



# DEEP CREEK DISPATCH



Spring 2012

Newsletter of the  
Property Owners' Association  
of Deep Creek Lake, Incorporated



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am still enjoying serving as President of Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake (POA). A major factor contributing to this state is due to working with a very capable and engaged board of directors. They work to

stay abreast of and engaged on issues that affect you or could affect you if implemented. Some of these are: Water Quality and the well being of Deep Creek Lake, property tax rates, and administration of the lake-including active participation on the Policy and Review Board which advises the DNR and lake management staff. Your board has developed a cordial, effective, and regular interface with our County Government and state agencies.

The POA conducts two general meetings each year where all members and the public is invited and encouraged to attend and participate. Our next general meeting is scheduled for June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012. The meeting will be held at the Garrett Eight Cinemas and will commence at 8:00 AM with a social half hour including coffee, juice, fruit, and pastries. The regular session commences at 8:30 AM. We typically hear from our State Senator, State Delegate, County Commissioners, the DNR, the Sheriff's office and other invited presenters. I strongly encourage you to attend and please invite your neighbors along and let them know that someone is looking after their interests.

*Sincerely, Troy Ellington*

## NEW WEBSITE

Late in the winter the POA launched a new website that we hope will provide more information to POA members and the public. The web address is still the same: <http://www.deepcreeklakepoa.com>. Check it out.

## PRINT EDITION OF THE DEEP CREEK DISPATCH

At its most recent meeting the POA board decided to send all POA members a print edition of the *Dispatch*. This is in addition to the email edition that they may already be receiving. It is not always convenient to sit at the computer and read the

*Dispatch*, whereas with the print edition you can take it where ever you go and you can easily share it with a friend or neighbor. Those of you receiving the email edition will, of course, continue to receive e-blasts. "Print-only" POA members do not receive e-blasts, like the recent one regarding sedimentation. If any "print-edition-only" members wish to update their profile and receive the email edition please go to our website and update your information.

If you have not renewed your 2012 membership we encourage you to do so now. How do you know if you've paid up? The mailing label shows the year through which you are paid. The dues are only \$30 per year and helps the POA fund so many of the important projects that make a positive impact upon our Lake and the stake we all have in its well being. A membership form is enclosed. If you've already re-upped, give the form to your non-member neighbor. If you need another form, make a photocopy, go to the website to download one, or call a board member listed on the last page of the print *Dispatch*.



## LAKE MATS

*The following article has been provided by Carolyn Matthews, Manager, Deep Creek Lake NRMA.*

We thank her for her contribution.

What are people talking about? The DCL community is talking about "grass mats."

The discussions are about an approved method of suppressing the growth of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) which many people call "lake grass." The DCL Management office will issue Special Permits to Buffer Strip Use permit holders to use Benthic mats to suppress grasses that grow in

boat slips and for a specific amount of square footage, in the immediate area on either side of docks.

What does “benthic” mean? Organisms that occur at the bottom of a water body.

### ***Benthic Mats Facts***

- Benthic mats are an effective method of suppressing submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) in localized areas. Effectiveness can be 95-100% suppression.
- Benthic mats restrict sunlight from reaching the lake bottom in the areas where they are installed. The absence of sunlight restricts the growth of the SAV.
- Benthic mats do not use chemicals.
- Benthic mats are more effective than raking because the mats do not permit SAV growth as long as they are in place.
- Benthic mats cover game fish spawning areas. Therefore, they must be installed after spawning activity has subsided for the season. They must be removed at the end of each season.
- Deep Creek Lake largemouth bass spawning is usually finished in mid June.
- Rapid SAV growth does not usually begin until June.
- Benthic mats are reusable for multiple seasons.

### ***Lake Management Requirements for Benthic Mat Installation on Deep Creek Lake***

- As with any change, alteration or improvement to the lake or buffer strip by a permit holder, Benthic mat installation will require the issuance of a Special Permit.
- The Special Permit fee is \$70.00, to be paid when the permit is issued.
- The Special Permit will be valid for one season. A permit holder must reapply each year for permission to install Benthic mats.
- The installation period for Benthic mats is from June 15<sup>th</sup>–July 6<sup>th</sup>.
- All Benthic mats must be removed by September 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Benthic mats must cover less than 260 square feet per slip in a common or Commercial Dock facility and a maximum of 520 square feet of coverage for a Type A dock.
- Benthic mats must include a weighted frame to weight them to the lake bottom. Movement of the mat is to be avoided to prevent damage to boat props and jet engines or drift from the grass suppression site. They may not be filter cloth weighted down with bricks or other weight.
- Benthic mats must be secured by a rope to the dock. Tethering is to prevent drift.
- The Lake Management Office recommends that extra air release holes be cut into each mat (X) to prevent gaseous build-up under the mat which may cause the mat to lift and float.

