

CLA Mission

To protect the interest of the members of this Association in the real property owned by them; to endeavor to maintain the natural level in said lake; to protect against water pollution and unhealthy conditions; to secure adequate protection against fire, theft and pilfering, to secure improved roads leading to and around the lake; to protect and promote good fishing condition in said lake; and for such other purposes as shall be beneficial to the interests of said members and the community.

**April/May -
CLA Membership Drive**

**June 18th
Pig in the Park BBQ,
Bake Sale and Silent
Auction**

**June 23rd -26th
CSC Sailing School**

**July 4th (Monday)
Fireworks 10:30 pm***



**July 9th
Annual CLA Member-
ship Meeting 10 am
Sailing Club**

**July 23rd
Big Band night
Sailing Club**

**Aug 6th
Annual Run the Lake**

**Aug 13th
Art in the Park/Car
Show**

Crystal Lake Association

Established June 5, 1932 www.crystalonline.org

Message from the President

Steve Meinhardt

In the past twelve months your CLA has completed its most important task of keeping invasive weeds under control. The CLA was able to do this without creating a special tax assessment district. Most of the funds raised were due to fundraising efforts led by CLA Vice President Kanitz. While our weed kill was 100% last year, we had a mild winter causing concern that we might need additional funding for this year's annual invasive weed control. Our membership dues fund this important task. In addition, the CLA continues to provide the annual Fourth of July fireworks show, the Bill Willemin annual goose roundup, police boat patrol, water quality test-

ing, monitoring fish stocking, information to members, newsletter, a directory and monitoring of Township concerns. Our CLA continues to operate under the original Articles from June 5, 1932 that reads "for the purpose of joining together in order that they might protect the natural advantages of said lake and preserve for themselves and their families the natural beauty, health and welfare afforded by said lake." Not everyone will agree on every issue but we all agree that together we have made a huge difference. Your board members are all volunteers doing the best they can and I am proud to serve with them. Please be a part of the effort to keep our lake pristine. We need your support to continue these programs.

Crystal Lake Winter Festival 2016



Ryson Sattler, 7, of St. Johns, slides across the frozen surface of Crystal Lake during the 7th annual Crystal Lake Winter Festival.

Photo Credit: Daily News/Cory Smith

It was the coldest weekend of the year, but that didn't stop the Crystal Winter Festival! The Crystal Lake Association sponsored the Polar Dip warming tent again this year, The Polar Dip had over 30 participants and raised \$1550 for the local fire department. In addi-

tion, a bake sale raised \$85 for Lake Water Quality programs. Thanks to Mike Manning, Bonnie Kanitz, Steve Meinhardt, Roxy Eaton, Leslie Schultz, Cindi & Phil Shaftner and other volunteers for braving the elements. It was cold!

Board of Directors

2015 - 2016

Board President**Steve Meinhardt**

steve@casair.net

Vice President**Bonnie Kanitz**

kanitzb@msn.com

Treasurer**Nancy Ayres****Secretary****Roxy Eaton****Newsletter Editor:****Bill R. Hepburn****Directors:****Fred Engle****Joe Kopchick****Mike Manning****Kim Morgan****John Rydbeck****Crystal Township News****Kim Morgan**

For the last few months, the Crystal Township Board has been considering a contract with a single trash hauler for the entire township. The possible benefits from such a contract could include lower costs to residents and diminished wear and tear on our roads resulting from a reduction in truck traffic. No action has been taken to establish a contract thus far. The Board has also discussed the establishment of a blight ordinance which would require a public hearing.

The Township has also hired a new contractor for the Community Recycling Center. Republic Waste will now empty the containers located in the Crystal Community parking lot on a weekly basis.

The Crystal Township board also approved the Montcalm County Road Commission's Brine contract so we will again see our dirt roads brined this year at a cost of \$33,433.00

The families of Lee Avery and Emily Patin are establishing a memorial at the north west corner of the Crystal park

area with two stones and an arbor with some greenery. A children's play set will also be donated.

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is in discussions regarding the responses to the recent survey concerning what citizens would like to happen here in Crystal. DDA spokesperson Tim Bohan said they will be looking into possible grants available for our Community.

Crystal Township is looking into replacing the trees that were cut down along Main Street because they were growing into the power lines. The DDA told the township they would like to see some type of dwarf tree that would be easier to maintain and still make our downtown area look nice with a little shade. Township officials will be looking at nearby Cities to see what they have planted to beautify their downtown areas.

As a reminder, the Crystal Community Center is a place where many activities take place. We have Zumba classes as well as Yoga classes. Please check the sign in the parking lot for events and times.

