

DEEP CREEK DISPATCH

Spring 2010

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The POA has been very busy with the various items that are reported in this issue of the Dispatch. In addition, I wanted to bring to your attention that there have been quite a few break-ins recently around the lake and in Garrett County, even in the daylight hours. Please maintain vigilance and keep a sharp eye out for anything that may seem suspicious. Do report anything out of the ordinary to both the Sheriff and State Police.

I would also like to remind you to take precautions with your household trash and be mindful that the bears are out in full force. Please place your trash in bear-proof containers and keep your trash areas neat. Along these same lines, we are all stewards of our beautiful lake and we need to keep the lakefront free from trash and debris.

The Board would like to extend to you best regards and have a safe and enjoyable summer season at Deep Creek. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any other member of the Board should you have any questions about the POA.

Best Wishes,
Lou Battistella, President

NEW LIFE PRESERVER LAW

On April 13, 2010, Governor Martin O'Malley signed a bill into law to strengthen protection of children on Maryland waterways. The bill, effective immediately, requires that any child younger than 13 is required to wear a personal flotation device (PFD) while aboard a vessel that is underway. The law will also require (effective October 1, 2010) children younger than 16 to possess a certificate of boating safety education before they can operate a vessel unless they are supervised by an adult or someone 16 or older who has a boating safety certificate. Formerly, any child under the age of 7 had to wear a PFD on a recreational boat 21 feet or smaller unless the boat was anchored or the child was below deck in an enclosed cabin.

Existing Maryland law requires that anyone born on or after July 1, 1972, must have a Certificate of Boating Safety Education in order to operate a mechanically propelled vessel on Maryland waters. For more information on the location of both in-person and on-line boating safety courses, including those offered at Garrett College (301-387-3069), go to <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/boating> and click on the link Boating Safety Course. To obtain a copy of Maryland State and Fed-

eral Requirements for Recreational Vessels, call the DNR Police, toll free at 877-620-8367, or go to the above listed web site.

DNR NEWS: SPRING 2010

All Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) offices will be closed Friday, May 28, 2010, as part of the State's Furlough and Temporary Salary Reduction Plan. This includes regional service centers, which are historically busy on the Friday before Memorial Day weekend. DNR asks that all boaters plan accordingly and register their boats early. Anglers can purchase fishing licenses online 24/7 at <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/service/license.asp> or over the phone at (800) 918-2870.

Maryland State Parks and other public lands managed by the DNR will remain staffed and open to the public. To compensate, all non-essential employees working to serve Maryland park-goers will take an alternative day of leave.

Deep Creek State Park announces a new traffic pattern for boaters to use for direct access to the state park boat launch facilities. It is recommended that visitors towing boats or boat trailers go directly to the launch ramp access drive off of State Park Road. The launch ramp gate is open for 24-hour traffic, which hopefully will relieve traffic congestion on State Park Road during the busy summer months.

In addition to the change of access, boaters will no longer pay the day use admission service charge. They will pay only the launch ramp service charge. The service charge to launch a vessel remains at \$10.00/vessel for Maryland residents and \$11.00/vessel for out-of-state visitors. Boaters are encouraged to purchase a MD State Park Passport, an annual pass to all Maryland State Parks, if they frequently visit the lake. The passport may be purchased at any Maryland State Park or online at www.dnr.Maryland.gov/publiclands/. The park staff also reminds vacationers that unhitched boat trailers must be registered with the park before being dropped.

GARRETT COUNTY TAXES:

The FY 2011 County Budget is in the process of being developed and it will be an extremely difficult one. At public hearings this spring, the County Commissioners have proposed keeping the constant yield at .99 per \$100 of assessed value. This would generate an additional \$2,341,393.00 dollars for the County. To generate as much income as last year, the con-

stant yield would drop to .9433 per \$100 of assessed value.

Keeping the constant yield at .99 per \$100 of assessed value would offset the cuts the State has made to Garrett County. In the last five years, Garrett County has lost \$5 million from the State in Highway User Funds. Maryland is also getting ready to pass the cost of the State Teacher's pension plan down to the county level. This is coming when the County Commissioners have to make some tough choices on cuts in Education, Road Maintenance and Public Safety (Police, Emergency Services and Fire departments).

