, and \$500 due Feb. 1, 2024 ensures that funds will be available when needed. As a result of the passing the assessment LOCA was able to fund a late June targeted algaecide treatment as well as a second targeted treatment in July, both of which allowed our members to enjoy the lake without interruption this season.

As mentioned above, the first installment of the HAB assessment passed at the June General Membership meeting was due August 1, 2023. As of July 31, 2023, installment payments have been received from 73 members and full payment of the \$1,600 were received from an additional 36 members for a total of 109 payments totaling \$100,550.

We also continue to work closely with our consultant Dr. Souza. His experience and approach provide us with the guidance needed to ensure that we are taking a conservative approach and only treating the lake with as much algaecide as needed to prevent a lake-wide bloom.

LOCA continues to benefit from a high level of volunteerism in our community both from professional services and other services by members without charge. This year was no exception with members collectively dedicating immeasurable hours assisting the Environment Committee with testing and analysis of our lake waters as well as assisting all of the committees with their responsibilities throughout the year. This commitment to the health of our lake and community has saved the association thousands of dollars

Questions regarding the budget 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 important that our members are kept informed of all important issues pertaining to our lake. All committees work hard to make sure you receive good and bad news as soon as possible. E-news has become most valuable and quickest way to alert members of any immediate updates. Our website continues to be updated and has information on everything you need to know about our “Little Piece of Heaven” . Attendance at our General Meetings is important for you to learn about issues, such as budget, HABs, electing new Board members, and all other workings of our lake.

Our committee hopes you will use each of these ways to keep informed and communicate with us your concerns or questions.

**Memorials:** Remembering Tom Eckert-G-25, Marilyn Wirtz-A-13, and Rudolph Sellitti- A-20, who died last August. They were long-time LOCA members who loved living here!



## PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs | Dan Benkendorf and Len Ferraro

The Property Committee continues to maintain LOCA properties this summer.

A very special thank you to all our committee members for their continued dedication and hard work.



# PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Chair | Carey Weiss

Welcome to the rainy days of summer! The Partnerships Committee wants to remind all lake members to watch their properties during these heavy rains to observe where stormwater runoff is bringing mud and silt straight into the lake. That stormwater is carrying dirt particles that hold phosphorus- the nutrient of choice for cyanobacteria that create harmful algae blooms (HABS). If we all do our part to control runoff, it will keep costs down for managing the lake water quality.

## Some actions to consider:

Create a rain garden. These gardens require a 6" depression in the ground, which is then backfilled with 3" of mulch, or augmented sand and then planted with native species as a holding area for pooling water. We had 17 Owassa families attend the rain garden seminar offered last spring by the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority Wallkill River Watershed Management Group, with the potential for a grant of up to \$1000/property to offset costs. Let us know if you've got a rain garden design underway and send photos!

Create a "rip rap" rock channel- direct strong flows of water through a long channel of small rocks so it breaks up the flow and allows the water time to settle into the ground. As little as 24 hours of holding time on land makes a big difference to the lake's water quality. You can see one of these newly constructed channels from the water on the north side of H-19.

Minimize pavement, especially on steep slopes. Consider pervious asphalt or pervious pavers and break up long stretches of asphalt by placing gratings, gravel sections, and planted areas in strips where possible. Contact us for resource suggestions.

Plant your slopes! The greatest impact on lake water quality comes from clear cut slopes, patios, decks, and manicured lawn areas that may not absorb much water. Did you know that trees absorb thousands of gallons of water, making them critical tools in the fight against HAB's? The Wallkill Watershed Management Group may still have free trees available for replacement of your ash trees that were killed by the borer.

See here are recommendations to help with HABs from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency:

- [Disconnect/Redirect Downspouts](#)
- [Use a rain barrel to capture rain from your roof](#)
- [Plant a rain garden](#)
- [Plant trees](#)
- [Reduce impervious surfaces; install permeable pavement](#)
- [Plant a green roof](#)

Send your questions or project description and images to the LOCA Partnerships Committee at [careyweiss1@gmail.com](mailto:careyweiss1@gmail.com).

# 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.

Committee Chair - Len Ferraro

[laf@ferraroconstruction.com](mailto:laf@ferraroconstruction.com) | 862-266-4905

# RECREATION COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs | Laura Esposito Ferraro and Terry Casaletta

## BOAT PARADE FOURTH OF JULY

We had an amazing turnout at the Boat Parade. Even in the rain, we had 13 entries! A special thanks to our volunteer Boat Captains, Linda Pelligrino and Ted Roman for their navigation skills.

This year's competitive categories included Design, Patriotism, Best in Show and LOCA's 75th Anniversary. The judges were impressed with the creativity and imagination shown by each participant. Winners will be revealed at the upcoming General Membership Meeting.

## LOCA PICNIC, JULY 15, 2023

This year's Picnic was an incredible success. We celebrated with more than 75 of our LOCA community. The picnic could not have happened without the amazing efforts of the Recreation Committee Volunteers. We are so grateful for all of you.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### LOCA GOLF OUTING

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 11**

**PLAY TIME VARIABLE TIME**

- 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.

Finally, we thank the LOCA Board and Community for its continued support.

# FISHING COMMITTEE

Chair | Ray Earle

Summer is coming to a close and we are looking forward to a great Fall fishing season!

This Summer most LOCA fisherpersons are catching very small numbers of bass. Lake Owassa has historically been a great bass lake. It has been stocked with Largemouth Bass for the past two (2) seasons in an effort to rebuild the bass population. Only a small number of fish could be stocked however, due to the dwindling funds available for this purpose each year.

