



# DEEP CREEK DISPATCH

Fall 2014

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

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Well our season of boating and swimming at Deep Creek Lake for the year 2014 is just about over. Despite the fact it was a bit cool and wet this year, it was still beautiful and lots of folks enjoyed visiting the area where those who are lucky enough to call it home are here full time.

As the summer season came to a close, your board has closed out some projects as well. Although DNR has done all the "heavy lifting" with regards to the Hydrilla Control Project, your board did its best to insure you were kept apprised on a timely basis of the progress DNR made in attempting to control this noxious, invasive plant. Bruce Michael, Director of the Resource Assessment Service, was kind enough to author a summary article for this issue of *The Dispatch* which explains how well the work went this year and the fact Hydrilla will need to be treated again next year.

Susie Crawford and Kathy Gemberling pulled together a very comprehensive list of the various services the POA has provided to the community over the past years as well as information about your board and a bit about the background of its members. The piece is not about being boastful, rather it is an attempt to answer the question, "What is the POA and what is the benefit of being a member?" At one point during this past summer, I received an email from a member who wondered if we could create a document that answered that question and could be shared with those who inquired about the POA. We hope this document included in this edition will be shared with those asking about membership by any member who wishes to bring new folks into the POA. At \$30 per year, it remains one of the best deals around the lake.

Some of your fellow POA members were part of a year-long effort to create a Watershed Management Plan (WMP) working with County and DNR representatives. That document was completed last month and was formally presented to the Garrett County Commissioners on October 7th by David Myerberg, a POA member and Chairman of the Steering Committee for the development of the WMP. While the document does not have everything that everyone wanted, it is a good first step or "foundational" as we move forward to address the variety of issues that involve the health of the lake and its watershed. I believe one of the best results of this effort was the development of new and productive relationships between and among state and county government representatives as well as local citizens. I believe things get done in this world through relationships and I am optimistic the implementation of the WMP will be successful as we move into the implementation

phase. Many thanks to all those who participated in and supported the development of the plan!

Lastly, after much discussion and review of available information, your board delivered a POA position, with supporting rationale, to the County Commissioners and Staff on October 9th concerning Marcellus Shale Gas Drilling in the watershed. We are mindful of the benefits that could accrue to Garrett County and its residents many of which are economic. At the same time, we are also mindful of the risks that could be posed to the water quality of Deep Creek Lake as well as various groundwater sources that provide drinking water to the citizenry. Our position has tried to seek a responsible balance between these two sets of factors while insuring the interests of our membership are kept at the forefront. Many thanks to board member John Quilty who has supported both the POA and Garrett County as the myriad of issues on this topic are addressed.

Despite the fact we are winding down after a busy summer, we have one more board meeting for this calendar year scheduled for October 25th with plenty of matters to discuss. Additionally, the final Policy and Review Board meeting for 2014 is scheduled for October 27th and should be interesting. We will insure any important details are shared with our membership.

I want to sincerely thank you all for your support of the POA and our board as we continue to support your interests. We have a couple of new faces added to the board since the August election who will be attending their first full board meeting of their tenure. I know they are anxious to dig right in and get busy. I assure you that I will do my best to make that happen.

*Cheers, Bob Hoffmann*



# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## SEDIMENT STUDY NOTES

The study reviewed the environmental, recreational, and economic impacts of removing sediment through various dredging processes. Alternatives for 1) Hydraulic Dredging, 2) Mechanical (wet) Dredging, and 3) Mechanical (dry) dredging were reviewed. The study examined two sites under these alternatives for disposal of the sediment. The report reviewed the no dredge/implement sediment reduction measures alternative. The past studies and reports, historic aerials, land uses, soils, and geology were all reviewed prior to analyzing the alternatives.

The study determined that sediment impacts less than one percent of the lake area reducing recreational boat access. DNR is legally bound by COMAR to manage Deep Creek Lake in a manner that balances natural resource protection and recreational use.

The total volume of sediment measured by the study reports accumulated sediment thicknesses from Lake Construction to 2012 varied from 0 feet to 2.7 feet, with an average of 0.5 feet.

