



# DEEP CREEK DISPATCH

Winter 2018

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



## The President's Message

Hi Folks,

I hope this finds you all well and doing fine. Most importantly, I hope you are weathering the winter well wherever you may be.

I want to first remind everyone this is the issue where we provide copies both electronically and in paper copy so that you all may receive the annual information provided by The United Way of Garrett County. Many years ago, the POA Board decided to single out this organization as the one we would encourage our members to support due to the fact that it supports so many other local charities. It is that time of the year again so I encourage you to consider donating to the United Way so that many other organizations can benefit from your generosity. Thanks very much for your consideration.

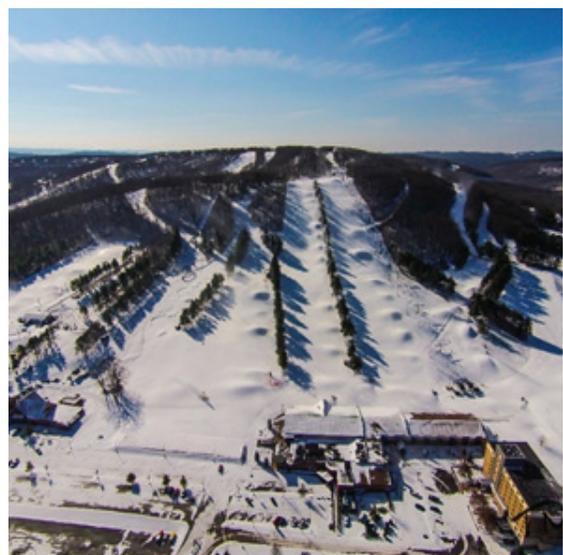
We sent out an eBlast this month addressing both State Senate (SB 501) and House of Delegates (HB 801) bills that were introduced to secure \$3 million annually for the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund. The bills establishing the fund were passed in the 2017 legislative session and subsequently became law, but did not have money tied to it. "Funding the fund" is the purpose of the bills this 2018 legislative season. Our call for your support purposely did not state you needed to be a resident of the state of Maryland to encourage the passage of this

legislation. If you own property on or near Deep Creek Lake then you have good reason to want this legislation to pass and become law.

Once the fund is funded, DNR will manage the fund and receive input from a variety of organizations and citizens to develop a work plan that prioritizes how available funds will be used in a given year to address problems in the state owned and operated lakes. The establishment of the fund last year and any funding of it this year are very big steps towards the long-term welfare of the states lakes which, of course, includes Deep Creek Lake. Thanks in advance for your support of these important state bills.

Thanks too for your continued support of the POA and the work we do!

-- Cheers, Bob



# Deep Creek (Lake) in the time of Meshach Browning

By Chris Nichols

“My mind cannot imagine a more beautiful sight than could be obtained from the highest grounds of the Hoop-Pole Ridge, which commanded a view of the valley between that and the great Back-Bone . . . It was a grand sight to watch the tall grass, rolling in beautiful waves with every breeze which passed over its smooth surface, as well as the herds of deer skipping and playing with each other. It was not a strange thing to see a great lubberly-looking bear forcing his way through the grass, when every deer which got a sight or scent of him would bound off, with tail erect, toward the nearest thicket”

These are the words of Meshach Browning (1781-1859) from his book, *Forty-Four Years of the Life of a Hunter* (1859), describing much of the area that would become Deep Creek Lake. Browning was one of the earliest settlers of Western Maryland and a prolific hunter, killing over 2,000 deer, 500 bear, and numerous panthers, wolves and rattlesnakes. His book, penned with a turkey quill by candlelight, recounts many of his hunting expeditions, as well as providing details about pioneer life in this area during the early 1800's.

Browning was born in Damascus, Maryland but spent most of his life in what would become Garrett County. His book covers his pioneering life from 1790 to 1835 and provides invaluable information on the natural, social and economic history of Western Maryland. The map accompanying this article was published in 1838 and is annotated with the approximate locations some of the sites mentioned in Browning's book.

