

Why We Donate to the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation

The Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan (DCWMP) was developed in 2013-2014 in response to the many issues identified by citizens, local businesses, and private organizations but also recognized by the Garrett County government (GCG) as well as the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Following several public meetings, the collective decision was to develop a watershed plan. Based on the efforts of the many private local organizations and citizens as well as the three governmental agencies, a Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan was prepared and adopted in 2014 (it is still available online from the GCG). One of us served on the citizen committees that helped to identify the 12 goals of the DCWP and we have followed what has transpired after the adoption of the Plan primarily because we concluded then and still believe that the DCWMP deserves the support of all citizens concerned with conservation and protection of this County's environmental resources.



The Deep Creek Watershed Foundation (DCWF) was established in 2016 as a non-profit [501c-3] organization. In our view, it is the major public watchdog on issues and needs for implementation of the DCWMP's 12 goals. As early as 2013, We realized that the DCWMP would have a similar, but smaller, role that the Chesapeake Bay Foundation has had for many years; that is, monitoring multiple issues, goals, and possible solutions where multiple Federal, States, and local government entities have competing responsibilities. Ranking of priorities for action on Goals of the DCWMP by the County, DNR, and MDE are subject to a host of issues among and

within each of the three entities as well as other conflicting priorities of the Maryland Legislature and the multiple agencies of the Governor. Implementation of DCWMP goals requires planning and commitment of public resources. This process, as everyone should know, is a politically time-consuming process. In our view, the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation has and should continue to provide private funds to support all efforts to sustain and advance protection of the County's and Lake's environmental resources.

We continue to believe that the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation is worthy of citizen support and is a critically important partner in meeting the DCWP goals by providing County residents and visitors with information and funding that enhance our knowledge by citizen education, undertaking multiple studies, and supporting the multiple efforts of the responsible governmental agencies to advance environmental protection of Garrett County's Deep Creek Watershed.

Please join us in supporting the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation.

Lee and Ken Fisher

President's Message



I hope this finds all of our readers well and feeling fine. The Foundation Board and our Advisors are off to a good start this year having held a very good planning meeting in early January for 2023.

Three New Board Members

I want to first introduce three new Board Members that have come aboard in the last 3 to 4 months. They are **Beth Hafer, Brian Homberg, and Joe Zamoiski**. All three bring varied backgrounds but a passion for the Deep Creek Watershed and the Lake it feeds. Each of these fine individuals has a full plate already which means we as a board should be able to do more for the mission and watershed we support.

Charity Navigator

Over the last few years, we have provided information such as our IRS Form 990's and other documentation about internal policies and processes to Charity Navigator, based in the United States, and a nationally recognized charity assessment organization that evaluates hundreds of thousands of charities around the country. I am pleased to announce Charity Navigator has evaluated the DCWF with a Four-Star Rating of 91%! Further information can be found at the link below and states, "If this organization aligns with your passions and values, you can give with confidence." Great News!

<https://www.charitynavigator.org/ein/811208194>

DCWF Website

Over the past few months, our locally based IT and Web Development partner, Solnet, owned and operated by Russ & Jess Dijak, has performed a much-needed update of our website. It is now the crisp, professional, and attractive site appropriate for the Foundation and all those who support it. The site is easy to navigate and filled with information about our projects, as well as resources available such as precipitation, water level, and water temperature gauge readings.

Thanks very much to Russ and Jess for a job very well done!

[Take a look at our updated website!](#)



Donate Please!

As you will see by the content of this newsletter, we are off and running for 2023 with several projects underway and more to come. We need your support to keep the good work moving in the right direction so please do not wait until the end of the year to donate. We need your support now!! Thanks very much and enjoy our Spring 2023 Newsletter!



We are excited to announce two upcoming events hosted by the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation (DCWF) that you won't want to miss!

First, on **June 12th**, DCWF will be celebrating at **Pawn Run Kitchen and Bar** with live music from Beyond Primitive, 50/50 drawings, a silent auction, and delicious food and drinks. This event is a fundraiser for the Foundation, so come out and support this important cause while enjoying a fun evening out. The address for Pawn Run Kitchen and Bar is 485 Boy Scout Road, Oakland, MD 21550.