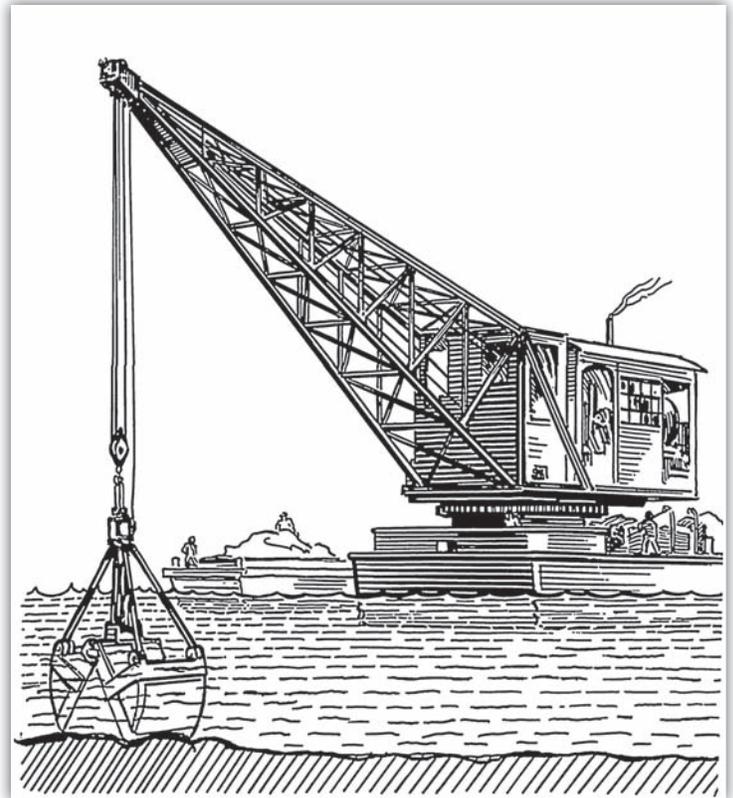
One important aspect is that in the shallow coves the impacts are relatively more disruptive because of the relative changes and the final results. For example:

- 38% (3 feet in 8 feet) in Chadderton Schoolhouse;
- 33% (3 feet in 9 feet depth) in Arrowhead Cove;
- 28% (2.5 feet in 9 feet) in Poland Run;
- 15% (1.5 feet in 10 feet) in Penn Cove;
- All other sites demonstrate less than a 5% loss of water depth. Assuming that the same percentages exist across the cove, the impacts to dock access are significant.

The relatively shallower water in the cove has encouraged higher water temperatures and more sunlight to reach the submerged aquatic vegetation. The sediments have afforded a better growing bed as well. The sediment has increased the bottom area shallow enough to receive enough sunlight to support growth. The sediment has increased the shallow bottom area such that it receives enough sunlight to support vegetative growth. However, these same areas have demonstrated an increased ecological value of the lake, particularly increased fish populations. Some of the increased value to the fisheries is due to the abundance of submerged aquatic vegetation. The submerged aquatic vegetation affords shelter, protected spawning and food.

Keeping the water levels high reduces water temperature and reduces aquatic vegetation. It also affords the adjoining property owners better access to the lake.

The coves all have similar topography, soils, and land cover. There appears to be little correlation between the size of the watershed and the amount of sedimentation in the coves. The land use may be the determining factor. The coves with the larger sediment volumes all have a history of agricultural activities. Perhaps development has actually played a minor role in the problem.



The responsibility for managing the erosion-sediment problems from stream deposition and shoreline erosion belongs to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). They need to streamline the permitting process for private shoreline protection. Perhaps MDE, DNR and Natural Resources Conservation Service could develop a series of standard practices approved by MDE similar to other standards in place to simplify the permit application process. Another part of the solution is to monitor the influent streams for sediment load and recommend practices to control it.

The report rejects dredging because of the cost and environmental impacts of dredging. Perhaps Maryland could consider other approaches beyond wholesale dredging. The POA website is a good source for reviewing the background information about the sediment study.

The custodians of Deep Creek Lake don't have to do something, especially something that is ill advised. Invasive species is an old problem, and a natural process. So is sedimentation. Those in the shallow coves campaigned for a longer season of deeper water. One of the unintended consequences is increased shoreline erosion. Wave action deposited a band of sediment around the lake generally twenty feet or so out from the high water mark. Most of that material came from eroded shorelines. Most of the sediment in the ends of the coves is from the inflow streams.

The Policy and Review Board plans to review the Deep Creek Lake Sediment Study dated December 2013.

