



William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award

The Deep Creek Watershed Foundation was notified that it will receive the 2021 William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award for Garrett County.

This is the 10th anniversary of the awards. This Award will be presented later this year in Garrett County by Peter Franchot, Comptroller of Maryland.

The Award goes to individuals and organizations in each of the 23 counties and Baltimore City who best exemplify William Donald Schaefer's lifelong commitment to helping people.

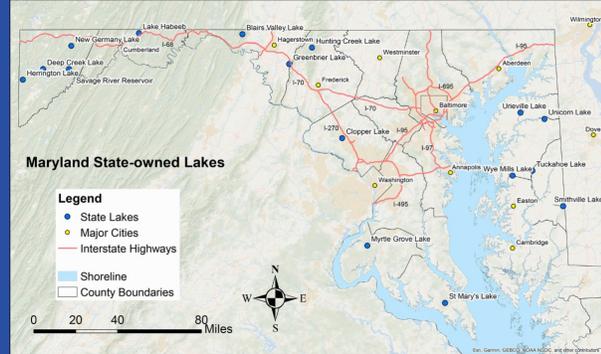
Winners are selected based on their demonstration of improving the community, swiftly solving a citizen problem through effective government intervention directly aiding the most vulnerable in society, or creating a public/private partnership to improve the lives of Marylanders.

The Foundation Board and Advisers are delighted with this notification and will plan a celebration for Comptroller Franchot's visit to the County for the presentation.

**Maryland State Lakes
Protection and
Restoration Fund has**

Promise

By David Myerberg,
President, DCWF



A Sick-care System

The 17th Surgeon General of the US, Richard Carmona, MD, frequently says that in the US we don't have a health care system, we have a "sick care system." Prevention is not a priority. When we get sick, we go to the doctor. Many times, it is too late.

Well, in the State of Maryland, when it comes to fresh-water lakes, we definitely have a "sick-care system." Maryland owns sixteen freshwater lakes in ten counties across the state. All of the lakes are aged, almost all are 50 years or older and Deep Creek Lake will be 100 years old in three years. Many states take the conservation and management of their Waters for granted, until things get bad or until it's too late. Sometimes, issues are discovered that make us wake up to the need.

An Example

In 2013, *hydrilla verticillata*, a sub-aquatic weed, was found in Deep Creek Lake. This was not a surprise. Hydrilla was found in Florida as early as the 1950's and in Maryland in 1982

<https://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?speciesID=6> and now it has become the most serious aquatic weed problem for most of the U.S. It was found in every one of the states surrounding Maryland as early as 1996, and water scientists knew this. Hydrilla was even mentioned in Public Law 104-332 October 26, 1996, as "having been introduced to waters of the United States... having a potential to cause adverse environmental, ecological and economic effects."

(See <https://www.congress.gov/104/plaws/publ332/PLAW-104publ332.pdf>)

Despite this, minimal preventive measures were taken for the numerous boats that were launched in Deep Creek Lake from surrounding bodies of water until 2019 when the "launch steward" program was started. Many boats enter the lake in the hours when the stewards are not present and the boat owners are on their honor to put in a clean boat.

DNR went into active mode when *hydrilla* was discovered in Deep Creek Lake in 2013 and started targeted chemical treatment of *hydrilla* in 2014, spending around \$2M over the last 7 years. The treatment continues with encouraging results but it will never be eliminated.

By January 2018, Maryland DNR produced a Survey of Aquatic Invasive Species in Maryland

Lakes. <https://dnr.maryland.gov/Invasives/Documents/Aquatic-Invasive-ReservoirSummary.pdf#:~:text=Another%20outcome%20of%20the%20HB860>

[%20Workgroup%20was%20the,the%20vessel%20and%20removed%20all%20Ovisible%20organic%20material](#)

The recommendations of this report were too little and too late to keep out the onslaught of boats bringing more hydrilla and other invasive species to Deep Creek Lake.

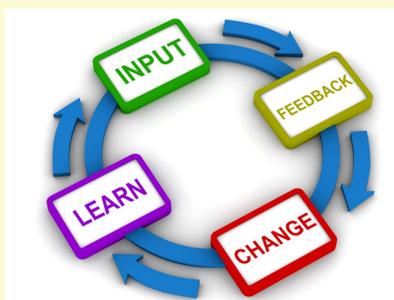
Hope of a Regular Cash Infusion

Other State-owned lakes have similar unmet needs. Freshwater lakes naturally fill in over many years unless they are managed adequately by removing sediment, treating contaminated sediment, preventing the spread of invasive species and improving ecological and recreational value. But adequate management requires timely action and an influx of cash, both of which have been wanting for Deep Creek Lake and the rest of the State lakes.