If you have any questions regarding Benthic mats please call the Lake Management Office at 301-387-4111.

One known supplier of Benthic Mats in the Deep Creek Area is Tripco Property Management whose phone number is 301-387-7633. If you know of others, please let the POA and DNR know.

Your editor found this supplier of Benthic lake mats on the internet: <http://www.lakemat.com>

## **MARCELLUS SHALE**

Marcellus Shale is a topic that is on the forefront of every Garrett County taxpayer and property owner’s radar screen. Your Board of Directors has formed a task force that will be monitoring the public debate and the ever evolving technological information coming from all corners of the debate. The county website has information on Marcellus Shale in Garrett County. Follow this link to the county’s web page: <http://marcellusshale.garrettcounty.org>

We will keep you updated as things develop.



## **TRIVIA AND A LOOK BACK**

We thought you might enjoy this undated photo of Marsh Run Cove and McHenry. Notice how much has changed in the years between then and now. Two exceptions are Bowman’s Marina building (but not the number of slips), now Bill’s North, which is easily spotted, the post office, the motel now has two levels, but not much else. Was Walt’s General Store ever white and that small? Notice Skeeter Bowman’s airplane in the bottom center of the photo. If you know the date of this photo, please let us know.

## **SEDIMENTATION STUDY**

For those of you who do not receive our e-blasts or are unable to read *The Republican* or *Cumberland Times-News*, below is the news release we submitted to both newspapers on April 4, 2012.

The Property Owners’ Association of Deep Creek Lake (POA) joins with Garrett County Commissioners to make up a shortfall in funds for Phase II of the lake sediment study.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is planning next week to begin performing Phase II of the subject study. Phase I of the study was completed for selected coves during 2010-2011. Phase II will be a continuation of those studies

targeting the entire lake to evaluate sediment distribution, character and chemistry of the sediment, and to determine alternatives to control and cope with sedimentation. See more detail below on the scope of the work.

The cost estimate for Phase II is \$180,000 of which \$65,000 has been committed to by the DNR, leaving a \$115,000 shortfall for funding. Working with the County Commissioners, the POA has agreed to join with County government to make up that difference. At a special meeting of the Board of Directors called by President Troy Ellington on Saturday, March 31, there was a unanimous vote that the POA, as a stakeholder in the welfare of the lake, would contribute \$20,000. In the meantime, the County has committed to make up the difference of approximately \$95,000. By so doing, the study can begin immediately. The importance of starting Phase II immediately is to do much of the sampling prior to the sub-aquatic vegetation starting to grow as the lake water temperature begins to rise.

This effort is being funded in total by the DNR, the POA, and the County. It will be a scientific study giving a database to go forward into the future to study trends of sediment deposits and knowing how to deal with its management. Members of the POA and the County Commissioners have been providing input to the DNR that will greatly improve the validity of the study. The DNR has accepted much of that input and incorporated it into the scope of the work.

Sedimentation is a natural process whereby soil is deposited through erosion into a body of water. The existing bathymetry map (water depth) of the lake is inadequate for this study and, hence, a new map of the entire lake represents a major effort of this study.

The Phase II study has four objectives. One is to map the accumulated sediment in Deep Creek Lake. Second is to determine the physical and chemical properties of accumulated sediment. Third is to identify realistic, feasible, sustainable alternatives to address the removal and/or relocation of the sediment. Fourth is to identify the sources of the sediment inputs to the lake and develop strategies to minimize additional accumulations.

Results of the study will be released as they become available. A final report is due in approximately one year. The report will receive widespread dissemination to all stakeholders to allow for the maximum benefit of this investment.

The POA has conducted two workshops over the past two years involving all the stakeholders of the lake. Brainstorming sessions along with panel discussions have proven to bring awareness to areas of concern, sediment being one of those concerns about the long-term health of the lake. The relationships among all the stakeholders have greatly improved through those workshops. The POA wishes to express its appreciation and thanks for the excellent working relationship that has been established between its membership, the County, and State offices. As stakeholders, we all want to maintain the wonderful recreational experience that Deep Creek Lake offers.

Editor's note: You may have observed a strange looking boat with big and numerous antennae travelling around the lake mid to late April. It was taking scientific readings for the study.

