



# F C L I P O I N T

*Magazine*  
November, 2012 Edition 11

**Claytor Lake  
Clean Up**

**www.focl.org**

**YOUR GUIDE TO  
DRAWDOWN 2012**

**Shoreline  
Management**



**New  
Products!**

**Thrilla  
with  
Hydrilla**



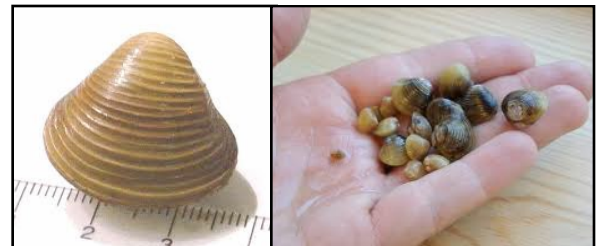
## 2012 Drawdown & Mussel Study *By Laura Bullard*

In cooperation with Friends of Claytor Lake (FOCL) and Pulaski County, Appalachian Power Company has requested approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a temporary drawdown of the Claytor Reservoir during November 2012. The purpose of the drawdown is to 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](mailto:wmalexander@aep.com) or at (540) 985-2469 if you have questions.



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

The 2012 drawdown is scheduled to begin Wednesday, November 7, 2012 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 10, 2012. The reservoir will start refilling on the evening of Sunday, November 18, 2012 with a target date of being back to normal elevation by Wednesday evening, November 21<sup>st</sup>, prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. Water levels may fluctuate between three to four feet down from full pond (1846 feet) during the drawdown period.



THE ASIAN CLAM (*CORBICULA LUMINA*) ARE NOT NATIVE MUSSELS AND NOT PART OF THE MITIGATION PLAN

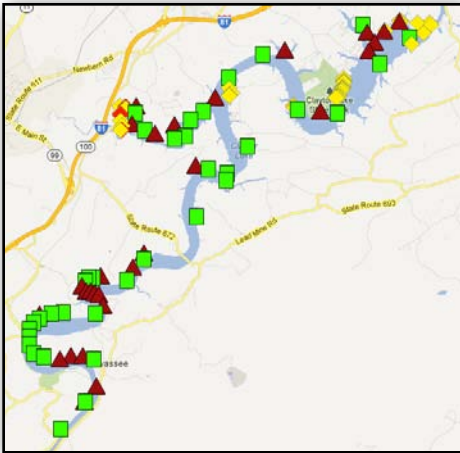
**This is where you come in.** Mitigation for 2012 includes efforts to increase mussel salvage during the drawdown.

This means we need your help in returning mussels 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](mailto:sunnyside@psknet.com). **Information sessions about mussels will be held on Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the Claytor Lake State Park and again on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 9 am at Claytor Lake State Park and Harry DeHaven Park.** You can find the full drawdown plan on FOCL's website at [www.focl.org](http://www.focl.org). You can also call us at (540) 395-FOCL (3625) or email us at [info@focl.org](mailto: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.



## Navigational Buoys come to Claytor Lake *By Jeff Caldwell*



On September 12, 2012 the Navigational Aids Committee met with Appalachian Electric Power (AEP) to review the Aids to Navigation Management Plan that has been submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as part of AEP's application for new license of the Claytor Hydro Project. The purpose of this plan is to provide mariners on Claytor Lake a marking system to identify features, hazards, and channels of Claytor Lake.

The lake spans 22 miles in length, with over 100 miles of shoreline and 4,360 acres of surface area. Studies conducted by AEP during relicensing of the Claytor Hydro project have highlighted the need to have all existing aids meet federal, state, and local rules and regulations and provide mariner's a defined

waterway navigable under various water levels and through areas experiencing sedimentation.

The plan will add 68 navigational buoys to Claytor Lake in addition to the existing 39 No Wake, No Boat, Swimming Area, Danger Rock buoys, and 3 Mooring Buoys. Although Claytor Lake is considered navigable waters of the United States and falls under the jurisdiction of the US Coast Guard, the USCG has delegated its authority with regards to this plan to Virginia's Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF). Appalachian will seek approval for the aids to navigation from Pulaski County Board of Supervisors and VDGIF.

