



DEEP CREEK DISPATCH

Winter 2022
Newsletter of the
Property Owners' Association
of Deep Creek Lake, Inc.

Message from the President



Winter has finally arrived at Deep Creek. Wisp has opened for skiing and the lake is freezing over. Brookfield Power would like to remind everyone to be careful if you go out on the ice – watch for soft spots and open water.

The POA became aware of the potential of large solar farms in the watershed with the county having no zoning regulations for these systems. We suggested along with other entities that the county should consider modifying the 1970's zoning to include restrictions for large solar arrays. The county commissioners did react quickly, developed a modification for solar farms, held a public hearing and eventually adopted a new set of restrictions for the DCL watershed. Our thanks to the county government for protecting the watershed!

We also donated \$3,000 to the DCL Watershed Foundation to pay for a literature search for data on the ecology and biology of streams inflowing to the lake. This work will be done by California University of Pennsylvania and will be used to further understand potential problems and changes in Deep Creek.

Brookfield did lower the lake level to 2,455.5 ft as they promised for three weeks in December. Hopefully this helped to kill off some of the near shore vegetation but unfortunately the weather was mild during this draw down. The POA will continue to work with DNR, PRB, and Brookfield to keep trying to get winter levels lower in the future.

Bob Sutton


From the Editors



A look through several years of Dispatch issues reveals discussions of many of the same topics, mostly relating to preservation and safe use of the lake. They include invasive vegetation, Zebra mussels, water levels and water quality, shoreline erosion, sediment accumulation, safe boating, etc.. All have been subject of study and work by government agencies and private organizations, including the POA.

A closer look reveals significant progress regarding most of these topics and a high level of cooperation between sometimes competing interests. Invasive vegetation is being successfully combated, Zebra mussels are being detected before boats are being launched, and greater attention has been focused on shoreline erosion and damage and injuries caused by boat wakes.

The current health crisis has required POA membership and board meetings to be mostly conducted remotely. At this point we don't know if we are experiencing the beginning of the end or the end of the beginning. In the meantime, for your sake and the sake of relatives and others with whom you have contact, please obtain appropriate vaccinations. We are looking forward to a better and safer 2022.



POA MEETING DATES FOR 2022

BOARD MEETINGS - UNO'S AT 8:30 AM
APRIL 9
JUNE 11
AUGUST 13
OCTOBER 8

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS - GARRETT 8 CINEMAS AT 8:30 AM
JUNE 25
AUGUST 27

A NOTICE WILL BE POSTED BEFORE THE DATES IF THE MEETING WILL BE VIRTUAL.

Project Updates

Minimum Wake Zone in North Glade Cove

The minimum wake zone regulation for North Glade Cove went into effect in October. This requires all watercraft to travel at minimum wake speed 24/7 in this area that will be designated by new Buoys placed by DNR.

Arrowhead Cove Dredging Project Update

The project to dredge Arrowhead Cove is progressing. This pilot project will be paid for by the state and is expected to proceed later in 2022 assuming design, permits and contracts are completed.

Buffer Strip Projects

The Lake Manager would like to remind all property owners to get permits and approval for ANY modifications to the buffer strip. To get further information, call the office at 301-387-4112.

GC Commissioners Collaborate Amid Continuing COVID-19 Response By Sarah Myers

Garrett Regional Medical Center, Garrett County Emergency Services, the Garrett County Health Department, and other local health care organizations continue to work with each other to organize response efforts amid the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

Garrett County continues to see high COVID positivity testing rates, with 13.1% of those tested receiving a positive result as of January 3rd. The county's rate of fully vaccinated citi-

zens continues to slowly increase, but only 53.4% of the population over age 12 is fully vaccinated at this point, according to statistics compiled by the Garrett County Health Department. While vaccines do not completely prevent COVID, they do lessen the severity of the illness in breakthrough cases and greatly reduce the need for hospitalization.

Garrett Regional Medical Center continues to see a large demand for monoclonal antibody infusions for patients testing positive for COVID. The hospital's Emergency Department is seeing higher volumes of patients for these treatments as well as patients suffering COVID symptoms and illness. In addition, the hospital continues to see higher than normal admission rates due to both COVID and seasonal illnesses and conditions. Hospitals throughout the region are also experiencing higher volumes in both the ED and admissions, including larger medical facilities that offer more specialty services. This situation has created delays in the transfer of patients in need of higher levels of care, because the larger facilities have few available beds.

"Most of us will agree that we're tired of talking about COVID but local organizations have been working tirelessly to assemble the most local, state, and federal resources possible to combat this concern," said Paul Edwards, Chair, Board of Garrett County Commissioners. "As a result of these efforts, COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are readily available in Garrett County."

The County Commissioners have been and continue to advocate personal responsibility during this unique public health emergency. Also, the County and the County Health Officer continue to communicate the Governor's Executive Orders and personal responsibility actions to the public.

"I'd like to remind you that COVID is prevalent in our county and local health organizations continue to share the precautions you can take to prevent sickness," said Edwards. "Garrett Regional Medical Center continues a fantastic job in meeting our community needs."

