

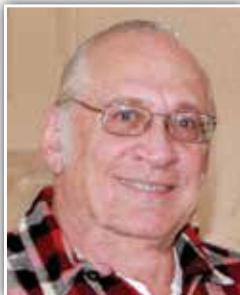


# DEEP CREEK DISPATCH



Summer 2016

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



## The President's Message

Hello folks and I hope you have all had a good summer thus far. To me it seems to have sped by and we now find ourselves in August but hoping we have many days left to enjoy for this season. Your POA has been busy with a variety of matters from PWC restrictions and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) to fracking and doing our best through a variety of avenues to grow our POA membership.

For this edition of the Dispatch, I want to focus my message on the concerns AIS generate and our efforts to educate members and the public alike. While the Boat Steward Program is a wonderful initiative which has been quite successful at educating the public for the need of launching only clean boats into DCL, we realize there are many potential launch sites on DCL for the variety of boats, PWC, kayaks, etc. that are found on the lake. Therefore, in addition to the Boat Steward Program, we have focused considerable attention on **education** in partnership with the Department of Natural Resources.

For those of you who were able to attend either of the General Membership Meetings at the Garrett 8 Cinemas, you had the benefit of hearing a presentation provided by Ms. Julie Bortz, DNR biologist assigned to the DCL Lake Manager's Office. Julie is a great resource to have right here at DCL and we have worked closely with her to provide useful information to our membership. We published an "Extra" edition of the *Dispatch* focused on AIS and how to insure boaters do not bring unwanted plants and critters into the lake. In the case of Hydrilla, DNR's control program has seen some success but we know that if Zebra Mussels find their way into the lake, there is really no treatment program that will rid the lake of them.

The best way to deal with this AIS is to insure it never reaches the lake hence our push on educating those who boat in the lake to insure their various crafts are free of AIS before they enter the waters of DCL. At our board meeting last week, we agreed to fund additional projects in partner-

ship with DNR to further heighten awareness among the public of the threats invasive species pose to a healthy lake and to educate them on measures that can be taken to prevent the introduction of AIS. These efforts will be rolled out in early 2017.

I would encourage you as members to do what you can to educate family members, guests, neighbors, and others as to the dangers posed to the lake by AIS and how to prevent their introduction. Feel free to print out the "Extra" we recently sent out or email it – even if you share this information with those who are not POA members, it is so important to get the word out to as many people as possible that use DCL.

Your POA Board appreciates your continued membership and support of the POA and we will continue to do our best to keep you informed of the various issues of interest that arise.

*Cheers,*

*Bob Hoffmann*

## History of Deep Creek Lake through maps

POA Board member and DCL resident historian, Chris Nichols, presented a history of Deep Creek Lake using maps at a Pecha Kusha Night in July at the MoonShadow Café. (Pecha Kusha is a presentation style in which 20 slides are shown for 20 seconds each - 6 minutes and 40 seconds presentation time in total).

Found on the next page are two maps demonstrating development at the lake. The first map is from 1949. The second is from 2015. Each black square is a permanent structure. If you would like to see the full presentation, email Chris at [dimesy23@gmail.com](mailto:dimesy23@gmail.com).

The 1938 *Property Owner's Newsletter* had the following totals for the lake:

Cottages .....	39
Camps.....	8
Approved Water Supplies.....	137
Sanitary Privies .....	81
Unsanitary Privies .....	52
Flush Toilets.....	82

## **Garrett County Comcast Subscribers Have Access to Maryland-Based News Programming**

**By Lulu Gonella**

As we have reported in previous issues of the *Dispatch*, there has been a long term effort to bring Maryland based television programming to Garrett County which is designated as a Pittsburgh market area by the Nielson Company and the FCC.

Congressman John Delaney announced in a press release on July 11th that starting in late July, local news