## GLAF

Within seven days GLAF presented two top notch performances: The Duquesne Tamburitzans and Beatlemania Now, April 20 and April 27 respectively. The Tamburitzans, a perennial crowd pleaser for all ages, have performed on a GLAF program in the past and this year's performance was as another resounding success. For us baby boomers (almost) we remember the Beatles first US performance in 1963 on the Ed Sullivan Show and have been hooked ever since (except for when they got weird). Beatlemania now captured the Fab Five's history very well.

The remaining GLAF performances are: Clipper City Brass Quintet, May 18 at Garrett College; Cashore Marionettes, June 23 at Garrett College; Pittsburgh Symphony, July 13 at Wisp Resort; and Johnny Staats and the Delivery Boys (the world class mandolin player), August 11 at Garrett College.

We hope you can attend all of these performances. Bring your friends and neighbors; make an evening out of it with dinner at your favorite or soon to be favorite restaurant. And, one more thing, make a generous contribution to GLAF if you are able. These events are not cheap and the ticket price covers less than a third of the event cost. The POA and its board members have been regular contributors and encourage our membership to support the arts in Garrett County. GLAF, one of the organizations that make Garrett County what it is.

<http://www.artsandentertainment.org/>

## WHO IS WHO IN THE DEEP CREEK LAKE MANAGEMENT OFFICE

*By Carolyn Matthews*

Staff doesn't change very often in the Lake Management Office. We like what we do—as our primary job is talking with our neighbors about stewardship and helping people to make use of the buffer strip and waters of the lake for recreational enjoyment. The rangers and seasonal technicians in Lake Management are: **Ranger Connie Skipper** and **Ranger Justin Carrico** who both have over 10 years in the Maryland Park Service and over 5 years of experience in the Lake Management office. Connie has a broad educational background in conservation management with a special interest in birds and native plants. She tends our buffer strip demonstration site which can be visited just below the Discovery Center. Justin is a forester by education and training, and applies his skills and knowledge every day to our work on the park lands around the lake. **Eric Null** is the most recent addition to the staff. He has been at DCL for a year and as a Natural Resource Planner consults with MDE on the applications for shoreline management, reviews applications for work on the buffer strip and

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interfaces with the water quality sampling technicians from the DNR Resource Assessment Service.

We are fortunate to have returning seasonal employees for our natural resource technicians this summer. Some years we have new staff to train and it takes awhile to get them up to speed on the duties and responsibility of the position. The seasonal positions do a variety of tasks. **Richard Sines** is a retired Maryland Park Service Ranger who knows every inch of the lake and buffer strip and loves the work enough to return to help us out when the busy summer season is upon us. **Amanda Emert** and **Seth Metheny** both have wildlife and conservation management degrees. They review special permit applications and conduct buffer strip and conservation easement property inspections. **Max Anthony** is an undergrad in the Frostburg University recreation and parks program. He handles buoy work and hazards to navigation and is working on a special project related to the buy-down monuments—the missing or moved ones. These four often work side by side with the Rangers. **Misty Moon** is our smiling face at the front desk and the helpful person taking your telephone calls and receiving permit fees and applications.

The two faces behind these faces who handle all of the rest of the conundrums of the lake as well as other responsibilities are **Assistant Manager Mark Spurrier** and **Manager Carolyn Mathews**. As part of the public lands system managed by the Maryland Park Service, Deep Creek Lake Recreation Area is made up of three projects: Deep Creek Lake NRMA, Deep Creek Lake State Park and the Youghiogheny Scenic and Wild River Corridor. We're your neighbors as well as public servants working here to

secure a sustainable future for our environment, society, and economy by preserving, protecting, restoring, and enhancing the State's natural resources.

## TAX RATE AND SCHOOL CLOSINGS

The Board of County Commissioners at their public session of the week ending April 21 announced that they would keep the real property tax rate at \$0.99 per \$100 of assessment, which will result in \$2 million less revenue for the County, based on a reduction in assessments. Your tax rate would have gone to \$1.0331 per \$100 of assessed value had the commissioners voted to keep the county budget constant. Attrition and good old fashioned belt tightening will hopefully make the budget work for the upcoming fiscal year.

On April 24<sup>th</sup> the Board of Education, at a specially called meeting, voted 3 to 1 to close Dennett Road and Kitzmiller Elementary schools. Declining school enrollment and a \$2.5 million budget shortfall led to this difficult decision. Elementary school children affected by the closings will be relocated to Yough Glades, Broadford and Crellin Elementary schools.

*We look forward to seeing you all at the next membership meeting June 23<sup>rd</sup>, beginning at 8 a.m. with a social time at Garrett Eight Cinemas.*