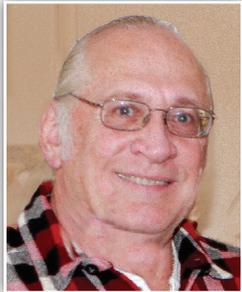




# DEEP CREEK DISPATCH

Summer 2017

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



## The President's Message

I hope you are all doing well and enjoying as much of this great summer in the Deep Creek Lake Community as possible.

During the last legislative session, a bill introduced by our elected State representatives, Senator George Edwards and Delegate Wendell Beitzel, with support from The Friends of Deep Creek Lake (FoDCL) as well as the POA and others, ultimately passed through the legislature and was signed into law by Governor Larry Hogan creating the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund (hereafter called the Fund).

This Fund was designed to support all 16 lakes owned by the State of Maryland and will be overseen by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). DNR is to develop an annual work plan to address various lake issues with input from citizens, organizations, and local government.

At this point, there is no money in the Fund so the best way to attempt to obtain State dollars for the Fund was the topic of conversation at a meeting attended on July 26th by representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, FoDCL, POA, DCWF (Deep Creek Watershed Foundation), PRB, and Garrett Trails as well as Delegate Beitzel, Senator Edwards, County Administrator Kevin Null, and Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners Paul Edwards.

Various possible avenues of approach were discussed but our legislative delegation ultimately laid out the best path which will be using the same process that established the Fund in the first place. At present, our representatives plan to submit a bill in early January 2018, when the 2018 legislative session begins, which will request the approximate sum of \$3 Million be added to the Fund on an annual basis.

This method would provide an annual revenue stream allowing DNR to develop an annual work plan for addressing issues in the State's lakes. Our delegation will examine several potential sources of funding for this bill over the coming months. This meeting was important as it brought together many stakeholders in one place to discuss and establish a process through which we will attempt to move state dollars into this new Fund.

What can POA members do? Much like this past year when many of you sent email letters urging various State Delegates and Senators to support the bill which established the Fund, we will be asking for your support to urge passage of the bill requesting State dollars for the Fund. We will definitely need your support once again!

One other topic I would like to briefly touch on are the policy changes being considered by Garrett County regarding Grinder Pumps as part of the County Sewer System. You should have received an eBlast containing various documents prepared by the County concerning the anticipated policy changes. I encouraged you to provide questions and comments directly to the County.

In addition to what I have encouraged you to do, Nicole Christian, President and CEO of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, and I have agreed to form a joint Chamber/POA Committee to meet, develop questions/comments, and then meet with the right County representatives seeking answers to questions and their comments on this topic of policy changes. This effort should start very soon and we will keep you posted.

I hope you are able to enjoy the Summer and spend at least some of the time at our great lake!

—Cheers, Bob

# Deer Park VFD Water Rescue Operations

By Morgan France

Deer Park Volunteer Fire Company, Garrett County Number 20, was organized in 1950. The current station was dedicated in 1973. Company 20 serves about half of the Deep Creek Lake watershed in its primary response area. There are about forty volunteers, twenty of whom are active firemen.

Assets include a rescue Boston Whaler stationed on Penn Point, central to the company's lake area of responsibility. A system known as Mutual Aid coordinates the assignments of the various fire and rescue groups to afford the most effective response to an emergency.

In the station, the primary engine has a 1,200 gallon per minute (gpm) pump with 1,000 gallons of water on board. The rescue engine is 1,500 gpm pumper with a 2,000 gallon tank. The rescue engine carries the extrication equipment and tools. The pickup truck carries the Emergency Medical Equipment and Advanced Life Sup-



port including a Lucas Machine (Chest Compression System) and an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). They have a jeep set up for brush fire suppression, and an ATV (All-Terrain Vehicle) purposed for wildland fire and rescue.

The Boston Whaler, probably the best and most seaworthy boat available, is used to carry the dive and rescue equipment kept in a trailer at the station. The trailer also carries swift water rescue equipment and ice rescue apparatus. Water emergency calls are referenced to the closest dock by the dock number and the location of the caller by the dispatcher. Soon the GPS location of all of the dock numbers will be available to emergency responders.

