



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



SAVE THE DATE
ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 20, 2023
5:30-7 PM

RSVP at info@goosecreek.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRS

Dear Members and Friends,

I have worked with our Association for over a decade now, first as a board member, then as Treasurer and now as the Loudoun Chair. During my 12 years with the organization, I have seen it greatly transformed.

When I joined the GCA board in 2011, I was somewhat new to the Middleburg area and accepted Penny Denegre's nomination to the board, mostly to get more involved in the community and make new friends. (Little did I know that it would lead me to a second career with my environmental offsets business, Potomac Mitigation, but that's another story.) Butter Strother was our capable Chair then, when Lori Keenan became Chair, she recruited me as Co-Chair for Loudoun.

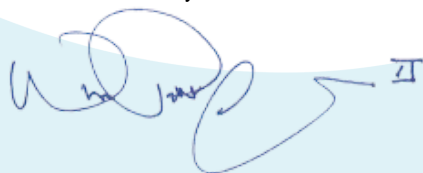
Over the past decade, we have modernized our organization and moved it forward to meet new challenges, providing not only the planning and vision, but also the uncompensated day-to-day work that is necessary for progress. When our award-winning video "Goose Creek" was written and produced in 2019-2020, we were launched into the modern age. I have seen the organization move to modern office space that reflects its forward-looking outlook and the board transformed to a cast of talented professionals, including diplomats, lawyers, MBAs, economists, business owners, and engineers, all willing to get their hands dirty planting trees, monitoring streams, negotiating with data center developers and even serving hors d'oeuvres at our annual spring party. In 2021 we memorialized our 50 + year anniversary in 2021 and detailed GCA's long history of conservation in the Goose Creek watershed.

This past year we also celebrated our Golden Goose Award winner, Jeff Millington, a recently retired board member and our long-time stream-monitoring trainer who still leads our benthic stream-monitoring, which is crucial to our mission of protecting the Goose Creek and providing outreach to the public. Thank you so much, Jeff, for all your efforts!

We also added two new board members last year, Nigel Ogilvie and Leo Subler. With their backgrounds in finance (Leo) and the Federal Reserve (Nigel), we are well on the way to having one of the most over-qualified non-profit boards anywhere! Perhaps their financial skills will bestow upon us a wealth of support to continue our mission. Spoiler – we are already working on corporate grants for a permanent endowment. More on that later. Thank you for supporting us in 2022!

On Behalf of the Goose Creek Association Board,

Paul Lawrence
Co-Chair
Loudoun County



INTRODUCING OUR COPRORATE SPONSOR PROGRAM

Partner with the Goose Creek Association and play an important role in protecting and preserving Goose Creek, a Virginia designated scenic river and crown jewel of Loudoun and Fauquier Counties. Your annual sponsorship will help support our ongoing water quality testing and monitoring, tree planting, environmental advocacy, and education programs while providing your business with recognition that highlights your dedication to making a positive environmental impact.



SPONSOR LEVELS AND BENEFITS

				
Beaver	Blue Heron	River Otter	Bald Eagle	Golden Goose
1 Annual Event Ticket	2 Annual Event Tickets	4 Annual Event Tickets	6 Annual Event Tickets	8 Annual Event Tickets
Logo on Annual Report	Logo on Annual Report	Logo on Annual Report	Logo on Annual Report	Logo on Annual Report
	Logo on Website	Logo on Website	Logo on Website	Logo on Website
		Event Recognition	Event Recognition	Event Recognition
			Employee Volunteer and Education Opportunities	Employee Volunteer and Education Opportunities
				Water Testing Site Sponsor
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2022 BOARD MEMBERS



Aline Day

An ardent participant in the gardening community, Aline is actively involved in GCA's education and outreach programs including our annual spring party.



Sally Fletcher

A retired attorney, Sally is involved in GCA's education programs and its outreach and development endeavors, including planning our annual spring party.



Karl Kelley

Managing Partner at Pointe Advisory, Karl is actively involved in advocacy in Loudoun County. Karl serves on our committee on data center matters.



Paul Lawrence

Paul is our Co-chair for Loudoun County and the point person for advocacy before the Loudoun Board of Supervisors on projects impacting Goose Creek Watershed. Paul is a lawyer and the owner of Potomac Mitigation Bank.