On the other hand, property owners, especially around the lake (District 18), get hit pretty hard because the homes have a high-assessed value. This is especially true of lakefront homes. Most of these property owners are part-time residents and do not have children in the school system, nor do they utilize many of the other services the County provides.

These issues are problematic. Initially, the POA had written to the County Commissioners urging them to adopt the constant yield of .9433 per \$100 of assessed value, in view of the economy and the decreased value of many properties around the lake. Various officials took the time to write back explaining the position the County was in, while listening to our arguments. The final decision will be announced on June 1, 2010. To view the proposed budget go to www.garrettcountry.org/commissioners/budget/budget11.aspx

SENATE BILL 70 (BOAT NOISE) FAILS TO PASS

Over at least the last five years, at the urging of our members, the POA has supported an effort to reduce the excessive boat noise level of certain boats on Deep Creek Lake. The Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board (PRB) recognized the problem and, after urging the DNR to address the problem, met with the Maryland State Boat Act Advisory Committee (BAAC).

This year, Senate Bill 70 was introduced in the Maryland Senate. The bill would have established lower decibel limits for boats manufactured after January 1, 1993, and prohibited the use of muffler cut out devices and non-muffled above water exhaust systems on vessels manufactured after 1990. The POA strongly supported this legislation. It was very much opposed by the boat manufacturing industry.

The bill passed the Senate on its third reading and went to the House of Delegates where it was amended and passed. It was then sent back to the Senate for concurrence on the House amendments. On April 9th, 2010, the Senate agreed to a special request by Senator Colburn for consideration of the bill "later in the day." In the rush of the close of the legislative session the bill never came up for consideration and it died in the final hours.

Because the measure came so close to passing, we anticipate that the DNR will now be reassessing this legislation and deciding whether to seek passage of the same or similar legislation in the next session of the General Assembly. If the proposal has any hope of succeeding, it will have to have a much

stronger push from proponents to overcome the opposition of the boating industry. (This was part of a letter written by POA President Lou Battistella to the membership.)

WATER QUALITY STUDY

The draft of the final report of the Water Quality study was recently released. The study was done from April 2009 until the early winter of 2010. The bottom line was that the water quality of Deep Creek Lake was pretty good. The cost of about \$70,000.00 was financed through the dock fees. Deep Creek Lake was rated as *mesotrophic*. This classification means that the water is moderately clear, has algae blooms and aquatic vegetation is present. It has moderate amounts of dissolved nutrients. Potentially harmful species are in low abundance. The condition of the lake also showed the chances for the Zebra Mussel invading Deep Creek is low. However, boaters are reminded to clean their boats when going from lake to lake. This is how they are transported. Measured pH and turbidity levels do not exceed Maryland water quality standards for Deep Creek (USE 111-P).

There is a need to monitor the lake over time to establish some trends. The DNR is hoping to map submerged aquatic life in 2010. Possible monitoring activities in the future include continued monitoring at the same sites to determine trends, add storm-water sampling to stream monitoring and to assess shoreland impact to the lake. Various sites were monitored from the dam to the southern end of the lake. These included streams and coves. Also conducting surveys are the Maryland Department of the Environment, acting as an agency of the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the US Geological Survey. To view the entire report, go to <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/deepcreeknrma.asp>. Click on Water Quality Studies and then the 2009 Deep Creek Lake Monitoring Report.

POA OFFERS TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR WATER QUALITY STUDY

At the April 10, 2010, POA Board meeting, there was a discussion of the possibility of funding a portion of the ongoing DNR's efforts and programs to test and monitor lake water quality. In a letter to Carolyn Mathews, POA President Lou Battistella offered to assist the DNR in this study in the light of budget limitations and state reductions. This would enable the DNR to test at an accelerated rate.

The POA believes the programs should be coordinated through the DNR office. Specifically, the Board discussed the chemical analysis of the silt on the lake bottom and whether it was contaminated or not and could it be dredged and used as topsoil? The POA board is interested in just what is the chemical and bacteria make-up of the silt. He requested that Ms. Mathews write the specs for the testing and obtain bids for the work and then present this to the POA for consideration. The Board very much wants to see the current work go forward in addressing water quality of the lake and long-term practices to preserve this natural resource.

