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LAKE MANSFIELD

Newsletter of the Great Barrington Land Conservancy

Improvement through Community Action

Christine Ward

Last year adults and kids worked together at the Annual Lake Clean Up & Family Fun Day. Working buddies picked up litter, planted flowers, installed swim ropes and spruced up the beach area.

When we work beside each other we strengthen our community connections and accomplish our shared goals. You can help out again this year. Lake Day (Sunday April 29) is a great way to start. Come with your

questions. This year Lake Mansfield Improvement Task force members will be on hand to provide information on the next steps to accomplish our improvement plan. Throughout the day, a self-guided forest tour will be available to kids and adults. You can help to improve the lake habitat helping to plant a Lake Mansfield demonstration pollinator garden in support of Great Barrington's town plan to be a pollinator friendly community.



2017 Lake Day Volunteers. Can you lend a hand this year?

In addition to this day of service, GBLC will be enhancing the beach area by funding the installation of diaper changing stations in the dressing areas. We will be partnering with the town to fund a \$25,000 fall trail improvement project that will upgrade the entire loop trail to accessible standards. Your generous contributions allow us to support this project with \$10,000. The remaining funding \$15,000 will come through the Community Preservation act with approval at the May town meeting.

Cleaner Waters for Lake Mansfield: Capturing Sediment That Pollutes our Lake

Chris Rembold, Great Barrington Town Planner

The EPA estimates that nearly half of all water quality problems are caused by **nonpoint source (NPS) pollution**. NPS is caused by stormwater runoff, which happens whenever precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces

results from stormwater runoff around Lake Mansfield. The funds, authorized by section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act and passed from the US Environmental Protection Agency to the states, will be targeted at controlling and treating stormwater runoff that enters the lake from the Knob Hill Road.

Currently runoff from this area dumps sediment and pollutants right into the lake. This pollution has been documented over the past two decades as a major contributor to the growth of invasive weeds like Eurasian Milfoil and a general decline in water quality. The grant of \$288,925 will pay for the installation of catch basins and stormwater treatment infrastructure that will collect, capture, and filter sediment and pollutants out of stormwater runoff from Knob Hill Road before that runoff enters the Lake. This project will be constructed this coming summer and fall of 2018.

For decades, this NPS has been a problem for Lake Mansfield, but we are making great strides in correcting this problem—the grant for Knob

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Families count on clean water at Lake Mansfield

like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground. Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.

Thanks to the efforts of the Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force (LMITF) and our partners including the Lake Mansfield Alliance, a project of Great Barrington Land Conservancy, the Town of Great Barrington has received another grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to mitigate pollution that



Rainwater and snowmelt from Knob Hill Road

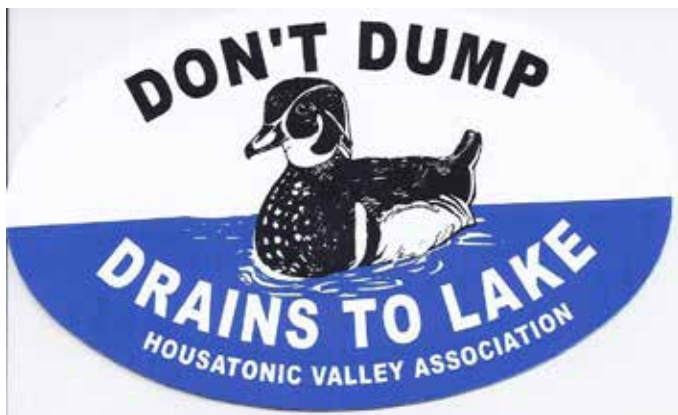
Hill Road is just the latest effort. In 2013 the Town, under a previous 319 grant, installed a new stormwater system on Castle Hill Avenue that now captures about 30 tons of sediment every year before it enters Lake Mansfield! We've teamed up to work with Simon's Rock students to study the water chemistry over time. We've teamed with the Massachusetts Office of Fishing and Boating Access to improve the boat launch—to stop NPS there and improve the launch. And we're completing a CPA-funded study of Lake Mansfield Road which will identify ways to mitigate NPS, including increasing the buffer zone along the road.

These projects are the result of more than a decade of work by LMITF and LMA. It has taken a long time but we are having great success because we are working collaboratively and not losing sight of our ultimate goal—a cleaner lake for swimmers, boaters, and fishers and everyone to enjoy.

What you can do to prevent nonpoint source pollution:

- (1) Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways and sidewalks
- (2) Never dump anything down storm drains
- (3) Avoid applying pesticides and herbicides
- (4) Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces
- (5) Pick up after your pet.
- (6) don't feed the geese

Thank you!



We partner with Housatonic Valley Association to affix these labels to LM area drains



Clean water means a great lake for all!

2018 Summer Events

www.GBLand.org for complete details

Sunday April 29 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Lake Mansfield Clean Up & Family Fun Day

Summer Lifeguards 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Beginning on Memorial Day Weekend

Provided every day during school vacation

Children's Swim Lessons

Free to Great Barrington Residents

Session 1: Jul 5 - 24 (Tues & Thurs)

Session 2: Jul 31 - Aug 16 (Tues & Thurs)

To register call Berkshire South, (413) 528-2810

Summer Yoga in July & August

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.

\$10 requested per class

A portion of proceeds donated to GBLC for Lake Mansfield.

Questions? info@GBLand.org



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GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Working to preserve, protect, and enhance Lake Mansfield
as a vital habitat and community resource.

Lake Mansfield
Spring Clean Up & Family Fun Day
Sunday April 29, 2018
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Meet at the Beach – gloves recommended.
Bring tools: rakes, wheelbarrows, hand trowels ...
And enthusiasm!

Learn about next steps of the
Lake Mansfield Improvement Plan

Enjoy a self-guided Conservation Forest Walk

Help plant a garden for native pollinators

12 Noon: Potluck Picnic & Community Meeting

Join friends and neighbors for a fun day of community action

Raindate: Sunday May 6