*Morgan France*

## MARCELLUS SHALE UPDATE

**POA Position**—As communicated in an 11 October eBlast, your POA Board has voted to oppose shale gas recovery operations within the boundaries of the Deep Creek Watershed. The Board’s position would preclude vertical drilling and associated infrastructure. Both a letter stating this position and a supporting position paper were sent to the County Commissioners on 9 October and are now posted on the POA’s website—<http://deepcreeklakepoa.com/news>. Concerns expressed included “industrialization” impacts (e.g., traffic and noise), potential groundwater contamination, and projected declines in property values. Additionally, indicative projections of the prohibition’s economic impacts on the broader County were outlined: severance tax “upsides” vs. property value “downsides”.

**Other Recent Local Developments**—The Garrett County Shale Gas Advisory Committee (SGAC) hosted a 25 September public session on results of the state-sponsored study of public health impacts. The study—conducted by the Maryland Institute of Environmental Health (MIAEH), School of Public Health, UMD—addressing topics ranging from air pollution near drilling sites, through potential noise-induced stress, to possible sand/silica effects on gas workers. The session agenda included a study presentation by senior study leaders, remarks from local health officials, a presentation from health-dedicated non-profits/non-government organizations, and a public comment period.

Further, four SGAC reports were delivered to the County Commissioners and staff: a recording of the dialogue during the public health session noted above, a paper identifying risk/im-

pact areas viewed as candidates for local regulatory action, a list of potential local benefits from drilling, and a point paper on transportation-related issues (including bonding to cover road damage).

The SGAC’s current charter will expire at the end of November; the newly-elected County Board of Commissioners will decide upon possible extension and/or modification of the tasking or membership.

**State-Level Developments**—Two important studies commissioned as part of the Governor-tasks “Safe Drilling Initiative” were briefed to the Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission (MSAC) and released for public comment. These were the public health studies identified above and a broad-based, structured assessment of the remaining risks if the state-proposed Best Management Practices (BMP’s) were adopted. Note that risks associated with “industrialization” were generally ranked as significant, supporting the rationale summarized above for the recently-communicated POA position.

MDE and DNR are currently working on an SDI final report to be delivered to the Governor and his staff this fall (originally targeted for August). The decision to lift (or not) the current administratively-imposed moratorium on drilling/“fracking” will clearly be in the hands of the next Governor and state administration.

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

*John Quilty*



# DOG PARK COMING TO GARRETT COUNTY

In a cooperative project with Miranda Gallagher's Gifted & Talented class at Southern Middle School and HART for Animals, the Deep Creek Lake Lion's Club is currently developing a 40,000 square foot off-leash dog park at its community park on Bumble Bee Road. The dog park will include a double-door entry system; waste disposal receptacles; separate fenced areas for small and large dogs; benches; agility equipment; an extended on-leash walking trail system; and running water for watering and washing pets. The dog park will be open to all, with a voluntary donation system.

The first phase of the project—installation of the fencing system, waste disposal system and signage—has been approved for Program Open Space (POS) funding through the County and groundbreaking will occur when the funds have been received from the State of Maryland. POS is funded from a percentage of the Maryland State Real Estate transfer tax and provides financial and technical assistance for the planning, acquisition, and/or development of recreation land or open space areas.