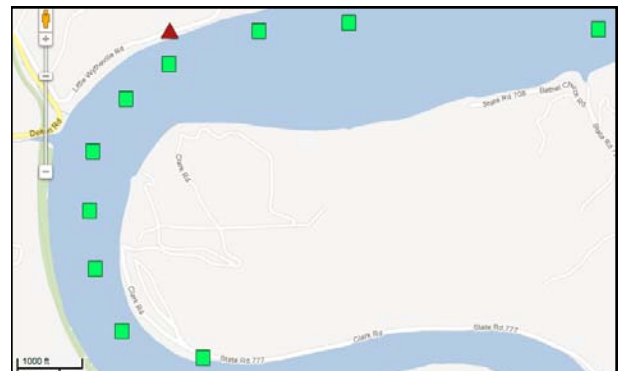
If approved, Appalachian will install a small "test" area of markers in the Little Wytheville area of the lake as soon as this winter to gauge effectiveness, weather disruptions, water flow stability, and public reaction. All markers will contain small strobe lighting to aid night time navigation. Appalachian will also coordinate with VDGIF, Pulaski County, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, and FOCL to develop an educational program targeting Claytor Lake. The installation of all markers in the Aids to Navigation Plan will be completed over a 3 year period.

### **THIS IS WHERE YOU COME IN!**

Once the test markers are installed, FOCL would like to hear from you about the Aids to Navigation Plan. You can view the entire Aids to Navigation Management Plan online at [www.focl.org](http://www.focl.org). There are areas to make comments and voice opinion as well as view an interactive map. Opinions, comments, and questions can also be called in to us or mailed. **We want to hear from you!**



RED STARBOARD AND GREEN PORT BUOYS WILL MARK AREAS THAT BOATERS WILL NEED TO MAINTAIN A CHANNEL COURSE



AN INITIAL TEST AREA IN THE LITTLE WYTHEVILLE SECTION OF CLAYTOR LAKE WILL LIKELY BE STARTED THIS WINTER AND INTO SPRING

## FOCL's new website



This past spring, FOCL unveiled a brand new website with a ton of new features including a calendar of events, interesting facts, current weather, Google maps of points on the lake and much more. If you aren't on this website constantly, then you are missing out on Claytor Lake activity, issues, and changes.

[www.focl.org](http://www.focl.org)

## End of an Era

The FOCL Board meeting in July was saddened to say goodbye to Executive Director Darla Jennings. Darla has served FOCL for over 13 years and played a major role in the success that the organization sees today.

President Laura Walters and Treasurer Bill Cunningham both spoke about working with Darla over the years. Former FOCL President Ronnie Powers also stopped by to wish Darla well as she left her post at the end of the month. The board presented Darla with flowers and a custom designed dragonfly pendant featuring black and white diamonds to show their gratitude for her dedication and friendship to The Friends of Claytor Lake and its members.



## Executive Director Jeff Caldwell



In 1977, my parents purchased property on Claytor Lake in Cook Hollow, the Snowville side of the lake. I have spent most of my life on that water and even 35 years later, very little that can keep me away. Having started to become more aware of issues around the lake, I began to think about getting more involved and started helping with FOCL in early spring of this year. I did not realize how rewarding working with an organization of this caliber would be. Meeting people from various backgrounds who all share the same passion for Claytor Lake as I do has been exhilarating.

I am excited to begin working as Executive Director. I would like to continue to help FOCL move forward with its programs on Claytor Lake while hopefully bringing a valuable perspective on today's issues and events. Please feel free to call or email me if you have any concerns, questions, or comments you would like to express. Don't be afraid to wave either when you see me! I'm in the bright orange Jeep by land and a 1986 white Kawasaki X2 jet ski by sea. See you next summer!

## 2012 Hydrilla Report *By Cheri Strenz & John Copeland*

During August 2007, Appalachian Power Company (APCO) hired a consulting firm to conduct an aquatic vegetation study to determine the amount of native and exotic aquatic plant species in Claytor Lake. The consultants mapped a total of 68 acres of hydrilla lakewide. A fall 2010 fly over of the Lake determined that hydrilla was growing rapidly. In October 2011, intensive hydrilla mapping documented 394 acres of hydrilla lakewide - an increase of 326 acres.

During the winter of 2010-2011, the Claytor Lake Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) focused on the growing threat of hydrilla in Claytor Lake. Through the hard work and cooperation of Pulaski County, Appalachian Electric Power (AEP), the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF), the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), The Friends of Claytor Lake (FOCL), and concerned Claytor Lake property owners, within two months a plan was developed to manage, and monitor, this problem.

The Claytor Lake Hydrilla Management Plan involves: 1- stocking

sterile grass carp, to graze on the hydrilla beds; 2- a partial reimbursement program for lakefront property owners who chemically treat the area around their docks and shoreline; and 3- a monitoring plan that determines the number of sterile grass carp to be stocked in relation to the amount of hydrilla in the Lake.

