

PIECES IN A PUZZLE.

PRESERVING THE REMAINING OPEN SPACE IN THE GEORGICA POND WATERSHED

Although 59% of the 4,000 acre Georgica Pond watershed is already developed, there are still vacant parcels of land that need protection. In the northern part of the watershed in the sandy, pine barrens region near the East Hampton airport, there are a number of larger parcels available, including the 70-acre former sand mine.

Around the pond, there are just a handful of privately owned vacant parcels left. Our partner, the Peconic Land Trust has been working with us and the Village and Town of East Hampton to lead the charge on securing these lands for permanent protection. Three years ago, a magnificent donation from Kathy Rayner enabled the Trust to purchase the former Il Mulino

Restaurant site at the headwaters of Talmage Creek. Today, this land is the Georgica Pond Preserve.

In 2022, the Trust and the Town of East Hampton, using private and CPF (Community Preservation Funds) purchased a 2.7 acre property on Jones Creek and adjacent to the 17-acre Nature Conservancy Fulling Mill Farm Preserve, creating a bridge from the preserve to the pond. This acquisition not only prevents more nitrogen, sediment, and other contaminants from entering the pond, but protects a mature oak forest that provides an important ecological link from the pond to the larger Fulling Mill Farm Preserve which is managed as a meadow for wildlife including pollinators.



*Photo by Sara Davison.
View of Fulling Mill Farm from the
new Jones Creek property.*

FRIENDS OF GEORGICA POND FOUNDATION

WHO WE ARE

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 - Sara Davison, Anne G. Hall,
Priscilla Rattazzi, Sid Perkins, Anna Chapman,
Jon Wainwright, Dr. Chris Gobler. Not pictured:
Kathy Rayner, Larry Cantwell and Addavail Coslett.*

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

Christopher Gobler, Ph.D.
Endowed Chair of Coastal Ecology & Conservation, Science Advisor to FOGP
Bradley Peterson, Ph.D.
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



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PLEASE JOIN OUR MAILING LIST TODAY - Friendsofgeorgicapond.org/contact/
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ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Photo by Alfredo E. Ross

MISSION STATEMENT

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

WHERE LAND MEETS WATER

Dear Friends,

Living where land meets water confers a special obligation on the part of the homeowner. We now know that our septic wastewater is the most important contributor to elevated nitrogen levels at Georgica Pond, but nitrogen from fertilizer and stormwater runoff also contribute. Homeowners working with their landscapers to convert to an organic, non-toxic lawn and landscape maintenance program can make a solid contribution and create a healthier environment for their families and pets. In addition, creating a native plant buffer along the edge of the pond will help to intercept any remaining soluble nutrients before they enter the pond. These steps will contribute to the continuing restoration and resiliency of Georgica Pond and its watershed.

Thanks to your support in 2022 we were able to operate the aquatic weed harvester for a full season for the first time since 2018 and we removed 72,060 pounds of aquatic plant material. The harvester is treating the symptom of elevated nitrogen levels, i.e., blue-green algal blooms and macrophyte blooms. No major pond-wide harmful algal bloom occurred in 2022, a sign of the improved water quality at the pond.



Photo by B. Hunt

Snapping Turtle at sunset



*Eastern
Amberwing*

Photo by Alfred F. Ross

We also led the charge to stop the Wainscott Commercial Center. Our preliminary work in 2022 lead to some significant decisions in early 2023 regarding this 50-lot commercial/industrial subdivision only 500 feet north of Georgica Pond. This battle is far from over and we will need your continued support.

The flora and fauna at Georgica Pond are evidence of its improved water quality. Dragonflies and damselflies, both indicators of good water quality, were abundant and the Georgica Pond Bald Eagles proved resilient and built a new nest after the pitch pine tree they had nested in succumbed to the southern pine beetle and blew down in a storm.

Working with the Town of East Hampton, the East Hampton Town Trustees, and the Village of East Hampton, the two major stormwater remediation projects at the pond were advanced with final engineering in the works. These projects are largely funded by Suffolk County and the Town of East Hampton, CPF water quality program with Friends providing a seed grant and acting as a catalyst to secure the public funds.