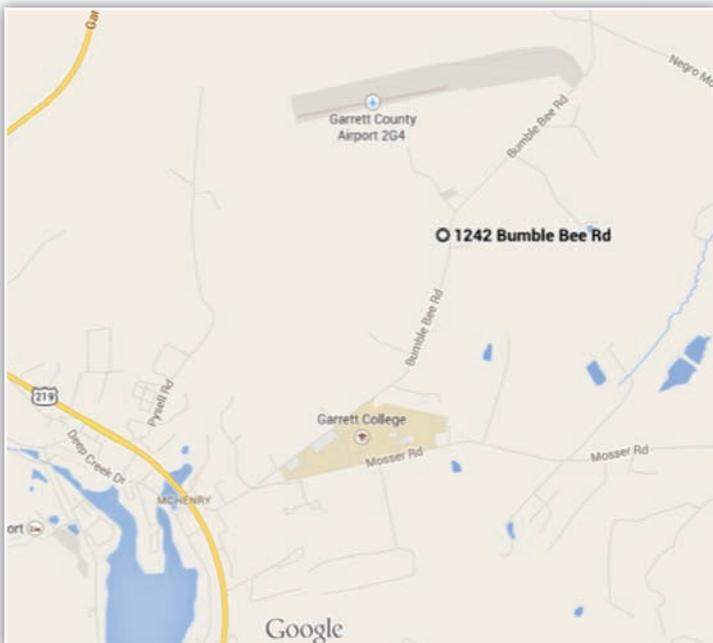
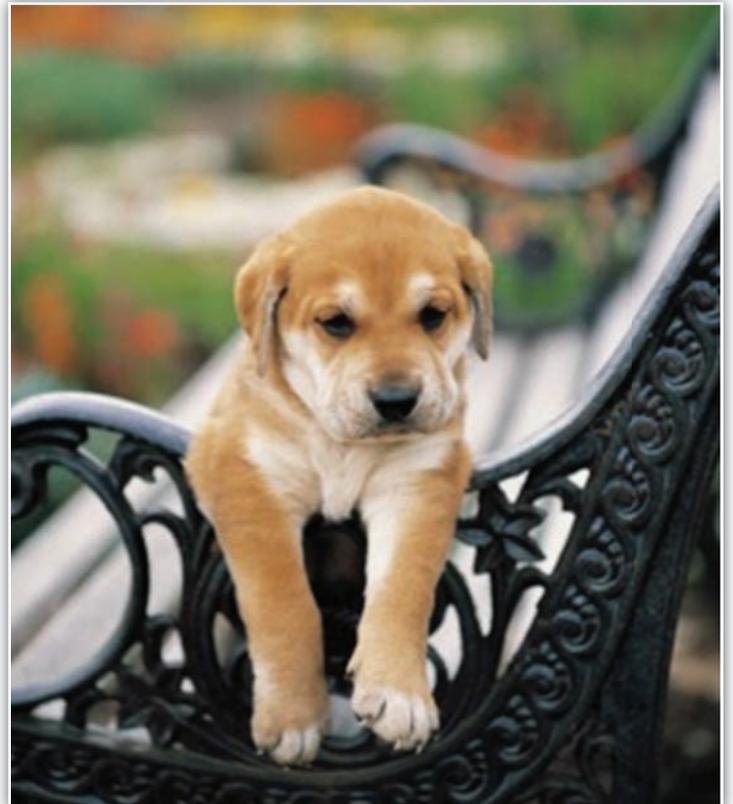
Momentum for the project was started in Miranda Gallagher's G&T class at Southern Middle School when they performed a county-wide survey on the interest in an off-leash dog park in Garrett County in January 2014. Seventy-four percent of the respondents to the survey expressed a strong desire for a dog park, with a large majority indicating they would visit the park on a daily, weekly or bi-weekly basis. The Deep Creek Lake Lion's Club, which manages the county-owned community park on Bumble Bee Rd, had been looking for ways to attract more visitors to this under-utilized recreational facility. The Bumble Bee Road park has a baseball field, playground equipment, picnic pavilion and restrooms with running water. The use of the park is free, with a nominal donation requested to reserve the pavilion, but is not frequently used by residents or visitors. The Club agreed that the central location of the park in the county, the availability of space and the proximity to HART's Animal Center, literally next door, made their park the perfect site for a dog park. A team was formed from representatives of the

Lion's Club, HART and Ms. Gallagher and her class to plan, raise funds for and build the park.

Fund-raising efforts to date have included dog-washes held throughout the county, solicitations from local businesses for naming opportunities and the first annual "Bark in the Park 5k" on Sept. 27 at the site of the future dog park. Although POS funding will enable the construction of the initial fencing central to the park, further support will be required to complete the project.

To find out more about the park, volunteer, to donate funds or materials, please visit <http://www.deepcreeklions.org/Dog-Park.html>.

*Chris Nichols*





## POA SERVICE AND VALUE

The Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake, Inc. (POA) serves as a widely respected advocate for nearly 2,000 property owners of the Deep Creek Lake area to promote, preserve and protect the quality of life, environment, recreational opportunities, and historic sites and areas on the lake and in its watershed. Serving

as the voice of its membership, many of whom are part-time or seasonal residents, the POA represents members' interests through a long history of constructive engagement with county, state and federal officials as well as with various community organizations. The POA also recognizes its responsibility to be a good citizen within the greater Garrett County community and has provided support and funds for community initiatives.

The POA traces its roots back to 1938 and today is a transparent and democratic not-for-profit corporation that holds membership meetings twice a year that are open to the general public, as well as Board meetings four times a year that are open to the POA membership. Members are not only property owners in the lake area but also individuals who have a commitment to the mission of the POA.