The volunteers generate funds by Bingo at the station the second Saturday of the month, except October, December, January and February. They hold a cash bash the first Saturday in May. Their annual fund drive, primarily through mailings, is done August through September. Other functions are displayed on the sign near the station.



## Will you answer the call?

As is the case in many rural communities in America, Garrett County residents are serviced by several volunteer fire departments. When calls come in alerting these volunteers of an emergency, they drop whatever they are doing and often have to travel significant distances on rural roads from their homes to respond to the call.

Lou Battistella, Former POA President and veteran first responder, shared the attached video that provides a window into the deliberate choice these volunteers make in dedicating themselves to the service of others. This short 5 minute clip will surely increase your appreciation for the commitment your volunteer firefighters have in protecting you and your property.



<https://vimeo.com/223485932>

-Charity Spotlight-

# *The Joan & Bill Crawford "I Can Swim!" Program*

**By Susie Crawford**

*Consider the following:*

- \* Every day, about ten people die from unintentional drowning, according to the U. S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention.
- \* About one in five people who die from drowning are children 14 and younger. For every child who dies from drowning, another five receive emergency department care for nonfatal submersion injuries.
- \* According to the U.S. Census, 2010, the national median income was \$52,762. While the median income for the state of Maryland surpassed this figure at \$72,419. In the western most county, Garrett's median income was \$45,280.
- \* In addition, 53.5% of elementary school students in Garrett County received free or reduced breakfast and lunch.

Beginning in September 2011, in its Community Aquatic & Recreation Complex (CARC) that included the first publicly accessible swimming pools in Garrett County, Md., Garrett College began providing free American Red Cross basic swimming and water safety instruction for all kindergarten children. The Garrett County Board of Education provides school bus transportation for the children to the College campus as part of their daily schedule for a four-day active learning program during the regular school week.

Every child participating in the program receives an "I Can Swim!" certificate and a one-year discount on a family membership to the CARC along with four free one-day swimming passes. At the conclusion of its sixth year, the program has graduated over 2,300 Garrett County kindergartners.

The most critical outcome is to ensure that the "I Can Swim!" program serves families that do not have the means to provide this level of fitness and water safety education for their children. Program costs are provided by in-kind contributions (e.g., school buses, the College pool facility itself) but others require direct funding (e.g., gasoline and bus drivers, instructors and lifeguards, and instructional materials). Currently the program costs more than \$125.00 per child for the week long water safety sessions.

To support these costs and to ensure the program's continuation over time, Garrett College Foundation Board and POA Board member, Susie Crawford established the Joan & Bill Crawford I Can Swim! Fund to accept charitable and philanthropic gifts to support the endeavor in memory of her parents. In their more than 50 years of residency on Deep Creek Lake, Joan and Bill opened the



doors of their home to countless numbers of Girl Scouts, youth groups, and family and friends to share their love of swimming and water sports. They both believed that every child should be taught swimming and water safety.

For additional information about the I Can Swim! Program, and to learn how to sponsor a swimmer, contact the Garrett College Foundation office at (301)387-3100 or via e-mail at [cherie.krug@garrettcollege.edu](mailto:cherie.krug@garrettcollege.edu).

## **Dangers of Electrocutation**

**By Lulu Gonella**

At the start of the summer there were two tragic stories about an 11 year old girl in New Jersey and a 19 year old young man in Ohio who were electrocuted in the water around docks. While the vast majority of docks at the lake do not have power on them, people often use extension cords to bring music and the like to their docks and water's edge. BoatUS has the following guidance on what to do if you suspect someone in the water may have been electrocuted.



"What do you do if you see a distressed person in the water near a boat dock? A drowning victim often looks 'playful', while an electric shock drowning victim looks 'distressed'. It may be difficult, however, to immediately determine either, so play it safe by not jumping in. The first task is to shut off power to the dock at the breaker panel, and if equipped, disconnect any power cable to the vessel. If power cannot be shut down, follow the 'reach, throw, row, but don't go' mantra by using an oar, boat hook or throw a floatation device to reach the stricken person.

