



F **CL** POINT

Magazine

April 2018 Edition 21



Virginia Legislation

**THE VALUE
OF FOCL**

Filamentous Algae

Spring Splash 2018

Clean Up!

THROUGH THE LENSE

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Claytor Lake Locations

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Claytor Lake State Park

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From November 11th to November 19th, 2017, Appalachian Power at the request of FOCL and in consultation with the Claytor Lake Technical Advisory Committee, conducted a five foot drawdown of Claytor Lake to help lakefront property owners maintain and clean up shorelines. Although the five foot drawdown was not enough for all property owners to access shorelines, it was deeper than the three foot drawdown most recently allowed and 78 property owners responded to FOCL that they used the drawdown. Most reported using drawdown for several activities including debris clean up, dock maintenance, and shoreline stabilization repair and installation.

To mitigate for the drawdown, FOCL with generous help from Virginia's Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Claytor Lake State Park, Appalachian Power, Pulaski County and many others organized a volunteer mussel salvage event on November 11. In all, 108 participated in the event. Many of the volunteers were Virginia Master Naturalists and students from Pulaski County High School, Radford University and Virginia Tech. During the event, over 6,200 mussels stranded by drawdown were returned to the water. Property owners also reported salvaging almost another 1,900 mussels during drawdown.

The next drawdown for shoreline maintenance is currently scheduled for November 2019.



A New Year: More challenges for Clean Up!

As with every year, The Friends of Claytor Lake continues the tireless efforts of debris clean up in Claytor Lake. FOCL has upgraded our equipment and man power to hopefully combat high water events that may plague the lake as in years past hoping to maintain a beautiful and less hazardous lake. FOCL will continue to address the priorities of public boat launches and the main lake channel.



This year just as last, and moving forward, FOCL now has the entire lake to clean up from the Allisonia public launch to the dam. One of the main challenges in cleaning the upper lake is getting the equipment unloaded and loaded back at the new Clark Road abutment. Just due to logistics, upper lake clean up could take time. FOCL hopes to start putting the equipment in the water soon and start at the upper lake to diminish debris coming down the lake with or without a high water flow event.

After public boat launches and the main channel are cleaned, FOCL will then focus on high impacted debris areas around the shores of property owners.



Being a relatively new resident to Pulaski County doesn't necessarily make me new to the many amazing amenities this beautiful community has to share. One of my favorite natural assets that I have enjoyed for many years before moving to the county, and now look forward to spending more time enjoying with my family this summer, is Claytor Lake. The lake has become a special place for me and my family. It is where we have enjoyed camping, cookouts, fishing, boating, skiing, and music with our friends and where my kids first tubed.

We have also had the pleasure of meeting some amazing people while enjoying the lake and perhaps that is what we appreciate the most. I recall when one of the boats we were using wouldn't start and one of the lake folks towed us over a mile back to the marina. Not surprisingly, they wouldn't accept a dime for their troubles. Another time a strong wind caught one of our untied tubes and blew it down the lake under a dock. When we went to retrieve it, the owners of the dock invited us to join them in what I would call a most memorable day of lake-dock olympics. There are many more stories to share about my amazing Claytor Lake experiences, and all of them culminate in what I affectionately call - 'Lake Life.'

Lake Life to me is a mindset and a way of life. It is a community looking after each other, welcoming and accommodating visitors, enjoying yet respecting nature, and making each lake experience a memorable one. We are very blessed in Pulaski County to have the lake and the community it creates around it, and I am so thankful to be here and have the chance to experience and enjoy the lake and all it has to offer. Pulaski County is...Lake Life.

