



# DEEP CREEK DISPATCH

Fall 2013

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

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Folks,

This is my first message as president of our Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake, Inc. I am the "new guy on the block" to have this honor. To say I have rather large shoes to fill based upon the cast of characters that have preceded me in this role would be a gross understatement. I have only held the title for about three months but am learning fast and have a great board with which I have the privilege of serving.

Let me say a few words about your Board of Directors to give you a feel for those that are representing you day to day. We have 18 voting board members and five additional eligible Emeritus Board Members who are permitted to serve indefinitely due to the fact they previously served as President of the POA but they do not have the right to vote. Believe me when I tell you the value they bring to our board and the discussions we have is truly amazing. Their corporate knowledge and dedication to the POA is immeasurable. The backgrounds of all our board members are a real mix but all are professionals of one type or another. The backgrounds of the three board members that joined the board in August of this year are representative of the entire board. One is a manager of a marina on DCL, another is a former Treasurer of the State of Pennsylvania, and the third was the CEO of a hospital. The more diverse the greater the variety of perspectives on any one issue and the stronger the board is for it. And while the board agrees on most issues that is not always the case as the members are independent thinkers who understand the need to speak their mind. I am not a stranger to running large organizations and believe me I wouldn't want folks who sat around and just nodded agreement with everything someone else said. I encourage vigorous discussion that is always done in the spirit of treating one another with dignity and respect.

Two of our board members have recently been appointed to serve on county committees. John Quilty has been appointed to the Garrett County Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Advisory Committee and will serve as its Chairman. Additionally, Bob Sutton, has been asked to serve on the Mountain Maryland Energy Advisory Committee which will meet over the next 18 months and provide a variety of recommendations to the County Commissioners. One of the best ways to represent you is to be active in the community in which we live so that the positions of the property owners can be heard.

Our membership now exceeds 1250 and we have found a corresponding increase in the administrative details that need to be handled to insure a smooth and efficient running organization. To assist with this increase in workload, we have contracted with Coldwell Banker Deep Creek Realty which has a robust Property Management Staff that is very qualified to perform a variety of administrative tasks for your board such as processing the dues

that come in during the early part of each year, keeping the content fresh on our new and improved website, and keeping our mailing lists up to date so each of you will receive our publications on time, to name a few. Board members will now be able to spend more time on those issues that need our attention due to the impact on property owners.

Lastly, let me say that we are committed to continue to keep you apprised as to what is happening here in the local community that impacts you as property owners who are not here full time. Our own statistics show that approximately 85% of you do not live here full time. There are some things you can do to keep up with DCL activities such as signing up on the county website for email updates on your favorite topics. However, there is so much more of importance to you about the DCL community that we try to communicate to you via eBlasts or the *Dispatch*. We always attempt to send only those items that are of value to you.

Thanks very much for your continued membership and support.

*Best Regards, Bob Hoffmann*



Troy Ellington (right), immediate past president, receives a token of appreciation for his leadership and dedication to the POA as board member and president during 2011-2013 timeframe from current president Bob Hoffmann. Troy remains on the board and serves as Editor of the *Dispatch*, the POA newsletter.

# COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

The POA of Deep Creek Lake (DCL), Inc. is well represented on a Steering Committee, established by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Garrett County Commissioners, which is tasked to develop a comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the DCL Watershed. Your president, Bob Hoffmann, is a member of the committee and Morgan France, a POA Board Member is serving on the “Lake Levels” sub-committee. I am also serving on three of the sub-committees. Bob, Morgan, and Troy Ellington, immediate past president, were involved in supporting the establishment of this committee by working with the County Commissioners and staff as well as providing them with copious amounts of suggestions and background material on watershed management. They also shared this information with

David Myerberg, a POA member and current Chairman of the Policy and Review Board (PRB) who, in turn, urged the DNR to work with the Commissioners in establishing this planning effort. Dr. Myerberg chairs the Steering Committee. Pete Versteegen, a POA member, is vice chair and was key in directing workshops for the POA to establish information interchange and communications dialog with all parties involved which was essential to this effort. An approach to a comprehensive plan is long overdue and has the potential to bring competing interests together to arrive at compromises and management techniques that will serve Garrett County and Deep Creek Lake well.

*Paul Weiler*

## NOTES FROM THE POLICY & REVIEW BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 28TH, 2013

Commissioner Bob Gatto mentioned that the county continues to work with the State Highway Authority with regard to reducing the amount of salt that is used on state roads in the winter months in the county due to lake impact. Additionally, Commissioner Gatto relayed that the November 19th Commissioners’ Public Meeting will address the Text Amendment or “mini-marina” issue although it will not be voted on at that time. Gatto also advised that \$500,000 is now available to upgrade communications at the Emergency Operations Center to prepare for disasters that occur in Garrett County—\$350,000 came from Federal and State sources and \$150,000 was provided by the county.