Since 2019, after many requests from the public, Maryland funded the sixteen State Lakes with one million dollars per year through the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund. [MD. Natural Resources Code Ann. § 8-205 \(2020\)](#) Many State lake projects have been funded around the State with this money in Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick, Montgomery, Charles, Caroline, Queen Anne, St. Mary's and Kent counties. https://dnr.maryland.gov/Documents/State-Lakes_Projects.pdf

Although this fund sunset after three years in 2022 despite unsuccessful bills submitted to lift the sunset and to raise the amount to three million dollars per year, this year Senator Edwards, Delegate Beitzel, and Delegate Buckel managed to have the sunset lifted until 2025 through separate legislation.

The State-lakes' problems persist and worsen. Sick-care continues at a snail's pace and prevention is mostly talk at this time. Somehow, the citizens of Maryland must convince the legislature to provide the needed funds without allowing the sun to set on Maryland's freshwater lakes.



DCWF Focuses on Continuous Process Improvement

here.

The [Deep Creek Watershed Foundation \(DCWF\)](#) was founded in 2016 with the primary goal of raising funds to finance projects and initiatives to further implement the [Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan](#). The Watershed Management Plan provides a course for protecting, enhancing, and restoring the natural resources of the Deep Creek watershed. To further this commitment as our organization matures, DCWF is excited to announce a focus on Continuous Process Improvement (CPI), which is the practice of making incremental changes to business processes to improve efficiency and quality. This ongoing effort to improve existing business processes can consist of small 'light-weight' changes that enhance the workflow, or broader 'breakthrough' improvements that encourage innovation.

Over time, these process improvement changes aim to:

- improve communication, decision making, and teamwork
- boost efficiency and project success
- enhance partner and customer awareness
- drive alignment with strategic goals, and
- position our foundation for growth.

This first step in our process improvement efforts focuses on leveraging industry best practices to enrich the onboarding of new board and advisory members, adopt proven Project Management practices, and define repeatable event planning and management activities.

These important efforts are the best way to ensure that we are doing the right things in the most efficient, effective, and productive way to advance the mission of our foundation and the community.



For GARRETT COUNTY HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATIONS

The Deep Creek Watershed Foundation continues to keep all Homeowner's Associations informed of our activities and projects. As the health of the lake and the tributaries is of key importance to all property owners, we want to involve members of Homeowner's Associations located in the watershed area in our planning, projects and fund raising.

The Deep Creek Watershed Foundation has ongoing projects that we can discuss with your association at your next meeting. We enjoy updating the community on these projects. We also like to hear from association members regarding their concerns to keep our lake and tributaries healthy.

We also provide newsletters to the various associations to share with their members. We also like to receive recommendations from the various HOA's for members to serve on the foundation's board.

If you would like to schedule a presentation for your next Homeowner's Association meeting, please contact Sandy Bello at 240.321.2524.



HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE DCWF?

Perhaps it's specific to the Lake? Our watershed streams? Sub aquatic vegetation? Invasive species? We'll, you get the idea.

Or, maybe you need to know which government agencies can assist you with making your property more watershed-friendly.

How do I get information on legislation affecting the Lake and it's watershed?

Or, more importantly, how can I volunteer to help the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation?

Anyway, whatever's on your mind, let us know and we'll do our very best to find an answer, AND, maybe we'll share it with our readers in a future newsletter or blog. Email your question to: info@deepcreekwatershedfoundation.org



The Foundation to date has completed the following projects in the watershed to meet the goals of the Watershed Management Plan. Review the goals of the Watershed Management Plan [here](#).

