



DEEP CREEK DISPATCH



Spring 2020
Newsletter of the
Property Owners' Association
of Deep Creek Lake, Inc.

Message from First Vice President

These are unprecedented times in our nation and communities, and indeed in the world, as we grapple with the challenges of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). We are learning “social distancing” and the meaning of the word “pandemic.” While thankfully as yet there are only a few reported cases of COVID-19 in Garrett County, we are taking precautions here as is the rest of the country. Per Governor Hogan’s Orders, most recreational and boating activities on the lake are prohibited, public schools have closed, Garrett College has transitioned to on-line instruction for the near term, large gatherings cannot take place, and all restaurants (except for take-out), bars, movie theaters, gyms and all nonessential businesses have also closed. Garrett Regional Medical Center set up a drive-through COVID-19 testing clinic behind the hospital and in Grantsville and has asked the public not to visit patients in the hospital for the foreseeable future. The Garrett County Commissioners have requested visitors not travel to the mountains of western Maryland and local rental agencies have stopped renting vacation homes for the time being. And of course, we are all subject to Governor Hogan’s March 30 Stay At Home Order.

If you do not live in Garrett County, I am sure you are experiencing many of the same closures, cancellations and restrictions in your communities. The financial markets are a roller coaster, and uncertainty about the virus and its long-term impact abounds. It is undoubtedly this uncertainty that has us all on edge. But there are also bright signs here, and I’m sure where you live as well, of neighbors helping elderly neighbors with grocery shopping, local restaurants providing

free take-out peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to school children, and children and families spending more time together. We are a resilient people and this adversity is also bringing out the best in us. I hope that sense of community and looking out for others will not only continue through this crisis, but will set a new standard of civility and compassion when the crisis ends.

I had hoped this would be an upbeat message of spring on the lake with docks and boats going into the water as a new summer season approaches. I am sure that day will come and know we all look forward to getting back to a sense of normalcy in our lives. I do not know when that will be, but for the time being please follow the health guidelines of the CDC and your local health departments. I pray that you and your loved ones stay well and that this pandemic will pass soonest.

On a happier note, I am very pleased to announce that on March 20, 2020, the POA Board of Directors elected Bob Sutton as the President of the POA. Bob has been a resident of Sky Valley since 1971 where he has served as President of the Sky Valley Association for many years. He has also been a member of the POA Board since 2005. Bob has clearly demonstrated a tireless devotion to and passion for issues critical to the lake and the POA. And in the words of past POA President Bob Hoffmann, he “will be a fine President and likewise will continue to insure the POA speaks with an authoritative, credible voice that is sought out for all lake related matters.” Congratulations to Bob Sutton!

Sincerely,
Susie Crawford
First Vice President

Message from the President

The POA Board of Directors has elected me as President to fill the vacancy left by the untimely passing of Paul Weiler. I have been a member of the Board since 2005 and a permanent resident at the lake since 2008. We have had a home In Sky Valley since 1971 and I have been coming to Deep Creek since the 1950's. Deep Creek has always been a big part of our family's life and I am proud to serve this great organization in this capacity. We need to make sure Deep Creek Lake remains a great spot into the future and the POA has always had that as a mission. I urge you to keep your membership and check with your neighbors to remind them to join in case they are not members. Information on signing up is on our website. Have a great summer and remember to boat safely!

Also included in this issue of the Dispatch is an article about the current Garrett County United Way campaign which the POA strongly supports. I urge all POA members to make a donation. Every dollar helps in a big way as the United Way supports a number of charities and functions in the region. The POA support of this effort is a good example of what we are about.

Bob Sutton
POA President

From the Editor By Grant Callery

One of the principal purposes of the Dispatch is to keep our members, many of whom are part time residents, or in some cases owners of rental properties in Garrett County who may not be fully in the information loop about events in the county. In this edition we would like to assist property owners in getting ready for the Spring and Summer seasons at the lake with a particular focus on bringing you infor-

mation on how the COVID – 19 virus might impact those plans.

As is always the case, your POA Board is in frequent contact with those offices in both the local and state Governments that have the most impact on lake related issues and the day-to-day management of the lake. The following is a summary of some of the information gathered from those conversations as well as contacts and links to the most current information. I suggest that you utilize the links as things relating to the virus and its impact on life in and around the lake are moving very fast and during the lag time between my writing this and publication, the status of some of the information may have changed. The viability of the links will be checked immediately before publication.

