



WATERSHED WISDOM

Bridge to Annapolis

We have just completed Year 4 of the **Bridge to Annapolis Campaign**, with passage of the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund. Since 2013, we have educated policy makers about challenges faced by state lakes while building strong working relationships with members of the General Assembly and the environmental lobby community. Our work has been guided by our able lobbyist Eric Gally.

In 2015 we introduced a bill which became the State Lakes Invasive Species Act with implementation effective 4/1/17. Initially our bill was just for Deep Creek Lake but early on it became evident we would not be successful with this narrow focus. We embraced the “state-owned lakes” framework. The State owns DCL and 15 other lakes. As owner of these natural and recreational resources the State is responsible for the health and sustainability of these waterbodies and should adopt plans, programs and restoration projects to this end.

In 2015, our state delegation, Senator Edwards and Delegate Beitzel, secured \$250,000 for “DCL dredging” and the following year secured a change in the Waterway Improvement Fund (WIF) to permit allocation of dredging monies to state-owned lake. An additional \$250,000 was allocated and DNR Secretary Belton agreed to let the County use these funds to hire a contractor to develop a sediment removal plan and grant application for a pilot dredging project.

FoDCL has raised over \$80,000 in donations to support these major Bridge to Annapolis Campaign accomplishments. We all owe these generous donors our deepest appreciation and gratitude. ■

Major Step for DCL Restoration!

Our 2017 legislative initiative was the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund bill, introduced by Senator Edwards and Delegate Beitzel with support from Friends of DCL and our lobbyist Eric Gally. The bill goal was simple: to create a fiscal structure into which the State could allocate financial resources in future years.

For the first time ever, a DCL-related bill received support from all lake-stakeholder groups—County Commissioners, Town of Friendsville, Board of Realtors, Chamber of Commerce, A CLEAR DCL, DCL POA along with the Friends of Deep Creek Lake. In Annapolis the bill received support from League of Conservation Voters, MD Sierra Club and The Nature Conservancy. Finally, over 50 lake property owners sent letters of support.

Hearings were held in the Senate and House, with Friends of DCL organizing a panel of witnesses speaking in support. FoDCL Director Barbara Beelar spoke of necessity for state financing. “As in the Bay, lake restoration requires big ticket items—dredging; shoreline and riparian stabilization; run off and storm water controls; prevention of invasive aquatic species; and upgrade of the aging sewer and septic systems. Maryland, owner of these lakes, is responsible for lake health and sustainability.”



The Senate panel committee on February 14, from left to right: Senator George Edwards, Commissioner Paul Edwards, Richard Matlick Chair of A CLEAR DCL, Joe Zamoiski and Tony Fuller from Green Glade, Brian Greenberg, FoDCL Executive Committee and lobbyist Eric Gally behind Greenberg. *Missing:* Barbara Beelar, Friends of DCL Director and Kristen Harbeson, MD League of Conservation Voters.

“This [Fund] provides an avenue to fund those projects, but does not actually have money in the fund at this time” said Senator Edwards. “This is a very important first step, however, to move forward.”

The bill was adopted by both the Senate and House and will be signed into law by the Governor in early May. “Friends of DCL and other lake stakeholder groups now need to work together to encourage Governor Hogan to allocate needed funding” said Ellen Williams, FoDCL Chair. ■



Maryland Bans Fracking!

Friends of DCL has been involved in the fracking debate since the beginning. All along our issue has been: what will be the impact of fracking on DCL as a natural and recreational resource and economic engine for the region? We dedicated hundreds of hours educating ourselves and the lake community, sharing the science and debates, and encouraging folks to share their views with local and state policy makers.

In December, our Board voted to support a ban on fracking in Maryland, reflecting our mission to promote conservation, stewardship and restoration of DCL and its watershed. After reviewing the MDE proposed regulations the Board concluded they failed to provide necessary protections for DCL and “the public health, safety, natural resources and environment”.

We became active in the Annapolis debate. Along with lake property owners, FoDCL spoke against the MDE regulations at the Joint Committee hearing. As lake property owners, we testified in support of the ban at both the House and Senate Committee hearings.