Jonathan Sweet, ICMA-CM
County Administrator
Pulaski County, VA



Spring fever? Thinking about making changes to your dock, shoreline or the vegetation within the 1850 foot elevation contour? Remember that the Claytor Lake Shoreline Management Plan has requirements that need to be considered. Keep in mind:

- 1) Permission must be obtained from Appalachian Power Company (Appalachian) before work can begin. Submit applications to Appalachian to propose construction or modification of a dock, remove vegetation, complete shoreline stabilization or dredge.
- 2) Permit applications along with the Shoreline Management Plan for the Claytor Project can be found at www.claytorhydro.com.
- 3) For questions relating to shoreline activities within the Claytor Project boundary (1850 foot elevation contour), contact Lisa Hammock at lhammock@aep.com or 540-489-2556.

(Other local government permitting may be required for your project.)

My family has enjoyed our Claytor Lake property for over 68 years! It just keeps getting better and better—much of this is due to FOCL's efforts. Keep up the good work.

~ *Greg & Fran Rooker*



Claytor Lake is one of Virginia's best kept secrets. Its scenic beauty is unparalleled. As FOCL members of several decades, we are proud of the commitment to keep it that way!

~ *Ralph & Martha Harvey*



Like clockwork after a long summer day on the lake filled with boating, swimming, and friends, people get hungry. Pontoons creep back to their docks and jet skis to their cradles. Families are gathering around the grill. The boat noise from the day is all but gone and the wave swells have died down. The sun is setting into a calm evening. This is my favorite time of day at Claytor Lake.



Two years ago, a friend introduced me to paddle boarding. I have loved seeing the lake from this new perspective. Much like kayaking or canoeing, it can be a peaceful and solitary way to interact with nature. Paddling along the shoreline, I have used my waterproof camera to get up close to herons gulping fish, beautiful rocky edges, and even cows. I remember years ago when there was so

much trash and debris in the lake that pictures of the sunset and shoreline were sure to be cluttered with litter. Thanks to the Friends of Claytor Lake and their clean-up efforts, there is no place I'd rather spend my evening watching the sun go down.

~*Caroline Gaskins*



Recently there have been concerns about Filamentous Algae starting to grow in areas of Claytor Lake. The algae will typically grow in areas that have low flow rates or still water, and many contributing factors causing the growth.

The algae beds can grow as far down as the sunlight can reach depending on lake clarity. In some, beds have noted starting at 20 feet deep water. Removal of the algae can be as easy as grabbing your garden rake and pulling the algae out. Other methods include chemical treatment of the beds. Neither method will eliminate the algae and will usually need be done again as it grows back.

Preventative methods are usually your best bet in keeping the algae away from your docks and property lines. Run off from the land can be a large factor in feeding the algae beds as the run off can pick up debris, dirt, chemicals, and fertilizers, etc. This run off can be curbed by doing the following:

- Minimize your use of fertilizer on your property and plants.
- Leave vegetation along the shore and cut your grass a bit higher to create a better buffer to slow run off.
- Bag your cut grass or use a mulching mower to compost.
- Scoop, bag, and throw away pet/animal waste.
- Clean and dispose of gas, oil, and other chemicals before they can wash into the lake from your driveway or boat ramp.
- Inspect your septic tank every 3-5 years for leakage.
- Don't dispose of household cleaners in your yard, driveway, or septic system. Use them completely, then throw away.

Virginia House Bill H.B. 1229

Towing a person on water skis, etc. Prohibits a vessel operator from engaging in a water sport in which the vessel tows or is accompanied, with or without a rope, by a person on water skis, a surfboard, a wakeboard, or a similar device unless an additional person is in the vessel to observe the person who is accompanying the vessel. The bill prohibits the vessel operator from engaging in such water sports between the hours from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise or within 150 feet of a dock or other person in the water. The bill also requires each person being towed or accompanying the vessel to wear a personal flotation device.



www.focl.org/blog for more information

Virginia Referendum H.R.1538

On March 15, 2017, Morgan Griffith, along with Representatives Garrett, Butterfield, Mullin, and Hartzler, introduced Referendum HR1538 to the state floor. The referendum has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce committee and aims to minimize what many feel are infringements by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and Hydropower Utility companies.