Today, if you stood on Hoop-Pole Ridge (1) and looked north or east, most of your view would be encompassed by Deep Creek Lake, not the grassy fields described by Browning above. Indeed, it seems that most of the southern half of Garrett County was largely unoccupied during his time. He describes the “head of the North Branch of the Potomac . . . was the greatest wilderness we were acquainted with” (2). Interestingly, the only town noted on the map – Selbysport (3) – is the only settlement discussed in Browning's book as well. Since the B&O Railroad segment to Oakland was not completed until 1851, and the only other access to the area was via the National Road in the northeastern part of the county, it is unsurprising that the southern end of the county had no population of note. Browning had several homesteads during the period documented in the book, generally located in The Glades (4) and Sang Run (5). His Sang Run cabin stood until at least 1919 when it was photographed by Leo Beachy , but has since been torn down. Browning's hunting grounds also ranged countywide – from the Youghiougny River (6) where he wrestled for his life with a wounded buck, to Meadow Mountain (7) where it is easy to imagine the bear dens he describes along the trails of today's State Park. And of course, he mentions Deep Creek with “...water being so clear and cold, that it will make a man's arm pain him to the elbow, if

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<sup>1</sup> Leo Beachy's photography of the area during the early 1900's could (and probably will be) the subject of a future article. A brief intro to his story and a link to the photo of Browning's cabin as well as many others can be found here: <http://www.garrettcountymuseums.com/photos.html>

he holds his hand in it a few minutes...” and “where success was certain” when fishing for fresh trout, a favorite of his first wife, Mary.

Although life was hard in the pioneer days of western Maryland, it is clear that Browning appreciated the natural beauty of the area, respected the wildlife he hunted and enjoyed the simple pleasures of life. “Here I found my true pleasure – my wife, dressed clean, her beauty, in my estimation, unsurpassed; the children, as clean as water and soap could make them, plenty to live on, and not an enemy on earth. I say, who could be happier than I was at the time?”

The Deep Creek Lake Lions has dedicated its new trail system at the McHenry Community Park to Meshach Browning. The multi-use, low intensity trail system, opening in 2019, will have informational signs throughout with passages and images from the life and times of Browning. Drafts of the signs can be found here: <http://www.deepcreeklions.org/MB-Trailhead.html>

Map information: Maryland. (inset) Western section of Maryland. An Illustrated Atlas, Geographical, Statistical, And Historical, Of The United States And The Adjacent Countries. By T.G. Bradford. Boston: Weeks, Jordan, And Company, 1838.

<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~2333~220023:Maryland-?&qvq=w4s:/where%2FMaryland;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=12&trs=373#>





Keep your POA membership active by renewing your membership now. There are several ways to renew and ensure you keep receiving quarterly editions of the *Dispatch* as well as important information from our eBlasts. Many of our members consider it to be the best \$30 they spend a year. Pay online using Paypal or a credit card, or complete the dues form and mail a check. All renewal methods can be accessed here: <http://www.deepcreeklakepoa.com/about-the-poa/join-the-poa>

# WVU Hospitals, Garrett Regional Medical Center enter into Management Agreement



Effective January 1, 2018, Garrett Regional Medical Center entered into a management agreement with WVU hospitals. This new agreement expands upon the current clinical affiliation between the two systems. Under the existing agreement WVU provides oncology, cardiology and cardiovascular surgery, nephrology services and laboratory facilities as well as management services at GRMC's Cancer Care and Infusion Services Center. WVU will now manage and provide additional services, specialty care and expertise at GRMC.

Mark Boucot, President and CEO of GRMC, will continue in his role as President and CEO of GRMC. Additionally, he will serve as Administrator of Potomac Valley Hospital (PVH) which has also been affiliated with WVU since 2014. In a statement back in December, Mark Boucot said of the management agreement "Enhancing our relationship will continue the excellent progress that we have made and allow for even greater advancements in bringing specialty care to the community, so that people do not have to travel. The WVU Health System is expanding its medical services and capabilities very quickly, and we're thrilled to be a part of such a great and emerging health system."

