



DEEP CREEK DISPATCH

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

Message from the President



Good news for Deep Creek Lake! The POA lobbied for the State Lakes Restoration Fund (SLRF) to be increased to \$3 million per year and the sunset clause eliminated. The last two years both the house and senate bills failed and the SLRF was about to terminate leaving the Lake Management short on funds. However, a partial victory was

achieved by our legislators this year by having the SLRF amended into the "Great American Outdoors Act" passed by the house and senate. This continues the SLRF at \$1 million per year until 2025. Not as good as we wanted but better than nothing for now. The POA will continue to work with our elected representatives to push for additional funding and elimination of the sunset next year.

Again, it is a case of money going to the bay but very little for our freshwater lakes. Many thanks to Delegate Wendell Beitzel and Senator George Edwards for their great efforts in getting the SLRF into the amendment.

The dredging project for Arrowhead Cove is ongoing. Permits and bid documents are being worked on. The dry dredging hopefully will begin in the fall of 2023.

The POA and PRB are again pushing for Brookfield to lower the water level for at least a month again for the coming winter to see the effect on near shore SAV. No decision has been made to date.

Bob Sutton

From the Editors



We would like our lake neighbors

to welcome back who have been regular readers of the Dispatch, as well as our new property owners who have recently become our neighbors.


We are all looking forward to another wonderful summer season at Deep Creek Lake! With all the recent real estate activity happening in other areas of the nation, we thought it would be interesting to check with our realtor friends in Garrett County to see if the lake area has been experiencing the same type of buying interest that is happening elsewhere. The short answer is that there is a great demand for lake properties.

According to the Railey Realty web site, in a March 22 post, there are presently less than 20 lakefront properties for sale. It is reported that sellers are receiving multiple offers to purchase their homes.

In Garrett County, sales closed in February were up 29% compared to an historical 5-year average for the month of February. Average prices for Garrett County sales are 12% higher than they were a year ago. Most homes are selling within 30 days of listing. It is still early in the year, but homes sold in 2022 sold within 10 days of listing.

So, if you want to sell, this is the time to do it. If you want to buy, be patient and have your checkbook ready!

By Tom Craven and Greg Harbaugh



POA MEETING DATES FOR 2022

BOARD MEETINGS - UNO'S AT 8:30 AM
 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.

Plans Underway for Garrett County Sesquicentennial

By John Quilty



Garrett County is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, having been created from neighboring Allegany County on December 4, 1872. A county “sesquicentennial” planning committee has been busy laying out a series of celebratory events which will be held throughout the year. These include events coupled to the “special days” for each of the 8 municipalities within the county (e.g., Autumn Glory for Oakland) and will feature a main event at the fairground’s Exhibit Hall on September 17.

The centerpiece of the Exhibit Hall event will be a “history walk” by various exhibits selected to represent the county’s development since its beginnings. The “stations” along the walk will include exhibits representing the 8 municipalities, selected historically-significant businesses (e.g., Wisp Resort and Naylor’s), and the state parks within the county, of course including Deep Creek Lake. Further, non-profit organizations such as the POA have been invited to man booths within a designated facility to explain their missions, contributions, and historical roles.

A committee of your board has been discussing, with the county committee, options for participation. We are currently planning to have a POA booth at the September 17 event. Additionally, we are exploring whether we might partner with other players to help tell the story of Deep Creek Lake and the broader watershed as central to the county’s history.

Speaking of history, it’s worth noting that we are coming up on the 100th anniversary of the lake in 2025 and that your POA has been active since the late 1930’s when a predecessor organization, the Deep Creek Lake Association, was created circa 1937-38. That association was the forerunner to what years later became The Property Owners’ Association of Deep Creek Lake, Inc.

New Marine Fire Extinguisher Regulations Set

By Kim Perry of Sea Tow Foundation

On April 20, 2022, the new fire protection regulation for recreational boats takes effect. If your disposable (non-rechargeable) fire extinguisher has a date of manufacture stamped on the bottle that is older than 12 years, the extinguisher is considered



expired and must be removed from service. The label on the bottle will state “Marine Type – USCG Approved”.