In May 2011, 6,000 sterile grass carp (34 were radio tagged, to track their movement) were released from several locations around the Lake. Within a couple of months the fish moved to hydrilla beds and seemed to remain there. The 2012 stocking took place in April, with 3,200 sterile grass carp (45 radio tagged), with 1,000 marked for more information on growth and movement. These fish also seem to be clustered in and around known hydrilla beds. Matt Weberg, a Virginia Tech graduate research assistant, studying the movement, growth, and mortality of grass carp in Claytor Lake, conducted the October 2011 hydrilla mapping. He is also evaluating the effectiveness of grass carp in controlling hydrilla, and developing a grass carp stocking model to guide future stocking decisions at Claytor Lake.

This year AEP consultants found no topped-out hydrilla in Claytor Lake. They did find hydrilla in the areas of Little Wytheville and Hiwassee, growing at about one foot high. Even though no topped-out hydrilla was found, this does not mean that hydrilla is not there. The tubers produced by the hydrilla plants, remain in the lake sediments each year. Tubers have the potential to sprout new plants each year, posing a problem for years to come, if not controlled. It is important to base hydrilla management in Claytor Lake on good science. Future sterile grass carp stocking will be based on consultation with Matt Weberg, his graduate advisory committee, and discussions by the Claytor Lake Technical Advisory Committee.





2012 Claytor Lake Cleanup *By Dave Dobyans*



Each year the Friends of Claytor Lake Cleanup Crew strives to do better than the year before and this past year was an excellent year even though we had issues with down equipment, crew injury and crew changes. Our crew faces many dangers on a daily basis while working in the water and we need your assistance with keeping them safe. Please move slowly and at a distance when you see them at work. The crew would also like to thank each of you who have brought them food and drink throughout the work season.

We are winding down another good year in 2012 and this would not be possible without the support of Appalachian Power Co., Pulaski County and the donations and Membership fees paid by you. It takes approximately \$10,000.00 a month to support the cleanup on Claytor Lake and we appreciate your assistance in this most crucial endeavor for our community. I personally feel that we all should think of the lake as we do our lawns, FOCL is the caretaker of the lake and needs your assistance in funding our efforts. There are approximately 2100 property owners including lake front, lake view or lake access, not to mention recreational users. From our 2100 property owners, FOCL received only 164 donations in 2012

**Items removed from Claytor Lake from May 1, 2012 through October 1, 2012:**

| Item           | Amount |
|----------------|--------|
| Rolloff Loads  | 119.5  |
| Trash Bags     | 214    |
| Tires & Wheels | 33     |
| Docks          | 6      |
| 55gal Drum     | 1      |

**2012 Clean Up Crew:**

**Jerry Dean Jr.  
Tony Stammers  
Mike Altizer  
Jerry Taylor  
Gary Roseberry  
Richard Meredith  
and Dave Dobyans**

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. - *Margaret Mead*



GET PUBLISHED!



## YOUR NAME, YOUR STORY, IN PRINT, 2013!

JOIN US IN BEING A PART OF:

### CLAYTOR TALES

**Mysterious? Disastrous? Hilarious?**

**DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL? SHARE IT WITH US! WE WANT TO KNOW!**

Tell us about your adventure on the lake; YOU KNOW, the one that wasn't supposed to happen, but did. Feel free to include that fish recipe that wasn't supposed to happen but did anyway, or any other favorite recipes that were inspired by lake living. We all love to eat! We all love to laugh! Pictures are also welcome!

Stories will be randomly selected. If selected, we will publish your story, name and city/state. See our website for more details. [www.focl.org](http://www.focl.org) or email [info@focl.org](mailto:info@focl.org). Please include contact information including address, phone and email address.

Your Friends of Claytor Lake are looking forward to reading your stories. Thanks!

FOCL, PO Box 300, Dublin VA 24804;

540 395-FOCL

[info@focl.org](mailto:info@focl.org)

## Message from Laura Walters



As I write my first FOCL message as President of FOCL, the thing I wish to say most is a big THANK YOU to the FOCL Board and all the volunteers, partners, and sponsors who always step up to help us. If you haven't worked with us on projects this summer, please consider joining this wonderful active group of volunteers who love the lake. FOCL is made up of people so many different interests and backgrounds with one thing in common: Love of Claytor Lake.

This summer has been challenging with clean up as we began the year with a broken conveyor and equipment which was hard to repair because it is old and dated. Additionally there was a learning curve for me and those helping with clean up. Hopefully we will have additional and newer equipment in the next year to facilitate more productive, cost effective clean up of the lake. Several folks have donated items to clean up which are very helpful. We are also working on grants and fundraising.