For more information, parents, dock owners, boaters, and marina and boat club operators can go to the BoatUS Electric Shock Drowning Resource Center at [www.BoatUS.com/Seaworthy/ESD](http://www.BoatUS.com/Seaworthy/ESD).

# GARRETT COUNTY'S CIVIL WAR HERITAGE

By Scott Johnson

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (B&O) played an important role in the Union's supply and troop movement along the southern and western flanks of its territory. B&O President John Garrett collaborated very closely with President Lincoln and Union Generals to keep the rail lines protected from Confederate raids to assure that Union resources were being transported without incident. To assist in this effort garrisons were built at key locations along the rail lines.

To disrupt B&O wartime traffic, the Confederates, under the leadership of Generals Jones and Imboden, devised a plan to damage the rail lines, destroying the important supply lines in mountainous western Virginia (now West Virginia). General Jones was to attack between Oakland and Grafton, while General Imboden was to attack garrisons in Beverly, Philippi and Buckhannon.

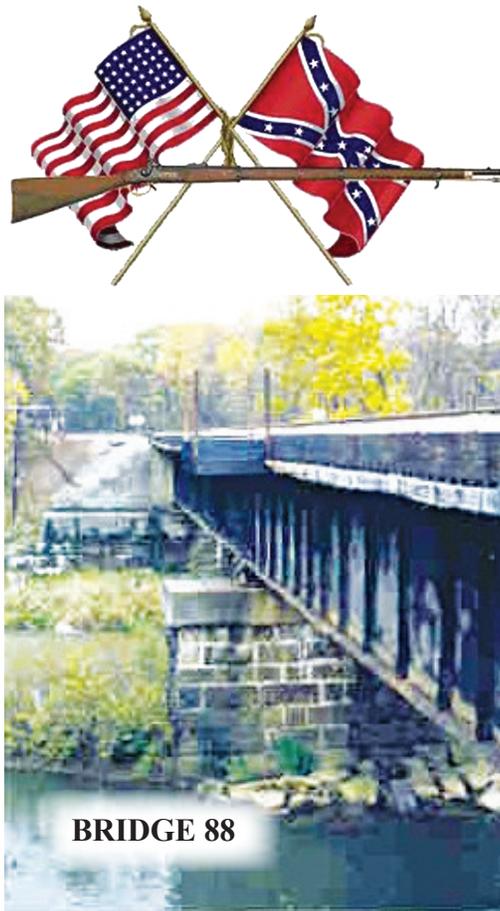
On his way to Oakland in April of 1863 Jones encamped briefly in Red House. On the morning of April 26th Jones sent McNeill's Rangers

to destroy Bridge 88 west of Oakland at the confluence of the Little Yough and the Yough. Jones' other troops went on to destroy bridges on the Cheat River and Tray Run. Both missions were successful and not a shot was fired and no blood was shed.

The B&O promptly rebuilt Bridge 88, and soon construction was started on a small garrison, which was called Fort Alice, to protect the bridge. The garrison is long gone, but the site can be visited today by taking a short walk from either the Town Parking Lot in Oakland, or an even shorter walk from where the trail crosses Liberty Avenue at the Mews housing complex. The site is very pretty and well worth the effort. I visited it several years ago before the trail was constructed.

How did Fort Alice get its name and why is the bridge called Bridge 88? Visit the Oakland B&O Train Station Museum or click on the link below to read a detailed account of the Jones-Imboden Raid.

<http://www.mountaindiscoveries.com/images/fw2012/civilwarforts.pdf>



## ***Buying Land Contiguous to Your DCL Property***

The State of Maryland, Department of General Services, Office of Real Estate is close to finalizing the Deep Creek Lake Buy-down Project per House Bill 356 approved in the 2015 legislative session. This project gives owners of certain properties adjoining Deep Creek Lake the right to purchase land lying contiguous to their properties and Deep Creek Lake, subject to a conservation easement. The re-opened project will be administered in a manner similar to the program previously authorized by the Board of Public Works on February 9, 2000 as Agenda Item 39-RP.

