



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

779 Chadderton School Rd

Oakland, MD 21550

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## WATERSHED WORKS AND WISDOM

### December, 2013

Friends,

As I look out my window, I have a view 4 generations of my family has cherished. This is the place where we have fully enjoyed an expanding range of water sports and well as peaceful moments sunning of the dock and watching the sunset. Our time at the lake lies at the very core of our family life, our memories and hopes for future generations here.

Having become involved with Friends of DCL, I have learned like so many of you, that beneath this pristine, ideal lake view, lie challenges. Our lake is aging. Sediment is accumulating. SAVs are growing. The shoreline is eroding. And, now invasive species threaten the ecological balance and recreational use. None of us want this. I know we have to work together to address the challenges. I embrace the FoDCL approach, best articulated by DNR Secretary Griffin in 2010: there are challenges but, with cooperation from all—citizens, businesses and government alike— we can create a sustainable lake.



As we are all preparing for and celebrating the Holiday Season and the New Year, **you need to know FoDCL Board members and staff are working on the tough challenges which lie ahead of all of us in 2014.**

You also need to know **we need your support now to prepared for 2014— a “watershed” year for DCL.** Your donations support our newsletters, workshops, research, compliance actions, policy analysis and advocacy so everyone can be informed.

2014 is a watershed year because so many initiatives, many which we have helped catalyze, will come to fruition. Unfortunately they arrive at the worst of economic times for the County and State. These challenges are detailed in this newsletter— which I urge you to spend the time to read. You will see how difficult the year to come will be.

We must shape out working understanding the lake does not exist in a vacuum but is part of a watershed but also the County and region. While the lake provides substantial benefits locally, most of us remain “outsiders” and non-voters. Many of you have told me how much you value our work. One of the compliments which touched me the most was from State Senator George Edwards “ I appreciate that while you are concerned about the lake, it is also clear you are concerned about the County as a whole”. An inclusive, balanced, informed approach and citizenry will be essential for the challenges which lie ahead in 2014.

**Best wishes for the Holidays and New Year—**

**With lots of good times at the lake 2014!**



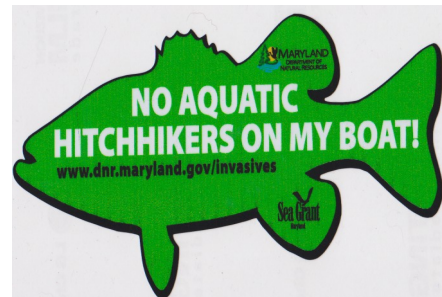
Ellen Williams, Chair  
FoDCL Board ,  
at DCL since 1948!

## 2014 Challenges for DCL shaping our watershed work

**2014 Challenge: Hydrilla.** Now found in Deep Creek Lake, hydrilla is labeled as a “noxious” aquatic plant. Maryland does have a law which controls nonnative aquatic organisms which states: “ A person may not import, transport, purchase, possess, propagate, sell or release into State waters the following nonnative aquatic organism”— including hydrilla. DNR is charged with enforcement of this law but lake management has not acted. So today we have both hydrilla and Eurasian Watermilfoil as well as the Virile Crayfish, all identified by DNR as invasive species in DCL/



Hydrilla was found by DNR to be in the lake in late September. DNR has moved quickly, conducting a survey in early October. They found 14 hydrilla beds in 12 locations in the Deep Creek Channel, from DC Cove to Blakeslee Point and Blakeslee and Turkey Neck points.



**What is required now?** DNR has formed a panel of experts , including scientists from Cornell with experience in control of this type of hydrilla. They met on 11/22 and another meeting is scheduled for late December. DNR will provide a status report to the Policy and Review Board meeting, 1/27/14. A comprehensive program is need by 2014.

1. Prevention. Hydrilla, introduced by off-lake boats, so DNR must require boats be cleaned prior to launching.
2. Control. Hydrilla spreads extremely rapidly from tubers, roots and plant sprigs. While hydrilla will never be completely eradicated from the lake. DNR needs to implement control measures starting in early 2014.
3. Education. Extensive education is necessary to ensure community and lake user compliance and support.

**What actions is FoDCL undertaking?** FoDCL Board members met recently with the Governor’s Assistant Chief of Staff Ashley Valis. Our “ask” is for the **Governor to support immediate implementation of a comprehensive program before the 2014** boating season. It will be a huge challenge to cut the red tape and secure funding.

FoDCL has requested our State Delegation to review existing Maryland Law in order to strengthen DNR enforcement efforts. We forwarded the Minnesota legislation seen as the best model for control.