Board members are a diverse group of volunteers who bring a wide variety of professional and personal experiences that benefit the POA, including service in local and state-wide elected positions, healthcare administration, the military, state and federal civilian agencies, corporate professions, local businesses, education and education administration, state and federal judiciaries, law, real estate, engineering and land surveying, the arts, and leadership positions in associations and other service organizations. Board members play an active role in the greater Garrett County community by serving on County government committees such as the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Mountain Maryland Energy Consortium, Garrett County Emergency Service Board, and Shale Gas Advisory Committee, as well as on local charitable and other organizations such as Garrett County United Way, Garrett Mentors, Garrett College Foundation, Garrett Lakes Arts Festival, Dove Center, It's In the Bag, Christian Crossing, Deep Creek Lions Club, Rotary Club, Sky Valley and Thousand Acres Associations, Chamber of Commerce, Historical Society Museum Committee, Therapy Dogs International and WISP Mountain Host Ski Patrol.

The POA Board is committed to responsible and constructive representation of its membership in the full host of issues affecting the Deep Creek Watershed and Garrett County. One of its most important functions is to maintain timely and accurate communication with the membership on issues of importance for the quality of life and the environment in the Watershed and the County. POA communications take the form of timely email "eBlasts," a quarterly newsletter called *The Dispatch*, and postings on the POA website. The goal of these communications is to inform, educate and respond to concerns of the POA membership on topics and issues pertinent to the POA Mission.

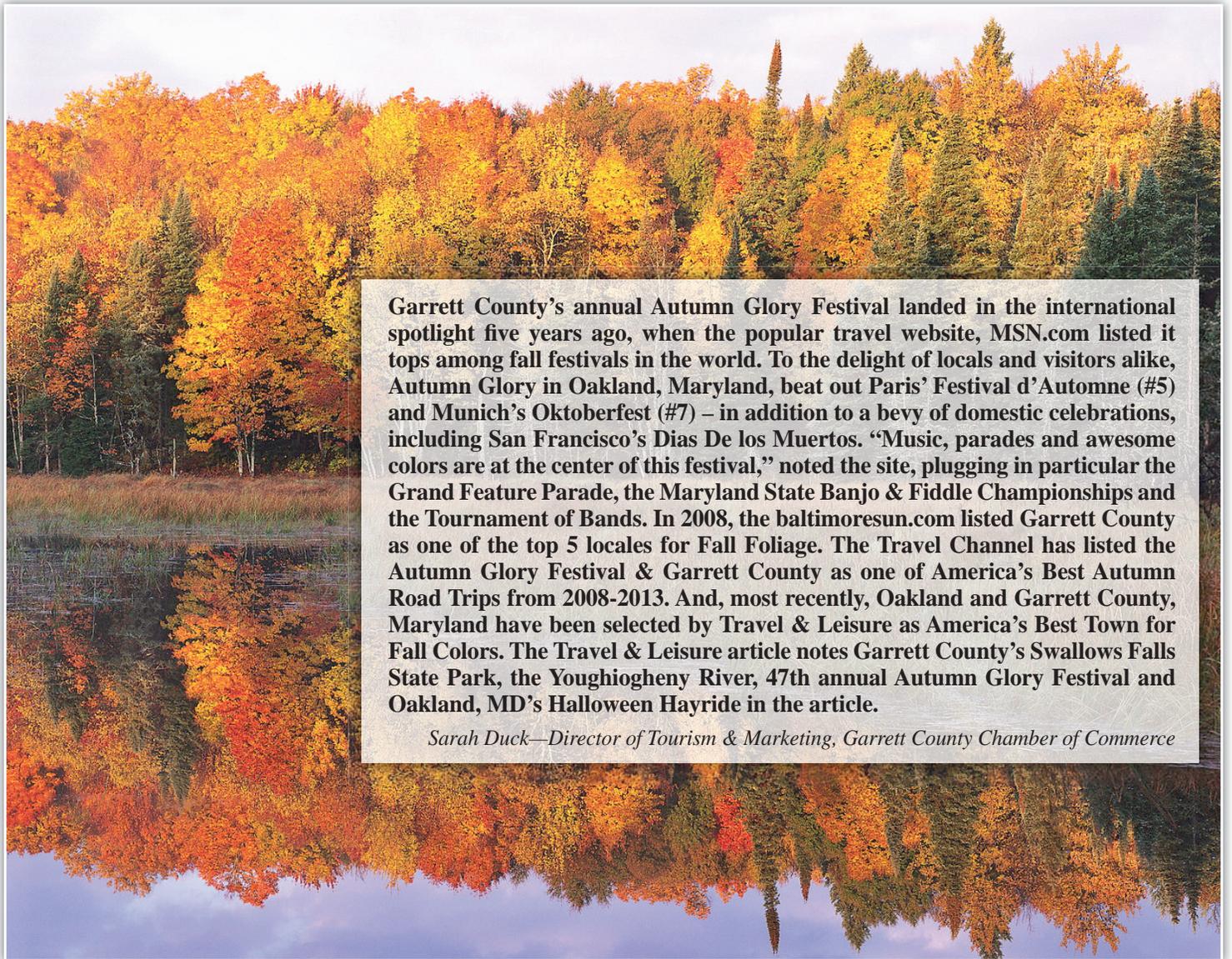
The last two decades have seen significant changes to the lake area and the POA has played a pivotal role in some of these changes, including the acquisition of the lake by the State of Maryland. The POA has been proactive in addressing initiatives

