



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Photo by Priscilla Ratazzi

MISSION STATEMENT

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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

LONG TERM APPROACH

Dear Friends,

Georgica Pond is a magical place for me. Not only am I lucky enough to live on its shores, but I have had the great good fortune to grow up around the pond, sailing, swimming, hunting, and fishing. If you visit the pond in all seasons, you know it has many moods from quiet grey water mixing with fog to brilliant blue water rushing to the ocean.

The world as we know it is changing and with it Georgica Pond. Data from our long-term monitoring overseen by Dr. Christopher Gobler, our science advisor (and professor at Stony Brook University's School of Marine & Atmospheric Sciences), shows that the temperature of the pond is rising but overall water quality has been improving since our management actions have been implemented. On the cover of this report is a photograph of the solar powered telemetry buoy that the Gobler Lab has used since 2015 to gather critical ecological data from the pond such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, and harmful algae densities, to name a few. We are proud that Georgica Pond is one of the first waterbodies on Long Island to have a 24/7 water quality telemetry buoy and gratified that its data contributes to Dr. Gobler's larger, Island-wide, water quality monitoring studies. We are invested in a long term approach because we realize that the impairments to Georgica Pond require long term actions and time to resolve.

We know that excessive nitrogen from wastewater and fertilizer is the trigger for harmful algal and pondweed blooms in the pond.

Thus, the most significant action homeowners can take is to upgrade their traditional septic system to a low-nitrogen, I/A (innovative/alternative) septic system. Nitrogen runoff from fertilizer is also a



Photo by Alfred F. Ross

problem, so using much less fertilizer and converting it to a slow-release/organic brand will help substantially.

As people move into the community, we make a point of trying to meet with them, and introduce them to our mission and how they as homeowners can minimize their impact on the pond. If you are new to the community and we have not met you, please reach out. We would love to meet you.

A huge thank you to our donors for your very generous support during 2023. Your contributions have made a significant difference to the water quality of the pond and to the overall environment of the pond's watershed. I hope you enjoy our 2023 Annual Report. We thank you for your belief in our work and look forward to seeing you this summer.

Sincerely,

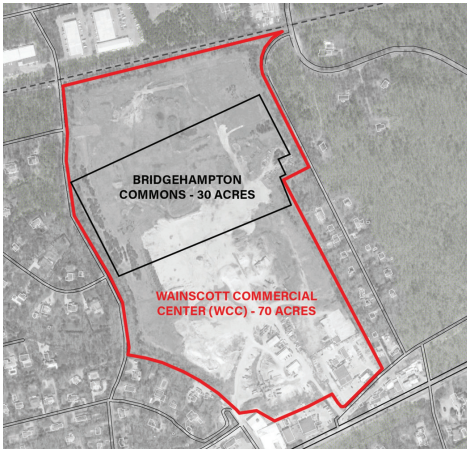
A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "J. M. Wainwright".

Jonathan M. Wainwright
President

WAINSCOTT COMMERCIAL CENTER

WRONG FOR OUR COMMUNITY

During 2023 some major victories were achieved in the battle to stop the 50-lot commercial/industrial subdivision just north of Georgica Pond known as the Wainscott Commercial Center. This proposed project in an abandoned sand mine would forever transform the Hamlet of Wainscott, degrade water quality at Georgica Pond and bring more traffic to a section of Montauk Highway that is already the most heavily travelled in the Town. At 70 acres the proposed development is more than twice the size of the Bridgehampton Commons Shopping Center. Friends is a co-founder of the



Map by MB Architects



Coalition to Stop the Wainscott Commercial Center. Members of the Coalition turned out for the public hearing with over 50 people and organizations commenting against the project and no one speaking in favor. As a result of public comment and testimony by our experts, the planning department has suggested a Supplemental Draft Environmental Statement (SDEIS) is warranted. Our position that the project is also a “Planned Industrial Park” and therefore requires a “Special Permit” was upheld by the Town Zoning Board of Appeals.

There are better outcomes for this property that don’t disregard the Town’s existing comprehensive plan and would provide more thoughtful, resilient, and environmentally sustainable uses. Thanks to your support we will continue our work on alternatives and count on you to stand up for a better future for our community.

