



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Bob Hoffmann



Hi Folks,

The Board and Advisors of the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation have successfully navigated another busy yet successful year.

Here is a brief recap:

We partnered with the Property Owners' Association (POA) to

purchase and have installed at the Transportation Museum a 3-Dimensional Map of Deep Creek Lake and the surrounding watershed. It is located on the second floor of the museum and is a great graphic display to be enjoyed. Please be sure to take a look!

(photo: Bob Sutton, President POA. Dick Potts, Transportation Museum, Bob Hoffmann, President DCWF)

We co-hosted a "Meet and Greet" informal event one afternoon this Summer at the Red Barn Pub with the POA to welcome the new Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Deep Creek Lake Manager Cristina Sanders and her new staff members. We also welcomed representatives of the Natural Resources Police, the Western Regional Manager, Sarah Milbourne, and the Assistant Secretary of DNR for Land Management and Acquisition, Paul

Peditto. It was designed to be informal so we could continue our efforts to build relationships with the DNR folks with whom we regularly work. We agreed it was a successful event for the purpose it was designed!

We held four fundraisers this year beginning with our signature Red Barn Event being the first and held in the Spring. We were invited by Thousand Acres Golf Club to be the recipient of proceeds from a Golf Tournament for the DCL 100 Anniversary Celebration sponsored in July which was preceded the evening before with a Seafood Boil Dinner catered by Brenda McDonald and held at the outdoor pavilion at the Red Barn. Lastly, we held our “Pub” event at Firewater in the early Fall. We considered all of the events to be successful and thank all those who sponsored them and those that attended them for their generous support! We will have Fundraisers in 2026 as well so watch for dates so you can save them as these are events you do not want to miss!

Of course, **the reason we have Fundraisers is so that we can continue work on several projects which we did again this year.** We continued to work with an engineering firm to which we have provided data to “build” the Water Budget Model with estimated groundwater recharge to further enhance the ability to project water usage management successfully. Additionally, we focused on Water Quality in the tributaries which flow into the lake and have had discussions with a variety of agencies to which we provided the analytical reports for their information and or action. We have continued our work on the 10 in 10 Project focusing on the Demo Garden near the State Boat Launch by completing the pathway that will meander through the plantings when that phase is completed. This display is focusing on native plantings to stabilize shoreline erosion. We also supported field trips and the purchase of some basic equipment for High School students this year which is further detailed in Molly Ramsey's article.

We sponsored and held a Scientific Symposium entitled, “The Deep Creek Watershed: Past, Present, and Future” in October that brought together a variety of experts to provide insight on lake related matters. This day of presentations and discussions was very well received by all and was well worth sponsoring for the public. Thanks to all who attended in person or virtually and helped to make this event the success it was! Please see a more detailed article in this newsletter from the Organizer of the Symposium and Advisor to the Foundation, David Myerberg.

Lastly, as I do each year about this time, I sincerely thank all of you again who have donated to the Foundation, Sponsored Events, or otherwise supported our efforts in some way as you are the ones who make our work for the Lake and Watershed possible. I can assure you all that we will continue to focus on a healthy lake and watershed by

continuing our emphasis on water quality projects that make a positive difference! Please continue to support the DCWF as we wind up another successful year and a good time to remember DCWF is on Giving Tuesday, December 2, 2025!

We wish you all a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season as well as a Successful New Year!

Thinking about Holiday Gifts?
Check out our DCWF apparel on our website!



On Saturday, October 25th, 2025, the Foundation funded a one-day Scientific Symposium entitled The Deep Creek Watershed: Past Present and Future. A total of about 40 people attended in-person and online. Seven presentations were made by experts on subjects related to the goals of the Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan.

In the morning, **Tom Parham**, DNR's representative on the Garrett County Watershed Administrative Council gave the key-note address entitled, "The State of the Lake - Better understanding Deep Creek Lake's changing water quality conditions since 2009."

Bruce Michael, from Garrett County Government, discussed "A Historical Perspective of DCL Sediment Studies and Projects."

