



# DEEP CREEK DISPATCH



Summer 2018

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



## The President's Message

Okay, so the last President's Message from me was not really the last one! I promise you, this one will be the last one from me as President but I may write other "encore" articles from time to time as I plan to stay on the Board if they will have me.

I received a phone call a few weeks ago from a representative of Brookfield Renewable Power who told me he and a couple of his colleagues would like to meet with me as they were trying to improve company relations with the community. I told him right then and there that he and his colleagues would be welcomed with open arms. We met on June 6th with a representative of the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation (DCWF) and had a great conversation about a variety of topics. The Brookfield representatives were very serious about their desire to build good community relations.

In addition, much like the Foundation, Brookfield had been contacted by Maryland's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) soliciting financial support for this year's Zebra Mussel Detection Program. And, much like the Foundation, Brookfield willingly and generously complied with DNR's request. To me and others, this was a good sign that Brookfield is serious about the desire to improve relations with the Deep Creek Community and I congratulate them for this initiative. The POA and the DCWF both look forward to working with Brookfield as partners for the betterment of the watershed.

I have spoken previously about the Foundation in my President's Messages. I want to reit-

erate the fact that the POA and the Foundation are two separate and distinct organizations with very similar goals when it comes to both the Deep Creek Watershed and Deep Creek Lake. Some of the same people support both organizations. However, the POA is a membership organization that advocates on behalf of its dues paying members.

The Foundation was created in 2016 as an organization that collects donations from a variety of folks who enjoy the natural and man-made resources in our community. The Foundation does not focus on any particular group of people or constituency when soliciting funds for projects. I guess you could say the Foundation advocates on behalf of the watershed which includes the lake. The projects thus far have often been and will continue to be, carried out in partnership with state and local government entities to further the implementation of the Watershed Management Plan in a public-private partnership manner.

As I step down from the role of serving as your president and its attendant responsibilities, my plan is to use the extra time I will have to insure the success of the Foundation. Through the solicitation of donations to support important projects, I will strive to insure the Foundation does its best to protect and preserve the watershed for posterity.

Thanks again for your continuing support!

Cheers, Bob

# State Lake Preservation and Restoration Fund Funding

## By Your POA Board

On behalf of the POA membership, the Board would like to express our deepest gratitude to Senator George Edwards and Delegate Wendell Beitzel for their efforts to “fund the Fund”. These lawmakers were instrumental in shepherding through legislation which provides \$1 million a year funding for the next four years to the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund. This fund is intended to support efforts to protect and restore the 16 state owned lakes in Maryland of which Deep Creek Lake is by far the largest. Again, thank you to Senator Edwards and Delegate Beitzel.



## Garrett County Comprehensive Plan Update

### – Your Comments are Welcome

By Lulu Gonella

The Garrett County Planning Commission has begun the process of updating their Comprehensive Plan. This is a process the county undertakes every 10 years and was last completed in 2008. The plan lays out a long-term vision for the future of the county. An open house entitled “A Sustainable Environment” was held on Monday, July 16th specifically seeking input from the community on matters relating to land use, water resources, sensitive areas and energy. Another open house entitled Vibrant Economy will take place on Monday, August 13th at Garrett College in the Continuing Education Building, Room 111 from 3-6 pm. This session will focus on economic development, infrastructure and transportation. Should you be interested in providing public comment, the following link takes you to the webpage where you can complete the Public Comment form; <https://www.garrettcountry.org/planning-land-development/comprehensive-plan> Other information available on the website includes summaries of all of the public meetings as well as a list of the Chapters which cover the topics in the plan. The county planners welcome the input of full-time and part-time property owners alike.

## Why Can't DNR Just “FIX” Our Lake Use Issues?

By Grant Callery

My family has been lakefront property owners since 1993 and I have been involved with the Council of Unit Owners at the Timberloft development for most of that time. I have also been a regular attendee at POA meetings.

One recurrent issue that comes up among property owners, development associations and at the DCL POA meetings is – “Why can't Lake Management just step in and fix my lake usage issue?”

This question came up at the June 2018 POA public meeting and was addressed to Lake Manager Eric Null. Based on some of the questions it is pretty clear that many property owners are unaware of what is needed for the DNR to impose new regulations for the lake.

Your POA Board thought that a high level “tutorial” on lake rule change processes might be helpful to POA members and other owners.

### **RECURRING ISSUES**

There are a number of issues that have consistently concerned property owners. Among these are:

- Creation of No Wake Zones
- Noise Restrictions
- PWC restrictions
- And most recently, the advent of Wake Boats and the implications for their use.