In addition, this summer we lost Darla as Executive Director and have hired Jeff Caldwell. We wish Darla well in her other endeavors and thank her for her guidance and many years of dedicated service with FOCL. We also welcome Jeff Caldwell as our new Executive Director and are excited about the ideas and experience he brings to FOCL. Jeff has grown up on the lake.

The summer has been extremely busy with water quality samples done by FOCL volunteers every two weeks, clean up by the FOCL crew, numerous fundraising events staffed by our dedicated volunteers, a first Clean Up Day on Claytor involving residents, the Claytor Lake Festival and fireworks and many other events. Thank all of you who have helped with these events and who have come out to support us as well.

FOCL depends on your donations and memberships to carry our activities. If you haven't made a donation this year, please consider doing so. Memberships make up a huge amount of our funding. Membership is on an annual basis. Other sources include fundraising which in addition to our events this year, we have published our first Claytor Lake 2013 calendar. They will make great Christmas presents! If you haven't gotten yours yet, check [www.focl.org](http://www.focl.org). Also send in your photos for consideration for next year's calendar. We are also working on a book to be published which will include lake stories, recipes and pictures. If you wish to be included, share your info by emailing [info@focl.org](mailto:info@focl.org).

Many lake folk leave in the fall and don't return or think about the lake till spring, but FOCL stays busy with educational outreach programs about the lake, writing grants for various projects and equipment, working with AEP and other agencies on projects like hydrilla control, shoreline management, drawdown and mussel mitigation, water quality and other issues. Look for more information on these issues throughout the newsletter. Again, all of these activities are done by volunteers and supported by your donations. So do think of us over the winter.

Laura Walters  
FOCL President



## Our 2012 Membership



### Admiral Level (\$5,000 up)

American Electric Power – Pulaski County Board of Supervisors – HP & Anne S Hunnicutt Foundation



### Captain Level (\$1,000 – \$4,999)

Bill & Bonnie Cole – Charlie Cole – Laura Walters & Jeff Arnold – John B. Waugh – William & Connie Fintel  
Thomas & Kymberlee Kulis – Christine Meade – Bobby & Lois Surface – William & Connie Fintel



### Commander Level (\$525 – \$999)

James & Margaret Shuler – Julian & Kristin Kirk – David & Diane Reynolds – Mark & Kay Noftsinger  
Rock House Marina, LLC – Garret Weddle – George & Donna Siler



### Lieutenant Level (\$275 – \$524)

John L. Brown – Larry & Diane Howell – Cheri Strenz – Larry & Patti Bandolin – Blanche Valach Memorial  
Jim & Mary Hawley – Darla Jennings – Bob & Polly Caldwell – Jack W. Cook II – Dean & Carol Jackson  
Conrad Brothers Marina – Gary Duncan – Leslie Peter Ash – Donald & Ann King – Patricia & Cecil G Doyle  
Cynthia Gannaway – Michael & Carol Hoffman – John & Betty Johnson – Greg Rooker – L.T. Simmons  
Larry & Irene Killough – William & Farron Smith – Dennis Turman – John & Jan Woodward



### Ensign Level (\$125 – \$274)

Laura Bullard – Bob & Barbara Conner – Clarke & Cindy Cunningham – Bill & Margaret Wheeler – Mark & Paula Smith  
Donald & Lynda Downard – Ken & Lou Conner – Huffard Living Trust – James R. Loux – Carolee Bondurant  
Patrick & Angela Moore – Guy & Juanita Ellett – Ralph & Shirley Kiser – Frances Davidson – Edward C. Crews  
Jerry & Sherry Vaughn – Charles & Ruth Stewart – Mallard Point Townhome Assoc. Inc. – Jeanine F. Franz – Steve Jacobs  
Fred & Santina St. John – Dr. Jackie R Scruggs – Everett & Becky Agee – Kenneth & Kay Rakes – Bill & Betty Simpson  
William & Nancy Aden – David & Susan Dobyms – John & Vicki Bartlett – Phil & Cathy Dalton – Harold & Ella Blankenship  
Bridget & Bria Dearing-Kelly – Richard & Susan DiSalvo – Bob & Flo Graham – Ken & Jan Gray – Fred & Clair Saal  
Dr. Glen Hall – H.S. & Janet Johnston – Arnold & Diane Hedge – Fran & Dick Louthan – Tom McCarthy – Barbara Prillaman  
Tommy & Maggie Manning – Terry & Wanda Nix – Larry & Mary Ann Moore – Ed & Missy Oaks – Sanford & Janice Wilcox  
Joe & Ava Porter – Richard & Mary Osborne – Cliff & Katherine Ragsdale – Bob & Brigitte Rotche – Sharon Yeatts



