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## **Community Invited to Meeting Focused on Future of Smith Mountain Lake**

### **SMLA Annual Meeting on September 27 will feature speakers, awards and exhibits**

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE, VA – Smith Mountain Lake Association (SMLA) will hold its Annual Meeting on Friday, September 27 at Trinity Ecumenical Parish, 40 Lakemount Dr., Moneta, VA 24121. Everyone with an interest in Smith Mountain Lake is encouraged to attend.

The featured presentation will focus on steps SMLA has taken to investigate causes and conditions that lead to the 2023 harmful algal blooms (HABs) at the lake. The HAB in the Blackwater River subwatershed raised concerns for the future of SML, so SMLA engaged the experts at Princeton Hydro to help understand the dynamics of the river watershed and potential mitigation efforts to combat future HABs.

Princeton Hydro specializes in water resources engineering, including the design of innovative stormwater management systems, wetland and stream restorations, dam removals, sediment dredging, coastal protection structures, and floodplain reconnections.

Chris Mikolajczyk, Certified Lake Manager and senior aquatics manager at Princeton Hydro and Keri Green, Lake Quality Council chair at SMLA will cover the findings of the Blackwater watershed assessment work at SML in a presentation, "Conditions, Causes and Solutions - How SMLA is investigating and preparing for future HABs at the lake." The presentation will be followed by a question and answer period.

The annual meeting will be held from 5:30 – 7:45 PM. Doors will open at 5:30 PM with exhibits highlighting SMLA programs and partner organizations. Light refreshments will be provided during the exhibits.

Presentations begin at 6:15. Bill Butterfield, President SMLA, will provide an update of SMLA's efforts over the past year to protect the water of SML and promote safe and responsible recreation. The winners of four annual SMLA awards will be recognized:

- Melvin S. Johnston Citizen Volunteer Award
- Spirit of the Lake Award
- Clean Stream Award
- Karl Martin Water Safety Award

Annual meeting exhibits will include:

400 Scruggs Road, Suite 2100, Moneta, VA 24121



- Water Quality Monitoring
- Water Safety Council
- Invasive Species
- Fish Habitat
- Buffer Landscaping
- Septic Systems
- Sub-Surface Aquatic Vegetation
- SMLA Membership
- AEP and AEP Shoreline
- Bedford Regional Water Authority
- Western Virginia Regional Water Authority
- Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission (TLAC)

### **About SMLA**

The Smith Mountain Lake Association (SMLA) mission is to keep Smith Mountain Lake clean and safe. SMLA is the longest serving advocate for the SML community. Activities help to retain the pristine beauty of Smith Mountain Lake and the vibrant local economy. SMLA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3). It is an all-volunteer organization that relies on memberships, donations and grants to support programs that keep SML clean and safe.

### **Media**



**The SMLA annual meeting is open to the public and will feature exhibits and presentations about efforts to keep the lake clean and safe.**

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