To amend the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to minimize infringement on the exercise and enjoyment of property rights in issuing hydropower licenses, and for other purposes.



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Spring Splash 2018



The 2018 Spring Splash continued to be the year's event for FOCL. This year FOCL's Spring is again grateful and welcome P. Buckley Moss who continues to do amazing art for FOCL and the Claytor Lake community.

**Nesselrod on the New
Sunday May 6th, 2018
4:00pm - 7:00pm**

**\$40 Advance Tickets
\$50 at the door**

Tickets available at www.focl.org



After close to 7 years of existence, The Friends of Claytor Lake website had grown so large that it had started having difficulty showing much needed information about FOCL and Claytor Lake. Last month we unveiled our new and improved website which is much easier to navigate and all the information will be no more than 2 clicks away. We hope everyone will get on the website and keep up to date on events, projects, and program that FOCL is involved in. The website is far from complete though, as we continue to transfer information from our old website when time allows. So be patient if there is something you can't find or email me at info@focl.org.

Dedicated to conserving and protecting the quality, sustainability, and tranquility of the environment of Claytor Lake for all...

Help FOCL and support us Today!

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Our 2018 Calendar is again filled with great lake events for the entire family. Everyone is welcome to attend any and all events.

May 6th, 2018 - Fourth Annual Spring Splash

May 12th, 2018 - Pulaski Kid's Fish Day

June 9th, 2018 - Claytor Lake Festival

June 30th, 2018 - ALL LAKE CLEAN UP DAY

July 12th, 2018 - FOCL Annual Meeting

Some dates and event are tentative and/or not planned yet. FOCL Supporters will be updated as things change or are added for next summer.

www.focl.org/events



The Friends of Claytor Lake were proud to honor Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Biologist John Copeland as our 2017 volunteer of the year. Not only has John been instrumental in projects on Claytor Lake, he has been gracious enough to share his wealth of knowledge with FOCL and worked along side us year after year. FOCL considers him a valuable asset to our organization and to the Claytor Lake community.

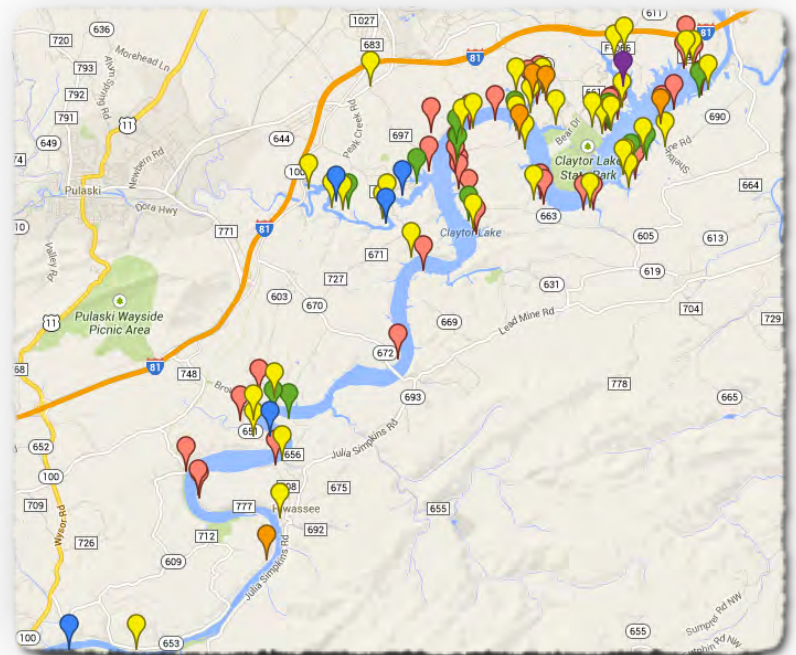
Are you on our map?

The Friends of Claytor Lake are so proud of the stakeholders and recreational lake users that contribute to us each year that we do everything we can to acknowledge and celebrate their contributions to our organization.

