

DEEP CREEK DISPATCH

Fall 2006

Newsletter of the
Property Owners' Association
of Deep Creek Lake, Incorporated

2007 Lake Drawdown Plans

In the last issue of *The Dispatch*, we told you Brookfield Power Company (which owns and operates the Deep Creek Dam and Power Plant) wanted to drawdown the lake in the Fall of 2006 for maintenance. As a result of objections from the POA and other lake interests because of inadequate notification timing, Brookfield's application to the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) was withdrawn. Brookfield (as the new owner of the Dam) was not fully aware of the planning process and timing required to avoid seriously impacting lake property owners and others.

Brookfield is now planning the drawdown for the Fall of 2007 and will work with MDE and the POA to establish their detailed plan very early thereby allowing adequate time for the removal of boats and docks. The drawdown is expected to be to the 2454 elevation level (which is 8 feet below the top of the dam and 2 feet below the normal October month-end low level) and the repair work will require 30 days. The primary purpose of the drawdown will be to install new inlet control valves at the generating station along with other maintenance work. The drawdown will probably begin in mid-October 2007 allowing for the early removal and storage of boats and docks on a planned basis prior to this date. The POA will continue to be active in the planning process to assure that our members' interests are fully addressed and we will notify you of the final timing by our June General Meeting or earlier.

POA Notices

The tentative dates for the 2007 POA General Meetings are June 23rd and August 25th. The next issue of *The Dispatch* will confirm the final dates, times, and locations.

This edition of *The Dispatch* is sent only to dues paying members. We will be sending the Winter issue to all current members plus new property owners who have purchased lake area properties recently and who we hope will join our organization. Information on the POA is available from Bill Nickles, Membership Chairman (telephone number and email address are shown in the list of Board members in this newsletter).

Deep Creek Lake "Weeds"

The staff at the DNR Deep Creek Lake Management Office requested that the following information be included in *The Dispatch* in response to a question which was asked at the POA August General Meeting along with many telephone calls to their office.

The Deep Creek Lake Management Office received numerous calls late this summer about the "weeds" that proliferated in the lake. These "weeds" are submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). These grasses are indicators of good water quality, because they are abundant only where nutrient levels are low and water clarity is high. Weather and water temperature determine annual changes in growth rate; some years have explosive growth rates, while other years do not.

These plants are important because they: (1) provide great habitat for young and adult fish protecting them from predators, (2) provide food for waterfowl, fish, and mammals, (3) absorb wave energy and nutrients, produce oxygen and improve water clarity, (4) settle suspended sediment in the water and stabilize bottom sediments, and (5) protect shorelines from erosion.

For a number of years Frostburg University professor, Dr. William Pegg, has been annually surveying the vegetation in Deep Creek Lake. Dr. Pegg's findings for this year point to one of the healthiest crops of SAV ever which means that we have an extremely healthy body of water. He found eight species of SAV in the various coves of Deep Creek Lake.

SAV die back each fall. The annual lake draw down and cold winter temperatures kill some of the vegetation. Depending on the species, the plants grow back from the roots or seeds in the spring and are not too noticeable in the early summer months. They continue to grow until cold weather arrives and the intensity of sunlight diminishes. If sunlight and water temperatures are right for a great growing year, by late summer these plants can be a navigational problem in shallow coves. This was one of those years. Elodea, one of the common SAV species in Deep Creek Lake, is propagated by stem fragments taking root. Therefore, the chopping action of propellers causes more plants to thrive in the shallow coves. Raking, pulling, or cutting the Elodea just causes more of it to exist.

Our man-made lake is a living, dynamic, natural resource. It is aging through natural processes. The mission of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources is to preserve, protect, enhance and restore Maryland's natural resources for the wise use and enjoyment of all citizens. The submerged aquatic vegetation that grows in Deep Creek Lake is part of an important ecosystem and must be permitted to grow and thrive.

The naturalist staff at Deep Creek Lake and Alan Klotz from the DNR Fisheries Service will present a program on Submerged Aquatic Vegetation on November 27th at 6:30 pm at the Discovery Center. The presentation is open to the public.

US 219 Crosswalks

Along US 219 there are two marked crosswalks which require cars to stop when a pedestrian enters the crosswalk. These crosswalks are at Uno's and at Trader's Landing (High Mountain Sports) and are marked with signs in accordance with Maryland State law (Vehicle Law, Section 21-502). Presently there are no lights on the signs at night and no blinking yellow light over the crosswalks but these additional improvements are being considered. There was an erroneous report from an audience member at the POA August General Meeting that a pedestrian had been killed crossing US 219 near Arrowhead. In fact, there was an accident but the pedestrian had only minor injuries. However, the Arrowhead/Uno's and Trader's Landing areas are very dangerous road crossings (particularly after dark), and slower speed and caution are recommended for vehicles and using the new crosswalks carefully is recommended for pedestrians.

Deep Creek Zoning Amendments

On October 3rd, the Garrett County Commissioners approved 13 amendments to the Deep Creek watershed zoning ordinance. The amendments include provisions on vacation rental unit parking requirements, Board of Appeals time limits and criteria, rental unit signs, reduced setbacks for marinas, and height restrictions for multi-family structures and hotels. Details of the amendments can be found on the Deep Creek Lake Zoning website <http://www.co.garrett.md.us/PlanningLand/PlanningZoning/Zoning/DCL.aspx>. Another proposed amendment concerning electronic message signs at lake area businesses was sent back to the planning commission for further study.