For all fire extinguisher requirements for the recreational boater, including how many are needed for different boat sizes, go to the U.S. Coast Guard FAQ page.

Ready When You Need It

It’s important to keep your extinguisher readily accessible and in good and serviceable working condition. Inspect it monthly to check the pressure gauge, seals and to ensure there is no rust or damage. If you find yourself needing to use one, keep the acronym PASS in mind: Pull the pin, Aim at the base of the fire, Squeeze the lever, and Sweep side to side.

If a fire does erupt on your boat, stop the engine immediately and make sure that everyone on board is wearing a life jacket in case you have to abandon the boat. If possible, position the boat so that the fire is downwind and then use the fire extinguisher. If the fire continues to burn after using the extinguisher, place a MAYDAY call on your VHF radio or call 911 if you are in cell phone range and prepare to abandon ship.



William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award

Deep Creek Watershed Foundation Receives Award

The Deep Creek Watershed Foundation was recently notified that it will receive the 2021 William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award for Garrett County.

This is the 10th anniversary of the awards and will be presented later this year in Garrett County by Peter Franchot, Comptroller of Maryland.

The award goes to individuals and organizations in each of the 23 counties and Baltimore City who best exemplify William Donald Schaefer's lifelong commitment to helping people. Winners are selected based on their demonstration of improving the community, swiftly solving a citizen problem through effective government intervention directly aiding the most vulnerable in society or creating a public/private partnership to improve the lives of Marylanders.

“The Foundation Board and Advisers are delighted with this notification and will plan a celebration for Comptroller Franchot’s visit to the county for the presentation,” said a spokesperson for the Watershed Foundation.



DONATIONS MADE TO NHS, SHS

The POA has recently donated to both local high schools, Southern and Northern. Southern’s donation will go toward the after-prom festivities. Since Northern High is not holding an after-prom this year, its donation will go toward a senior picnic.

Amendment Made to Watershed Zoning Ordinance

The county recently passed an amendment to the Deep Creek Watershed Zoning Ordinance which would prohibit the establishment of solar arrays that are considered commercial in size within the watershed. Solar arrays that are considered community level size, 2 megawatts or less, are permitted with a special exception from the board. According to a foundation spokesperson, this amendment to the zoning ordinance gives the Zoning Appeals Board latitude regarding conditions of the solar arrays.

Solving Bear Problems Courtesy of Maryland Department of Natural Resources



People share in the responsibility to avoid conflicts with bears. The best way to avoid bear problems is to take precautions to not attract them in the first place.

NEVER FEED BEARS – They will associate people with food and may become a persistent problem for you and your neighbors. It is illegal to feed bears in Maryland.

If you encounter a bear, remain calm. **DON'T PANIC.** Leave the area.

Garbage Cans and Dumpsters

Food odors and garbage may attract bears to establishments. To help reduce bear problems:

- Use bear-proof trash cans and dumpsters.

- Move cans or dumpsters away from areas used by people.
- Pick up garbage and fish remains promptly every evening.
- Wash cans and dumpsters frequently.
- Use lime to cut odors.
- A 10% ammonia solution may be used as a disinfectant and a bear deterrent.

Homes and Cabins

Trash and bird feeders are the most common attractants responsible for luring bears to human dwellings. Pet food, charcoal grills, fruit trees and gardens may also attract bears. Once a bear finds food around your home it will likely return. Remove bird feeders in the spring. If you persist in feeding during summer, remove seed, suet and hummingbird feeders at night.

Wildlife Service Offices – Western Maryland

Garrett County

Mt. Nebo Wildlife Management Area

1728 Kings Run Road, Oakland, MD 21550

301-334-4255

BEFORE You Launch...