### **THE PROCESS FOR CHANGE**

One might think that Lake Management for the DCL area would have the autonomy to impose restrictions on lake usage based upon their expertise and hands on day to day management of the lake. Implementing such changes is not that simple and there is a lot of “process” involved in imposing usage restrictions. Requests for DCL- specific vessel regulations are handled in the following manner:

1. Any request must first be sent by an individual or group to the Deep Creek Lake Policy Review Board (PRB) a Governor appointed group charged with advising the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources on issues relating to the Lake.
2. A PRB subcommittee will review the proposal and will set a timeframe for that review. The subcommittee
  - a. Will seek input from the Lake Manager and DNR police.
  - b. Will provide an opportunity for public input through a process determined by the subcommittee and
  - c. Will provide the full PRB a recommended disposition of the request.
3. The full PRB may provide an opportunity for further public participation and will determine whether to approve or disapprove of the recommendation of the subcommittee.
  - a. If the PRB disapproves the request, the process ends with that action.
  - b. If the PRB determines to approve the proposal it sends its recommendation to the Boat Act Advisory Committee (BAAC), a group appointed by the Secretary of DNR and

charged with reviewing all proposed boating regulations in the state.

4. The BAAC then follows its procedures for reviewing a positive PRB recommendation, votes on the proposal in executive session and, if approved, forwards the proposal to the DNR Secretary for action
  - a. Again, if the action is to disapprove, the process ends here.
5. Assuming a BAAC recommendation to adopt the proposal, the matter is forwarded to the DNR Secretary for action – but not so fast – there is one final step.
6. The Secretary forwards the proposed regulation to a regulatory review committee in the state legislature. Upon approval by that committee the Secretary signs his/her order and a new COMAR rule is born.

### **TAKE AWAYS**

- For good or bad (or a combination of the two) making changes to or adding new lake usage regulations is a cumbersome and time consuming process.
- Proposals should be well thought out in advance of initiating the process
  - o To be consistent with legislative intent to insure the preservation, development, wise use, and enjoyment of all the natural resources for greatest benefits to the State and its citizens.
  - o Not to propose requirements already covered by other regulations, e.g. a no wake zone in an already protected area within 100 feet of the shoreline.

The purpose of this article has been to provide a (relatively) brief overview of the process for implementing rules relating to the usage of Deep Creek Lake. Source documents can be found through the POA website which contains a link under “DCL and Maryland Links” to an excellent “Deep Creek Watershed Compendium of Law”

The Deep Creek Policy Review Board (PRB) exists in Maryland State Law to assist the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in the management of Deep Creek Lake (DCL) and to bring items of importance to the attention of the Secretary of DNR. The PRB was established at the time the state purchased DCL to insure members of the community would have input into lake related matters.

The PRB meets quarterly and has several designated seats, including one for the POA, but has not had a seat for the Maryland Department of the Environment despite its responsibility for the Water Appropriation Permit for DCL as well as the matter of shoreline erosion. At the request of the POA, a bill was considered by the 2018 General Assembly which would add a seat for MDE to the PRB. The bills

were cross-filed in the Senate and the House of Delegates by Senator George Edwards and Delegate Wendell Beitzel. The bill was signed into law by Governor Hogan on April 24, 2018, and will become effective July 1, 2018. Over time, the addition of an MDE representative to the PRB should improve overall management of DCL for everyone concerned.

## Minimum Wake Zone Criteria for Deep Creek Lake

By Bob Sutton



Due to interest in establishing minimum wake zones in certain areas of the lake, the POA decided to investigate what criteria have to be met for the state to declare an area a “minimum wake zone.” The PRB has stated that criteria needed to be established before any request for a minimum wake zone would be considered. The POA formed a committee composed of a POA representative as well as representatives from the DNR, Natural Resources Police, and the Boating Act Advisory Committee (BAAC)

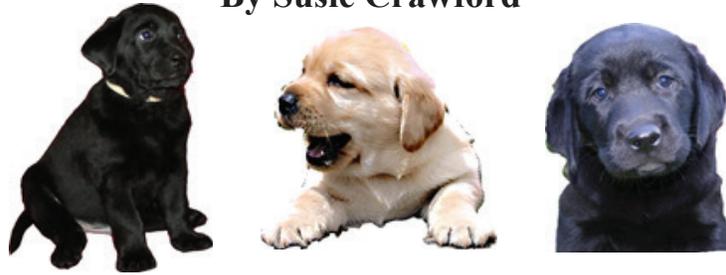
to examine this matter.