Ted Lewis

I live on Goose Creek so I am personally invested in working to ensure that Goose Creek remains one of Loudoun County's greatest natural resources that can be accessed by all its residents.



Lori Keenan McGuinness

Co-Chair for GCA, Lori has been a board member since 2007, involved in all its programs with a special interest in advocacy to keep our watershed beautiful.



Dulany Morison

Dulany heads the Goose Creek Challenge, an initiative to plant over 2,500 riparian buffer trees with volunteer youth each spring to prevent erosion, filter runoff, create wildlife habitat, and improve the water quality of the Goose Creek Watershed



Norman Myers

A professional real estate appraiser, Norm leads the the chemical and bacterial monitoring project and contributes to advocacy efforts.

2022 BOARD MEMBERS



Ellen Oberwetter

A full time attorney and certified stream monitor, Ellen loves to take photos of macroinvertebrates on the Goose Creek.



Nigel Ogilvie

Nigel has been a strong environmentalist since his teenage years. Serving on the board and as treasurer for the Goose Creek Association is a way that Nigel enjoys giving back to the community.



Leo Subler

"I absolutely love this area's natural beauty. After retiring from a career in finance, I joined GCA's Board to help raise the funding needed to protect and preserve it."

"In its 54 mile journey to the Potomac River, the Goose meanders through towns and backyards, fields and forests. I care very much about the people who live there, they deserve a healthy, beautiful river."
-Aline Day



Goose Creek Association Board Members gather for a picture at the Annual Spring Members Party in 2022.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Pat McIlvaine Loudoun County Soil & Water Conservation District
Melissa Allen John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District
Patty Callahan Goose Creek Challenge Advisor
Jeff Millington Stream Monitor Chair

STAFF

Holly Geary Executive Administrator
Leah Chaldares Program Director
Matt Frost River Steward



OUR IMPACT

26

Stream monitoring volunteers collect macroinvertebrate data at **15** sites every spring and fall



1240

Trees Planted by **111 Volunteers**

who learned about and helped our watershed at 4 riparian buffer plantings

125

Students
(and their teachers)

Educated from our school visits to teach about Goose Creek, watershed health, and our Chesapeake Bay watershed.

140

Landowners

Reached with our mailed brochure about best management practices for water quality. A number became part of our Goose Creek Challenge Program.

6 Sites

along the Goose Creek where water samples are collected monthly for testing with our chemical and bacterial monitoring program.

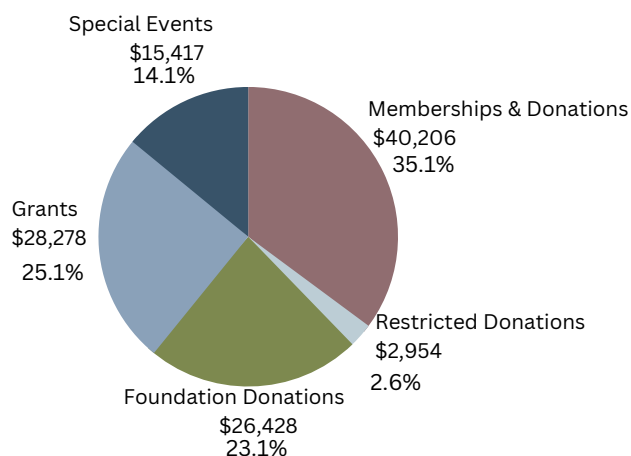
5 Outreach Events

at local festivals and events to educate about watersheds and conservation awareness.



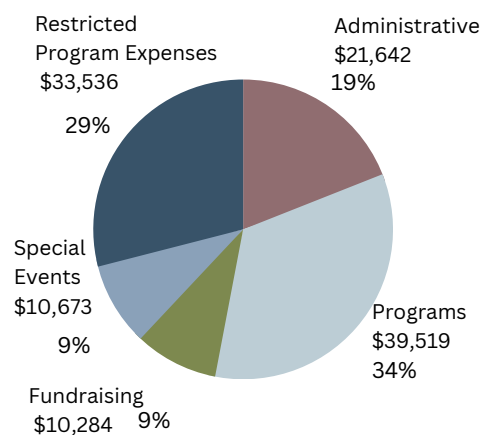
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

INCOME



Total Income \$113,301

EXPENSES



Total Expenses \$115,654



EDUCATION & OUTREACH



As a partner of the Friends of the Rappahannock NOAA MWEE grant program, we visit local schools in the Goose Creek Watershed to provide watershed education with our enviroscape watershed model.