Molly Ramsey, the new Garrett County Watershed Coordinator, presented "The Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan: Progress on our Shared Game Plan."

Dr. Don Rosenberry, a USGS hydrologist from Denver reported on “Modeling and Monitoring for Deep Creek Watershed Lake Level Releases.”

In the afternoon, the new Deep Creek Lake Manager, **Cristina Sanders** reviewed “Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Management in Deep Creek Lake.”

Dr. Hannah Patton, Environmental Engineer, Eastern Research Group, Inc. and a new Board Member of the Watershed Foundation discussed, “Wastewater Management and Water Quality in Deep Creek Watershed.”

Tom Parham returned to the podium to discuss “Future Funding for Deep Creek Watershed Management: - Current State funding opportunities for protecting and restoring Deep Creek Lake's waters.”

The presentations were all well-received and the speakers answered many questions from the audience. A report on the Symposium will be forthcoming.

Article by David Myerberg, MD, JD & DCWF Advisor



Tom Parham
DNR Resource Assistance Service

DNR Pilot Project to Harvest Sub-Aquatic Vegetation

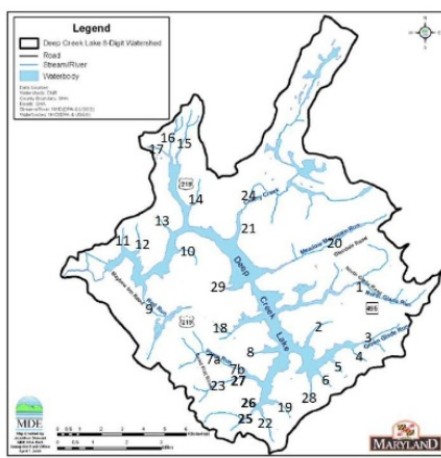


As part of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) \$200,000 shallow water nuisance submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) mechanical harvester project, DNR enlisted the services of a contractor to determine if the harvesting SAV in Deep Creek Lake is a viable SAV management strategy and will not negatively impacts fish and other beneficial aquatic species. **The mechanical harvester was deployed once in August and once in September to harvest the SAV as part of the pilot project.** The DNR staff conducted pre- and post-cut dive surveys to ensure invasives were not being accidentally fragmented and to measure the before and after impacts on native SAV species. DNR will determine the next steps for the pilot project once results of the pilot project have been assessed. Below, the DNR Fisheries staff are sorting through the harvested material to determine impacts to fisheries resources. Photos courtesy of Bruce Michael.



[Click here to see the "Harvester in Action" video created by DCWF](#)

DCWF Sponsors Follow-Up Bioassessment of Deep Creek Lake Tributaries



The Deep Creek Watershed Foundation sponsored a follow-up bioassessment of Deep Creek Lake tributaries in July 2025, building on its 2022 study to track changes in water quality and habitat. The research, conducted by Pennsylvania Western University, confirms generally good water quality and supports ongoing watershed protection efforts.

Both studies were funded through generous donations totaling \$27,725.

The full reports can be accessed at deepcreekwatershedfoundation.org/deep-creek-tributary-study.

Article by Hannah Patton, PhD, Environmental Engineer with Eastern Research Group, Inc., & DCWF Board Member



Update From the Garrett County Watershed Coordinator

Molly Ramsey
Garrett County Watershed Coordinator
and DCWF Advising Member

In my role as Garrett County's Watershed Coordinator and an advising member to the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation (DCWF), I work with partners to advance the Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan. Implementation of the Plan is guided by the Administrative Council, made up of representatives from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and Garrett County Government. The Steering Committee, which reconvened in December 2024 following the Plan's 2016 adoption, brings that guidance into practice with a broader group of partners, including state and county agencies, Deep Creek Watershed Foundation, the Deep Creek Property Owners Association, Deep Creek Policy Review Board, Brookfield Renewable, the Garrett County Forestry Board, and representatives from the whitewater and Friendsville communities. From January through April 2025, the committee held five bi-weekly working sessions to review progress on the Plan's 13 goals, identify implementation challenges, and surface emerging issues not fully captured in 2016. In September, members agreed to concentrate near-term efforts on three priorities for 2026—water quality, sedimentation and shoreline erosion, and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) -with sustainable funding as a cross-cutting need, particularly given the loss of the State Lakes Protection and

