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Watershed Work & Wisdom

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July is National Lake Appreciation Month— Let's Celebrate at DCL!

July is National Lake Appreciation Lake. Join us to celebrate Deep Creek Lake!
Throw a party! Take steps to protect the watershed! Become better informed!

FoDCL has partnered with the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) to bring National Lake Appreciation Month to Maryland. With our endorsement, NALMS has requested Governor O'Malley to:

Declare July as "Lake Appreciation Month" affirming the importance of Maryland lakes and reservoirs.

Direct state agencies to provide programs and funds to support Maryland lakes and work with the General Assembly to that end.

Work with our U.S. Senators and Representative to seek action at the federal level for lake protection.

FoDCL has expanded this initiative, reaching out to County Commissioners and business leaders inviting them to promote all Garrett lakes and reservoirs. Also in July we will be working with key state environmental groups for lake-focused initiatives in our Bay-centric state.

APPRECIATION. The "lake" evokes many wonderful, idealized images— being on the water, relishing the beautiful natural setting of the lake, "away" from work demands, memories with family and friends "at the lake" and the hopes future generations will enjoy this very special place.

Appreciation also encompasses a responsibility for action, for stewardship, protection and investment. In the idealized lake view below, DNR scientists have found: beds of Eurasian Watermilfoil, two sediment impacted coves, shoreline erosion, a beach where dozens of resident Canada Geese congregate, high nutrient levels, in the tributaries, and beds of SAVs impacting recreational uses from mid-summer on.

The lake realities are just reflections of normal signs of aging, and expected in our almost 90 year old lake. Understanding of these processes must shape the programs and funding necessary to address the challenges. Working together in appreciation we can remedy these challenges— holding on to an idealized lake view stifles needed action.



Upcoming FoDCL sponsored events

Council of Local Community Organizations meeting, June.

Watershed Appreciation Forum—July.

Many other Lake Appreciation activities being planned

Watershed Invasives Workshop, Saturday, August 10.

DNR "state of the lake", Wednesday, July 24, 7 pm, Garrett College Auditorium
Policy and Review Board meeting. Monday, July 29, 6 pm, Discovery Center

A GREATER APPRECIATION IS GROWING. Formed as a watershed organization, FoDCL has supported field work, research and community education on lake aging issues and components of an effective watershed approach to lake management.

DCL is in amazingly good shape for a lake of its age. More policy makers are seeing the aging “spots and wrinkles”.

The **2001 DNR Plan**, created when the state bought the lake, details the **negative impacts of sediment accumulation and aquatic grasses on recreational uses** and provides for remediation efforts- - to be paid by property owners.

Policy makers from the state and County level who have toured the lake observed the challenges. In 2010 County Administrator Monty Pagenhardt stated “ **I can see why folks are very angry**”.

In 2010 DNR **Secretary Griffin** reported that DCL does face some challenge and that “**we all need to work together to get ahead of them**” before they become too costly to address.

Our work encompasses the broader view of “lake appreciation”. Our mission is promotion of stewardship, conservation and restoration of the lake and watershed.

WINTER WORK IN THE WATERSHED

Rte. 219 Culvert Report. Working through the winter, we submitted a comprehensive report of our field work to the State Highway Administration in April.



Of the 39 Rte. 219 culverts, FoDCL found 19 which directly dump run off into the lake. At this culvert outflow you can see winter road treatment and chemicals are flowing into the lake.

The FoDCL Rte. 219 Report has been well received by the State Highway Administration. We anticipate SHA will act on our recommendation to conduct an in-depth assessment of the culvert outflow to determine if there are water quality impacts.

To further this work, we have partnered with the UMD/ Center for Environmental Sciences Appalachian Lab. We are very pleased this lead scientific research lab is willing to become involved in DCL watershed protection.

Marcellus Shale Monitoring. Dedicated FoDCL volunteers— Charlie Lefebure and Jeff Nelson—continue sampling Cherry Creek and Shingle Camp Run under the DNR Marcellus project. These guys have been collecting weekly samples for over a year, continuing during our long winter. If fracking does take place, the baseline data they have gathered will be used to determine if there are any changes in our streams. We all owe them a debt of gratitude. **These guys “get” appreciation!**

Stream Wading. This year we focused on Red Run tributaries for our annual DNR Stream Wading sampling.

