

# The Return of the Swan

Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

Deep Creek Lake recently celebrated the return of its beloved swan boat. The original 18-foot pontoon style boat made its debut more than four decades ago, but lapsed into obscurity after the death of its owner, Noel Obenshain. Larry and Mark Madson, residents of Pittsburgh, remembered the original swan boat and sought to determine its fate several years ago. The boat was located at a Deep Creek Lake marina but was in such poor condition that it was deemed to be unworthy for sailing. The Madson's contacted Ervin Sweitzer, a local craftsman who watched Mr. Obenshain build the original boat, about the possibilities of restoring it. A decision was reached that a new boat would be constructed by using the old one as a pattern. The swan's recreation was faithfully carried out including a beak that opens when an air horn sounds. The new swan also sports more strength with a 60 horsepower outboard motor under its tail.

The Madson's hosted a launching party in August at their Thousand Acres retreat. Friends of the original swan, family members, neighbors, and craftsmen who worked on the new craft, celebrated the day with rides on Deep Creek Lake. Recreational boaters surrounded the swan with warm greetings, friendly waves, and shouts of joy. A new generation of children can now enjoy the same great experience as their parents had at Deep Creek Lake. Thanks to the Madson's, the swan tradition continues.



*A Dining Tradition*  
**Four Seasons**  
**RESTAURANT**  
*at Will O' the Wisp* since 1962

Breakfast, Luncheon, Dinner  
 Open 7 am until 9:30 pm Daily  
 Major Credit Cards and  
 Dinner Reservations Welcome

**301.387.5503** ext. 2201  
[www.willothewisp.com](http://www.willothewisp.com)  
 Catering & Banquets  
 for All Occasions

Located on Route 219  
 Just south of the  
 Deep Creek Lake  
 Bridge

**Four Seasons RESTAURANT**  
*Will O' the Wisp*  
**LODGING** DAILY & WEEKLY  
 BREAKFAST LUNCH DINNER

*Deep Creek Bath, Body & Candle*

Catering to all the local residents and visitors to this great area!  
 The best selection including "Kama Sutra" and the exclusive on  
 "Kathy Ireland Home" Candles!

Checkout:  
**"Trendsetters" Off-Price Apparel**  
 The Trendy Clothing Section of Our Store!  
 Big City Fashions, Small Town Prices! Junior, Missy & Plus Sizes!  
 Frequent Buyer Discounts for all locals!

**www.deepcreekbathandbody.com 301.387.8888**

*Deep Creek Bath, Body & Candle*  
 & "Trendsetters" Off-Price Apparel

McHenry Plaza • 24457 Garrett Hwy. (Rt. 219), Suite 2 • McHenry, MD 21541