The result of all these years of work and signing the ban bill into law, we can take a sigh of relief, knowing Deep Creek Lake, the surrounding area and our resort-based economy is protected and may well experience a renaissance! Our small contribution may help re-ignite lake property values and investment in the lake and county. Real estate markets hate uncertainty and whether fracking would take place at DCL and the area.

What do we do now? We will explore ways for Friends of DCL to actively participate in building a post-fracking future. We fully recognize healing is necessary. We respect the views and aspirations of many residents who saw fracking as a way to create jobs and boost the local economy. We would like to connect with these goals and join with others to develop a positive vision and pathway to sustainable economic growth and jobs here. ■



End of an Era

DNR Stream Wading cutbacks. We are sad to learn of DNR’s decision to limit this important, cost effective program for stream monitoring. Since 2009, Friends of DCL volunteers started the new lake season by sampling the dozens of streams feeding into DCL. Over 50 volunteers collected water quality data at 100 sites throughout the watershed, gaining appreciation of watershed context in which our lake is situated. This year DNR only held one training located in Edgewater, a good 3 hours each way from DCL.

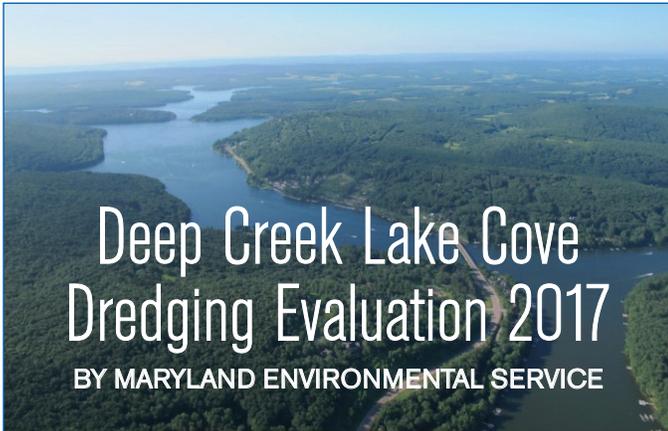
FoDCL started the DNR Stream Wading program in 2009, and sampled in almost all DCL tributaries. Data collected shows a wide variety of stream conditions—some are excellent shape but, unfortunately, we found the majority of sites with poor water conditions.

Marcellus Shale Monitoring project is terminated. Five years ago, DNR designed this program to collect base line data from streams which had been identified as potentially threatened if fracking were allowed. At Deep Creek Lake, these streams were Cherry Creek and Shingle Camp. For almost 5 years, our volunteers--Charlie Lefebure, Jeff Nelson and Jan Naylor—collected biweekly samples in these streams and provided data to DNR staff, Christine King. Thanks to these four special people for your amazing dedication to ensure our lake would be protected! ■



“I will never look at a stream in the same way again” reported Jeff Haseler, 2009 Stream Wader volunteer from Deep Creek Cove. Here is our original team, left to right: “Deep Creek” Jeff Craddock, Chris, Craig, Daniel and Jeff Haseler; back row Frank Shap.

DCL Updates



In 2015 the Maryland Legislature added language to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Boating Services' Waterway Improvement Fund (WIF) Program to make Deep Creek Lake eligible for funding for dredging projects. While not a traditional application of WIF funding, the benefits of potentially removing sediment accumulation in one or more of 10 coves in Deep Creek Lake could improve the recreational benefits to recreational users of the Lake, if deemed economically and environmentally feasible.

These coves have been identified as priority study areas: Arrowhead Cove, Harvey's Cove, Poland Run Cove, Green Glade Cove, Hazelhurst Cove, Turkey Neck Cove, Chadderton School Cove, Deep Creek Cove, Penn Cove, and Pawn Run Cove. Each of the ten coves is being evaluated for potential dredging projects under three primary categories: project feasibility, WIF grant criteria, and DNR stakeholder concerns.

Garrett County has hired Maryland Environmental Service (MES), an independent state agency, to provide technical services.

