

DEEP CREEK DISPATCH

Winter, 1998

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

The President's Letter

Dear Reader,

Some, or perhaps many, of you received a letter from GPU in recent weeks. General Public Utilities (GPU) is the present owner of the lake bed, buffer strip, dam, and turbines for power generation, having acquired the lake when Pennsylvania Electric Company (PENNELEC) became part of GPU. The letter in summary said that GPU may be selling Deep Creek Lake, but that no decision had been made as of the mailing of the letter.

Your POA Board of Directors has been following this development since October 1997 when GPU announced to the press their plan to divest all of their non-nuclear generating capacity. We have been in discussion with the GPU representative assigned to lake matters, with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and with at least one private company that has a keen interest in acquiring the lake. We intend to do all that we can to stay informed and alert you to developments as they arise.

As de-regulation works through the utility industry, companies that have elected to divest of generating capacity have typically used the auction approach. Properties are put up for auction in a highly sophisticated process with the highest eligible bidder winning. That appears to be the plan of GPU as presented recently to the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission. That plan does include Deep Creek Lake.

What all this means is that since the lake was developed over 70 years ago, it will have a new owner going forward. Your POA is the most directly affected by any matter relative to the lake because we all have a direct investment here. New ownership may not necessarily benefit or harm individual property owners, but it surely will cause change. That is why it is so vital for us to be involved to

accomplish our mission, which is to preserve and enhance the lake area, and provide for stability especially in fees.

With our over 3700 directly interested land owners, it is critical that our membership rolls greatly exceed the 1062 members we had in 1997. Our voice will be heard only if we have your support. Thirty dollars a year is a modest price to pay.

Financially, we have no debt, and are in sound financial shape. But, the future is uncertain and we may need to retain specialists to help us in our mission.

So join today. Pay your dues. Only with a strong representation of members can we play a vital role in our lake's future.

Thank you!
Gerald A. Polansky, President

GPU

Many of you may not have received the January letter from Carl Brooks, Vice President of Public Affairs for GPU. Apparently, they obtained a mailing list from the DNR which basically includes class A dock slip holders. Those of you with access lots, or condominiums may be excluded. If you didn't get the letter you didn't miss much, but if you wish to be on their mailing list write Mr. Brooks at GPU, 2800 Pottsville Pike, P.O.Box 16001, Reading, PA 19640-0001

Notes from the POA Fall Board Meeting

It was reported that within the next 12 months a traffic light will be placed in the Route 219/Glendale area to relieve the severe congestion now occurring.

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Deep Creek Development Company has acquired all of Marsh Mountain not owned by Sandy Beach and Wisp. It is planning to construct an 18 hole golf course with club house at the Mountain summit, which has already been cleared of trees. Also planned is an Adventure Sports Center with biking, tennis, ice skating, cross country skiing, snow making, and other facilities. The biggest impact on lake property owners would be increased traffic, and “viewscape”, with the mountain to be lit up brightly.

The Office of County Commissioner

We are saddened to report the death of Commissioner Roger Glotfelty on Dec. 11, 1997. He was on the job until a few days before his death from leukemia. Roger brought integrity, honesty and openness to the Commissioners Office. He was a friend of Deep Creek Lake. He will be missed.

Governor Parris Glendening appointed Wayne R. Johnson as new Commissioner. Johnson was a teacher in the Garrett County School system from 1958 until 1970. He then served as elementary school principal until his retirement in 1984.

A New Business in Garrett County

Simon Pearce Inc. will move into the Bausch and Lomb facility. Simon Pearce is a Vermont based glass-making company. They plan to move by the middle of summer and expect to employ a minimum of 150 local workers by mid 1999. The company manufactures a variety of blown glass products including drinking glasses, plates, vases and other items.

Simon Pearce will also offer a tourism element. Currently the firm is the third largest tourist attraction in Vermont with about 250,000 visitors every year. Tours will be offered in Garrett County as they are in the Vermont plant.

Bears and More Bears

In response to increased complaints from farmers and landowners concerning crop and livestock damage, Delegate George Edwards and State Senator John Hafer have drafted a bill to implement a limited black bear hunting season in Garrett County. The local representatives plan

to meet with DNR Officials prior to introduction of the bill. In the past the DNR has claimed the bear population is not yet large enough to support a hunt.

The DNR recently released what is apparently the first in a series about the history of black bears in Maryland. Historically, black bears have been found throughout Maryland since colonial days. During the early colonial period, native forest lands provided an excellent habitat. But as the forests were cleared, the quality of habitat for bears began to decrease. Uncontrolled timber harvesting, wild-fire, and large scale land clearing for agriculture in the 19th and early 20th centuries resulted in shrinking bear habitat. This loss coupled with indiscriminate hunting and minimal protection through conservation laws resulted in reduction of the black bear population. By 1850 bears could only be found in the remote mountains of western Maryland.