*More about GRMC and PVH:*

*GRMC is a 55-bed, not-for-profit, acute care facility with a long history of serving the healthcare needs of Garrett County, Maryland, and the surrounding communities in West Virginia. It includes a four-bed Intensive Care Unit, a 10-bed Sub-Acute Rehabilitation Unit, family-centered Maternity Suite, and a 13-bed Outpatient Surgical Unit with a four-bed Surgical Suite. With a staff of 400 professionals, GRMC is one of Garrett County's largest employers.*

*Potomac Valley Hospital (PVH) is a 25-bed critical access facility, employing more than 200 healthcare professionals, including about 50 physicians from the surrounding community who have privileges to provide care. PVH has a staff of emergency medicine physicians who provide coverage 24 hours a day, seven days a week in its Emergency Room. It officially became a member of the WVU Medicine-West Virginia University Health System in 2014.*

# Upcoming Renewal of the Deep Creek Lake Water Appropriations Permit

By John Quilty



As outlined in previous Dispatch articles, the current water appropriations permit---issued by MDE to Brookfield Power, LLC in April of 2011---will expire in the spring of 2019. It both specifies permitted releases from the lake for various purposes and defines targeted maximum and minimum lake water levels for each month of the year. Permitted releases cover the following uses: “hydroelectric generation, temperature enhancement [maximum temperature for fish health], whitewater boating enhancement, and maintenance of minimum flows in the Youghiogheny River.” The targeted maximum and minimum lake levels are known as the upper and lower “rule bands” (URB and LRB).

An update on the current status of developments follows:

- MDE has not yet laid out the process and schedule for consulting with stakeholder groups and soliciting public input. However, it is expected that this process will occur in the April-through-August 2018 timeframe.
- As reported, a POA committee was formed several months ago to develop POA input to the MDE process and deliberations. The committee has been reviewing history in areas such as permit evolution, recorded data on water levels, and expressed lake recreational boating concerns about end-of-season and/or “dry year” water levels. The committee has also been exploring changes to the permit and/or to the underlying MDE/Brookfield “protocols” for managing water levels and releases. These changes would be recommended to enhance the recreational boating situation without undue adverse impact on other stakeholder interests. A POA Board-approved input to MDE is targeted for late March/early April.

Any questions or comments about these developments or about the appropriations permit more broadly may be directed to the Chair of the POA committee, John Quilty ([jquilty@mitre.org](mailto:jquilty@mitre.org)). Member inputs are of course welcome.

# Deborah Carpenter Graduates from Leadership Maryland



Congratulations to Deborah Carpenter, AICP, Director of the Garrett County Department of Planning and Land Management, who graduated in December from Leadership Maryland. Deborah completed the professional development program dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its local business and community leaders. Leadership Maryland honored Carpenter, a resident of McHenry, and the entire Class of 2017 at its 25th annual graduation ceremony held December 5 at the Lord Baltimore Hotel.

Carpenter was one of 52 applicants chosen by committee to complete Leadership Maryland's eight-month hands-on learning program focused on the state's most vital social, economic and environmental issues.

“On behalf of the Board of Directors, I feel especially honored to congratulate Leadership Maryland's silver anniversary graduating class on beginning their lifelong inclusion in a very special club,” said Leadership Maryland Board Chairman Eric Brotman '09, president and managing principal, Brotman Financial Group. “These graduates have had experiences and built relationships over the past eight months that will impact their career, life, and our state for many years to come. After 25 years, the influence Leadership Maryland's program and alumni have had on the State of Maryland is immeasurable, and the Class of 2017 should be very proud to now be a part of this organization's rich history.”

Leadership Maryland is open to senior-level executives with significant achievements in either their careers and/or their communities. Ideal Leadership Maryland members have a desire to learn more about Maryland's most critical issues and a personal commitment to be a force for positive change in their organizations, their communities, and their state. For more information about Leadership Maryland, please visit [www.LeadershipMD.org](http://www.LeadershipMD.org), call 410-841-2101 or email [Info@LeadershipMD.org](mailto:Info@LeadershipMD.org).

