

DEEP CREEK DISPATCH

Summer 2010

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear POA Members:

Here we are-the fair is over, school will start next week and the summer is winding down. It just seems like yesterday that I put the snow blower away after last winter's deep blanket of snow.

The POA has been very busy staying on top of things this summer, starting with the sewerage spill, the sewerage odors, the fish kill, the on-going studies regarding the health of the lake and dealing with low lake levels due to the hot dry summer we have had.

The report recently given by Secretary of the Maryland Department of Resources, John Griffin, that the lake is generally in good health, but needs to be monitored to keep it that way, is very good news. John Wilson, the Associate Director-Stewardship of the DNR will be here at Saturday's General Membership Meeting to give his report on the lake.

The POA met with County Officials on-site at the Route 219/Lake Shore Drive Pump Station on the sewerage issues. You will be able to hear first hand from Garrett County Director of Public Utilities, Linda Lindsey, at this Saturday's meeting as well. An important component of this issue was the delay involving information distribution. Also, the POA was in contact with DNR officials almost daily during the temperature-induced fish kill. Thanks to our "e-dispatch" capabilities, we were able to get the information out to you as soon as it was made available to us.

We are represented on the Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board Lake Level Committee. This group has made significant strides in arranging a sit-down discussion with officials from the Maryland Department of the Environment on the water appropriations permit held by Brookfield Power concerning the lake levels and water releases. The POA will probably not have much information on this topic at the upcoming General Membership Meeting, but we hope there will be information available at the next Policy and Review Meeting which will be held at the Discovery Center on Monday, September 27th at 6 PM.

Our organization is confident that the issues before us can and will be worked out. Our Lake remains to be the "Crown Jewel" of Western Maryland providing Garrett County residents and visitors alike with wonderful opportunities for four-season recreation. With careful and well- thought out planning, this "Crown Jewel" that we have all made an investment in will remain top notch for generations to come.

See you at our General Membership Meeting!

Lou Battistella, President

FISH KILL UPDATE

As most of you know, there have been reports of many dead fish in certain areas of Deep Creek Lake. The latest count is between 500-1000. However, environmental investigators are hopeful that the rate of fish deaths is slowing. Investigators are attributing the fish kill to unprecedented high water temperatures in the lake, combined with the speed at which the temperatures rose. The fish could not acclimate to this since many were of the "cold water" variety. Charlie Poukish, Department Manager, Maryland Department of the Environment said "The vast majority of fish kills are natural as this one apparently is as well." There seems to be no toxins involved but the fish were victims of a combination of stresses, which made them more susceptible to parasites. He went on to say that insufficient oxygen levels in the deeper levels of the lake prevented the fish from escaping there.

Some of the most important questions asked as a result of the fish-kill are as follows:

- (1) Is it safe to swim in Deep Creek Lake? Answer: Yes.
- (2) Can I eat the fish caught in Deep Creek Lake? Answer: Fish not showing signs of disease (purple coloring on gills and elsewhere) are safe to eat as long as they are thoroughly cooked.

Many other questions and answers can be found by going to the Maryland Department of Environment web-site and clicking onto the Advisories link: Deep Creek Lake Fish Kill. Another link with very good information on the number of Fish Kills in different areas is again from the Maryland Department of the Environment. Go to [http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/MultimediaPrograms/environ_emergencies/FishKills MD](http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/MultimediaPrograms/environ_emergencies/FishKills_MD).

The fishing tournaments that were scheduled and cancelled in August were cancelled by the Tournament Directors themselves. They wanted to give the fish a chance to recover from the stress. They were protecting the resource and we thank them for this action.

The next fishing tournament scheduled on Deep Creek Lake is September 4&5 at Bill's Outdoor Center. For more information and a schedule of additional fishing tournaments go to the DNR website at www.dnr.state.md.us.

CHAMBER HIRES NEW PRESIDENT

Nicole Christian, IOM, CCE, has been elected as the new president and CEO of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce. She is a Certified Chamber Executive (CCE), one of only 450 in the country and has been in the Chamber industry for more than 15 years. She has held senior level/CEO positions at three dif-

ferent Chambers and helped lead her Chamber of Commerce in Davenport, Iowa, to the coveted designation of 2008 Chamber of the Year by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE).

She was recently employed with the Northern Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce in Jupiter, Florida. In this position her focus was on tourism which has become a real passion for her. Prior to her work with Palm Beach County, she held the position of senior vice president at Iowa Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce in Davenport, Iowa. "The chamber put a lot of effort into the search for our president and we feel that Nicole is highly qualified for the position." Tony Doerr, chairman of the chamber said.