- ◆ Deep Creek Lake qualifies for "Tier II" funding which requires a 50% match of funds.
- ◆ WIF funding requires the County to submit an application for funding.
- ◆ The appropriation of funding from the WIF is a competitive process and our application will be evaluated and ranked accordingly.
- ◆ The County will receive \$161,930 from DNR to assist in developing and submitting the WIF application. The County will also receive \$250,000 from DNR, which is allocated towards a project.
- ◆ MES will prepare an analysis of all 10 coves and, based on scientific analysis, make recommendations to prioritize sediment removal.
- ◆ The County will continue to work with DNR and our local delegation to develop alternative funding sources/methods for sediment removal in Deep Creek Lake.
- ◆ We anticipate the application process will take 12-18 months. ■

For more information about evaluation criteria, the natural process that creates a need for dredging, and ways to stay involved, please visit www.garrettcounty.org/watershed or subscribe to our detailed email newsletter by emailing a request to dcevaluation@menv.com.

A CLEAR DCL

Friends of Deep Creek Lake sister organization, A CLEAR DCL, seeks to work collaboratively with Garrett County and Maryland Environmental Services to ensure the interests of property owners in the 10 sediment impaired coves are integrated into the sediment management planning process as well as development of the Waterway Improvement Fund grant application for a pilot dredging project. CLEAR is the perfect local partner for this work since it represents HOAs, neighborhood groups and residential and commercial property owners and users in the 10 sediment impaired coves.

CLEAR will participate in the Fund the State Lakes Fund, tapping its connections with the grassroots stakeholders-- lake property owners who are experiencing the negative impacts of lake aging, sediment accumulation, water quality decline and loss of recreational uses.



Pawn Run Cove, late Fall, 2016 with extensive silt beds and algal blooms along channel, indicating poor water quality.

A CLEAR DCL has a web site, <http://acleardcl.org/>, under construction which will highlight negative impacts of sediment and pollutant accumulation, loss of natural and recreation resources as well as devaluation of property values.

What do we do now? This summer the groups will hold several meetings to address issues of sediment impairment as well as monthly meetings of its organizing group. CLEAR will consider whether to continue financing water quality sampling in the 10 coves, a project they supported last year. ■



Aquatic Invasive Species

Last year DNR announced it was “generating a statewide aquatic invasive species management plan for all 16 state-owned lakes” in response to the passage of the State Lakes Invasive Species Act, initiated by Friends of DCL. Bruce Michael, Director of Resource Assessment Services, recently informed the Policy and Review Board the Report is forthcoming sometime this year. Friends of DCL will post the report on its web site, www.friendsofdcl.org, as soon as it is available.

The model legislation we supported in 2015 was amended in the General Assembly review process, leaving shortcomings which prevent full prevention of the introduction of aquatic invasive species (AIS) into DCL and other state-owned lakes.

◆ DNR has installed “significant signage” on roads leading to DCL, alerting boat owners to “clean, drain and dry” their boats before launching. Unfortunately, there are no facilities available at DCL or any other state-owned lake to “clean, drain and dry” following best management practices.

◆ Visual inspections of vessels are required prior to launching and most AIS are visible. Unfortunately perhaps the most threatening species, the Zebra Mussel, has microscopic larvae or *veligers* which cannot be seen. Michael acknowledged it is possible Zebra Mussel could survive in some sections of