on behalf of the membership that inure to the benefit of the lake area. Some of these initiatives are as follows:

- Urging Board of County Commissioners to prohibit deep shale gas recovery through vertical drilling in the Deep Creek Watershed
- Participation on the Steering Committee and Subcommittees for the development of the Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan
- Raising the awareness of state and local officials with responsibility for lake issues:
  - o Sponsoring of two workshops to bring together, improve communication, and heighten awareness among local and state officials and community organizations who share an interest in and/or responsibility for lake matters
  - o Ongoing effort to identify revenues to establish a fund to address lake issues similar to what the state of Maryland has established for the Chesapeake Bay
  - o Preparation and publication of county commissioner candidates' survey addressing candidates' positions on lake issues
- Financial contribution to Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Hydrilla control measures
- Financial contribution to DNR Sedimentation Study
- Financial contribution to Gypsy Moth spraying
- Financial contribution to Volunteer Fire Department
- Financial contribution to Garrett County Memorial Hospital
- Annual financial contribution to lake fireworks
- Purchase of Hands-Only CPR and AED training equipment for county use
- Purchase of portable AED's for county Sheriff's Deputy cars
- Purchase of communication devices for Natural Resources Police
- Opposition to proposed amendments to Deep Creek Watershed Zoning Ordinance with potential for adverse impacts in the Watershed
- Development of an online mapping tool freely available to the public which allows users to visualize information related to their property at the lake including lake depth, property parcels, land use, zoning, etc.
- Communication with membership through timely "eBlasts," quarterly *The Dispatch* newsletter, and web page
- Acquisition of the lake by the State of Maryland:
  - o Advocated for the establishment of a lake Policy and Review Board (PRB) which by statute includes the POA President or designee and advises the DNR on matters affecting the lake that are within the purview of the DNR
  - o Negotiated conditions under which property owners could "buy down" excess land between their property and the buffer strip, and the inclusion in that "buy down" process of the right of a property owner whose septic or well system failed to use the buy-down area for a new system subject to ordinary Health Department approvals

*Susie Crawford and Kathy Gemberling*

# GARRETT COUNTY'S MAGNIFICENT FALL SEASON



Garrett County's annual Autumn Glory Festival landed in the international spotlight five years ago, when the popular travel website, MSN.com listed it tops among fall festivals in the world. To the delight of locals and visitors alike, Autumn Glory in Oakland, Maryland, beat out Paris' Festival d'Automne (#5) and Munich's Oktoberfest (#7) – in addition to a bevy of domestic celebrations, including San Francisco's Dias De los Muertos. "Music, parades and awesome colors are at the center of this festival," noted the site, plugging in particular the Grand Feature Parade, the Maryland State Banjo & Fiddle Championships and the Tournament of Bands. In 2008, the baltimoresun.com listed Garrett County as one of the top 5 locales for Fall Foliage. The Travel Channel has listed the Autumn Glory Festival & Garrett County as one of America's Best Autumn Road Trips from 2008-2013. And, most recently, Oakland and Garrett County, Maryland have been selected by Travel & Leisure as America's Best Town for Fall Colors. The Travel & Leisure article notes Garrett County's Swallows Falls State Park, the Youghiogheny River, 47th annual Autumn Glory Festival and Oakland, MD's Halloween Hayride in the article.

*Sarah Duck—Director of Tourism & Marketing, Garrett County Chamber of Commerce*



## MOUNTAIN MARYLAND ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MMEAC) UPDATE

The MMEAC continues to meet monthly to discuss and investigate various topics relating to energy production, efficiency, and use. An interim report was given

to the Garrett County Commissioners at their regular meeting on September 9, 2014.