The committee found that the BAAC actually had criteria established and documented. The committee has made some specific additions to the criteria that members believe should apply to areas of Deep Creek Lake due to some of the unique characteristics of the lake. The committee members plan to present their recommendations to the Policy Review Board for consideration this Fall.



# Its “Puppy Season” at Deep Creek Lake

By Susie Crawford



Summer is here and with the warmer weather and with the school year ended many families turn their attention to getting a puppy. Most people spend months preparing for the arrival of a new baby. However, all too often they bring a puppy home on a whim without any prior preparation. It is no surprise, then, that they find themselves playing “catchup” for weeks or months as they struggle to recover from the mistakes made in the puppy’s formative months.

Sadly, there are some who acquire a new puppy or adult dog for the summer months while they are at the lake, but do not take the dog home with them in the fall, either leaving them at the county shelter or abandoning them altogether. If you are thinking about adding a dog to your family while visiting the lake this summer please plan ahead to be a responsible pet owner.

If you are thinking of adding a puppy to your family, here are some helpful hints and questions to ask yourself from the Labrador Retriever Club of Potomac. More information can be found at their website at: <http://www.lrcp.com/index.shtml>

## QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF: ARE YOU PREPARED TO...



- Take full responsibility for this dog and all its needs for the next 10-15 years? This is NOT a task that can be left to children!
- Invest the considerable time, money and patience it takes to train the dog to be a good companion? (This does not happen by itself!! !!)
- Always keep the dog safe; no running loose, riding in the back of an open pick up truck or being chained outside?
- Make sure the dog gets enough attention and exercise? (Labrador puppies need several hours

of both, every day!!)

- Live with shedding, retrieving, drooling and high activity for the next 10-15 years?
- Spend the money it takes to provide proper veterinary care including but certainly not limited to: vaccines, heartworm testing and preventative, spaying or neutering and annual check ups?
- Become educated about the proper care of the breed, correct training methods and how to groom? (There are many good books available, invest the time to read a few.)
- Keep the breeder informed and up to date on the dog’s accomplishments and problems?
- Take your questions to the breeder or other appropriate professional before they become problems that are out of hand?
- Have the patience to accept (and enjoy) the trials of Labrador puppyhood, which can last for three years, and each stage afterward?
- Continue to accept responsibility for the dog despite inevitable life changes such as new babies, kids going off to school, moving or returning to work?
- Resist impulse buying, and instead have the patience to make a responsible choice?
- If you answered yes to ALL of the above you are ready to start contacting breeders. Start early because most responsible breeders have a waiting list ranging from a few of months to a couple of years. Remember, the right puppy or adult dog IS worth waiting for!!
- A word about rescue dogs...Rescue dogs may or may not be responsibly bred. However, since they are adults, we are able to evaluate them for any signs of a problem before you fall in love, something that can’t be done with a puppy. We consider this only one of the many advantages to adopting an older dog!

**Good luck in your search!**

# Brookfield, DNR and the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation Invasive Species Prevention Partnership



**Public-Private Partnership Announced In Effort To Prevent Invasive Species At Deep Creek**

***Maryland DNR, Deep Creek Watershed Foundation & Brookfield Renewable Announce Partnership***

**For Immediate Release: July 31, 2018**

**Media Contact: Brian P. Noonan. (617) 838-2658**

**(Garrett County, Md.)- An initiative was announced today to assist with efforts in keeping the troublesome invasive species known as zebra mussels out of Deep Creek Lake.**

The unique partnership between the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation and Brookfield Renewable will bring forward a robust zebra mussel monitoring plan which will utilize a combination of water quality sampling to assess zebra mussel suitability, and visual surveys to look for the possible presence of zebra mussels at Deep Creek Lake. Department of Natural Resources staff are coordinating and overseeing the monitoring program, which began in the Spring and will run through the fall. Zebra mussels were identified on two boats through the Launch Steward Program designed to inspect boats for potential invasive species before they enter the lake in 2016 and 2017. No zebra mussels have been identified in Deep Creek Lake.

Maryland DNR Statement: “The Deep Creek Lake zebra mussel monitoring project is a unique partnership that will enhance our efforts to evaluate and protect the Lake from a potential invasive species threat,” said Bruce Michael, director of the department’s Resource Assessment Service. “Monitoring and assessing all aspects of the lake, from water quality, habitat conditions, submerged aquatic vegetation, to fish are integral in understanding one of Maryland’s most treasured resources.”