The Watershed Management Plan, Administrative Council, and Steering Committee together provide a shared roadmap and a single coordination table for work to protect the health of the lake. This is shared work, not something any single agency or sector can carry on its own: property owners care for their shorelines and, where applicable, on-site septic systems, while many others are served by public sewer and support that infrastructure through user fees and compliance with local ordinances; businesses shape land use, boating pressure, and visitor behavior; and public agencies are responsible for infrastructure, planning, permits, and enforcement. Public-private partnerships are vital for effectively addressing these interconnected issues. Within this partnership, **DCWF plays a catalytic role by investing in efforts such as the 10in10 project, supporting education and outreach through the Brunch & Learn series, and sponsoring events like the October 25 Science Symposium, which featured presentations on lake-health issues by DNR scientists, county staff, hydrologists, and wastewater engineering experts.** As we move forward, the Administrative Council will continue to guide the Plan's implementation while working with the Steering Committee and focused working groups on water quality, water allocation and levels, sedimentation and erosion, and sustainability. If you are interested in playing a role with these working groups, we need your help—please contact Molly Ramsey. To learn more about the Deep Creek Watershed Management Plan and to stay updated on progress and activities of the Steering Committee and working groups, visit the Garrett County Watershed Management Division's Deep Creek Lake watershed [webpage](#).



Demonstration Garden at Deep Creek Lake State Park Update

Our garden path has been installed! Land Design company made a natural wood chipped walkway outlined with short lengths of logs approximately 4 inches in diameter. It winds through the garden and loops around a white pine tree at the far end. A few more shrubs will be added in November.

This winter, plant labels and pamphlets with information for each plant

will be added as well as two park benches that will be restored and placed in the garden.

We have a WVU student, Alex Himes, who will be using the itree app to determine the best species of trees and shrubs that property owners can plant for benefits of erosion control, gas sequestration and other valuable traits. Thank you to our own Molly Ramsey for facilitating this arrangement. His work will be most helpful.

We will be welcoming visitors to our Garden in the Spring of 2026.

Article by Carolyn Sheaffer, Board Member

(Photo: Carolyn Sheaffer and Alex Himes)



Deep Creek Watershed Foundation puts "Boots in the Water" for Local Students



McHenry, MD — October 1, 2025 — **Thanks to our donors, the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation (DCWF) funded hands-on learning this year that took Garrett County students outdoors—to the lake, the Discovery Center, and the tributary streams that feed Deep Creek.** DCWF patrons fully funded the high-school water-quality monitoring equipment and basic field gear and helped cover transportation and substitute teacher costs through the DCL100 shared fund.

These experiences bring science to life and help raise the next generation of watershed stewards.

What your gifts helped make happen

- Middle-school field days at the Discovery Center. Hundreds of

science students spent a day at Deep Creek Lake State Park's Discovery Center learning how to read the "signs" of water quality, meeting local wildlife with park naturalists, and trying creative activities that connect art and science.

- High-school stream studies. Environmental Science and Chemistry classes pulled on waders and sampled local tributaries with help from biologists. Students netted and identified fish and aquatic "macro-bugs," collected real data, and used DCWF-funded water-quality testing and analysis tools and stream-sampling field gear— a Foundation investment in durable, high-quality equipment that will serve future classes for years.

These aren't just field trips; they're real-world lessons that stick.

Students came away with practical ways families can help keep creeks clear, coves clean, and shorelines stable.

Why DCWF invests in education

Our mission is simple: support scientific study, environmental protection, and education that keep the Deep Creek watershed healthy. Because the future health of our watershed depends on the next generation, donor-funded school programs connect learning to stewardship that protects the lake we all love.

