



DEEP CREEK DISPATCH



Winter 2019

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



The President's Message

Folks,

In my Fall letter I discussed the State Lakes Preservation and Restoration Fund (SLPRF) and the Open House events that the DNR had planned. These events have taken place and

your POA was represented. DNR is now developing plans for implementation starting in July of this year. It is important to note that the SLPRF was only funded to \$1M/year for three years. Senator Edwards and Delegate Beitzel have submitted Bills (SB213 & HB405) to increase the funding to \$3M/year and eliminate the "sunset" clause of three years (see article by Julie Bortz on page 9 of this issue of the Dispatch). In an eBlast earlier this month I asked you to send letters of endorsement to both Senator Edwards and Delegate Beitzel. If you have not already done so, please consider doing so now. Our legislators pay attention to public input and your views and needs matter.

As I discussed in the Fall Dispatch, the Water Appropriation and Use Permit (Permit) is up for renewal for the operation of the Deep Creek Hydroelectric station, i.e. the DCL dam. MDE will be hosting three stakeholder meetings beginning at the end of February to gather information regarding the proposed renewal of the permit conditions. Your POA will be represented at these meetings. Further, the POA has sent a letter to MDE outlining what we believe are Permit changes supporting equitable allocation to lake recreational boating. Key among these changes are:

- Explicit recognition that recreational boating is a "use" of the lake as set forth in COMAR (Code of MD.) for state owned lakes;

- Use of "predictive" tools to anticipate times when excess water could be made available for recreational use as well as to support optimal management of the water resource in "dry years";
- Do not allow violations of the Lower Rule Band (LRB);
- Recognition that the Permit is a "Requirements Document", and the need for the development of an "Operational Management Plan" that takes into account the state of the lake at any point in time.

I also want to remind everyone this is the Dispatch issue where we provide copies both electronically and in paper copy so that you all may receive the annual information provided by The United Way of Garrett County. Many years ago, the POA Board selected this organization as the one we would encourage our members to support because it supports so many other local charities. It is that time of the year again, so I encourage you to consider donating to the United Way so that many other organizations can benefit from your generosity. Thanks very much for your consideration.

I wish you all a happy winter with plenty of fun in the snow; and for those who choose to spend the winter in warmer climes than Garrett County, may you enjoy the sun!

Best Regards,
Paul W. Weiler

President, POA

Editor's Note

By Grant Callery

DEEP CREEK WATERSHED SIGN COMMITTEE

Readers may have seen recent articles in The Garrett County Republican that the County has created a committee to review a broad range of issues relating to the placement of commercial signage in the Watershed District. There are only a few areas in the County that are subject to zoning regulations one of those being the lake area.

The Committee which includes among its members POA Board member Morgan France as a representative of the POA and is led by Garrett County Planning Commission Director Deb Carpenter.

The Planning and Land Management Department website describes the project as follows:

“On September 5, 2018 two amendments were proposed by citizens to alter the sign chapter within the Deep Creek Watershed Zoning Ordinance. After discussion, the Commission decided that the entire ordinance needed to be updated. To that end they solicited for volunteers to form a Sign Committee. The task of the sign committee is to advise the Planning Commission on recommended changes to the sign chapter, specifically in regard to the following topics.

1. The Reed v. Town of Gilbert Supreme Court ruling on content-based restrictions on signage and its effect on local regulations.
2. Temporary Signage, such as feather flags, sandwich boards, benners, etc.
3. LED or Digital Signage
4. Sign Height Regulations

The group is tasked to complete their work by the end of April and make a final presentation to the Planning Commission at their meeting on April 3, 2019.”

The Committee has held six meetings since the end of November 2018 and is moving toward it's April deadline. Summaries of those meetings can be found on the website - www.garrettcounty.org/planning-land-development/deep-creek-watershed-sign-chapter-review.

Any members interested in the issue or desiring to provide comments should feel free to contact Morgan at silverdaggr@gmail.com or Deb at dcarpenter@garrettcounty.org

2018 Pilot Zebra Mussel Monitoring Project

By Julie Bortz, Natural Resource
Biologist, RAS
Department of Natural Resources

Due to increasing threat of a zebra mussel introduction into Deep Creek Lake, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with Brookfield Renewable Energy and the Deep Creek Lake Watershed Foundation, initiated a Pilot Zebra Mussel Monitoring Plan in 2018 at Deep Creek Lake, Maryland. The plan was a multi-faceted approach conducted on Deep Creek Lake from May-October 2018. It consisted of water quality monitoring to determine if the lake has suitable habitat conditions for zebra mussels as well as visual monitoring in an effort to ensure zebra mussels aren't currently found in Deep Creek Lake.

