



DEEP CREEK DISPATCH

Summer 2021
Newsletter of the
Property Owners' Association
of Deep Creek Lake, Inc.

Message from the President



Despite the wet, cool spring – summer is upon us. It is anticipated that this summer will be as busy as last year here at Deep Creek. Please exercise boat safely and be aware of others when on the water. Make sure you know the boating rules for Deep

Creek! Please make sure your vessels are clean if they have been in another body of water. Most of the nearby lakes and rivers are contaminated with Zebra Mussels and are easily transferred by any kind of boat to another body of water. They are a nasty invasive and once in a lake, they are impossible to get rid of!

The Board of Directors of the POA do a great job and we have a number of projects underway to preserve and protect the lake. I hope the communications we send out are informative and helpful to our members. If anyone is interested in becoming a Board member in the future, please contact us via the website and a member of the nominating committee will contact you.

The POA is one of the sponsors of the July 4th fireworks on the lake, so please enjoy the show!

Have a great summer.
Bob Sutton

2020: A Record Year For Launch Steward Program



The 2020 boating season was exceptionally busy with the Deep Creek Lake Launch Stewards inspecting nearly 6,000 boats. This is approximately 2,000 more than a typical boating season. In addition, there were more vessels found carrying aquatic invasive species (AIS) in 2020 than found in all previous years combined. A table of statistics can be found at http://eyesonthebay.dnr.maryland.gov/dcl/documents/DCL2020_DNRUpdateYearInReview_Final.pdf

In total there were twenty-nine boats carrying zebra mussels, which were found between the 4th of July weekend and Labor Day of 2020. Data showed that most boats originated from the Ohio River in Pittsburgh, PA; however, boats with zebra mussels were found coming from Ohio and as far west as Indiana. One reason may be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic that caused many people to vacation locally; however, AIS continues to expand on a national level as well.

Maryland Department of Natural Resources wants to impress upon boaters and lake users the importance of CLEANING, DRAINING and DRYING



boats and gear that move from one body of water to another.

1926 Chris Craft

by Ed King



This very rare boat was the Flag Ship of the Chris Smith & Sons Boat Co. It was the first and only boat that displayed the name Chris – Craft. It is 26 feet long and powered by a 90hp Curtiss OX-5 aircraft engine capable of moving the boat up to 35 miles per hour. Each boat was made one at a time; however, its popularity required going to an in-line production line capable of producing a boat every other day. The boat shown, previously owned by Ed Tracy in Red Run Cove, is number 535. Later, Ed sold the boat for \$2,500 circa 1970's to Dr. Jack and Georgia Smith, who still own the boat and are pictured with their two daughters. They named the boat Glory Days after the Bruce Springsteen song. The boat is totally original except that the engine has been replaced with a 6-cyl. Gray Marine engine.



1949 POA Article

by Chris Nichols



Thanks to a joint effort of the Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County, the Garrett County Historical Society, and the former Sincell Publishing Company represented by the local Sincell and McEwen families,

a digital searchable version of The Republican newspaper from 1877 to 2016 is now available online: https://archive.org/details/@ruth_enlow

Searching for variants of “Deep Creek Lake Property Owners’ Association,” I was able to find an article dating back to August 18, 1949, reproduced in this article. The issues of the day were the sanitary conditions around the lake, stocking fish in the lake

and getting a discount rate on fishing licenses for out-of-state property owners. I am happy to report that at least the first two issues have been addressed in the last 70-some years, but I would not hold your breath on the state moving on the third item. The 1949 article ends the POA President

saying, “It was the desire of the association to have every property owner on Deep Creek Lake

Deep Creek Group Has Board Meeting

Safety camping and sanitary conditions around Deep Creek Lake were discussed at a meeting of the board of directors of the Property Owners’ association of Deep Creek Lake, Inc., held last night at the office of Fulcher P. Smith, near Glendale bridge.

Prof. F. C. Clayter, president, presided. The board will hold its Labor Day meeting on Saturday, September 3, at 10 a. m., standard time, at the United Brethren church at McHenry.

