



*Promoting stewardship,  
conservation and restoration in the  
Deep Creek Lake watershed*

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### **DCL Citizens go to Annapolis Ask for Fairness in State Funding**

Friends of Deep Creek Lake announces the launch of a campaign to inform State legislators of the importance of providing State funding and programs to state-owned Deep Creek Lake. The organization has contracted with Gally Public Affairs, a firm based in Annapolis, to guide them in the halls of the General Assembly.

Decision to undertake this effort grew out of recent comments by Department of Natural Resources Secretary, John Griffin. He has reported that "5-6 coves" at the lake are seriously affected by build up of sediment which is reducing recreational enjoyment and impacting property values. Griffin acknowledged 'fixing the problem of sediment build up in some of the lake's coves will be monumental, perhaps impossible task.' He has stated there are no State funds available to address this growing problem and that the state Fund used for dredging in the Bay would not be used for "just a handful of residents" in these lake coves.

"We have asked our State delegation to take the leadership in the General Assembly to secure fair funding for the lake, the economic engine of Garrett County" reports Ellen Williams, Chair of the Friends of Deep Creek Lake Board. "All of us in Garrett County know our tax dollars go to support Bay restoration. Now the Lake needs restoration, it only fair share of state funds are allocated for Deep Creek Lake.

Friends of Deep Creek Lake launched a petition campaign in the fall also focused on obtaining state support for Deep Creek Lake restoration. Barbara Beelar, Director, has recently released a progress report the petition campaign. "We have now received over 1500 signatures with over 36% from Garrett County. This local support reflects Garrett Countians clear grasp that the sustainability of the lake is tied to the economic health and wellbeing of the County and its citizens. Saving the lake is not just a narrow concern of few absentee lake property owners."

Working with the public affairs firm, Friends of Deep Creek Lake will be organizing meetings with the Governor as State Legislators over the coming months.

Deep Creek Lake is 78 years old and an "aging" man-made lake. In 1925 the dam was closed and "The lake began to immediately start collecting sediment", according to Bruce Michael, DNR Director of Resource Assessment for DNR. Before the dam, sediment from stream erosion and land run off flowed down this branch of the Youghiogheny and on to the Mississippi River. With sediment trapped behind the dam, it has remained, building up in the coves where stream erosion from the 50 plus tributary stream settles. Sediment carries nutrients and pollutants into the lake, which are also being trapped behind the dam. After almost 8 decades the problems are now manifest around the lake. Beelar summarized the situation "Some have said Friends of Deep Creek Lake assessment negatively impacts local business. For the past 5 years, our message has been both based on scientific fact and consistent. All lakes age and Deep Creek Lake is beginning to show its age. This is nothing to be embarrassed about but it cannot be hidden. Clearly aging is a process which must not be ignored. There are models of successful lake protection and restoration efforts around the country. We can do the same here at Deep Creek Lake, if the State as owner of the lake makes a commitment to saving the lake, like the commitment they have already made to Save the Bay. It is only fair."