The LOCA has cut the Fishing Committee's budget in half and there are far less donations\* than in years past. This combines to make it much harder for the Fishing Committee to effectively maintain an optimum population of game fish.

One way that the Committee has attempted to compensate is to institute a strict 'catch-and-release' program for Largemouth Bass that fisherpersons are highly encouraged to adhere to.

As always, please weigh in as many fish of any type as possible at one of the seven (7) weigh-stations, designated by a 'fish flag' on their lake-front; or email ([rayearle65@gmail.com](mailto:rayearle65@gmail.com)) with quantity, weight, length and species of your catch. This will help greatly to monitor the condition of our fish population.

In closing, please remember to take a child fishing. You will have as much fun as they do!

Regards,  
Ray Earle  
Fishing Committee Chairperson

\*The Lake Owassa Fishing Committee is acutely aware of the drastic increase in the cost of maintaining LOCA Membership...we are also personally impacted. However, if you are so inclined and in a position to do so, please make a small donation by making a check, payable to LOCA FISHING CLUB, and mailing it to 261 E Shore Lake Owassa Rd, Newton, NJ 07860. MAKE A NOTE ON THE MEMO LINE that this is for the FISHING COMMITTEE! Thank you.

# PATROLMAN'S REPORT

Ted Roman

ALL boats must be registered with the lake secretary. This will help insure that you will receive the proper number of stickers yearly.

- ALL boats must have a visible set of stickers on each side of the boat. The set is your LOCA AREA sticker and the current years sticker, using the suggested placement sheet which is included with your new stickers.
- ALL boats need to have life jackets. Anyone under the age of 13 must wear the jacket when in a boat. Above the age of 13 they must be visible on paddle boards and kayaks.
- Swimming across the lake between 1PM and 6 PM is prohibited. Before 1PM or after 6PM the swimmer **MUST BE** accompanied by a boat in close proximity.
- Model electric/gas remote controlled boats, drones or planes in or over the lake are prohibited.
- Please stay at least 50 feet outside the swim floats when operating a power boat.
- When pulling a tuber/skier, please start towing the person at least 50 outside the swim float line.
- A suggested Christmas gift. If your ski flag is faded or the pole is shorted then 4 feet, treat yourself to a new one! The flag **MUST** be visible from other boats.
- When passing another boat, please give yourself at least 50 feet between the boats.
- REMINDER From 8AM to 1PM trolling speed (little or no wake). From 6PM till 1/2 hour after sunset trolling speed. At 1/2 hour after sunset you should be back at your dock. No boats on the lake at that time!

## 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

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

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



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



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

CONTINUE ►



# 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 | AUGUST 27, 2023 | 10AM | LAFAYETTE FIREHOUSE

The Regular General Membership Meeting of the Lake Owassa Community Association will take place on Sunday, **August 27, 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:

## **Approval of an Increase in Salary for LOCA Secretary-Treasurer: The Board of**

Governors recommends an increase of \$1750 in salary for LOCA Secretary-Treasurer from the present \$20,000 to \$21,750.

## **Approval of an Increase in Salary for LOCA Patrolperson:**

The Board of Governors recommends an increase of \$630 in salary for LOCA Patrolperson from the present \$7201 to \$7831.

## **Election Members of the Board of Governors:**

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Larry Putera, Chair (H-27), Brad Batastini (C-20), David Mintz (A-05), Judy Roman (B-23), and Joel Weintraub (B-35), has nominated, and the Board of Governors recommends a vote for each of the following candidates:

## **For Two Members of the Board of Governors (three-year terms):**

Caren Berei ((J-05) and Carey Weiss (H-19).

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. Proxies sent to LOCA Secretary via USPS, other delivery services, email, or text message must be received by 6:00 p.m. of the day prior to the meeting (6:00 p.m., Saturday, August 26, 2023) to be valid. Proxies delivered by hand at the meeting will also be valid.

**LAKE OWASSA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PROXY**

**Discussion:**

No official business can be conducted at LOCA General Membership Meetings unless a voting quorum is present. It is preferable that members of the Association attend meetings in person; however, Voting 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. The proxy must be signed by the Voting Member. Proxies sent to LOCA Secretary via USPS, other delivery services, email, or text message must be received by 6:00 p.m. of the day prior to the meeting (6:00 p.m., Saturday, August 26, 2023) to be valid. Proxies delivered by hand at the meeting will also be valid.



**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 August 27, 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 matters described in the Meeting Notice (Summer 2023 LOCA Newsletter):

**APPROVAL OF INCREASE IN COMPENSATION FOR SECRETARY-TREASURER:**

The Board of Governors recommends an increase in compensation for Secretary-Treasurer from the present \$20,000 to \$21,750.

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

**APPROVAL OF INCREASE IN COMPENSATION FOR PATROLPERSON:**

The Board of Governors recommends an increase in compensation for patrolperson from the present \$7201 to \$7831.

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

**ELECTIONS :**

The Nominating Committee has nominated, and the Board of Governors recommends a vote for each of the following two named candidates:

**For Two Members of the Board of Governors** (three-year terms) \*\*\* Vote for up to two. \*\*\*.

**Indicate vote by placing a check next to or encircling each choice.**

Caren Berei (J-05)  
Carey Weiss (H-19)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Abstain

Membership Area Number \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Member's Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

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