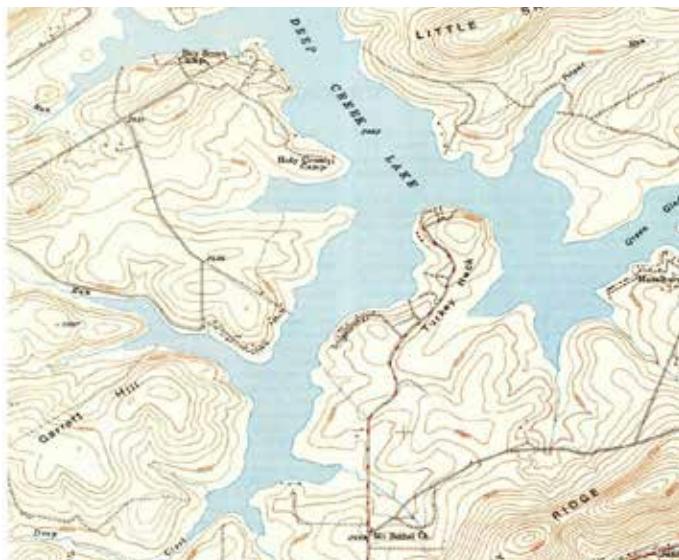
broadcasts from Baltimore will be available on Xfinity On Demand to Garrett County Comcast Cable subscribers. The Baltimore CBS and ABC affiliates have agreed to distribute their local news programming through Xfinity On demand. News broadcasts will be available to On Demand shortly after the live broadcast.

Chuck Hoffeditz, a part-time DCL resident, has spent hundreds, if not thousands of hours, over a number of years trying to make this a reality. Con-

gressman Delaney and Senator George Edwards helped take the ball over the finish line. Chuck is continuing to press the other Baltimore affiliates as well as the Washington based affiliates to also distribute their news broadcasts in this fashion. We owe Chuck an enormous amount of thanks for all he has done and continues to do for Washington and Baltimore based residents who want to stay connected to their local markets. Thank you, Chuck.

## **History of Deep Creek Lake through maps**

***Southern area of Deep Creek Lake, 1949***



***Southern area of Deep Creek Lake, 2015***

Each black square is a permanent structure.



# Gas Drilling & Marcellus Shale Update

By John Quilty

This article summarizes recent developments in two areas: the proposed prohibition of natural gas vertical drilling in the Deep Creek Watershed and the development of state oil and gas regulations to meet the legislated 1 October 2016 deadline for adoption.

## Prohibition of natural gas drilling in the Deep Creek watershed.

As you may remember, The County Planning and Zoning Commission met on 4 May to consider the required Watershed zoning amendment. This was in response to a formal citizen petition supporting a zoning amendment to implement the prohibition. The Commission voted to forward a positive recommendation to the Commissioners. The language of the proposed zoning amendment reflects the earlier POA position, prohibiting “associated surface infrastructure” as well as wells/wellheads from being in the watershed.

The required public hearing on this matter was held on 12 July at Garrett College. Approximately 20 people requested to speak and were allocated 3 minutes each. Remarks were overwhelmingly in favor of the proposed prohibition, noting that several speakers viewed the Deep Creek Watershed prohibition as an important first step but as not fully adequate. Concerns were expressed about protecting other areas of the County or even the full County. Support was given by some to a state legislative ban and/or the introduction of county-wide zoning as a mechanism for more local control/action.

The decision on the watershed prohibition is now in the hands of the County Board of Commissioners. The timing of their decision is unknown as of this writing.

**Development, public review, and adoption of state regulations.** MDE has been in the process of developing a set of oil and gas regulations to address the potential health, environmental, and public safety risks associated with deep shale gas recovery. A set of “issue papers” was released for public comment on 22 June with an 18 July deadline for comment submission. These “issue papers” present regulatory ob-

jectives, options, and rationale in different areas (e.g., setbacks, well construction standards). These papers were presented at a series of 3 public forums, the last of which was held at Garrett College on 29 June. Written as well as oral comments were solicited. The actual regulations, proposed to be adopted by 1 October, will be published in the MD register for another round of comments, apparently in early/mid-August.

The public forums, including the 29 June forum at Garrett College, reflected the very controversial nature on the “fracking” topic. Forums were very well-attended (several hundred people at Garrett College), protestors were present, and a large number of attendees requested to speak. At Garrett, some 50 people spoke and the comments were generally negative about the proposed regulations, these viewed as unacceptably “relaxed” when compared to the 2015 proposals of the “O’Malley” administration. The intent to push for an outright ban at the next MD legislative session was emphasized by a number of speakers.

