



## ***2020 WAS A GREAT YEAR FOR DONATIONS AND GRANTS!***

We received over \$72,000 in tax deductible donations and \$19,000 in grants during 2020! We've already individually thanked those of you who contributed, but we want everyone to know what a great job you've done for the Watershed Foundation, and to give you a **heartfelt public "THANKS"** for your donations that helped us achieve our goals.

In the words of Bob Hoffmann, our Vice President for Fund Raising, "This is what the Foundation is all about. Bringing private funds together with public projects to make the watershed great. We appreciate every dollar, and we look forward to an even bigger year this year. Tax deductible donations can be made when you visit our website, at [www.deepcreekwatershedfoundation.org](http://www.deepcreekwatershedfoundation.org) or by mail to Treasurer, P.O. Box 376, Oakland, MD 21550."

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## ***WATER QUALITY METER CAMPAIGN A SMASHING SUCCESS!***



We spent \$75,000 to partner with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to buy 5 water quality monitors that will guarantee a continuous flow of information about the composition of the water in Deep Creek Lake. That guarantees that DNR will know the state of the health of the lake for years to come.

Watershed Foundation President David Myerberg said,

*"The significance of this purchase will live for decades, as DNR monitors the health of the lake, day in and day out, getting the hard data they need to make decisions about what to do, when and how, to keep the lake as the wonderful resource we all love and enjoy."*

You may have read about our campaign for donations to allow us to give water quality meters to DNR. It's been an extraordinary success that has been written-up in several publications, and featured in DNR statements and meetings. We earlier had committed to buying 4 water quality meters for DNR, at a cost of \$60,000, and we were thrilled when the Deep Creek Lake Property Owners Association (POA) contributed \$15,000 to the Watershed Foundation so we bought an additional water quality meter. In total we bought 5 water quality meters for DNR, to add to the 2 meters they already have. The company that makes the meters, was a great help when Watershed Foundation Treasurer Brian O'Brien talked with them about pricing for our multiple orders.

## DNR Managers Applaud Our Partnership

Here's what Deep Creek Lake Manager Eric Null said about our partnership with DNR in getting the water quality meters...

*"This partnership has invested over \$130,000 in state-of-the-art technology for water quality monitoring. Together the partnership has purchased 7 continuous water quality monitoring meters with multiple parameter probes. It has also purchased data reading equipment, and computer upgrades to handle the increased data collection and interpretation that will be needed. This partnership will greatly decrease the time needed to collect baseline data in all the major Deep Creek Lake coves. Once this data has been collected and interpreted it can be easily transferred to the POA and Watershed Foundation for public dissemination.*

*This will allow the stakeholders and public to see how Deep Creek Lake functions chemically and biologically...[and] allow for future monitoring to assess the impact of any potential pollutant that may enter Deep Creek Lake. The real excitement of the partnership is that now water quality monitoring can be done throughout the watershed. The data collected in the lake can also be linked to fishing and boating conditions...[and] be reported to the public to enhance their Deep Creek Lake experience. The monitoring program will also partner with Garrett College, Natural Resource Wildlife and Technology Program to give students hands-on experience and training with using this technology so our future resource managers will gain real-world training with the technology that they will use in their careers."*

Bruce Michael, Director of the DNR Resource Assessment Service, said that the Watershed Foundation's work in getting the water quality meters for DNR "is a great partnership that helps us tremendously." Calling the Watershed Foundation's efforts "a great bonus," Michael said that having a partner like the Watershed Foundation, "makes our job much easier."

## And Your Donations Made It Possible

As David Myerberg said,

*"We are so grateful for the generous donations we received, large and small, to make this dream a reality. It just shows that if you know that a need is real, and can reach out with that information, big-hearted people will give to fund the cause."*

We will keep you informed as we look forward to DNR's efforts in installing the water quality meters, and they begin giving DNR the information they need.

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***WE'RE STILL FUNDING DNR'S  
ZEBRA MUSSEL PREVENTION***

In 2020 the Watershed Foundation gave \$1,060 to fund the efforts of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to test whether the viciously destructive zebra mussels have infected the lake waters. And we've budgeted a similar amount to partner again with Brookfield Renewable Power, which operates the dam on Deep Creek Lake, to keep up the surveillance for another year.