A portion of the proceeds received from any buy-down sale will be used to reimburse the State for reasonable costs and expenses incurred. All proceeds in excess of the reimbursement amount will be credited to the Deep Creek Lake Recreation Maintenance and Management Fund. The project is in effect from October 1, 2015 through October 31, 2017.

For additional information about the project, please contact Ms. Tanja Rucci, Buy-down Coordinator, at 410-767-4303 or [tanja.rucci@maryland.gov](mailto:tanja.rucci@maryland.gov). Property owners

interested in purchasing a buy-down parcel must download an "Intent to Purchase Buy-down" form from the DGS web-site (see link below) and then complete and return it to Ms. Rucci at the specified e-mail address.

<http://www.dgs.maryland.gov/Documents/RealEstate/DeepCreekLakeProject/IntentToPurchaseForm.docx>

### **Thank You to Pioneer Press For Many Years of Service**

**By Lulu Gonella**

After 44 years of providing printing services to Garrett County and West Virginia customers, Pioneer Press has closed its operations. For many years, Larry Noland, one of Pioneer's long-term employees produced this quarterly newsletter as well as helped the POA with other printing projects. The POA wishes Larry and the entire team at Pioneer Press the best of luck in their future endeavors and thanks them for their many years of exceptional client service to us.

# Nicole Christian Named 2016 Chamber Executive of the Year

Shared By Nick Sharps

Membership Development Manager  
Garrett County Chamber of Commerce

The Maryland Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (MACCE) has announced that Nicole Christian, IOM, CCE, President & CEO of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, has been selected as the 2016 Chamber Executive of the Year. “Nicole was selected as MACCE’s 2016 Chamber Executive of the Year because of her many notable accomplishments on behalf of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce,” said Paul Frey, MACCE president. Frey also noted, “Nicole’s nomination submission emphasized her ... dedication to the advancement of business opportunities to the more than 600 members as well as Garrett County businesses.”

Particular accomplishments noted in Nicole’s nomination included:

- \* Growing tourism in Garrett County by approximately 20% since 2012;
- \* Creating the HR Roundtable;
- \* Launching and implementing The Deep Creek Experience countywide brand;
- \* Creating the annual Business & Industry Appreciation program promoting growth and development in Garrett County; and

- \* Securing more than \$800,000 in state and federal grant funds for Heritage Area projects

In addition, Nicole has been an active participant in chamber industry professional development at both the state and local level, serving on the boards of the national Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE), several state level associations, including the Maryland Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (MACCE), and the U.S. Chamber’s Midwest Institute Board of Regents. She received her Institute for Organization Management (IOM) in 2000, and her Certified Chamber Executive (CCE) designation in 2004.

Each year MACCE presents an award to the chamber executive who has demonstrated outstanding success in leading his/her chamber of commerce. Criteria include employment at the current chamber for at least

three years as well as documentation of proven success in overcoming challenges, in fiscal management, and in achieving the chamber’s program of work.

The Maryland Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives is a membership organization consisting of Chamber of Commerce executives, and their counterparts from similar organizations, from throughout the state of Maryland. MACCE supports the continued professional development, training, and education of its members and provides valuable networking opportunities. For more information, visit [www.mdchamberexecutives.org](http://www.mdchamberexecutives.org).



Shane Grady (left), Immediate Past Chair of the Chamber Board of Directors, Nicole Christian receiving her award and Paul Frey, President of the Maryland Association of Chambers of Commerce Executives.

## Safety Reminder Concerning Boating Equipment

U.S. Coast Guard considers kayaks, paddleboards and other small craft to be vessels by definition. Therefore, these vessels are required to carry certain safety equipment, most importantly a personal flotation device for each occupant and a flashlight (or other light source) if operated after sunset.

Our officers are required by policy to issue citations for life jacket violations but I hate to see Garrett County visitors or residents get a ticket when a little education would solve the problem.

