

DEEP CREEK DISPATCH

Fall 2010

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear POA Members:

What a beautiful Autumn Glory Celebration we had this year! It was just the way it is supposed to be. Now we just sit back and wait for the white stuff! "They" say we are going to experience a lot of what we had last year. I just hope it is not as MUCH !

The POA was busy this fall. There are two particular items we have been working on very intensely since our last General Meeting in August. The first has been the Water Level issue that has affected many of our late summer and fall boating opportunities.

The second item has been on the Water Quality issue. The POA's Water Quality Steering Committee has been working very hard to arrange a workshop which is intended to bring all stakeholders of interest from Deep Creek Lake together to talk about the issues of concern and to share opinions and facts.

The purpose of the workshop is to determine an approach that ensures that the water quality of the lake remains essentially the way it is today, if not better, in order to ensure the aesthetic value and economic viability of the region to property owners, businesses and residents alike. This approach is to be one with which everyone who has an interest in Deep Creek Lake can be comfortable. The workshop will be by invitation only. The participants will include Peter Versteegen, Logistics Coordinator; Peter Skylstad, Professor, Garrett College, Moderator; Monty Pagenhardt, County Administrator; Paul Durham, Consultant and former Deep Creek Lake Manager (DNR); Jim Hinebaugh, Director, Garrett County Economic Development; Carolyn Mathews, Deep Creek Lake Manager, DNR; Barbara Beeler, Friends of Deep Creek Lake; and Shane Grady, Chamber of Commerce. Others invited to the workshop are Ed King, Board, Deep Creek Lake Property Owners Association; Bob Browning, Policy and Review Board; Barry Weinberg, Legal Aspects, Member, POA Board; and John Wilson, Water Quality Work Group, DNR.

With the help of the "Save Deep Creek" petitioners and a few others, the POA worked with the Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board and brought much-needed attention to our water level dilemma which we have experienced over the last several boating seasons. I was appointed Chairman of a Policy and Review Board Water Level sub-committee which met with Mr. John Grace, Chief, Source Protection and Appropriation Division Water Supply Program of the Maryland Department of the Environment. Following the

sub-committee meeting with Mr. Grace, he accepted an invitation to attend the September 24th Policy and Review Board Meeting.

Due to health issues, I was not able to attend the September Policy and Review Meeting. POA Board Member, Troy Ellington, sat in on the meeting in my place. Troy reported that the meeting was "orderly, civil and educational with a "packed" house." Mr. Grace gave a power point presentation about the rule bands, where the water came from and where it went. The slides that he presented are to be posted on the Lake Management Website: www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/deepcreeknrma.asp.

The POA's position emphasizing the importance of the Lake and its water level that directly impacts Garrett County's economy was pointed out to Mr. Grace. The POA questioned if these economic factors would be considered in the review of Brookfield Power's permit review. Mr. Grace's lengthy response did indicate such consideration would be given. Both Senator George Edwards and Delegate Wendell Beitzel were supportive of the economic concerns and impact the water level can cause to the County's economic well-being. Mr. Grace indicated that the next meeting would probably occur sometime in November. Mr. Grace will include all interested parties who benefit from the waters of Deep Creek Lake in the process. The POA will stay on top of the issue.

I hope you and your families all have a great Holiday Season.

Best Regards,
Lou Battistella, President

WE LOST A FRIEND

Sadly we say goodbye to County Commissioner Denny Glotfelty. Denny, age 58, passed away in the early hours on Thursday, October 21st, 2010, losing a courageous battle with lung cancer. Denny was a true friend of the Property Owners Association, attending every POA General Membership meeting and attending our Board meetings when asked. He was available to listen to the POA anytime and took our concerns seriously. Even though the POA's membership is mostly NON-VOTING residents, Denny listened to our issues as seriously as he did those of full-time residents. Denny was above all unpretentious, as is typical of many living in Garrett County. Although his illness was classified as Stage IV cancer, Denny insisted he was going to beat the illness and was going to continue to represent us by gallantly striving for a win for the District 3 County Commissioner's elected office. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Denny and Denny's family. We will miss you!

WATER QUALITY WORKSHOP

*Peter Versteegen, POA's Committee Logistics Coordinator
Water Quality Workshop*

In recent months and years many things have happened to Deep Creek Lake that have a potential negative impact on the economic well-being of the region. Residential expansion, particularly second homes, has been enormous. As a result, increasing numbers of people have sought out the area for their summer and winter vacations and consequently increased the use of the lake for recreational purposes.