So far, we've been fortunate to have found no evidence of the invasive creatures, but as boats continue to be brought to Deep Creek Lake from elsewhere, and the possibility of there being zebra mussel hitchhikers on the bottom of visiting boats, it is of primary importance to keep alert to their possible presence. Once they begin to spread in a lake, they are nearly impossible to eradicate. They have sharp shells that are a danger to swimmers who step on them, they can clog hydroelectric dams, they attach to boat bottoms, docks, and boat props, and they are suspected of being the source of a toxin that has killed thousands of birds.



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## ***...AND WE'RE DOING MORE TO PREVENT INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE LAKE***

DNR is continuing its boat-cleaning, warning and education programs to prevent the introduction of invasive organisms into Deep Creek Lake, and we are planning to expand our efforts to assist them. As the first step in this new campaign, we've produced a new brochure that will be distributed throughout the watershed area, warning boaters to "STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!" You can see our new brochure at this [link](#).



## **STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™**

Be A Good Steward.  
Clean. Drain. Dry.

[StopAquaticHitchhikers.org](http://StopAquaticHitchhikers.org)

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### ***WE'RE HELPING MAKE YOUR LAWNS AND GARDENS HEALTHY***

Rain barrels are great for collecting water to irrigate your garden or feed your lawn. Now the Watershed Foundation has partnered with the University of Maryland Extension Service to give rain barrels to people, **free**. Forty rain barrels were purchased with money the Foundation got from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Green Up, Clean Up Fund. The rain barrels were made available to the 96 people who listened to the April 29 class given by Foundation Advisor Ashley Bachtel-Bodkins, focusing on how to use and maintain the barrels, and how to hook them up to a downspout. Ashley, a Senior Agent Associate-Environmental and Natural Resources and Master Gardner Coordinator with the University Maryland Extension-Garrett County, says, "Using rain barrels is a great way to conserve water and give your plants a healthy drink."



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### ***OUR NEW PROGRAM TELLS WHO DOES WHAT IN THE WATERSHED AT THE LAKE***

The Watershed Foundation has started a new "Virtual Brunch and Learn" program to let everyone know about topics related to the Deep Creek Watershed and Deep Creek Lake. Kicking off the Foundation's new quarterly Zoom meetings, 220 people signed-up for the

May 12 session where people from the Watershed Foundation, the Deep Creek Property Owners Association, the Garrett County Government, the Maryland Departments of Natural Resources and the Environment, the University of Maryland, the U.S. Geological Survey, and Brookfield Renewable Power explained the role of the agencies that have responsibilities for the Deep Creek Lake, and the organizations that represent the lake's shareholders.

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## ***WELCOME CAROLYN SHEAFFER OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER AND SECRETARY***

"I'm so happy to be a part of the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation, and to be able to help out on its great work," says Carolyn Sheaffer the newest addition to our Board of Directors. Carolyn also is the new Foundation Secretary. Many of you know her through her work as a local Family Nurse Practitioner and Pilates instructor at The Pilates Clinic (Balanced Body Studio) in McHenry, and her previous work with the Garrett Medical Group.



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## ***A HEARTFELT THANK YOU AND FAREWELL TO BRUCE MICHAEL***

Bruce Michael, Director of the DNR Resource Assessment Service, will retire in June. Bruce has been a great help to all of us in the Deep Creek Lake area in negotiating our way through the DNR programs headquartered in Annapolis, and he has been especially helpful to the Watershed Foundation in allowing us to learn ways in which we could support DNR's efforts to keep the Deep Creek Watershed healthy. His clear, concise, thoughtful advice and explanations have been a constant aide to our ability to contribute to programs benefiting the watershed. Thank you, Bruce, and enjoy your well-earned retirement.

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## ***BECOME A SUSTAINED DONOR***

The Deep Creek Watershed Foundation works every month, year-round, and your tax deductible gift can too. For as little as \$10 a month, when you become a Sustained Donor, you can help us keep the lake and the watershed as great as it is now. Our Sustained Donors program allows monthly contribution as an alternative to giving once a year.

You can find details under the "Support Us" tab on our webpage ([www.deepcreekwatershedfoundation.org](http://www.deepcreekwatershedfoundation.org)).

There you will see the Sustained Donor levels:

Bronze is \$10 a month

Silver is \$20 a month

Gold is \$50 a month

Platinum is \$75 a month

Diamond is \$100 a month

Elite is \$150 a month

Whatever level you choose, we thank you!

