





THE BIG CHILL

Yes Claytor, there is a Drawdown!

Upper Lake Clean Up

Native

Vegetation Project

Siltation Situation

Cover Photo by: Stu Vaught

ww.focl.org



Due to the circumstances surrounding the lake in 2013, FOCL had requested to VDGIF a 2013 Drawdown in order for property owners to perform needed repairs due to the 2 floods occurring in January and July. VDGIF declined FOCL's request for an additional drawdown citing concern for future precedents and possible harm to the Pistolgrip mussel population.

In response, FOCL requested that VDGIF consider a 5 foot drawdown for the 2014 season as a compromise citing that many property owners were unable to perform necessary repairs to docks and seawalls with a 3 foot drawdown. This request was also declined by VDGIF.

For 2014, in cooperation with Friends of Claytor Lake (FOCL), Pulaski County, and Appalachian Power Company, a request for approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a 2014 drawdown of the Claytor Reservoir during November has been made. The purpose of the drawdown is to again provide property owners an opportunity to perform shoreline stabilization, cleanup and other maintenance related activities along the shoreline. Permits are required for other activities such as shoreline stabilization and dock expansions. Please contact Wayne Alexander at wmalexander@aep.com or at (540) 985-2469 if you have questions.

The 2014 drawdown is scheduled to begin Wednesday, **November 5**, **2014 at 8 am**. The reservoir will be lowered one (1) foot per day until it reaches 1843' (for a total of 3 feet) on Saturday morning, **November 8**, **2014**. The reservoir will start refilling on the evening of **Sunday**,

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

THE PISTOL GRIP MUSSEL (TRITOGONIA VERRUCOSA) ARE A FRESH WATER MUSSEL INHABITING LARGE RIVERS AND LAKES.

November 16, 2014 with a target date of being back to normal elevation by Wednesday evening, **November 19th**, prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. Water levels may fluctuate between three to four feet down from full pond (1846 feet) during the drawdown period.

This means we need your help in returning mussels, especially the "pistolgrip" to the water if they are stranded along your shoreline during the drawdown. If you see mussels, pick them up and gently toss them 5-10' into the water. *Please complete the postcard you received with your AEP letter to document your shoreline work as well as mussel salvage efforts and mail the completed card to FOCL*. If you need help with mussel salvage or would like to help others with mussel salvage, you can contact Laura Bullard at (540) 392-3055 or sunnyside@psknet.com. Information sessions about mussels will be held for team leaders on Wednesday, November 5th at 6 pm at the Claytor Lake State Park and for all mussel salvage volunteers on Saturday, November 8th at 9 am at Claytor Lake State Park. You can find the full drawdown plan on FOCL's website at www.focl.org. You can also call us at (540) 395-FOCL (3625) or email us at info@focl.org.

Please note that the drawdown may be cancelled on short notice if inflows are insufficient to refill the reservoir or if a flood event occurs. The public will be notified via a press release if cancelled.



While this can be a very fun, worthwhile, and rewarding opportunity for anyone to come be a part of helping FOCL with mussel salvage, we do ask that everyone dress accordingly. Some areas do have very soft and deep mud that can provide challenges if you are not dressed appropriately.

Last year groups from Virginia Tech, New River Community College, Pulaski County High School, and other organizations all took part in our mussel salvage program.

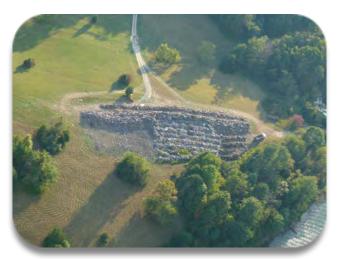
This year we hope **YOU'LL** get involved!



2013 was a year of extremes for Claytor Lake and FOCL's Clean Up Program. The year started with a massive flood event on January 31st, which brought with it major complications for lake owners and localities. Radford University's Dedmon Center parking lots had hundreds of cars flooded with little warning of the oncoming water. Lake property owners saw their boats floating out of their lifts and into the middle of the lake. Recovery was difficult due to the freezing temperatures and high winds that plagued the lake during the flood. 2013 was a year that saw the highest number of salvaged docks that had broken away and floated down the lake. If this wasn't enough for lake goers, another flood hit the New River and Claytor Lake in July causing even more debris and lost items to float away from land and down the lake.