Recently, the weather and aging infrastructure have had an adverse impact on the lake environment, albeit temporarily. Among many, this has raised the issue of the long-term viability of the lake.

Various groups and organizations address specific issues with the lake, but there is no coordinated effort. The planned workshop is to address how all of us are going to work together in the future to ensure the economic viability of the region by focussing on how to keep the lake healthy.

The mission of our effort is to devise a means or process that ensures that Deep Creek Lake continues to stimulate the economic well-being of its residents and visitors by approaching the solution to issues raised by the use of the Lake in a socially responsible way.

The purpose of the workshop is to develop a watershed management approach based on sound science and economics where everyone who has an interest in Deep Creek Lake can participate. Any plan must ensure that the water quality of the lake does not suffer further decline; it may even improve. The plan must also ensure the long term aesthetic value and economic viability of the watershed for property owners, businesses, visitors and residents alike.

Participation in the workshop is by invitation only. Only organizations and individuals that have a stake in the well-being of Deep Creek Lake and who can represent broad issues that affect the well being of the lake are invited. It is hoped that the result will be a set of action items, possibly including the recommendation of a conference to be held in the spring of 2011, to further refine the approach.

PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION 2011 MEETING DATES

BOARD MEETINGS

Saturday, April 9, 2011

Saturday, June 11, 2011

Saturday, August 6, 2011

Saturday, November 5, 2011

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Saturday, June 25, 2011

Saturday, August 20, 2011

SEWAGE ODOR ISSUES

The POA Board has been communicating constantly with the Department of Public Utilities and following through on the concerns of our members regarding the Department of Public Utilities' issues as they affect the membership. The following is a release from Linda Lindsey, Director, Garrett County Department of Public Utilities.

The Department of Public Utilities (DPU) has contracted with In-Pipe Technology Company to install and maintain a biological treatment system to reduce odors in the sewage collection system and to improve operations at the wastewater treatment plant. The system uses a blend of facultative spore-forming soil bacteria to transform the sewer into an effective biological reactor. This limits the production of offensive odors and also benefits the entire wastewater collection and treatment system by reducing sludge production, aeration energy costs, sewer clean-out costs and improving effluent water quality.

The dosing system was installed October 26th-28th at 15 locations on the sewage collection system. The system contains a 30- day supply of solution that will be reloaded with microbes and inspected for functionality every thirty days by the In-Pipe service team. The study is also being conducted by In-Pipe Technology on dosing individual grinder pumps. The microbes have been introduced at selected grinder pumps and samples collected every 48 hours in order to observe the changes in the microbe population in the wet wells following the initial dosing. A recommended application rate or interval will be based on the results of the study.

Installation of Godwin Dri-Prime diesel-operated pumps is being completed at Pump Stations 1-1 on Mayhew Inn Road and 2-1 and 2-2 on Lake Shore Drive. DPU has also received a proposal for upgrading the pump station control systems which is being evaluated and funding sources considered.

ARC AWARDS GRANT TO STUDY TOURISM AT DEEP CREEK LAKE

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has awarded a \$20,000 grant to Garrett County to conduct a study of tourism at Deep Creek Lake. According to Senators Barbara A. Mikulski and Benjamin L. Cardin, this grant will allow local residents, businesses and government to better plan for future development in the area. In addition to ARC funds, local sources will provide additional funds.

The ARC funds will be used to study lake visitors by demographic and season, analyze second home/rental property revenues and define spending by category and season at lake-area businesses. It is anticipated that the information will provide a better understanding of the lake's economic importance.

APPOINTED TO ANOTHER TERM

On October 26th, 2010 POA President Lou Battistella was re-appointed to another two- year term on the Garrett County Local Emergency Planning Committee. He will be a representative for the Garrett County Emergency Services Board by appropriate action of the Garrett County Commissioners.

DEEP CREEK TRIBUTARIES FREE OF WATER QUALITY ISSUES

According to a report released in mid-August from the Maryland Department of the Environment, Deep Creek Lake does not appear have water quality issues with nutrients in some of its coves that come from water flowing from the streams that feed the lake. The data examined by the MDE showed that in the watershed (meaning waterways outside the body of the lake), nutrients including nitrogen and phosphorous are present only in low levels. A spokesperson said that the MDE was not saying that the coves were not impaired, but that they were not impaired by nutrients. The report looked at the watershed as a whole and also looked separately at the overall quality of the lake. It contained data collected by the MDE and the Department of Natural Resources at different periods over the last decade.