Our enviroscape watershed model and informational tent set up at the 2022 Banshee Reeks Earth Day Festival.

We partner with We Plant Trees to we hold a Free Tree Giveaway with the leftover trees from our plantings.



We provide scholarships for summer campers at Clifton Institute (left) and Journey Through Hallowed Ground (right), to support enriching and educational youth experiences in the outdoors.





Sharing information at the Virginia Fall Races about conservation awareness and how we can all be stewards of the Goose Creek Watershed.



At our 2022 Annual Members Spring Party, the Golden Goose Award went to Jeff Millington for commitment and dedication to running our Benthic Stream Monitoring Program. Jeff is an Izaak Walton League certified volunteer trainer. Every year he trains and mentors new monitors through the certification process so they can monitor their own sites.

This Valentine's Day weekend
Land Trust of Virginia and Goose Creek Association present:



Join the REGENERATION

Event
at 7 p.m. –
#123456

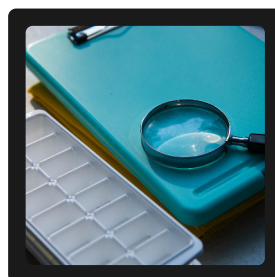
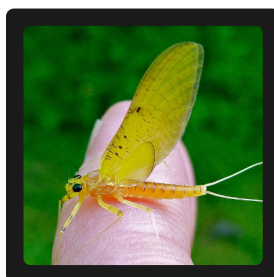
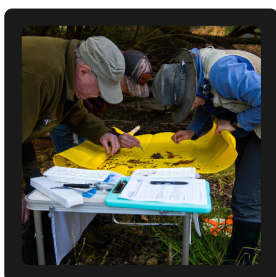
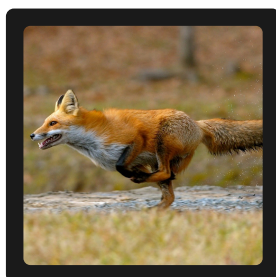
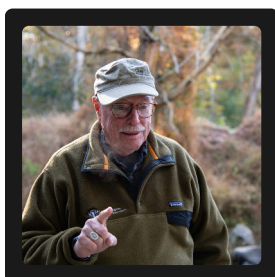
In partnership with Land Trust of Virginia, we hosted a virtual film weekend for 2040, a documentary posing possible solutions to the climate change crisis and offering an unusually optimistic way forward.



2022 Interns Rebecca Cramer and Helen Ventikos from Foxcroft School assisted with research on advocacy, social media, and writing articles about conservation issues for our membership reach, one of which was published in Wander Magazine!



BENTHIC STREAM MONITORING



Our benthic stream monitoring program is on year 23! Since 2000, we've used benthic monitoring protocols set up by the Izaak Walton League. Our stream monitor chair Jeff Millington and program director Leah Chaldares are both Izaak Walton League certified trainers, allowing Goose Creek Association to train volunteers. We also have a regular communication newsletter for volunteers to stay connected with other opportunities.

Why is benthic monitoring important? The numbers and diversity of macroinvertebrates we find gives us a score from 0-12 on how healthy that site is at that time, 12 being the healthiest. Over time, these scores are tracked to monitor stream health, and whether it is decreasing, increasing, or maintaining. The data is uploaded to VA Save Our Streams, submitted to Department of Environmental Quality, and posted on our website under 'Creek Watch' to inform the general public.



If you would like to be a volunteer stream monitor, contact us at info@goosecreek.org.