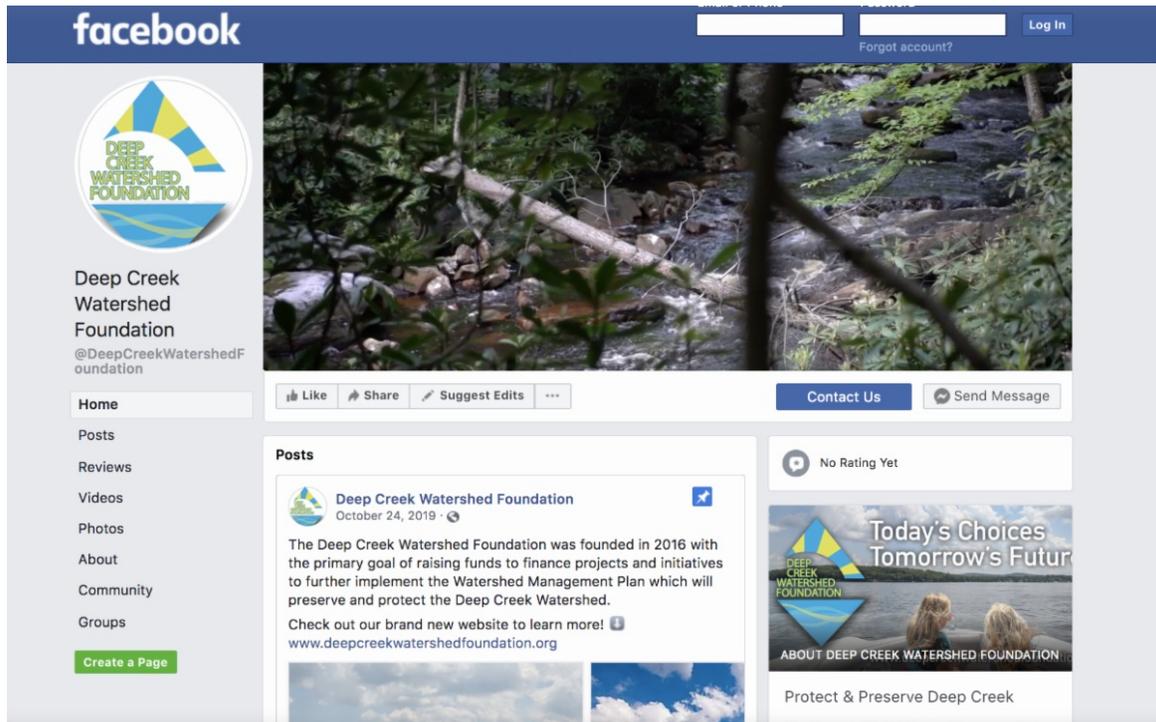
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## “LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK!

Our Facebook page features our marvelous videos showing how the doser on Cherry Creek, whose maintenance we’re funding, is neutralizing acid mine drainage; the need for the water quality monitors that we’re funding: and some of our Board members and Advisors telling why they joined the Board. and what the Watershed Foundation means to them.

And the Facebook page is attracting donations! We’re looking forward to more as our Facebook page grows.

[Click here to Follow us on Facebook!](#)



## Learn About our Projects on the DCWF Website



Deep Creek Watershed Foundation Board members have been talking with homeowner associations and other groups about the work of the Foundation, and asking about projects that the Foundation might consider funding. If you have a group that wants us to visit and present our information, and have us hear your suggestions for watershed projects we might fund in the future, please let us know by contacting [Morgan France](#).

## Our Funding & How We Choose Our Projects

Each of our projects is chosen in accord with the recommendations of the Deep Creek Watershed Plan. The Plan can be found at [www.garrettcountry.org/watershed/dcwmp](http://www.garrettcountry.org/watershed/dcwmp).

Each project is closely examined by the people who make up our Board of Directors, and they make the selection of each project for funding. Each member of our Board of Directors, and each of our advisors, is a volunteer who has a strong connection to the Deep Creek Watershed. Their varied backgrounds and expertise make the Board of

Directors and the advisors a highly effective organization for funding projects in the Deep Creek Watershed. The Board members and advisors are all profiled in our website, [www.deepcreekwatershedfoundation.org](http://www.deepcreekwatershedfoundation.org).

Our investments in these and future projects are possible because of the generous, tax deductible gifts we get from those of you around Deep Creek Lake, throughout the Deep Creek Watershed and beyond.

Your contribution to the Foundation now at [www.deepcreekwatershedfoundation.org](http://www.deepcreekwatershedfoundation.org) will be a great investment in the terrific private-public water quality monitoring effort and the other projects funded by the Foundation.

**Please consider a tax deductible contribution to support these important activities.**

[Click here to donate.](http://www.deepcreekwatershedfoundation.org)