Both these projects will intercept road/stormwater runoff and treat it before it enters Georgica Pond.

All these accomplishments would not be possible without your ongoing support. Your generosity allows us to conduct cutting edge research and monitoring and act as a catalyst for science-based restoration at Georgica Pond.

Please join us on August 27 at the Creeks to hear Dr. Christopher Gobler's annual "State of Georgica Pond" report. See you there!

Sincerely,



Priscilla Rattazzi
President

WARNING

Blue-green Algae bloom(s) have been spotted in this waterbody!

Avoid Harmful Blue-green Algae Blooms while swimming, fishing and boating



Keep kids and pets away from areas with blooms or scum.
Swim, fish and boat in areas with no blooms or scum.

Contact can make people and animals sick.

If contact occurs, rinse with clean water.
If symptoms occur, contact a medical provider.



Blooms can look like streaks, spilled paint, pea soup, floating clumps or dots.

Learn more:
www.health.ny.gov/HarmfulAlgae
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html

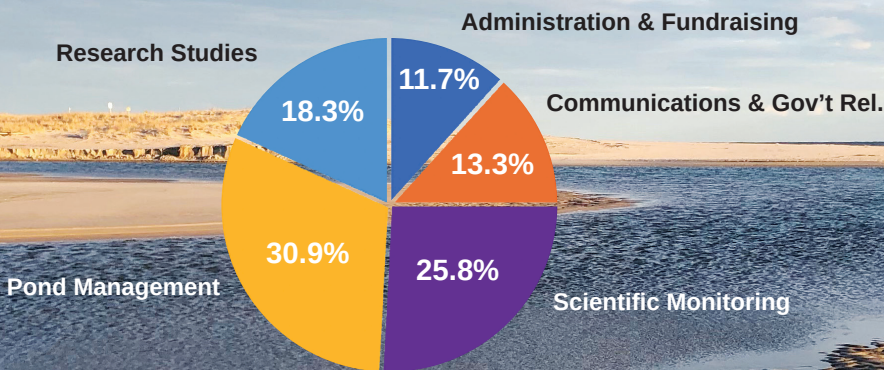
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FROM YOUR HOUSE TO THE POND--- WASTEWATER!

More homeowners have upgraded their septic systems to the (low-nitrogen) I/A systems around the pond and we are very excited that we expect a quantum leap of upgrades in the coming year. Tax free public incentive funds are still available to all homeowner's who apply. FOGP thanks all the homeowners who have taken this critical step to improve Georgica Pond's water quality. Homeowners can now contact the Watershed Manager for Georgica and Sagaponack Ponds to get free assistance in design, paperwork, and coordination of the process. To contact the Watershed Manager, email Tom Varley at Thomas.varley@stonybrook.edu.

In addition to homeowners, institutions and commercial operations in East Hampton are also eligible for incentive grants. During 2022, we were thrilled to provide a seed grant of \$5,000 to the Wainscott Sewing Society which owns the Wainscott Chapel to install a state-of-the-art septic system. This upgrade was part of an important renovation and expansion to the historic building—a community center—for the Wainscott Hamlet. Additional commercial and institutional organizations are encouraged to start upgrading their septic systems as well.

2022 EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



Category	Scientific Monitoring	Pond Management	Research Studies	Communications & Gov't. Rel.	Administration & Fundraising	Total
Amount	\$123,005	\$147,242	\$87,244	\$62,848	\$55,705	\$476,044
Percentage	25.80%	30.90%	18.30%	13.30%	11.7%	100%

Friends of Georgica Pond Foundation 2022 DONORS

BALD EAGLE

+\$100,000

Katharine J. Rayner

BLUE HERON

\$50,000-\$99,999

Jill Davis & Ed Conard

Anonymous*

OSPREY

\$25,000-\$49,999

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Sarah & Dave Johnson

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Barbara Sullivan

Barbara A. Terry

**Denotes 2-year pledge*

List as of Dec. 30, 2022



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