



DEEP CREEK DISPATCH

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

Message from the President



We hope that all of our members are well and safe during the ongoing Covid 19 crisis. Please continue to follow the guidelines posted by the local, state, and federal officials. Garrett County so far has only a few cases and we hope it stays that way as more

people come here for the summer vacation season.

The POA tried to keep members informed during the ever changing guidelines during April, May, and June. Hopefully you received the many eblasts we sent out during these months and they were helpful.

The POA Board of Directors elected George Evans as secretary. In addition two new directors were elected to fill positions that were vacated -Barbara Hafer and Greg Harbaugh will fill these vacant terms. Grant Callery was appointed as VP of communications, and Karen Myers/ Barbara Hafer will now be responsible for the Dispatch.

Ed King was recognized for his 50 years as a member of the POA with the presentation of a plaque. Ed is a past President of the POA and remains a member of the Board of Directors.

It is expected that the lake area will be busy this summer as people are expected to vacation close to home. The fourth of July weekend had to have

set records for the number of people and boats out on the lake.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions on large groups of people and the theater being closed, our traditional June General Membership meeting could not be held in person. Please watch for an email giving you the info for our Semi-Annual Membership Meeting, to be held via Google Meet, on Saturday, September 19, 2020, beginning at 8:30am. You may also join by phone by dialing 706.873.1192, with PIN 774296538.

Stay safe and enjoy one of the best months on the lake, September!!

Sincerely,
Bob Sutton
President, Board of Directors

From the Editor By Karen Myers

We are grateful for input from many of our POA Board members and could not produce a Dispatch edition without their assistance. However, please note that the articles are the opinions of the writer, not the POA Board of Directors or the Editor. Our article on Wakeboard Damage by Ed King in this edition is a “point – counterpoint” to the article written by myself from the boating industry perspective in the Spring Dispatch edition. It is critical that we all acknowledge that there are “pro’s” and “cons” to almost every topic. When we all educate ourselves and open our minds to the opposing view, we are better able to work together to achieve positive results. We can certainly report that Deep Creek Lake has been a positive, welcome relief and enjoyment for many owners, guests, renters and visitors this summer. We are so very fortunate to be able to enjoy the “Lake” in so many ways. Stay safe!

Wake Boat Damage

By Ed King

This article is being written to share and address wake boat damage occurring in the Green Glade Cove of Deep Creek Lake. The specific location begins at the tip of Crows Point on the north side of the cove and continues approximately 1000 feet into the cove. It affects at a minimum the properties of the Smith family, Ascanio and Jean Boccuti, Felix and Paula (Titus) Laboy, the Hatleberg family, and the Hollander family, and likely more homeowners along the cove. The damage to these properties is attributable to wake boats, which are boats equipped with ballast tanks and designed to create a large wake used in the sports of wake boarding and wake surfing. None of the damage listed below occurred prior to about three years ago when these boats became popular, in particular those used for wake surfing. In this area, wake boats are routinely seen coming within 50 feet of docks, and sometimes closer, even navigating between docks and moored sailboats. This area is on the leeward exposure, not the windward exposure of the prevailing wind, and no wind damage has ever been reported in this area. Also Green Glade Cove is very popular for water skiing and through the years there has been no damage from that activity. This area is wooded and until this damage occurred had been an excellent area to walk along the lake front. Over the past three years, the following damage has taken place:

- 1) The large waves have gouged the lake bottom depositing sediment along the shore and creating a small dune. The water ponds behind the dune creating pools of stagnant water attracting insects. More importantly, the standing water has rotted and exposed tree roots resulting in the loss of trees along the shoreline. (See Photos)



- 2) There is minimal shore erosion but waves do cause churning of the lake bottom, resulting in a muddy ring around the shore. The fallen trees have made it impossible to walk along the lake front.
- 3) All of the aforementioned homeowners have experienced boats being damaged, boat ropes being broken and dock hardware being destroyed. Repairs have cost close to \$1,000 for each homeowner.
- 4) During peak periods, the enjoyment of using the dock for relaxation no longer exists. The waves hit the docks and make it very unstable. Occasionally a wave will come over the top of the dock.
- 5) Older residents have fallen due to the extreme instability of the docks when large waves hit them, necessitating the installation of handrails along the dock.
- 6) Sailboats and motor boats have been swamped by large waves coming from wake boats.

