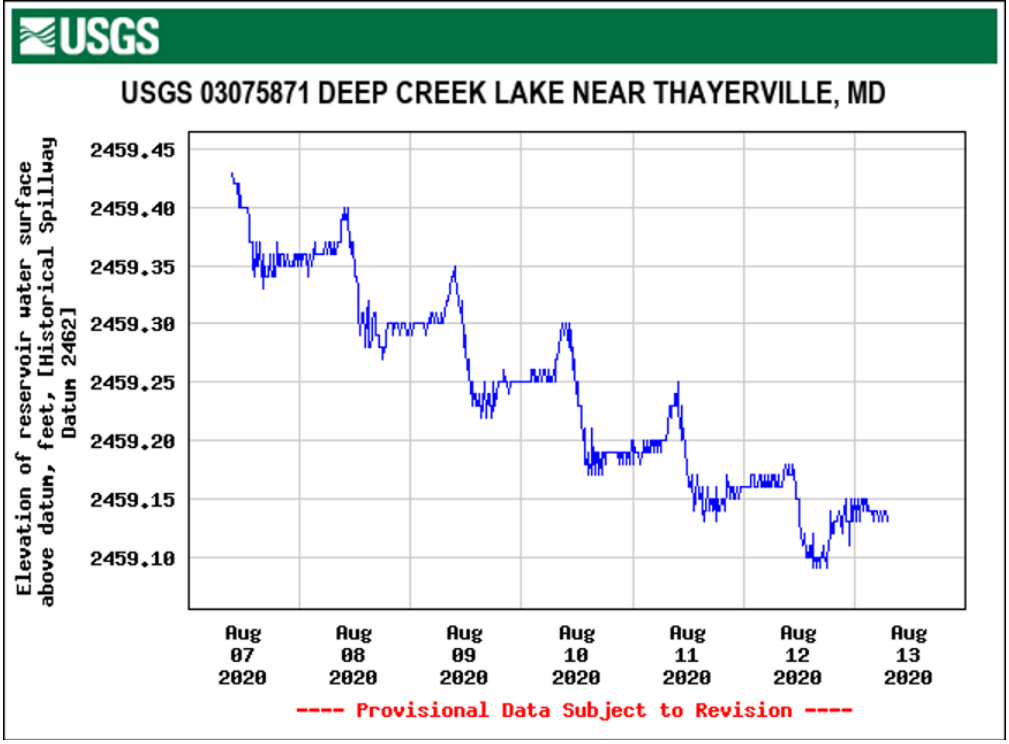
FOUNDATION FUNDS U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY METER

On August 7th 2020 the United States Geological Survey (USGS) put a recording water level and water temperature gauge on the Meadow Mountain Run Bridge near the State Park. The water levels are recorded both on the lake datum determined by the published (2462) elevation of the overflow weir at the dam, and separately elevations on the NAVD 88 datum. The gauge also maintains a record of water temperatures.

The project was funded by the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation. There is a place on our webpage to contribute to the installation and maintenance of the gauge. One of the goals of the watershed management plan is to collect data to better manage the lake. The Foundation is working to fund projects like the recording levels gauge, the recording water temperature gauge, and the water quality meters. The water temperature record will help DNR better manage their fisheries management, and will afford more productive fishing. The water quality meters effort will provide additional and better-quality water meters to maintain and enhance the measurement of the parameters that define water quality in the lake.



The picture shows the installation and the graph is the water level data from August 7th until August 13, 2020. One neat observation about the levels is that the lake fills continually from groundwater recharge. The graph shows levels go down through the day due to releases and evaporation and recover due to groundwater recharge at night. If the rate of average water level drop is less than the drop in the lower rule band, all of the stakeholders are content.

In 2018 the USGS installed a recording precipitation gauge at North Glade Run. Using the lake level data from the new water level gauge, and rainfall data from North Glade Run the recharge rate can be estimated. Given a reliable rainfall record and water level record a predictive recharge model is possible. Using a predictive recharge model coupled with the predictive management tool (WBM) funded by the Foundation, the management of lake levels will be improved, and the water level predictions more reliable.

Implementation of the water budget model (WBM) was limited by the lack of an accessible data base of water levels vs. time. Another limit on the implementation was the lack of a precipitation record. Those two obstacles have recently been passed. Additional precipitation data from the Cherry Creek flow gage, if it becomes available, will increase confidence in the precipitation record.