Lake Management Updates

The Lake Management Office is currently closed to the public consistent with Governor Hogan's orders.

- The staff are working reduced hours and working in rotation to reduce face to face contact.
 - o The office is following Winter Hours which are 8 – 4 Monday through Thursday with the office closed on Fridays
- Dock Permits are being processed in a timely manner as they are received from permit holders.
- The boat ramp in the State Park is open but unattended by launch stewards (stewards don't work until just before Memorial Day in normal years)
 - o launches are allowed only for fishing for food (recreational boating is, for now not permitted)
- Since kayaking and paddle boarding are both human-powered forms of exercise, akin to bicycling, they are permitted under the executive order. Guidance on social distancing and the prohibition on social gatherings must be strictly followed.
- Recreational fishing anywhere on the lake is prohibited. Limited fishing is allowed only if you are seeking food for you or your family, but the social distancing guidelines and the prohibition on social gatherings must be strictly followed.
- Boats used to transport essential employees or goods as defined in the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's Guidance on the Essential

Critical Infrastructure Workforce are also permitted.

- Marinas are operating
- Buffer Strip Use Permits are being processed but a few guidelines should be followed as the staff is trying to do a “no contact” process. Any Buffer Strip improvement needs to be approved in advance.

- o For tree removal or path installation permits contact lake management by phone, email or mail

- o Mark trees to be removed with tape or send photos of the area where the path would be installed

- o The staff will do a site visit and respond to requests either by email or phone

- o A call can be arranged to discuss any issues. In person meetings are not permitted

Safe Boating Classes

As most POA members know, in Maryland, the law states that anyone born on or after July 1, 1972, must possess a certificate of boating safety education in order to operate any motorized vessel. This certificate must always be carried while operating a vessel.

To facilitate obtaining the certification there are generally four or five classes held at Garrett College during the summer. These classes have been cancelled for the present and the POA will provide notification through an “eBlast” when they resume.

Fortunately, for those in need of certification there are on-line options available. For information go to https://dnr.maryland.gov/nrp/Pages/Boating-Safety/Safety_Certificate.aspx

While the learning experience is not the same as the “in-person classes” and the focus isn’t as DCL centric as the “local classes” this is an option.

Water Appropriations Permit (WAP)

About a year ago we devoted a significant portion of the Spring 2019 Dispatch to the WAP.

For those of you not schooled in this issue we published the following summary

Simple Overview

- DCL was created in the 1920’s and owned by Pennsylvania Electric as a hydroelectric generator
- Since 2000 the lake and the land under it have been owned by the State of Maryland
- The water use rights are now governed by a

permit issued by the State to the dam operator (currently Brookfield Renewable Power) which is up for renewal this year

- There are four principal, and sometimes competing, stakeholders in the water releases through the DCL dam. These are:

- o Hydroelectric generation

- o Whitewater recreation

- o Fishery maintenance

- o Lake recreational activities

- The Water Appropriation Permit defines the Upper (URB) and Lower Rule Bands (LRB) within which Brookfield Power must endeavor to maintain lake levels.

In that discussion we published a timeframe which had the renewal process completed by the end of 2019. This did not occur. An update on the process appears below.

Important Links Relating to COVID – 19 and Deep Creek Lake

GC Commissioners

<https://www.garrettcountry.org/commissioners/coronavirus>

DNR

<https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2020/03/31/frequently-asked-questions-about-governor-hogans-stay-at-home-order/>

DC Times – Restaurants and Businesses

<https://deepcreektimes.com/area-dining-guide/>

GC Health Department

<https://garretthealth.org/>

Ofc of the Governor

<https://governor.maryland.gov/coronavirus/>

Maryland Park Service

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/COVID-19-Virus-Alert.aspx>

Maryland State Police

<https://news.maryland.gov/msp/2020/03/31/state-police-enforcement-of-governors-executive-orders-continues/>

“Water Appropriations Permit Update”

John Quilty, POA Board Member

Recent developments--- We last updated POA members in the February eBlast linked below. Over the last several months, there have been 2 opportunities for continuing POA input and influence on the new permit and the underlying protocols for management of releases from the dam. As many of you know, key releases—with a significant impact on lake level—are those for whitewater recreation and for controlling downstream water temperatures in the interest of fish health. The developments—

- A 15 October public hearing with a review of permit issues by MDE and with stakeholders invited to make comments.
- A series of 2 invite-only working group meetings (1 August, 4 December) to discuss protocol topics and proposals related to the so-called Temperature Enhancement Releases (TER’s). Representatives from all stakeholder groups attended and presentations were made by DNR and the fishing community.