Christian is a graduate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for Organization Management, and she was awarded Certified Chamber Executive Designation by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives. She served on the board of directors of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives in 2007 and has served on the council on Small Business at the U.S. Chamber since 2000. She is a native of Fort Thomas, Kentucky and is an avid Kentucky Wildcat basketball fan, but she and her cat, Kentucky, now call Garrett County home.

DEEP CREEK RECOGNIZED AS A GREAT PLACE TO VISIT

Deep Creek Lake/Oakland has been selected by Budget Travel magazine as one of America's Top Summer Lake Towns of 2010. Joyce Bishoff, past interim president of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, commented that it was great honor as one of only eight towns selected and only one of two towns on the East Coast and the only town in the Mid-Atlantic. The magazine article noted area eateries, lodging, marina offerings, state park activities and the Garrett County Historical Society as some of the highlights of the region. The Budget Travel article may be viewed on the Chamber's website www.visitdeepcreek.com.

The American Automobile Association also has published positive information about the area. On their web site is an article about the ASCI- Adventure Sports Center International, located atop the 3,110 Marsh Mountain. The article features pictures of the Whitewater course and a short article describing the many activities on the mountain. Enter AAA Mid-Atlantic Explore Your World. Click on Explore Your World>Welcome.

SEPTEMBER PRIMARY/ NOVEMBER ELECTION

The Property Owner's Association has put together a list of questions that is being sent to all the candidates running for County Commissioner. These questions will be posted on our website. Go to www.deepcreeklakepoa.com to read what the POA considers important issues and questions for the candidates.

On a similar note, the Legislative Committee of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce is planning to host a Candidate's Forum on Saturday, August 28th in the auditorium of Garrett College in McHenry. The format of the program will be question-answer rather than that of a debate. Pre-selected questions will be directed to and answered by each candidate who is in a competitive race in the September 14, 2010

primaries and/or November's general election.

According to committee chair Shane Grady, the chamber and The Republican newspaper invite citizens to submit questions that will be considered for the forum. You may submit the questions by e-mail to jessica@garrettchamber.com. You may also call 301-387-2050.

SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES

By Lou Battistella, President, POA

I feel it is very important that take this opportunity to enlighten our newer members or remind some of our older members that in Garrett County we are served by mostly volunteer fire and rescue squads. These providers respond at all hours of the day or night, 24/7 and in all types of weather. These are our neighbors in the community and provide all of us with a very important service that would be difficult to do without. They are professionals and receive that same training as career-paid providers do.

Garrett County is a vast rural area and unlike living in the city, our fire and ambulance stations are further apart and response time is going to be longer than what is experienced in metropolitan areas. We need to be aware of this. Our Volunteer Fire Departments and Rescue Squads receive annual funding from the County. However, this only represents a small percentage of what is needed to purchase and operate the necessary apparatus and to purchase safety equipment such as personal protection gear. Add to this the pay for training, fire and rescue station upkeep, utilities and supplies.

Our volunteers work very hard throughout the year planning and holding fund raisers to make enough money to keep the community volunteer emergency operations solvent, update equipment and insure the department or squad is there for you and the community when an emergency arises.

I urge you to inquire what Fire Department and what Rescue Squad is responsible for your area and I urge you to support your Department and Squad in their fund-raising activities and in their annual appeal letters to property owners. Also, do not forget to change batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors every time you change your clocks in the fall and in the spring.

NOTE: The two first-responder fire companies for the Deep Creek Lake area are the Deep Creek Volunteer Fire Department and the Deer Park Fire Department. The area served by the Deep Creek Volunteer Department runs from Doerr Road, north of McHenry to Sand Flat Road extending to the Paradise Point area. This includes Rock Lodge Road to Mosser Road and Glendale Road to North Glade Road. It also covers the entire body of Deep Creek Lake. The Deer Park Volunteer Department covers the lake areas south and east of Sand Flat Road at the Boy Scout turnoff. This includes Thousand Acres, Green Glade, Sky Valley, etc.

The lake areas served by the Northern Rescue Squad are the same as covered by the Deep Creek Volunteer Fire Department. The areas covered by the Southern Rescue Squad are the same areas covered by the Deer Park Volunteer Fire Department.

Related to this, you need to have **CLEARLY VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD YOUR ADDRESS THAT IS ON YOUR HOUSE OR MAILBOX**. This will help in locating you should you need emergency help.

CORRECTION TO SPRING 2010 DISPATCH:

In reporting on the new Life Preserver Law in the Spring issue of the Dispatch, it was not mentioned that the law requiring children under 13 to wear a United States Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD) (life jacket- Type I, II, III or V) applies to a recreational vessel under 21 feet underway in Maryland waters. We hope this clarifies the issue.

COMMUNITY NOTEBOARD:

In keeping with the Property Owner's Association involvement with and support of community events, we bring the following upcoming events and special requests to your attention.

