



DEEP CREEK DISPATCH

Winter 2013-2014

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



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Folks,

I hope this finds you, our members and their families, doing well and weathering the winter in fine fashion wherever that may be. Thus far in Garrett County we have had a very cold winter and our share of snow as well. We have had many days in the minus temperature range with some days and nights at significant minus wind chill factor

temperatures as well. However, spring and summer are coming I am told so we hang in there and wait for warmer weather.

Your board has had a relatively quiet winter season thus far with a few exceptions. We focused quite a bit of time on preparing to object to a proposed amendment to the DCL Watershed Zoning Ordinance which would have allowed Wind Turbines in the watershed. Several eBlasts were sent out to you on the topic the last of which indicated the applicant had withdrawn his request from the Planning Commission so it is no longer an issue at this time. However, we will be prepared to deal with it again should the request for a text amendment change be reintroduced at some future date. We also disseminated information on a couple of sewage spills in the January/February timeframe as well as some explanatory information about the area sewage system provided by Monty Pagenhardt, County Administrator.

You are reading this message in the Winter 2013-2014 *Dispatch* which has come to you in paper form. That is primarily because this issue each year contains important documents for you as members. First, the annual dues information is enclosed which we encourage you to fill out as appropriate and send in with your dues payment or pay electronically if you wish. Our dues are still only \$30 per year and entitle you to receive four newsletters a year plus eBlasts regarding time sensitive information of value. Additionally, and this is really key, please review the information on the preprinted dues form to insure we have accurate email addresses for you so you will receive our publications.

Secondly, just as your board has supported the annual United Way (UW) campaign for the last ten years, we do so again this year. A key goal of the UW in Garrett County is to improve the quality of life for those who are less fortunate than we. The really good news is that 99 cents of every dollar donated remains in Garrett County to help someone in need. Through your generous donations in past years, the POA membership has become the largest supporting group of the Garrett County UW annual campaign. Please support this worthwhile effort again this year to the extent you can. Thank you!

Our next POA Board Meeting is scheduled for March 15th at 8:30 AM downstairs at Uno's. As a paid member, you are invited to attend board meetings. Should you wish to do so, please contact the Board Secretary, Karen Smith, and notify her of your intent to do so to insure adequate seating is available.

We are all looking forward to another great season at the lake as well

as seeing you at a board meeting or at one of the General Membership Meetings held in June and August at the Garrett 8 Cinemas. Until then, please stay warm and well!

Sincerely, Bob Hoffmann



GARRETT COLLEGE FOUNDATION

In 1967, rural Garrett Countians realized their vision of providing the opportunity for higher education and a chance for a better life for students and residents of Gar-

rett County and its surrounding communities by approving the founding of a community college. Garrett College opened its doors in 1971 and since that time has been Garrett County's center for higher education by serving a diverse student population of traditional college age, returning veterans, international students and adult learners, many of whom are first-generation college students. Garrett College offers associate degrees for transfer or career advancement, credit-bearing certificates in specialty fields, and a variety of non-credit continuing education and workforce training programs. Graduates consistently outperform their peers from other Maryland community colleges when they go on to pursue four-year degrees.

But for many of these students attaining a higher education or specialized training is a financial struggle. They cannot do it alone and require financial aid to attend Garrett College. In 1982, the Garrett College Foundation was established as an independent non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation to receive and administer funds to support educational opportunities at Garrett College. For local students who have graduated from high school or attained a high school diploma by examination (GED), the Garrett County Scholarship covers any gap in tuition and fees after other state and federal financial aid has been awarded. However, this resource is not available for students out of high school for more than a year. Moreover, the cost of attendance for a full-time student, including books, supplies, transportation and personal expenses, can be more than twice the amount of tuition alone. The Foundation's scholarship resources help to extend financial aid in these circumstances but are still far less than is needed.

