



Becky Kohn Photos

Crystal Lake Association

Summer 2024 Newsletter





Township News

Brad Wooten

Happy Summer CLA members,

It has been a spectacular summer indeed. With the opening of the new park and swim area, the grand fireworks display and the recent DDA sponsored summer fest, it has been a season to remember!!

The new park is very close to completion with only a few minor fixes on the punch list. The grass areas are coming in very nicely and sends an appealing appearance cruising by lake side. All in all, it'll add so much fun and memorable times spent at the beach and our community for years to come. We can all probably agree there were glitches that needed to be refined. Considering the masses of people that were in the area, it wasn't surprising to hear the concerns that came up. As a community, we all have to work together to respect the spaces shared by the public and to make it an enjoyable experience. Let's all pitch in and keep it a welcoming place for all.

What never gets old is the light show put on by area EMS and fire departments the night before the big fireworks display, Hats off to all the volunteers who take the time do this and to show off the advanced equipment we all take pride in. Also a big round of applause for the CLA sponsored fireworks show and the crew that launched them off. One more reason Crystal Lake is the place to be on the 4th of July and beyond!!

Crystal Twp is considering options for a Parks and Rec Dept. This is a new approach to advancing our park system and ways to improve activities in our area. It is in the preliminary stages and research is being done. A committee is being sought after. You are

encouraged to attend the Twp. meetings to be a part of this exciting development and possibly be on the committee to help out.



As a reminder don't forget about the luxurious porta potty sponsored by the CLA and thanks to Stones Marine for letting us use their lot. If you are in a precarious situation and the location is ideal, let the CLA sponsored porta potty come to the rescue!! Help yourself!!

As always the CLA greatly appreciates all the donations and support so generously given. We wouldn't be the CLA if it weren't for you. It's with great pride we can say we live on one of the healthiest and most environmentally safe lakes in Michigan. Thank You members.. have a great "rest of the summer"....



Welcome to our 2024/25 CLA Board!

L to R: **Brad Wooton** (Township), **Steve Meinhardt** (President), **Kim Morgan** (Treasurer/Directory) **Carl Jonas**(Membership/Fireworks), **Nancy Ayres** (Vice President/Membership), **Eric Johnson** (Goose Roundup), **Jeremy Johnson** (Public Safety), **Mike Dyer** (Fireworks), **Ivy Coy** (Secretary/Newsletter), and **Jim Ayres** (Water Quality)

Crystal Lake Association Welcomes New Board Members

Jeremy Johnson was raised in St. Louis Michigan. He has spent just about every summer of his life in Crystal at the family cabin purchased in 1941. His work led him to live in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo (where he met his wife), Portland, Oregon, Cudjo Key, Florida, and now Crystal. He has worked as a chef, mechanic, instrument repair tech, auto parts retailer, and musician. He also operated a farm tech company with his father, Eric for a decade. He is currently working on guitars and other instruments in his shop while working with his wife, Ivy at their business, Ivy the Builder LLC.

Ivy Coy was raised in Paw Paw Michigan where she spent most of her time outdoors enjoying camping, gardening, fishing, biking and four wheeling. She purchased her cottage in Crystal in 2019 along with

her husband, Jeremy. They enjoyed their time at the cottage so much that in 2020, they decided to live in Crystal full time. With over 15 years of building experience and a business degree, Ivy decided to start her own construction company in Crystal, Ivy the Builder LLC. She and her husband are currently enjoying remodeling and repairing homes and RV's right here on our beautiful lake.

Mike Dyer has enjoyed Crystal Lake his entire life. The family cottage on South Shore Dr. was purchased by the Dyer family in 1954. Mike and his wife Theda purchased the cottage in 2001. Mike served as a CLA board member for six years previously, working on Goose Roundups and Fireworks. The Dyers are now year round residents of Crystal, following retirement in 2022.

Mid Year Membership Update

Nancy Ayres

The July 4th holiday has come and gone and many people see that as the halfway point for the warm weather season. We are currently hovering around the 400 member mark as we approach mid July. Our membership goal for the year is 425 members, and that would be a new record. We surpassed 400 members last year, and we are striving to continue the growth in membership this year. We appreciate the support of members and know that we could not do our work without your support. More members of course means more money raised through dues paid, but it also means more people who are aware of the issues we face to keep Crystal Lake the beautiful lake we all cherish and enjoy. Your dues and other donations to water quality and fireworks, are essential to the work of the CLA.

We have been fortunate to have shown a steady growth in membership over the past several years. In 2018 we had 290 members and by 2020 that number grew to 318. In 2023 we surpassed the 400 mark for the first time and we hope to hit 425 yet this year. We attribute much of that growth to membership growth from South Shore Camp-

ground, new families to the lake, and strong support and renewals from long time members. We thank all of you for your support. We continue to get the word out that you do NOT need to be a property owner to join the CLA. ANYONE can become a member of the CLA. If you use the lake at all for fishing, swimming or boating, we need your support!

As a reminder, below is a list of all that your dues and donations help to support:

- Water quality : Lake water testing and treatment for invasive weed species
- Fireworks on July 4
- Sheriff water patrol to maintain a safe lake
- Goose maintenance
- Facebook page
- Newsletters
- Township news

It's never too late to join or renew your membership. Please go to www.crystalonline.org to join today



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CLA Membership is Easy

Visit our website at crystalonline.org or mail the form on the back page





Know Your Lake

Jim Ayres

Let's talk about Mayflies. I'm sure we've all experienced their incredible swarms in the Spring. They cover our houses. They get in our hair. It's hard to walk outside on a Spring evening. What a nuisance! But these insects are really quite remarkable, and we are lucky to have them at our lake. Why? Well, we are all concerned about our lake quality and health. Mayflies are a very important part of that. They are a key component of our lake's food chain. They are eaten by both fish and birds. They are the favorite food of Walleye. They enable a strong and healthy fish population and because Mayflies are very sensitive to pollution, scientists consider the presence of Mayflies to be an important indication of lake health. The more Mayflies, the healthier the lake.