Goose Creek 2018-2022 Multimetric Index Score					
	Year	2021		2022	
		Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall
Rectortown Road, Marshall	Site 3	10		10	8
Fiery Run Road, Markham	Site 7		7	9	7
Gap Run, Rectortown Road, Upperville	Site 8	8	8	8	11
Bolling Branch, Maidstone Road, Delaplane	Site 9	8		12	10
Crooked Run, Winchester Road, Delaplane	Site 10	11	9	10	8
Cromwells Run, Smitten Farm Road, The Plains	Site 15	10	7	10	9
Little River, Aldie Dam Road, Aldie	Site 17	8	9	10	11
Middleburg Academy, St. Louis Road, Middleburg	Site 21		8	9	9
Jeffries Branch, Millville Road, Upperville	Site 22		11	9	
North Fork, Tranquility Road, Purcellville	Site 27				9
North Fork Goose, Silcott Springs Road, Purcellville	Site 28	9		10	
North Fork Goose, Guinea Bridge Road, Purcellville	Site 29	10			
Panther Skin	Site 30	12	8	9	8
Snake Hill	Site 31	9	12	10	
Oak Spring Garden Foundation	Site 32				11
Foxcroft	Site 33				11

Key
 0-7 Unacceptable
 8 Gray Zone
 9-12 Acceptable

Site locations along with the macroinvertebrate scores for 2021 and 2022.

CHEMICAL & BACTERIAL MONITORING

Phase I is completed and the Goose Creek Association (GCA) is in its 2nd year of a water quality monitoring program, "Goose Creek Watch." The program includes monitoring six sites for chemical and bacterial water quality each month. The water samples are taken to a Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) level III laboratory (most rigorous level) and the data is sent to DEQ, as well as uploaded to our website. The data collected provides a macro view of the water-quality as well as a basis for strategically planned responses for remediation where necessary. With the phase I data we will hone in on specific areas of the Goose Creek with high levels of E.coli to determine sources. Eventually, we hope to use the data we collect to remove Goose Creek from the impaired rivers list, restoring the water quality to safe for recreational use. The project is funded by Goose Creek Association using donations and grant money.

This collaborative effort includes chemical monitoring by Friends of the Shenandoah River (FOSR) using their lab at Shenandoah University. The program reports test results over time for several key markers, including E-coli, nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment, and pH. In addition, Downstream Project maintains a mapping website using Water Reporter, a social media network that provides for data sharing among its members. The map and data are interactive and are available on GCA's website: <https://goosecreek.org/stewardship/goosecreekwatch/>.



Karen Anderson collects a water sample.



Karen Anderson from Friends of the Shenandoah River labels a water sample.



Friends of the Shenandoah River's water quality analysis lab set up for E.coli bacteria testing.

A NOTE FROM GOOSE CREEK CHALLENGE CHAIR DULANY MORISON

I had the privilege of joining the Goose Creek Association Board in 2016, my first volunteer engagement on behalf of conservation. The next thing I knew I was planting trees all across the Goose Creek Watershed under the direction of Marcia Woolman, our passionate Chair of the Goose Creek Challenge Program at the time. We were not only planting trees, but we were working with local school children and teaching them about the importance of clean water and environmental stewardship. Marcia's energy, dedication, and leadership were the perfect recipe to inspire youth volunteers of all ages and ensure that we met or exceeded our goal of planting 2500 trees annually.



A Girl Scout Troop plants trees.



While she no longer leads the program, Marcia Woolman still helps Goose Creek Association plant trees every spring.

Although I was technically her partner during my first two years, I was very much her student. I had always been committed to preservation, but my prior work had been in the form of advocacy against inappropriate development and policy, and promoting conservation easements. Marcia taught me that being committed to environmental health starts at the grassroots level. Not only does it improve the health of the environment, but getting your hands dirty and putting your muscle to work planting trees connects you with the landscape. These experiences continue to enhance my appreciation for protecting the environment. Our work over the last 7 years has been very rewarding.

The Goose Creek Challenge was established in 2012 and our riparian buffer plantings have helped stabilize and repair stream banks at 24 farms in the Goose Creek Watershed.

In addition to preventing erosion, our plantings filter pollutants before they enter waterways, as well as provide shade for aquatic life, create corridors for wildlife travel, and improve water quality. In the past decade, we have planted 14,000 native trees along 11 miles of streambed with the support of over 1,100 youth volunteers. These planting numbers may seem modest compared to larger organizations with similar programs, but our endeavor is unique because it is tied to youth education.



We successfully completed 5 plantings this past spring, and with the assistance of Leah Chaldares, our wonderful new Program Director, we expect to build on our success and develop our planting initiative to include fall plantings as well. We have also been performing site visits at former planting locations and cataloguing the progress of our efforts which we look forward to sharing with our membership. These moments of reflection have been very encouraging and have further ignited our enthusiasm to carry the initiative forward.