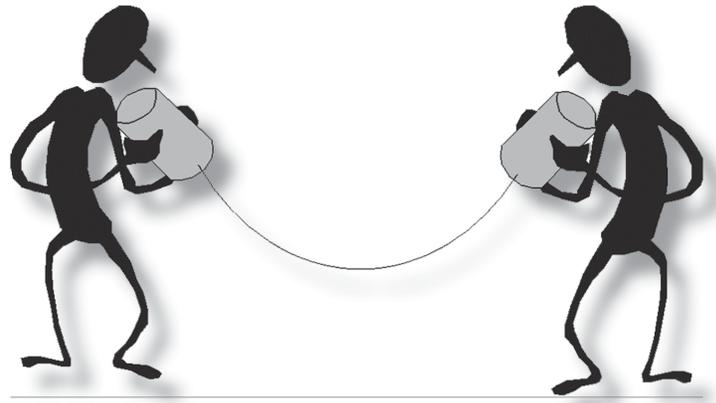
In addition to scholarships, the Foundation provides funding for faculty and student development and capital projects such as the library and the Community Athletics and Recreation Complex (CARC). In the next several years a campus renovation plan will include a center for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and a Per-

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COMMUNICATIONS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

One of the primary missions of the Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake is to keep its members informed on issues related to the lake and surrounding areas. In order to do that, we need the most current means of reaching you, our members. If you have it, email is by far the easiest, fastest and least costly method of getting both breaking news and periodic newsletters to you. Please check your dues statement that's been enclosed with this issue of the *Dispatch*—it has been prepopulated with the address, phone numbers and email addresses we have for you. If it's not on there—or incorrect—you're not getting the latest news and issues that impact your investment at the lake. Make any corrections or additions in pen right on the form—and please write legibly! As you know, even just one wrong character in an email invalidates the address.

So, what kind of communications should you expect from us over the course of the year? Your POA Board works hard to produce two kinds of communications products - the periodic quarterly *Dispatch* newsletter and event-driven e-Blasts regarding emerging issues and news important to property owners at the lake. The *Dispatch* is produced each season, and is delivered both electronically and via conventional mail. If you've provided us with an email and have not opted out of electronic delivery, you'll receive email editions of the newsletter in the Summer, Fall and Spring. If you have not provided an email or have elected to receive your newsletter in paper form, you'll get yours mailed to you every quarter. For the Winter edition, all POA members receive a paper copy, along with a dues form (that's where you need to verify your contact information is correct) and donation materials for the United Way.



eBlasts are ad-hoc messages from your Board regarding issues that come up in between *Dispatches*. You'll only be able to receive eBlasts if you've provided us with your email and haven't opted out of electronic delivery. An important note on opting out—if you've either clicked on an "unsubscribe" link in one of the emails you've received from us, or have checked the opt out box on the dues form, you won't be getting any more emails from us. You'll need to inform us if you'd like to start getting emails again. If you don't have an email or have opted out, we do post the prior edition of the *Dispatch* and eBlasts after a few weeks on our website. But, to get the latest news as it happens, it pays to be a current member with your correct email address available to us. At only \$30 per year, it's the best value on the lake!

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions on the communications process or membership status, please contact our Communications VP Ed Neff or Membership VP Chris Nichols via the contact method on the back page. It's important to us that our members get the news that's important to them as soon as it happens.

SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES

Many of our part-time property owners are not used to living in such a vast rural area as Garrett County. This is a reminder that we are served by volunteer (unpaid) fire departments and rescue squads. Volunteer Fire Departments and Rescue Squads respond at all hours of the day and night, 24/7, in all types of weather. These volunteers are our neighbors in the community and provide all of us with a very important service that we could not live without. Our volunteers are professionals and receive the same training as career-paid providers do. The only difference between our volunteer providers and career providers is the pay. Our volunteers do it only for the community and the desire to help one another. They also respond to emergencies from their home or places of employment.

Garrett County is a huge rural area. Unlike living in the city, our fire and ambulance stations are farther apart and response times can be longer than what can be experienced in the metropolitan areas.

Our Volunteer Fire Departments and Rescue Squads receive annual funding from the County. However this county funding only represents a small percentage of what is needed to purchase and operate the necessary apparatus, purchase safety equipment such as personal protection equipment, and to pay for training, fire and rescue station upkeep, utilities, and supplies.

Our Volunteers must work very hard throughout the year planning and holding fund raisers to make enough money to keep the community volunteer emergency operations solvent, to keep the equipment updated and to insure the department or squad is there for you and the community when an emergency incident occurs.