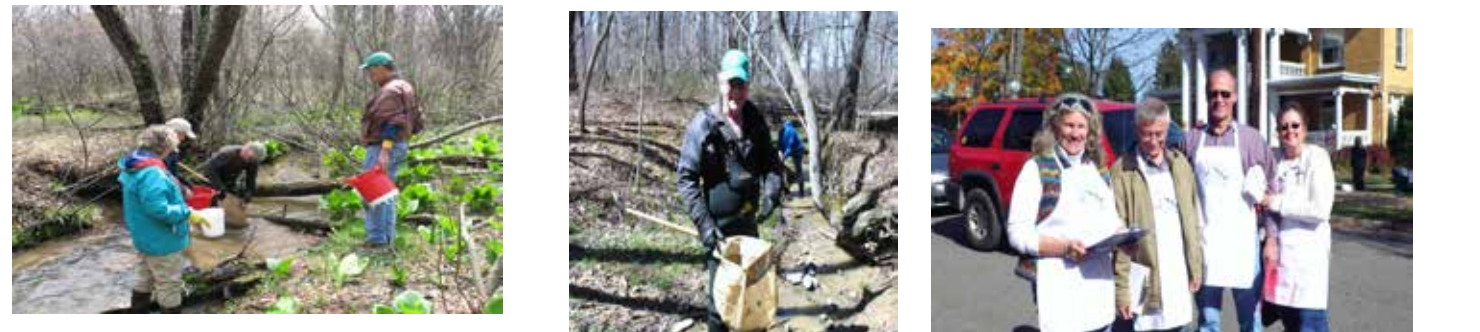


Charlie Lefebure and Jeff Nelson go to extremes to collect samples on a Red Run tributary.



A blue green algae (the bright green in photo) was found in many sites in Red Run. This algae indicates a high nutrient source is impacting water quality.

*In appreciation to all watershed volunteers— —
Your dedication, spirit and love of the lake is an inspiration!!*



- ◆ Jeff in Hickory Ridge Cove swears to his method of putting a fishing line around the perimeter of his dock at 6 " high
- ◆ Williams on Deep Creek Cove has a gate on the gang plank which deters geese from access
- ◆ Wheeler on Pergin Farm has a life-like coyote statue which seems to be working.

Invitation to present at workshop. We have invited Mr. Peditto to participate in our Watershed Invasives Workshop in August to provide an update on DNR control measures for the fall months. Lake stakeholders may be asked to consider allowing DNR to conduct a "lethal" control" action late fall. DNR has recently done this at nearby Rocky Mountain Gap lake. What do you think about allowing this to happen— with adequate notice?

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Update. Over the years we have met with numerous local community groups to share information on the watershed, provide background on issues impacting their section of the lake and listen to their concerns.

Continue outreach. We will continue these presentations in 2013. We find them a productive way to share the information we have gathered as well as listen to local perspectives and concerns. This year we will reach out to groups throughout the watershed, not just lake stakeholders.

Formation of the Council of Local Community Organizations of DCL. We have identified almost 100 local community groups in the DCL watershed. These include POA/HOAs for lake front, lake access and lake view neighborhoods, watershed organizations, road and common dock associations, condo, coops and interval ownership associations, businesses, marinas and yacht clubs with common docks and moorings, informal community and neighbor groups, and various special interest clubs.

In 2013, Michael Ahern, former head of Glen Cove POA and FoDCL Board member, has agreed to take the lead in forming this Council. We will form a steering committee and hold a Workshop in late June, following up on the successful workshop last summer.

Interested in having FoDCL talk to your local group or just a bunch of neighbors? Want to be a part of forming the Council? Email us at contact@friendsofdcl.org.

OUTREACH TO GREEN GLADE

At the headwaters of one of the most southern coves, Green Glade Cove is experiencing many signs of lake aging. Sediment accumulation causes loss of recreational use as early as mid-August and is getting worse each year, according to residents. A sediment bar is being deposited across the cove as a result of hydrologic forces pushing sediment east. EWM, dispersed by winds, is also being pushed into the cove. The die-off of SAVs collects in the upper most section when the stream enters the cove pushed by winds.

Commitment for outreach. FoDCL Board has made a commitment to focus on outreach and community education activities in this area during 2013. We will reach out to both sides of the Green Glade cove and to existing associations including Thousand Acres Association. Several members of our Board live in this section of the lake.

MARCELLUS SHALE AND DCL

Update. The major action out of Annapolis was inclusion of funds in the state budget for Marcellus Shale studies— a necessary and important step.

FoDCL supports gathering data on water quality impacts. Our volunteers are actively participating in data collection in the DCL watershed. We are actively involved with groups like the Garrett-Alleghany Coalition. In all this work, our focus remain on impacts of fracking on the DCL watershed and on the resort-dependent County.

