



DEEP CREEK DISPATCH

Summer/Fall 2019
Newsletter of the
Property Owners' Association
of Deep Creek Lake, Inc.



Sad News from the POA

Dear POA Members

On the afternoon of December 20, 2019, Paul W. Weiler, President of the Deep Creek Lake Property Owners' Association, unexpectedly passed away from a brief but fatal battle with viral pneumonia.

Paul led the POA with clear headed purpose and the desire to ensure the voice of all the property owners who cared about the lake and its watershed, whether living on the lake or elsewhere in the watershed, were heard on a variety of issues. He worked tirelessly to improve on the relationships the POA has with any number of businesses as well as local and state level officials to strengthen the credibility the POA possesses and can bring to bear on issues for its members. Generous with his time, he served on the boards of the Garrett Lake Arts Festival, The Garrett College Foundation Board, and the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation. All this while caring for his lovely wife Pat who suffered from Alzheimer's Disease and who predeceased him by two months.

Paul led an amazing life which began at a very young age when he and his immediate family escaped from Nazi Germany in 1938. It carried on through his work on the Apollo 11 Space Program which successfully put a man

on the moon then continued with Lockheed Martin where he served as a Program Manager and Quality Systems auditor until his retirement in 2006.

He accepted the position of Editor of the Dispatch when he joined the POA Board which quickly transitioned into serving as the Vice President of Communications prior to assuming the position of President in August 2018.

He was totally dedicated to the Deep Creek Watershed and the Lake and those who benefitted from both. He was that quiet professional who got things done with no fanfare and sought recognition for nothing. He was kind, warm, smart, and loved single malt scotch.

But of all these accomplishments he had in his life and all that he was, the one that meant the most to us was that he was our dear friend whom we shall miss forever.

Please take a look at his full obituary at <https://www.csfredlockfh.com/notices/Paul-Weiler>

Cheers,

Bob Hoffman
Immediate Past President

POA Succession

Susie Crawford

First Vice President

In the wake of Paul Weiler's tragic and unexpected death, the POA Board of Directors will undertake a process to identify and elect a new Board President. To that end, a Presidential Search Committee composed of Ed King, senior POA Board member and past president, Bob Hoffmann, immediate past president, and Susie Crawford, first vice president, has been formed. The Search Committee will identify a candidate or candidates for President and present a candidate to the Board for election as President by or before the scheduled April 25, 2020 Board meeting. Until such time as a new President is elected, Susie Crawford as first vice president will perform the duties of president during the transition.

From the Editor

By Grant Callery

POA Members Welcome to the 2020 year. The Board of the POA wishes you all a Happy New Year and we look forward to a great year on the lake. Remember to enjoy the wondrous beauty of Western Maryland in the Winter.

To help you get off to a good start I am including some reminders that we have obtained through our ongoing discussions with Lake Management that should help you prepare for the 2020 season.

We are also including an article by Bob Sutton a POA Board member and an owner at Sky Valley about the newly developed criteria for seeking minimum wake zones on the lake. Sky Valley is the first

owner's association to utilize these new procedures and Bob's article describes their application to lake management.

For owners and those visiting during the Winter season in Garrett County which, for those of us who live in less "wintery" locations than The Mountaintop – the Garrett County Government has compiled a group of winter storm safety tips that can be accessed at - <https://www.garrettcountry.org/emergency-services/safety-tips/preparing-for-winter-storms>



The way it used to be.





Lake Management Reminders

The 2020 Buffer Strip Use Permits will be mailed around the second week of January. Please sign and mail the permit back to Lake Management with payment enclosed. When Lake Management receives your payment and signed copy they will send you your copy and dock stickers. You can also pay in person at the Lake Management Office or by credit card. All Buffer Strip Use Permits and payments are due by April 1, 2020. If permits and payments are not received by April 1, 2020 the permit holder may receive a citation.

Docks can be deployed on April 1, 2020 and must be removed by December 1, 2020. These dates are set to ensure that docks do not incur ice damage and snowmobilers have fewer obstructions.

Any permit holder purchasing a new dock

or wishing to reconfigure their existing dock(s) must submit a Buffer Strip Use Permit Application (<https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Documents/BufferStripUsePermit.pdf>) to the Lake Management Office for review and approval before installing the dock. It is highly recommended to submit the application before you order the dock, so Lake Management can determine if the dock meets regulatory standards.

All work performed on the Buffer Strip and/or Conservation Easement requires a Special Permit and/or Conservation Easement Approval letter. Please remember to submit an application and obtain a permit before performing any work. <https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Documents/SpecialPermitApplication.pdf>

If you are interested in installing Shoreline Erosion Control you must apply for a Maryland Department of Environment Waterways Construction Permit and a Lake Management Special Permit. The review of these permits is lengthy. All work on these projects must occur when the water level is low (Fall/Winter). If you are interested, please have your application submitted to Lake Management by June to ensure that construction can take place beginning in fall 2020.

As always if you have any questions please call the Lake Management Office (301-387-4112).

Chamber Announces Fall 2020 Trip to Vietnam

The Garrett County Chamber of Commerce is arranging a trip to Vietnam from November 1-10, 2020, and is offering POA members the Chamber member discount for the trip. Details are below in the press release. Click [here](#) to view a brochure for the trip.

Minimum Wake Zones on Deep Creek Lake

Bob Sutton

POA Board Member

Sky Valley Property Owner

In the past, if an individual or organization desired a minimum wake zone on an area of Deep Creek, they could submit an application to the Lake Manager who then had to process it. Generally the application would be denied because there were no criteria for the manager to use to approve such a request.