COMMUNITY NOTEBOARD

Ground was broken on Wednesday, April 21st, 2010, for the **COMMUNITY AND RECREATION CENTER**. The project, which has been in the planning stages for years, will consist of two phases of construction. The first, to begin immediately, will build a 32,000 square-foot aquatics center. This will have two indoor swimming pools, a fitness facility and a physical therapy facility run by Garrett Memorial Hospital.

The second phase will be a 34,000 square-foot gymnasium that holds three basketball courts and seats about 1,600 spectators with room to seat another 400 on the floor for events like graduations. That portion is set to go out to bid this summer and begin construction in the fall. The gymnasium will be available for college and high school athletic events, as well as special community events. The swimming and fitness facility will be available for public use on a membership basis, and will include provisions for low income and senior rates.

K-9S, TUNES AND BREWS (KTB) The kick off to summer will be held on Saturday, May 29, 2010, at the Wisp Resort. The family event will feature events and activities for the whole family including the dog. The children's area will have games and activities for all ages. There will be a dog show and obedience demonstrations. There will also be a Brew Tasting, featuring over 20 beers and microbreweries from throughout the region. Three bands will provide the entertainment and a wide variety of food will be served. The event will be from 11AM to 6 PM. For more information, go to www.hartforanimals.org.

2010 DUES STATEMENT

Included in this issue is another Dues Statement for those of you that haven't signed up. This is the last chance to receive the Dispatch- either as e-news or in paper form. People who have not paid their 2010 dues will no longer receive any POA news, including "hot button issue" items. As always, the Board of Directors welcomes any comments you may have. You may also go to www.deepcreeklakepoa.com and click on Member Login for a membership sheet that can be printed out and returned with your dues to the address listed. Also, on the front/home page of the web site is a section that invites the reader to sign up for the electronic newsletter or update their addresses. Please do update your address or e-mail address. It is easy!

ALSO, THIS WILL BE THE LAST PAPER VERSION OF THE DISPATCH YOU WILL RECEIVE IF YOU HAVE LISTED AN E-MAIL ADDRESS. FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT HAVE NOT LISTED AN E-MAIL ADDRESS OR DO NOT HAVE AN E-MAIL ADDRESS, YOU WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE DISPATCH IN PAPER FORM. BOTH FORMS WILL ONLY BE SENT TO THOSE WHO HAVE PAID THEIR 2010 DUES.

2010 MEETING DATES:

GENERAL MEETINGS: GARRETT CINEMAS: JUNE 26, AUGUST 21, 2010. COFFEE SOCIAL IS AT 8:00 AM. MEETING STARTS AT 8:30 AM.

BOARD MEETINGS: JUNE 12, AUG. 7, and NOV. 6, 2010.

POA TO DONATE TO THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND

Again this year the POA will give a \$2500 contribution for the cell phone support for the Natural Resources Police. This is done through the Wildlife Conservation Fund.

"GARRETT COUNTY, MD 2006-2009 IN REVIEW"

This details the County Government, profiles the County Commissioners, County Administrator and other County Officials and Offices. It also presents the affiliated agencies, major accomplishments of the county in these three years and gives important county phone numbers. It is an excellent overview of the County and what has been done over the last years. In its final form (revisions to draft in progress) it will be on the POA web site at www.deepcreeklakepoa.com. Check frequently as it should be up soon.

THE PURPLE BOXES ARE BACK!!

The purple triangular boxes hanging in trees along roadways are "traps" for the Emerald Ash Borer. We hope the Maryland Department of Agriculture does NOT find any of the Emerald Ash Borers stuck to any of the purple boxes as they monitor them over the summer. The insect causes damage to native ash trees that is 100% fatal.

2010 LAKE AREA CULTURAL EVENTS

GLAF: Call 301-387-3082 or go to www.artsandentertainment.org for Tickets and Information: **June 19th, Time For Three** (7:30 PM), The Lodge at Wisp, (Adult \$30/Student \$5, Under 5 free/ticket required); **July 4th, Independence Day Concert** (7:30 PM) Under the Tent at Garrett College, (\$ Donations Appreciated); **July 5th -7th Chautauqua** (7:30 PM) Under the Tent at Garrett College, (\$ Donations Appreciated), July 5th, Thurgood Marshall, July 6th, Frederick Law Olmstead, July 7th, Sacagawea; **July 16th, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Pops Concert** (7:30 PM), The Lodge at Wisp, (Adults \$35/Student \$5, Under 5, Free/ticket required); **July 17th, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Classical Concert** (7:30 PM), The Lodge at Wisp, (Adults \$35/Student \$5, Under 5, Free/ticket required); **August 7th, John McCutcheon** (7:30 PM), Garrett College Auditorium, (Adults \$20/Student \$5, Under 5 free/ticket required).