Economic Impact study. Regional Economic Studies Institute (RESI) at Towson University will conduct a community and economic impact analysis of the potential positive and negative effects of natural gas drilling in Western Maryland." While we have urged inclusion of such a study to the Advisory Commission, we have concerns.

- ◆ RESI will rely on existing economic studies. There is no comprehensive economic analysis of DCL impacts. For the past 4 years FoDCL has been urging the County to undertake such analysis of DCL contributions. The only study focuses on revenues generated by District 18 properties. There are so many other ways property owners contribute directly and indirectly.
- ◆ RESI will use a survey to assess local views about fracking. It is likely lake property owners may be missed.

As this process evolves, we may chose to hold a follow up forum to "Marcellus Shale and on DCL" held last year.

Continuing our education. FoDCL Board and staff were active over the winter months attending the Maryland Water Monitoring Council and Association of Watershed and Stormwater Professionals conferences as well as two Water Quality Working Groups. We participated in 5 webinars, learning about best watershed management practices and new EPA standards for recreational uses. We conducted an in-depth interview with Lake Manager from Lake Wallenpaupak in up state Pennsylvania which shares many characteristics with our DCL. This interview was part of our on-going research on watershed management structures and practices at other lakes. We must go beyond our immediate area to tap the tremendous wealth of experience and practices as we create a watershed approach to DCL management.

FUNDS FOR OUR WATERSHED WORK

FoDCL actively seeks additional financial support for needed watershed projects.

- ◆ **Shoreline Grasses Demonstration Project.**

Funded by a small grant from Garrett County, we have developed a partnership with the FFA Group at Southern High School, lead by Steve Kisner. Nine property owners have agreed to work with us to improvement shoreline through planting of grasses which will serve to prevent erosion.

We very excited about this partnership with Southern and look forward to NHS involvement in the fall



Southern students took soil samples, measurements for installation areas and assessed overall condition during 1st site visit.

Interested in participation in a water monitoring tour with Jessica and Christine or the shoreline demonstration project in the fall, with Northern High School students, let us know! Email us at contact@friendsofdcl.org. These are perfect Lake Appreciation activities for the whole family.

- ◆ **GCFWC The Civic Club** provided a \$240 grant to support our work in Red Run.
- ◆ **Three Rivers Quest of WV Water Center** provided funding to monitor both Red Run and the unnamed tributary at Thayerville collecting and analyzing baseline and rain event data over the coming year.



Jessica Klotz and Christine Carpenter, recent Northern High School graduates with extensive training and experience in watershed work will work on this project.

These outstanding young women will conduct water quality monitoring and will lead small tours demonstrating water sampling methods and importance of tributary protections efforts. These students have received an excellent education at Northern with an AP in Environmental Sciences, hands-on work at the model Cove Restoration project and the Envirothon!

Building the Red Run Partnership. FoDCL has pulled together a working group focused on Red Run and these two grants provided welcomed financial support. We have been concerned about Red Run since our first stream wading in 2009. While a beautiful area, DNR results found the stream in "poor" condition. Hammel Glade, owned by The Nature Conservancy abuts Red Run. Staff from the Conservancy are now working with us, the two local community groups— Millhouse Manor Council of Owners and Red Run Property Owners Group and a number of volunteers to promote clean water in this stream.

WATERSHED WORK IN ANNAPOLIS

Last fall, FoDCL launched a petition to request Governor O'Malley for **funding fairness— to commit to Deep Creek Lake as the State has committed to the Bay**. More than 1600 people have signed this petition, and more than 30% have local addresses.

Given the overwhelming response to the petition, our Executive Committee decided to seek guidance as we moved to working in Annapolis.



FoDCL Board member Lulu Gonella, white sweater center, and her husband hosted a fund raising event in December, raising funds to retain Gally Public Affairs.

Eric Gally is recognized as a state budget expert by both agency directors and state legislators. Gally gathered information on state lake watershed programs and funding and met with many key policy makers during the legislative session.

RESULTS: OPENING OF CONVERSATION ON STATE INVOLVEMENT IN DCL RESTORATION. Previously DNR Secretary and others were insistent there were no state funds for restoration and that property owners in sediment impacted coves would have to pay for excavation. Conversations were opened to include state investment by floating a bond or including lake restoration work into the capital budget.

No decisions will be made until the release of DNR Phase II sediment plan, with listing of impacted coves and restoration costs.