These conditions have already begun in early June for the 2020 season.

This condition has been reported to DNR Lake Management many times. DNR's suggestion is a shoreline erosion control wall, which would require each property owner to spend thousands of dollars, while the wake boating sport continues creating large wakes. This is not an acceptable solution, and in any event would not correct the problems outlined above.

The impact of this sport is obvious at other locations around the lake as well. Thus, it is reasonable to request that it be looked at elsewhere. The details of this situation are derived from notes and interviews written by the affected families.

Further Discussion

There are many who think that nothing is being done about the wake boats. Although an acceptable solution for everyone has not been reached, it does not mean nothing is being done. Here are several things that have been done:

- 1) The Boat Act Advisory has increased the 100-foot clear distance for water skiers to 200 feet for wake surfing boats.
- 2) The local marinas have been trying to educate the owners/captains of these boats to operate these boats in a responsible way.
- 3) The POA published in a recent Dispatch an article written by the industry titled: "More Fun, More Responsibility." The wake boat industry is aware of the negative image and is doing what it can to soften the impact made by these boats. It is also a growth industry and all one needs do is read one of their magazines to see they are still developing ways to make the perfect wave. Even the wider parts of Deep Creek, which meet the legal operation of surf boats, is still a relatively narrow body of water.
- 4) The DNR has designated which coves are not acceptable for wake surfing.
- 5) In the past the DNR has been receptive to looking at and doing something about similar situations, such as the 30-foot Wellcraft "Scarab" and the Personal Watercraft curfew.

What Should We Do

Do not misunderstand. If I were forty years younger and had the resources to buy one of those wake boats, I would most likely be out there trying to surf. For the participant it seems quite a bit of fun and seems rather safe at the lower speeds it requires. However, no single sport should be permitted to the detriment of the recreational experience of others. Any solution to the problem is something the DNR, the DNR Police, and the Policy and Review Board (PRB) must decide.

The affected property owners would suggest that, for safety of all parties involved, there needs to be strict enforcement of current existing regulations so that wake boats are not operated within 200 feet of any dock or shoreline. Perhaps additional cove restrictions, or time restrictions similar to personal watercraft, are warranted. Additionally, reducing the upper rule band on lake levels would help to keep waves from crashing onto the shores.

Therefore I would take the approach that the squeaky wheel gets the attention.

If you are experiencing a problem with wake boats impacting your property, my recommendation would be to report it to:

- 1) Lake Manager eric.null@maryland.gov Eric Null 301-387-3544
- 2) DNR Police 1-800-628-9944
- 3) Deep Creek Lake Policy & Review Board cptbob@qcol.net Bob Browning 301-616-6997
- 4) If you wish, send a copy to the POA: rsutton166@comcast.net Bob Sutton 301-387-4957

The Deep Creek Watershed Foundation, Inc.-An Update

by Bob Hoffmann

The Deep Creek Watershed Foundation (Foundation) has just passed its Fourth Year Anniversary having begun operating in June 2016. We have a very eclectic Board of Directors numbering nine as well as a group of ten advisors. Our volunteer Board and Advisors come from many walks of life and compose a large range in ages including both men and women. They all, however, have at least one common trait. They all love the Deep Creek Watershed and Deep Creek Lake (DCL) but also believe these valuable resources need to be protected so they will be preserved for posterity. The Foundation works to ensure that will occur by collecting donations from full-time residents, second homeowners, and visitors alike to fund important projects that will support implementation of the Watershed Management Plan by satisfying various objectives and goals which, in turn, will help to preserve DCL and the watershed over time.