FoDCL Director Barbara Beelar sits on the **Policy and Review Board and will take act stance to promote implementation of the comprehensive program for hydrilla as well as the other invasive species.**

## 2014 Challenge: Resident Canada Geese.



FoDCL Director has been working to create a DNR control program for the geese. It will require a major commitment from DNR Wildlife Management, allocation of staff and funding as well as involvement of lake stakeholders. Substantial progress has been made. However, every year we delay, the population will increase and costs for control will also increase.

As with the invasive aquatic plants, our expectations are: the geese will never be 100% eradicated from the lake. We need to reduce the population and institute an on-going DNR program of population funded by the State with support from all lake stakeholders.

*Photo to left– taken 12/10/13. A flock of over 200 geese have settled into the open waters of Chadderton School Cove.*

## 2014 Challenge: DNR Sediment Report, Implementation and Funding.

In January 2014, the long awaited **DNR Sediment Study report** will be released. The report will show that DNR has determined 10 coves with about 500 lake properties are now impacted by sediment accumulation. Recommendations and costs for remediation will be included in the report.

Once released, the question will be: Who is going to pay for excavation and retention structures to prevent further sediment coming into the lake? The State owns the lake but says it has no funds for new programs. The County receives the greatest financial benefit but it is facing grave revenues problems. Therefore, in keeping with existing policy of this State owned lake, we can anticipate the State and County will “partner” to find ways to pass the costs on to lake property owners creation of a special tax district for the whole watershed, the lake or just the impacted coves.

We will continue to be an advocate for a fair implementation and cost sharing. Further we will raise the question: **What will be the impact if nothing is done?** The County draft dredging study projects a decline in property values of 25 to 35% in the impacted coves, in turn further reducing County revenues and the assets of the owners. In short, release of the DNR Sediment study is a prelude to very tough policy discussions which will begin in 2014. One thing we do know: the longer the delay, the most the costs for remediation will be and if no action is taken sections of the lake will eventually we written off for recreational uses.

## 2014 Challenge: Watershed Planning, Political Reality

FoDCL supports all efforts to develop effective DCL management plan. **Our support is more than just words. Five FoDCL Board members are now serving in this effort,** Lulu Gonella sits on the Steering Committee and following serve on the SC subcommittees; Ellen Williams, Barbara Beelar, Brian Greenberg and Richard Matlick . We represent the largest organizational presence in this effort. There is a huge amount of work to prepare the draft Plan, due for release in June, 2014.

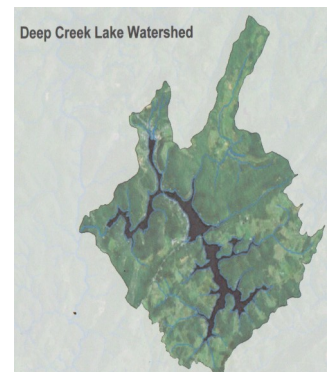
At the same time as an organization we continue to voice concerns.

1. Lack of inclusiveness. There has been a failure to reach out to all 9,000 addresses in the whole watershed. The planning process must be more inclusive in order to gain important input as well as the political backing it will need.
2. Inclusion of the “war of waters” between the DCL and Youghiogheny communities.. Repeatedly we have urge the battled over water resources be resolved outside the planning process. DNR manages both of these watershed so it is clearly their responsibility of DNR, not the Steering Committee, to resolve this dispute. We are concerned about the political repercussions of this “war” and the impacts on adoption of the watershed plan by the County. .
3. Narrow participation, We know there are experts, organizations and agencies which have developed lake watershed plans. We need to include them in the process. DNR watershed planning has been driven by compliance with the federal Clean Water Act for Bay tributaries. We are a lake and need plans for both tributary and lake management.

*Check the web site for more information <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/deepcreekwatershedplan/>.*

**2014 Challenges for the County which will impact DCL future.** Challenges at the local level abound. There are plans to close another 3 community schools due to lack of funding and state financial support. County Commissioners just announced a \$5 million projected shortfall in revenues for the coming year, with cutbacks already in place and potential for tax increases in the works. FoDCL has spoken out against a proposal to install a large number of wind turbines in the DCL watershed, just west of the fragile Cherry Creek headwaters. There are also questions of conflict of interests and political connections. In 2014 the Governor’s Commission is to release its recommendations on Marcellus Shale drilling. Many excellent ideas are surfacing at the local level and work is planned for the General Assembly. There is a local election coming up in 2014, too.