## About Leadership Maryland

Leadership Maryland is a professional development program dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its local business and community leaders. Each year, as many as 52 diverse and accomplished executives from Maryland's public and private sectors are selected to come together as a class for an eight-month hands-on learning program focused on the state's most vital social, economic and environmental issues. The first Leadership Maryland class graduated in 1993, and the organization's alumni network now consists of more than 1,100 leaders from all industries and regions of the state. To learn more, please call Leadership Maryland at 410-841-2101 or visit [www.LeadershipMD.org](http://www.LeadershipMD.org).

*Press release reprinted with permission from Lindsay Hebert – Devaney & Associates*

# POA Expenditures 2017

As conscientious stewards of the membership dues, the POA board carefully allocates funds based on staying true to our mission. Your \$30 annual dues provide you access to eBlasts containing timely information regarding lake issues, and the quarterly Dispatch. Your dues also affords you the benefits from the efforts of the dedicated board members who are continuously representing your interests in important issues around the lake.

In 2017, there were 911 active accounts or household members in the POA. That represents approximately 2,538 adult family members within those households.



## A LOOK at the BUDGET

### 2017 BUDGET/ACTUAL THROUGH 12/31/2017

<u>Category</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual 12/31/2017</u>
Administration	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 6,349.00
Ads	\$ 285.00	\$ 306.00
Board Meetings	\$ 500.00	\$ 506.84
Constant Contact	\$ 425.00	\$ 399.00
Copying	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Discretionary	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 8,191.67
Insurance	\$ 2,608.00	\$ 2,867.00
Mapping	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Members Meetings	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,092.00
Dues	\$ 590.00	\$ 490.00
Membership Solicitation	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 513.16
Newsletter	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 3,359.79
PO Box	\$ 69.00	\$ 70.00
Rainy Day Fund	\$ 3,200.00 <sup>2</sup>	\$ 0.00 <sup>3</sup>
Postage	\$ 10.00	\$ 0.00
Tax Prep	\$ 880.00	\$ 850.00
Web Maintenance	\$ 360.00	\$ 450.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 0.00	\$ 65.29
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 28,927.00</b>	<b>\$ 25,509.75</b>

<sup>2</sup>Estimate based on projected 2017 dues of \$32,000.

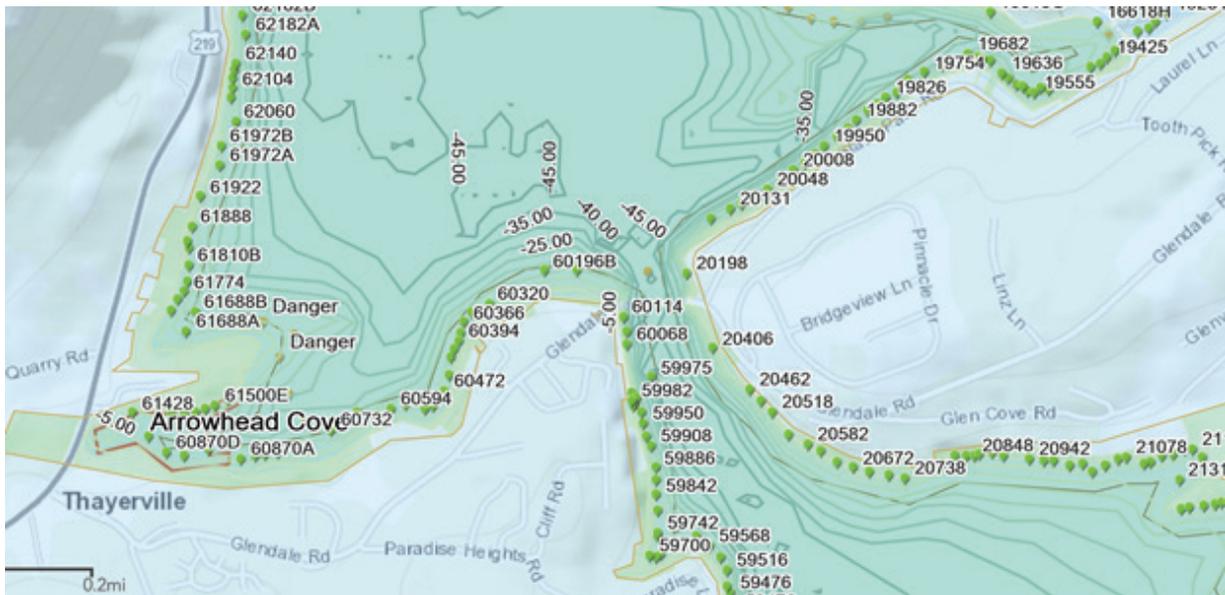
<sup>3</sup>Dues Income for 2017 was \$24,861.27, less than expenses actually incurred, therefore Rainy Day Goal (\$2,486.13) not funded for 2017.