MDE officials they will now proceed with studies of any existing problems in the lake from a more localized approach. A MDE field—monitoring group will conduct water quality monitoring and other testing through the upcoming months. They could potentially conduct dye tests on septic systems in the lake area in the spring, with permission of property owners. Septic systems are one of the potential sources of phosphorous, along with crop fertilizers and animals in the pastureland.

DNR'S DEEP CREEK LAKE PHASE I SEDIMENT PLAN/ STUDY ANNOUNCED

At the September 26th, 2010 meeting of the Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board the following coves were announced for the Phase 1 Lake Sediment Plan/Study. They are Brushy Run, Thayerville (Arrowhead), Pawn Run, Penn, Chadderton School, Hickory Ridge, Turkey Neck (Back Bay), Hazelhurst, Poland and Gravelly Run. Some coves not included in the study are Deep Creek, Deer Haven and Green Glade.

Lake Manager Carolyn Mathews said the coves chosen for Phase 1 were selected based on several reasons and that the DNR wanted to get a broad look from various types of areas. There was already data from some coves. The coves that were chosen for Phase 1 were those the DNR lacked sufficient data to analyze and some were selected because they represent different drainage basins, soil types, slope, or land uses.

Phase 1 also will conduct a wholistic surficial sediment survey. This will characterize the existing sediment throughout Deep Creek Lake to enable the DNR to understand the extent of the current situation and to identify the problems. Once the results are completed from the various tests and sampling and compares it to existing U.S. Geological Survey data and historical data, scientists can extrapolate general results for the other areas of the lake and determine areas of concern.

This Phase 1 study has been estimated to cost \$103,000. Funding for this will be \$75,000 from the DNR Boating Services and \$25,000 from the Deep Creek Lake Management Fund.

Phase 1 will determine if a move should be made to proceed to Phase 11, which will qualify and characterize the accumulated sediment in the lake and then identify reasonable, feasible and sustainable alternatives to address accumulated sediments and will identify ways to reduce sediment inputs to the lake. Ways to reduce sediment loads into the lake would be the designing of Best Management Practices for minimizing sediment introduction and transport from adjoining property and tributaries to Deep Creek Lake. Phase 11 is estimated to cost \$200,000. Sources for this funding are yet to be determined.

Carolyn Mathews noted that if a cove is not included in the Phase 1 study doesn't mean the cove will be excluded from future sediment removal operations. Ms. Mathews also said that dredging operations probably will not include all Deep Creek Lake coves. This is based on a variety of reasons, including operation costs and study results.

PWC REGULATIONS FINALLY APPROVED

On September 15, 2010, the changes to the Personal Watercraft regulations were finally approved by the DNR. Type A docks will now allow 3 powerboats, one of which may be PWC. Also note that \$100.00 permit for the PWC to be docked has been eliminated as has the fee for common docks to tie up PWC's at the back of the docks. This change has been a result of the Department of Natural Resources push to get the PWC's off the shore.

Carolyn Mathews, Lake Manager, DNR, reminds everyone to log onto <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/deepcreeknrma.asp> to keep up to date on anything related to the Lake Management office. Letters will be mailed this winter about projects the Management office is working on.

LOOK FOR THE POA'S FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON OUR WEBSITE

The POA has developed over twenty questions that many people ask about our organization, rules and regulations of agencies that affect property owners on the lake and the structure of the County government. These are very detailed answers to questions that most concern property owners around the lake. They are now posted on our website at www.deepcreeklakepoa.com

UPCOMING DUES STATEMENTS

Look for your 2011 Dues statements in the next issue (winter 2011) of the Dispatch. If you receive the Dispatch by mail, be sure to look to the **RIGHT** of your address label. The current year your dues are paid to will be listed there. If you get the electronic Dispatch, your copy will tell you the year your dues are paid through.

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COMMUNITY NOTEBOARD

Festival Of Trees to be Held November 24-27, 2010

The third annual Festival of Trees will again be held Thanksgiving Weekend. The monies raised will support the Dove Center's Capital Campaign Building Fund. Wednesday, No-

vember 24th kicks off with a preview of the trees, wreaths, centerpieces and gingerbread houses that won ribbons. The silent auctions will begin and continue until Saturday, November 27th. For more information, please visit www.fotgc.com.

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Property Owner's Association of

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