The board also reported progress on the fish committee in obtaining additional fish for the lake, and is working on ways to provide resident licenses for property owners who are taxpayers.

Mr. Clayter said it was the desire of the association to have every property owner on Deep Creek Lake registered as a member of the association. Robert R. Ritchie, Swanton, is secretary.

registered as a member” and that sentiment holds true today.

But how many property owners are there? Currently, we have around active 920 memberships, which represent mostly single homes, but do include some homeowners’ associations and businesses. Looking at the DCL Natural Resources Management Area online map, (<http://geodata.md.gov/imapwab/?appid=6655b2b89f1f47a-59457d1275896ea01>) there are 2,146 numbered docks. Based on an analysis of the watershed discussed in an article in the previous issue of the Dispatch, there are likely around 4,000 unique parcels in the watershed. So, it is safe to say that there are somewhere between 2,000 and 4,000 Deep Creek Lake property owners.

We are aiming to increase our membership to 1,000 accounts by the end of the year. There are many new property owners over the past year, so if someone just bought in your neighborhood, this is a great chance to introduce yourself, welcome them to the area and the lake, and recommend that they check out the POA. A year’s membership in the POA makes an excellent housewarming gift for that new neighbor, too. If you are looking for some talking points, a membership form or a brochure to take next door, let me know and I would be happy to get you some materials.

Building our membership helps to increase our voice and resources to advocate for issues important to Deep Creek Lake Property Owners. I hope you will lend your support to our membership drive.

Lake Water Quality Monitoring Continues

Lake water quality monitoring continued during the 2020 sampling season with monthly sampling taking place from June through October. Due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the department was not able to begin water sampling until June 2020. In a normal year, water quality sampling normally begins in April and runs through October.

Continuous water quality monitoring (using automated water quality meters) also took place during a similar time frame (July-October 2020). Again, sampling was delayed a bit due to issues related to COVID-19, however staff was able to deploy meters in the field, collecting data by July 2020. Continuous monitoring efforts this year focused on two coves in particular, North Glade and Pawn Run coves. Two meters were placed in each of these coves from July-October 2020, one close to the tributary/stream and the other in the cove in an effort to try and monitor impacts from the watershed as well as those originating in the lake (i.e. boat traffic etc.).

This data will be analyzed and compared to previous years monitoring data from other coves in the lake. It is hoped that within the next few years, the department will have enough water quality meters to have sampled all 10-12 coves of particular interest.

The full newsletter can be found at http://eyesonthebay.dnr.maryland.gov/dcl/documents/DCL2020_DNRUpdateYearInReview_Final.pdf

BEFORE You Launch... BEFORE You Leave...



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



DRY

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

Underwater Plant Monitoring Continues



Despite COVID-19 limitations on field work in 2020, biologists and department staff were able to complete the annual submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) monitoring efforts. These efforts include

SCUBA diver monitoring plants at eight locations around the lake as well as completing a shoreline survey of the entire 68 miles of shoreline by boat, documenting what species of plants occur where in the lake.

Both efforts are part of the long-term monitoring efforts established in 2010 to monitor the diversity and abundance of SAV in the lake. SAV, along with water quality, are good indicators as to the health of the lake as SAV provide important habitat for fish and other organisms in the lake and serve many ecological functions that help keep the lake healthy. The plants help absorb excess nutrients in the water, filter out sediments from the water column, and absorb and diminish wave energy. The 2020 SAV report is expected to come out in late Spring 2021 and should summarize findings from 2010-2020. To view past reports, go to the Eyes on Deep Creek Lake webpage.

Despite the importance of SAV to lake health, some lake front property owners have expressed concern about the abundance of plants in the lake and especially in the shallower areas around docks. One species in particular, broadleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton amplifolius*), has been the cause of many calls to the department over the past few years. It is a native species, but new to the lake in 2013 and can survive year-round in the lake. Longer growing seasons (caused by warmer temperatures

in the spring and fall), higher water levels in the summer months, winter draw-down levels, and ice cover and depth in the winter months are among the many factors that can influence what plants are found where in the lake. The biology and reproductive strategy of certain species of plants can also affect the survivability of plants in an area year after year. That said, biologists and resource managers are tasked with managing the SAV community to provide for recreational use and ecological sustainability and work diligently to educate stakeholders and lakefront property owners as to the importance of these plants in maintaining a healthy lake ecosystem.