The predictive capability of the WBM will be greatly enhanced by the new record of precipitation on the watershed. Over time the water that runs out of the watershed through the power plant comes from the rainfall. In a dry summer the amount of water available from ground water recharge will be less, and the lake levels will fall faster when the withdrawals remain the same.

Accurately predicting lake levels is essential to equitable allocation of the water in the lake for all stakeholders.

DONATED VINTAGE FLYING SCOT AUCTION REAPS REWARDS!

The Deep Creek Watershed Foundation reaped a great benefit from its auction of a Flying Scot #80 that had been generously donated by Alan Axelson for sale by the Foundation. The sailboat, a 16-foot Old Town canoe and a two-horsepower Johnson outboard motor netted the Watershed Foundation $4,000! Travis and Lauren McCann put in the winning bid to become the proud new owners of the watercraft and motor, and the latest benefactors of the Watershed Foundation. Our thanks go out to them for their generosity.

PROPERTY OWNERS GIVE A PERCENTAGE OF THEIR RENTAL INCOME TO THE WATERSHED FOUNDATION!

We have received a most generous on-going contribution from Mickey and Phyllis Nye who are donating a percentage of every dollar they earn from renting their home at Deep Creek Lake.

In making this wonderful donation, the Nyes told us, “We appreciate that there is a foundation that has amazing people who care enough to make a difference in the quality of the lake and surrounding are. We understand the high cost of supporting these efforts and are hoping that other homeowners join us.”

We are looking for others to take up the Nyes’ suggestion and help give the Watershed Foundation a sustaining gift, so we can keep up our efforts to secure and protect the watershed for years to come.

RAILEY REALTY GAVE US A PERCENTAGE OF THEIR TRANSACTIONS!

Railey Realty came up with a great way to contribute to the Watershed Foundation, while at the same time celebrating the 95th Anniversary of Deep Creek Lake. For every transaction during June, Railey Realty donated $20 to the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation, reaching a total of $1,940!

Brian O'Brien,DCWF Treasurer, received check from Rich Orr, Sale and Owner - Railey

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PLEASE DONATE TO THE WATERSHED FOUNDATION'S WATER QUALITY METERS CAMPAIGN

Last month we sent you our new brochure asking you to contribute to our campaign to fund the purchase of $20,000 water quality meters for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

These meters let DNR measure the water flow and content from the watershed and in the lake on a continuing basis; detect and compare changes; know the impact on water quality of storm events, boat wakes, water levels, and the nutrients and sediment from the watershed; and identify problems and plan remedies for conditions that are harmful to the condition and use of the lake.

All this comes down to protecting your property values, and letting you swim, boat fish and hike in a healthy habitat where all of us can continue the great joy of living in, on and around the lake and the watershed.

With your donation today you can join us in meeting our goal of helping DNR buy these important water quality meters. You can see more about the water quality meters on our video on our website,

https://www.deepcreekwatershedfoundation.org.

Water Quality Meter being serviced by DNR biologists

WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY OF OUR FIGHT AGAINST ZEBRA MUSSELS

The Cumberland Times-News, the Republican newspaper in Garrett County and Deep Creek Times all have written stories about the Watershed Foundation's efforts to help keep dangerously invasive zebra mussels out of Deep Creek Lake. Over the past three years, the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation has joined with Brookfield Renewable Power to help the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) test the waters and habitats in Deep Creek Lake for any indication that the lake could have been invaded by zebra mussels.

On July 3 students hired by DNR as "launch stewards" at the Deep Creek Lake State Park launch ramp discovered a boat that recently had been in the Ohio River, and was covered with zebra mussels, was going to be launched into Deep Creek Lake. The articles quoted Watershed Foundation President David Myerberg's concern about people who might endanger the lake, saying, "If the zebra mussels begin to propagate here, our lake, which is the cornerstone of this beautiful area, can be lost as a practical matter. The tests so far have yielded the good news that Deep Creek Lake shows no presence of Zebra Mussels, but the experience of July 3 shows it is imperative to keep watching for these dangerous invaders."

MDE MODIFIES DAM OPERATING PERMIT, AFFECTS THE WHOLE WATERSHED

All activities on Deep Creek Lake and the Youghiogheny River are impacted by the decision of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to modify the permit for operating the dam on the lake.

