



# Deal Lake Watershed Alliance

## 2019-2020 Status Report

Dear Members and Friends:

Thank you for your continued support of the Deal Lake Watershed Alliance. Through your generous contribution of time and funds, in 2019 we realized numerous accomplishments to benefit Deal Lake including:

- Hosting a rain garden workshop for Deal Lake homeowners. Attendees discovered how rain gardens help our lake and watershed, received site-specific plans from landscape design professionals, and became eligible for financial assistance to build their own gardens. Stay tuned for the 2020 date for our next rain garden workshop!
- Obtaining unanimous approval for the Wickapecko Lakeside Rain Garden Park from Ocean Township's mayor and council. Ground-breaking is slated for this spring. Volunteers welcomed!
- Sponsoring guided nature tours featuring lake history and wildlife identification. Be sure to paddle out again with us this spring to experience Deal Lake's beauty first-hand and learn more about the challenges facing our Lake.
- Working with the Deal Lake Commission to evaluate the most effective way to remedy sediment and weed buildup, especially in the western (upstream) portions of the Lake.
- Meeting with Senator Vin Gopal, Freeholder Tom Arnone, and other local officials to develop a plan to retrofit Deal Lake's upstream basins at Seaview Shopping Center.
- Helping Monmouth University establish a citizen-science water monitoring program for Deal Lake. Data collected now aids in the analysis of lake conditions, flags potential danger signs, and tracks lake improvement over time.
- Vigilantly serving as the "eyes and ears" of the Lake. When we saw potential harm to Deal Lake caused, for example, by improper water or sediment discharge, we immediately contacted relevant authorities to remedy the situation and to enforce environmental laws.
- Obtaining not-for-profit 501(c)(3) status for the Alliance, and;



# Deal Lake Watershed Alliance 2019-2020 Status Report (continued)

- Collaborating with the Deal Lake Commission on their annual Deal Lake clean-up. According to Commission Chair Don Brockel, volunteers removed a record amount of debris.

Plus, despite being just one and one-half months into the New Year, we have already:

- Applied to NJDEP for funding to prevent harmful algal blooms and improve stormwater management in Deal Lake.
- Been selected by the Asbury Rotary Club as the nonprofit beneficiary of their 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine Tasting & Dinner Fundraiser to be held on Friday, May 15, 2020 at the Deal Golf and Country Club in Ocean Township. Details to follow.
- Met with the owner of the Seaview Shopping Center who now understands and supports the need to retrofit detention basins on his property to help mitigate flooding and infilling in Deal Lake.
- Had a follow-up meeting with Senator Vin Gopal and Freeholder Tom Arnone who clearly support our cause. Our next meeting with them will include NJDEP and county and local engineers to discuss retrofitting upstream basins and Deal Lake dredging.
- As part of our goal to provide education and outreach to our members and the community at-large, we will host a workshop with Dr. Sean Sterrett, Assistant Professor of Wildlife Ecology at Monmouth University. At this session, information will be provided about Deal Lake's resident turtle population including how we can help them by installing basking platforms.



**None of this would be possible without you!** Soon we will be reaching out with all kinds of ways to get you even more involved in improving Deal Lake. In the meantime, please renew your membership (still just \$5.00), tell your neighbors about us, and consider getting a head-start on your 2020 charitable giving by making a donation. Our Lake needs us!

**YES! I want to do my part to help the Deal Lake Watershed Alliance continue its vital work to protect and restore Deal Lake.**

\_\_\_ Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of: \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 Other: \$ \_\_\_

\_\_\_ Renew my membership for 2020 (Just \$5.00 per member)

\_\_\_ Enroll the following new members at just \$5.00 per member:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

My check, made payable to DLWA is enclosed. Mail to: DLWA, 106 Lincoln Drive, Ocean, NJ 07712. Or pay online at <http://www.dlwanj.org/donate.html>

**THANK YOU!!**