We are deeply appreciative of the lake property owners who underwrote our contract with Gally Public Affairs. Their support has made a major contribution to fairness of funding for DCL. None of this would have taken place without the initiative taken by the Gonella family, who have a property on the Green Glade section of Thousand Acres.

UPDATES AND PLANS FOR 2013

Eurasian Watermilfoil. DNR plans the 2nd Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) survey in late June.

The DNR 2012 survey found EWM in all sections of the lake. It is covering 6% of the lake area with depths 20 feet and under. The largest bed is off Sky Valley; the fastest growing bed is in Red Run Cove.

Update: DNR cancels demonstration control project. Last fall, DNR Secretary Griffin announced plans for a demonstration control project to test application of the herbicide 2,4-D. FoDCL Board members voiced strong concerns about this proposal and the Property Owners Association (POA) also has raised concerns. DNR has decided no such trial will take place in 2013. They have not agreed to exclude 2,4 D as a control option at DCL.

Control measures are necessary. By its very definition, EWM will invade and continue to spread without control measures. We will never get rid the lake of EWM,. Or only option now that it found throughout the lake is effective control measures.

If not 2,4-D, what other options are available? FoDCL has been working on the EWM control issue for over 2 years. We have conducted extensive research into options and practices in other states and shared this work with DNR staff. Much of the literature supports the following position by University of Minnesota, where their lakes are heavily impacted by EWM.

“Biocontrol offers several potential advantages over conventional methods [herbicides and harvesting] including reduced cost, long-term effectiveness, and little or no negative impacts on other aspects of aquatic systems.”



More on EWM. . .

The most widely used biocontrol for EWM is the Milfoil Weevil. This weevil dines only on EWM, and as the invasive declines, so does the weevil.

DNR invasive species specialists say the Milfoil Weevil is not native to Maryland and, therefore, it can not be used for bio-control. No study of DCL has confirmed this finding.

Why might the weevil already be in the lake?

- ◆ We do know the weevil grows elsewhere in the Allegheny Plateau—in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York.
- ◆ We know many boats which have brought EWM into DCL come from these same nearby states.
- ◆ We know the Milfoil Weevil spreads by hitch hiking on EWM so it may already be in Deep Creek Lake.

FODCL CONTRACT TO SURVEY FOR THE MILFOIL WEEVIL IN DCL.

The FoDCL Executive Committee has hired EnviroSciences, a broad based environmental consulting firm in Ohio, to conduct a survey to determine if the weevil is in DCL. DNR SAV expert Lee Karrh will participate in this survey, scheduled for August 9. (For info on ES see their web site: <http://enviroscienceinc.com/>)

The data of the survey will show whether the weevil exist in DCL. If the weevil is found in DCL, it could be one of the control options to be considered.

FoDCL position is: an effective, comparably priced biocontrol option would be preferable to an herbicide that many groups have urged to be banned completely or more constly harvesting methods.

It is not our intention tell DNR which option to select nor to lobby on behalf of any firm, including EnviroSciences. It is to provide them with needed data for selection of control options.

Watershed Invasives Workshop. On August 10, FoDCL will sponsoring a workshop at which ES scientists will release the results of the weevil survey and EWM control options, effectiveness and costs.

Resident Canada Geese

Update. We are seeing an expansion of resident Canada Geese at DCL. The winter over here, are larger than the transient geese, have larger clutches with 4-5 hatchlings and each adult goose contributes 1 pound of poop per day to the lake.



Under leadership of David Myerberg, Chair of the Policy and Review Board and David's wife Cynthia who has gotten fed up with geese poop on their dock, a plan of action is in place.

Paul Peditto from DNR informed the PRB of aspects of a control program. During the first nesting, DNR staff added 67 geese eggs, a process which smothers the embryo but fools the geese into thinking the egg will hatch. Additional actions will be taken over the season.

Actions for 2013. DNR needs our local knowledge to make sure this control effort is successful.

- ◆ FoDCL encourages everyone to **report locations of geese nests**. Send us an email contact@friendsofdcl.org with details on location, photos, gps coordinates. There will be at least one more set of hatchlings this year in late June/July, so please be on the lookout!
- ◆ **Do not mow** at least 10 feet back from the shoreline. Geese do not like to create their nests in the tall grasses.
- ◆ **Do not feed** the geese.

Share your control secrets. We are compiling list of methods tried and tested at DCL. We also want to know what did not work.. To date we have heard from the following people about their methods.

- ◆ Pat in Red Run swears the bobble head owls really work on her dock.