CLA Membership**What you get:**

- **Fireworks**
- **Water Quality**
- **Sheriff's Patrol**
- **Goose Roundup**
- **Community Support**
- **Winterfest**
- **Township Report**
- **Lake Association Directory**

Membership is easy – just go to our website and sign up, or mail in your application or call us and we will pick up your application.

Goose Roundup Report**Fred Engle**

Our applications are in for the goose round up and egg/nest destruction. The State informed us there will be a round-up this year providing their checks on the birds find no disease. If they find any disease, they will cancel the round-up again. The roundup is now planned for the last two weeks of June.

Finding the nests and destroying the eggs will occur in late April or early May. There are very strict rules that must be followed and we have three people who are trained to work as team leaders. We plan to send out a mass email and would like to identify 20 peo-

ple willing to help with this project. I estimate it will be an all day job, since we will have a large area to cover.

We won't find all the nests since they walk in from miles around the lake, but we can make a big dent and make the roundup easier with a reduced hatch. We are also told that if we are successful in clearing out the nests, the geese may try to find a different area to nest in future years.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this, please call me at 989-560-4857 or email me at fredengle67@gmail.com.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR VESSEL WAKE

The owner of any vessel is personally responsible for any damage to life or property resulting from a wake or swell created by the negligent operation of the vessel, where the vessel is being operated with his consent. Always maintain safe speeds and follow no-wake laws. www.boat-ed.com

Crystal Sailing Club 2016 Season Launches in May

We'll be busy at the clubhouse the first two weekends in May to prepare for 2016 season. We'll have the dock in by May 14th and the first races on May 21st. Races are scheduled every weekend on alternating Saturdays and Sundays through Labor Day. Highlights this year include:

- ◆ CSC Sailing School is June 23-26. Open to anyone 12 years or older. Some agility and a willingness to get wet is a plus. Contact fdavis@albion.edu if interested.
- ◆ Parade of Sails on the 4th of July. Sailboats decked out to show the flag.
- ◆ A Big Band night fund raiser open to all for a nominal charge on July 23rd featuring the Flat River Band from Greenville.
- ◆ The Crystal Ball Invitational Regatta September 10 - 11. We'll host Flying Scots from around the region.

The club is open to new sailing members and we invite those interested to drop by on a weekend to have a tour. There is plenty of dock space for sailboats, and we have storage lockers and kitchen facilities for members who want to come for the day.



2nd Annual Pig in the Park!

When: June 18th, 11:30 - 1:30 pm (mark your calendar!)

What: Come and experience **the Best Pulled Pork BBQ Plate** with Baked Beans and Coleslaw! Buy homemade goodies at the **Bake Sale** and bid on high quality art and items in the **Silent Auction**.

Purpose: A Crystal Lake Water Quality Fundraiser for the treatment of invasive aquatic plants. To protect and sustain the quality of Crystal Lake for the future generations to come!

Help Needed: Please consider donating home baked goodies or items for the Silent Auction. The CLA is also looking for volunteers to assist in this event.

All money raised goes to the Water Protection program!

All vessels are required to provide at least one United States Coast Guard approved PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE per passenger.

Each child under the age of 6 years, and in an open deck area is **REQUIRED by law to wear a PFD AT ALL TIMES !**

A complete handbook of Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities is available for free download on the internet at www.boat-ed.com

Crystal Lake “State of the Lake” Summary

Update extracted from Restorative Lake Sciences (RLS) Annual Report – Fall 2015

The following information is a summary of key lake findings collected during the spring and summer of 2015.

The overall condition of Crystal Lake is ranked in the top 15% of developed lakes of similar size in the state of Michigan. The water clarity in 2015 ranged between 8 feet at the lowest and 15 feet at the highest. Some of this clarity is due to filtration of the water by Zebra Mussels; however, the majority of the clarity is due to coarse bottom sediment that does not create silty, turbid conditions when high wave or boat activity agitates the lake water. Additionally, the lake has enough nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) to support some algae and submersed aquatic plant growth, but the nutrient levels are considered moderate. Invasive species such as Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) and Starry Stonewort are able to grow in moderate nutrient waters and thus are a challenge to the Crystal Lake ecosystem.

Protection of the 22 native aquatic plant species is paramount for the health of the lake fishery and these plants should not be managed unless they are a nuisance to lakefront property owners and possess navigational and recreational hazards (i.e. lily pads or dense pondweeds in the canal).

The lake experiences depletion of dissolved oxygen with depth during mid-summer which is common for a deep inland lake. Crystal Lake is considered a moderately hard water system with a basic pH and moderate conductivity.

