

## **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES— SUNDAY SALES IN GARRETT COUNTY: A MESSAGE FROM POA PRESIDENT SCOTT JOHNSON**

This November's General Election will include a referendum to authorize Sunday liquor sales in each election district under certain strictly controlled situations. Quoting from Chapter 655 (House Bill 276): "Sunday sales may begin, where permitted, at 1 p.m. and continue until 10 p.m. Sunday sales may be made only when the customer places an order of a meal simultaneously or prior to placing an order for an alcoholic beverage or the consumer is otherwise entitled to a meal on the premises as part of a prearranged event, such as a banquet, where the alcoholic beverage is served. Bar or counter sales may be made as long as the consumer complies with the requirement of this paragraph."

This referendum applies only to Class B (Hotel and Restaurant) and certain Class C (Service Clubs) license holders. The complete and official document may be viewed on the POA website: [www.deepcreeklakepoa.com](http://www.deepcreeklakepoa.com).

The Board of Directors of the Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake, Inc. (Board) fully supports this referendum and encourages all Garrett County registered voters to vote for the referendum for the following reasons:

- Helps maintain the viability of local restaurants
- Provides needed employment for our citizens
- Reinforces the tourism industry which employs 18% of our workforce
- Supports Garrett County's Economic Development Plan without requiring additional infrastructure cost

- Makes for a desirable dining experience for residents and visitors
- This plan encourages responsible sales and consumption

Please go to the Board of Elections website for complete information: <http://garrettcountry.org/Elections/Elections.aspx>

Please remember to vote on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Board of Directors of the Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake, Inc.

## **GYPSY MOTHS/ EMERALD ASH BORERS**

The 2008 Maryland Legislature established a Gypsy Moth Task Force. The three members from Garrett County are Delegate Wendell Beitzel, Garrett County Commissioner Fred Holliday and Forestry Board Chairperson Chuck Hoffeditz. This Task Force will study Gypsy Moth infestation and make recommendations to the Governor as how to combat the problem. The earliest findings indicate that the combination of spraying and wet weather helped significantly with the Gypsy Moth problem. There are only a few areas of defoliation, mostly in the eastern parts of the county and there have not been many reports of large egg masses to date. The Maryland Department of Agriculture reports a sharp decline in the number of forested acres defoliated by the Gypsy Moth caterpillars this year. A total of 18,954 acres were defoliated this year compared with the 68,461 acres in 2007. The Maryland Cooperative Extension Office in Garrett County is to be thanked for its work in pooling together private landowners whose properties were sprayed as well as through a cost share with the county, which the POA contributed \$23,250.00. Biff Thompson, Maryland Department of Agriculture Forest Pest Management, said the only potential problem is that neighboring states, such as

Pennsylvania, have experienced great defoliation. He said he would be asking nearby states for maps of their defoliated areas to find out how close they were to Maryland borders.

The quarantine area has been expanded for the Emerald Ash Borer in Northern Virginia as the Borer has become a serious threat to the Ash trees in that state. The Emerald Ash Borer is a highly destructive, invasive species and may be spread unintentionally by people moving firewood from one location to another. This is of particular importance to Garrett County and the State Parks within the county. Carolyn Mathews has notified Chuck Hoffeditz, Chairperson of the Forestry Board, telling him that campers have been told when they make their camping reservations they can't bring firewood into a State Park or Forest campground. When arriving to camp, visitors will be asked if they have brought firewood from home; if so, they will be directed to burn it immediately and then will be directed to local sources of firewood. The Maryland Forest Service and the Maryland Park Service have worked cooperatively to make visitors aware not to drag the infected firewood around with them on their vacations. Posters are displayed at the camp office and one of the interpretive programs is about invasive species. In order to find out if the Borer has invaded Garrett County, the "purple boxes" have been placed in ash trees around the county and information gathered from this should be available soon.

## **PROTECTING YOUR HOME FROM WILDFIRE**

In recent years, forest fires in the western U.S. have received much attention in the media. These fires are awesome spectacles of nature's raw power. But wildfires can occur throughout the U.S. and Maryland, and are not confined to the west or what we see in the news. In fact, over 650 wildfires are ignited in Maryland in an average year, burning over 3,600 acres. But this is just the beginning of the misconceptions regarding Maryland wildfires.

Wildfires in Maryland do not typically burn in the summer like they do in the west, but rather, in the spring and fall when the relative humidity of the air is low and the leaves are off the trees. Likewise, most Maryland fires burn the dead leaves and debris on the ground, and do not spread to the tree canopy. While these fires are not as impressive as what we see in the news, they can be just as dangerous.

In recent years there have been an increasing number of homes built in or near the forest. This creates a zone called the "Wildland/Urban Interface". It is in this zone that humans are at greatest risk from the dangers of wildfire. However, homeowners in the Wildland/Urban Interface, such as the Deep Creek Lake area, can take precautions to minimize the chances that their home will be damaged by wildfire.