1. Built the Water Budget Model that allows for predictions of summer lake levels based on the mandated releases from the lake, and the volume of water remaining in the lake pool above the lower rule band, all as required by the Appropriation Permit (Goal 12).
2. Analyzed the effect on dock impacts based on reduced water levels (Goal 10). The two goals above were accomplished while the state was in the process of renewing the Appropriation Permit for the dam operation. There were numerous stakeholders represented in this process, each vying to protect their share of the water in the lake (Goal 10 and 12).
3. Funded the Zebra Mussel plate analysis at Appalachian Laboratory for an initial three years, and have agreed to continue paying for the plate analysis to date in conjunction with DNR (Goal 3).
4. In conjunction with Maryland University and the National Soil Conservation Service our Advisor, Ashley Bodkins, has been working on the Master Gardner Program, Water Wise Program, applied for and received a Green Up, Cleanup grant. She has been actively recruiting projects we can do in partnership with the agricultural community in the watershed (Goal 3 and Goal 6).
5. In conjunction with some of the Lake Management staff we retained California University of Pennsylvania (Cal-U) to conduct an assessment and provide baseline data for the stream that enters the lake near Arrowhead. The data collected will serve as a benchmark data set to afford the opportunity to evaluate the impact the proposed Arrowhead Cove dredging project will have on the stream overtime.
6. In a cooperative effort with the Deep Creek Lake Property Owners, we commissioned a literature search to collect academic research papers relative to the efficacy of reducing winter water levels in reducing the growth of submerged aquatic vegetation (Goal 1).
7. In cooperation with the United States Geologic Survey continuous water levels and water temperature is measured and recorded. This effort was funded in part by the Community Trust Foundation. In addition to making the water levels available both as a record and real time, the gauge avoids the single point of failure associated with the level gauge operated by the power company at the dam (Goal 1).

8. The Foundation in partnership the Deep Creek Property Owners supplied five water quality meters to the state. They were operational all last summer. We are working on a memorandum of understanding regarding availability of the data, commitment to maintain the meters, and to only deploy the meters at Deep Creek Lake.

9. The Foundation has been supporting the efforts of the Bureau of Mines, and others to control the acid mine drainage from Cherry Creek. We have been buying the calcium carbonate that the doser uses to adjust the acidity in Cherry Creek. The fish biologists report a dramatic improvement in the water quality due to the doser, and other operations undertaken by the Bureau of Mines.



1. Work in progress is a biological and water quality survey of the about twenty tributaries to Deep Creek Lake (Goal 3). The work will be like the Arrowhead Stream Study and will be conducted by California University of Pennsylvania. The Foundation Board has awarded the contract and issued a notice to proceed. If there are any tributaries that show impairment a means and methods to correct these issues will be the basis for projects in the watershed.

2. Phase two of the Water Wise and Green Up, Clean Up grant is underway this year. Look for additional Brunch and Learn programs in the next quarter.

3. Proposed work includes the completion of the water budget model. Currently the model relies on a bookkeeping scheme that keeps track of the required releases and the amount of water available in the pool. It is especially useful because the model can be updated daily, and a prediction made of the number of days remaining until the lower rule band is reached.

4. The addition of two more continuously recording precipitation gauges in the watershed to augment the precipitation gauge at North Glade Run, and discharge records available real time from the power plant will afford the data to construct a ground water recharge model for the lake basin. The recharge model will extend the predictable lake levels from days to weeks.

5. We propose to analyze the water quality data obtained from the water quality meters we and the POA purchased for use at Deep Creek Lake.

For more information on our project efforts, please visit our Deep Creek Lake Watershed Foundation Website Projects Page [here](#).

Please let us know if you have any additional ideas or project suggestions to preserve and protect our Deep Creek Watershed. We are always looking for innovative ideas and projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Morgan C. France
Director of Projects

WE STILL NEED YOUR

Morgan France, Director of Projects for the DCWF, has provided a great status report on the many projects the Foundation has completed, are in progress, or planned. I would like to call your attention to projects that need your support and why.

In order to optimize the performance of the Water Budget Model we created with contractor support a couple of years ago, additional precipitation data is needed to accurately provide longer predictions as to water levels. We would like to approach the U.S. Geologic Service and contract with that agency to add two precipitation *gauges* to DCL. We have requested a priced proposal from the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) to install and maintain these at existing flow monitoring sites.

We have already partnered with the Resource Assessment Service element of DNR in support of the Zebra Mussel Detection Program and would like to continue to provide support for laboratory analysis of water samples to determine the suitability of DCL as a habitat for the mussels. The cost to do this is approximately \$2500 annually.

We appreciate support to the Foundation that has allowed us to have both a Water Level Gauge and Water Temperature Gauge installed on the bridge of State Park Road. The data for both these gauges is available to the public on the Foundation Web Site. However, the annual Maintenance & Calibration Costs are \$9300 per year and we could use your support to ensure we keep the gauges operating and the data readily available.

Finally, we plan to contract again with the California University of Pennsylvania to perform additional water quality survey work in the roughly 20 tributaries that contribute water to DCL. In particular, we will be looking for any impediments that impact the quality of the stream water that can be prevented or mitigated. The estimated cost of this survey work is \$ 13,125.