Make sure that you know which Fire Department and Rescue Squad is responsible for your area, and please support your Department and Squad in their fund raising activities so we may continue to have the community affordable benefit of a Volunteer Based Emergency Service System.

The Deep Creek Lake area is served primarily by these following Departments and Squads

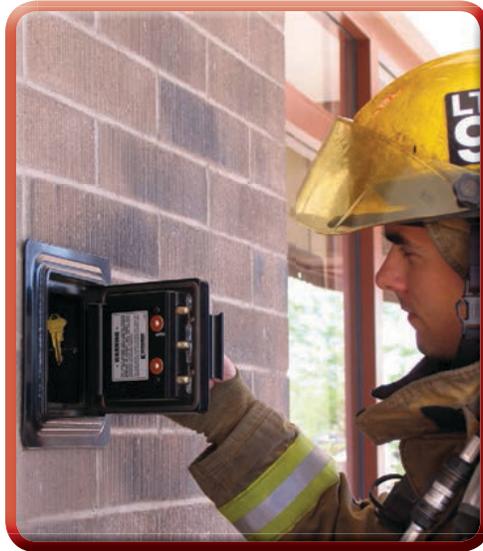
Note: These Telephone Numbers are for NON-EMERGENCY CONTACT—ONLY

- Deep Creek Vol. Fire Dept. McHenry, MD **301-387-5252**
Chief Jason King
- Deer Park Vol. Fire Dept. Deer Park, MD **301-334-4120**
Chief Ken Collins
- Oakland Vol. Fire Dept. Oakland, MD **301-334-3535**
Chief John Feather
- Northern Garrett County Rescue Squad..... **301-895-5520**
Chief Walter Augustine
- Southern Garrett County Rescue Squad..... **301-335-3000**
Chief Johnny Mayne

FOR EMERGENCY **ALWAYS DIAL 9-1-1**

We would also like to bring your attention to a device called a KNOX BOX. A Knox Box is a small, secure box that can be affixed to your house to contain a key, for FIRE DEPARTMENTS USE ONLY, to gain entry to your house in the event of an alarm. While most of us are ONLY part-time residents, if an automatic fire alarm is activated and the Fire Department responds, the Knox Box provides a key to the Chief Officer to enable the crew to have access to your home to investigate the alarm without having to make a forcible entry, thus eliminating any damage caused by the forcible entry. The KNOX BOX is for YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT'S USE ONLY and the Fire Departments exercise a high security oversight on the deployment of the access key. The cost of the box is your responsibility and the Fire Department will assist you in the attachment and implementation. Please see the attached information.

Lou Battistella



Ten Reasons to Install a KNOX-BOX®

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3. Protect inventory, equipment and supplies from unnecessary water damage caused by delayed sprinkler shut-off.
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6. Feel secure about emergency coverage when your building is left unattended. The fire department holds the only key to the KNOX-BOX.
7. Maintain building security after a fire alarm investigation by simply re-locking the undamaged door.
8. Protect your property from thousands of dollars in damage with this one-time, low-cost investment.
9. Depend on the highest lock box security available with attack resistant, UL tested reliability.
10. Over the last 35 years, KNOX-BOX has been the chosen solution in more than 11,000 communities nationwide – communities just like yours!

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COMMUNICATIONS—UPDATED POA LOGO

Since its inception in 1949, the POA has always worked diligently for the members' interests in and around Deep Creek Lake. It has been the policy of the leadership of the organization to keep the members fully informed about the activities and efforts undertaken by the board. With rapidly evolving technologies, the ability to keep the membership fully informed has become not only much easier but also more challenging.

When the POA was formed there were limited choices for communications, many of which are no longer available. Do you remember Ma-Bell's party line phone service, a Western Union Telegram, USPS special delivery letters and of course first class mail service? Today only first class mail service survives and the POA continues to use that and a host of other communications devices to reach out to the membership and larger community with announcements and other news stories.