McHENRY HIGHLAND FESTIVAL: Go to www.highlandfest.onfo for information and ticket purchase locations. Tickets are required for both the Friday evening Celtic Concert and the Saturday Festival. **Concert of Celtic Music**, Friday, June 4th, Wisp Resort, Doors open at 7:00 PM, Concert begins at 8:00 PM. Cost \$35.00 per person. **Highland Festival**,

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Saturday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, will be held at the Garrett County Fairgrounds. Tickets can be purchased online, at the gate or at various locations around the county. **Kirkin' O' the Tartans**, St. John's Episcopal Church, Deer Park, MD.

MUSIC AT PENN ALPS: Go to musicatpennalps@gmail.com or call 443-257-9177 for tickets and/or information. Ticket Prices are \$12 for adults, free for those under 19. A ten ticket package is \$90. Tickets are not dated and can be used at any times during the season. Places to purchase tickets can be found on the website. There are no reserved seats. To guarantee a seat, ticket holders should arrive no later than 7:20 PM.

All the performances are on Saturday evening. **June 5th**, Alexander Beridze and Mai Kagaya, New York Piano Duo; **June 12th**, William Feasley, Guitar; **June 19th**, Simple Gift, Folk Duo; **June 26th**, Ray McClellan & Tim Shafer, Clarinet & Piano; **July 10th**, Mary Kathleen Ernst, Piano Recital; **July 17th** (Windsor Hall, Cumberland, MD) Heidi Hoesen-Gorton, Harp; **July 24th** The Sunrise String Quartet, 2 Violins, Viola, & Cello; **July 31st**, Igor Yuzefovich & Darius Skoraczewski, Violin & Cello; **August 7th**, Jose Cueto & Nancy Roldan, Violin, Piano; **August 14th**, (Windsor Hall, Cumberland, MD) Abigail & Donald Evans with Alaine Fink, Viola, Bass & Piano; **August 21st**, Young Baritones Ethan Sagin & Heath Naylor; **August 28th**, The Pirasti Trio, Piano, Violin, Cello.

Little Yough Summer Music Festival: Go to littleyough.com for information. This year the concert series will be extended to

11 weeks. All concerts are held at the Mountain Fresh Pavillion/Oakland Town Parking Lot. The concerts begin at 7PM with food vendors on site at 6PM. Please bring your own chairs. The concerts are free, but please consider a donation of \$5 per person. Also, additional information concerning funding/donations/sponsors may be found on the web site by clicking on to the Donate page. You can also mail donations to The Little Yough Summer Music Festival, Town of Oakland, 15 S. Third St., Oakland, MD 21550. All concerts are held on **FRI-DAY EVENING, with the exception of the July 3rd Brother Short program, which is on Saturday. June 18th, Sugar Foot Stompers, Double Shot, The Lake Effect; June 25th, Arkives Reggae Band; July 3rd (SATURDAY), Brother Short; July 9th, The Swingin Swamis, July 23rd, Joe Bonson & Coffee Run; July 30th, Sam Lamont Band; August 6th Mateo Monk; August 13th, The Boiler Makers; August 20th, TBA; August 27th, Denis McClung Blues Band; September 3rd, The Remedy.**

Theatre On The Lake (TOTL): Call 304-680-1002 for information. The cost of season tickets is \$25 and can be purchased by mailing a check to the TOTL Theatre Company, 348 Parson Road, Aurora, WV 26705. Season tickets will be mailed to purchasers with instructions on how to make reservations for a specific night. Season tickets holders are given first priority for seating. The opening production will be Rodgers and Hammerstein's **OKLAHOMA**, July 14-18 at the Barn at Ridge View Valley. Additional productions will include **Brighton Beach Memories** and **Children of Eden**. Times and locations for these productions will be announced.