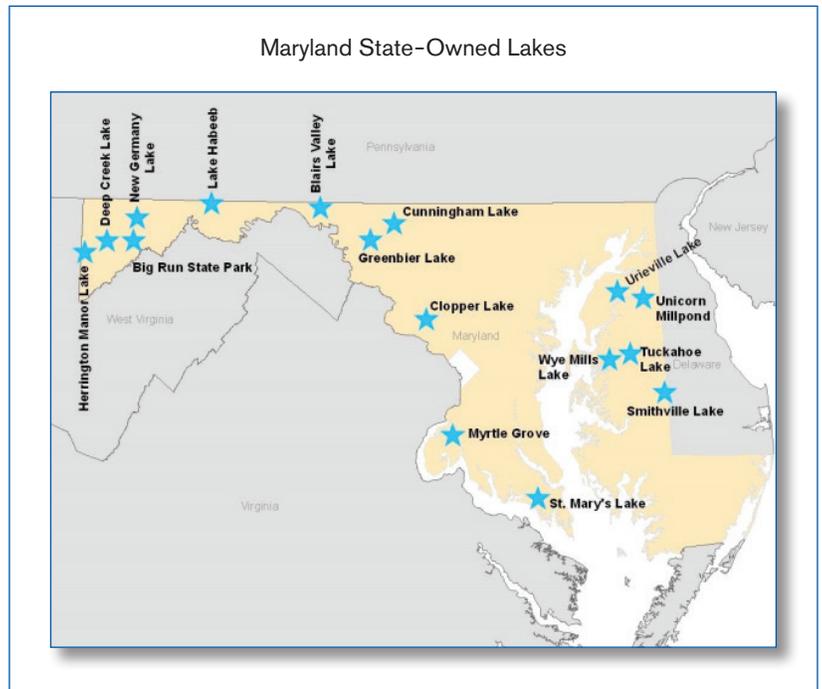
DCL. The only way to prevent introduction of the Zebra Mussel is by a thorough cleaning of the boat inside and out with high pressure hose with 104 degrees water and, after cleaning leaving the boat to dry for up to 5 days prior to launching. DCL does not have a cleaning station available, because it was deemed to be too costly.

◆ The law only covers the State Park launch ramp; the 8 DCL private boat launching sites are excluded from inspection requirements under the law. DNR staff has contacted the private marinas about inspections but these efforts are voluntary, not required.

◆ DCL does not have 24/7 coverage for all days boat launching is allowed. The Launch Steward program uses Garrett College students so inspection starts May 22 and ends September 4, with coverage on the week-ends through mid-October.

◆ There is no inspection of boats leaving DCL, an “invasive infested” lake. Best practice would be to instruct DCL users how to “clean, drain and dry” their boats prior to launching elsewhere and explaining the importance of taking action so as not to infect other waterways.

Funds are necessary to fully implement the Invasive Species Act but DNR has chosen not to create a program fund for implementation. There are a multiple unanswered questions about financing: How is the current level of effort funded? Are the DCL “lake use permits” or “boat launching fees” being used? How is work at the other 15 state-owned lakes funded? Are other sources of funding considered? How much would a strong program to prevent introduction of Zebra Mussels cost? How much will it cost if the Zebra Mussel is established at Deep Creek Lake? ■



Source: MAP PROVIDED BY DNR





MDE Lists New DCL Impairment

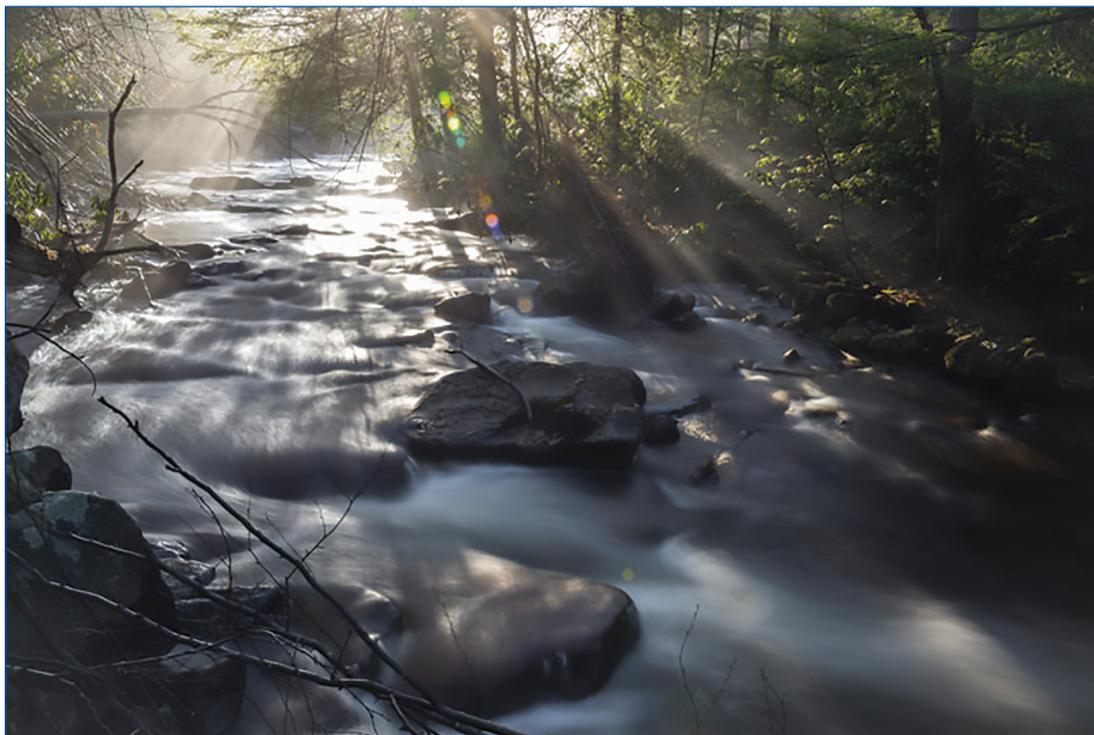
While DNR is the lead agency for DCL management, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is responsible for ensuring water quality compliance with federal Clean Water Act. Every 2 years, MDE issues *The Integrated Report*.

