



DEEP CREEK DISPATCH

Winter 2025
Newsletter of the
Property Owners' Association
of Deep Creek Lake, Inc.

Message from the President



As we begin 2025, Deep Creek Lake will celebrate 100 years of recreation and operation. The POA is leading the celebration of this milestone with a long list of fun events listed in this issue. We hope everyone participates and recognizes all the efforts made in the past to preserve and protect this lake by the folks that came before us. Since 1938, the POA has been the leader in promoting many changes and improvements at DCL and we will continue to do so into the future. Enjoy the activities this year!

Bob Sutton, president

DCL POA Donates To Lions Club Playground



The Deep Creek Lake POA recently donated \$2,500 to the Deep Creek Lake Lions Club Foundation to be used for the construction of a playground at the McHenry Park.

In 2021, a fourth grader, Landon Georg, and his family were seeking a playground with a wheelchair swing. Landon's mother began an inclusive playground campaign, generating \$25,000 from bake sales and other fundraisers. In 2023, needing a partner to build an inclusive playground, the Georg family reached out to the Deep Creek Lake Lions Club for support. The Club agreed to site the playground at the McHenry Community Park at 1249 Bumble Bee Rd. The Club operates and maintains this park for the benefit of the community.

This playground will be an addition to the community hub that is already developing at the park with a fenced dog park, disc golf course, bicycle pump track, local history and art center, 6 miles of trails and the other usual amenities of a public park.

The club is currently running a crowdfunding campaign to raise money for the project here: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/landonsdream>.



POA Meeting Dates for 2025

Board Meetings – Uno's at 8:30 am
April 12, June 7, August 9, and October 4

General Membership Meetings – Garrett 8 Cinemas at
8:30 am
June 14 and August 23

DCL's 100th Anniversary Celebration List of Events



Schedule of Events:

January 9 - DCL100 will host a local business networking event to introduce the slate of events for 2025 @ Dutch's at Silver Tree.

February 20-22 - Deep Creek Dunk – DCL100 is partnering with Special Olympics of Maryland to bring some new events to the Dunk.

February 15-16 - Deep Creek Lake Boat Show – joint show by DCL area marinas with boats, food and vendors

March 6, 13, 20 & 27 - Lecture series about various aspects of Deep Creek Lake @ the Performing Arts Center at Garrett College – each Thursday at 6 pm in March (environmental, recreational, proactively working to ensure the health of Deep Creek Lake for the next 100 years and beyond.)

April 3, 10, 17 & 24 - Deep Creek Lake Team Trivia nights at Ace's Run – test your DCL knowledge – prizes for winning teams.

April 27 - Picture Party at Ace's Restaurant (hosted by Brenda McDonnell)

May 6 - Taste of Garrett County – DCL100 partnering with Stage West at GC Ag Hall

May 24 - Deep Creek Lake Day Adventure Challenge

June 21 - FREE entrance to Deep Creek Lake State Park (sponsored by Maryland Dept of Natural Resources) (may have an additional FREE day in May, July & August)

June 21 - Boat parade on Deep Creek Lake – Put on by the Deep Creek Lake Lions Club, the parade will feature entries from all towns, various businesses, individuals and organizations.

June 27 or 28 - DCL100 parade float in Grantsville Days

July 4 - DCL100 parade float in Accident Homecoming Parade

July 4 – 6 - DCL100 Sailboat Regatta on Deep Creek Lake

July 12 – 13 - Victorian Chautauqua in Mtn Lake Park featuring one or more speaker portrayals with DCL connections

July 19 - DCL100 Birthday Bash – FREE or low charge entrance to a festival at the Garrett County Fairgrounds—to feature bands & music, a Kidzone, parade, craft & arts displays and sales, food vendors, contests and a special ending surprise (12 noon – 10 pm)

July 26 - DCL100 parade float in Kitzmiller Homecoming Parade

August 16 – DCL 100 parade float in Friendsville Days

August 23 - DCL100 GALA – at Wisp Resort – Roaring 20's theme with Big Band live music—capacity 400 people

Sept 6 - Watersports Exhibition on Deep Creek Lake

September – end of October - Cove Run Corn Maze will feature a DCL100 theme



POA Members,

The following is a communication from StageWEST Arts Collective (formerly known as Garrett Lakes Arts Festival) seeking support for the Paul Weiler Concertmaster's Society (named for our former POA President). Please consider lending your support.

