

To The Editor,

This letter is in response to a previously published letter that claimed that we have "lost" 5-6 coves to sedimentation accumulation. There is no scientific evidence for that claim.

I have been studying the bathymetry of the lake for the past three months using data provided to me by DNR, over 600,000 measurements of water depths made all around the lake. They provide insight into the landscape that the lake is based on. We tend to forget the implications of Deep Creek Lake being a manmade water body.

Before the lake was formed, there were valleys and glades (a glade is an open area in a woodland) with small streams, some flowing year around, some only part of the time. Deep Creek was such a year-around stream. It flowed from the most southern end of the lake to where the dam is now and eventually ends up in the Youghiogheny river.

Water flows "downhill", which means that the general topography of the land that contains the lake is higher at the southern end of the lake than at the dam end.

When you flood this "topography" to create a lake, and because the water level of a lake lays flat (although there are stories that someone wanted the lake level surveyed to see if it was really flat), that means that the southern end of the lake has to be shallower than the northern end. This is very clear from the bathymetric data. This is also very simple science. The coves follow that same pattern. They are like mini lakes that connect to all the others. As a result, where the dry lands change elevations gradually, shallow coves in the lake will occur naturally. It's very basic science.

The other point made was that the lake needs to be restored. There is very little to restore, because not a whole lot has changed over the years. Yes, there is sedimentation, that's nature's way of combatting manmade changes of earth. The ongoing DNR study will disclose where and how much sediment has been deposited, but not where it came from, but the results are not in yet.

To minimize sedimentation is to have a sensible shoreline protection plan, one based on scientific knowledge of local, not bay, conditions. We need to encourage DNR and MDE to develop such a plan.

Respectfully Yours,  
Pete Versteegen  
Retired R&D Engineer  
McHenry