# Lake Management Office Releases New Online Map

The Deep Creek Lake Natural Resource Management Area (DCL NRMA) Lake Management Office recently released a new online map of the Deep Creek Lake NRMA. The map is made up of a series of layers that can be turned on or off, so that you can view multiple layers at a time if desired. The map can be found at the DCL NRMA website at: <http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/western/deepcreeknrma.aspx> Layers include:

- Official cove names as approved by the Deep Creek Lake Policy & Review Board
- Location of Dock Numbers
- Deep Creek Lake watershed boundary
- The original Penelec Line
- The Deep Creek Lake NRMA buffer strip boundaries
- Depth contour lines for the lake in increments of 5 feet
- Location of buoys in the lake
- A 200 feet contour line from the high water mark
- Hydrilla treatment areas polygons

A friendly reminder for lake front property owners, your 2018 Buffer Strip Use Permit fees are due by April 1, 2018. Fees help fund activities to include but not limited to Deep Creek Lake water quality and tributary monitoring, hydrilla control and monitoring, submerged aquatic vegetation monitoring as well as aquatic invasive species education and boat launch steward efforts to name a few. Payment can be made by credit card or check. Checks should be made out to Maryland Department of Natural Resources and can be paid in person or mailed to the DCL NRMA Lake Management Office at 73 Brant Rd. Swanton, MD 21561



Sample of a portion of the lake with all the layers of information available.

# Online Boat Registration

Renew Vessel  
Registration



*Boat Licensing and Renewal:* As part of the governor's customer service initiative to streamline government services (create a one-stop shop), the Rocky Gap Licensing and Registration Service Center has been moved to Frederick, Maryland and is now co-located with the Motor Vehicle Administration. You can register or renew your boat in person, by mail, or now online at the following website, <http://dnr.maryland.gov/boating/Pages/registration.aspx>. The Frederick, Maryland MVA/DNR licensing center can be reached by phone at (240) 236-9950 and fax at (240) 236-9953.

The address for the Frederick office is:

Maryland DNR  
1601 Bowmans Farm Road  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

## Fall Update Concerning Deep Creek Lake from DNR

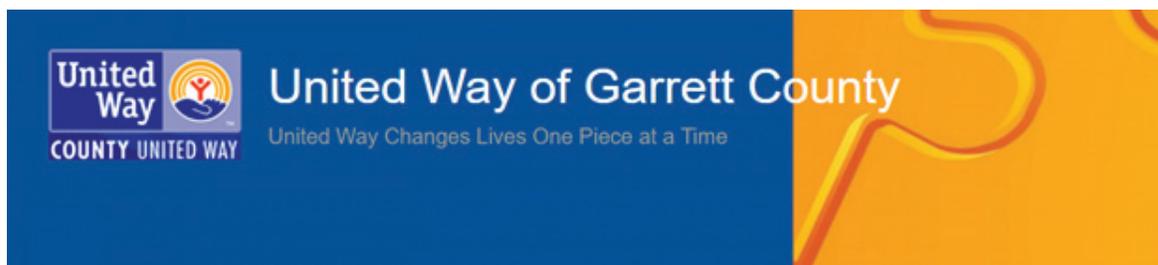
DNR provided a fall update of monitoring activities at the last Policy Review Board meeting on January 8, 2018. Included in the update was information about lake and tributary monitoring activities, hydrilla monitoring, submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) monitoring, zebra mussel monitoring and the 2017 Goose Hunt. A copy of the newsletter can be viewed on the Deep Creek Lake Watershed Management Plan website hosted by Garrett County at