### Crew Level (\$50 – \$124)

Bill & Dot Wall – Mike & Mary Johnston – Jim & Sherry Gilbert – Leonard Angle – GJR Investments – Stu Vaught  
Trudy & Ritchie Lytton – Preston & Barbara Stone – Ranny Akers – Darryl & Kim Sarver – Richard Best – Alan Stratton  
Ronald & Lois Davis – Bill & Alice Hurlebas – Edward Yuhasz – Charles & Joyce Walters – Wayland Overstreet  
Garret & Judith Thew – Catherine & Delmar Billings – Joseph & Gail Brislin III – Lois Brown – Pete & Betty Capaldini  
K.K. Cecil – WaterWay Cafe – Glen & Mary Ann Conrad – William & Karen Day Coolidge – Joe & Rita Colvin – Jim Cox  
Nancy Dalton – Kenneth & Helen Darden – Jeff & Anna Caldwell – Paul Duncan – Ray & Margaret Epperly – Betty Freeman  
Caroline King Gaskins – Dana & Dianah Gibson – Merri Beth & Jim Gibson – James W. Graham – Gary Harmon  
Hilda & Paul Harris – John S. Harrison – Klaus & Christa Hinklemann – Clenard Ingram – Lois Jewett – John Scradler  
Stewart & Kathy Wallace – Montgomery County Game & Fish Club – Debra & Robert Piscura – C.L. & Kathleen Prince  
Maynard & Sharon Sayers – Charles Shorter – Steve & Robin Strosnider – Wayne & Faye Sutherland – George Valach  
Charles & Nancy Warren – Keith & Sue Westbrook – Carolyn Shelburne – Everett & Margaret Eldred

## 2012 Annual Meeting



**Saturday June 23rd, 2012:** It was a terrific morning on Claytor Lake as the annual Friends of Claytor Lake Annual Meeting was held at the Claytor Lake State Park.

President Laura Walters got things started with a wide array of topics that affect everyone who enjoy the lake. A history of how the Friends of Claytor Lake started and began to organize was given by Board of Director and Committee Chair Dean Jackson. Megan Bradley, Biologist and Mussel recovery

coordinator with VADGIF, talked to us about the status of several mussel species inhabiting Claytor Lake, the benefits they have to the marine ecosystem, and also how they can be very important to other issues such as the ongoing discussion regarding proposals for drawdown presented to AEP each year.



George Santucci, Executive Director of The National Committee for the New River, spoke to the group about ongoing efforts throughout the New River watershed. Environmental Committee Chair and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary member Dave Gruber spoke about the latest water quality reports performed and studied by the Friends of Claytor Lake in conjunction with Furman College and Dr. Carolyn Thomas. Water quality reports are available on this site dating back to 2007. Relicensing and Drawdown discussions were conducted by Secretary Laura Bullard regarding the timing of drawdown and its use by residents for shoreline management. Committee chair Cheri Strenz informed the membership and other visitors of ongoing efforts to update FOCL's public relation and material information. Environmental Committee Chair Mike Hoffman also spoke on issues, aided by Board Member and fisheries biologist for VADGIF John Copeland and Virginia Tech research assistant Matt Weberg, regarding Hydrilla on Claytor Lake and studied effects of the Grass Carp Program in controlling the vegetation.

**Our next Annual Meeting will be:**



Don't forget this winter, after all is packed up and put away that FOCL, along with the Claytor Lake State Park, VDGIF, Pulaski County Board of Supervisors, Appalachian Electric Power, and Virginia Wildlife Resources holds the annual **"Christmas for the Fishes"** at the Claytor Lake State Park recycling Christmas trees as fish reefs throughout Claytor Lake. These structures serve as a wonderful habitat to many species native to Claytor Lake and FOCL would like to make this effort even bigger than last year! We could use everyone's help.

**June 22, 2013 @ Claytor Lake  
State Park Shelter #5 @ 9:30am**

# Christmas for the Fishes



Our first edition of the 2013 Claytor Lake Calendar has arrived. Full of wonderful pictures of the Claytor Lake area and people. They make a terrific gift for family, friends, neighbors, etc. All proceeds go to benefit The Friends of Claytor Lake.

**Get Yours Today! \$15.00**

[www.focl.org](http://www.focl.org)



# January, 2013