



DEEP CREEK DISPATCH



Fall 2011

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

FALL 2011 DEEP CREEK DISPATCH

Greetings from the POA Board of Directors to each of our members. We trust that your summer and early fall Lake experiences have been positive for you and your family.

The Board, at its November meeting, will be developing plans to address areas of concern for the upcoming year and beyond. We have our sights on at least two areas: lake water quality and land use. The Lake as we all know is experiencing growing (ageing) pains and the POA has been very active in bringing together resources that will maintain and improve the quality of the Lake itself and its watershed and Garrett County as a whole. The following two articles, Lake Water Quality and Plan Maryland, will give you insight into our leadership in addressing lake water quality issues and land use management in the county. We will provide updates on our website and we encourage you to get involved and speak out on both topics.

Another topic the board will be addressing at its November meeting is an enhanced website. We will be working with a professional website developer, but we need your suggestions on what you would like the site to provide. We can't promise that all of your suggestions will be included, but we do want your input. Please email your ideas to sboyumj2@verizon.com by November 30, 2011.

WATER QUALITY OF DEEP CREEK LAKE/ DECEMBER 2, 2011 WORKSHOP

The Property Owners' of Deep Creek Lake, Inc. (POA) has been a steward of the lake since it was established in the 1940's. That was a time when outhouses and primitive septic



Water Quality Task Force members Bob Hoffman, Paul Durham, Ed King, Troy Ellington, Ed Neff, Piet Versteegen, and Nancy Railey at a recent planning meeting. Task Force member Jeff Nelson is absent from photo.

systems were the norm, when mine drainage from the Cherry Creek basin was an issue, and prior to the inception of zoning in the lake watershed. The POA has been active with issues protecting the lake water quality and the recreational experience of Deep Creek. Not only has the lake become a wonderful recreational facility for property owners, business owners, and the thousands of annual visitors, it is also the economic engine that drives Garrett County. Because of the lake's popularity and increased usage, environmental changes, regulations by a variety of government agencies, and funding of management, we must be ever cognizant of keeping the health of the lake viable for the present as well as the future.

Although Secretary John Griffin of the Department of Natural Resources says the general health of the lake is excellent, he also says there are issues that need to be monitored. To assist with on-going monitoring the POA has begun a series of workshops/symposiums to bring together all of the stakeholders of the lake to discuss its long-term health. The first one-day workshop was held December 3, 2010, with 39 attendees from the DNR, MDE, County Commissioners, several County and State departments, State Senator, our local Delegate, Friends of DCL, Chamber of Commerce and, of course, several members of the Board of the POA.

A committee comprised of POA Board members designed and formatted the workshops: namely Troy Ellington, Nancy Railey, Jeff Nelson, and Ed King. Ed Neff and Bob Hoffman have recently become members of our expanded committee.

Piet Versteegen was asked to head up the discussions because of his expertise in modeling studies of this scope. Paul Durham was asked to be a consultant to the committee with his in-depth knowledge of the DNR and State regulations.

The first workshop proved to be very interesting and informative in that it brought not only all stakeholders into one room but, surprisingly, pointed out that in many cases communication between different groups did not exist. Furthermore, there is no central repository of environmental information about Deep Creek Lake. Concerns were voiced during the first part of the meeting covering the POA's wish list, communications, lake water quality, submerged vegetation, lake bottom silt, lake water levels, boat noise, lake carrying capacity, and a brief discussion on how to find solutions. The workshop was a great eye-opening success. However, because of time constraints brought about by lengthy discussions, everyone felt future workshops were needed.

On Friday, December 2, 2011, the second one-day workshop is planned with approximately 80 invited guests. That symposium will include not only more people from stakeholder groups but will also include specialists in several areas. The format of the workshop will be panel discussions, including a monitor, and several panel members in each area of interest. The panels will be each about one-hour duration with questions from the monitor as well as attendees. The subjects to be discussed will be communications, economic impact,

submerged aquatic vegetation, sediment and shoreline erosion, and lake levels.

At the conclusion of the panel discussions there will be a summary session and planning for the next workshop. It is anticipated there will be another workshop in several months by invitation, followed by a general public presentation. One of the objectives of the POA in these workshops and studies is to use only factual data that has a scientific origin.

This article was prepared by POA Board Member Ed King with assistance from POA Member Piet Versteegen.

PLAN MARYLAND

"Plan Maryland" is a "smart growth" initiative being developed by the Maryland Department of Planning as directed by Governor Martin O'Malley. The plan is expected to be enacted by executive order this year and could have a large impact on state funding for infrastructure, and could also directly affect the County's autonomy in securing State permits and other approvals. The impact to Garrett County is expected to be very noticeable due to the strong emphasis by the plan on dense development within or adjacent to existing infrastructures such as water, sewer, roads and schools. Because development patterns are very dispersed throughout Garrett County and the lake watershed itself is oriented toward vacation and tourist facilities including many second homes which do not enjoy wide access to existing infrastructure, the County is likely to lose opportunities for available state funding. It is the consensus of the County Planning Commission that adoption of PlanMD should be delayed in order to fully understand the consequences of the Plan and to allow ample time for the review process of two critical elements that will not be completed until after the forecasted plan adoption date next month. These elements include: 1) preparation of the criteria that will be used to determine qualified growth areas (or designated places); and 2) the internal analysis of each State agency's programs and procedures to determine where adjustments will be necessary to bring their programs into compliance with the policies of PlanMD. These two elements are not scheduled to be completed until the spring of 2012, yet the revised draft of the plan has very close deadlines proposed in spite of major blanks to be filled in and poor or missing guidelines and definitions.

Plan Maryland is structured to meet the needs of urban and suburban counties and makes little allowance for low growth counties such as ours coupled with the rural and resort orientation. As a minimum, the plan should be delayed until the details are filled in and understood.

So what can you do about it? Send a letter to Governor O'Malley or Richard Hall, Secretary, Maryland Department of Planning.

Troy Ellington, President,
POA of Deep Creek Lake, Inc.

More information available at: <http://www.planning.maryland.gov>

TRIVIA

Can you identify this bridge? Answer in the next issue of the *Dispatch*.



AUGUST 2011 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

One of the major topics at the August membership meeting was a presentation by DNR's John Wilson, on the results to date of the State's ongoing scientific Water Quality Study. This is separate from the Water Quality Workshop headed by the POA, but a component of the same. Follow the link to his PowerPoint presentation. http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/pdfs/dcl_wqmonitoring_aug2011poa_slides.pdf

COMMUNITY AQUATIC AND RECREATION COMPLEX (CARC)

Have you had a chance to check out CARC? If not, do so your next time at the Lake. Coming from an old competitive swimmer, the pool is really top notch. And the exercise equipment is also state of the art. CARC is a wonderful amenity for property owners and visitors alike. Check out their website for more information: <http://www.gccarc.com>



WEB LINKS

POA website: <http://www.deepcreeklakepoa.com> Garrett County Chamber of Commerce: <http://www.visitdeepcreek.com>
Garrett County Government: <http://www.garrettcountry.org>

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