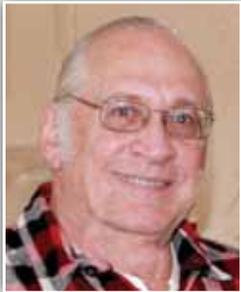




# DEEP CREEK DISPATCH

Spring 2016

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



## The President's Message

I would like to devote my message for this *Dispatch* to a few items that came up at the April 25, 2016, Policy and Review Board (PRB) meeting. They are:

### ***Watershed Management Plan***

An update was provided on the status of the Watershed Management Plan (WMP) previously adopted by the Commissioners. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been completed between Garrett County, the Maryland Department of the Environment, and the Department of Natural Resources and establishes a group of representatives of these three entities that will oversee the process of implementation of the WMP. Debbie Carpenter will represent Garrett County to this group.

### ***Dredging in DCL***

Garrett County will enter into an MOU with the Maryland Environmental Service (MES) to develop the required plans which will address the requirements of the various permits necessary to file the application for funding under Tier II of the Waterway Improvement Fund which insures a 50%-50% match. It is estimated that MES will require roughly 12 – 18 months to gather together all the information required. Once the required information is assembled, then it should be possible to establish cost estimates for the project as planned. More importantly, at that point a determination needs to be made as to how the County will provide their share of the cost. The County plans to hold public meetings to share plans with the public and obtain public comment. The County via MES will also consider sediment mitigation efforts as part of the project to insure once sediment is removed, measures are taken to insure it does not fill back in quickly. The overall process will be long and complex and we will do our best to keep you apprised of developments.

### ***Budget Review***

Mr. Mark Hoffman, Assistant Secretary, Mission Support, DNR, provided a presentation concerning the State Budgeting process with specific emphasis on the Deep Creek Lake Management Fund. Agreement was reached that it would be worthwhile for the PRB to get such a presentation in roughly July of every year to review the next Fiscal Year's budget and provide comments as appropriate. For example, if the PRB were to receive a presentation in July 2016, realizing the state's budget year runs from July 1 to 30 June, we would receive information as it pertained to FY18 and comment accordingly.

### ***Restrictions Pertaining to Personal Watercraft***

The Committee established to review the question of lifting restrictions regarding use of PWC's met on March 31, 2016, but no recommendations were developed at that meeting for the PRB. A second meeting will be held which will be advertised and open to the public in an effort to collect inputs from other groups around the county and support possible recommendations for the PRB's consideration. We will notify you once this meeting has been scheduled.

We are looking forward to further signs of Spring here in the Deep Creek Lake area and are certainly looking forward to a wonderful, fun-filled Summer for all our visitors and property owners. Thank you all for your continued support of the Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake!

Cheers, Bob

Keep your POA membership active by renewing your membership now. There are several ways to renew and ensure you keep receiving quarterly editions of the *Dispatch* as well as important information from our eBlasts. Many of our members consider it to be the best \$30 they spend a year. Pay online using Paypal or a credit card, or complete the dues form and mail a check. All renewal methods can be accessed here: <http://www.deepcreeklakepoa.com/about-the-poa/join-the-poa>