Lakefront property owners can contact department staff if they have questions or concerns about the plants around their area of use or what activities are permitted to control plants in their area of use. As many of the lake's SAV species actively spread from cuttings or fragments, it is critically important that lakefront property owners contact department staff before undertaking any activities intended to control growth. In addition to not wanting to contribute to the spread of a native or invasive plant, it is also important for property owners to understand what they are legally allowed to do under COMAR (Code of Maryland Regulations) law. For more information, call the Lake Management Office at 301-387-4112.

AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

are plants or animals that are not native to a water body and have been known to cause significant economic or ecological harm, such as:

- ⇒ **Loss of biodiversity**
- ⇒ **Altered aquatic food webs**
- ⇒ **Reduced water quality**
- ⇒ **Reduced public safety and health**
- ⇒ **Decline in fisheries and habitat**
- ⇒ **Damage to infrastructure**
- ⇒ **Loss of tourism and recreation**

The U.S. spends nearly \$8 billion per year on invasive species control and mitigation.

Letter From POA Regarding Solar Energy Special Exception

Dear Mr. Doerr, Chairman of the Garrett County Planning Commission,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake regarding applications for special exceptions for solar arrays within the Watershed Zone and the possible need to amend the Zoning Ordinance to specifically address this use. The current Ordinance, written decades ago, does not specifically refer to or define electricity generation by solar energy, as it does regarding then existing other sources such as "Wind Energy Device."

There is pending an application for a special exception for an "Electricity Generating Solar Array" pursuant to Section 157.024.D.10, apparently on the theory that a solar array is within the special exception category of "Electric power generating plants or substations, yards or areas for for transforming or switching electricity." There is within that section a category of "Industrial Wind Energy Conversion Systems," which are not permitted in any lake zone, even by special exception.

The POA Board does not take a position regarding this particular application, but we do suggest that the Commission consider recommending changes to the Ordinance that specifically refer to solar energy and whether a solar array or farm should be permitted by means of a special exception. If a solar category is created and defined, we urge you to consider establishing appropriate criteria and standards for any special exception relating to that use.

Respectfully yours,

Robert Sutton
President, Property Owners' Association
of Deep Creek Lake

cc: Garrett County Board of Commissioners

Solar Array Farms In The Watershed

by Bob Sutton

There has been recent activity to get zoning variances approved for large solar panel farms in the Deep Creek watershed. The existing zoning regulations were written in the 1970's before solar energy was being considered. The POA requested the county to place a moratorium on any approval until the regulations can be reviewed and potentially modified to consider the impact of such installations on the watershed and its economy. This is similar to the fracking issues that occurred several years ago when the county developed restrictions for development.



POA MEETING DATES FOR 2021

**Board Meetings
at Uno's at 8:30 AM
August 14 • October 2**

**General Membership Meetings
at Garrett 8 Cinemas at 8:30 AM
August 28**

Building a Dream: A Performing Arts Center for Garrett County

by Susie Crawford



For over 40 years Garrett County residents and visitors, including many in our POA membership, have dreamed of having a performing arts venue. At long last Garrett County is realizing that dream with the construction of the Performing Arts Center (PAC) that is slated to open in the spring of 2022 on the grounds of Garrett College.

As the only county in Maryland without a performing arts venue, the project involves the renovation and expansion of Garrett College's old gymnasium into a state-of-the-art performing arts complex. The center will serve all of Garrett County, the westernmost county in Maryland, and the surrounding community. The facility will boast a proscenium theater with seating for approximately 425 occupants. It will feature fully functioning sound, lighting, and theatrical systems to accommodate a variety of arts and cultural events. The facility will include offices, lobby space, dressing rooms, climate-controlled piano storage, catering kitchen, and a 2,000 square foot sub-dividable multipurpose room for classes, rehearsals, recitals, and black box theater.