Bob Sutton, POA President



Continued

On behalf of StageWEST Arts Collective and the Paul Weiler Concertmaster's Society, I would like to extend our deepest thanks to all of you who have generously contributed to our campaign. Your support has been nothing short of extraordinary, and we are truly grateful for your commitment to the arts and the future of bringing an esteemed ensemble like the Maryland Symphony Orchestra to our rural community.

Because of you, we have made significant strides toward our goal of bringing the Maryland Symphony Orchestra to Garrett County again in 2025. This exciting partnership promises to be a transformative experience for the community, one that will inspire and connect people through the power of live symphonic music. However, as we near the finish line, we find ourselves still a bit short of our fundraising goal. We need your help to fully fund this renowned endeavor. Every additional contribution will support the costs of this unique performance and the many initiatives that will make this event possible.

If you have already donated, we are incredibly grateful for your generosity. If you have not yet had the chance to contribute, we invite you to join us in continuing this tradition. Every donation, no matter the size, plays a crucial role in bringing this event to life and continuing to elevate the arts in our community.

A Point to Ponder - Check in with your employer, as many companies offer matching gift programs that can double your donation to our cause! Thank you once again for your continued support. Together, we can make 2025 an unforgettable year for the StageWEST Arts Collective and for the community we serve.

With heartfelt appreciation and anticipation for the music yet to be played and the dances yet to be danced.

Shelia Kramer McCracken
Executive Director

Lowering the Lake to Control Near Shore SAV

By Bob Sutton

Molly Ramsey, the new county Watershed Coordinator, is chairing a committee to actively work on items that are in the plan. A kickoff meeting was held to discuss status of various items and to begin to develop some action plans. The POA will be participating in these efforts as part of the committee.

The second meeting of the Steering Committee was held earlier this month at Garrett College where they reviewed a summary of the progress made with the watershed management plan, to plan future meetings and to discuss potential task forces, Ramsey added.

Brookfield Tour of the Lake

By Bob Sutton

In one of the meetings that Brookfield participated in, several executives commented that they had never been on Deep Creek Lake. The POA offered to take them, and they suggested a date in late November. Bill's Marine Service furnished a nice pontoon boat, and we took them for a 3-hour tour in the cold rain to see the grass first hand. Participating were Bob Sutton, Morgan France, Molly Ramsey, Bruce Michaels and Dustin Droge and Kevin, both of Brookfield. They did get a good look at the problem at least.

Kick Off Event Held for DCL100

By Chris Nichols

The Deep Creek Lake Centennial Celebration (DCL100) Committee held a kickoff event at Dutch's at Silver Tree on Jan. 9. The event was geared towards the business community of Garrett County, but was open to all, and it introduced the events and projects planned for 2025. More than 100 attendees enjoyed delicious food and drinks, while learning about how they can participate in the Centennial Celebration. Committee Chair Chris Nichols discussed the overall mission of the DCL100 Committee and talked about some of the projects planned, including more than 20 new informational kiosks and educational initiatives in local schools.



Pictured are the prize winners in front of the DCL100 backdrop which will be at all events throughout the year. The bunting pictured at the top of the backdrop can be purchased from the committee as well as yard flag bearing the logo.

Event Chair Missy Gralish did a run-down of events planned for the year, highlighting the Deep Creek Lake 100th Birthday Bash on July 19 and the Roaring 20's-themed Gala on August 23. Committee co-Chair Karen Myers wrapped up the program talking about the importance of interfacing with local towns and the rest of Garrett County. The program concluded with prize giveaway of DCL00 swag including pins, patches, stickers magnets, keychains and more.

The Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake (POA) is heading up this effort and in late 2023 formed the DCL100 Committee from over 10 organizations who have a stake in the lake. The DCL100 Committee is seeking volunteers for the various events throughout the year as well as sponsors.

For more information, visit DCL100.com or email deep.creek@dcl100.com.

Protecting Our Community and Wildlife: Understanding Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

Courtesy of Sarah Milbourne, Western Region Manager/Maryland Park Service

As homeowners around Deep Creek Lake, many of you are accustomed to seeing waterfowl on and around the lake, including on the buffer strip areas. While these birds contribute to the beauty of our environment, it's important to be aware of an ongoing issue affecting waterfowl nationwide: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), specifically the H5N1 strain.