The Maryland DNR Forest Service is currently working with forest landowners and communities around Deep Creek Lake to help reduce the risk of wildfire. Through this free program, interested communities can have wildfire information distributed door-to-door to their residents by Forest Service personnel, as well as a community presentation on wildfire in Maryland and what homeowners can do to protect themselves.

While in the community, the Forest Service will complete a wildfire risk assessment of each home and use this information to write a Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the community. This plan is a valuable tool for local fire departments and can be combined with other community activities to help interested communities become nationally recognized Firewise Communities through the Firewise Communities/USA program.

For homeowners who do not live in an established community, the Maryland Forest Service is willing to meet with you at your home and perform a wildfire risk assessment of your property. From this quick walk-around assessment, the Forest Service can provide you a list of suggested steps you can take to reduce your wildfire danger.

For more information on wildfire in Maryland or if you would like to participate in any part of the program, please contact David Robbins at 301-791-4010 or [drobbins@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:d Robbins@dnr.state.md.us). To learn more about the Firewise Communities/USA national recognition program, go to [www.firewise.org/usa/](http://www.firewise.org/usa/). The POA would like to thank Mr. Robbins for writing this very informative article.

## **NOTES FROM THE AUGUST GENERAL MEETING**

Joe Keating from the County's State Tax Assessment Office was the invited speaker at the August 23<sup>rd</sup> General Membership Meeting. He spoke on tax assessment procedures and methodology, as well as explaining the appeals process. Assessment in

Garrett County is done by dividing the county into three areas and reassessing 1/3 each year. Deep Creek Lake is in two areas divided by the Route 219 Bridge. He reminded people that when they receive their tax notice and return it, please make sure they indicate in the appropriate box **IF** their property is their "Principle Residence". If it is, you are entitled to tax credits, but it is your responsibility to make sure the tax office is aware of this. Mr. Keating provided many handouts that are posted on the POA's website: [www.deepcreeklakepoa.com](http://www.deepcreeklakepoa.com). Scott Johnson, POA President, pointed out that the area around the lake (District 18) contributes about 50% of the county's revenues.

Deputy John Frank from the sheriff's office announced that the AED units are in place in the Road Patrol Deputy Cars in Garrett County. He then thanked the POA for this generous gift. Now when the Sheriff's Patrol is responding to vehicle fires, domestic cases, drug overdoses or other cases, and the need for the AED units arise they can be immediately deployed. If a call comes into the Emergency 911 Center for a cardiac emergency, the 911 Center will notify the Sheriff's Dispatch to see if a car is nearby that can be dispatched.

The DNR reminded everyone to be aware, when conducting real estate transactions, to have the realtor or to advise the new prospective owner to have the DNR conduct a pre-closing Buffer Strip inspection. There are many times when new owners are faced with large remediation costs when they apply for their Buffer Strip and Conservation –Easement Use permits. This happens when the DNR comes out to inspect the property before the issuance and finds violations or encroachments of the lake easement areas. These will need to be corrected before a permit is issued. NOTE: This also applies any time a property has an entity change including moving a property into a trust or transferring the property to children and so forth.

A working group has been formed by the DNR that is comprised of experts who are looking into the aquatic vegetation growth by focusing on the water quality of the lake. As of now, there have been a few meetings, but no conclusions drawn. The DNR has no idea why the "sea" grasses are so bad this year; also, they don't have a solution. This is going to be one of the primary focuses of the group. One possible reason was that there was not a significant freeze last fall when the lake was drawn down. The DNR had hoped a freeze on the exposed lake bottom would cause a vegetative kill and would have eliminated some of the aquatic vegetation.

## **REMINDERS: 2009 MEETING SCHEDULE:**

### **BOARD MEETINGS**

8:30 AM UNO'S

APRIL 18, 2009

JUNE 13, 2009

AUGUST 8, 2009

NOVEMBER 11, 2009

### **GENERAL MEETINGS**

8:30 AM GARRETT CINEMAS

JUNE 27, 2009

AUGUST 22, 2009

### **BOARD MEETING**

NOVEMBER 8, 2008

8:30 AM UNO'S

## **EXCESSIVE BOAT NOISE COMMENTS**

Previous efforts to control boat noise have failed. The POA has received the cooperation of Bob Lunsford (Boating Services, MD DNR) in a new effort to control excessive boat noise. The proposals to be added to regulations governing Deep Creek Lake can be found by going to the POA's website at [www.deepcreeklakepoa.com](http://www.deepcreeklakepoa.com). After reading the posting, please give your input to [blunsford@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:blunsford@dnr.state.md.us) before the formal process begins. Comments will be accepted until December 1, 2008.

## **GARRETT COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT**

The Garrett Community Band will give a concert in the Garrett College Auditorium on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. Admission is \$8.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students. Children under six are admitted free. This concert will have a holiday theme to kick off the season.

# POA Board Members

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