In late 2009, members who had shared their email address began receiving eBlasts & eDispatch editions in their personal email accounts. In late 2013, the enhanced website came on line and in early 2014, social media was added to the communications services. All of these services now display an updated version of the logo first developed by local artist Clinton Durham. The logo was introduced as part of the Water Quality Workshop presented by the POA in December 2010. It then appeared for the first time as part of the mast head of the *Deep Creek Dispatch*.

You may have seen the logo displayed on the rear window of a member's car or boat. And now you have the same opportunity to display the updated logo on your car or boat. Enclosed with this mailing of the *Dispatch* are two copies of the updated logo for your use. We hope you will display this logo to let the greater Deep Creek Lake community know that you are a member of The Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake.

Ed Neff

THE INVASIVE UNDER WATER GRASS, HYDRILLA, HAS BEEN FOUND IN DEEP CREEK LAKE

On September 27, 2013, the Department of Natural Resources Resource Assessment Service staff identified what appeared to be Hydrilla verticillata (Hv), an exotic, invasive and noxious weed, in Deep Creek Lake, while conducting routine Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) monitoring. Both floating fragments and rooted patches of Hv were found in the Lake.

DNR staff conducted additional surveys on two separate occasions in October to assess all of the shallow waters of the Lake to determine Hv distribution. Survey results indicate Hv is presently confined to Deep Creek Cove, the southwestern end of the Lake. Currently, 14 patches of this invasive SAV have been identified at 12 sites within the Cove. This is the first recorded observation of Hv in any section of Deep Creek Lake.

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.

While it may never be known exactly how Hv was introduced into the Lake, it was likely transported from plant fragments attached to boats that were previously in water bodies containing Hv.

Surveys over the last several years indicate that the Lake has good water quality and a healthy, diverse SAV population. Another invasive SAV in the Lake—Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM)—appears to coexist with native species. After conducting extensive monitoring over the last four years, DNR has deduced that EWM is not overtaking the Lake at this time and therefore does not present the same urgency as Hv. Hv has rapidly outcompeted native SAV in North Carolina and New York lakes and warrants our attention to ensure this does not occur in Deep Creek Lake.

Next steps for Hv in the Lake: DNR has convened an expert panel of SAV technical experts which contains members from other northern states with lakes in similar geographic regions with similar characteristics who have experience with Hv. The panel will evaluate Hv conditions in the Lake and assess the data collected this year and over the last 3 years.

If the monitoring, research and expert panel experience and knowledge of Hydrilla conclude that it might outcompete the existing healthy SAV populations, DNR and the panel will develop potential management options. The pros and cons of all options are being considered, from no action, to lake drawdown, mechanical harvesting, biological and chemical controls. DNR will consult with the Deep Creek Lake community on any potential management options before implementation is undertaken. Unfortunately, complete eradication of Hv is highly unlikely based on management results from other lakes where Hv has been found.

The finding of Hv highlights the importance of continued monitoring—both to assess the general health of the Lake and to give Lake managers and stakeholders early indications of changes.

If you find patches of Hv in the lake (see picture below) please contact Maryland Department of Natural Resources at (410) 260-8627.

*Hydrilla_USGS.jpg from Wikimedia Commons
Bruce Michael, Director—Resource Assessment Service
Maryland Department of Natural Resources*



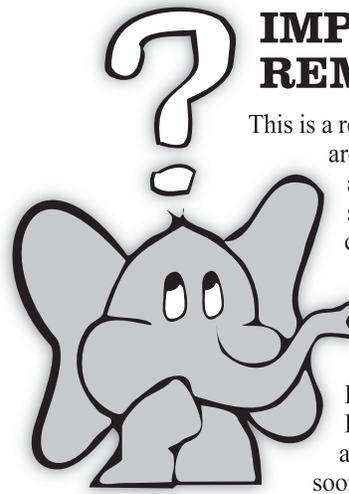
GARRETT COLLEGE FOUNDATION

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forming Arts and Conference Center (PACC) for the college and the community. The Foundation also supports special programs such as the Joan and Bill Crawford I Can Swim! Program for kindergartners and sixth graders in collaboration with the Garrett County Board of Education. The Foundation hosts an annual scholarship benefit dinner each spring, the next of which will be at The Herrington on April 12, 2014.