HPAI has been detected across the United States and poses significant risks to wild and domestic birds. While human cases are rare, contact with infected birds, their droppings, or contaminated surfaces can potentially spread the virus to humans, making vigilance and proper precautions essential for the safety of our community and wildlife.

What is HPAI?

HPAI H5N1, bird flu or avian influenza, is a highly contagious virus primarily affecting birds. Waterfowl, such as ducks and geese, are often carriers of the virus, sometimes without showing symptoms. However, infected birds can shed the virus in their saliva, nasal secretions, and droppings, potentially spreading it to other birds or surfaces frequented by humans.

Symptoms in waterfowl may include:

- Difficulty breathing
- Swelling or discoloration of the head or legs
- Neurological issues such as tremors or loss of coordination
- Sudden death

Why This Matters to Deep Creek Lake Residents

As residents, you may notice waterfowl on your property or on the buffer strip surrounding the lake. These birds may leave droppings that could carry the virus. If you observe any waterfowl exhibiting unusual behavior or discover dead birds, it's crucial to act responsibly to protect both your health and the local bird population.

Additionally, the aviary at Deep Creek Lake State Park is temporarily closed, along with other aviaries across the state, as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of HPAI. This closure underscores the seriousness of the issue and our commitment to safeguarding both wildlife and public health.

What Should You Do?

1. For Human Health:
 - Avoid direct contact with waterfowl or their droppings.
 - Keep pets away from birds and droppings.
 - Wash your hands thoroughly after outdoor activities, especially if you've been near waterfowl habitats.
2. Reporting Sick or Dead Birds:
 - Report any unusual bird behavior or dead birds to the at 1-877-463-6497.
 - If you observe birds on your property exhibiting symptoms, avoid handling them and contact the appropriate authorities.
3. General Precautions:
 - If you host domestic poultry, implement biosecurity measures to keep them safe from wild birds.
 - Use gloves and a mask if you must handle bird droppings or clean contaminated surfaces.

A Nationwide Issue

HPAI is not limited to Deep Creek Lake. If you are a seasonal resident or travel frequently, it's important to remain vigilant wherever you are. Waterfowl and their droppings can carry the virus in any part of the country, so the precautions shared here are widely applicable.

Working Together to Protect Our Community

Deep Creek Lake is a treasured place for both its natural beauty and its close-knit community. By staying informed and taking simple precautions, we can protect ourselves, our wildlife, and the spaces we cherish.

For further updates or questions, feel free to visit the Maryland Department of Agriculture's [website](#). Together, we can help mitigate the impact of HPAI and keep Deep Creek Lake a safe and enjoyable environment for all.



*By Michele Walker,
executive director of County United Way Inc.*

Every day we jump in the shower, wash and put on clean clothes. We never think twice about it. Unfortunately, in our community, shampoo and detergent have become somewhat of a luxury to struggling, working families. Every paycheck these families are asking themselves do I put gas in my car or get laundry detergent and shampoo. Most of us have never had to live our life without “creature comforts” – food, warmth, a comfy bed or hygiene items. Have you or your children ever complained that there’s no food in this house,” while staring at a fridge full of food and a well- stocked pantry. For so many in our community the everyday struggle to survive takes a toll on not only their mental health but their hope and spirit as well. There may be any number of reasons that people fall on hard times. Not everyone has family or resources to turn to in times of need.

For more nearly 25 years, Garrett County property owners have supported the County United Way. It is only through your generosity that we are able to invest in programs to help our friends and families who are struggling. Through these programs we are able to provide them the help they need today and a hope for a better tomorrow. Through your help we are able to make sure children have a safe home, senior citizens will receive a hot meal, a cancer patient receives help with prescriptions or gas cards, students can afford to take driver’s ed to get their license and a job. Your support is critical to our success!

Please consider supporting the County United Way this year by contributing to the annual campaign. Please visit our website at www.cuw.org to contribute or mail a contribution to County United Way – Garrett County, PO Box 394, Oakland MD 215502. If you have any questions, please reach out to our Finance Manager, Misty Deal at 240-362-8647. Thank you for your consideration!



Photo by Kristen Skeweris of Railey Realty

Celebrating 100 Years of Deep Creek Lake with a Serigraph Print by Erick Sahler

By of Sarah Milbourne, Western Region Manager/Maryland Park Service

To honor Deep Creek Lake's 100th anniversary, the Maryland Park Service commissioned a stunning serigraph print by celebrated artist Erick Sahler. This captivating artwork beautifully showcases the natural charm of Maryland's largest freshwater lake, capturing its vibrant scenery and the deep connection shared by all who visit and love it.