Regarding the MDE request for written comments by 18 July, many responses were expected. As previously reported, the County Marcellus Shale Gas Advisory Group (MSGAG) formed a subgroup to prepare for and lead the review by the larger group. The MSGAG process included consideration of any comments offered by members of the public and of an earlier-assembled public health panel. MSGAG comments were finalized at the 12 July group meeting and were forwarded to the Commissioners for their review and action. For those interested in specifics, the MDE “issue papers” (combined in one document) can be found here: [Regulations, MDE Issue Papers](#)

<http://files.constantcontact.com/b4f1d43c001/9808bef5-813d-4c54-872c-378503837589.pdf?ver=1472158135000>

## MSGAG Comments

<http://files.constantcontact.com/b4f1d43c001/23b22351-e419-482b-86f8-08e93e4be6e4.docx?ver=1472158159000>

Please contact John Quilty with any questions or comments,

## Charity Spotlight—

### Christian Crossing Thrift Shop

By Tom Myers

Treasurer of  
Christian Crossing

In the 2013 winter issue

of the *Dispatch*, a complete description of the functions of Christian Crossing Thrift Shop (CC) was presented. In summary, CC accepts and sells donated items. The net proceeds are provided as cash assistance on behalf of persons in need. These are people who have a lack of shelter, high medical expenses and other pressing problems.

Since that article, a brand new building was constructed with much more space for displaying items and with handicap-accessible facilities. The success of the new facility has been exciting.



In 2015, donations to those in need have tripled over those of previous years. Many thanks to POA members who have contributed items to CC.

There is still a serious need for special volunteers including workers in all departments, financial people and sales personnel. Men are needed every time the store is open. Those of you who have an interest in these operations should contact Marcene Huebner at Christian Crossing Thrift Shop, 301-334-6339.

# Great Concern Over Aquatic Invasion of Deep Creek Lake

By Bob Sutton

There is a major concern about Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) contaminating Deep Creek Lake since many lakes and rivers surrounding our area are already contaminated with such things as hydrilla and zebra mussels.

Deep Creek DNR now has a full-time biologist, Julie Bortz, who is working to locate and remove any AIS from the lake. Other lakes have found that the most likely source of AIS is from boats launched into Deep Creek that have been in other areas and have not been properly cleaned.

The ramp at the state park has interns that are inspecting boats and local marinas are doing the same. The POA has agreed to work with DNR to increase public awareness of this issue. We are working on a trifold brochure to pass out around the lake with needed information on AIS and cleaning procedures. Articles will be placed in surrounding newspapers and possibly road signs will be placed on key access points.



## Brochure On DCL Boating

By Bob Sutton

The POA and DNR worked together to design, print, and distribute a trifold brochure on boating at Deep Creek. It contains information on the boating rules, safety tips, invasive species, and emergency phone numbers.

The DNR printed 10,000 copies and the POA has distributed them to marinas, rental agencies, and other businesses around the lake. The trifold is also on the *Deep Creek Times* website <http://www.deepcreektimes.com> and will soon be on the POA website.

The POA thanks the DNR for helping with this project, which was long overdue. Individuals wanting copies can stop at the state park office, Chamber of Commerce, or any marina. It's a good idea to keep one handy in your boat.

A trifold brochure titled "DEEP CREEK LAKE BOATING". The cover features a photograph of a boat on the water. The brochure is published by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Safety Education Section. It includes contact information for the Deep Creek Lake Manager and the Department of Natural Resources Western Office. The back cover contains a logo for the Maryland Natural Resources Police and a section for reporting problems on the water.

# Personal Watercraft Restriction Resolved Not To Be Removed

By Bob Sutton and Bob Hoffman  
PWC Restrictions/PRB Committee

Last year the PRB (Policy Review Board) organized a committee to review a petition asking the PRB to recommend removal of the weekend time restrictions for operating PWC's (Personal Water Craft) on Deep Creek. The committee met twice including a public meeting where individuals could voice their opinions on this issue. Data was collected from this meeting and from other sources. Next, the committee met just prior to the July PRB meeting and formulated a recommendation to the PRB. Bob Sutton is the POA representative on this committee.

*Excerpt from the eBlast on July 26, 2016, from Bob Hoffman:*

Based upon the POA Board position that the PWC restrictions should not be lifted due to safety issues that may result, as well as the fact the consistent position that the time restrictions not be lifted on PWC was expressed in the emails that I received from concerned members, even those who indicated they had PWC themselves, I made the following motion at the PRB meeting:

“Motion made that the PRB refuse to grant a request to study the lifting of time restrictions on the use of PWC at DCL, that the PRB not send the request forward to the BAAC, and that



the PRB not direct any further surveys on the matter. In other words, the PRB consider the matter regarding PWC time restrictions closed.”

The motion was seconded and passed on a vote of 6 to 1.