One example of a current Foundation effort underway is the Water Quality Meter Campaign designed to raise at least \$100,000 to replace aging meters used by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The meters continuously provide information vital to understanding and protecting the water quality of our lake by identifying anomalies that may require further investigation or management action. Excellent water quality equates to enjoyment of the lake, healthy aquatic creatures, and stable or improving property values.

A recently approved project by the Foundation Board is the installation and maintenance of two water gauges important to lake users. The first gauge continually measures the water level of the lake which will mean we can rely on two separate gauges now for that purpose. One is managed by Brookfield Renewable Power at the dam and the other will be maintained for the Foundation by the

U.S. Geological Service. The second gauge measures the lake water temperature, an important factor for fishermen enjoying this sport on DCL. The recorded data from these gauges will soon be available via the Foundation website:

www.deepcreekwatershedfoundation.org

Lastly, the Foundation applied for and was provided a State Clean Up and Green Up grant for \$4,000 to complete a stormwater project of benefit to those residing within the watershed. This project has been planned to some degree but final planning cannot be undertaken nor can the project be carried out until the coronavirus threat is considerably reduced and we can again congregate in large numbers. More to follow on this project as circumstances permit.

If you are interested in joining with the many folks who support the Foundation, please visit our website or send an email to Bob Hoffmann at rahoffmann93@gmail.com. Thanks very much.

From the Office of Deep Creek Lake Management

The State is offering a grant to 20 eligible applicants for shoreline erosion controls, in the amount of \$10,000 each. The grants are provided by the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund. In order to qualify, an individual must have completed a permitted shoreline erosion control wall in the 2020-2021 season. The applicant will have to install one fish habitat structure per 50 linear feet of wall, and one native plant per 10 linear feet of wall. Once the wall, habitat and plantings are completed they can call the Lake Management Office for an application for the grant. These grants will be for projects that are completed during the winter of 20/21.

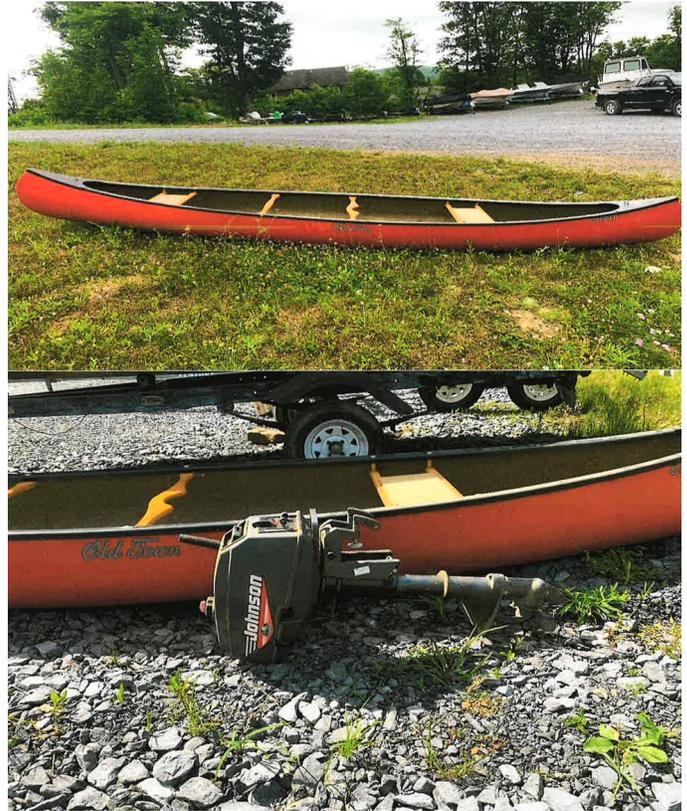
For more information, please contact Eric Null, Lake Manager, at 301.387.4112 or eric.null@maryland.gov

FL YING SCOT NUMBER 80 FOR SALE

The Deep Creek Watershed Foundation, Inc., is offering for sale Flying Scot #80 which has been donated to the Foundation for resale in support of Foundation projects.