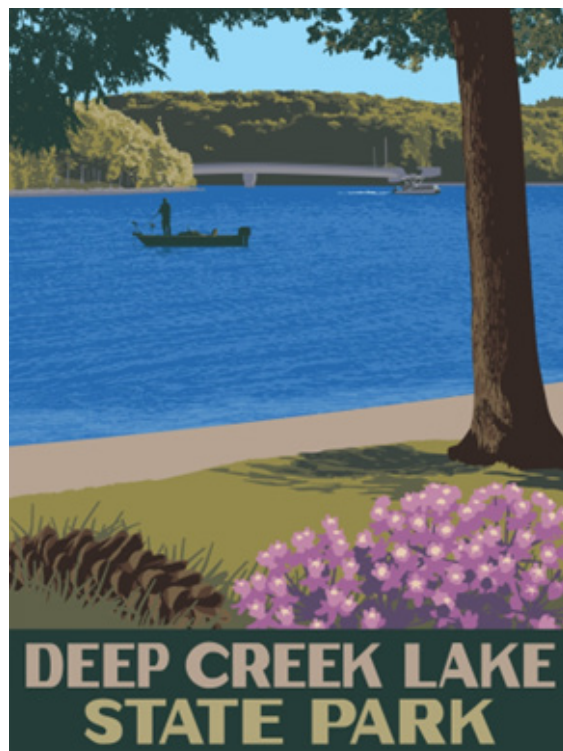
The serigraph highlights a tranquil shoreline at Deep Creek Lake State Park, with boats adding life to the scene - a fisherman's boat anchored in place, while another boat offers a leisurely ride. The Glendale Bridge rises in the background, adding a sense of place, while delicate swamp milkweed blooms in the foreground, symbolizing the thriving natural ecosystem. At its heart, the lake itself serves as the true focal point, embodying the inviting atmosphere that draws people to its shores year after year.

Erick Sahler, an Illustrator Member of the prestigious Society of Illustrators, has earned a reputation for creating artwork that captures the essence of place. His serigraphs are celebrated not only for their technical mastery but for the way they reflect the unique character and spirit of the mid-Atlantic region. Sahler's work focuses on bringing places to life, celebrating the deep connections between nature, people, and community.

This Deep Creek Lake serigraph is no exception. Sahler drew inspiration from his visit to the lake, working closely with park staff whose passion and love for the area deeply informed his creative process. The goal was to reflect the experience of being at Deep Creek Lake. It's not just about the view—it's about the feeling of being connected to the water, the land, and the people who make it special.

This commemorative artwork will be featured in advertisements throughout the centennial celebrations and will soon be available for purchase at the Deep Creek Lake Discovery Center. Visitors will have the opportunity to bring home this stunning tribute, serving as a cherished keepsake of the lake's enduring beauty.

The Maryland Park Service is thrilled to share this collaboration with Erick Sahler, whose work has found its place in numerous distinguished collections. This serigraph is a vibrant and heartfelt celebration of Deep Creek Lake's natural beauty and the memories it inspires in all who visit. Stay tuned for its release at the Discovery Center, and don't miss the chance to own this extraordinary piece of Deep Creek Lake's story.



POA Board Members

Grant Callery.....'27.....VP Communications	John Quilty.....'25.....
Tom Craven.....'27.....Co-Editor Dispatch	Gary Shafer.....'27.....
Susie Crawford.....'25.....First Vice President	Karen Smith.....'27.....Treasurer
George Evans.....'26.....Secretary	Bob Sutton.....'26.....President
Morgan France.....'27.....	Wendell Beitzel.....'26.....
Greg Harbaugh.....'26.....Co-Editor Dispatch	Cindy Stark.....'26.....
Bob Hoffmann.....'25.....	Emeritus Board Members -- Past Presidents
Tom Knapp.....'26.....	Lou Battistella, Scott Johnson, Jan Finkel
Walt Malecki.....'25.....	
Karen Myers.....'25.....	
Lauren O'Brien McCann.....'25.....	
Chris Nichols.....'27.....VP Membership	





DEEP CREEK DISPATCH

 Property Owners' Association

 of Deep Creek Lake, Inc.

 P.O. Box 816, McHenry, MD 21541