A detailed report covering the results of the 2018 Zebra Mussel Monitoring Plan should be available later this spring on the department's Eyes on Deep Creek Lake webpage found at <https://dnr.maryland.gov>.

*For readers unfamiliar
with the Zebra Mussel issue
see -*



https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/what-are-zebra-mussels-and-why-should-we-care-about-them?qt-news_science_products=0#qt-news_science_products

POA Involvement In Garrett County/DCL

Area Organizations

By Grant Callery

I often find myself in conversations with other property owners in the lake area where the discussion comes around to the question – why should I become a member of the POA?

I am a relatively short-term member of the POA Board (less than 2 years) but a relative long-term property owner at DCL (over 25 years).

I have always viewed myself as a well “informed” part time owner, involved in my HOA, fairly active in contributing to Garrett County charitable organizations and following the POA and its activities on behalf of the lake area property owners.

While I have always been impressed with the breadth of issues addressed by the POA it was not until I joined the Board that I began to understand the depth of involvement of POA Board members in most, if not all, of the important governmental and non-profit organizations in Garrett County and the Deep Creek watershed area. Some of these relationships are based on the status of the POA as a critical “player” in the area and some are based on the deep-seated involvement of our Board members in the infrastructure of Garrett County.

Irrespective of the reasons for involvement, these relationships significantly benefit the members of the POA and constitute a major reason why membership is important for all lake area property owners.

At the end of this article you will find a graphic representation of some of the other important organizations in the area that POA Board members support in leadership roles. The purpose of many of these organizations is self-evident. Others, however, have roles that are a bit more obscure. The following is a description of two of those organizations critical to the future of the lake and its watershed area.

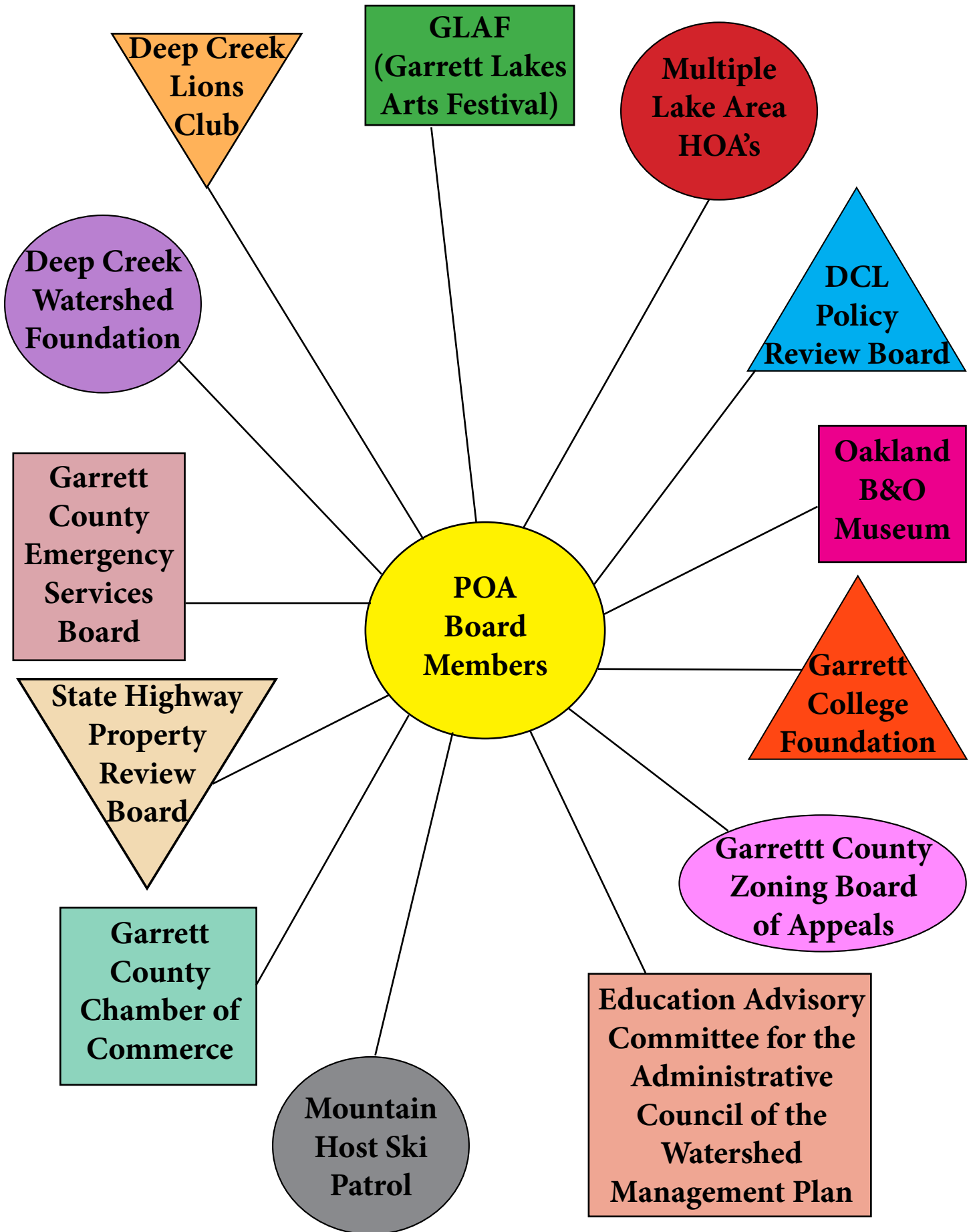
Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board

