



# DEEP CREEK DISPATCH



Winter 2012

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Prospective Members,

It is a privilege to serve as the President of The Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake, Inc. Your board is dedicated to representing lake property owner's interests to the various organizations of Garrett County, and initiating efforts to that end when they are inadequately addressed. The Board of the POA has sponsored two workshops on the Well Being of Deep Creek Lake (see summary of the most recent workshop elsewhere in this *Dispatch*). Each of these workshops has been well received and your board is currently pursuing means of implementing some the outcome of the workshops. Two of the main items of the most recent workshop are in the areas of Communications and the study of sedimentation and submerged aquatic vegetation (sources and remedies). Your board is most methodical and fact based in spending their time and your money on efforts to promote the wellbeing of our valued resource—the lake. I hope that other lake area property owners will join us via membership in the POA and add to the influence that we have gained with the many County and State agencies that affect our interests.

Members of the POA Board are quite active in the community, including among others: The DNR Policy and Review Board, Emergency Management Board, The Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, The Garrett County Planning Commission, and many other key organizations of the area.

The Garrett County Commissioners are “entertaining” the possibility of extending some form of “zoning-light” to the rest of Garrett County. The lake watershed already has zoning. This is driven in part by the development of wind farms and drilling for natural gas in the County. The presence of natural gas in the Marcellus shale layer in the county invites a rush to

drill and if not regulated could mar our scenic wonderland. We should be patient with the ongoing moratorium and efforts to insure that the gas extraction is performed in a safe and non-intrusive manner.

Sincerely,  
Troy Ellington

## WELL-BEING OF THE LAKE WORKSHOP

Building upon the success of the December 2010 Well Being of the Lake Workshop the second all day workshop was held December 2, 2011. The invitation list was expanded to 80 persons representing a broad spectrum of lake stake holders including government, academia, business, the press and the public at large.

John Wilson, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Water Quality Monitoring Program, opened the session stating that the focus needs to be on trends and factual data collected now to enable analysis over time. The key word here is factual. The plan is to do more study of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in 2012. Both John and DNR Secretary John Griffin report the overall the state of the lake is healthy.

Five specific topics were addressed in a moderator/panel format. They were: communication and education; erosion and sedimentation processes; economic benefits and costs; commercial, agricultural and residential impacts; and biological environment. Following are some nuggets from each panel.

*Communication:* there is always some level of “communication problem” as a natural occurrence; there needs to be objectivity in data; there is a demand for instant, rapid or immediate communication; trust is key.

*Erosion and sedimentation:* sources of sedimentation are not known as yet for DCL, DNR does not yet have the answers and encourages implementation of Phase

II Sedimentation Study; different solutions exist for storm water management; DCL is actually a storm water pond; Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is the office of primary responsibility (OPR).

*Economic benefits and costs:* scenery is a top tourist attraction; both tourists and “occasional” dwellers have had a significant impact on our area; do we need a better land management plan; district 18 pays 60% or more of Garrett County property taxes.

*Commercial, agricultural and residential impacts:* all agreed the commercial, agriculture and residential owners should be responsible of environmental impacts to the lake; all are regulated today and better than in the past; legislation is coming that will mandate storm water management; all agreed tax incentives focused on environmental concerns is a good thing.

*Biological environment:* diverse and healthy fish population; submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) is diverse and healthy and extremely important to a healthy lake; toxic algae blooms is not a problem at present but some increase has been noted in shallow coves; more study of EVM to be done.

There will be more such workshops in the future and the discussions at the workshops will result in actions to protect Deep Creek Lake.

The POA continues to take the leadership role, as it has since its founding, in protecting Deep Creek Lake. Much of the time the Board of Directors and POA members are working quietly and effectively and without fanfare to affect positive for Garrett County and Deep Creek Lake.

Please refer to the Fall 2011 *Deep Creek Dispatch* for additional information of the Well Being of the Lake Workshops.

## PERSONAL SAFETY

Last spring when your dock was placed into the water you affixed your new dock numbers. These dock numbers are the result of efforts initiated by the POA and finalized with cooperation from the state and county. Your dock number indicates the miles your dock is from the dam traveling from the north east end of the dam circling the lake back the other end of the dam (in a clockwise direction). The purpose of the new dock numbering system is to assist emergency responders, like NPR Police and the Deep Creek Lake fire boat, find you by lake. **Know your dock number as well as your 911 street address.** Emergency responders will be able to find your location more quickly when

you provide that information. (Ninety percent of the 911 calls come from cell phones versus a land line, which means 911 Dispatch cannot locate you by phone number.)

## UNITED WAY

The local United Way Campaign is underway and the contribution materials and information are enclosed with this newsletter. The POA Board of Directors has endorsed this campaign and encourages POA members to contribute. To obtain United Way funds, an agency must provide data showing specific benefit to Garrett County residents. The supported agencies and their program descriptions are listed in the enclosed information. Please fill out the enclosed form and send it and your contribution in the envelope provided.