The Foundation has determined to sell the boat in a way to maximize the return. A Sterling trailer is included with no title. There is a small two horse-power Johnson outboard motor and motor bracket that attaches to the transom of the Flying Scot available. We are listing the motor and bracket separately from the boat and trailer. Also, a 16-foot Old Town canoe of recent vintage is available separately. There is a \$3,000 reserve on the boat and trailer, a \$900 reserve on the canoe, and a \$400 reserve on the motor, and a \$4,000 reserve on a package of all three items. The condition and sea worthiness of these items is unknown. They are offered as-is. The Foundation will receive indications of interest to the attention of Morgan France via email to

dcwf.sales@gmail.com



“Water Appropriations Permit Update” By John Quilty

We last updated you on the status of the Deep Creek Lake Water Appropriations Permit (WAP) in February of this year. We informed you of our engagements on your behalf through the summer and fall of 2019, and we noted that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), at that time, was generating their proposed version of the new permit along with a companion “response to [stakeholder] comments” document. Public release of those products was expected in the early spring, noting that the current permit expired on 1 April of 2019 but has been extended.

Now, despite unexpected delays, we can report on recent developments which include some “good news” in terms of MDE-proposed permit revisions and some actions we are taking



to address a serious remaining concern. More specifically, MDE announced and then held---on 6 August---a virtual meeting with stakeholders to review the permit renewal process and, importantly, the modifications they were proposing along with their rationale. It should be noted that this meeting occurred in large part because your POA President, Bob Sutton, queried Senator George Edwards and Delegate Wendell Beitzel about the situation, and they took the much-appreciated action to schedule a phone conference with MDE Secretary Grumbles and his staff to review the status and plans for release---including providing an opportunity for stakeholder comment before formal issuance of the permit.

Summarizing the current situation:

- The good news---MDE has considered our earlier inputs and has proposed 3 positive permit changes from our standpoint: explicit recognition of lake recreational boating as an important water “use”, requiring the dam operator (Brookfield LLC) to maintain the water level as close as possible to the Upper Rule Band (URB) throughout the recreational season, and calling for use of a predictive model to support this objective.

- Our continuing concern----despite the above positives, there will be no requirement for using the predictive capability to anticipate potential breaches of the Lower Rule Band (LRB) during dry year conditions and to take action to at least mitigate these predicted breaches. Such actions would require specification and execution of what could be called a “drought protocol”. (Maintaining sufficient depth for dock access in certain areas is of course the issue.)

- Our recent action---as a follow-up to the 6 August virtual meeting, we have communicated with MDE to reinforce the above concern, recommended a pre-release permit language modification to at least state the objective of protecting the LRB, and suggested consideration of a collaborative stakeholder effort to explore “drought protocol” options as candidates for a post-release

permit revision. (As of this writing, we have not yet heard back from MDE regarding this input.)

You’ll note that the described permit review and comment process was based on discussion without the actual proposed permit and “response” to comments documents in hand. As we understand it, these will be released to the public by the end of August---essentially simultaneous with formal issuance of the permit to Brookfield. We will of course review these products carefully, but the permit is final at that point (pending only legal challenges/appeals which offer no real opportunity to address our particular remaining concern).

As summarized, some good progress but potential room for more. We are doing our best. And, we will keep you posted.

Thinking of Selling Your Lakefront Property?

A note from the Deep Creek Lake Management Office:

A buffer strip inspection is recommended for every lakefront transaction to make certain the buyer knows of any possible violations or issues on the buffer strip.

Now that property sales are up and processing quickly, our Lake Management Office is asking for at least a two week time frame to do the inspections and process eligibility letters.

With our high season coming to an end, our seasonal workers have started back to college and there are days when only one Natural Resource Planner is in the office. They are trying to keep up with everything that is coming in.