CLEAN

Inspect your boat and trailer and **REMOVE** all plant, mud and debris before and after outings to prevent the spread of aquatic hitchhikers

DRAIN

Drain **ALL WATER** from your boat, motor, ballasts and live wells on land to prevent the spread of aquatic hitchhikers

Zebra mussel larva and microscopic organisms like spiny water fleas can survive in wet areas for days or weeks, making it essential to drain your boat.

DRY

Allow your boat, trailer and all equipment to **DRY COMPLETELY** between outings to prevent the spread of aquatic hitchhikers.

Upcoming Youth Fishing Rodeos Set

Courtesy of Maryland Department of Natural Resources



Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fishing and Boating Services partners with local community organizations to introduce children to fishing at youth fishing rodeos in order to:

- Provide fishing opportunities and fishing experience in a safe controlled, environment.
- Teach basic angling skills.
- Help children to develop a stewardship ethic.
- Offer a positive fishing experience that fosters future interest in fishing.
- Encourage fishing as an outdoor family activity.

For more information, visit dnr.maryland.gov

May 7: Grantsville Stormwater Pond, sponsored by the Town of Grantsville, 7 am; and Herrington Manor State Park, 8 am

May 14: Bear Creek, sponsored by Clyde “Jr” Fike Memorial Fishing Rodeo, 8 am; and Accident Pond, Sponsored by Fish With A Cop, 9 am

May 20: Potomac River, sponsored by Kitzmiller Empowerment Group, 5 pm

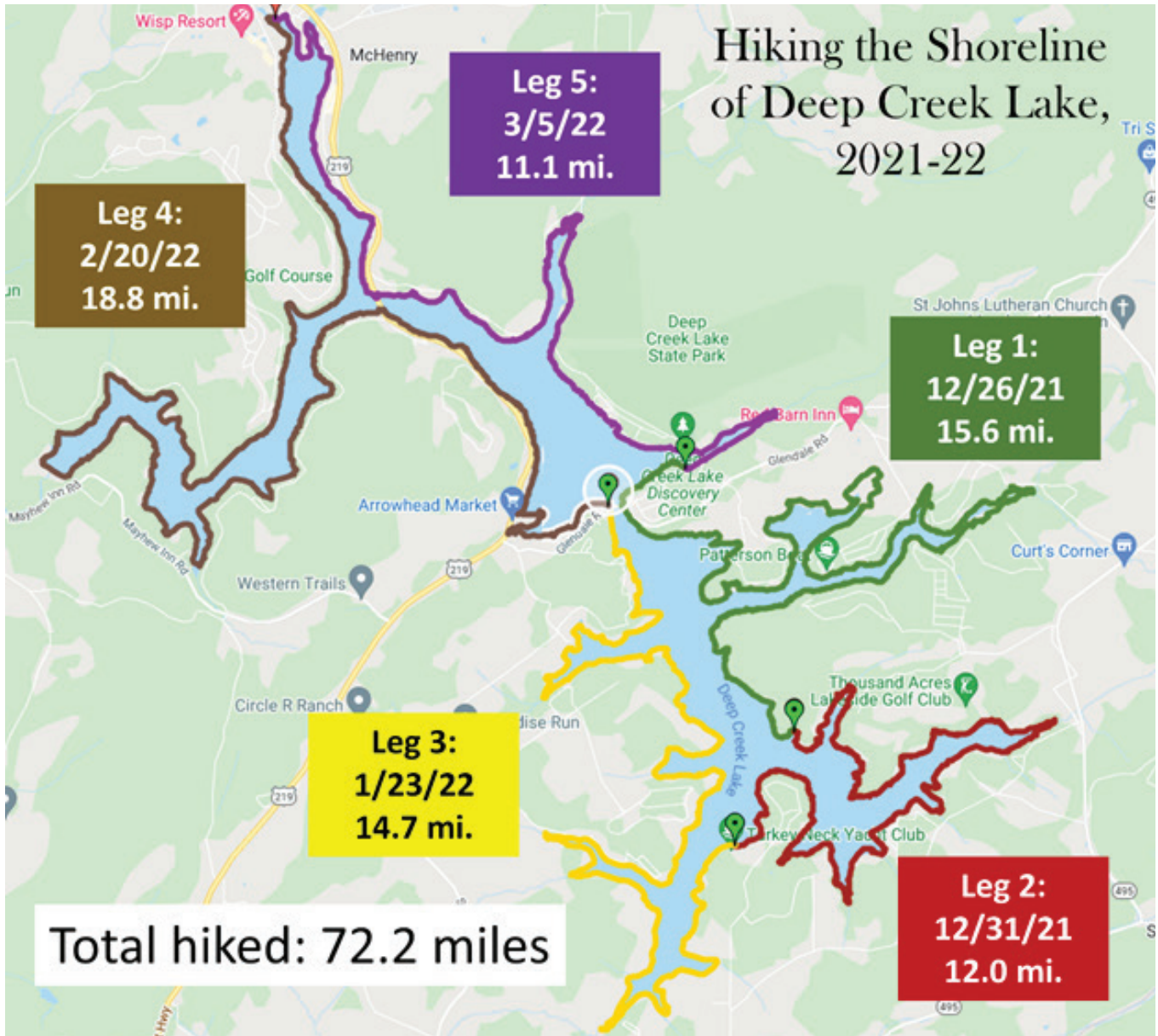
May 21: Accident Pond, sponsored by Accident Planning Committee, 8 am; and New Germany State Park, 8 am