By raising money for student scholarships, academic and recreation programs, and capital projects the Foundation opens doors to higher education, enrichment, and future success for countless people across our community. Garrett College is more than just a place—it is a college that nurtures minds, provides opportunity, and promises bright futures. Quite simply, Garrett College would not be Garrett College without its dedicated donors and volunteers of friends and alumni who have given their time, talent, and treasure to ensure that our community has access to a higher education, enrichment and a better future. For more information about the Foundation and its activities please write or call Garrett College Foundation, 687 Mosser Road, McHenry, Maryland 21541, 301-387-3131, <http://garrettcollegefoundation.org/>.

Susie Crawford



IMPORTANT REMINDER

This is a reminder that your POA dues for 2014 are due at this time. Your board has been active over the winter dealing with issues such as lake water levels, water quality and boat noise. Garrett County has a new group of commissioners and the board has met with them in order to familiarize them with the activities of the POA.

In order to continue your newsletters, E-Blasts and participation in the POA activities please send in your dues soon. To make it easier for you to submit your annual dues of \$30, a self addressed

envelope and a member registration form are enclosed. If your information has changed from previous years, please indicate the changes on the form. It is also important to indicate whether you want your newsletter delivered by email or regular mail.

Thanks for your support of the POA!

Sincerely,
Tom Myers, *Treasurer, POA of DCL*

JOHN NELSON RETIRES

John Nelson retired as Director of the Garrett County Office of Planning and Land Management on January 31 after serving the county for over 37 years, most of which were in a leadership position.

During his tenure, John worked with twelve different Boards of County Commissioners and was honored by proclamations from the Governor, the Maryland Senate and House of Delegates at a dinner a week prior to his retirement. State Senator George C. Edwards presented the Senate's resolution and noted that when John started his work here, he himself was sitting as one of the Garrett County Commissioners.

John's 37-year tenure made him the longest-serving Planning Director in all of Maryland.

Karen Spiker was one offering comments and praise. In essence, she reported how John and she had originally clashed with messages such as "Karen, you need a permit for that." She said that she had tried to find ways to avoid the requirements she did not like. But, then found out the best way to proceed was to share her ideas and objectives with John who would then help her find pathways to them within the applicable codes.

John was appointed to these leadership positions starting about two years after the first zoning ordinance was adopted for the Deep Creek area in 1975. This had been preceded by A Plan for Deep Creek (1972) and the first Comprehensive Plan 1974. In the mid-1980s, the 1972 Plan for Deep Creek was revised (1985) and the zoning ordinance updated (1987). In the mid-1990s, the County adopted a "Second Comprehensive Plan" (1995) and again revised the Zoning Ordinance (1997). The county also adopted Subdivision controls and protections for sensitive areas starting in 1997.

The Staff estimates that John attended approximately 400 Planning Commission meetings, from 1977 to the present and provided staffing to the Planning Commission since 1985.

John also served as the Zoning Administrator for all of the towns in the county at one time or another, including Mt. Lake Park and

Loch Lynn from the beginning until his retirement.

In 1994, John also oversaw the enactment of the countywide 911 addressing program

From 1977 to January 2014 there were approximately 8,290 Deep Creek Watershed Zoning Permit applications. During John's tenure as director, approximately 420 Special Exceptions, 18 Interpretive Hearings and 700 Variances cases were heard by the Deep Creek Watershed Board of Zoning Appeals.

The Garrett County Subdivision Ordinance first adopted in 1997 and comprehensively amended in 2010, lead to 1,818 subdivisions. John was involved in its creation, various amendments and all of the resulting subdivisions.

The Deep Creek Lake Transient Vacation Rental Unit Ordinance was passed in March of 2006, under John's direction.

The Garrett County Sensitive Areas Ordinance was first adopted in 1997 and comprehensively amended in 2010.

John directed the preparation and adoption of the 1998, 2005 and 2012 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plans.

John directed the preparation and adoption of the following comprehensive planning documents: 1993- A Second Close Look at Garrett County, 1995- A New Development Plan for Garrett County and the 2008 Comprehensive Plan.

The POA congratulates John on his work and wishes him well in retirement.