Second, mark your calendars for **September 12th**, when DCWF will be hosting **Mardi Gras in the Barn, at The Red Barn**. This event will feature the renowned jazz band, The Eric Byrd Trio, a catered dinner by Brenda McDonnell of Ace's Run, Firewater, Brenda's Pizzeria & Traders Landing, a silent auction, cocktail hour, and more. This event is a celebration of seven years of

protecting our Deep Creek Watershed, so come out and enjoy a night of terrific live music, delicious food, and good company. The address for The Red Barn is 184 N Glade Road, Swanton, MD 21561.

For more information about these events, please contact Sandy Bello at 240.321.2524 or visit our website at www.deepcreekwatershedfoundation.org.

Mark your calendars and we hope to see you there!

Projects



10 in 10 Project

10 in 10 Project is a demonstration project underway in partnership with the Lake Manager at the State Park consisting of a planting array of low bush and trees that can be manicured.. The plants will be set out along the shoreline of Deep Creek Lake to afford ascetic and erosion control enhancement.

The goal of the 10 in 10 Project is to reforest the buffer strip along the Lake shore with at least 10% of woody vegetation in 10 years using native trees shrubs and ground covers.

Status

April 17 was a damp, overcast day, but it did not deter the planting of



trees and shrubs along the shoreline of the lake at Deep Creek Lake State Park next to the launch dock by DNR staff, Ashley Bachtel-Bodkins from University of Maryland Extension Office, Carolyn Sheaffer of DCWF, and volunteers from the Garden Club and the community. DNR staff was able to secure a small backhoe to dig the holes which greatly decreased the work on the participants.

Much more work needs to be completed before the 10 in 10 site is ready, but we are off to a good start. More native plantings are in store, as well the creation of a path through the area and placing signs identifying the various trees, scrubs, and groundcover.



Launch Steward Program

DCWF will be purchasing hooded rain jackets and quarter zip sweatshirts for the students as we did last year. Four new stewards will be participating along with a returning student. Their purpose is to inspect boats that

use the Deep Creek Lake State Park launch dock for invasive species such as invasive grasses and mussels.

In addition to the apparel, we are providing a double-sided sign warning of invasive species that can travel on watercraft and advising boaters of the importance of having a cleaned, drained and dry vessel.

Follow-On Deep Creek Lake Tributary Water Quality Assessment

The DCWF has solicited a proposal from the PennWest Foundation to perform further water analysis of 14 of the tributaries into Deep Creek Lake.

In October of 2022, the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation (DCWF) approved the Bioassessment of Deep Creek Lake Tributaries by Drs. David G. Argent and William G. Kimmel, PennWest – California (formerly California University of PA). **SUMMARY** “During July 2022, a team from PennWest – California and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources conducted a synoptic bioassessment of 29 perennial Deep Creek Lake tributaries at sites selected by the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation. Most stations were established as close to the lake confluence as accessible. The team obtained water samples, assessed fish and macroinvertebrate communities, and performed habitat evaluations. Four stations exhibited flows too low to permit fish or macroinvertebrate collection; only water samples were taken here. Three stations were accessed via boat. Overall, results describe cool water streams that exhibit measurable total alkalinity and generally possess good chemical water quality. However, poor habitat, including siltation and embedded stream bottoms, resulted in low macroinvertebrate and fish abundance. **This study serves as a preliminary baseline against which future monitoring and mitigation efforts of Deep Creek Lake tributaries may be evaluated.**”