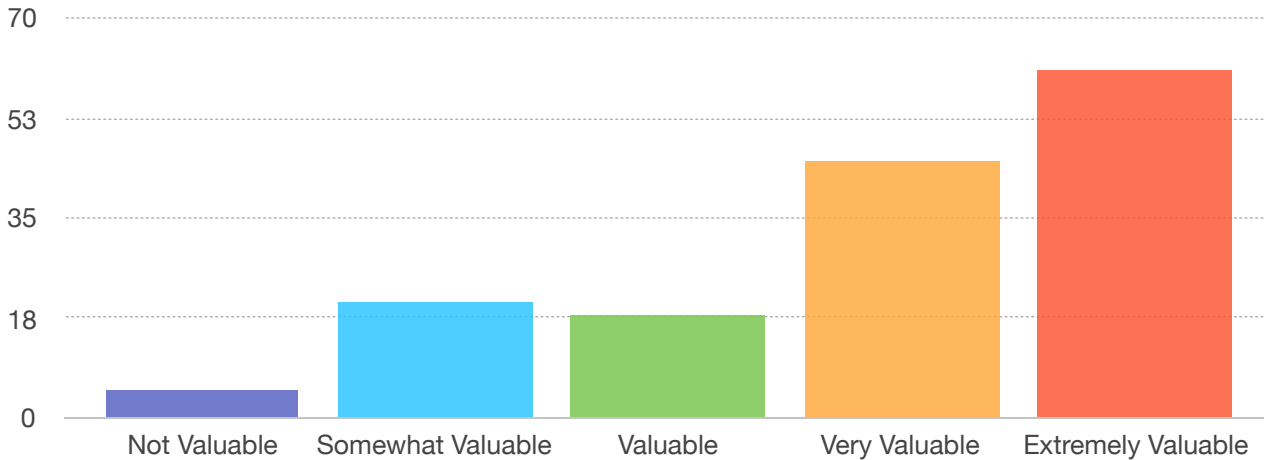
Sadly only 7-10% of property owners donate to FOCL each year. With the amount of work that FOCL puts into keeping Claytor Lake such a wonderful recreational destination, we would love to see property owners, boaters, anglers, and more start to help FOCL by making a tax deductible donation each year to keep our projects funded and Claytor Lake beautiful!

HELP OUT NOW!

www.focl.org



How valuable of an asset is FOCL to Claytor Lake and its community?



Some Comments Made:

I think the organization does a great job of communicating to members upcoming events or any issues that need to be known. We appreciate all the work that the group does on behalf of the lake community.

It's great to have a organization that brings people and the community of Claytor Lake together to take care of our great resource and beauty of Claytor Lake.

Guilty of not donating as much as I should. FOCL is the absolute greatest asset to the community, environment, and land owners. If everyone (me included) would get a neighbor or two to join and donate, that would mean much greater \$ and exposure .

Please continue the good service, cleanup, water quality, protection of the shoreline by monitoring construction of docks with AEP and Pulaski Co. Bldg. Dept.. Thank you. We contribute \$300 to \$500 each year to FOCL.

Not that you haven't, but.....Don't be shy about letting stakeholders know challenges , barriers, and status of projects even if they are not on track. "All is good" is always wonderful news, but a good dose of "difficult" reality is a reminder of the hard work that continues on the support that is needed. Thank all of you for the good works!!!

We think you are doing a wonderful job, and we are encouraging all lake owners to contribute!

Not sure about outreach but I have real concerns about silting in the upper lake . I guess I would like to see that as a continuing push. I've not see anything related -- removal, creation of islands or other approaches. Probably one of those issues, if it is not in your immediate area, less interest.

Does great work and is an asset to lake property owners and the general public. Work that probably would not get done otherwise.

I should donate more. They do an outstanding job.

We, as property owners, need to do more to support the efforts of FOCL. We plan to step up our support.

Seems like you make better for home owners and recreational boaters etc. except for fisherman. This lake needs hydrilla back in it.