In 2012, MDE listed the lake impaired for “Total Suspended Solids (TSS) -- Post-development Erosion and Sedimentation”, stating excess sediment is a major stressor affecting biological integrity in the watershed.

Unfortunately all these listings were given rated as “low priority” for action. ■

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In 2016, MDE listed water quality impaired by “Urban Runoff / Storm Sewers” with a finding that sulfates are a major stressor affecting biological integrity of the watershed. Here storm water culvert at State Park.

Photo by Barbara Beelar @2017



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Cherry Creek, the largest DCL tributary. In 2014, MDE listed this stream for “temperature measurements exceeding criteria and no cold water obligate taxa were found.” Photo by Ronald Gregory @2017

DNR Water Quality Plans for 2017

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY MARYLAND DNR



JULIE BORTZ, MDNR Natural Resources Biologist, collecting WQ sampling at State Park Dock.

In 2017 DNR will maintain sampling at 4 historic monitoring sites in the main channel from the dam to Turkey Neck Point, providing information on potential long-term changes in lake water quality and will shift and expand its Deep Creek Lake water monitoring efforts. The shift in lake monitoring began in July 2016 and will continue throughout the 2017 sampling season, which will provide for a better understanding of conditions in the shallower coves and relate those conditions to other monitoring efforts, such as submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), aquatic invasive species, and tributary input. At each site, measurements will be recorded for depth, temperature, pH, specific conductivity, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, chlorophyll and light attenuation from early spring through late fall.

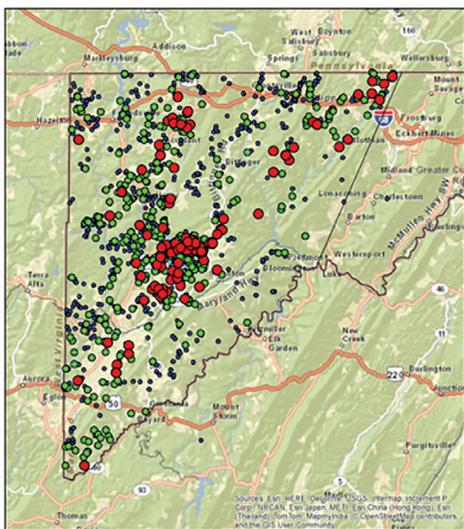
DCL COVES INCLUDED IN 2017 WQ MONITORING

McHenry	North Glade	Green Glade Club
Marsh Hill	Hoop Hole	Pawn Run
Red Run	Blakeslee	Deep Creek
Arrowhead	Hazelhurst	Penn Cove
Cherry Creek	Green Glade	Chadderton School
Meadow Mountain	Poland Run	Hickory Ridge
Harvey's	Back Bay	Blakeslee Commons Dock

In many of these coves, sampling will be conducted at 3 different depth intervals (1-3m, 3-6m and 6-9m) with the goal of defining the “nearshore habitat”.