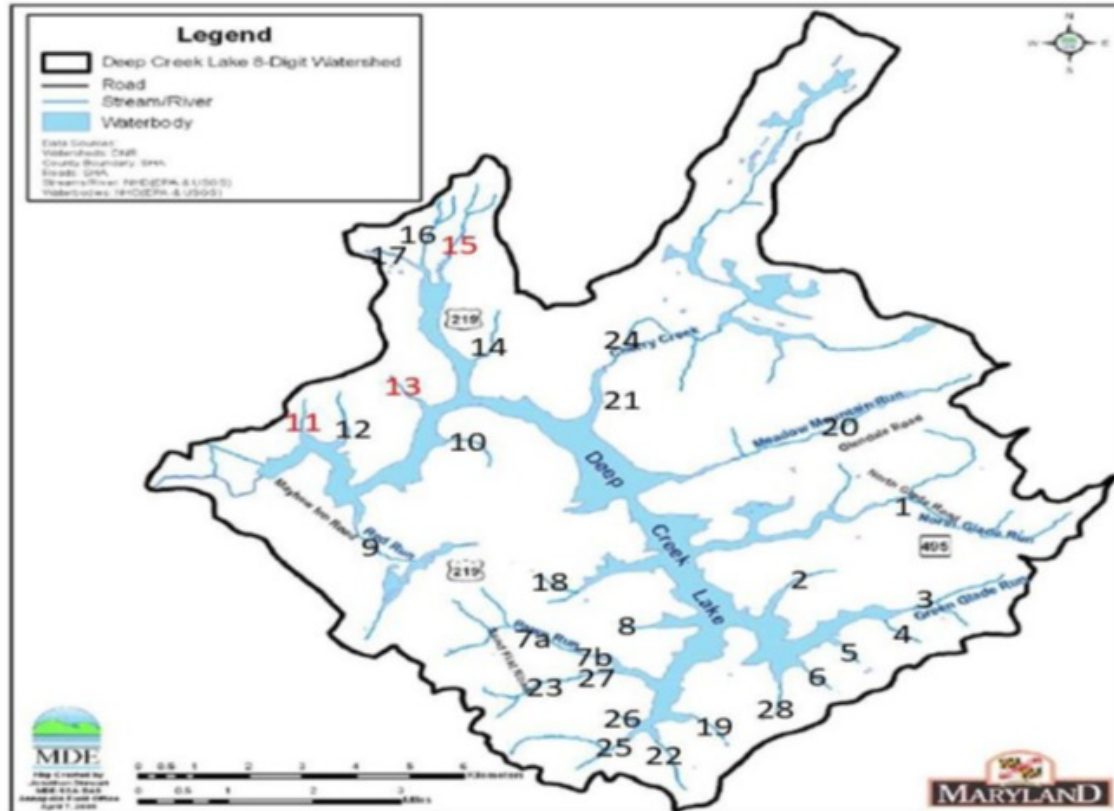


Table 2, –Summary of water quality parameters from perennial cool water tributaries to Deep Creek Lake shows stream name, temperature, pH, Conductivity, and Alkalinity. See the Foundation website for details.

The following fourteen streams identified in the report have high conductivity and/or high alkalinity:

No.	Stream Name	Temperature (°C)	pH	Conductivity (µS/cm)	Alkalinity (mg/L as CaCO ₃)
1	North Glade Run	21.1	7.1	<u>243</u>	<u>22</u>
2	Poland Run	19.4	7.2	<u>224</u>	28
3	Green Glade	21.3	6.8	<u>167</u>	16
4	UNT - 1 Green Glade	18.7	7.3	<u>257</u>	24
7b	Pawn Run - 2	20.5	7.3	<u>313</u>	62
9	Red Run	24.5	7.0	268	32
15	UNT - 3 McHenry			Inaccessible	
16	UNT - 2 McHenry	17.8	7.3	<u>226</u>	28
17	UNT - 1 McHenry	19	7.9	<u>409</u>	<u>100</u>
18	Hoop Pole Run	21.9	7.5	175	28
22	UNT - 23 DC (Chatterton Run)	20.4	7.5	<u>275</u>	34
25	Deep Creek	20.8	7.2	<u>248</u>	30
26	UNT - 25 DC	21.6	7.4	<u>263</u>	32
27	UNT - 24a Pawn Run	21.9	7.4	<u>232</u>	28

The water temperatures and pH values were normal (Ph 6.5-8.5). An important

consideration in water chemistry is **electrical conductivity**. The higher the mineral content of the water, the higher the conductivity. With higher conductivity, the more freely electrical currents flow, and corrosion is more rapid. The higher the conductivity, the dissolved minerals are less completely ionized. The solubility of Calcium Carbonate and other slightly soluble minerals is evaluated by conductivity. Conductivity is measured with a handheld meter and probe.

Alkalinity is the most fundamental concept in the approach to understanding water chemistry. Water is two hydrogen atoms (H) and an electrically associated oxygen (O) atom, forming the water molecule. The two hydrogen atoms are bound to the oxygen atom at an angle of about one hundred degrees. The angle makes the water molecule have a positive area where the hydrogens reside and a negative end where the oxygen is. In water, one hydrogen disassociates from the remaining hydrogen-oxygen part.