Lindsley Williams



WOOLLY ADELGID

Do you have Hemlocks on your property? The Woolly Adelgid bug (HWA) has arrived in Garrett County and is feeding on hemlocks around the lake. HWA will kill a hemlock in a couple of years unless you take steps to treat the tree. The first part of this article addresses the problem and our experience in finding a solution. The second part follows with the solution and a recommendation that you start now to treat your hemlocks (weather permitting).

This article is intended to draw your attention to the HWA issue and help you try and save your Hemlocks. The resources on the internet are extensive and you can also contact the DNR and the local landscaping services for information. We first heard about HWA a couple of years ago and discounted the problem until we noticed our 80 year old Hemlocks turning brown in mid July 2013.

After a lot of phone calls and internet searches here is what we have learned. HWA is deadly! Your prompt action may save your trees. We did talk to the DNR and they provided some information about the bug and some products that can be used to treat the trees. We talked to several local landscapers who told us they could not help us but they could put us in touch with people who work with trees. We talked to tree services that are still backed up from the 2012 Fall Sandy storm. As the summer of 2013 wound down, we had three or four leads working all saying they would be back to us with a positive word on how and when they would treat our trees. In late September we met with a Maryland Licensed Tree Expert and ISA Certified Arborist who gave us two written proposal with a treatment completion date by the end of October.

We signed the two proposals on the spot and then printed the DNR Buffer Strip permit request. One of the proposals was attached to the DNR form and hand delivered to their local office. Within a week, DNR came and inspected the Hemlocks in the Buffer Strip. The permit has been approved and the normal \$70 fee for Buffer Strip Permits has been waived for Hemlock treatments.

So what are the treatments? How effective are the treatments? What are the costs? Two different treatments are used. For Hemlocks on our property, a treatment is done to the ground around the base of the tree. For Hemlocks in the buffer strip, the treatment is done to the base of the tree. In both cases the Hemlocks feed from the roots or base of the tree and the process then kills the HWA. We don't have a good answer to the question of how effective the treatment will be. Without our Hemlocks we lose our noise & visual buffer of commercial areas near our home, so we do know that doing nothing is not an option. We look at the costs as a relative factor realizing that it is impossible to replace the 80 year old trees which provide so much value to our property.

Based upon our experience with HWA, we suggest you inspect your trees now. If you see any presence of the bug, contact a licensed arborist immediately and have them give you a proposal for treatment. You must use a licensed arborist for this work and they are hard to find. We talked to several tree services locally and they said they would bring in a licensed arborist, but we ended up with a national tree service who does not maintain an office in Garrett County.

Following is an update on what we have experienced. As I explained above getting started on this project was not easy and when we finally were visited by the licensed arborist we did receive prompt professional service at a reasonable price from that organization and we were very satisfied with our DNR involvement. DNR provided us with the required permit and two informative articles that can be found on the web at: <http://ipmnet.umd.edu/nursery/docs/hemlockwoollyadelgid-umd.pdf> and http://cdn.intechopen.com/pdfs/27799/InTech-Tree_injection_as_an_alternative_method_of_insecticide_application.pdf. The treatment of our trees varies between those trees in the buffer strip and those in our yard. The treatment of the several trees in the buffer strip was a systemic root flare injection treatment. The balance of the trees was done in two parts: a systemic soil treatment and a prescription soil treatment to supply necessary nutrients based on soil test analysis they conducted. We will continue to watch all of the pine trees in our yard and on the buffer strip. The representatives told us that we should expect these treatments



to be effective for 3 to 5 years. I expect to invite them to inspect our trees on an annual basis.

Summarizing our Woolly Adelgid experience is fairly easy. If your Hemlocks have been attacked by Woolly Adelgid, you will watch your Hemlocks waste away unless you take action now. If you have any hope of saving your trees they must be treated and you need a licensed arborist who will arrange the treatment. A licensed arborist may not be easily found, but local landscapers and tree service people are a good place to start your search.

Ed Neff

DID YOU KNOW?

The Deer Park Anticline. Did you even hear of that? No, it was not some sort of inverted topsy-turvy amusement ride at the Deer Park Hotel at the turn of the 20th century. The Deer Park Anticline is natural gas trapped in a subterranean rock fold called the Deer Park Anticline discovered in the late 1940's. (Natural gas actually was first discovered in Garrett County near the town of Accident in the 1930's; and most likely discovered by accident.)