David Myerberg, Chairman of the PRB, had sent to all board members a response he received from Paul Peditto of DNR regarding the development of a plan to control the local goose population. The response was quite thorough and discussed several methods that, when taken together and with the property owners cooperation and participation, should be effective over time. Currently, DNR is developing information that will be included in a brochure that will be used to inform and educate the public as to what can be done and their possible support of the program. Once

this brochure is available, it will be made available to the POA membership.

During the timeframe of May through September every year, the Public Health Department routinely samples water from the lake taken from the same 21 sites to determine water quality. The department has agreed to add some sampling sites where geese congregate during certain times of the year such as molting.

Bruce Michael, Director of the Resource Assessment Service, briefed the board on the updated information regarding Hydrilla found in DCL. This information was incorporated in an eBlast which was distributed on October 30th.

The Budget Subcommittee for the PRB has been reconstituted and will meet soon to review the budget of the DNR Lake Management Office.

The DNR sponsored Water Quality Working Group which has been meeting for the past 5 years will no longer meet. No reason was supplied so an effort will be made to determine why.

The next PRB meeting will be on January 27, 2014.

*Bob Hoffmann*

## MARCELLUS SHALE UPDATE

The purpose here is both to update members on selected local developments and to identify ongoing activities of the Governor’s “Safe Drilling Initiative” (SDI), noting opportunities for public participation and input.

First, a local committee to advise the County Commissioners has been reactivated. The new committee—the Garrett County Shale Gas Advisory Committee (GC SGAC)—consists of 11 members appointed by the Commissioners, intended to represent the full range of citizen interest. The SGAC will meet monthly (first Tuesday, 4-6 PM, Garrett County Health building). Public participation is strongly encouraged. John Quilty, also your POA committee chairperson, has been appointed chairman.

Jim Raley, speaking for the County Commissioners at a 5 November kick-off meeting, charged the committee to provide advice across a broad range of potential issues with an initial focus on emergency preparedness; workforce development; and potential legislative, regulatory, and/or policy initiatives. The 3 December meeting will focus on legislative topics as needing timely attention. The committee will also be expected to review SDI and any other state-wide reports/analyses as they become available.

Turning briefly to the state’s SDI efforts, the so-called “best practices” report is undergoing MDE/DNR review and revision in response to some 4,000 public comments, including those submitted in September by your POA committee. Other ongoing activities include (1) the Towson University study of “community and economic impacts”, (2) the UMD study of public health implications and considerations, (3) a DNR review of protecting natural and recreational resources (including local as well as state resources, with Broadford Lake Park as an example), and (4) a broadly-scoped analysis of risks, including those remaining once the recommended “best practices” have been adopted. Meetings of the Governor’s Advisory Commission and the supporting study efforts provide an opportunity for public participation.

Information on the newly-formed County SGAC, including meeting minutes and materials, will be found at <http://marcellusshale.garrettcountry.org/>. Information on the SDI can be found <http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/land/mining/>

Please contact John Quilty at [jquilty@mitre.org](mailto:jquilty@mitre.org) with any questions or comments.

*John Quilty*

## DID YOU KNOW?

It is of no surprise to any of us that live or vacation at our beloved Deep Creek that the word has been out for many years that Deep Creek Lake is no longer “Maryland’s Best Kept Secret”. However, there is an area of Garrett County that many residents and visitors know very little about. This area just may be the best kept secret in Garrett County. And that area is the North Branch of the Potomac River. With its headwaters marked by the Fairfax Stone ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fairfax\\_Stone\\_Historical\\_Monument\\_State\\_Park](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fairfax_Stone_Historical_Monument_State_Park)), originally placed there in 1746 to settle a boundary dispute between Thomas Fairfax, 6th Lord Fairfax of Cameron and the English Privy Council concerning the Northern Neck of Virginia, the Potomac River runs 305 miles to its mouth at Point Lookout, Maryland.