May 28: Muddy Creek, sponsored by Yough Homeowners Association, 9 am

June 18: Glades, sponsored by Club 21550, 10 am

Hiking the Shoreline of Deep Creek Lake, Part 2

By Chris Nichols



Everything you know is wrong. Black is white, up is down, that other political party you hate really is right, and the published length of the shoreline of Deep Creek Lake is drastically incorrect. In the previous issue of the Dispatch, I chronicled the first two legs of my hike all around the shoreline of Deep Creek Lake. From January to March, I completed the hike and tabulated the full distance of 72.2 miles which is entirely different from range published by the DNR of 65-69 miles. What else are they hiding from us? Where are all those extra miles of shoreline? Is there a secret enclave of the elite there? All will be revealed in this article.

For Leg 3 of my hike, I started from Turkey Neck and made it to the Glendale Bridge for a total of 14.7 miles. It was late January, and the lake was still frozen, which made this hike much easier than if I had to cross all of the tributaries on this stretch. One of the highlights of this portion was getting to the “headwaters” of the lake at the southernmost end. Deep Creek really wasn’t too deep at the point where it flows into the lake, so I guess it must have gotten its name further downstream. But this was a nice spot, and one that I would have probably never made it to if I had not been doing this hike.



View from the southernmost end of the lake

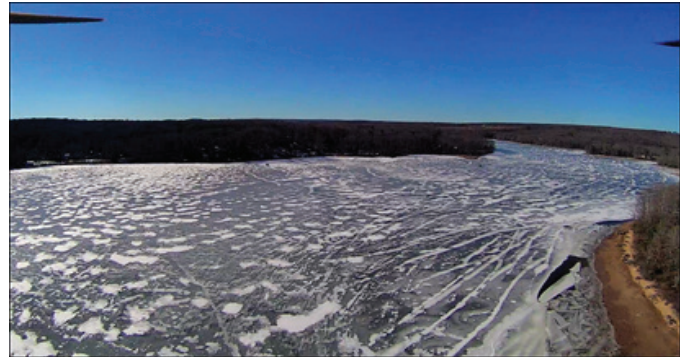
The rest of Leg 3 was relatively uneventful. The day started fairly clear and developed into a fairly heavy snowstorm. Luckily my end point at the Glendale Bridge is less than a mile from home, so it was easy to wrap up the day.