While DNR's 1 year intense tributary monitoring program wrapped up in December 2016, DNR added 2 additional USGS gage stations in the last year for a total of 3 gaging stations (Cherry Creek, North Glade and Arrowhead). At these locations, measurements for velocity, depth and discharge will be taken in addition to whole water samples to determine nutrient and sediment concentrations monthly under base flow and storm events. A link to the water flow data for these locations can be found on USGS's website at <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/rt>, with links to Arrowhead, Cherry Creek, and North Glade. ■

Well Water Arsenic Concentrations in Garret County, Maryland



Legend
 ● As>=0.010
 ● 0<As<0.010
 ● Arsenic below detection

Source: MARYLAND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Well Water Arsenic Levels

BY STEVE SHERRARD • Director, Environmental Health
 Garrett County Health Department

“Arsenic can occur naturally in ground water in all areas of Garrett County. However, the geologic unit or rock formation known as the Hampshire Formation has the highest rate of Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) exceedances for arsenic in the county. About one in five wells sampled that are drilled into this formation exceed the arsenic MCL which is set at 10 parts per billion by the EPA. This is a very low level established to address health concerns associated with exposure occurring over many years. Arsenic can be removed from water with a simple treatment device either at a point of use or as a whole house filter.

The Hampshire Formation comes to the surface in two narrow bands that trend north east to south west in the eastern half of the county. One band intersects Deep Creek Lake south of the Glendale Bridge, and the other is south of the lake along Route 135. It also outcrops in the Accident area.

The Garrett County Health Department started sampling for arsenic about 2005. If you had a well drilled in 2005 or later and the water was tested, the health department should have an arsenic result.” ■

If you have questions or would like to have your well water tested, call Environmental Health at 301-334-7760. Samples are collected on Tuesdays, sent to Baltimore for analysis and usually takes 1–2 weeks to get results.

Save Deep Creek Lake

Fund the State Lakes Fund

Governor Hogan, Senator Edwards, Delegate Beitzel,
members of the Maryland General Assembly and Garrett
County Board of County Commissioners:

We urge you to immediately allocate State resources and finances to the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund.

The 16 state-owned lakes, including Deep Creek Lake, are premier natural and recreational resources as well as economic engines. Too long, Deep Creek Lake and other state-owned lakes have been under-recognized and suffered from failure of the State to invest in their health, recreational uses and sustainability.

We promise to cooperate with you to save Deep Creek Lake and other lakes but as owner, the State of Maryland, must take the lead and make a commitment of funds immediately. Each day the state delays, these resources decline and the cost for restoration increases, a lesson we have all learned from the Bay efforts.

Signature _____

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Print Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Print Name _____

Print Name _____

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Email _____

You do not have to be a registered voter to sign this petition, just someone who cares about our lakes.

Please copy and share with family, friends and neighbors.

Return to:

Friends of Deep Creek Lake

779 Chadderton School Road • Oakland, MD 21550

Save DCL today!

Please Support FODCL

We are so close to securing a sustainable DCL!

ANNAPOLIS ACHIEVEMENT:

The State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund Act is now law, but no money has been committed.

LAST STEP:

Convince Governor Hogan to allocate funds in his next budget for DCL.

TIMING:

Next 4-5 months, when the next Governor's budget is developed.

IN THIS VERY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME! WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT NOW SO WE CAN:

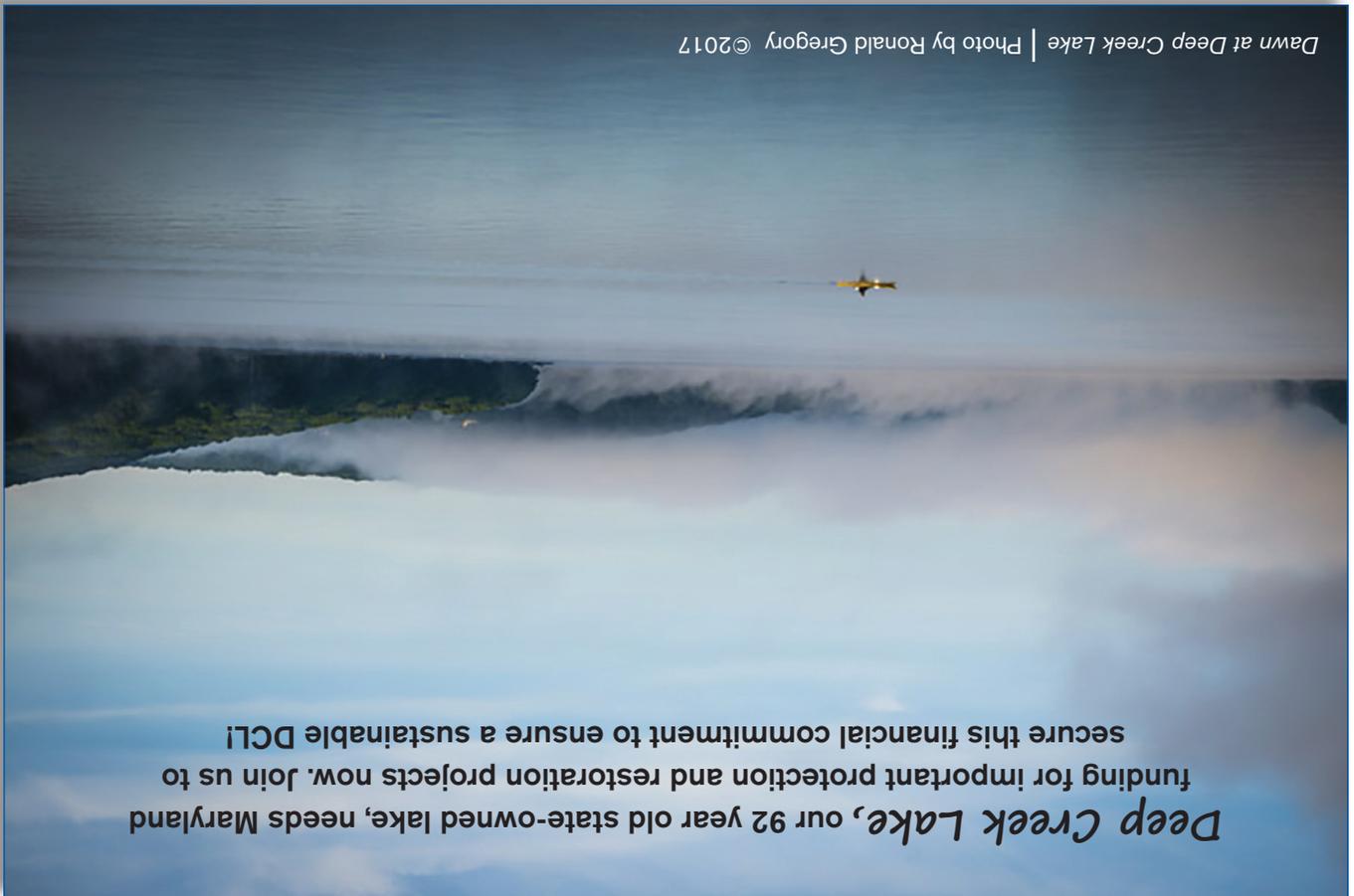
- 1 Mobilize all lake groups** to urge the Governor to commit funding. The enclosed petition is the first step, please sign, share and send in.
- 2 Create a state-wide social media** campaign so the Governor wants to allocate funds for DCL.
- 3 Build collaborative** effort among DCL stakeholder groups and entities.

★★★ CAMPAIGN GOAL: \$35,000 ★★★

The effort is ambitious and limited to very short period of time. We must hire staff locally and in Annapolis and develop effective supporting materials and media campaign.

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A GENEROUS DONATION TODAY

Your donation is tax deductible and it will protect and enhance your investment in your lake property, DCL and the region; help to leverage millions of dollars from the State for DCL restoration and protection.



Dawn at Deep Creek Lake | Photo by Ronald Gregory © 2017

Deep Creek Lake, our 92 year old state-owned lake, needs Maryland funding for important protection and restoration projects now. Join us to secure this financial commitment to ensure a sustainable DCL!