There also is no anticipated lapse in emergency response capabilities from local rescue squads or fire departments or longer than normal response times to calls for service.

For community members with medical questions regarding Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), please utilize the Garrett County Health Department web site <https://garretthealth.org/coronavirus> or telephone hotline at 301-334-7698.



The magic of Winter and Mother Nature on Deep Creek Lake.

Photo courtesy of Jesse Shimrock of Railey Realty



Yellow Perch/Perca flavescens:



The coloring of this fish is generally brassy green to golden yellow and the sides and white to yellow on the body.

Yellow perch adapt well to cold water, which makes them a prime target for ice fishing. According to some fishermen, it's helpful to drill multiple holes in the ice to help locate the fish and some recommend using braided lines to catch them.

Walleye/Stizostedion vitreum:



The walleye is named after its large opaque and almost blind-looking eye.

It has a dark green or olive-green back, light brownish yellow sides and white belly.

It is the largest members of the perch family, attaining lengths of more than 30 inches and weights of more than 10 pounds.

Even in the winter months, walleyes do not change their habitats and can still be found in the humps and drop offs.

Northern Pike/Esox lucius:



This fish is elongated, and the dorsal region is bluish-green to gray in color, which distinguishes it from other members of the pike family.

Their mouth is duck-bill in shape and is lined with many sharp canine teeth.

The Maryland state record northern pike was caught at Deep Creek Lake in 1999 and measured at 46 inches and weighed 24 lbs 12 oz.



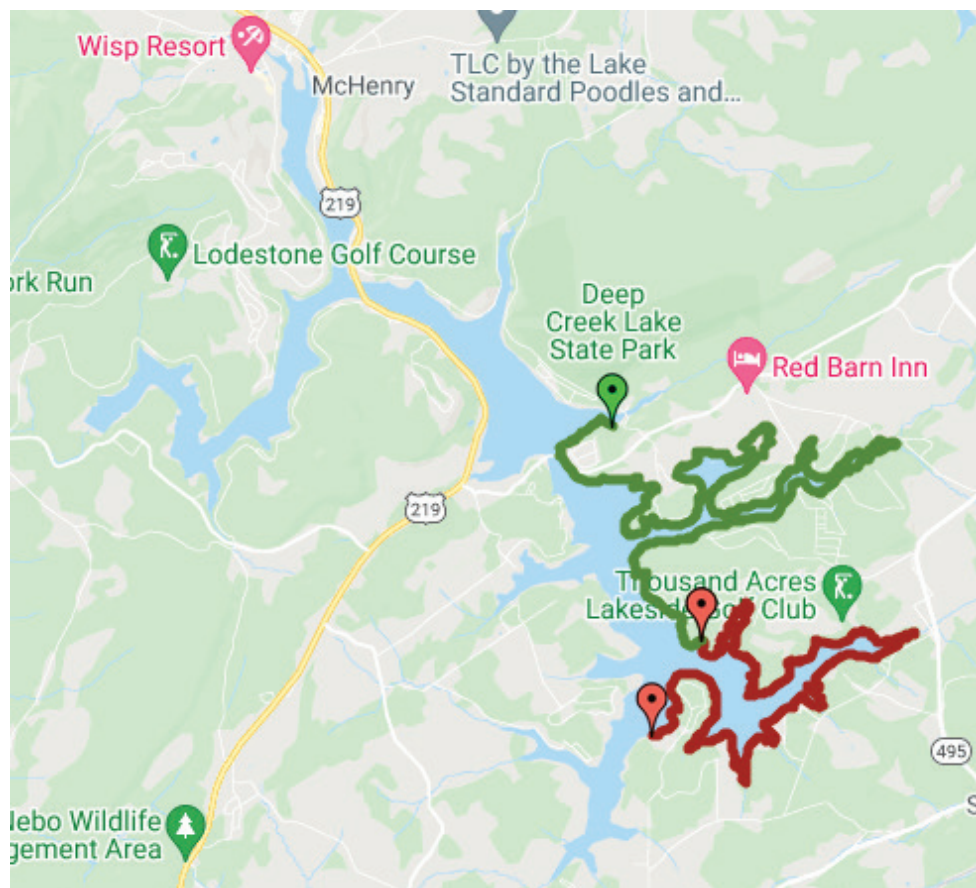
Ice Safety Advice, courtesy of Maryland DNR:

- **Stay off ice less than 4-inches thick.**
- **New ice is usually stronger than old ice.**
Ice blue in color or clear indicates it's high density and stronger.
- **Be mindful of wind conditions.** Light winds speed up the formation of ice. Strong winds force water from beneath the ice and can decay the edges.
- **Snow can inhibit freezing or mask cracked, weak ice and open water areas.**
- **Never go out on the ice or attempt to rescue someone alone.**
- **Wear a life vest on the ice.**

Hiking the Shoreline of Deep Creek Lake

By Chris Nichols

Just how long is the shoreline of Deep Creek Lake? Most sources say 64 miles, but I've seen "authoritative" values of 69 and 74 miles as well (two different signs at the State Park – *within visual distance of each other* – claim the 64 and 69 mile distances). So, I decided to do the logical thing and hike the shoreline to find out. As of this writing, I've made it about 27 miles over two days of hiking going clockwise from my dock location across from the State Park to the western side of Turkey Neck. Some of the times, it's been rough going, but it's been a great way to see the lake from a different perspective. You can see the two legs of my journey so far in the map below done on December 26 and 31.