Submitted By Sgt. Michael D. Friend  
Area 8 District 7—Garrett County  
Maryland Natural Resources Police  
Department of Natural Resources



# ***POA Committee Formed To Address Lake Water Level Issues***

**By John Quilty**

## **Who Owns/Controls DCL?**

*Background*—As many of you know, the State of Maryland owns Deep Creek Lake and Brookfield Energy owns and operates the dam as well as the hydroelectric station. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) issues a permit to Brookfield which 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.”

## **Targeted Lake Levels**

The targeted maximum and minimum lake levels are known as the upper and lower “rule bands” (URB and LRB). The current “Water Appropriation and Use” permit was issued by MDE in 2011. It will be renewed in 2019, with the opportunity for public comment and input expected in early 2018.

There is, of course, an inherent competition for water between releases for the specified uses and “storage” in the lake to assure adequate levels for recreational boating (with the LRB viewed as the adopted standard for the latter). This has been the subject of some debate and analysis over the years. For instance, as part of the process for renewing the 2007 permit, the Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board (PRB), an advisory body to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), sent a letter to MDE raising concerns about recreational boating levels, compiling reports from individual property owners about having to terminate recreational boating activities before the season ended (nominally 1 October), and delineating a set of recommended changes to provisions of the 2007 permit.

Some minor changes were reflected in a 2009 permit with more significant changes reflected in the 2011 version (e.g. rule bands revised slightly up-

ward). But, residual concerns remain (e.g. the current permit allows levels to go 1 foot below the LRB under certain conditions).

## **Sediment Impacted Areas**

It is important to note that (1) the well-known sedimentation-impacted “shallow cove” issues at the south end of the lake cannot, unfortunately, be fully addressed with permit revisions and are being addressed as a separate, high priority topic (see recent *eBlast* summarizing the status <http://files.constant-contact.com/b4f1d43c001/1c0c8bf4-9f25-4182-a26f-5fe8b0404085.pdf?ver=1501642873000>) and (2) the characterized competition for lake water would seem to become a serious problem only in “dry” years. Further, despite historical focus on protecting the LRB levels, the topic of higher water levels—related to erosion and in turn to additional sedimentation—will also need to be addressed.

## **Two New Developments**

*Recent Developments*—Two interrelated developments are particularly noteworthy and encouraging:

- ✳ The Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan—The Plan identifies a “Goal 12” which recognizes the water level issues and calls for an independent engineering study of a “different scientific method” to potentially better satisfy all users in an equitable and balanced way. The resulting engineering product would be provided to MDE for consideration in revising the 2011 permit and its implementing mechanisms (e.g., decision processes for managing lake water levels and executing releases).
- ✳ The Deep Creek Watershed Foundation (DCWF), which was launched late last year, is funding a so-called ‘Water Budget’ through an independent engineering consultant, Century Engineering, Incorporated (CEI). As we understand it, the result of the effort will be what could be called a “decision tool”. This tool would have the ability

to predict water levels based on various factors (e.g. rainfall). It would be designed to provide a basis for informed decisions on water allocation actions. Such a tool appears to offer promise for incorporation in MDE’s water management process. CEI’s final product, along with appropriate supporting data/analyses, are anticipated to be used during the open review period with MDE which we believe closes at end of Q1 2018.

### **Formation of POA Committee**

The POA Committee—At its June meeting, the POA Board decided to form a committee to review the history and current developments outlined above, to better understand the nature and degree of adverse water level impacts on recreational boating across a spectrum of “wet” and “dry” years and to ultimately provide input to and recommendations concerning the to-be-issued 2019 permit.