The result was a "go ahead" vote by the commissioners on four initiatives presented by MMEAC. These are: (1) Biomass boilers for heat generation—prospective sites include Garrett College; the new Allegany High School in Cumberland; and the Career Technology and Training Center at Central Garrett Industrial Park. (2) Energy Efficiency Event for the Public—this will be a professionally produced event for homeowners and businesses to learn about products, improvements, etc.

that can help reduce energy costs and consumption. Date and place are to be determined. (3) Solarize Garrett County—this initiative involves a request for proposal/quotation to develop a program that would encompass outreach, education and marketing to target residential and small business for installation of solar PV panels. It would provide approved suppliers and installers, costs, details on payback, grant, and incentive details to the public. (4) Solar City Panel Installation for County Schools and Government—this program is for large users of electricity and involves a no capital cost installation at various locations. Virtual metering is used to combine usage. Solar City receives the solar energy credits while the user gets free electricity.

MMEAC is a joint committee between Garrett and Allegany Counties. A presentation to the Allegany County Commissioners will be scheduled for the near future.

*Bob Sutton*

# A COOPERATIVE EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT A CONTROL STRATEGY FOR HYDRILLA, AN INVASIVE UNDERWATER GRASS, IN DEEP CREEK LAKE WAS IT SUCCESSFUL?



Preliminary results of recent water quality and aquatic grass surveys in Deep Creek Lake reveal that Hydrilla control treatments and strategies were mostly successful, with very effective control of Hydrilla and little loss or damage to native submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) species in the areas identified in 2013. However, to ensure that Hydrilla does not come back in the future, follow-up treatments will be necessary. Below will explain how this invasive underwater grass came to be, how the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and partners have worked to control this species, and where we will go from here.

In September 2013, DNR staff identified Hydrilla verticillata (Hv), an exotic, invasive and noxious weed, in Deep Creek Lake (DCL). Hv was found primarily in Deep Creek Cove in the southwestern end of the Lake consisting of 14 patches.

Hv is a naturalized and invasive species in the United States, which first occurred in the 1960s after water from aquariums was released into waterways in Florida. It is now established in California and much of the northeast and southeast — from Connecticut to Texas, as well as Canada.

DNR implemented a comprehensive long-term DCL water quality monitoring program in 2009 and a complementary submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) survey program in 2010. Monitoring information indicates that water quality conditions in the Lake are good and, except for the identification and presence of Hv, there is a healthy and diverse SAV population.

In response to finding Hv in DCL, DNR convened a panel of SAV technical experts who have experience with Hv and various Hv control strategies. Members were from Maryland, Florida, North Carolina, New York and the U.S. Geological Survey. After evaluating DCL water quality, habitat and fisheries conditions, SAV survey results, and lake uses and community needs, the expert panel considered all potential management options including lake drawdown, biological, mechanical, chemical control or taking no action. The panel recommended an herbicide treatment strategy, along with an education and outreach program to inform lake users on the importance of diligently inspecting all watercraft to stop the introduction and spread of invasive species.

The Hv control strategy required a treatment of a low-dose herbicide, which has produced successful results in projects conducted by the expert panel. Fluridone (trade name Sonar™) was used to treat “blocks” of the lake, ranging in size from 5 to 29 acres.

Fluridone is absorbed by plant shoots and from hydrosol by the roots. Hv is very sensitive to low doses of fluridone making it the herbicide of choice. Low concentrations of fluridone do not harm aquatic insects, fish, humans, or native SAV. It is safe to swim after low-dose deployment.