The main two planners are Seth Metheny and Jenna Sivic. An eligibility letter is valid for 6 months so you may want to get that matter handled in advance for your Realtor. An email with your name and the address of the property should be sent to either Seth.Metheny@maryland.gov or Jenna.Sivic@maryland.gov.

Garrett County Covid-19

By: Diane Lee / Public Information Officer

Health Education and Outreach • Garrett County Health Department
1025 Memorial Drive, Oakland, MD 21550 • www.garretthealth.org

Garrett County has been doing a good job at keeping our COVID-19 positive cases low, but in recent weeks the numbers have been going up. As of August 27th, the county has 63 total positive cases.

“We want to thank the DCL POA for your support of local and state efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Garrett County and protect our residents and visitors from the effects of the virus,” said Garrett County Health Officer Bob Stephens. “We ask you continue to be vigilant about the measures and practices that can help keep yourselves and those around you safe.”

These measures include:

- Practicing social distancing
- Wear a cloth face covering when inside retail and food service locations and anywhere you cannot maintain at least 6 feet of social distance
- Wash your hands frequently

Since we are seeing more cases in our community there are more contact tracing calls being made to individuals who may have been exposed to the virus.

“It’s also important to make sure you answer your phone when you see either Garrett County Health Department or MD COVID on your caller ID,” said Stephens. “Calls from contact tracers could show up as either one.”

Contact tracing is a tool used by public health workers to stop the spread of disease. Persons who may have been exposed to COVID-19 through close contact with someone who tests positive are asked to self-isolate for at least two weeks to stop the spread.

As the state has relaxed restrictions, Garrett County has received more and more complaints about businesses that are not following the

state recommendations concerning COVID-19 safety.

If you have concerns about a business you feel is not following safe practices, consider the following responses:

- Complain to a manager at the business
- Give the business a bad review on their website
- Call 301-334-7760 to report the business (the business will not be told who filed a complaint)
- Call the Maryland’s toll-free COVID Prevention Line at 1-833-979-2266 or email them at prevent.covid@maryland.gov

“We do what we can to follow-up on complaints about non-compliant business, but we need the public’s help in letting these businesses know that they can lose customers if they don’t feel safe in their establishments,” said Stephens.

Four community COVID-19 testing events have been held in Garrett County since the end of June, with nearly 1,200 tests being completed during those events.

Garrett County is an amazing place to live, work and play. We are in the spotlight now because our case counts are so low which is great for the health and wellness of our community. It is important that we all work together and stay vigilant during this trying time to keep our community safe. Please thank those businesses, organizations and individuals who are doing a good job protecting our community. Unfortunately, what they hear most are the complaints.

As new test dates are scheduled, they will be announced on our Facebook page and website, www.garretthealth.org. Additional COVID-19 information is also available on the website. Anyone with medical questions about the virus may call the Health Department COVID-19 Hotline at 301-334-7698.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

All property owners can assist in preserving and caring for the Deep Creek Lake Watershed. A first step is to participate by taking the stakeholder survey at <https://www.garrettcounty.org/watershed/survey>.

Then, all property owners are encouraged to certify their property to be “Water Wise”. This program is new to Garrett County and is administered through the University of Maryland Extension. <https://extension.umd.edu/garrett-county/water-wise>. It is modeled after the “Bay-Wise Program”, but tailored specifically for Garrett County with the goal of helping residents improve the quality and quantity of water in Garrett County through a conservation landscape certification program, Master Gardeners.

The Administrative Council has continued to collaborate on watershed issues throughout the spring and summer although the Educational Advisory committee (EAC) has been unable to meet during the same timeframe due to COVID 19 restrictions.

The current project with the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) involves an attempt to better understand behavior change related to education and outreach. Results are expected after the end of the summer semester. For more information on the Water-Wise certification program and classes, as well as any other questions or comments regarding watershed management, please contact Gary Aronhalt, Garrett County Watershed Management Office, by phone at 301.334.1923 or email: garonhalt@garrettcounty.org or watershed@garrettcounty.org.