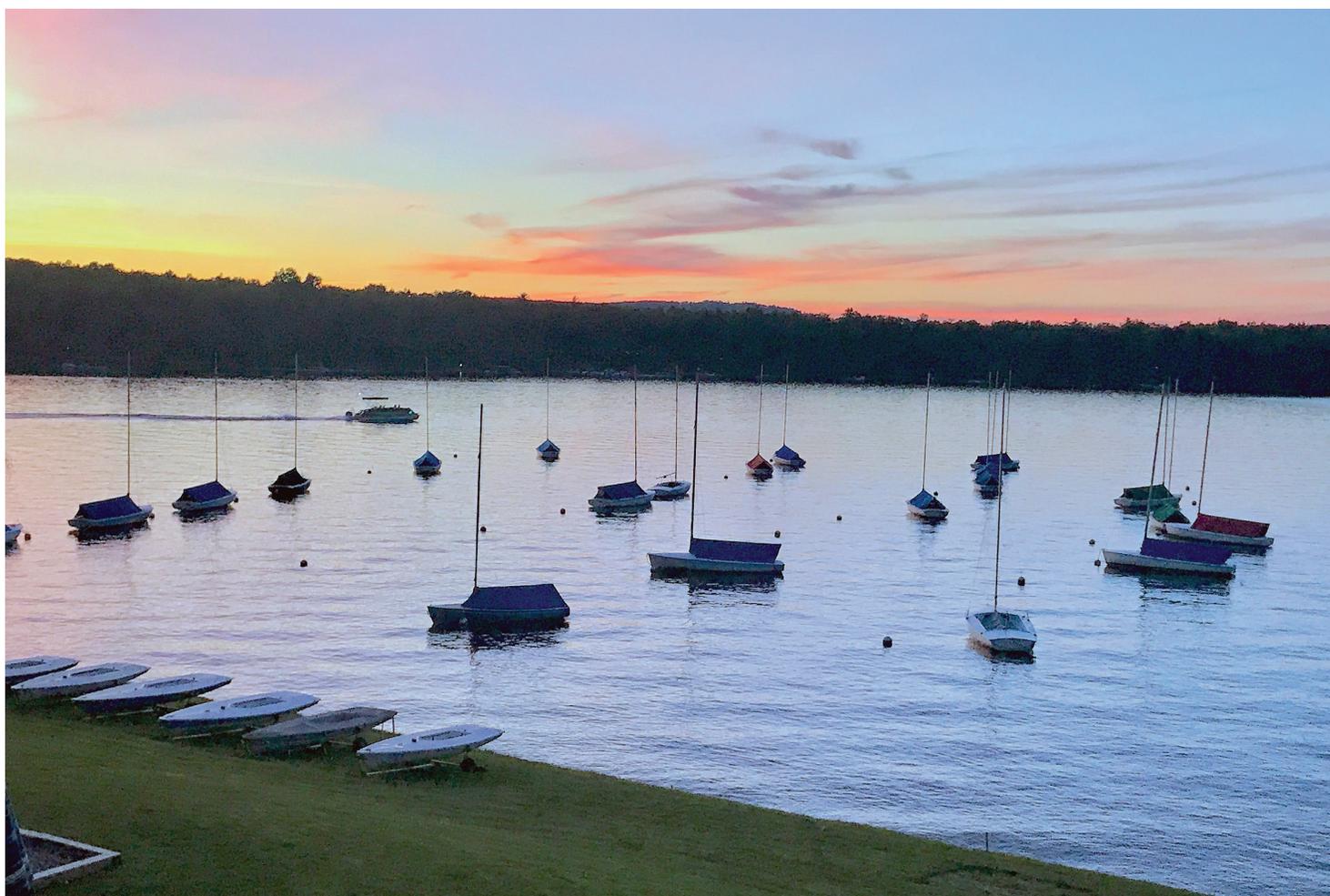
It is the committee’s intent to develop recommen-

dations that recognize the legitimate interests of all stakeholders while constructively advocating for recreational boating interests, and to support these recommendations with available facts and “science” to the maximum extent possible.

The committee consists of Judy Carbone, Morgan France, Ed King, John Quilty (chair), Pete Versteegen, and Paul Weiler. The committee is in the early stages of its work, but will report out regularly through future issues of the *Dispatch* and *eBlasts* as appropriate.

### **Your Input Is Solicited**

Input Solicited—Input from individuals or groups with particular views, concerns, permit ideas, and/or experiences with water level issues are welcome. Inputs can be provided to John Quilty at [jquilty@mitre.org](mailto:jquilty@mitre.org). And, of course, any of the committee members would be happy to hear from you.



*Sunset at Deep Creek Lake*

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