Art and Wine Festival

The sixth annual Deep Creek Art & Wine Festival Weekend is September 10-12, 2010. It will benefit the American Red Cross, Western Potomac Chapter. It will feature wine pairing dinners, handcrafted works by local and regional artisans, wine tasting from over 200 Maryland and national wineries, live music, children's activities and more.

On Friday night, September 10, area restaurants will be offering special pre-fix wine pairing dinners. The menus will be published on www.deepcreekwinefest.com several weeks prior to the festival. Reservations are suggested.

The weekend continues on Saturday, September 11, from noon until 6:00 PM at the

Garrett County Fairgrounds, McHenry, Maryland. Professional artisans and craftsmen will display and sell their art. National distributors and Maryland Wineries will offer samplings of a variety of wines. Children's activities will include face painting, balloon art, carriage rides, moon bounce and more.

Rounding out the afternoon will be live entertainment by local and regional musicians.

These include Jimmy Flanigan, Dmitry Kubin, Brother Short, and The Remedy. The weekend will be rounded out with Sunday brunch offered at area restaurants.

Tickets for Saturday's festival are \$25.00 for adults, 21 and over, and include entry fee, wine tastings and a commemorative wine glass. Guests may purchase wines at the Festival's retail store (open until 7 PM), with net proceeds going to the Red Cross.

Admittance only is \$5 and children five and under are admitted free. For more information call 888-387- 5237 or visit www.deepcreekwinefest.com.

REMAINING CULTURAL EVENTS

Music at Penn Alps: Go to musicatpennalps@gmail.com or call 443-257-9177 for tickets and/or information. Tickets are \$12 for adults. All performances are on Saturday evening. 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. Concerts are held at the Mountain Fresh

Pavillion/Oakland Town Parking Lot and begin at 7PM on Friday evenings. Please bring your own chairs. The concerts are free, but please consider a donation of \$5 per person. **August 20th, TBA; August 27th, Denis McClung Blues Band; September 3rd, The Remedy.**

GLAF and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

The Garrett Lakes Art Festival (GLAF) was founded 24 years ago with a mission to bring a variety of "arts" to the people of Garrett county-the year-round residents as well as the second-home owners along with their guests and families.

In particular, the Founding Members of GLAF were interested in bringing classical music to Garrett County. The epitome of that goal have been performances during the last four years of a two-night program in including a "Pops" concert as well as a classical evening by the world class Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra at Wisp Resort.

2011 will be the 25th year that GLAF has presented the "arts" in Garrett County and it is hoped that it will also be the 5th year for the Pittsburgh Symphony. However, in these economic times budgets rule. It is critical for GLAF to \$50,000 in the next three months so that Deep Creek Lake/Wisp remain on the PSO's calendar. The PSO has been a wonderful organization with which to work and they have made their programming at Deep Creek very affordable.

Please help GLAF continue to bring the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra back to Deep Creek by contributing. Simply respond to the website www.artsandentertainment.org or call 301-387-3082. All contributions are appreciated. The POA Board strongly recommends the support of GLAF.

GARRETT COUNTY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION/ LIFE SAVERS CLUB

The Foundation created an affinity group (the Life Saver's Club) aimed at serving the Lake community and increasing awareness of the Foundation within the POA membership. The Life Saver's group recently held an awareness event on July 5, 2010, at the Lakeside Club at Wisp Resort. The attendance was great, with nearly 200 attending. This gave the Foundation people a chance to meet and talk with many residents and visitors that could potentially need the services available at Garrett County Memorial Hospital. The Life Saver's Club is part of the Garrett County Memorial Hospital Foundation, whose role is to help ensure that quality care and state-of-the-art equipment is available to everyone who needs medical care while in our community. In the past a Critical Care equipment package was funded.

This year the Foundation has devoted its fundraising efforts to fund a new nuclear medicine camera that helps the physician with early diagnosis and treatment of many medical illnesses. We trust that you will agree that the Life Saver's Club is a valuable part of the Hospital Foundation. You can become a member of the Life Saver's Club through a \$500.00 donation. Your support of any amount, large or small, is vital and greatly appreciated. Your donation has the ability to change a life. For more information, please contact Jessica Lucas at jlucas@gcmh.com.

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SAVAGEMAN TRIATHLON

The 4th Annual SavageMan Triathlon will be held on September 18-19th, at the Deep Creek State Park. The proceeds benefit the Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation. The foundation is a non-profit public charity founded in 2004. It fosters education,

advocacy and research about melanoma. Skin cancer is the #1 cancer in the U.S. and melanoma is most serious and lethal form. Please note that volunteers are needed for this event, which provides a tremendous opportunity to support this charity. For lots more information go to www.savagemantri.org.

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