

GYPSY MOTH SUPPRESSION

Because of the widespread damage to our forests and trees in the spring of 2007, it is critical that funding for the spring 2008 spraying be in place when the time comes to spray. Governor Martin O'Malley visited the county on Friday, October 5. He met with local officials and members of the forestry boards before flying over the damaged areas. Approximately 45,000-50,000 acres were defoliated by the gypsy moth outbreak this past spring and only 15,000 acres were sprayed. If more isn't done in the coming spring, it is possible that the damage could run as high as 130,000 acres defoliated. Of the thirteen counties in Maryland that were affected, Garrett County sustained the most damage from the moth outbreak. Forest Pest Management Chief Robert Tichenor at the Maryland Department of Agriculture says that the early surveys of the egg masses indicate high numbers of insects in the eastern part of the county and an expansion into the central and western sectors. The most effective way to kill the moth caterpillars is to spray the leaves before they are eaten. This past spring the egg masses become caterpillars before the leaves came out and ate the leaves before the spraying was done. The damage done involves economic loss from dead trees, the diminished quality of outdoor recreation, adverse effects on wildlife and health-related concerns.

One question that needs to be considered is what would be the most effective agent that could be used against the gypsy moths. This spring *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) was used and proved not very effective as it only works for 36-48 hours. If

it were used again the coming spring, spraying would have to be done a minimum of two times. Given the manpower limitations and budgetary restraints this might not be effective. Another agent that seems to be more effective is Dimilin, which will work for about ten days. One issue with Dimilin is that DNR regulations keep it from being used where it could enter any water source. However, because of the severity of the damage to the trees (another outbreak in the already affected areas would ensure that these trees do not survive), there is the possibility of the DNR liberalizing these restrictions. Another product called "Golden Pest Oil" can be sprayed on the egg masses to kill them; however more research will have to be done on this agent.

In the very near future, the Maryland Department of Agriculture will be surveying the residential communities (including those at the lake) to estimate the population of the gypsy moths in the area. They will decide who will be sprayed. This decision will come in the early spring and will depend on available money. If you are in a residential area that is not scheduled to be sprayed, but have a problem with gypsy moths you can contact the Extension Office at 301-334-6960 in the early spring to inquire about private spraying. However, there has to be a twenty-five acre block to be considered for this. The cost is approximately \$45.00 per acre. County Commissioner Fred Holliday, speaking at the POA General Membership Meeting in August, said that the county is looking into a four-way partnership made up of federal, state, county and private funding.

It is **CRITICAL** that funding is set aside early to ensure that the few local companies that

perform gypsy moth suppression would not be booked by neighboring states that are beginning to notice an increase in defoliation. Homeowners in the Deep Creek Lake area are strongly urged to write/email their local elected officials to ask them to support funding for the 2008 spraying. Regardless of where their primary residence may be, they are encouraged to write/email their own elected officials, both state and federal. It is especially important to contact Maryland Senator Barbara Mikulski at Senator@Mikulski.Senate.Gov. The grants for spraying come from the Federal Farm Bill. For residents of Garrett County, also contact george.edwards@senate.state.md.us and wendell.beitzel@house.state.md.us. For more information on the problem and what you can do, go to www.gcforest.sailorsite.net/. A link is also provided through the POA website at www.deepcreeklakepoa.com. The POA will be sending out the survey form on the extent of the gypsy moth infestation in the near future and will forward the results to the proper agencies.

EMS DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE

The POA continues to support the efforts to improve the EMS response times and to encourage the placement of Automatic Electronic Defibrillators (AED's) in the county's law enforcement vehicles. In a letter to The Republican newspaper, Lou Battistella, Secretary of the Property Owners Association, spoke for the Association's support of a paid supplement to the excellent volunteer rescue squads of Garrett County. Addressing the findings and recommendations of the 2004 commissioned SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Report, it is clear that there is a need for additional staffing during the weekday daylight hours when most of the volunteers are at their places of employment. In the last several months there has been much discussion between the County Commissioners and the Rescue Squads. The County Commissioners have announced their intention to hire paid EMS personnel to supplement, not to replace, the volunteers during times when they may not be available. This has raised some questions as to the funding, use of equipment, etc. At this time the Rescue Squads have requested a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

with the County to provide EMS services. They are requesting assistance in providing EMS personnel on a 24/7 basis as needed to supplement the squads. Part of the problem in Garrett County is the large area that has to be covered by two squads. Another problem is the decreasing number of volunteers. These issues will have to be addressed in order for people in the County to receive timely EMS services. Making AED's more widely available will certainly help.