## July = Lake Appreciation Month

In 2013 the National Association of Lake Managers Society [NALMS] established Lake Appreciation Month as a new national initiative and encouraged members to have their state and local governments declare and support lake appreciation month. The POA, its members and others in the community successfully lobbied the Garrett County Commissioners to proclaim July as Lake Appreciation Month. The proclamation is reproduced on page 6.

## FAQs of Your POA

As a new feature in the Dispatch, we are providing our members with answers to frequently asked questions of your POA board. We will select one question each quarter to answer in the Dispatch. Tony Lombardi who coordinates our Welcome Party Monday table at the Honi fields numerous questions each week. “Have I paid my POA annual dues?” is one frequently asked question. If you are curious if you have paid your \$30 annual dues, simply email our POA membership chair, Chris Nichols at [dimesy23@gmail.com](mailto:dimesy23@gmail.com) and he would be happy to let you know.

## Boat Ramp Closure for Savage Man Race

The Savage Man Triathlon Festival will be taking place on Saturday, September 17th and Sunday, September 18th. As such the boat ramp at the State Park will be closed to the public for boat launching on Saturday from 8 am to 1 pm and on Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm.

As in previous years, there will be much activity around the lake surrounding the Savage Man events. Athletes, spectators and volunteers will be visible on the shore near the State Park, on the roads biking and on the paths and roads in the State Park and vicinity during the run portion of the event.

Please drive safely and help keep these exceptional athletes safe.

# ~PROCLAMATION~

## Garrett County Lakes Appreciation Month July 2016

WHEREAS, Lakes and Reservoirs are among Maryland's most valuable natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Lakes and reservoirs provide drinking water, irrigation, energy, recreation, scenic beauty and habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, these beneficial uses have been of vital importance to Maryland's history, growth and financial health; and

WHEREAS, our lakes and reservoirs improve the quality of life for all of Maryland residents and their importance should not go unnoticed; and

WHEREAS, Garrett County recognizes the need to protect these lakes and reservoirs for future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, The Board of Garrett County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim July 2016 as:

### GARRETT COUNTY LAKES APPRECIATION MONTH – JULY 2016

in Garrett County and do commend this observance to all of our citizens.



BY ORDER OF THE BOARD,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul C. Edwards".

Paul C. Edwards

Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. Hinebaugh".

James C. Hinebaugh

Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Larry Tschell".

S. Larry Tschell

Commissioner

# Western Maryland Solar Co-op Seeks Garrett County Participants

By Lulu Gonella

On Tuesday, July 26th a local non-profit, MD SUN, made a presentation to Garrett County residents about joining the Mountain Maryland Solar Co-op. MD SUN helps homeowners use bulk buying power to go solar together for a discount.

Those who choose to join the Mountain Maryland Solar Co-op, and whose homes are deemed to be appropriate for solar panels, as a group select a single company to complete all of the installations.

MD SUN manages a competitive bid process to identify potential installers and provides guidance to the co-op along the way. Members will then have the option to purchase panels individually based on the installer's group rate.

By going solar as a group and choosing a single installer, each participant generally saves up to 20% off the cost of



their system according to MD SUN's website. If you are interested in finding out more about the Mountain Maryland Solar Co-op, visit their website at <http://www.mdsun.org/mountain-md>.

## Introducing New Garrett Watershed Coordinator

My name is **Gary Aronhalt**, and as the new Watershed Coordinator for Garrett County's Department of Planning & Land Management, I am excited to introduce myself and provide some background information to the Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake.

I am originally from Allegany County, Maryland, and I have lived and worked in Garrett County for the past few years. I attended Garrett College, earning an associate's degree in Natural Resources and Wildlife Technology. I then attended Frostburg State University, where I earned bachelor's degrees in Wildlife and Fisheries Management and Environmental Analysis & Planning.

During my enrollment at both institutions, I was involved in many projects in Garrett County. These projects included wetlands monitoring, mapping, and water quality analyses. After graduation, I was employed with the Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development

Council, where I assisted the Maryland Forest Service in meeting federal grant deliverables for several projects throughout Maryland.

My most recent work included coordinating reforestation, forest inventory, and wildlife habitat efforts in Western Maryland.

I look forward to collaborating with property owners and other groups to prioritize and implement the goals within the Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan and to address additional watershed issues in Garrett County. Streamlining the exchange of information and ideas amongst the stakeholders will be an important step in making the process simpler and more efficient.

Again, I look forward to working with the Association and learning about your organization.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at [garonhalt@garrettcounty.org](mailto:garonhalt@garrettcounty.org)



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