POA Engagement---We, of course, represented you--our members-- at both the public hearing and the TER working group meetings. Throughout this unexpectedly long discussion and review process, our fundamental positions have been that (1) a water level predictive capability should be a permit requirement, (2) this capability should be used to predict imminent breaches of the Lower Rule Band (LRB) in “dry” years as well as opportunities for additional whitewater releases in “wet” years, and (3) that the LRB---already a compromise relative to providing dock access----should be protected. This last position implies that all classes of recreational release should be subject to the LRB, including TER’s which are currently executed independent of water level. In fact, then POA President Paul Weiler’s remarks at the public hearing triggered MDE’s scheduling of the 2nd TER working

group. This meeting was intended to explore TER protocol options and to discuss a DNR proposal to extend TER’s into September, all as related to protecting the LRB.

Current situation---As of this writing, we are “cautiously optimistic” that the new permit will call for a predictive capability and at least specify that any TER extensions into September cannot be executed if an LRB breach is predicted. However, a draft of at least selected sections of the new permit has not yet been provided for review, and there is no announced schedule. So, we’ll see. We can only assure you that we will be actively engaged in any opportunity to exert influence in the interest of lake recreational boating.

A February 11 eBlast summarized our POA positions and the then-current status of the Deep Creek Lake “Water Appropriation Permit” (see here). <https://deepcreeklakepoa.z2systems.com/np/clients/deepcreeklakepoa/viewOnlineEmail.jsp?emailId=813d72660cd848737cbc5021c030a-bec8m83846813> The situation remains the same as of this writing; the revised, new permit---along with the companion “response to comments” document---have yet to be published. We will, of course, keep you posted.

Minimum Wake Zones on Deep Creek Lake an Update

Bob Sutton
POA President
Sky Valley Property Owner

The Policy Review Board committee assigned to investigate and make recommendations on the minimum wake zone application for Sky Valley in North Glade Cove held two public hearings on the request in the fall of 2019. The first hearing resulted in a change to the boundary proposed for the minimum wake zone that would not impede boat traffic going to and from Bills Marine South. A sec-

ond hearing was held for the revision and resulted in mostly positive comments. The committee then met and decided to request the PRB to approve the application. In January 2020, the DCL Policy and Review Board met and voted to approve the application and instructed the Lake Manager to send it to the Boating Act Advisory Committee (BAAC) for

their consideration. The BAAC held a meeting at Deep Creek on March 12 and reviewed the application with the Lake Manager. The BAAC members will now consider the application and will discuss it further in their June meeting to determine the next step(s) to take in the process towards final approval.



Wakes and Wake Boats

By Karen Myers
POA Board Member

Deep Creek Lake is celebrating its 95th year of existence in 2020, so with that longevity, concerns about wakes, boating enjoyment and shoreline erosion are not new topics. The POA has been active for more than 80 years, which I believe has contributed significantly to the healthy, beautiful lake that we all enjoy. Throughout my sixty years of observation at Deep Creek, there have always been concerns about boating safety, wakes, and improper boat operation.

Recently the new boating favorite, wake boats, have been blamed for all of the problems, even though these problems existed prior to the invention and creation of wakeboats. To solve the problems, or at least improve the situation, we all need to contribute to the solution, including wake-

boat operators.

First, everyone needs to observe the “no wake” zones marked by buoys as well as “no wake” within 100 feet of shoreline. All boats towing a device must be at least 100’ from bridges, docks, people in the water, other vessels, marker buoys and the shore. Wake boats have an added buffer, increasing the requirement to 200’ from bridges, docks, people in the water, other vessels, marker buoys, etc. So, we all need to remember to keep the required minimum distances and also to remember that kayaks, fishing boats, and other boats at rest are “vessels” and we must maintain our minimum distance of either 100’ or 200’ from them.