The Deep Creek Policy Review Board (PRB) exists in Maryland State Law to assist the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in the management of Deep Creek Lake (DCL) and bring items of importance to the attention of the Secretary, DNR. The PRB was established at the time the state purchased DCL to insure members of the community would have input into lake related matters. The PRB meets quarterly and has several designated seats, including one for the POA. The PRB may be the single most important entity for “getting things done” around the lake.

The Deep Creek Lake Watershed Foundation

The Foundation was formed to support the Watershed Management Plan’s goal of “improving the environmental stability and economic viability of the Deep Creek Watershed while retaining its rural landscapes and natural beauty. The Foundation seeks to accomplish this goal by engaging in fundraising activities to sponsor educational programs supporting initiatives relating to the watershed, soliciting and providing funding to support scientific, environmental, and educational programs relating to the watershed, and applying for grants relating to activities in furtherance of the protection of the watershed.” Although the POA and the DCFW are separate organizations, two POA Board members serve on the DCWF Board and four POA Board members serve as advisors to the DCWF.

The following are organizations with which the POA has important affiliations through the leadership of POA Board members.



Deep Creek Lake Lions Club Opens New Trail System and Historical Exhibit

By Chris Nichols

For almost 30 years, the Deep Creek Lake Lions Club has operated the County-owned 30-acre community park on Bumble Bee Rd. Over the past few years, the Club has made a commitment to improve the facilities at the park to provide more recreational opportunities for both locals and visitors. One of the first projects under this initiative was the installation of Garrett County's first dog park in 2015. The dog park was well received, and many users requested additional walking trails around the park. In response to this feedback, the Club worked with the County Commissioners to develop a trail system on additional parcels of land owned by the County adjacent to the park. Also during this period, several Club members happened to be discussing Meshach Browning's book *Forty Four Years of the Life of a Hunter*, an autobiographical account of pioneer life in Garrett County in the early 1800's. The site of one of Browning's homesteads was very close to the park, and the Club members discussed the possibility of a monument at the park to commemorate his life. The Club decided to combine the ideas of a historical interpretive exhibit with the outdoor theme of a trail system, and to pursue a grant from the Mountain Maryland Heritage Area. Although the grant request was rejected for arbitrary administrative reasons, the Club felt that the value to the community was sufficient to self-fund the project.

Members of the Club collaborated with various organizations such as Garrett Trails for assistance in trail clearing and the Garrett County Historical Society in development of content for the interpretive exhibit. An informal group of Meshach Browning enthusiasts was also recruited on social media to work on the text and images of the signs. On January 1st of 2019 the trail system and historical exhibit had a "soft opening" with an official Grand Opening planned for May in conjunction

with a possible Meshach Browning family reunion at the Park. At the trailhead, the exhibit consists of a series of signs, each with a quotation from Browning's book, a central image relevant to the text, locations in the county for other outdoor experiences and links to County resources such as the museum in Oakland where visitors can learn more. More information on the content of each sign, as well as audio recordings of the text of each are provided on the Club's website. The trailhead also has a large format map of the system and paper copies of the map for visitors to take along with them. The trails offer a mix of intensity levels from flat, wide trails to challenging single tracks and are suitable for a variety of uses including hiking, biking, dog walking and cross-country skiing (weather permitting). During the "soft opening" phase, trails are marked with temporary surveyor's tape which will be replaced with permanent blazes as the trails are finalized. The Club also plans to install an information kiosk and perform landscaping at the trailhead area. Long-term plans for the park include further trail development, recreational equipment, soccer fields and the acquisition and assembly of a salvaged pioneer-era log cabin.

