

MLCA & WAG NEWSLETTER



Spring 2013 Edition

[HTTP://LIBERTYTOWNSHIP.ORG/COMMUNITY/MOUNTAINLAKE/INDEX.HTML](http://libertytownship.org/community/mountainlake/index.html)

Special Points of Interest:

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- Ñ *2013 CALENDAR & BULLETIN BOARD*
- Ñ *BIRDING 101 WORKSHOP THIS FALL*
- Ñ *LIVING WITH BEARS*
- Ñ *2013 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: SPECIAL PRESENTATION ON SEPTIC MANAGEMENT*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Eileen Greason	President
Liz Rossi	VP
Shannon Schaaf	Secretary/Editor
Carolyn Pullman	Treasurer
Liza Thomas	Trustee
Dave Schaaf	Trustee
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another year has come and gone, and as I look back I realize that however good my intentions have been, I have failed to lead you as the president of this organization. We are all very busy with our day-to-day lives, and I'm not going to bore anyone with my excuses, but I am hoping you will all forgive me for not being as effective a leader as I had hoped I would be. The community is recovering from the unforgettable natural disaster of the landslide. The demolition of the Casino and the restoration of the slope have certainly changed the look of the Lake, and we can look back on our memories of what once was with a new perspective on the future. I will be stepping down as President at the end of my term December 31, 2013.

I challenge all of you to come to our annual membership meeting with fresh ideas for what direction you'd like to see this organization take, and come prepared to step up to work to see these ideas evolve. The Lake is looking great and the public use of beach and boat launch seems to be at a high point this year. Now is the time to build on this fresh new start. Thanks for all your support, and I'll see you at the meeting.

MLCA & WAG COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Experience the thrill of paddling a boat you've made!

If you haven't made a boat before, you may need a little help. Arthur Strock has generously offered to show any member of our community how to build a 6.5ft or even a 15 ft canoe. Either boat can be made out of a couple of pieces of exterior quarter in. plywood & a few strips of fiberglass tape. The boats can be built quickly & cost under \$100. Great parent-child project. Interested? Call Arthur at 475-3203.

MLCA & WAG relies on volunteers to help achieve all of our goals. Interested in volunteering for events? Want to assist with water quality monitoring? The more we work together the more we can accomplish! Email mlca.wag@gmail.com or call Shannon at 475-5122.



An American Bald Eagle perched on a sycamore tree by Mountain Lake.

**MLCA & WAG
CALENDAR**

July 26th - MLCA & WAG
General Meeting

September 7th – MLCA &
WAG Community Plant
Swap

October 20th – Joan Knechel
Memorial Walk

TBA – Birding 101
Workshop

Want to see more activities?
Is there a speaker/topic you
are interested in learning
about? Contact us with your
ideas at
mlca.wag@gmail.com!

BIRDING 101 WITH NJ AUDUBON SOCIETY

This fall, the NJ Audubon Society will be presenting a Birding 101 Workshop in Liberty Township, hosted by MLCA & WAG. This is a beginner's birding workshop covering everything from selecting the right binoculars to going out and identifying birds. The event will also include a small outdoor bird identification session. **Date will be announced at the General Meeting on July 26th.**

Binoculars and bird guide books will be available for the workshop. Door prizes will be given out to get you ready to go birding!

MLCA & WAG 2013 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Join us for our annual meeting at the Mountain Lake Firehouse on Friday, July 26th from 7-8pm. Special presentation on Septic Management provided by the Warren County Health Department. Special door prize for one FREE septic/cesspool pumping (up to 1,000 gallons) for one lucky member in attendance.

Maintaining a healthy septic system is not only cost-effective for the homeowner, but helps to protect the health and water quality in our watershed. From nuisance smells to contaminating ground and surface waters, septic system failures can pollute our watershed as well as create expensive repairs for the property owner.

Come and learn about how to create a regular maintenance routine to ensure your septic system continues to function properly and keep a happy balance between your wallet and the watershed.

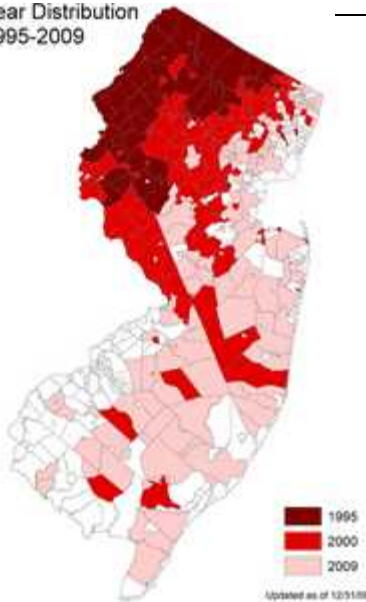
LIVING IN BEAR COUNTRY

Did you know that before 1950 there were less than 100 black bears in NJ? Through wildlife management and research, NJ has been able to see the black bear population successfully increase. In Northwest NJ, more than 2300 black bears call these woods their home.

In April, the Liberty Twp. Environmental Commission hosted a Living with Bears workshop, presented by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. This writer learned some great facts about bears and tips about being a good neighbor. Here are the top five bear facts and prevention tips:

1. Bears can smell food up to 3 miles away! Close the windows when baking your secret triple chocolate cake.
2. Lock your garbage cans, use a certified bear proof can or simply wait to place garbage out until collection morning. Even heard ammonia towels placed on top of garbage in the can will cover the odor.
3. If you and a bear are crossing paths: Always make loud noises and look big. NEVER make eye contact! Do not run. Slowly back away.
4. Largest number of bear complaints usually in March and August for NJ.
5. Black bears are false hibernators. So their winter sleep is not that deep. Be alert always.

Black Bear Distribution
1995-2009



*Information and map provided by
NJDEP Fish & Wildlife. For more info:
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/bearfacts.htm>