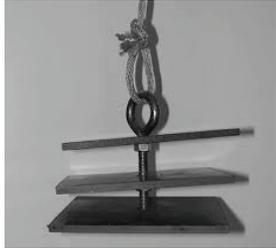
John McVaigh, Director of Operations for Brookfield Renewable said, “When we were approached by Maryland DNR about the opportunity to assist in their preventative initiative, we saw it as an innovative, proactive effort to curtail this problematic invasive before it can wreak havoc on the lake and its ecosystem. We look forward to working together to ensure the continued sustainability and vibrancy of Deep Creek.”

David Myerberg, President of the Board of the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation said, “This is the kind of opportunity that our Foundation supports in line with the Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan, and we thank DNR and Brookfield for joining us to preserve and protect the watershed for posterity.”

How this program proceeds is dependent on a variety of factors, most notably, the outcome and results of the visual surveys and water quality sampling.

# Zebra Mussel Monitoring

Beginning the spring of 2018, the Department of Natural Resources began implementing a pilot Zebra Mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) Detection Monitoring Plan. The plan is jointly funded by the department, Deep Creek Lake Watershed Foundation, and Brookfield Renewable (owner of the Deep Creek Lake dam). The pilot plan recognizes the persistent threat of zebra mussel introductions into Deep Creek Lake and builds on the department's larger invasive species education and prevention effort. The monitoring plan has two primary components, the first component is a water



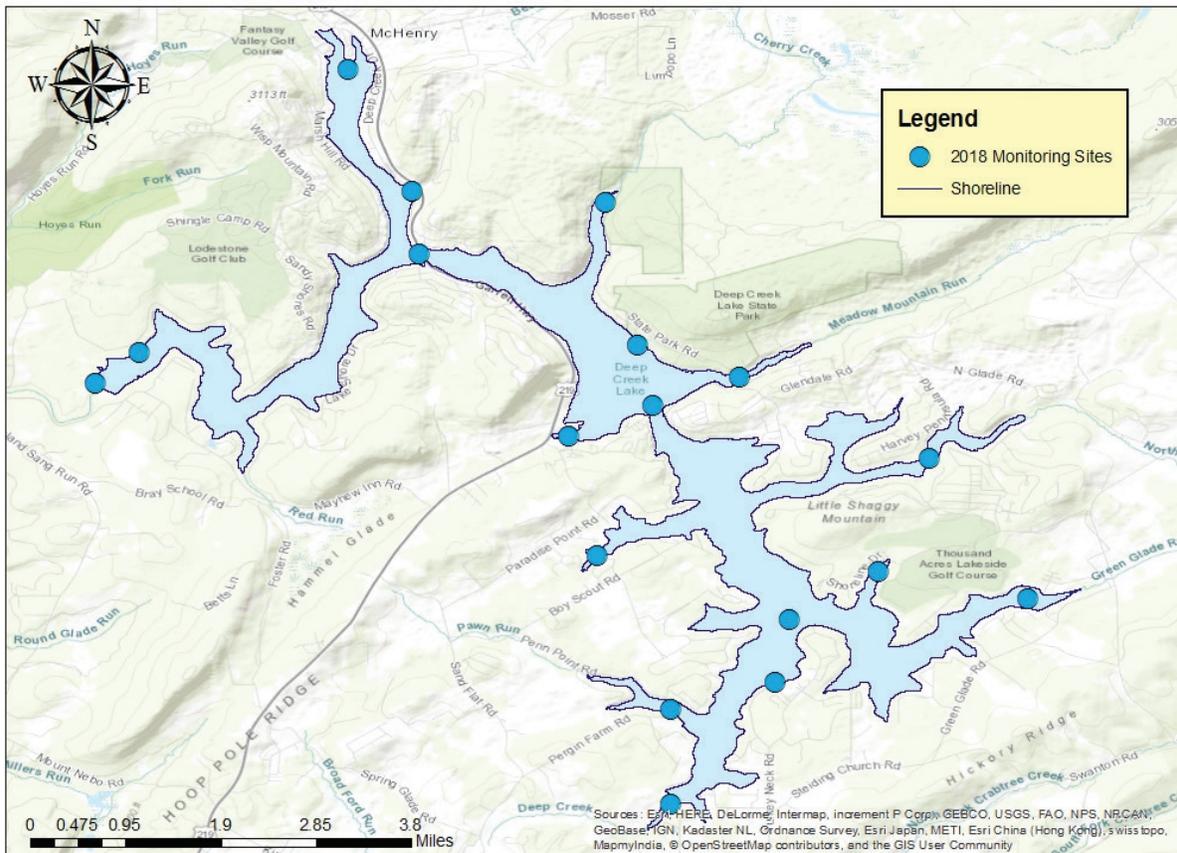
Zebra mussel plate

quality monitoring effort to determine if Deep Creek Lake has suitable habitat for zebra mussels. The second component focuses on visual surveys to look for the presence/absence of zebra mussels at select sites throughout the lake. The below map shows the monitoring locations (both visual and water quality related) throughout Deep Creek Lake. The 2018 effort is the first year of a potential 3-year project dependent on future funding availability whose results will not only determine if Deep Creek Lake has suitable habitat for zebra mussels but if any mussels are present in the lake.