# Welcome Party Mondays

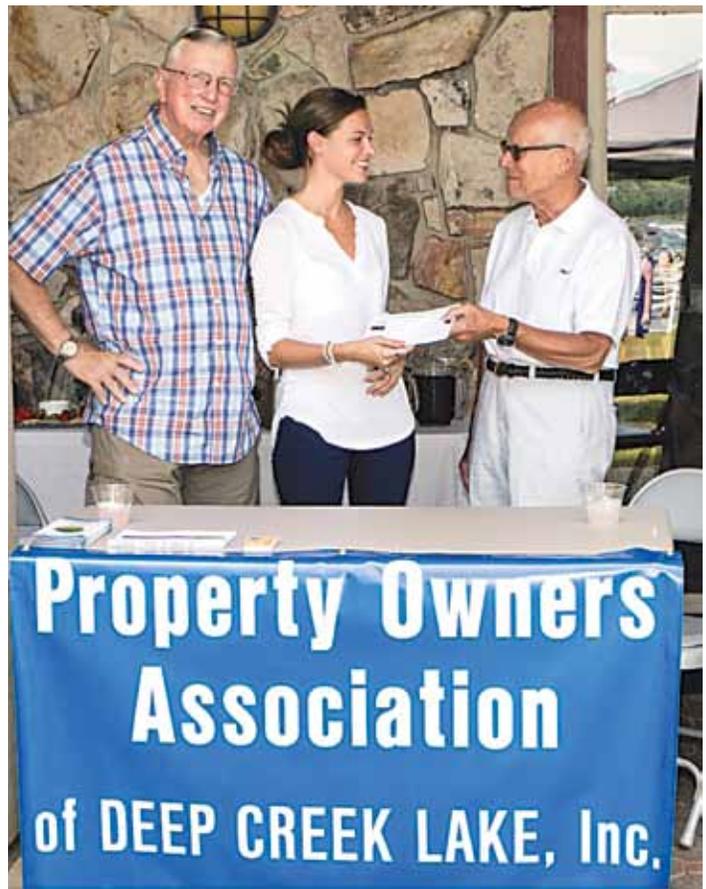
By Tony Lombardi

Your POA will again participate this year in the Welcome Party Mondays. Sponsored by Uno's and the Honi-Honi, the parties will begin on Monday, June 13 and end on Monday, August 8, and are scheduled from 3 to 5 pm.

As was the case last year, our Display Table will be located directly under Uno's deck and right in front of the complimentary refreshments. We again will be providing membership applications as well as POA printed materials and will be available for questions and discussion.

At 5:30 pm. the party moves over to the Honi lawn where a drawing for prizes will be held. Our prize is a \$10 gift certificate to the Garrett 8 Cinemas.

So please drop by. We'll be happy to see you, hear your comments, concerns and answer questions you may have regarding The POA.



# Controlling Canada Geese

By Tony Lombardi and Lulu Gonella

On November 23th, 24th and 25th hunters with permits and reservations were permitted to hunt Canada Geese at Deep Creek Lake. There were three goose hunting blind sites established; at the State Park, at the opening of Green Glade Cove and at Turkey Neck. According to Jim Mullen with DNR, each day had hunters registered at each of the three locations. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate with a chill in the air and high winds so there were only two confirmed geese that were harvested. There are plans underway to do a similar hunt in 2016 and there are ongoing discussions with the county concerning other potential options. DNR continues the practice of adulling eggs to prevent hatching. Should you encounter a nest constructed or being constructed on your property, you can contact our Lake Manager, Eric Null, via email at [eric.null@maryland.gov](mailto:eric.null@maryland.gov) or call the Lake Manager's Office at 301.387.4111.

In January of this year it was reported that Pittsburgh (Pa.) has employed a new method to control Canada geese. They have contracted with a franchise firm called "Geese Police of Western Pennsylvania". The firm uses Border Collies because that particular breed has a seemingly supernatural level of energy and stamina to chase geese off of property without harming them. While geese tend to return to the same nesting area year after year, the goal is to make it uncomfortable enough for them that

they decide to relocate to another property where the dogs are not present. Geese Police clients include apartment complexes, golf courses, city parks and homeowners. While the short term results are promising, the geese usually return once the dogs leave, hence nearly daily "treatments" are required for sustained positive results. If you own a dog, and particularly a Border Collie, this is probably not really "news" to you.



# VOLUNTEER!

## *We Need You To Help Save The Lives Of Homeless Animals*

By Carrie Large, HART Intern

Do you enjoy spending time with friends? Do you enjoy getting involved in the community? Are you looking for ways to stay active and busy during the day while doing something for the greater good? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then HART for Animals, Inc. is the place for you! HART is looking for volunteers who are willing to give a portion of their time to helping animals thrive in a safe environment and be prepared for adoption into a loving family.



Carrie Large, HART Intern

HART's mission is to improve the lives of animals in Western Maryland by rescuing animals and transporting them to areas where they will have a better chance of being adopted, reducing pet overpopulation through low-cost spaying and neutering, managing a humane and friendly animal center

where adoptable animals will never have to be euthanized, and providing information and education to owners about responsible pet ownership, obedience training and rehabilitation of rescues to reduce the number of relinquished and abandoned animals.

The newest, most exciting news at HART is that the Adoption Wing is finally open! With all of the animals arriving, HART is looking for volunteers who can help with the many exciting and varied activities associated with the caring for animals in the Adoption Wing. These jobs include, but are not limited to,

- Dog and Cat Socializing
- Dog Walking
- Special Events



- Fundraising
- Office/General Assistance
- Greeting Customers
- Grooming
- Transport Driving
- Facilities, Grounds Maintenance
- Pick of the Litter Thrift Store Coverage

Hours and days available vary, but HART is most in need of volunteers during the day, Monday through Friday. If you want to get involved in your community by donating your time and talents to the animals at HART for Animals Adoption Wing, please visit the website at [www.hartforanimals.org/volunteer](http://www.hartforanimals.org/volunteer) or contact Judy Carbone via email, [judy@hartforanimals.org](mailto:judy@hartforanimals.org), or phone, 301.387.7729.