A summary that MDE issued for a stakeholders meeting on August 3, 2020, sets out that, among other things, the permit modification requires Brookfield Renewable Power, the dam operator, to keep the water in the lake up near the Upper Rule Band (the highest level prescribed by the permit) during the recreational season; and that the number of days Brookfield can keep the water level higher than the Upper Rule Band are reduced from 21 to 10 to avoid shore erosion. The new permit's provisions also improve whitewater opportunities by changing whitewater releases from Friday to Saturday, and improve water releases to enhance water temperatures for brown and rainbow trout in the river.

These changes are significant advances that were recommended by the important

Watershed Management Plan in 2016 where one of the goals was to “Assure that the water appropriation analysis and allocation methodology for Deep Creek Lake provides a fair distribution of water for all users, especially during the months of May through September.”

The issuance of these permit revisions begins a 30-day period for affected parties to lodge an appeal. We will send out further information as the situation develops.

New Addition to Our Team!

*The Foundation’s Board of Directors welcomes **Brent Housley!***

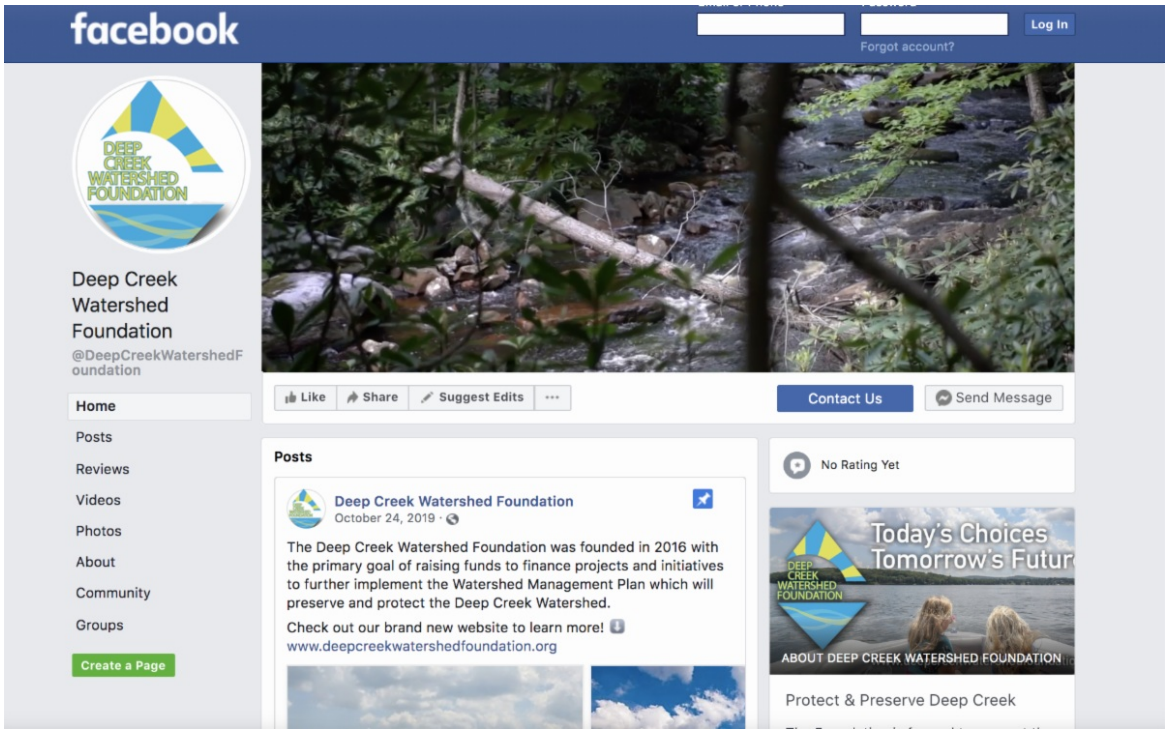
Brent Housley is the newest member of the Deep Creek Watershed Foundation Board of Directors. Brent is a realtor at Railey Realty, and also is responsible for daily operations, marketing, bookkeeping and sales management of Hardstruggle Hemp, his 145 year-old family farm in Accident.

“LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK!

Our Facebook page is up and running. It features our marvelous videos showing how the doser on Cherry Creek, whose maintenance we’re funding, is neutralizing acid mine drainage.

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.garrettcounty.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.