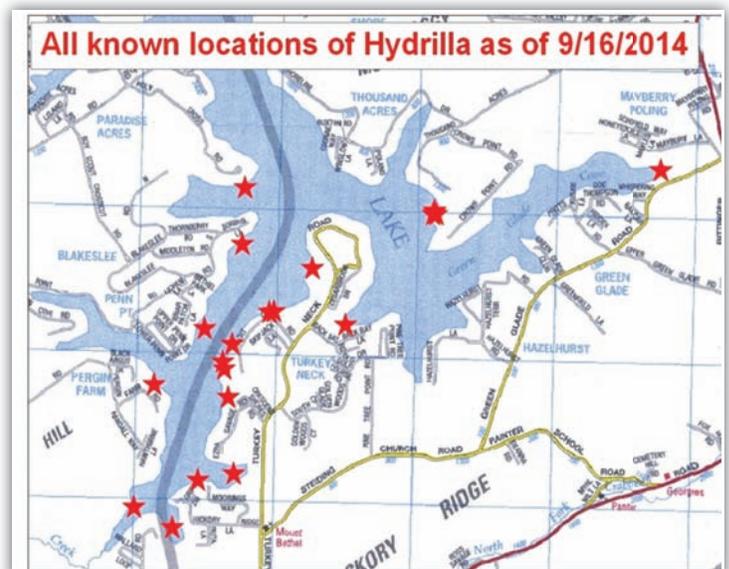
DNR, Garrett County and the DCL Property Owners Association provided funding for the Hv control strategy. DNR hired an independent contractor to administer fluridone treatments over the summer. The first of 5 treatments began on June 11, 2014 after DNR divers determine Hv growth had begun in most of the areas. The contractor applied treatments approximately every three weeks during the summer with the last treatment administered on September 3. The uptake of the herbicide is a slow process that requires the proper amount to be effective over the entire summer.

During the summer, DNR staff and volunteers searched DCL for other Hv growth. In early August, staff located two more patches of Hv, one in Green Glade Cove and one in Bay Back Cove. Both of these patches were treated with different herbicides (flumioxazin and diquat) on August 11. Staff then identified two additional areas with small patches of Hydrilla during DNR’s End of Year Lakewide Hydrilla Survey conducted in September. The first patch was found near Sorbus Lane, not far from the other previously identified Hydrilla patches. The second area, identified with small patches of Hydrilla, was near Thousand Acres Road. These new patches were not unexpected considering the size and number of the Hv patches found in 2013.

Preliminary results of the 2014 water quality, SAV and herbicide treatment indicates that the block treatments were successful with excellent control of Hv and little loss or damage to native SAV species in our treatment areas. In some of the newly identified sites in Green Glade Cove, there was very minimal and extremely damaged Hv, but there remained some possible viable Hv strands. These preliminary findings indicate that DNR will conduct a similar Hv control effort in 2015 as was conducted in 2014. DNR will convene the Hydrilla Expert Panel to get their recommendations for control strategies in the future.

Below is a map indicating all known locations of Hv identified in DCL in both 2013 and 2014.

*Bruce Michael, Director— Resource Assessment Service  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources*



## POA BOARD MEMBERS

Tom Craven ..... '15 ..... 301-387-6202  
tom\_craven@hotmail.com

Susan Crawford ..... '16 ..... scrawfor7@gmail.com  
First Vice President

Morgan France ..... '15 ..... 301-616-5097  
silverdagger@gmail.com

Katheryn Gemberling ..... '16 ..... 301-387-7404  
kgember@aol.com

Lulu Gonella ..... '17 ..... 240-475-4131  
lulu@lwgconsult.com

Barbara Hafer ..... '15 ..... barbara@haferassoc.com

Bob Hoffmann ..... '16 ..... 301-387-4839  
President rahoffmann93@gmail.com

Ed King ..... '17 ..... 301-387-5702  
edjeanking@verizon.net

Tony Lombardi ..... '16 lombardi.tony.jr@gmail.com

Lauren O'Brien McCann .. '16 ..... lnobrien0@gmail.com

John Quilty ..... '16 ..... 301-387-2499  
jqilty@mitre.org

W. Tom Myers ..... '17 ..... 301-387-9162  
Treasurer tom@mountaineerlog.com

Ed Neff ..... '17 ..... 301-387-5449  
VP Communications neff.ews@gmail.com

Chris Nichols ..... '15 ..... 301-387-5134  
VP Membership, Assistant Treasurer dimesy23@gmail.com

Gary Shafer ..... '15 ..... 301-616-9940  
rxshaf@gmail.com

Karen Smith ..... '15 ..... 301-387-0251  
Secretary dclpoasmith@comcast.net

Robert Sutton ..... '17 ..... 301-387-4957  
rsutton166@comcast.net

Paul Weiler ..... '17 ..... 301-387-6391  
Editor of *Dispatch* paul\_weiler@verizon.net

### Emeritus Board Members—Past Presidents

Lou Battistella ..... 301-387-2094  
Lbatt859@aol.com

Mike Belmonte ..... mfbelmonte@gmail.com

Troy Ellington ..... 301-387-9232  
troyellington@verizon.net

Jan Finkel ..... jfinkel1@comcast.net

Scott Johnson ..... 301-387-8547  
sboyumj2@comcast.net

Roger Titus ..... 301-344-0052  
rwtitus@hotmail.com