Getting ready to wrap up Leg 3

For leg 4, from the Glendale Bridge to the northernmost point of the lake, I had a beautiful bluebird February day. The lake was still mainly frozen, and combined with the great weather, I logged 18.8 miles which is way more than I was planning. One of the highlights from this stretch was that I brought my

drone along and got some cool footage of the frozen lake.



Aerial picture of the lake around stump point

For transiting the area around the dam, it was especially critical that the lake was still frozen since I wouldn’t have been able to walk that section on land. Most of the stretch of shoreline from the 219 Bridge to the dam was very quiet, but there was a lot of activity on the lake as I got closer to the Wisp and more of the houses that were rented.



Future Olympians

I had the pleasure of participating in a round of Beer Curling being played by a group of college guys on the ice. I am looking forward to when it takes its rightful place in the Olympic pantheon.

Exhausted, but very satisfied with my progress, I ended this leg near the northernmost tip of the lake. A few weeks after I finished Leg 4, the ice had melted, and I realized I had better get out for the last stretch before the levels came back up. I got lucky with another day of great weather for Leg 5 of 11.1 miles. This last stretch was more about little unexpected discoveries. One of my coolest finds was a flag that had broken off the Deep Creek Lake robo-boat during the Boat Parade last year. I remember watching it sink into the water and figuring we’d never see it again, but the Lady of the Lake decided to give it back. Some other items of note were an

interesting ice phenomenon, a retaining wall made of old gravestones and a tunnel leading to those extra miles of lakeshore.



This way to the secret Illuminati base

No, it wasn't anything that exciting, just a culvert passing under 219 to Gravelly Run, but another example of seeing new from a different point of view. The weather for this leg was fairly warm and sunny all day, so I got it in my head that a jump in the lake at the end would be a fun way to wrap up the hike. So even though the sun was going down and it was cooling off quickly when I got back to where I originally started, I still braved the water for a celebratory plunge. My normally faithful companion Spencer decided that he wasn't ready to follow me into the lake, though.



Even Man's Best Friend has his limits

So, after logging 72.2 miles of hiking the shoreline, did I have any major epiphanies? Not really, it was more of a lot of little discoveries along the way. Overall, it was a fun personal challenge and a way to see the lake from a new perspective. So, even if you don't have the time, ability or desire to hike the whole length, I'd recommend even just some little parts of the route that you can take on.

And just in case my tongue-in-cheek tone did not come through, I did not have any real intention of es-

tablating an official measurement of the lakeshore. Not only were my methods inadequate for the job (my phone's activity tracker app), there's a whole long discussion on "what" the actual shoreline is and how do you really measure it. For the time being, how about we all agree that the length of the shoreline is "around 70 miles"?

There are links to lots more videos, photos, maps and other adventures around the area at my website, dimesy.com. What should I do next? I'm thinking a "boat-packing" trip, where I follow the lakeshore in a canoe and sleep on board overnights. I'll be looking for places to stop for a beer along the way. . .

DNR Tagging Program Studies Walleye at Deep Creek Lake Courtesy of Maryland Department of Natural Resources



Department of Natural Resources biologist Matt Sell holds a walleye with a yellow tag. Photo by John Mullican, Maryland DNR photo

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announces a new survey to track and understand the walleye fishery at Deep Creek Lake in Garrett County. To help better understand

the fishery, staff biologists have tagged 450 walleyes throughout the lake.

These yellow tags are located along the soft dorsal fin on the left side of the fish. Anglers who catch a tagged fish are asked to report it to DNR by calling the number on the tag – 301-334-8218 – and reporting the date and location of the catch, the tag number, and whether the walleye was kept or released. If a fish is to be released, the department asks the angler to report the tag information but to not remove the tag from the walleye.

Any angler who reports tagged walleye between April 16, 2022 and February 28, 2023, will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 prepaid Visa gift card. Anyone with questions or comments about the walleye tagging project or the walleye fishery in Deep Creek Lake can call 301-334-8218 or email matt.sell@maryland.gov.

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 of Deep Creek Lake, Inc.
 Property Owners' Association

DISPATCH

DEEP CREEK