

## **Shelly Garden Dedication**

*Ron Lipsman, May 28, 2016*

Thank you all for coming today. Shelly would be very pleased by this event. As many of you know, Shelly loved Deep Creek Lake. She enjoyed the scenery, the activities, the friendly people and the pace of life. She particularly enjoyed having a home in Sundown Chase; she expressed to me many times her opinion that aside from its great location and striking attractiveness, it was in many ways the most uniquely special condo property on the lake.

As you also know, Shelly was a creative person. You know about her quilts, but she also excelled at various needle arts, interior design and I daresay landscape architecture. She was both proud of and insistent on maintaining the attractive features of our property. In particular, she was responsible for our finally getting control of the south embankment and the north entrance drainage area. She was often found picking weeds and trimming growth in this south entrance area, and she would be delighted to see how attractive it is today.

In the summer of 1970, Shelly and I and our boys started vacationing (annually, and sometimes more) in the mountains of either West Virginia or western Maryland . For more than 35 years we fantasized about getting our own place in the mountains. In the spring of 2007, we finally realized our dream. We bought one of the units in Sundown Chase. Of course, as with all such properties, we bought it furnished. I recall my sons and I remarking, "Man this place is move in ready." To which Shelly replied, "Are you kidding!" Shelly came up in June 2007 and stayed for four months. I was still working, so I came up on weekends. Every week a different part of the condo had been magically

transformed: beautiful, but comfortable and functional furniture; every convenience – from well-stocked baths and kitchen to high performance entertainment modules to copious household tools and handy gadgets; elegant yet country; inviting yet sturdy. Lovely plants were sprouting from heretofore unseen flower pots. Shelly, with her exceptional interior design talents, had created a warm, intimate, comfortable, mountain-oriented vacation home that she, I, my children and grandchildren and quite a few friends would love and enjoy for the next eight years.

Shelly and I had a long, happy and successful life together – for well over 50 years. We built a wonderful family, we both had successful careers, traveled extensively and Shelly expressed her creative skills in many areas. But I believe she viewed the achievement of our lifelong dream of a place in the mountains as the capstone of that successful journey. How much sweeter it was that it occurred in a beautiful setting, along with fellow owners who were involved, gracious and also dedicated to the betterment of the property.

Let me express my gratitude, not only to those here today, but also to other owners, former owners and the residents of Deep Creek Lake who helped to make Shelly's eight years here a wonderful time for her. I hope that this garden will help keep alive the memory of Shelly for all of you.