



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



# IT TAKES A WATERSHED

Dear Friends,

We all live in a watershed and the Georgica Pond Watershed is the sole focus of the Friends of Georgica Pond Foundation. We are always happy to share our research findings with other watersheds and benefit greatly from the exchange of ideas and data. The Georgica Pond watershed is large—approximately 4,000 acres of which the Pond is almost 300. The watershed is not only large, but also changing rapidly—some from the effects of global warming such as the southern pine beetle-- and some from the effects of past and current land use such as the high nitrogen levels in our groundwater. The watershed is also under threat from a 70-acre 50-lot commercial/ industrial subdivision. All of these issues impact the pond's water quality, the creatures that depend on it including us.

In 2021 we obtained 5-year permits to operate the Aquatic Weed Harvester from the NYSDEC and the Town of East Hampton. Together with help from the East Hampton Town Trustees, the harvester was back on the pond in August after a 2-year hiatus. Watch for it in July.



*Georgica Cove in August 2021. The pond experienced the worst outbreak of blue green algae since 2015.*

We were able to gather again in person for our annual meeting to hear Dr. Christopher Gobler, our Science Advisor report on the “State of Georgica Pond”. We are so grateful to Ronald Perelman and Dr. Anna Chapman for opening up the Creeks once again for our meeting. The 60-acre Creeks estate is managed organically and has converted to I/A (Innovative, alternative) low nitrogen septic systems. As Dr. Gobler emphasized during his talk, antiquated septic systems are the largest contributor of nitrogen to the groundwater and Georgica Pond. Have you started your septic system upgrade yet? We applaud all 38 families who have installed or are underway in the process.



*photo by Letty Patino*

In 2021 we started beach clean ups with plastic debris as the key target. We got a lot of help from partners such as the Surfrider Foundation and the East Hampton Town Trustees. Encouraging young people to participate in these events helps build their understanding of their own impact on the environment and the complexity of environmental issues.



*At full build out and maximum coverage, a commercial/industrial complex would dwarf the Wainscott business district, snarl traffic, all within the most sensitive part of the Georgica Pond watershed.*



*One of the Georgica Pond bald eagles on a pitch pine tree. The eagles are thriving but the pitch pines are being decimated by the southern pine beetle.*

As you read the annual report, I hope you will appreciate the hard work of our team and partners that you have made possible by your generous support. Thank you for both your financial support and your careful stewardship of your land. Together, everyone in the Georgica Pond Watershed can contribute to the restoration of the Pond.

Sincerely,

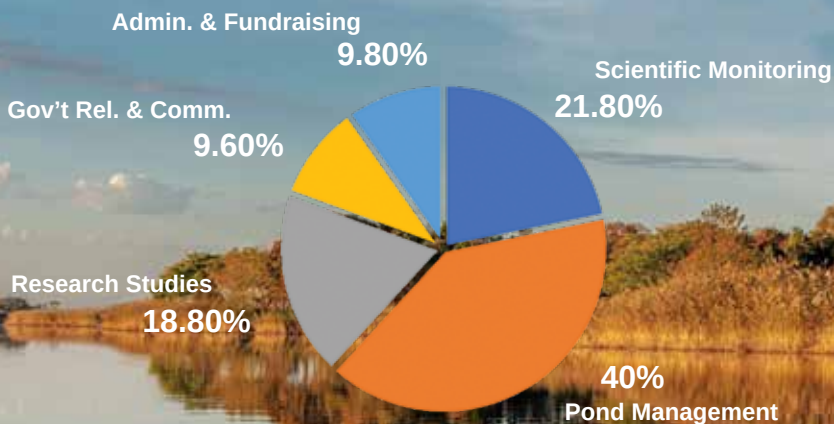
*Priscilla Rattazzi*

Priscilla Rattazzi  
President





# 2021 EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



Category	Scientific Monitoring	Pond Management	Research Studies	Communications & Gov't. Rel.	Administration & Fundraising	Total
Amount	\$101,752	\$192,846	\$90,726	\$46,702	\$47,406	\$482,432
Percentage	21.80%	40%	18.80%	9.60%	9.80%	100%

Photo by Alfred F. Ross

## Friends of Georgica Pond Foundation 2020-2021 DONORS

### BALD EAGLE

**+\$100,000**  
Anonymous

### BLUE HERON

**\$50,000-\$99,999**  
Anonymous (2)  
Anne & John Hall  
Anna Chapman &  
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Janine & Jeff Yass  
Candace &  
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Christy & Paul Fowler  
Michael Hansen  
Richard Meier  
Letty & Ryan Patino  
Laura & David Pellegrino  
Perkins Family Tomato Stand  
Michael Weigley

\*Denotes a multi-year pledge  
List as of Dec. 30, 2021

# ENEMY OF THE POND, WASTEWATER! EVERY TOILET MATTERS...

By now, most people understand that the wastewater that seeps out of traditional septic tanks and leaching basins is not treated. It is loaded with nitrogen which is the nutrient that triggers harmful algal blooms. A lot of people think if they are not right on the pond or that their septic system isn't on the pond, that they are OK. This is not the case. The Town has designated a Water Protection District (WPD) for Georgica Pond that is wholly within the Georgica Pond Watershed and corresponds closely to the 10-year travel time. That means that anything that is put in/on the ground in this zone will end up in Georgica Pond within 10 years.