Mayflies are also incredibly interesting. Here are a few fun facts:

▶ Mayflies are older than most of the dinosaurs we know. The oldest fossil of a Mayfly dates back 308 million years. That's 308 MILLION YEARS!

▶ Each Mayfly lays as many as 3000 eggs in the water. They hatch and live their life eating plants under the water for about a year.

▶ The adults that we see live only for about 2 days. They never eat; they reproduce and die.

▶ Mayfly swarms can be incredibly large and dense. In southern states, like Mississippi, Mayfly swarms have actually shown up on Doppler radar just like a thunderstorm.

Yes they will still be annoying on a Spring evening. But while you are picking them out of your hair, remember, they are a very important and valuable nuisance!





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CLA Lake Quality Report for Summer 2024

Jim Ayres

Based upon our Spring lake scan in May, our lake is looking very healthy. Last year in 2023 we had to do both a Spring and Fall lake treatment for invasive species, Eurasian Water Milfoil and Starry Stonewort. The good news is that our Spring scan this year found only very minimal levels of both of these invasive weeds. Additionally, the scan report reported that the lake “looked really good”, with a healthy variety of native algae species found across the lake. As a result, we did

not need to do a Spring lake treatment. We will do another scan in late July or early August. We are expecting to need a treatment for invasive species this Fall. These invasive species never just go away, and they are virtually impossible to eliminate. However, through ongoing scanning and monitoring, we are keeping them in check and keeping our lake healthy. Thank you for your ongoing support of our lake testing program!

Events In and Around Crystal

8-8	Music In The Park	Noll Park DDA	6:30-8pm
8-9/11	Stanton Old Fashion Days	Stanton MI	
8-15	Music In The Park	Noll Park DD	6:30-8pm
8-16	Senior Bingo	Crystal Comm. Library	2pm
8-16/17	Danish Festival	Greenville MI	
8-20	Book Club	Crystal Comm. Library	1-2:30pm
8-22	Music In The Park	Noll Park DDA	6:30-8pm
8-29	Music In The Park	Noll Park DDA	6:30-8pm
9-14	Crystal Township Clean Up Day	Noll Park	8am till noon or until the garbage trucks are full
Crystal Lake Farm Market		Memorial Weekend to Oct.	Saturdays 8am-1pm
Crystal Box Office Theatre			Call 989-235-6655
Crystal Motor Speedway		Gates open at 4:00 pm	Call 989-235-5200
Rainbow Gardens Roller Rink		Thursday-Sunday	Call 989-235-4298
Valley Motorcross			Call 517-881-8756
Morelands Motocross Park			Call 989-330-2826



Goose Maintenance Update - Summer 2024

Eric Johnson

No earth-shattering news from the Goose Camp this year. We reported 38 eggs collected in our egg hunt this year. Since we have not been able to use the "Goose Roundup" for the last 4 years due to "Avian Flu" we have had to rely solely on "Egg Maintenance". The problem is that the egg hunt occurs well before most of you are coming to the lake, so we have to rely on our residents and a few hearty souls to carry out the canvasses.

There are ways you can help long distance however.

1. Be observant around your cottages and note any spots that you observe nesting potential. Geolocate or just mark it on a map and get the informa-

tion to me. We will use this information next year.

2. Stop by the lake in early spring and take a walk around your area and note any evidence of nesting geese.

3. Encourage your neighbors to do the same.

4. If you haven't already, join CLA (and encourage your neighbors to do the same).

5. Give us permission to canvas your property in your absence. (a letter, text or email sent to us is sufficient).

You can contact me at ejohnson@edzone.net.

Thank you for your help and enjoy your summer.

Crystal Lake: Blessed to have Loons spending their Summer here!

Mike Dyer

Another summer treat offered by Crystal Lake is the summertime guests, our mating pair of Common Loons. Those of us lucky enough to spend time on or near the water this summer have witnessed these beautiful waterfowl singing, swimming, diving and flying on, under and over the lake. Loons spend their entire life on the water, as their legs are at the very rear of their body and can't walk on land. They also require a lengthy patch of water to land and launch into the air.

The Common Loon winters in southern North America then travels the Mississippi Flyway to nest, lay eggs and raise young loons during the summer in the northern portions of the United States and Canada. Typically the nesting areas are further north of our area, so we're plenty blessed to have a pair on



both Crystal and Duck lakes.

The Loon is one of the oldest species of waterfowl on earth with fossils dating back to prehistoric times. They require quality water and abundant fish life. These two qualities again prove that Crystal Lake is

healthy and being well maintained.

The Common Loon is Federally Protected from any sort of harassment, including the birds themselves, nests, eggs and young ones. If you see them on the lake please provide them plenty of distance from your boats. If you're close enough that they dive away, raise up and flap their wings or show other signs of distress, **YOU'RE TOO CLOSE.**

Let's be good hosts to our precious summer visitors so that hopefully we can enjoy them for generations to come.

Crystal Lake Association
P.O. Box 307
Crystal, MI 48818



CLA Membership Application and Donation Form

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Mailing City, State & Zip: _____

Crystal Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____ Contact Email: _____

Check here if you would like future correspondence via email:

We now accept PayPal, Credit Cards or ACH

Pay to:

Crystal Lake Association

Mail To:

Crystal Lake Association

P.O. Box 307

Crystal, MI 48818

2024 Annual Dues (\$45.00) _____

Fireworks Donation _____

Water Quality Fund _____

Total _____

Renew online at <http://www.crystalonline.org/renewonline.htm>