In 1949 bear hunting was prohibited in Maryland, although it was classified as a forest game animal. Bear hunting remained prohibited until 1953, when a one week season with a limit of one bear was established. Since then black bear hunting has been prohibited in Maryland.

Estimates of Maryland black bear population were 150 in 1937, 25 in 1946, and only 12 by 1956. The black bear was listed as state endangered in 1972. Since the early 1980's black bears have become more numerous in western Maryland. Habitat conditions improved and bear management schemes in Pennsylvania and West Virginia were altered to foster increased bear populations. In 1980 the bear was taken off the state endangered species list and reclassified as a nongame species of special concern. In 1985 the legal status was again changed to forest game species. This was done so that at some future date a hunting season could be implemented. However, hunting of black bears in Maryland is still prohibited.

In the Spring issue of The Dispatch we will address the management procedures that lead to more bears.

Sailing

For those of you interested in sailing, sailboat races are conducted every weekend between Memorial Day and Labor Day at the southern end of Deep Creek Lake. For more information call 301-387-7890. For those new to

sailing, the Deep Creek Sailing School (301-387-4497) offers lessons. The Deep Creek Yacht Club, at Deerhaven on Thousand Acres, will have an open house for potential members to this family oriented sailing club. For information call Marie at 301-687-2467 or check the web site at <http://ab.edu/~schubert/dcyc>.

The Arts

Music and craft programs will continue at the Spruce Forest Artisan Village and the Great Hall at Penn Alps, Grantsville again during the summer of 1998. The village will hold its 21st annual Summerfest and Quilt show Thursday July 9 through Saturday July 11. The hours are 10 am to 5 pm. This event features outstanding works of art, crafts, strolling musicians, and light refreshments. The setting of old log cabins amid giant spruce trees is delightful.

Music programs begin Saturday May 23 and continue every Saturday evening (except July 4) at 7:30 pm through August 15. Classical guitar, piano, cello/violin duo, horn trio, and a Dixieland jazz band are some of the features. A complete schedule will be in the spring Dispatch.

The GLAF season will begin with a performance by the University of Maryland Symphony Wind Ensemble on April 26. Other events include a production of "1776" by the Garrett County Choral Society, a performance by the Duquesne University Tambouritzans, and the Classical Music Ensemble and Symphony at Deep Creek Lake. A complete schedule will be in the spring Dispatch.

The Garrett Lakes Arts Festival (GLAF) is offering advance tickets for all 1998 performances at a 10% discount. Discount tickets must be ordered by mail or phone (301-387-3082) at least two weeks prior to each performance. Their address is: GLAF Box Office, P.O. Box 151, McHenry, MD 21541.

For those of you who miss The Blue Barn summer theater, we recommend the Cumberland Theater, only 45 miles away via I 68 in Cumberland MD. They don't have the bats that added character at the Blue Barn, although they have presented Dracula. They are a mostly equity company. The box office number is 301-759-4991.

Deep Creek is now on the internet. Check out the Deep Creek Times at www.deepcreektimes.com

Trails

Garrett County's first complete hiking and biking trail guide is now available. The guide may be obtained at The Deep Creek Lake State Park for \$.50. Call 301-387-5563. Another very good hiking guide is available from the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce at 301-334-1948.

Personal Watercraft

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has provided more information about PWCs. They make up 6% of the 340,000 boats registered in Pennsylvania. Yet last year 27% of all reported boating accidents involved at least one PWC, and 43% of all collisions between boats involved at least one PWC. Pennsylvania may soon join a growing list of states requiring a Boating Safety Certificate. In Maryland such a certificate is required for all those born after July 1, 1972. Carol Doctor of the Aquatic Center would like us to point out that not all three-seater PWC's are over 500 lbs.

Impact of Tourism

The Maryland Department of Business & Economic Development published a study last year on the economic impact of tourism on Garrett County. They reported "direct" economic impact in 1995 as \$95.3 million in gross sales, 1,923 jobs, and \$30.54 million in employee income (average \$15,881). The "total" impact was estimated at \$182.3 million in gross sales, 2,823 jobs, and \$51.51 million in employee income (average \$18, 246). This translates to 20% of all jobs in Garrett County. The study did not appear to consider the effect of lake properties on the County's tax base. Remember 46% of property taxes in Garrett County come from Tax District 18 (the lake). Allowing for income from State and Federal sources, our taxes provide about 25% of the income of county government.

Membership

POA membership for last year was 1062. The more members we have, the stronger our voice. Deep Creek Lake will most likely be sold. The POA may be the only organization that will represent your interests. Help us to help you. Please join today. Complete the included membership form and mail with your check for \$30.

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