*Cyanobacteria turns the pond green and toxic. Nitrogen from septic systems is the culprit.*

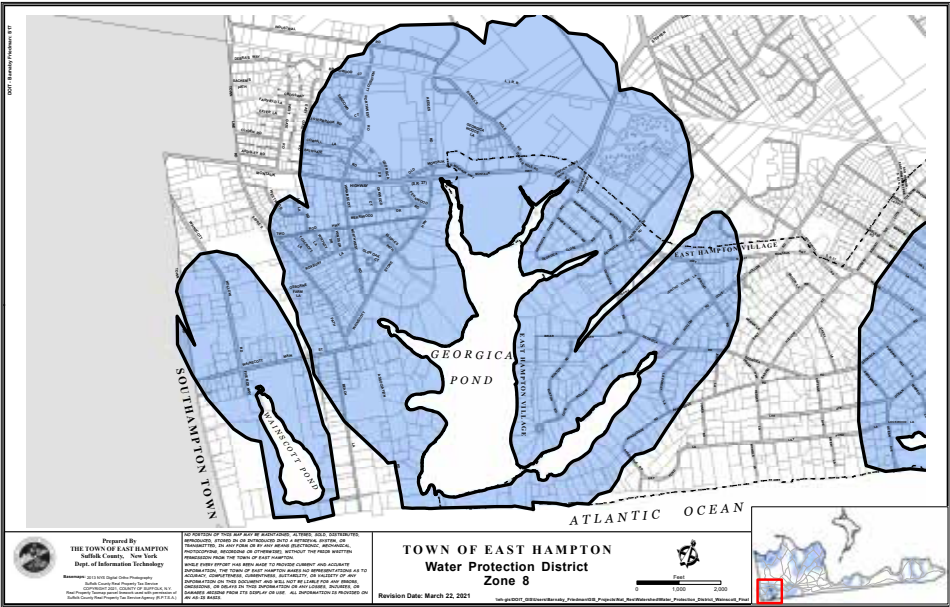
Incentive grants are still available from the Town of East Hampton, Suffolk County and New York State to have your septic system upgraded to an I/A (Innovative/Alternative) system. By doing this your nitrogen input to Georgica Pond will be significantly lessened.

**Typical Septic Tank & Leaching Pool**  
+65 mg/liter nitrogen

**I/A system**  
3-19 mg/liter nitrogen

For more information on how to get started visit the following websites:

[www.reclaimourwater.org](http://www.reclaimourwater.org)  
<https://www.ehamptonny.gov/640/Clean-Water-East-Hampton-Program>



## MISSION STATEMENT

*To preserve the Georgica Pond ecosystem for future generations through science-based, watershed-wide policy and restoration.*

# FRIENDS OF GEORGICA POND FOUNDATION

Priscilla Rattazzi, *President*  
Anne Gilchrist Hall, *Vice President*  
Jonathan M. Wainwright, Esq, *Treasurer*  
Anna Chapman, MD, *Secretary*  
Katharine Rayner, *Board Member*  
Sid Perkins, *Board Member*  
Sara Davison, *Executive Director*  
Larry Cantwell, *Government Relations Advisor*  
Addavail Coslett, *Director of Strategy & Partnerships, Chapman Perelman Foundation*



Photo by Michael Hansen

*From left to right - Jon Wainwright, Kathy Rayner, Anna Chapman, Priscilla Rattazzi, Sid Perkins, Anne Hall*

## SCHOOL OF MARINE & ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES (SOMAS), Stony Brook University

Christopher Gobler, Ph.D  
*Endowed Chair of Coastal Ecology & Conservation, Science Advisor to FOGP*  
Michael Doall  
*Associate Director of Bivalve Restoration, the Gobler Lab*  
Bradley Peterson, Ph.D and Brittney Scanell  
*Marine Community Ecology, Peterson Lab*

**PARTNERS** - Our work at Georgica Pond would not be possible without the collaboration and support of the local governments who have jurisdiction over the pond and the other NGOs whose broader missions inform and help direct us.

### NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

East Hampton Village  
Preservation Society  
Group for the East End  
Peconic Land Trust  
Perfect Earth Project  
The Nature Conservancy,  
Long Island Chapter  
Surfrider Foundation,  
Eastern Long Island Chapter

### GOVERNMENT

East Hampton Town Trustees  
State of New York  
Suffolk County, Reclaim Our Water Program  
Town of East Hampton  
Village of East Hampton

**PLEASE JOIN OUR MAILING LIST TODAY** - [Friendsofgeorgicapond.org/contact/](http://Friendsofgeorgicapond.org/contact/)  
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*Friends of Georgica Pond Foundation, Inc. is a 501 c 3 tax exempt charity. Federal Tax ID 47-4177003*