Gypsy Moths

The Garrett County Forestry Board has estimated that over 45,000 acres in the County will be affected by Gypsy Moths next year, which is about double the area affected in 2006. Studies

of egg masses are continuing in the County along with reviews of aerial maps of the 2006 defoliation as the spraying plans and funding for 2007 are being determined. The POA Board will be continuing to work with the County Commissioners and other government agencies as the data is finalized and the important spraying decisions are made. If adequate federal and state funding is not obtained, a cost-share program for landowners will probably be established as has been done in the past.

Windmills

The Maryland Public Service Commission has recommended approval of Synergics Energy's wind power project on Backbone Mountain with several environmental restrictions. The decision will become final at the end of November unless the Company appeals. Synergics plans to build 17 wind turbines along a three-mile stretch near Roth Rock rather than the 24 turbines that were originally planned. The new plan also calls for 548-foot tall structures (from the ground to the tip of the blade at its highest point) rather than the 387-foot structures that were previously planned thereby retaining the 40 megawatts of output from the project despite the fewer turbines. The reduction in the number of turbines and their increase in height were in response to DNR studies that identified rare species in the area.

Garrett County Historical Society Museum

The Garrett County Historical Society maintains an outstanding museum in Oakland that offers an interesting alternative to lake activities. The museum is located at 107 South Second Street and is open on Thursday through Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm (November through April). During the other months, the museum is open additional days each week. Contact the Museum on 301-334-3226 for more information or to confirm their schedule before you go.

Adventure Sports Center

The Adventure Sports Center on top of Marsh Mountain with its 1,700-foot-long recirculating whitewater course is progressing quickly with opening scheduled for Spring 2007. We will have more details in *The Dispatch* as completion gets closer.

What's Happening Around Garrett County

The Garrett College Community Athletic Recreation Center will be built on the Garrett College campus and will be open to the public. Preliminary plans include an ice skating rink, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, a health and fitness center, and basketball courts.

The Lakeside Motor Court on US 219 has been torn down and Creekside Townhomes/Condominiums are being built on the site.

Renovations are nearing completion on the old Food Lion that will become the Operations Center for First United Bank and Trust.

Deep Creek Marina has begun construction on a new showroom at US 219 and Mosser Road and a new service center near the current Deep Creek Marina site.

An indoor waterpark resort hotel is being considered for construction on 14 acres of land on US 219 next to the Garrett County Fairgrounds. While the construction site is currently being cleared, no decision has yet been finalized and timing is uncertain.

The Garrett Dialysis Center has opened on the bottom level of the Regional Eye Center on Memorial Drive in Oakland. This is the first dialysis facility in Garrett County and saves those who require this service from making a trip to Cumberland or Morgantown.

The Bumble Q Restaurant near Garrett College has been sold and is presently closed for remodeling. Current plans are for a December reopening.

A new Dollar Tree Store is being built in Oakland next to Denny's.

POA Board Members

Lou Battistella, Secretary '07 301-387-2094 Lbatt859@aol.com	Marge Mahood '07 301-387-5885 mahood@gcnetmail.net
Michael Belmonte '09 301-387-6371 mbelmonte@juno.com	W. Tom Myers, Treasurer '08 301-387-9162 tom@mountaineerlog.com
Louise Conjura '07 301-387-5857 lconjura@adelphia.net	Bill Nickles, VP Membership '09 301-387-2506 BillNickles@hotmail.com
Dale Copeland '09 301-533-0469 pattyanddale@verizon.net	Carole Perez '08 301-387-5406 LCPerez@Adelphia.net
Troy Ellington '08 301-387-9232 troyellington@mindspring.com	Ted Rissell '08 301-387-6463 tedriss@earthlink.net
Katheryn Gemberling, '07 301-384-2850 VP Planning kember@aol.com	Robert Sutton '08 301-387-4957 rasutton@nauticon.net
Scott Johnson, '09 301-387-8547 President scott.johnson@coldwellbanker.com	Fred Thayer '07 301-334-6090 fthayer@verizon.net
Jonathan Kessler '09 301-387-6229 Smiley@smileysfunzone.com	Roger Titus, Senior VP '07 301-344-0052 rwtitus@hotmail.com
Ed King '08 301-387-5702 ed.king@longandfoster.com	Barry Weinberg '09 weintr@verizon.net

Cultural Event Highlights

Our Town Theatre (Call 301-334-5640 for reservations and information; web www.ourtowntheatre.org; All plays are at OTT at 121 Center Street in Oakland; Tickets for Friday and Saturday are \$8; other days are \$5): January 31st through February 4th—Another Evening with Mr. Shakespeare; March 8th through 11th—Grace and Glory; April 25th through 29th—The Crucible; May 5th—OTT El Cinco de Mayo Fundraiser; May 23rd through 27th—Everybody Loves Opal.

Garrett Choral Society Christmas Concert will be held at the Faith Evangelical Church in Oakland on Saturday December 9th (8 pm) and Sunday December 10th (2 pm). The concert will feature John Rutter's "Magnificat" with the Garrett Brass, as well as other seasonal selections. Tickets will be \$10 for Adults and \$5 for Children. Call 301-387-4624 for further information.

P.O. Box 816, McHenry, MD 21541
Deep Creek Lake, Inc.
Property Owner's Association of

DEEP CREEK DISPATCH

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Terra Alta, WV
Permit 101