Partners are being sought for these and other projects and their long-term nature provides excellent business promotional opportunities. The Club is always looking for donations of boats and other recreational gear as well as new members to support its core mission of providing service to the visually impaired through its Blind Skier and Camper Programs. For more information on the Club and the trail system project, users can visit

www.deepcreeklions.org.

For questions, comments or how to get involved, please contact Chris Nichols at 301 616 7881 or dimesy23@gmail.com



L-R: Chris Judy (historical enthusiast) and Chris Nichols (Lions Club project coordinator) at the Meshach Browning Trail System trailhead shortly after the installation of the exhibit and opening the trails.

Logo for Garrett County Watersheds

Lake area residents and visitors will begin seeing a new logo created for the GC Watershed management team in various locations around the County. This logo should help draw attention to and emphasize the importance of stewardship of the County's watershed resources.



POA EXPENDITURES FOR 2018



A LOOK at the BUDGET

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.

In 2018, there were 679 active accounts or household members in the POA. That represents approximately 1816 adult family members within those households.

2018 BUDGETED/ACTUAL EXPENSES. THROUGH 12/31/2018

Category	Budgeted	Actual As of 12/31/18
Administration	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 5,413.59
Ads	\$ 315.00	\$ 386.10
Board Meetings	\$ 510.00	\$ 465.00
Constant Contact	\$ 399.00	\$ 400.00
Copying	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Discretionary	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 2,300.00
Insurance	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 2,692.00
Mapping	\$ 0.00	0.00
Members Meetings	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,260.80
Dues	\$ 500.00	\$ 584.00
Membership Solicitation	\$ 700.00	\$ 93.58
Newsletter	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,571.24
Neon Membership System	\$ 0.00	\$ 750.00 ¹
PO Box	\$ 70.00	\$ 72.00
Rainy Day Fund	\$ 2,500.00 ²	\$ 0.00 ³
Postage	\$ 20.00	-0-
Tax Prep	\$ 880.00	\$ 850.00
Web Maintenance	\$ 360.00	\$ 360.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,160.18
TOTALS	\$ 27,854.00	\$ 19,358.49

¹ New Membership renewal and tracking system approved by Board at June 2018 meeting

² Based on projected 2018 dues of \$25,000

³ Dues collected for 2018 = \$18,815.93, less than expenses incurred therefore Rainy-Day Goal not funded.

Citizen Notification & Emergency Alerts

By Lou Battistella, Past President-POA & Chairman-Garrett County
Emergency Services Board

Regardless whether you are a full-time resident of the Garrett County or a part-time resident, it is important to be able to be up to date with adverse public safety events that could impact your safety and the safety of your loved ones.

We are in rural Western Maryland, at a high elevation which can contribute to hazardous weather conditions. Garrett County has made available to all citizens the Citizen Connect system. Information is available on the Garrett County government website: www.garrettcountry.org.

I have attached an outline on how to configure your cellular device to enable you to receive citizen notifications and emergency alerts.

I also want to point out, many people today have opted not to have a land-line phone and depend solely on their cellular phones. From experience, there are cellular carriers that are not primary carriers in Garrett County and must rely on roaming services of other carriers. There are times when we have many more visitors than usual creating a

high demand for cellular services, it just may create an inability for some to get service, which is critical if there is an emergency.

There are also areas that do not have cellular service or have a weak signal due to our mountainous terrain. This is something that you need to think about, if you consider discontinuing your land line phone. Weather conditions can knock out cellular service, just as weather can down phone lines. One can be as bad as the other. But this is just something to think about. Garrett County attempts to do everything it can in being able to be prepared for just about any event that would call for emergency services.

Please remember, our Fire Departments are volunteer based and depending on your location, times may be on the long side, for our emergency providers to get to you. You need to be vigilant and understand the factors that are involved with rural living. Be safe and Be Prepared.



The screenshot shows the "Citizen Notifications & Emergency Alerts" sign-up page. It includes a header with the Garrett County Government logo and a sub-header "Sign Up to Receive Citizen Notifications and Emergency Alerts". The page contains a list of instructions: 1. Visit garrettcountry.org and click on Citizen Connect. 2. Login to Citizen Connect. 3. In the sidebar, click Citizen Notifications & Emergency Alerts. 4. Add the addresses that are important to you. 5. Add all the ways you want to be contacted. 6. Check all of the alert types that you want to receive. 7. Click Save Changes. The page also features a "Alert Types" section with checkboxes for various categories like Weather, Environmental, and Meeting/Partners. A footer note states: "You can come back to this page to modify your addresses, contact information, and which alerts to receive. You can also unsubscribe from all alerts from this page."