The POA, DNR, and NRP formed a committee under the authority of the Policy and Review Board (PRB) to try and develop criteria that could be used to evaluate an application that was submitted. The committee contacted the Boat Act Advisory Committee (BAAC) who ultimately has approval authority for new and/or changes to regulations. The BAAC actually had criteria already developed that they were using for minimum wake zones in the bay area. The Deep Creek Committee then took these six criteria and applied them to Deep Creek to see if they were applicable to the Lake. They were deemed applicable and submitted to the PRB for approval which was granted. These criteria can now be used by the Lake Manager for any application for a Minimum Wake Zone to judge if an application should be processed or not. All six of the criteria must be met and are included at the end of this article.

Sky Valley Association was the first application received for a Minimum Wake Zone in the cove where their marina is located. The Lake Manager determined that this application met the new criteria and requested the PRB to begin the approval process. A committee was formed by the PRB to hold a public hearing and gather data on public opinion of this application. The first hearing was held in November and resulted in a modification to the boundary of the proposed zone. A second

hearing was held in late December for the modified application. Public comments both written and in person were overwhelmingly in favor of the proposal which has been approved by the committee to request the PRB to forward this application to the BAAC for their approval. At the January 6, 2020 PRB meeting, the application was approved and is now in the process of being submitted to the BAAC and Secretary of the DNR for processing and subsequent decision on the proposal.

If the BAAC approves the requested modification to the existing rule for this cove (which now reads “No towing after noon on weekends and holidays” and would change to “Minimum Wake Zone at all Times”) they would send it to DNR in Annapolis for final approval. Since the coordinates of the existing Buoys would change the final approval involves a legislative committee. It is expected that the final regulation change could take place later in 2020.

The Sky Valley application requests a change in the coordinates of existing buoys along with a change in the existing regulation. This process is somewhat streamlined compared to a request that would involve a new set of buoys and a new regulation on Deep Creek.

BAAC and Deep Creek Lake Minimum Wake Zone Criteria

Boating Congestion/Boating Safety

Current level and recent/anticipated changes in boat traffic, high speed boat traffic, typical boat traffic patterns/practices, number of and material increas-

es in safety-related citations/warnings issued by NRP, etc.

Physical Features of Waterway

Consider impacts that the existing depth/width of a waterway may have on boating safety or support documented environmental impacts, etc.

Water Based Activities

Consider impacts of action sports (wakeboarding, skiing, tubing, etc), boating types (sail, power, paddle), recreational and commercial fishing/crabbing, boat mooring(s), swimming, etc. on the overall use of the waterway.

Impacts of Regulation to Adjacent Areas/Waterways

Potential and/or more serious impacts if regulation displaces an activity to another portion of the same or other local waterways.

Boat Generated Wakes

Absent extraordinary circumstances, a boat generated wake height of less than one foot impacting a dock, marine structure, or property (before any amplifying impact of an approaching shoreline) is not a basis for increased regulation. A boat wake height in excess of one foot, by itself, is not a basis for increased regulation. DNR will provide estimated wave heights for typical vessels using Maynard Wave Prediction Model (for planing boats) and/or site observations.

Environmental Concerns

Consider environmental concerns identified in the initial petition submitted to DNR for a boating regulation request. Environmental concerns will be assessed by DNR and reported to the BAAC as part of the review process.



Water-Wise Garrett County

A Landscape Certification Program

Gary Aronhalt - Watershed Coordinator
Garrett County Department of Planning & Land Management



The Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan references in Goal #8 - Objective #2 a review of the Bay-Wise Yardstick Program and suggests the development of a similar program to be used in the Deep Creek Watershed. In response to this goal, staff from the University of Maryland Extension (UME), Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and Garrett County Government collaborated on the development of Water-Wise Garrett County. Portions of the Bay-Wise Program were extracted and tailored to Deep Creek Watershed's unique stakeholders and geography. Specialists in stormwater, native plants, wildlife, agriculture, water quality, and buffer strip management helped to develop the program and citizen stakeholders also reviewed the program prior to its launch.

The program utilizes Garrett County Master Gardeners to certify properties. Mas-

ter Gardeners have a vision of a healthier world through environmental stewardship and support UME's mission of educating residents about safe, effective and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities. Master Gardeners are Maryland citizens with a passion for gardening who have completed Master Gardener Basic Training and have completed 40 hours of approved volunteer service. To retain Master Gardener status, individuals must complete a minimum of 10 hours of continuing education and a minimum of 20 hours of approved volunteer service. In addition to the basic training and volunteer service, Master Gardeners are also required to complete a 3-day course in Water-Wise Garrett County certification prior to certifying properties as "Water-Wise". The initial 3-day training course was funded in part by the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation.

The program's goal is to provide the property owner with access to trained landscape experts. The Master Gardeners will visit a property with its owner(s) and complete the Water-Wise Yardstick evaluation of the property. The attributes of the property that promote good environmental stewardship are tallied as inches on the Water-Wise Yardstick. Properties that measure 36 inches or more on the Water-Wise Yardstick are certified as Water-Wise! While completing the evaluation, Master Gardeners will also offer gardening tips, provide landscaping ideas, and recommendations to control stormwater on the property. The property owner can implement

those suggestions and schedule a follow-up visit to evaluate progress. In fact, even properties measuring more than 36 inches at initial evaluation will have opportunities for improvement. Owners of certified properties will receive a Water-Wise sign letting visitors and neighbors know that they are doing their part to protect the watershed. The program is free-of-charge and the only prerequisite is owning property in Garrett County. There is also no obligation to achieve or maintain Water-Wise status, but this will hopefully be the goal for all participants.

If you are a property owner interested in the Program, you can contact Ashley Bodkins, Senior Agent Associate at the Garrett County Extension Office for more information:

Ashley Bodkins

301-334-6960

abachtel@umd.edu

<https://extension.umd.edu/garrett-county/water-wise>

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