Due to the tireless efforts of The Friends of Claytor Lake, along with unparalleled partnerships with Pulaski County and American Electric Power, FOCL's new equipment quickly went to work going back to areas that had been cleaned previously but received yet more debris from July's flood. The new barges and excavator allowed FOCL's clean up crew to do twice the work in a fraction of the time in typical problem areas for debris around the lake. While the floods did manage to keep FOCL's attention to a few main parts of the lake that collected debris, we were still able to make the rounds to other ravaged areas and aid homeowners in cleaning their coves and around their docks. So far 2014 has only provided us with ice, the likes we haven't seen in decades, and cold temperatures, but areas that were cleaned last year are reporting to FOCL that they are still clean and hopefully will allow us time to focus on other problem areas.





What you see to the left is the yearly picture of our Debris field at Big Hole Hollow where AEP allows us to store the debris removed from the lake each year. 2013's debris field was the size of a football field and stood around 10-12 feet high.

Ask yourself this.... What would the lake be like if all the debris was put back in or never taken out?

Just how many skiing injuries, boat damage, and dock issues would exist without FOCL's Clean Up Program?

FOCL takes great pride in what it has managed to achieve in a few short years with our clean up program. Lake property owners, recreational users, and visitors need to help FOCL keep our projects going with a tax-deductible donation.

2013 Clean Up Statistics

305 - loads wood debris / 380 - bags of trash / 15 - 55 gal. barrels 85 - tires with wheels / 3- propane tanks / 1- 750 gal. tank 2 - Refrigerators / 25 - docks/ramps 4,575 Tons of Debris

Clean Up Operations ran over <u>5,000</u> man hours of labor at a cost of over \$96,000.00 for 2013







Locally Owned and Operated by Eric D. Rorrer



Buoy, oh buoy.

Sarah Tilson-Miano, Agent 7378 Peppers Ferry Blvd Radford, VA 24141 Bus: 540-639-3810 sarah.tilson-miano.ppwl@statefarm.com

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The Friends of Claytor Lake - P.O. Box 300 - Dublin, VA 24084 - www.focl.org - (540) 395-FOCL



As part of our long term efforts to reduce the amount of silt entering and settling in Claytor Lake, FOCL met with George Santucci, Executive Director of the National Committee for the New River (NCNR). We explored issues around erosion in the watershed above the lake and areas of collaboration where we can help their efforts to reduce erosion. Much of our watershed is steep, with very erodible soils, and in some cases there are poor land management practices. Poor land management practices of concern include: cattle allowed full access to streams, over grazing, poor forestry practices, row till farming, and run-off from impervious urban surfaces.

Much of the silt resulting from these poor land management practices is settling in the upper lake above the Lowmans Ferry Bridge, although the entire lake is being affected. Landowners and lake users are experiencing problems getting to the now much narrowed navigation channel. In addition, plants, including trees, are taking root on silt bars. These plants will accelerate the deposition of silt resulting in trees eventually growing high enough to block some lake views.

Through George Santucci's leadership of NCNR a number of recent projects have been accomplished up river that help reduce erosion. We will visit one of these sites in May. The Phipps family of Grayson County, working with the NCNR and other organizations, improved their cattle and farming operation by protecting over 6000 feet of the New River and two small tributaries. (The NCNR website www.ncnr.org has more detail.) Much more needs to be done and we will continue FOCL's efforts, working with the NCNR and others.

One specific area we discussed was encouraging lake front landowners to maintain a buffer between their property and the lake. A strip of longer grass at the lake's edge will help trap silt that runs off our lawns during heavy rains. The strip does not need to be so high that it looks unsightly, just longer than normal and a wider strip is better than a narrow strip. Although lawn grasses do hold back some silt run-off; they do not hold the deeper soil well since their roots are shallow. During a recent survey of the lake we saw banks that have broken off and fallen into the lake. There are easy to maintain shrubs that hold these deeper soils better than grass; one major lake landowner has already started to plant some of these shrubs. The shrubs they planted were purchased from Foggy Mountain Nursery, although other nurseries also have riparian protecting shrubs. More information is available from the nursery and from the Highlands Rural Conservation & Development in Wytheville.