# Hydrilla Update

From Bruce Michael, Director  
Resource Assessment Service, MD DNR

DNR will be initiating the third year of Deep Creek Lake Hydrilla control treatments this summer. The first treatment will likely be in the first or second week of June. The vendor contract is in place. We will schedule the application dates and provide them to the County, POA and post them on DNR's website once the dates are finalized. We did not identify new Hydrilla sites in the fall of 2015. We consider the 2015 Hydrilla treatment to be very successful. The proposed Hydrilla control application dates will be available in mid to late May. The first date will be dependent on when SAV begins to grow in the lake and this depends on the weather. DNR will send out scuba divers to monitor the SAV growth this spring and make assessment for Hydrilla control.



## *Update after the PRB meeting, April 27, 2016:*

Bruce Michael, Director, Resource Assessment Service, DNR, gave an update on the plans for Hydrilla Control for 2016. Bruce anticipates four treatments which is the same as the number that were done last year. The first of these will be done during the week after Memorial Day weekend and all identified patches of Hydrilla will be treated. Water quality in the lake continues to be monitored and, considering all factors, remains in the healthy range. One of the other invasive species, Eurasian Water Milfoil, has

decreased somewhat since first detected. Vessels entering the lake at the state park boat launch ramp will continue to be monitored in an attempt to prevent the introduction to DCL of additional invasive species.

## **Bringing Maryland TV to Garrett County Residents**

By Lulu Gonella

As has been reported in previous editions of the *Dispatch*, lake resident, Chuck Hoffeditz, has been working tirelessly for several years to bring Maryland TV stations to Garrett County which is designated as part of the Pittsburgh Designated Market Area (DMA).

Legislation has passed to allow orphan counties like Garrett County to receive programming from satellite providers outside their assigned DMA and the FCC has finally published rules and guidelines for how to do that. Unfortunately, to say the process is complicated, difficult and costly would be an understatement.



After countless hours, days, weeks and months of interpreting the guidelines, Chuck is recommending he and others work with Garrett County officials to determine the best course of action based on the available options.

Note: the proposal is not to remove Pittsburgh TV stations, but to add Maryland ones. More to come on this topic. If you want all of the gory details, you can send Chuck your email address and he will add your name to his mailing list. His email address is [cnhoffeditz@comcast.net](mailto:cnhoffeditz@comcast.net). Thank you, Chuck, for tackling this enormous task.

# SING for Success at Garrett College

By Barbara Hafer

A college degree is a requirement for a growing number of professions that can make a big difference in boosting lifetime earnings. But attending college is an expensive undertaking. Tuition, fees, books, supplies, parking, housing, food, insurance...the costs can seem overwhelming. And they continue to rise. According to the College Board, "Students not receiving financial aid can expect to face, on average, from \$450 to \$1,630 more than last year for this year's college expenses, depending on the type of college." While financial aid reduces the cost of tuition and fees, students whose budgets are still stretched thin often skimp on simple necessities—like food or warm clothing.

"It was evident to faculty and staff at Garrett College that a student's ability to focus on academic success was negatively affected by hunger and the stress of meeting expenses," says Ann Wellham, a former Dean of Marketing and Enrollment Management who is now retired after 33 years' service at the College. Working with other staff and faculty members who shared her concerns, Wellham was instrumental in developing a formal organization to help students find resources available within the College and local communities. The Students in Need Group, known as SING, now receives support through a dedicated fund initiated through the Garrett College Foundation. SING received a significant boost - \$5,000—from a "Matthew 25: Neighbors in Need Grant" awarded to the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Deep Creek Lake, thanks to the efforts of Barbara Hafer, a member of the

Foundation and church parishioner, and Lisa Swift, the church's social ministry chair.

SING's biggest fundraiser, the 4th Annual SING Flea Market, is set for Saturday, June 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Garrett College Special Events Center. The public is invited and admission is free. Antiques and crafts have been some of the biggest sellers. Vendors pay fees that go directly to benefit SING in exchange for a sheltered venue to sell their treasures and trinkets. Non-profit organizations can receive one 10 foot x 12 foot space at no charge, and can purchase additional space if needed.