2008 MEETING SCHEDULE

Board of Directors Meetings

April 19, 2008

June 14, 2008

August 9, 2008

November 8, 2008

General Membership Meetings

June 28, 2008

August 23, 2008

DEEP CREEK LAKE DRAWDOWN—FALL 2007

There is a lot of shoreline evident these days. The drawdown of Deep Creek Lake to repair turbine valves at the Brookfield Power plant began around Autumn Glory and is progressing on schedule. As of October 22, Deep Creek Lake's water level was at 2454.07 and work commenced on that day. The POA would like to thank Brookfield Power, the Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Department of the Environment for giving property owners plenty of notice about this event so that they could remove boats and docks in good time. The work should be completed by the third week in November.

WATER QUALITY STUDY

Beginning on September 17, 2007, the US Geological Survey, Baltimore Office, began taking samples, setting up equipment and collecting

data in order to assess the water quality of Deep Creek Lake. That work was completed on October 5, 2007. In addition, stream monitoring stations have been placed on state property in the Cherry Creek and Poland Run areas that will take samples for at least the next eighteen months.

Gathering of this data will address many concerns and hopefully provide some answers to questions concerning the quality of the water here at Deep Creek Lake. With the growing popularity and rapid development of the lake, some concerns are the increased demand for withdrawals of ground and surface water, changes in the inflow of nutrients to the lake and changes in the inflow of sediment to the lake. Possible environmental effects from these changes may be an increased level of algae, an increase in suspended sediments leading to a decrease in light penetration, a decrease in dissolved oxygen and changes in the overall nutritional health of the lake.

Another concern involves the requests to dredge the lake bottom to facilitate boat access. This raises the question of adverse environmental effects on the lake such as the removal of spawning areas, re-suspension of sedimentation, the possible release of toxins from re-suspended sediment and the creation of isolated stagnant zones. The ability to assess and address the potential threats to the health of the lake ecosystem is hindered by a lack of data in addition to a lack of knowledge about past water quality conditions in the lake and the lack of a baseline to measure future changes. Hopefully the samplings taken will begin to address some of these questions.

Some of the short-term and long-term objectives of the study will be to provide the DNR with information on the extent and thickness of the lake sediment to enable them to make informed decisions concerning requests to dredge the lake. Another objective will be to characterize current water quality conditions of selected tributaries and to create a plan to complete the study of the trophic history of the lake. Long-term objectives include comparing current sediment flux with historic rates, establishing a tributary monitoring network and develop a water budget for the lake.

BUYDOWN

At the August 25, 2007, General Membership Meeting, Cathy Mateer reported that the buydown project will come to a close at the end of this year. If you haven't done your buydown by now, you only have until the end of 2007 to do so. The surveyor's contract ends in the spring of 2008. After this time a property owner wanting to participate in the buydown will be subjected to a clearing-house review and then a legislative review. There will be two separate appraisals done on the property at the buyer's expense. The survey will also be done at the buyer's expense and the cost of the buydown will be whatever the appraised value would be. As of now, 82% of the buydown property was purchased.

SUMMARY OF THE AUGUST GENERAL MEETING

The August 25th General Meeting of the POA was well attended and provided much useful information. In attendance were State Senator George Edwards, House Delegate Wendell Beitzel, County Commissioners Ernie Gregg, Denny Glotfelty and Fred Holliday. DNR Deep Creek Lake Manager Carolyn Matthews, Chamber of Commerce CEO Charlie Ross, Garrett County Forestry Board Chairman Chuck Hoffeditz, Natural Resource Police Lt. Brad Stafford, and DGS Representative Cathy Mateer also were present.

Carolyn Matthews spoke about the necessity of either putting water trampolines away or securing them to your dock after use. Anchored out trampolines are not permitted. Chuck Hoffeditz gave an excellent report on the gypsy moth problem here in Garrett County (see excerpts in the article about the moths). DNR Police Lt. Brad Stafford reported that as of August 25th there were 31 reportable boating accidents, twenty-two of which were water-ski related (wake board, tube or ski). There was a discussion, followed by a question and answer period concerning the EMS response time and suggestions for improvement.

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