As regular readers of this newsletter are aware, Brookfield Renewable, the operator of the dam, lowered the lake level to 2,455.5 ft in support of the Western Conveyance utility project. There are a number of spots I wouldn't have been able to really follow the shoreline if the water levels hadn't been this low.

So, what have I found so far? One of the first things I have been struck by are the prevalence of bivalves ("mussels") and mollusks ("snails") along some of the stretches of the lake shore. I've never been aware that there were populations of them before, so I contacted Julie Bortz, the DNR biologist for the lake, to see if she could tell me anything about them.



The mollusks I found are Chinese or Japanese Mystery Snails and they are an invasive species, so the DNR is interested in keeping track of them. If you see any north of the North Glade area, be sure to let Julie know at julie.bortz@maryland.gov. Then be sure to pick up a few to get a fancy French appetizer for free! The bivalves were likely the Eastern Floater Mussel and they are unremarkable. But if you see any critters or plants you're not sure about, definitely send Julie an email with a photo and she'll check it out.

My second observation is that while there are about 15 obvious feeder streams to Deep Creek Lake, when you are walking the shoreline, especially in the southern end, especially after some rainfall, it's clear that there are many more springs and seeps that also feed water (and sediment) into the lake. There were several muddy slogs through areas of shoreline where there was no visible running water, but there was obviously flow coming from the land. Seeing this perspective really makes the issue of sedimentation more obvious than driving around these coves in the boat.

After so many muddy areas, my wife who accompanied me on one of the legs of the trip, found a quicker way to cross Green Glade Run. I opted to go a bit further upstream where I could jump across some rocks.



So, that's my status as of mid-January. Been a bit harder of a hike than I thought in spots, but I'd still like to finish it up. Is it cheating if I wait until the lake fully freezes to do the rest? You can follow along my journey at dimesy.com.

Plans Underway for Garrett County Sesquicentennial

By John Quilty



Garrett County was formed from Allegany County on December 4, 1872, some 150 years ago. It was named after John Work Garrett (1820 – 1884), the then-president of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad.

A county organizing committee has been planning for events throughout 2022, featuring both a major fairground event on September 17 and a series of events as part of the annual celebrations of each of the eight communities within the county (Accident, Deer Park, Friendsville, Grantsville, Kitzmiller, Loch Lynn Heights, Mountain Lake Park, and Oakland). The theme of “Connecting Communities” has been adopted.

September 17 activities under consideration include local band performances, a tractor show, and a talk by local historian Alfred Feldstein, speaking as John Work Garrett. The community events will be supported by a county “traveling show” including a display booth and the distribution of commemorative “keepsake” coins.

A kick-off event was held by the County Commissioners on December 6 of last year. A couple of us attended as members of a small POA Board committee looking into how we might participate. We enjoyed the review of the county’s history, the remarks of the organizing committee, and a cookie or two.

We will, of course, keep you posted on our plans to participate and contribute to the festivities, the specifics to be determined as the county’s own plans mature.



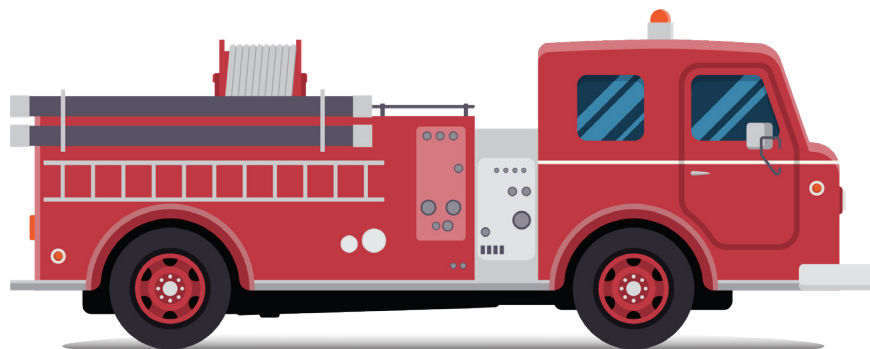
THANK YOU TO OUR FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE RESPONDERS!

Garrett County and our lake property owners are fortunate to have dedicated fire and EMS personnel who respond quickly and professionally when we call for help.

The first responders to lake and off-lake properties typically come from one or more of the following companies: Deep Creek Fire Department, Deer Park Fire Department, Garrett County EMS, Southern Rescue EMS and Bittinger EMS.

In 2021 these Fire and EMS departments responded to 4,170 incidents. We are fortunate to have our Fire and Emergency Medical Service personnel here to help us. Thank you!

Tom Craven and Greg Harbaugh, co-editors



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 Property Owners' Association

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