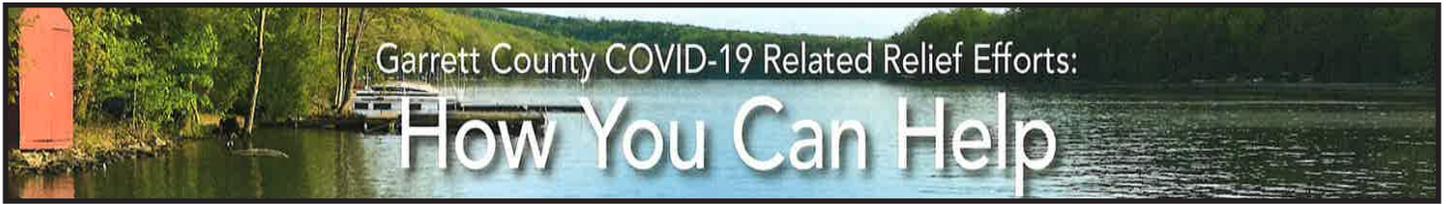
Congratulations!

Long time POA Board member and past President Ed King was presented with a plaque celebrating his 50 years as a member of the POA by current board President Bob Sutton.

The plaque reads “With deepest appreciation for your 50 years of membership in the POA and your years of leadership as President. Your tireless dedication and enormous contribution has made Deep Creek Lake a better place for everyone.”

Congratulations Ed from the POA membership!





Local, state and national organizations are providing assistance to Garrett County residents experiencing difficulties at this time. Friends of Deep Creek Lake have compiled a directory of some of the organizations accepting financial donations to support their efforts ... and information on how to donate. Please give generously.

Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc.

The County Emergency Management Office has asked Community Action to take a lead role in coordinating donations, including cash, food and household items, volunteer services, transportation, masks, and specific needs associated with COVID-19.

How to Donate: www.garretthealth.org/community

The Garrett County Public Schools Foundation

The Foundation helps the Garrett County Public Schools provide over 800 meals to students. GCPS is currently providing three meals a day to anyone under 18, through 15 sites throughout the County. How to Donate: By check payable to The GCPS Foundation. Send to P.O. Box 11, Oakland, MD 21550. 301-501-0190.

The House of Hope

The House of Hope is a non-denominational, non-profit "network of concern" for those in need in Garrett County. It operates four free food banks in the County.

How to Donate: Send check to P.O. Box 24, Oakland, MD 21550 or online www.houseofhopegc.org

The Maryland Food Bank

The Maryland Food Bank distributes food to eligible soup kitchens, food pantries, and shelters throughout the State. In Garrett County, it operates through the Oak Park Church of the Brethren.

How to Donate: www.mdfoodbank.org. Click "Donate"

The Dove Center

The Dove Center is a private non-profit organization providing safety, advocacy, and counseling to individuals affected by domestic violence and/or sexual assault. www.gcdovecenter.org. How to Donate: www.gcdovecenter.org/ways-to-give/

It's In The Bag

Serving Garrett County Public Schools, this program fills backpacks with food to send home with children on the weekends, coordinated by St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. How to Donate: By check to It's In The Bag, P. O. Box 303, Oakland, MD 21550.

United Way of Garrett County

The United Way has established COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to provide micro-grants to local nonprofits to aid with food, shelter, medical co-pays, and supplies. How to Donate: www.cuw.org/garrett/ or send a check to P.O. Box 394, Oakland, MD 21550 .

Western Maryland Red Cross

The Red Cross faces a severe blood shortage in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Monetary donations are also needed. How to Donate: www.redcross.org or call 1-800-435-7669.

Other organizations needing your help:

www.governor.maryland.gov/marylandunites
www.211md.org

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 Property Owners' Association

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