## TRIVIA

In the Fall *Dispatch* we challenged you to identify this structure. It is the old 219 bridge.



Here is another trivia question. What is this and what is structure in the right center of the photo?

The answer is found in “Miscellaneous” on next page.



# MISCELLANEOUS

**Getting Away Together**—PBS will be featuring Garrett County/Deep Creek Lake in a new reality series called Getting Away Together. It is rumored to be broadcast on WQED (Pittsburgh) in March. Check out the Chamber of Commerce website for details. <http://www.visitdeepcreek.com/>

**Going Native in Your Backyard** is a presentation by Liz McDowell, plant expert and local coordinator of the Maryland Native Plant Society, February 21 at 7:00 pm at Appalachian Laboratory on the campus of Frostburg State at 301 Braddock Road, .2 miles off exit 33 of I-68. Contact Liz at 301-895-3686 or [lmcdnativeplants@hughes.net](mailto:lmcdnativeplants@hughes.net)

Switching to native plants and using conservation landscaping techniques is crucial to the long term health of the environment. As habitat is lost and exotic species invade the most wild and rural areas of our region, gardeners can play a key role in maintaining regional biodiversity. Many native alternatives to the exotic invasive plants commonly used for landscaping in our region will be highlighted. Discover the connection between native plants, wildlife and people. Enhance and preserve regional biodiversity by simply 'going native'.

**A new native plant resource**—<http://www.nativeplantcenter.net/>

**Answer:** Marsh Mountain is in the background and the old camp that became Deep Creek Lodge (remember their great cheeseburgers?) is the structure in the right center. All of this, of course, before Wisp Resort and the Ski Harbor complex.

**Keep your USPS address and email address up to date. Send a letter to the P.O. box or an email to the treasurer (see website: <http://www.deepcreeklakepoa.com>)**

## GLAF

The Garrett Lakes Arts Festival season kicks off with the world famous Duquesne University Tamburitzans on April 20 at Garrett College. The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra returns again for a concert on Friday July 13. Others events include: Beatlemania Now, April 28 at Wisp Resort; Clipper City Brass Band, May 18 at Garrett College; Cashore Marionettes, June 23 at Garrett College; and Johnny Staats, August 11 at Garrett College.

The performing arts enrich the lives of each and every one of us and GLAF's concert series helps us in that regard. We encourage you and your friends and family to enjoy the concerts. More information can be found at: <http://www.artsandentertainment.org/>

## BOAT NOISE

It has been a long time in coming, but it finally is illegal to operate a boat on Deep Creek Lake without a continuously operating muffler system. Changes are in *italics*. See below for details.

### Subtitle 18 BOATING—SPEED LIMITS AND OPERATION OF VESSELS

08.18.03 Noise Level Limits of Vessels                      .03 Noise Level Limits.

A. A person may not operate or give permission to operate a vessel on the waters of the State that emits a maximum noise level exceeding 90 dB(a).

*B. On the waters of Deep Creek Lake and from the mouth of the Northeast and Elk Rivers to include all tributaries including the Bohemia River and the C&D Canal, a person may not operate a vessel in such a manner to exceed the following vessel noise levels:(1) For engines manufactured before January 1, 1993, the noise level may not exceed 90dB(a).(2) For engines manufactured on or after January 1, 1993, the noise level may not exceed 88dB(a).*

.08 Mufflers. A person may not own, operate, or give permission to operate on the waters of the State a vessel manufactured after January, 1990, that is not equipped with a muffler or system which muffles or suppresses engine noise to the established limits in Regulation .03 of this chapter. *On the waters of Deep Creek Lake and from the mouth of the Northeast and Elk Rivers to include all tributaries including the Bohemia River and the C&D Canal, a vessel shall operate with a continuous muffler or noise suppression system and may not operate a device that bypasses, reduces, or eliminates the effectiveness of a muffler or engine noise suppression device or system.*

## POA BOARD MEMBERS

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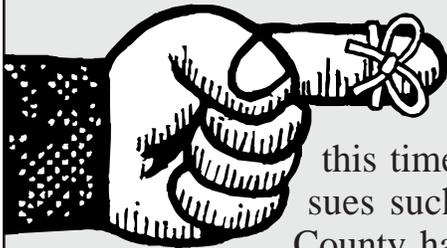
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## IMPORTANT REMINDER

This is a reminder that your POA dues for 2012 are due at this time. Your board has been active over the winter dealing with issues such as lake water levels, water quality and boat noise. Garrett County has a new group of commissioners and the board has met with them in order to familiarize them with the activities of the POA.

In order to continue your newsletters, E-Blasts and participation in the POA activities please send in your dues soon. To make it easier for you to submit your annual dues of \$30, a self addressed envelope and a member registration form are enclosed. If your information has changed from previous years, please indicate the changes on the form. It is also important to indicate whether you want your newsletter delivered by email or regular mail.

Thanks for your support of the POA!

Sincerely,  
Tom Myers  
Treasurer, POA of DCL