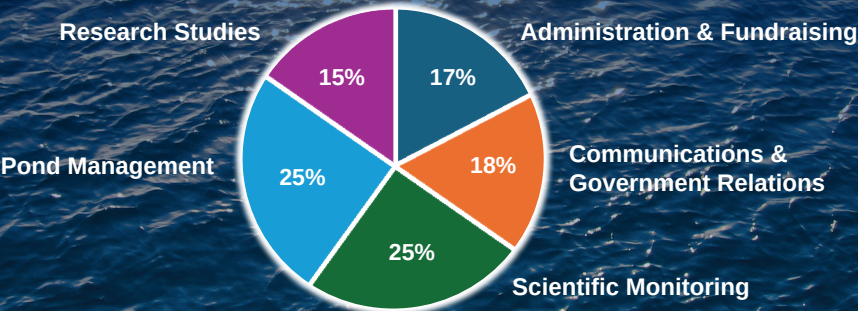
Newsday, March 14, 2023

PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW BENEFITS GEORGICA POND

Thanks to the generosity of Alfred Ross and the excellent curation by Terry Wallace, a month-long show of stunning Georgica Pond photographs was held in September at the Gardiner Mill Cottage and Gallery in East Hampton to benefit Friends of Georgica Pond Foundation. The event was covered by the East Hampton Star, the East Hampton Press and LTV. Many of our members are familiar with the extraordinary photographs of Alfred Ross, one of which is featured in this Annual Report and in our newsletters and website.



2023 EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



Category	Scientific Monitoring	Pond Management	Research Studies	Communications & Gov't. Rel.	Administration & Fundraising	Total
Amount	\$118,384	\$115,609.50	\$72,428	\$82,460	\$81,058.61	\$469,941
Percentage	25.19%	24.60%	15.41%	17.55%	17.25%	100%

Friends of Georgica Pond Foundation 2023 DONORS

Thanks to our generous donors we were able to advance our mission of protecting and restoring Georgica Pond

BLUE HERON

\$50,000-\$99,999

Janine & Jeff Yass

OSPREY

\$25,000-\$49,999

Anonymous (2)