Obviously, with the opportunity for financial gain, there was a frenzy of exploratory drilling. Drilling first started in Red House and worked its way north to the Sand Flat area as more exploration discovered additional producing wells. There are reports that the pages of land records in the county office were worn thin as opportunists were researching deeds to record leases on potential gas producing properties to grab the riches that were hoped to follow.

One early drilled gas well, of the 23 that produced natural gas, produced one-half million cubic feet of natural gas per day. A latter well drilled in the early 1950's produced 9 million cubic feet per day. At today's commodity prices that would be about \$18,000 annually. Happy days are here! Well, maybe.

Then it was all over. No more gas. The wells played out. Does this sound like the coal boom in the previous century? The gas boom was but a blip compared to the coal boom years and the played out gas fields left no ghost towns or gob piles or interesting stories and memories like the abandoned coal mines did.

John Grant, local historian extraordinaire, wrote in "150 Years of Oakland" published by the Garrett County Historical Society in 1999, "Will gas production ever return? Maybe." I guess we have to drill deeper to find out. Hello Marcellus Shale.

All content of this article is derived from the aforementioned publication.

Please visit the POA website to read up to date information on the happenings with Marcellus Shale by our POA Board expert John Quilty. Visit <http://www.deepcreeklakepoa.com> and search FAQ's and Marcellus Shale.

Scott Johnson

WATER RESOURCE ALLOCATION IN DEEP CREEK LAKE

Interested parties view the topic of lake water levels historically as a debate between the users of the outflow from Deep Creek Lake (DCL) and the users of the waters in the lake. The Maryland Department of the Environment regulates the outflow from the lake.

The outflow is the subject of Water Appropriation Permit GA1992 S009(08). To view the entire permit (12 pages) go to: http://www.mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/water_supply/documents/deep%20creek%20lake/brookfield%20permit-2011jun.pdf.

On page two of the permit, condition number two lists the uses of the water: hydroelectric generation, temperature enhancement, whitewater

boating enhancement, and the maintenance of minimum flows in DCL. Condition number 14, on page four, outlines the rule band for water levels to afford the users of the lake adequate water for boating purposes. Temperature enhancement releases are not subject to the rule band, and the permit allows whitewater releases down to one foot below the rule band. Exceptions A through E address maintenance and emergency conditions. The Code of Maryland and Rules (COMAR), Natural Resources Code Ann. 5-215.1.(a).1(2013 lists recreation among other things as a use for DCL.

A water budget would be a more equitable allocation of the resource. A water budget is simple in concept. Water into the lake minus water out of the lake is equal to change in storage. The use of a predictive model based on the water budget verses the use of a schedule that ignores the availability of water is a more equitable allocation of the resource.

Since we have good bottom topography for the lake based on the hydrographic work done by the Department of Natural Resources, as a part of the sediment study, the amount of water associated with each foot of elevation is the change in storage. The Property Owners Association of Deep Creek Lake, Inc. (POA) has also created a model of the lake bottom available on the POA website. Assuming the elevation of the emergency spillway is 2462 and that the lowest usable water level for docks in the shallow coves is 2457, the water budget of interest is for the top five feet.

Water into the lake consists of rainfall on the watershed and groundwater recharge. The runoff from rainfall can be modeled for any given rainfall event by any of several well-known models. For example, TR-20 from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and HEC-HMS from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and several proprietary programs are available. Groundwater recharge rate study could correlate changes in storage compared to time during periods between rainfall events.

Water out of the lake comes from flow through the plant, by-pass, and leakage, and from evaporation. There will be times when water from the lake recharges the groundwater. To calibrate the discharge model the flows in the Youghiogheny measurements from above the junction with Deep Creek, and the flows in Deep Creek measured above the junction with the Youghiogheny are necessary. The flow gage at Hoyes is taking flow measurements. An evaluation of these three measurements compared with the recorded flows from the plant will calibrate the water out model, subject to evaporation. NOAA Technical Report NWS 34, December 1982 published evaporation values for the Savage River Dam that would have a reasonable correlation to DCL.