Secondly, we need to improve our “captaining” skills. We have all seen cruisers and pontoons

chugging along with the stern deep in the water and the bow riding high, creating very large and expanding wakes. Inexperienced boat operators seem to have no idea about “getting a boat on plane”. But what does that mean? As the boat starts to move forward through the water, speed creates hydrodynamic lift. As more power (and speed) is applied, lift increases, and the boat, in effect, rides over its bow wave, reducing wetted area and thus reducing drag. At this point, the boat is said to be “on a plane” or simply “planing.” Getting your boat on plane is usually best accomplished by gradually increasing throttle, and then using the trim tabs. Your engine is running smoother and your fuel efficiency is greatly improved when operating “on plane.” Also, a study published by the Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA) finds that boat wakes/waves from cruising boats dissipate more slowly than the higher waves from wakeboats and lack the initial drop in size. So, running our boats “on plane” is good for the shoreline and all-around boating enjoyment.

Thirdly, the wake boats are being watched very judiciously. There are statistics published by WSIA, following independent testing, that show that the higher waves associated with wakeboarding and wakesurfing dissipate more rapidly than those generated under the cruising condition. Their data shows that the maximum wave heights associated with wakeboarding and wakesurfing drop precipitously in the first 100’ to 150’ of travel from the boat’s track.

That study is entitled “Characterization of Wake-Sport Wakes and Their Potential Impact on Shorelines” by C.A. Goudey & Associates and is available by link in this article. One section of the study is quoted as follows: “In understanding the significance of boat-wake effects on shorelines, it is necessary to compare them to natural processes. Wind waves are particularly important due to their persistent natures.” The same study publishes an analysis to show the number of times a cruising boat needs to pass the shoreline to equal the energy coming from waves associated with 10 mph winds and a mile of fetch.

The most significant source of energy creating wakes is the wind. While we cannot influence or control the winds, the study further states that boat wakes are not likely to be the most significant source of energy along the shores of all but the smallest bodies of water. We can certainly all contribute positively by controlling the human component.

It is indeed fitting that the DCLPOA acknowledges the concerns regarding wakeboats and continues to assist local and state officials to monitor the activity. A link to the C.A. Goudey study is provided at the end of this article as well as recommendations from the Water Sports Industry Association for wakeboat operators plus the brochure, DEEP CREEK LAKE, Water Sports Safety Begins with You!

Our goal is to educate the boating public and encourage safe boating practices to insure enjoyment by all.

The studies referenced in this article may be found through the following links:

<http://www.wsia.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Wave-Energy-Study-C.A.-Goudey-Assoc.-Final.pdf>

http://www.wsia.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/WSIA-Wave_Energy_Study_Summary.pdf

POA EXPENDITURES FOR 2019

As conscientious stewards of the membership dues, the POA board carefully allocates funds based on staying true to our mission. Your \$30 annual dues provide you access to eBlasts containing timely information regarding lake issues, and the quarterly Dispatch.

Your dues payment also affords you the benefits from the efforts of the dedicated board members who are continuously representing your interests in important issues around the lake.

During 2019 the POA incurred some out of the ordinary expenditures principally relating to the Water Appropriation Permit described elsewhere in this publication. We retained a lobbyist to help us in Annapolis and had additional mailing expenses from sending one of the Dispatch issues relating to the

WAP to all lake area property owners given the importance of the issue.

In 2019, there were 728 active accounts or household members in the POA. That represents approximately 1829 adult family members within those households.

2019 ACTUAL EXPENSES AGAINST BUDGET

Category	2019 Budgeted	Actual as of 12/31/2019
Administration	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 2,876.50
Ads	\$ 400.00	\$ 0.00
Board Meetings	\$ 500.00	\$ 551.80
Bank Service Fee	\$ 0.00	\$ 14.49 ¹
Business Meeting	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,589.03
Constant Contact	\$ 300.00	\$ 325.00
Copying	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Discretionary	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,450.00
Insurance	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 2,692.00
Lobbying	\$ 12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Mapping	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Members Meetings	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,089.94
Dues	\$ 600.00	\$ 525.00
Membership Solicitation/ Information	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,695.48
Neon Mem System	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,650.00
Newsletter	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 12,732.58
PO Box	\$ 75.00	\$ 76.00
Rainy Day Fund	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,628.05
Postage	\$ 20.00	\$ 22.00
Tax Prep	\$ 880.00	\$ 870.00
Web Maintenance	\$ 360.00	\$ 54.86
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 0.00
TOTALS	\$ 38,735.00	\$ 44,842.73