Garrett College students' response to SING has been positive. "Over 700 students were assisted by SING during the 2013-2014 school year," says Kym Newmann, execu-

tive associate to the Dean of Student Life. Throughout the academic year, SING sponsors PB&J Day every Wednesday, with sandwiches available during the lunch hour. During the last six weeks of each semester, students can patronize the SING Food Pantry, where they can select five items from a variety of items. An effort to add fresh fruits and vegetables is in the works. In October, SING sponsors a Winter Clothing Giveaway that allow students to select coats, hats, scarves and gloves to help them stay warm during the often harsh winters in Garrett County.

Individuals, organizations and businesses interested in supporting SING can receive a tax deduction for donated goods or funds. The satisfaction that comes from helping a student in need succeed is an added bonus.



## Boat Smart from the Start

By Bob Sutton

POA Boating Rules Committee

We approached DNR about putting together a trifold that would contain information specific about Deep Creek Lake. It will include; Boating Rules for Deep Creek, Safe Boating Tips, Emergency and DNR contact numbers, and other useful safety reminders. The committee provided the information to the DNR Boating Education Department who have designed and printed the trifold which will be posted on the POA website and given to marinas, stores, restaurants, etc. around the lake for individuals to pick up and read. The

intent is to provide concise summary of important rules and tips for boaters at the lake to be aware of.

We expect to have several thousand of these trifolds before the Memorial Day holiday. Thanks go out to DNR for helping out with this project.



# Zoning Prohibition Petition Filed Regarding Drilling in DCL Area

*This article summarizes developments and status in several areas. POA member attention is directed particularly to the discussion of recent actions related to our proposed prohibition of natural gas vertical drilling in the Deep Creek Watershed. The other covered areas—the now-being-formulated state regulations and the County study of impacts on tourism and property values—both involve substantial engagement of the Marcellus Shale Gas Advisory Group (MSGAG),*

By John Quilty

As you may remember, your POA Board formally proposed a zoning amendment to prohibit vertical drilling—and associated surface infrastructure—in the Deep Creek Watershed. A letter and a supporting point paper were sent to the previous Board of Commissioners in October of 2014. Since that time, there have been a number of discussions with the current Commissioners and among members of the Planning Commission, but no formal action on the proposal—pending the ability to consider the regulations now being developed by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

However, a group of citizens recently filed a formal petition in support of a zoning amendment to implement the prohibition, citing that the recently-approved Deep Creek Watershed plan calls for such an action. A citizen-petition requires action by the County Planning Commission within 30 days. Their role as an advisory body is to make a recommendation to the County Board of Commissioners. As communicated in a 5 May eBlast, they met on this important topic on 4 May and voted to forward a positive recommendation to the Commissioners. The language of the proposed zoning amendment reflects the POA position, prohibiting “associated surface infrastructure” as well as wells/wellheads from being in the watershed. This is an important positive step. The final decision will now be in the hands of the County Commissioners, noting that a public hearing will be required.

## **Development, public review, and adoption of state regulations**

MDE has been in the process of developing a set of oil and gas regulations to address the potential health, environmental, and public safety risks associated with deep shale gas recovery. Their initial products for public review will be a set of “white papers” presenting regulatory objectives, options and rationale in different areas (e.g., setbacks, engineering standards). These papers will be presented at public forums, in Western MD, likely during the late May through mid-June time frame. Written as well as oral comments will be solicited. The regulations proposed to be adopted by 1 October 2016, formalized in terms of regulatory

language, will be published in the MD register for another round of comments, apparently in early August.

At the local level, the MSGAG formed a subgroup to prepare for review of the proposed regulations as these are released for public comment. The subgroup has been doing some “homework” to support a timely and informed MSGAG review of the regulations as tasked by the Commissioners. They held two special meetings in March; a 14 March session with invited public health-knowledgeable guests to identify issues and risk mitigation options, and a 21 March meeting with MDE personnel to understand their planned process and their thinking in selected critical areas. Meeting notes for both meetings are available on the County’s Shale Gas website.

## **Study of economic impacts of “fracking”**

Study of economic impacts of “fracking” on tourism, property values (especially for vacation and 2nd homes), and recreational activities—As reported in the *Winter Dispatch*, the first phase of this effort was awarded to Downstream Strategies (DSS). They are contracted to develop the scope of work and portions of a County Request for Proposal (RFP) for competing for the 2nd phase of effort, the actual conduct of the primary study effort. The MSGAG serves as the County’s project review team and has been being briefed on DSS thoughts and progress. DSS’s preliminary thinking and a draft “scope of work” product were reviewed in April. Key issues related to addressing the public’s interest in a broader study than originally envisioned (e.g. an analysis of the County’s revenues including but beyond tourism) while defining a scope which is consistent with the funding likely to be available. It is projected that the 2nd phase competition will be conducted this summer. As in the case of MSGAG’s work on regulations, material can be found on the County’s Shale Gas website.