The water budget would be a predictive model. Historic rainfall data for a season, weather service predictions for rainfall, groundwater recharge rates, and evaporation could anticipate water into the lake out several weeks. It would allow for allocation of the resource based on how much water is available. In wet years increased releases could occur more often and scheduled weeks in advance. In dry years both the releases and the water levels in the lake would decrease.

As time goes on the water budget will become more reliable and useful as a predictive tool. For a given season enough groundwater recharge and rainfall data will be available by May to make preliminary estimates of the water available. The weather service has precipitation estimates out thirty days or more. The budget would be revised as new data is collected. The resource allocation will be a dynamic process through the recreation season.

Power generation receives all of the water that runs into DCL in a year because the water is at the same level each spring. So far the power company has not expressed any interest in dialog about allocation of the resource.

The water budget will have to have an executor. Other parts of the watershed management plan will require a minder. The Watershed Management Plan Steering Committee will address this issue.

MARCELLUS SHALE UPDATE

This article provides updates on recent local developments and summarizes the status of ongoing studies being conducted as part of the Governor's "Safe Drilling Initiative" (SDI).

The Fall Dispatch reported on the re-activation of an 11-member committee to provide advice and recommendations to the County Commissioners. The Shale Gas Advisory Committee (SGAC) has been meeting monthly. The December meeting focused on potential shale-related legislation to be introduced in the 2014 MD General Assembly session and on the related topic of a community-oriented trust, funded by county severance tax revenues should drilling proceed. These discussions will continue in February. Driven by a request from Commissioner Raley, the January meeting was devoted largely to a discussion of a "scoping" report released for public comment by the UMD Public Health Study team. Based on committee discussion, a set of comments were submitted by Commissioner Raley. These recommended, among other things, that the study further focus on local issue data/analysis and take maximum advantage of health impact experience in neighboring states (PA, WV).

Regarding ongoing SDI studies/efforts beyond the health study noted above:

A final "best practices" report is expected in February, reflecting the MDE/DNR disposition of some 4,000 public comments and recording the specific views of individual members of the Governor's Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission (MSAC).

The three other studies are proceeding toward April/May deadlines and may well release interim products for review: the UMD Regional Economics Institute (RESI) study of "community and economic impacts", the DNR review of ways to assure protection of natural and recreational resources (e.g., increased setbacks), and the MDE/DNR analysis of residual risks once "best practices" have been adopted (e.g., high, medium, low).

Related to the last of these, a second risk analysis---sponsored by the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN), CitizenShale, and Mountain Lake Park---has been conducted and is being finalized; public release is expected in February.

Both the local SGAC and the state-sponsored MSAC meetings provide an opportunity for public participation. Further, their websites provide both meeting date/time/place specifics and extensive material (presentations, reference material, etc.). Those sites are, respectively, <http://www.marcellusshale.garrettkounty.org/> and <http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/land/mining/> Note that the SGAC comments on the health study "scoping" report can be found on the county's Marcellus Shale site.

Please contact John Quilty at jquilty@mitre.org with any questions or comments.

John Quilty

Morgan C. France

POA BOARD MEMBERS

Tom Craven '15 301-387-6202
 tom_craven@hotmail.com

Susan Crawford '16 scrawfor7@verizon.net
 First Vice President

Troy Ellington, '14 301-387-9232
 Past President troyellington@verizon.net
 Editor of Dispatch

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

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

Barbara Hafer '15 barbara@haferassoc.com

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

Ed King '14 301-387-5702
 ed.king@longandfoster.com

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

Lauren O'Brien '16 lnobrien0@gmail.com

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

Krista McGowan '14 301-698-2312
 Assistant Secretary kristamcgowan@verizon.net

W. Tom Myers '14 301-387-9162
 Treasurer tom@mountaineerlog.com

Ed Neff '14 301-387-5449
 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@yahoo.com

Karen Smith '15 301-387-0251
 Secretary karen@st-law.com

Robert Sutton '14 301-387-4957
 rsutton166@comcast.net

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 lbatt859@aol.com

Mike Belmonte mfbelmonte@gmail.com

Jan Finkel jfinkel1@comcast.net

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

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