<https://www.garrettcountry.org/resources/watershed/pdf/Publications/Deep%20Creek/DNR-2017-Fall-Update.pdf>

## POA Board Again Recommends Support for the United Way of Garrett County

By Juli McCoy, United Way

United Way of Garrett County fights for the education, financial stability and health of every person in every community. It is only through your continued generosity that our friends and neighbors who struggle can have hope for a better future. The POA has supported the United Way of Garrett County for nine years, raising over \$75,000. We have one life. To live better, we must LIVE UNITED.



# Administrative Council - 2017 Update

By Gary Aronhalt, Watershed Coordinator

The Administrative Council, a partnership established by the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Garrett County Government, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the Maryland Department of the Environment, has been established for just over one year. Deborah Carpenter represents Garrett County, Kenneth Shanks represents MDE, and Julie Bortz represents DNR on the Council. The Watershed Coordinator serves as staff to the Administrative Council and works as the liaison for public engagement. The Watershed Coordinator organizes a monthly conference call with the three agency representatives to discuss watershed issues and to work toward implementation of the Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan.

In 2017, the Administrative Council worked to establish a cooperative alliance and enhance coordination between the agencies. Each agency also recognized the need to provide timely and accurate information to the public as well as the need to establish mechanisms for citizen engagement. In addition, the agencies each worked to identify agency responsibilities, identify potential partnerships, and to prioritize the goals within the Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan.

In March of 2017, the Administrative Council announced the launch of a new watershed website: <https://www.garrettcounty.org/watershed>. The website is intended to provide an authoritative source for up-to-date watershed information, news, publications, maps, data, and other resources in one location. The website also provides several ways for stakeholders to provide feedback including a citizen response form and a dedicated email address for watershed feedback. Questions and concerns can be submitted through the form or by directing emails to [watershed@garrettcounty.org](mailto:watershed@garrettcounty.org) or to the Watershed Coordinator at [garonhalt@garrettcounty.org](mailto:garonhalt@garrettcounty.org). A demonstration of the watershed website was provided at the June General Membership Meeting of the Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake, Inc.

In June of 2017, the Administrative Council presented an overview of the collaborative structure and celebrated the signing of the MOU with the Garrett County Commissioners and the Secretaries of the Maryland Departments of Natural Resources and Environment at a public meeting held at the Garrett County Courthouse. A copy of the MOU and the Presentation are available on the watershed website.

In October of 2017, the Educational Advisory Committee (EAC) was formed. The committee is comprised of volunteers representing Agriculture, Business, Education, Forestry, Marketing, Recreation, and Property Owners tasked with providing feedback to the Administrative Council regarding the education and outreach needs of stakeholders. There are currently three volunteers representing property owners and three volunteers are also on the Board of Directors of the Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake, Inc. The committee meets monthly and is rapidly gathering watershed-related information that will be instrumental in helping them to provide informed advisement to the Administrative Council regarding education and outreach activities within the Deep Creek Watershed. Stakeholders are also encouraged to reach out to the EAC volunteers representing their area of interest. More information about the EAC is available at: <https://www.garrettcounty.org/watershed/eac>

Property owners can always contact the Watershed Coordinator at 301-334-1923, or [garonhalt@garrettcounty.org](mailto:garonhalt@garrettcounty.org), or send questions or comments to [watershed@garrettcounty.org](mailto:watershed@garrettcounty.org).

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