Partners who made it happen

This educational push was a DCL100 Committee priority for the lake's 100th anniversary year, carried out with terrific teamwork among Garrett County Public Schools, Garrett County Watershed Management, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (Parks, Watershed & Climate Services, and Freshwater Fisheries), and the Deep Creek Lake Discovery Center. DCWF funding made sure cost was not a barrier to participation for our schools.

Your donations at work

DCWF donors can feel great about what they've accomplished this year:

- Removed financial hurdles so hundreds of local students could learn science at the lake and in the streams that feed it.
- Connected students with naturalists and biologists doing the day-to-day work of caring for Deep Creek Lake and Watershed.
- Turned curiosity into action—growing the next generation of watershed stewards critical to our lake's future.

Keep the momentum going!

If you'd like to help us continue supporting educational activities for the next generation of watershed stewards, please consider a gift to DCWF - [Donate Now](#)



The Deep Creek Watershed Foundation is excited to announce a brand-new addition to our website — the Water Wise Kids Zone!

This fun and educational section is designed especially for elementary-aged children to learn about the importance of protecting our water, wildlife, and natural habitats. Through hands-on activities, kids can explore the wonders of the Deep Creek Watershed while discovering how

small actions can make a big difference for the environment. In the Water Wise Kids Zone, young nature enthusiasts will find printable coloring pages, an engaging scavenger hunt, entertaining videos, and much more! Each activity encourages curiosity and environmental stewardship in a way that's both fun and meaningful. Whether at home, in the classroom, or on the shores of Deep Creek Lake, the Water Wise Kids Zone offers families an exciting way to help the next generation connect with — and care for — the watershed we all love. This site will be available on our website soon!

Rain Barrell Project Completed for 2025

Deep Creek Watershed Foundation partnered with University of Maryland Extension again this year to distribute and educate 100 more households about the importance of slowing down and letting stormwater soak into our landscapes, thus bringing the rolling total for the program to 285 rain barrels given away for free in Garrett County in the last 5 years. Rain

barrels can help with reducing pollutants in waterways, preventing stormwater runoff, soil erosion, lowering water utility bills, and providing a non-potable water source when electricity is off.



Small sample of responses to a question about how participants plan to use the water from their rain barrels:

- Water Pollinator Garden & Other outdoor plants
- Water lawn & wash car and clean things outside.
- Water outside plants, and also wash cars, boats, and docks
- Use in compost as well as flower gardens and landscapes
- Redirect away from house, water native plants
- Garden especially during low rain times to take pressure off well
- I want to water my tomatoes and flowers. The rain water is much better than tap water. Vegetables just don't grow the same with tap water
- Apple trees, vegetable garden, washing my bike ,house and cars.

Sample of Participants quotes about the required training to earn a free rain barrel:

- Informative training to give me a better idea of the purpose and uses for a rain barrel.
- Love the training and becoming more informed

- Very informative presentation - I learned about infiltration and evaporation- thank you
- Great presentation. It will be helpful to have a go-to source to make sure I've checked all the boxes both in setting up the rain barrel and maintaining it. Thank you.
- Thank you so much for providing this and making it easy and accessible to get the training! Ya'll rock!
- I really appreciate this opportunity that you have given to the community. Thank you.
- I learned a lot and am really excited to slow down the rain runoff on my land.
- The presentation was most informative and provided many ideas and best practices.

I really appreciate community programs like this! Thank you!

Article by Ashley Bodkins, University of Maryland Extension & DCWF Advisor



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.](#)

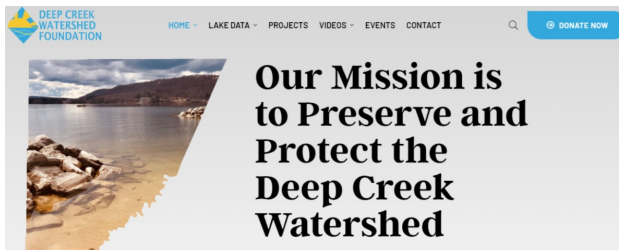
You will see monthly levels of \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 and \$250.

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.

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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