Zebra mussel clinging to SAV plant

Proposed Zebra Mussel Monitoring Locations 2018



Map showing all zebra mussel monitoring locations (water quality and visual surveys)

# Opioid Town Meetings Draw More Than 200 Participants

By Diane Lee, Public Information Officer, Garrett County Health Department

Pictured below are some of the speakers and attendees of the June Opioid Town Hall Meeting held in Oakland, including, left to right, Ashley Elliot, Paul Liller, Suzanne Sincell, Don Sincell, Sabrina Tasker, Brenda Sisler, Gregan Crawford, Terri Weaver, Fred Polce, Matt Friend, Brian Murray, Daphne Gooding, Elaine Hinebaugh, Kristen DeWitt, Lisa Thayer Welch, Bob Stephens, Kathy Beals, Robb Corley, Sadie Liller, and Paul DeKraai.



Nearly 200 people attended two Garrett County Opioid Town Hall Meetings in June and July in Oakland and Grantsville.

“We want to continue to bring the community together for open conversations about how drugs are affecting this County and what we as individuals, and as a group, can do to help this issue,” said Sadie Liller, Prevention Coordinator, Garrett County Health Department. “We hope the series of meetings will continue, with other communities standing up to take the initiative and do events in their communities.”

The meetings were a collaboration between Garrett County Health Department, Community Action, and other concerned agencies and citizens. This group has called their grass-roots initiative “Stand

Together – Garrett County Against Drug Abuse.”

At each Town Hall Meeting representatives from public health, physicians, community members, and those in recovery talked about individual experiences, community perceptions, and how we can help those in need.

“We are hoping this initiative will also draw support from community organizations, churches, and businesses,” Liller said. “And that it will generate interest for individuals and organizations to schedule presentations from the list of presenters on our speakers’ bureau.” Anyone interested in scheduling a speaker may choose from any of the following topic areas: advocacy, legal intervention, medical, prevention, recovery, or treatment.

The Call To Action for the meetings is for each resident to take their own stand against drug abuse in Garrett

County by pledging to do as many of the following as they can:

- Only taking medicines prescribed for you by your doctor
- Not giving or sharing your prescriptions with anyone
- Storing your medicines in a safe place so others can't get to them
- Disposing of your medication safely
- Registering for an Overdose Response Class
- Learning how to refer others for help with their drug problem
  - Not judging those who disclose their problems and ask for help
  - Contacting authorities when you see suspicious activity
  - Exhibiting healthy behaviors to be a positive role model to others
  - Volunteering with a non-profit organization that stands together against drug abuse

“We are hoping the Stand Together movement will continue, but in the meantime everyone is welcome to attend the ongoing Garrett County Drug-Free Community Coalition (DFCC) Meetings, or the DFCC Action Team Meetings,” Liller said.

The DFCC serves as a steering committee and advisory

board for numerous grants of the Garrett County Health Department (GCHD). The DFCC meets the 1st Wednesday of every month (unless displaced by a holiday) from 11:30am-1:00pm in the GCHD Conference Room. Light lunch is provided, and meetings are open to the community.

In addition to the DFCC, three DFCC Action Teams also meet monthly. These are the Action Team to Prevent Underage Drinking and Tobacco Use, the Action Team to Prevent Marijuana Use, and the Action Team to Prevent Prescription and Opiate Misuse/Abuse. At the monthly meetings, the Action Teams work separately on developing prevention strategies for their specific drug. Community volunteers are always invited to participate on the Action Team that addresses prevention of the drug they feel most strongly about.

DFCC Action Team Meetings are scheduled for Aug. 14 at Garrett College in the GIEC Building; Sept. 19 at GCHD; October 9 at Garrett College; and Nov. 14 at GCHD. All meetings are begin at 5:30. All three teams meet at the same time and location, and then split into individual working groups.

For more information about the Town Hall Meetings, DFCC, Action Teams, or to access the speakers' bureau call GCHD at 301-334-7730.

**FYI - The next and last Hydrilla treatment for the season is scheduled for August 21st depending on weather.**

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