In addition, check the FOCL website for continued updates on siltation developments. We strongly encourage adjacent and nearby land owners to look at their land use practices and improve them. We all can do something to improve Claytor Lake.





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Arta 5 Crafts & Food Vendors - 10:00 am - 9:00 pm Coast Guard Auestary Water Search & Rescue Demonstra 10:00 am - 1:00 am

 Old Deminion Malorical Fire Society's Antique Fire Trucks 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

To 00 am - 3:00 pm
 Drive In - 9:45 am and display NII 2:00 pm
 Car & Matorcycle Show Registration - 8:30 am - 10:50 am

Car & Motorcycle Show — 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
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 Event Lee Yearyout, Jr. Adult Youth Fishing Tournament & Essay Condes
 Repoststation 7:00 am – 10:00 am

 Essays Dur at 12:00 Roon & Trephies/Awards in the attempon Clayfor Lake Salling Assi-Viation Information Booth & Selboot Rides

Saturday, June 14, 2014

Radio Controlled Airpranes – Performing Tricks and Stures. Cumulus Broadcanting – NASH 167. *

Sand Soulphire Contest – 1:00 pm Children's Activities throughout the day Venet 1451000

Virginia Minarias - 11.00 am - 7.00 pm ENTERTAINMENT

Westfahrt Haus Driner Theatre Miss Performance
 "Tunes from Hairspray"
 Encore Band

Part Time Party Time Band
 Southern Nights Band

EWORKS BY GRUCCI AT DUSK

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Exit 101 just before the Claytor Lake State Park 4538 State Park Road, Dublin 540-674-5321



The Friends of Claytor Lake continue to look at areas above Lowman's Ferry Bridge to establish an abutment with the ability to load and unload our clean up barges as well as support our clean up roll-off truck. Currently FOCL, Pulaski County, and AEP have narrowed down the list to potentially four areas that could work. If you have any suggestions and/or ideas, please contact FOCL at info@focl.org or call us at (540) 395-3625



Shopeez:

The Friends of Claytor Lake have talked with Shopeez owner, and one of FOCL's founders, Harold Chrisley about the possibility of using his ramp. Currently this location is not feasible. Costs to widen launch docks, as well as update the ramp grade would have a sizable cost. Concerns regarding traffic in and out during the upper lake clean up period also exist.

Waterfront Farms:

Members from the Waterfront Farms
Homeowner's Association met with FOCL and
Pulaski County to discuss the feasibility of using
their ramp as a loading and unloading point.
Current road conditions, as well as an existing
culvert, has kept VDOT from taking over the road
and poses serious concerns about its ability to
withstand the traffic weight of the roll-off truck.



Clark Rd (777) Clark Rd (777) Clark Rd (777) New New York Just Stand Stand

Clark Road:

Currently Clark Road presents FOCL with its best opportunity to establish an abutment above the bridge. Certain VDOT regulations would have to be managed and in place during clean up operations that would use this area and road. The area does have enough water depth to allow a fully loaded barge to attach to the abutment and unload into a roll-off truck sitting parallel to the water.



The Allisonia Boat Ramp managed by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has been discussed. Concerns regarding the water depth and the displacement of a fully debris loaded barge have been discussed. The consensus is that this location would present a lot of problems in supporting our clean up operation above the bridge.



Again, if you have any suggestions and/or ideas, please contact FOCL at info@focl.org or call us at (540) 395-3625



The Friends of Claytor Lake would like to especially thank all of those who attended, sponsored, donated auction items, and helped with this year's Spring Splash event. The event was a huge success thanks to everyone in the Claytor Lake community. See you on the water!