As Marcia taught me, true environmental stewardship requires making an impact from top to bottom and that every effort on behalf of Mother Nature contributes to a better future for everyone. It has been an honor to follow her lead and I look forward to continuing our important work together to preserve our incredible landscape and restore Goose Creek to a “recreational level” of water quality.

C. Dulany Morison
Goose Creek Challenge Chair



A group of students from Middleburg Montessori School on a field trip to plant trees. Students take a break from planting after lunch to look at macroinvertebrates from the Goose Creek.

Special thanks to Melissa Allen with John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District and Pat McIlvaine with Loudoun County Soil and Water Conservation District for the expertise they provide in helping to implement our riparian buffer program!



OUR DONORS

Thank you to all who contributed in 2022. Our work to preserve and protect the Goose Creek would not be possible without the generous support of all our donors listed here.

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Donors support our programs and ensure the future protection and preservation of the Goose Creek Watershed.

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Preserving the Goose Creek

Excerpt from Wander Magazine

By Rebecca Cramer and Helen Ventikos

2022 Foxcroft School Interns

During summer camps at a local school, we remember swimming in the water, counting bugs on the river, and hiking through stream crossings. Like many other camps, we used resources found in our backyards to have fun. Our middle school even had a pond that runs into Goose Creek, and we learned about its ecosystem in biology. During the muggy Virginia summers, we kayaked along the river and remembered how fun it was to jump into the water to cool down. Now, as high school students, we have taken groups of people down to visit our own school "beach" near Goose Creek. We have been connected to Goose Creek for our entire lives and are always excited to return to it. We want to preserve it for future generations to have as much fun as we did.

But Goose Creek needs your help. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has designated the creek as "impaired" for over twenty years. The hazardous water conditions are due in part to harmful bacteria, such as E. coli, that come from animal pastures and broken septic lines that eventually seep into Goose Creek's waterways. These bacteria are hazardous to residents because ingesting even small amounts of the water when participating in recreational activities on Goose Creek could make people very ill.

Contributing further to the impairment of Goose Creek is the lack of forest coverage. Only 44.3% of areas within 300 feet of the creek have tree cover. The forest canopy surrounding streams is crucial because it acts as a filter to protect water quality for local wildlife, insures habitats for animals and facilitates movement.

(cont'd next page)

GOOSE CREEK



ASSOCIATION

Goose Creek Association

P.O. Box 1178

Middleburg, VA 20118

www.goosecreek.org

phone: 540.687.3073

email: info@goosecreek.org

Dedicated to protecting and preserving the environment and quality of life in the Goose Creek Watershed in Fauquier and Loudoun Counties, Virginia.

(cont'd previous page)

A buffer of about 32 feet reduces nitrogen in the groundwater by 61%. Nitrogen washes into the creek through runoff of excess fertilizers and animal waste from farms or lawns; too much nitrogen in the water can cause algae blooms. Algae can also produce toxic chemicals and increase water treatment costs. Sediment also washes into the water from unprotected stream banks, suffocating aquatic animals and vegetation. Fencing livestock out of the water and planting buffers creates a healthy environment for animals and water.

Over the past 50 years, the Goose Creek Association (GCA) has worked to address these issues. GCA's original mission was to stop sewage from entering the creek near Crenshaw Road. Then the organization's mission grew to protect and preserve the entire Goose Creek watershed, an area encompassing 385 square miles. Today programs include the Goose Creek Challenge, benthic stream monitoring, chemical and bacterial stream monitoring, and advocacy efforts.

Our community can make a few easy changes, such as not littering, limiting fertilizer usage, recycling, and planting trees, shrubs and grasses along waterways. Planting riparian buffers can prevent sediment and excess nutrients from being carried into the stream through runoff. Buffers are necessary on farms that house livestock or use fertilizer, as these both can produce excess nutrients, which then cause algae blooms and dead zones in the water. These efforts, among others such as education, volunteering, donating to organizations like the GCA, and using BMPs when farming, ranching, landscaping and managing septic systems will help preserve Goose Creek and its beautiful watershed. The memories that we have with Goose Creek last a lifetime, but we must ensure that we preserve Goose Creek for future generations.