As you can see, there is much to do to keep DCL and the Watershed healthy and clean, even if the initial work on a project has been completed. Your donations are vital to ensuring we can continue our work.

You may restrict any donation you make to a particular project if you wish or allow the Board of Directors to apply it against those projects in greatest need of funding. **PLEASE DONATE TODAY** at our website www.deepcreekwatershedfoundation.org or mail your check to the DCWF, P.O. Box 376, Oakland, MD 21550.

Thank you very much for your continuing support of our important work!

Bob Hoffmann, VP Fundraising

VIRTUAL BRUNCH AND LEARN:

The Deep Creek Watershed Foundation is pleased to offer the 2022 Virtual Brunch and Learn

Educational Series, facilitated by University of Maryland Extension in Garrett County. Each session will begin at 10am and is free and open to anyone that is interested in learning more about Deep Creek Lake and surrounding watersheds. Registration is required prior to each event so look for upcoming information.



Upcoming Sessions:

-Function and Maintenance of your Sewage Disposal System (*May 25th*): Speaker Craig Umbel with Maryland Department of Health in Garrett County. [Register Here](#)

-Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (*June 22nd*): Speaker will be from Maryland Department of Natural Resources. We are planning future sessions for July and August.

-Maryland Forest Service (*September 28th*): with Forester Melissa Nash speaking.

Prior Presentations:

These presentations are on the [Deep Creek Watershed Foundation Web Site](#) and also available on [YouTube](#):

-Fisheries Management on Deep Creek Lake (March 24th)

-The Deep Creek Watershed Foundation Brunch & Learn 2021: Session 2- Lake Management, Shoreline Erosion, Buffer Strip Information, and Dock Do and Don't

-The Deep Creek Watershed Foundation Brunch & Learn: Session 1 - What organizations represent Deep Creek Lake's Stakeholders and who governs the lake?

Important Group Formed by New Garrett County Watershed Coordinator

Bruce Michael, the new part-time Garrett County Deep Creek Lake and Watershed Coordinator has hit the road running. He has created the **Collaborative Management/Restoration Group** composed of several State, local and Federal agencies whose work impacts on the Watershed. "The purpose of the Group is to "identify and prioritize areas of concern and evaluate where monitoring and restoration efforts could better serve the needs of the Lake and watershed," according to the County web site.

The Group has already held 4 meetings the last on March 21, to review the roles of each group in monitoring of factors such as water quality in the lake tributaries and in the lake. The Group is composed of the following agencies: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Lake Management Office, Forest Service, Fisheries Service, Resource Assessment Service, University of Maryland Extension Service, Garrett County Department of Planning, US Department of Agriculture, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Service Appalachian Laboratory, and Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

Bruce's position was suggested by the Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan (approved in 2016 by DNR, MDE and Garrett County) which is the cornerstone of the Watershed Foundation's goals. Bruce's position is funded by Garrett County.

Bruce recently retired after a long tenure from Maryland DNR as director of Resource Assessment Services. He now lives full-time in Preston County, WV and is a welcome addition to our community.

Bruce hopes that the Group will "focus on further evaluating major lake stressors, their impacts and prioritizing critical areas for potential coordinated monitoring and restoration efforts." A larger meeting including DCL stakeholders will be planned for later in the spring, 2022.



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).

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!

Follow and "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.

facebook



Deep Creek Watershed Foundation

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[deepcreekwatershedfoundation.org](https://www.deepcreekwatershedfoundation.org)

deep creek watershed foundation

Filters



All



Posts

Deep Creek Watershed Foundation added an event. March 9 at 11:23 AM



THU, MAR 24 AT 10 AM
Virtual Brunch and Learn- Fisheries Management on Deep Creek Lake

Interested



Deep Creek Watershed Foundation

May 28, 2020 ·

Have you had a chance to see our current & future projects pertaining to Deep Creek Lake & the surrounding watershed? If not, click <https://bit.ly/2TMm7g9> to che...
See more

Learn About our Projects on the DCWF Website



OUR MISSION
Our Goal, Vision & Commitment

THE WATERSHED
Learn More About Our Vital Area

GET INVOLVED
Volunteer, Participate, or Donate

Our Board members have been talking with HOAs in the watershed 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.

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.

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 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.](#)

Deep Creek Watershed Foundation | P. O. Box 376, Oakland, MD 21550

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