Platinum Sponsors: Appalachian Power Company, Pulaski County Board of Supervisors

Silver Sponsors: Conrad Brothers Marine, Nesselrod Bed & Breakfast

Bronze Sponsors: First Bank & Trust Company, Norman's Cabinetry, Giesen-Caldwell Realty, Price Williams Realty

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Claytor Lake to restore natural vegetation

This year The Friends of Claytor Lake in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, American Electric Power, Pulaski County, and The National Committee for the New River are prepping to restore natural vegetation to the shorelines of Claytor Lake. Initially this project will begin with the added assistance of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Claytor Lake State Park with 2 of their coves being selected for the start of this restoration project.

Water Willow and Water Celery, will be used to start the project as these plants provide the best options for growth and reproduction on the banks and shallower areas of Claytor Lake. The Friends of Claytor Lake will also be starting a comprehensive monitoring program of vegetation this year with the use of special Lowrance sonar equipment. This equipment will be able to determine the density of plant growth, locations, and type. The bulk of the studies will be conducted throughout the lake beginning in August and into September as this has been determined through previous vegetation studies to be the height of vegetation growth period.



Our 2014 Calendar is again filled with great lake events for the entire family. Everyone is welcome to attend any and all events.

April 27, 2014 - FOCL's Spring Splash Kickoff Event
May 10, 2014 - Kid's Fishing Day at Camp Powhatan
May 24, 2014 - Pancake Breakfast - 8am - 10am
June 14,2014 - Claytor Lake Festival

June 21, 2014 - FOCL Annual Meeting - 9am - 1pm
June 28, 2014 - Clean Up Day

July 12, 2014 - FOCL Day at MK's - 4pm - 7pm August 9, 2014 - Pancake Breakfast - 8am - 10am Sept. 12, 2014 - Claytor Lake Triathlon - 8am - 12pm

www.focl.org/calendar



FOCL 2013 Volunteer of the Year

This year The Friends of Claytor Lake awarded its first Volunteer of the year to Mr. Dave Dobyns for his in-kind contributions to the organization as well as his instrumental part in helping with our Clean Up Program for 2013. Last year The Friends of Claytor Lake, due largely to Mr. Dobyns efforts, received new barges and an excavator which helped FOCL bring in record amounts of debris from Claytor Lake. This operation cost over \$94,000 to run and brought in over 4,500 tons of debris.

Events like the floods of January 2013 and July 2013 kept both the clean up crew and Dave working hard throughout the season.

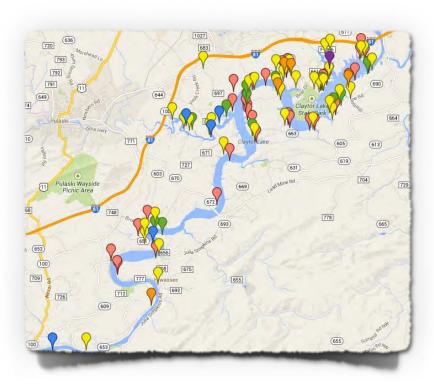
Thank You Dave!

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/DONATE



2013 November & December Donations:

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If we have mistakenly left your name off the list, we do sincerely apologize. Please be sure to contact us immediately so that we may add it to the following newsletter. Some donations will not be reflected that were received after our newsletter was published. All current donors can be found on our website.

2014 Business Donations:

Bimmerworld - Kollmorgen - Lake Country General Store - Lakeview Rentals, LLC - Mallard Point Homeowners Association - Montgomery County Game & Fish Club - Biological Monitoring, Inc - 3GEN, LLC - CFH Properties - GJR Investments - Price Williams Realty, Inc.

2014 Individual Donations:

- Admiral \$5000+ Walters, Laura & Jeff Arnold
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The Friends of Claytor Lake greatly appreciate the support of our community. Without your support our yearly programs would be impossible. Each of you have helped Claytor Lake stay a great place to be! There is still much to be done and many of you who belong on this list helping us keep Claytor Lake into one of the greatest places to be!

If we have mistakenly left your name off the list, we do sincerely apologize. Please be sure to contact us immediately so that we may add it to the following newsletter. Some donations will not be reflected that were received after our newsletter was published. All current donors can be found on our website.