State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund

By Julie Bortz, Natural Resource Biologist, RAS
Department of Natural Resources

During the fall of 2018, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources hosted five open house events to solicit public input to help develop a work plan for the new State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund. The Fund will become available July 1, 2019 and currently includes a total of \$3 million dollars (\$1 million per year) to be spent over the next three years. The money is intended to fund projects that will support protection and restoration efforts at all 16 state-owned lakes in Maryland. The funds can be used for removing sediment, treating contaminated sediment, preventing the spread of invasive species, improving ecological and recreational value and taking any other action the department determines is necessary at any or all of 16 state owned lakes throughout Maryland.

The open house for Deep Creek Lake took place on November 29, 2018 and like the other open houses, was intended to seek public input for the use of these funds. Some suggestions provided to the department included projects to create fish habitat, improve boat ramps and docks at the state park, conduct aquatic invasive species education and control efforts and dredging to name a few.

The department is in the process of reviewing all the suggestions they received and plans to convene a departmental panel of experts (with representatives from the major units within DNR) early this spring to prioritize which projects will be funded this year. It is anticipated that the final workplan for first \$1 million dollars (available July 1, 2019) will be released in the late spring 2019. Updates and additional information will be posted on the department's website at dnr.maryland.gov. Any additional questions concerning the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund should be directed to Mike Naylor at mike.naylor@maryland.gov.

**It should be noted that in January 2019, two bills (Senate Bill 213 and House Bill 405) were introduced into the Maryland General Assembly, to increase the amount of the appropriation in the State Lake Protection and Restoration Fund, beginning in fiscal year 2021. The request would increase the Governor's annual appropriation for the Fund from \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000 each year. Additionally, the bills would repeal the 3 year "sunset" on the Fund, making those funds available each year going forward.

DNR Compass Web Portal

Maryland's Department of Natural Resources has created a web portal which provides "one stop shopping" for DNR licensing and recreational information and allows for online application for fishing, hunting and off-road vehicle licensing as well as a link for renewal of boat registration and information about boating regulations.

Take a look at this useful resource at - <https://compass.dnr.maryland.gov/>

POA Board Members

Grant Callery.....'21.....202-669-1245 Dispatch Editor gcallery1@gmail.com	Chris Nichols.....'21.....301-387-5134 VP Membership, Assistant Treasurer dimesy23@gmail.com	
Tom Craven.....'21.....301-387-6202 tom_craven@hotmail.com	Gary Shafer.....'21.....301-616-9940 rxshaf@gmail.com	
Susan Crawford.....'19.....First Vice President	Karen Smith.....'21.....301-387-0251 Treasurer dclpoasmith@comcast.net	
George Evans.....'20.....301-501-2224 gevans21561@gmail.com	Robert Sutton.....'20.....301-387-4957 rsutton166@comcast.net	
Morgan France.....'21.....301-616-5097 silverdagger@gmail.com	Paul Weiler.....'20.....301-387-6391 President paul_weiler@verizon.net	
Katheryn Gemberling.....'19.....301-387-7404 Secretary kgember@aol.com	Emeritus Board Members -- Past Presidents	
Lulu Gonella.....'20.....240-475-4131 VP Communications lulu@lwgconsult.com	Lou Battistella.....301-387-2094 Lbatt859@aol.com	
Bob Hoffmann.....'19.....301-387-4839 rahoffmann93@gmail.com	Mike Belmonte.....mfbelmonte@gmail.com	
Ed King.....'20.....301-387-5702 edjeanking@verizon.net	Troy Ellington.....301-387-9232 troyellington1@gmail.com	
Tom Knapp.....'20.....301-717-3129 thomas.j.knapp@gmail.com	Jan Finkel.....jfinkel1@comcast.net	
Tony Lombardi.....'19.....lombardi.tony.jr@gmail.com	Scott Johnson.....301-387-8547 sboyumj2@comcast.net	
Lauren O'Brien McCann.....'19.....lnobrien0@gmail.com	Roger Titus.....301-344-0052 rwtitus@hotmail.com	
John Quilty.....'19.....301-387-2499 jqilty@mitre.org		

Property Owners' Association
of Deep Creek Lake, Inc.
P.O. Box 816, McHenry, MD 21541