With total construction costs of \$20,760,000, Garrett College has received support from the Garrett County Board of Commissioners in the

amount of \$4,285,000 as well as \$16,475,000 from various State of Maryland funds. The Garrett County Commissioners, the Garrett County Board of Education, Garrett Arts Council and Garrett Lakes Art Festival have joined Garrett College as key stakeholders and have signed Memorandums of Understanding agreeing to support the center financially through Fiscal Year 2032.

To safeguard sustainability and ensure the facility can bring diverse arts and cultural programming while maintaining the Center's state-of-the-art equipment, in August of 2020 the Garrett College Foundation launched a fund-raising campaign, the Campaign for Garrett: Realizing Our Dream, with a goal of raising \$2.5 million to support an endowment, ensuring the sustainability of the facility in perpetuity.

With the realization of a performing arts venue in Garrett County, the center will provide opportunities for hosting festivals and bringing world-class artists to our region, making Garrett County a prime destination for the arts.

For additional information about the Performing Arts Center at Garrett College and to learn how to support the facility contact the Garrett College Foundation office at 301-387-3100 or via e-mail at cherie.krug@garrettcollege.edu.



Deep Creek Watershed Zoning

by Sarah Myers

Garrett County currently has land-use zoning only within the Deep Creek Watershed. Zoning provides the rules and regulations for the permitted use and development of properties in a defined area.

Erecting a new structure or making changes to land or buildings within the Deep Creek Watershed typically requires a zoning permit. Upon review of the proposed project, it may be determined that the use requires a special exception or that a variance from certain zoning regulations, such as setbacks, is necessary. More information can be found at <https://www.garrettcounty.org/news/2021/05/deep-creek-watershed-zoning>

The Deep Creek Watershed Board of Zoning Appeals consists of five members appointed by the County Commissioners. The term of office for each member is three years. This Board hears variance and special exception applications that vary from the Deep Creek Watershed zoning regulations. The Board also entertains requests for interpretations of decisions of the Department of Planning and Land Management.

For more information, persons may call 301-334-1920 or email planning@garrettcounty.org.



Help eliminate the spread of aquatic invasive species by thoroughly washing and cleaning your boat prior to launching!

State Lakes Restoration Fund (SLRF) Failed To Get Legislative Approval

by Bob Sutton

The two bills designed to extend the State Lakes Restoration Fund (SLRF) from expiration in 2022 until 2027 and to increase the funding for the 16 state-owned lakes from \$1million a year to \$3 million a year failed to get approval in the legislature. The Senate passed both bills, but the house bills did not make it out of committee for a vote. The POA endorsed both bills.

This is a significant loss of potential funding for Deep Creek and the other lakes in the state and again shows that all of the attention in Maryland government goes to the bay! Hopefully during the next session, this measure will be brought forward again, and something can get done as our aging lake can use the funding for DNR to continue to work on improvements. Please write your state delegates and urge them to consider this next year!

Meetings With Brookfield Power Recently Held

by Bob Sutton

Last winter a request was made to Brookfield Power to lower the lake to elevation 2,455 feet for several construction projects and also to see if near shore sub-aquatic vegetation would be either killed or stunted. Brookfield said at the time that they could not comply with the request for the because of commitments for making power. They did however, lower it for a few cold weeks.

After discussing these issues, the POA worked with Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) to arrange a series of meetings with

Brookfield representatives and stakeholders of Deep Creek in order to develop relationships and be able to dialog with them on issues impacting the lake. The first meeting has been held and representatives of the POA, Watershed Foundation, DNR, and Policy Review Board were involved. Subjects discussed were winter lake levels, concerns about drought conditions, adherence to the Water Appropriation Permit, and need for continued communication. Another meeting is planned for the near future.