Anna Chapman &

Ronald Perelman

Anne Gilchrist Hall & John Hall

Lenore & Sean Mahoney

Joyce F. Menschel

Cynnie & Tom Ogden

Ashley & Sid Perkins

Candace & Jon Wainwright

Anita & Byron* Wien

WHITE EGRET

\$15,000-\$24,999

Alexa & Michael Chae

Josefin & Paul Hilal

Rosalind & Ken Landis

Janet Ross

OYSTER CATCHER

\$10,000-\$14,999

Anonymous

Rachel & Neil Blumenthal

Marcia Dunn & Jonathan Sobel

Timmie & Scott Haskins

Kathy Rayner

Rick Reiss

Jane & Alfred Ross

Lisa & Michael Schultz

PIPING PLOVER

\$5,000-\$9,999

Mahnaz & Adam Bartos

Diane & William Blumenthal

Sarah & Kurt Chapman

Ellen Chesler & Matt Mallow

Jennifer & Stephen Errico

Susan Fraker

David Gallo

Judith Lanier

Julia Murphy

Kate Nobel & Aaron Sawchuk

O'Neil Family Charitable Trust

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Stacey Fredericks &

Jonathan Cohen

Debra Fischer

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Lynn P. Tishman

Ulrike & Dieter Von Lehsten

Greta Weil & Richard Conway

Peter Wolf

SANDERLING

\$1-\$999

Elaine & Edward Altman

Barbara & Dennis D'Andrea

Paul Fowler

Georgica Association

Lemonade Stand

Carol Gillham

Susan McGraw Keeber

Allison Overgaard

Reine Turner

Jane & James Weigley

GIFTS IN MEMORY

OF BYRON WIEN

Ellen Chesler & Matt Mallow

Paul Hilal

Candace & Jonathan Wainwright

GIFTS TO THE WAINSCOTT GREEN, RICK DEL MASTRO PARK, 2022-2023

Cynthia Del Mastro

Jennifer Del Mastro

Barbara & Dennis D'Andrea

Sara Davison

Quincy & Hersey Eggington

Harley Greenfield

Barbara & Anthony Liberatore

Carolyn Logan Gluck

Susan Macy

Carole Slater

Bruce Wayne Solomon

Sally Sunshine & Peter Persico

Janice & Philip Young

*deceased

List as of Dec. 30, 2023

ADDRESSING STORMWATER AT GEORGICA POND

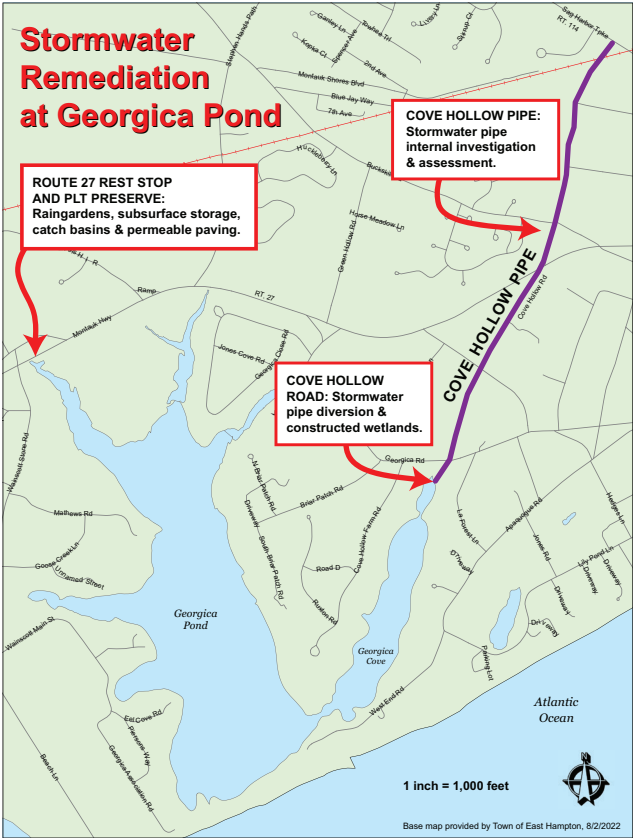
Stormwater runoff is a serious threat to water quality. After many years of planning, two stormwater remediation projects are ready to start at Georgica Pond. Stormwater is simply rain or melting snow that flows over roads, parking lots, driveways, and lawns, which enters drainage pipes or basins and enters waterbodies.

The two projects are located at the Rt. 27 Rest Stop/ Kayak Launch and Peconic Land Trust's Georgica Pond Preserve at the north end of the pond and the top of Georgica Cove where a 7,700 linear foot drainage pipe which originates all the way back at Rt. 114 empties into Georgica Cove.

As it flows, stormwater carries with it pollutants such as motor oil, sediment, pet waste, garbage, fertilizer, and pesticides that are harmful to aquatic life. High bacterial counts are also common and can be a health risk to humans. In fact, both these locations had some of the most unsafe levels of bacteria found in East Hampton samples.

A series of bioswales, small settling ponds, drainage basins, previous paving and garbage interceptors will greatly improve the water quality at both locations before it enters the pond.

Friends of Georgica Pond has served as a catalyst for these projects working closely with the Town of East Hampton, the East Hampton Town Trustees, the Village of East Hampton, the Peconic Land Trust, the Surfrider Foundation, Eastern Long Island Chapter, State Assemblyman Fred Thiele, and the New York State Department of Transportation. Funding for the planning studies was provided by Friends, the Suffolk County WQPRP program, and the East Hampton CPF program.



The mobile camera used to examine the inside of the pipe.

FRIENDS OF GEORGICA POND FOUNDATION

WHO WE ARE

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



Photo by Letty Patino

Dr. Stephen Heck and Dr. Chris Gobler of the School of Marine & Atmospheric Sciences at Stony Brook University answer audience questions during the 2023 Annual Meeting.

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

Christopher Gobler, Ph.D.
Endowed Chair of Coastal Ecology & Conservation, Science Advisor to FOGP Director, Stony Brook University Center for Clean Water Technology
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 NGOs whose broader missions inform and help direct us.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Coalition to STOP the Wainscott Commercial Center
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/
PO Box 1393 • Wainscott NY 11975 • info@friendsofgeorgicapond.org • 631-324-9034

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