Our lake is a part of this larger community. In 2014 we must take an active role in local efforts to protect our natural resources, ensure economic sustainability of the County and get our lake-related issues heard!



## 2013 Tours and Outreach led by Friends of Deep Creek Lake



Jeff Zimmerman, one of Maryland's lead environmental lawyers, came to DCL end of July to learn about lake issues, provide advice and become involved in our work.

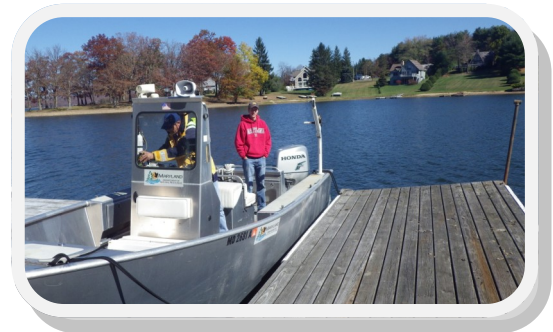
FoDCL provided boat tour for Maryland Public Television Outdoor Maryland crew while filming a short segment on DCL, focusing on pressures of development on the lake. See whole program: <http://video.mpt.tv/video/123651290341>.

On a perfect day in early September, Ellen Williams, Richard Matlick and Barbara Beelar took County Staff members, Deborah, Carpenter, Frank Shap and Logan Marks, on a tour highlighting sediment accumulation. We gave another tour to Mike Koch, Economic Development head, and Shane Grady, Chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee of Chamber of Commerce. Shane is familiar with the recreational impacts. Subsequently, Barbara Beelar was invited to make a brief presentation to the Chamber.



With funding from lake property owners and support from DNR SAV team, FoDCL contracted with scientists from EnviroSciences to survey the lake for presence of Milfoil Weevil. Dives were conducted throughout the lakes and so weevils were found. With this finding, DNR will need to evaluate use of herbicides for EWM control.

Barbara Beelar accompanied the DNR SAV dive team on the hydrilla survey conducted in October. The opportunity to view the hydrilla beds was useful as well sobering. The dive team was surprised to observe substantial expansion of the EWM beds in some of the southern coves, suggesting the growth "lag" phase may be over.



In mid-November, Barbara Beelar led a tour of the Rte 219 culverts channeling storm water and road runoff for 6 SHA staff, Cathy Shanks from DNR and Commissioner Gatto. SHA Hydrologist Chief will be following up with recommendations and plans. FoDCL received compliments for its Rte 219 field work from SHA staff. .

In early November, Barbara Beelar and Lulu Gonella delivered the FoDCL petition asking the Governor that the State commit to saving DCL, like it has committed to saving the Bay. Over 1600 people signed the petition, with 34% from Garrett County and another 29% from elsewhere in Maryland. Citizens asked for a fair share for DCL programs and restoration. *Photo at left: Ashley Valis, Assistant Chief of Staff accepting the FoDCL petition.*







Join Us Today!

Membership Levels—All donations are tax deductible!

Friend..... \$35

Steward..... \$100

Cove-keeper ..... \$250

Tributary—keeper ..... \$500

Watershed—keeper ..... \$1000 and above

Youth/Seniors..... \$20

Eight Good Reasons To Join Friends Of Deep Creek Lake

1. The best way to express your lake appreciation.
2. Your membership provides direct financial support for "working in the weeds" at DCL.
3. Each dollar donated generates \$12 of watershed protection efforts.
4. Every dollar received, goes to directly to watershed programs.
5. Your membership is a good component of your personal financial plan, helping to protect your DCL investment.
6. Our organization "walks the talk" promoting stewardship practices at the lake as well as in our organization.
7. You are supporting your neighbors who share your appreciation of this very special place.
8. You will receive perks as a FoDCL member-- invitations to informal get-togethers; email notifications of upcoming educational events and programs; all publications and educational materials; special discounts from local businesses who share the vision of a sustainable, healthy lake. and an assurance your voice and perspective will be heard.

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Primary mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_

Section of Lake \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (help us save money and receive out Lake Lowdown electronic newsletters) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please contact me. I want to be involved.

Comments/Recommendations

Return to: Friends of DCL, 779 Chadderton School Rd, Oakland MD 21550



*From all of us at Friends of DCL, best wishes for a joyous, magical  
Holiday season and peaceful New Year. . . with lots of lake time in 2014!*

*Oakland MD 21550*

*779 Chadderton School Rd*