Please contact John Quilty with any questions or comments, [jquilty@mitre.org](mailto:jquilty@mitre.org).



# Lou Battistella Receives Bloodhound Association Award

*Article Contributed by Lou Battistella*

Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department's Bloodhound Team Captain Lou Battistella was the 2016 recipient of the prestigious "Sergeant Joe P. Marcum Award" at the National Police Bloodhound Association's (NPBA) Spring 40 Hour Training and Certification Training Seminar recently held in McHenry, Garrett County, Maryland.

The 'Marcum' award is annually given to a member of the Association for outstanding contributions to the development and use of the purebred Bloodhound in the field of Law Enforcement. The award was established in 1963 by Montgomery, Ohio Police Officer George Dahm in memory of the late Sergeant Joe P. Marcum, also of the Montgomery Police Department, a man highly devoted to the cause of the bloodhound in this field.

This award denotes "The Bloodhound Man of the Year" and serves to make all of the potential candidates for this award desire to strive for the highest possible accomplishments in this field, thus carrying out the beliefs of the man whose memory it serves. Lou Battistella joined the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department in 1992 and has been a dedicated and loyal member.

He presently holds the rank as Hose Company No. 8's line officer first lieutenant; issued his first bloodhound 'Dixie' in 1996; and was appointed Bloodhound Team captain in 2004. Lou has attended 21 NPBA Seminars since 1996; appointed NPBA Instructor in 1997 to present; responsible for the NPBA Merchandise trailer from 1999 to 2004 and from 2012 until present; elected to the board of trustees of the NPBA 2013, 2014, & 2015; appointed by the NPBA President as the association's Director of Business and Finance in 2014 to present; has owned and trained five Bloodhounds which include: Dixie (1996-2004), Daisy (2005), Darby (2006-2014), Delphie (2014-present), and Darcy (2015-present). Lou also played a major role in the training and career of his daughter, Elysia's Bloodhound, Sophy (2010-present).

Lou's administrative accomplishments for the Association include: Accreditation of NPBA's Spring and Winter Training Seminars, now an approved licensure and certification Course of the Maryland Higher Education Commission through Garrett College, a Court Recognized Standard in Training and Certification; established a new and highly regarded NPBA Training Seminar location; assembles and issues information NPBA Instructor Packets for each training school; established a new and improved professionally done NPBA website; helped revise NPBA membership application procedures; participated in National K9 Cop Convention in Nashville two years in a row to increase NPBA member-



ship recruitment; is editor in chief of the NPBA's quarterly publication 'Nose News'; established the utilization of credit card payment options; monitors on-going continued updates to the NPBA membership list; assists with placement of bloodhound puppies to agencies of new members; and takes care of the printing of all certificates, diplomas and rosters. The Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department Bloodhound Team was founded by Fire Chief J. Edward Hutchinson and the Bloodhound Team's first Captain, the late W. Dale Eicher in 1969. Captain Eicher served as NPBA's Vice President from 1972 to 1975. Many others on the Greensburg Team served in various NPBA capacities such as treasurer, trustees, president, and instructors. Today, both Lou and Westmoreland County's Director of Emergency Management, Buddy Mertz serve as NPBA Instructors.

NPBA's President, Maryland State Police Retired Corporal Doug Lowry, is quoted in saying: "Throughout the many years and during his tenure as an NPBA member, instructor, trustee, and other positions he had held and jobs he has done, Lou has exhibited an undying dedicated devotion and love for the Association and a persona of how proud he is to be an intricate part of this organization. His professionalism has been evident in every project he has been involved in. Lou is truly a credit not only to the National Police Bloodhound Association, but also to the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department." Lou is married to wife, Suzanne, for 37 years and have two children together, a daughter, Elysia and a son, Brandon. Lou is a Westmoreland County Deputy Sheriff and head of the Sheriff's Special Assist Team K9 Unit. The National Police Bloodhound Association is regarded by the majority of courts as a leading authority, having set the Standard in 1962 for the use and is dedicated in the promotion of the man-trailing Bloodhound in Law Enforcement.

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