The North Branch is rich in history, abounding in natural beauty and is a fisherman’s paradise. Lumber, coal and railroads played the significant role in the industrial and economic development of the river that is the southern border of Garrett County and the northern border of these neighboring West Virginia Counties ; Preston, Grant, Tucker and Mineral. Beginning in the early 1880’s, along the section of the river between Kempton (near the Fairfax Stone) and Kitzmiller, there were 16 or more towns that were formed to support the many mining and logging operations started by entrepreneurs and industrialists. By the 1920’s the massive clear cut of virgin timber was all but gone and coal mining operations were mostly played out. In 1950 there were 1,500 mining jobs, soon after there were 115. It was the typical boom or bust scenario that is so familiar. The towns of Gorman, and its twin, Gormania, West Virginia, and Kitzmiller still exist. But other towns are all but gone, mere ghost towns, if that. These towns had post offices, schools, churches and of course, the company store. Some former town names are Dobbins, Henry, Wilson, Steyer, Gleason, Wallman, Laurel, Harrison and Shalmar. Today some of these names may be familiar, but most are not. The remaining communities, or maybe more appropriately neighborhoods, can be seen on detailed Garrett County maps.

For those of you with an interest in learning more about the early history of coal and lumber towns along the North Potomac you will want to do some research. The Garrett County Historic Society Museum has published a book, “Ghost Towns of the Upper Potomac - Mining and logging towns that once were located along the north branch of the Potomac River”. This publication will give you all of the detail about these towns and their industry that you’d ever want to know. The Societies’s web site is: <http://www.garrettcountrymuseums.com/historicalmuseum.html>

In the forty three years that my family has been vacationing or living at Deep Creek we have only been to the North Branch of the Potomac six (6) times. Only six times to take in the natural beauty of the river. I don’t know why only six visits because with each visit we are blown away by the river’s awesome grandeur. The last time our middle child was here with her family we took them down Lost Land Run, past the old fish rearing ponds, to the beautiful North Branch. The grand children really enjoyed climbing, running and jumping on the huge boulders, both in water and along the shore. We were all alone, seven of us, with only the sound of the rushing water and the warmth of an August sunshine. No one else was there, no one. It was beautiful. So beautiful in fact, that my son-in-law forgave me for having him drive his new van over the rocky, uneven goat trail that took us to the river. Well, I think he did forgive me.

A few years ago a group of fellows hiked from Gorman downstream eight miles and recorded their journey with photos that

are posted on a blog. Click here for their photos.

<http://www.abramscreek.com/galleries/gormanian-rail-hike/index.html>

One more thing about the river worth noting is the fantastic fishing. My neighbor can attest to that with the trophy brown trout he caught a few years ago. The fish was returned safely to the water. However, my neighbor did not fare so well. In the process of landing the monster fish he managed to run the hook completely through his finger and mangled it quite severely. With a few stitches he was back to normal in a few weeks and has quite a story to tell.

Follow this link to a DNR site to find out more about fishing in the river.

<http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/recreational/fwhotnbrpotomac.html>

I hope that you will take some time to explore a true treasure of Garrett County, the North Branch of the Potomac. Get a good map and explore. The link below shows access points and bridges.

[http://www.riverexplorer.com/north\\_branch\\_map.php4](http://www.riverexplorer.com/north_branch_map.php4)

*Scott Johnson*

## MARYLAND’S NEW LAWN FERTILIZER LAW

**Annapolis, MD—Maryland’s new lawn fertilizer law took effect October 1 and includes new requirements for fertilizer manufacturers and homeowners.**

Additionally, the law requires lawn care professionals to become licensed and certified by MDA to apply fertilizer to the properties they manage. Beginning October 1, MDA will maintain a list lawn of care professionals who have received this certification at its website, [www.mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer](http://www.mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer).

The law also requires homeowners to follow mandatory restrictions similar to those imposed for lawn care professionals:

- University of Maryland fertilizer recommendations are to be followed when applying nitrogen and phosphorus to lawns. (Seasonal and yearly fertilizer recommendations are available at [www.extension.umd.edu/hgic](http://www.extension.umd.edu/hgic).)
- Fertilizer that lands on sidewalks or driveways must be swept back onto the grass or cleaned up.
- Lawn fertilizer applications must be kept 10 to 15 feet from waterways.
- Fertilizer may not be used to de-ice walkways and driveways.
- Lawn fertilizer applications are banned between November 15 and March 1 and when heavy rain is predicted.
- Phosphorus may only be applied to lawns if soil test results indicate it is needed or when establishing, patching or renovating a lawn.

For more information, visit [www.mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer](http://www.mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer).

*Troy Ellington*

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## LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE GARRETT COUNTY UNITED WAY IN THE WINTER DISPATCH

The POA board has once again recommended support for the United Way which provides help every hour of the day for emergency needs and critical programs. In past years members of the POA have provided more funds as a group than any other group in the county. Your contributions have helped thousands of adults and children. This is an effective way to support the community

as 99% of every dollar is used to help people in Garrett County. This efficiency is a result of the many hours of effort contributed by local individuals. More specific results will be given in the winter *Dispatch* when pledge cards and return envelopes are included in the mailing.

*Tom Myers*