Garrett County To Hold Sesquicentennial Celebration In 2022

by John Quilty

This past April the Garrett County Commissioners announced that the planning is officially underway for the sesquicentennial celebrations for Garrett County in 2022. Led by the Garrett County Government, the 150th-anniversary celebration will be a yearlong event to commemorate the incorporation of Garrett County on December 4, 1872.

Understanding that planning is still in a relatively early stage, we, your POA Board, have been in touch with the County Planning Committee to offer our participation and support. They have expressed appreciation for this outreach and indicated that events will be spread throughout 2022, leveraging annual happenings (e.g., the County Fair and Autumn Glory) and adding some new events to engage the broader community.

You can expect press releases and newspaper articles from the county shortly, and we will keep you posted on planned POA engagement as specifics evolve. “We look forward to contributing to the celebration and to having a little fun in the process,” said Quilty.

DNR Officers Respond To Emergency Event

by Grant Callery

I thought it might be a welcome change to let POA members know about a very positive experience I recently had with two of the officers who patrol the lake to ensure both compliance with the boating laws and regulations and the safety of the boating public. My saviors of the day were Officers Eric Pike and Luke Pratt. So, here is the story:

My wife Jackie and I have owned a house in the Timberloft development just south of the Glendale Bridge for the better part of the last 30 years. We have been boat owners for almost all that time. My only interactions with the DNR police in that time have been taking the boating safety class (my kids, who are now 40ish, said that I needed to take it with them although the law said I was exempt) and occasionally watching the blue flashing lights helping/apprehending boaters from my deck.

On June 5, I took my new (to us, not really new) boat out for a spin at about 5:30 in the evening after the day’s boat traffic had subsided. Less than a mile from my dock there was a popping sound under the dashboard and smoke began to billow out. I will save you the details but suffice it to say there was more smoke and eventually some flames which, mercifully, were quickly extinguished.

Upon this happening I tried dialing various places for help all of which were, by that time, closed. I remembered from my days collecting information as Editor of the Dispatch that there was a main phone number for DNR dispatchers that I, of course, did not have in my phone – more on that later. I then tried flagging down passing boats but to no avail. When I saw a center console boat coming up the lake I thought/hoped maybe

it was the DNR Patrol Boat. Luck was on my side and Officer Pike pulled up beside me. He recognized that I was a bit on the nervous side and began to help out in a great calm, cool and collected manner. He called the incident in and within minutes there were three patrol boats and the Deep Creek Volunteer Fire and Rescue boat circling my boat. The fire part of the event mentioned above occurred while the officer was there and since my extinguisher was located near the fire, he gave me his and the fire was extinguished in a matter of seconds.

A cautionary note for boat owners: If your extinguisher is stored in or near the engine compartment move it to a location in the open and accessible from the driver's seat.

Officers Pike and Pratt then assisted me in towing my boat to the dock of my service facility with great care and concern. This is not part of the normal protocol for boater assistance, but they made an exception based on the lack of available alternatives at what was, by now, after 6 o'clock on a Saturday evening. I guess the image of a 70-something guy trying to paddle a 22-foot boat with a heavy V-8 engine was not a pretty sight. They even gave me a ride back to my dock.

I just thought it might be of interest to POA members to hear something about the other side of policing and particularly the helpful actions of the members of the DCL DNR team.

Thank you, guys!!

A side note about calling in an incident: Every boater should be prepared for an emergency. The DNR, the DNR Police and the POA have published a Safe Boating Brochure (<https://dnr.maryland.gov/nrp/Pages/BoatingSafety/contact-information.aspx>) which everyone should obtain, and it would be smart to keep a copy in a waterproof place in your boat. As noted in the brochure there is a statewide emergency dispatch office for DNR which can be reached at 800-628-9944. This is a central office that can contact the local folks. The officers who helped my indicated that for about a year, their phones connect not only to that office but to the Garrett County 911 service so, in a moment of panic or concern, a call to 911 can get you connected directly to the patrol officers.



Bringing a BOAT to Deep Creek Lake?

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/Invasives/Pages/boats-at-deep-creek-lake.aspx>

POA Board Members

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