¹ Dues Check Return Fee
www.deepcreeklakepoa.com

Garrett County United Way Campaign

For well over 10 years, the POA has provided our members with printed materials and pre-addressed envelopes for donating to the County United Way in our Spring mailings. As we attempt to reduce waste and minimize our environmental footprint, we'll now just provide the link to the United Way's donation page, which provides the mailing address for checks and a button to donate electronically. We hope you'll continue to give generously to this worthy organization - donations from POA members have typically made up a significant portion of the County United Way's income for Garrett County.

The County United Way is part of a strong national network of United Way organizations throughout the nation but is independent and local. Some of the projects funded in Garrett County by the County United Way include:

- Purchase of gas cards for cancer patients, which helps alleviate travel expenses for treatment
- Over 30,000 meals to over 200 vulnerable, homebound elderly residents.
- Providing life-saving prescription medications fills a gap in coverage to individuals with chronic conditions.
- Assistance with disaster relief is available, which provides, housing, food, and clothing.
- Support to organizations such as Garrett Mentors, Habitat for Humanity, Scouting and more.

We hope our members will continue their generous donations to this excellent organization and the local causes it supports.

To donate to the County United Way, go here: <https://cuw.org/garrett/> and mail your check to the address or use their online donation system. Either way, be sure to note that you're a member of the POA in your donation.

The Deep Creek Watershed Foundation An Update

Bob Hoffmann
POA Board Member

The Deep Creek Watershed Foundation (Foundation) is now in its fourth year of operation as a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit and maturing every day. As you may recall, while sharing some of the same goals as the POA, the Foundation is a separate organization established solely to solicit donations to assist in the implementation of the Watershed Management Plan and fund other projects to preserve and protect our watershed and lake.

The Foundation is still fully staffed with volunteers focused on soliciting donations to further fund projects in support of the watershed. This past year, we welcomed Brian O'Brien (Silver Tree Marina) and Sandy Bello (Taylor-Made Deep Creek Vacations and Sales) to our Board of Directors and we also welcomed Steve Bortz (Habitat for Humanity) to our group of Advisors.

The Foundation continues to support the Deep Creek Lake (DCL) Zebra Detection Project sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and assists the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) in the neutralization of Acid Mine Drainage into Cherry Creek, one of the tributaries to DCL. We also have advertised and sponsored Storm Water Management classes which were free to the public at Garrett College. In addition, the Foundation supported training for the newly launched Water Wise Program in Garrett County focused on training Master Gardener Volunteers in various methods of storm water management.

This year we are initiating a campaign to raise donations to purchase Water Quality Monitors in an effort to enhance DNR's data gathering capability for DCL. Concurrently, we are initiating a Sustained Donor Program to solicit modest donations on a monthly basis to ensure projects and other expenses are funded for the proper operation of the Foundation all year long.

We are constantly looking for individuals to support the Foundation in a variety of capacities so if you are interested in learning more, please go to our web site at deepcreekwatershedfoundation.org or reach out directly to me at rahoffmann93@gmail.com. I would be glad to answer any questions you may have and talk with you about this great organization that is making a positive contribution to our watershed and lake.

POA Board Members

Grant Callery.....'21.....Dispatch Editor	John Quilty.....'22
Tom Craven.....'21	Chris Nichols.....'21
Susie Crawford.....'22First Vice President	VP Membership, Assistant Treasurer
George Evans.....'20	Gary Shafer.....'21
Morgan France.....'21	Karen Smith.....'21Treasurer
Lulu Gonella.....'20VP Communications	Bob Sutton.....'20President
Bob Hoffmann.....'22	
Ed King.....'20	
Tom Knapp.....'20	
Walt Malecki.....'22	
Karen Myers.....'22	
Lauren O'Brien McCann.....'22	

Emeritus Board Members -- Past Presidents

Lou Battistella
Troy Ellington
Mike Belmonte
Scott Johnson
Jan Finkel

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 Property Owners' Association