Since the dissociation is very small, 10⁻¹⁴ at neutrality. Given such small numbers and a large range of values in nature, a **logarithmic** scale is employed where pH = -log [H⁺]. Hydrogen ion concentration is measured by a handheld meter and probe or by chemical titration. While a pH of 7.0 is chemically neutral, the total alkalinity and the relative free or combined CO₂ may be present. The M alkalinity endpoint, corresponding to a pH of about 4.4, is the division between acid and base. Total or M alkalinity is also known as methyl orange alkalinity and is determined by titrating to the methyl orange endpoint at pH 4.5. This application note describes the method using a direct titration to preset endpoints at pH 8.3 (P alkalinity) and pH 4.5 (M or total alkalinity) using sulfuric acid titrant.

The pH range between the M and P endpoints defines the alkaline range in which bicarbonate alkalinity exists, and weak acids may be present. The most common weak acid is carbonic acid---CO₂ in solution. If the pH is less than 8.2, there is no P alkalinity; if the pH is below 5.0, there will likely not be strong mineral acids.

The Foundation will work in conjunction with Drs. David G. Argent and William G. Kimmel, PennWest – California (formerly California University of PA) after this follow-on project is approved by our board.

Plant Shopping Soon? Avoid Buying Invasive Plants

As the weather warms up and Spring comes to Garrett County, there is a category of plants that everyone needs to know more about. Invasive plants are found everywhere—planted in landscapes, invading natural habitats, and some are even still for sale at nurseries and greenhouses! Not only do these plants compete with native plants for sunlight, water, and nutrients, it has been found that they can even be a threat to human health by creating microclimates that harbor higher populations of ticks.



Read this Maryland Grows Blog-[Plant shopping soon? Avoid buying invasive plants](#) for more important information on Invasive Plants.

Water-Wise Program – Schedule a Consultation Today

Water-Wise is an ongoing program to recognize property owners that are implementing landscape best management practices that help to improve water quality and create sustainable ecosystems and habitats. If you want to schedule a consultation with a Master Gardener to discuss the [Water-Wise Yardstick](#), please call Ashley at the University of Maryland Extension office in Garrett County at 301-334-6960 or email abachtel@umd.edu.

Are You Water-Wise



Voluntary program that allows property owners to be recognized for implementing best management practices in their lawns and gardens. Landowners can help reduce pesticides, improve water quality, provide wildlife habitat, and much more! Check the yardstick and see if your property measures up to 36 inches! Once certified, you will receive a small aluminum sign to display.

<https://extension.umd.edu/locations/garrett-county/home-gardening>



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Q: Is the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation the only non-profit organization working to protect Deep Creek Lake and the watershed?

Debra A. Davidsonville, MD

A: Hello Debra,

That's a question that we often receive, but one that we are happy to answer.

Yes, we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit AND the only non-profit founded with the primary goal of financing projects and initiatives to further the goals stated in the Watershed Management Plan. There are no other private organizations focused specifically on the protection of Deep Creek Lake and its watershed.

Q: Are the members of the DCWF Board of Directors salaried?

Allan L. Darnestown, MD

A: Good question, Allan

Our Board of Directors, Advisors and volunteers do not receive any compensation for their efforts. We all contribute our time, resources, and knowledge to protect the Lake and its watershed for future generations to enjoy.

Have a question for the DCWF? Drop us a message at info@deepcreekwatershedfoundation.org and if we use it in a upcoming newsletter, we'll send you a beautiful DCWF windbreaker.



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

as many have done, you can help us keep the lake and the watershed as pristine as it is now.

Our Sustained Donors program allows monthly contribution as an alternative to giving once a year.

[You can learn more about Sustained Giving on our website. Click here.](#)

You will see monthly levels of \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 and \$250.

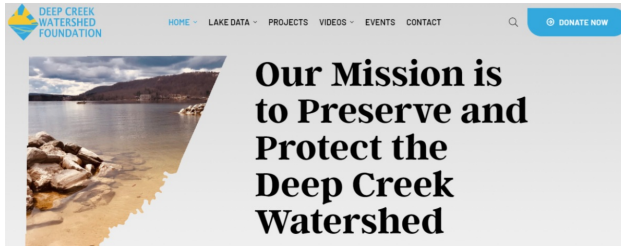
Follow and "Like" us on Facebook

Our Facebook page features our marvelous videos and other important projects and events in which we are involved.

You can also donate through our page.

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

Learn About our Projects on the DCWF Website



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..](#)



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