Invasive (Exotic) Aquatic Plant Species

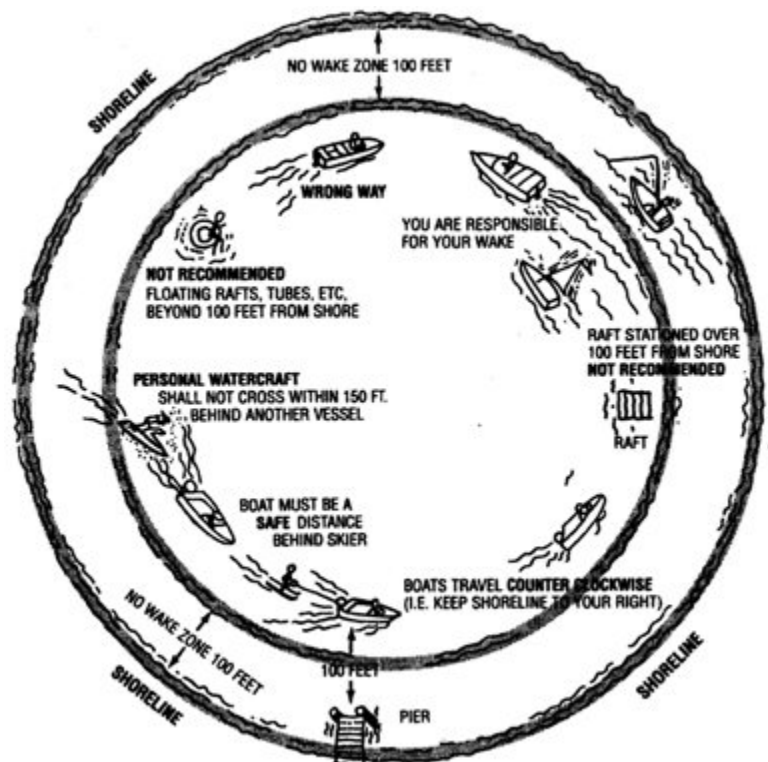
The amount of Eurasian Watermilfoil present in Crystal Lake varies each year and is dependent

upon climatic conditions, especially runoff-associated nutrients. 2015 was the wettest year on record and many lakes experienced nuisance milfoil and algal outbreaks even given the two consecutive harsh winters. The spring 2015 survey revealed that approximately 13 acres of milfoil was found throughout the entire lake which was down from the acreage previously determined in September of 2014. This is likely due to the harsh winters which resulted in some natural kill of the milfoil plants. On June 8th 2015, the nearshore milfoil was treated with granular Triclopyr (Renovate OTF® at a dose of 120 lbs./acre). Offshore milfoil was treated with Sculpin G® at 150 lbs./acre. The treatment was very successful with little growth remaining in 2015.

In addition to the milfoil, there was approximately 1 acre of Starry Stonewort, an invasive macro alga that was treated with Komeen crystals. This treatment was also successful. Much less growth is anticipated in 2016 but a fund balance for any future spot-treatments is needed.

Action Plan 2016 – The CLA Board has approved funding RLS to perform a Spring scan of the lake to determine invasive plant status and if treatment will be warranted at a cost of \$1500. If treatment is needed, CLA will take action to contract with an applicator and then a late summer rescan of the lake to determine effectiveness of treatment will take place. The CLA continues to ask for donations towards lake treatment from members and the community.

**Remember the rules of the lake.
Safe boating prevents accidents.
Watch out for water skiers and
pedal boats and never make a
wake within 100 feet of the shore
or a dock end.**



Michigan Marine Law & Boater Safety

It is the Responsibility of the Water Craft Operator to Know these Laws!

I. SPEED LIMITS

1. Slow – no wake speed within **100 feet** of the shoreline, any watercraft, pier, person, raft, swimming area, and swimmers.
2. **SLOW – NO WAKE!** Means operating at a very slow speed in order to minimize the wake created by your vessel.
3. Maximum speed **55 m.p.h.** in all water unless otherwise regulated.
4. Michigan law states that a person operating a vessel shall operate it in a careful and prudent manner and at such a rate of speed so as not to unreasonably endanger the life or property of any person. A person shall not operate a vessel at a rate of speed greater than will permit him, in the exercise of reasonable care, to bring the vessel to stop within an assured clear distance ahead.

A person shall not operate a vessel in a manner so as to unreasonably interfere with other persons lawfully using Michigan's water resources.

II. TOWING OF PERSONS

1. No water skiing between one hour after sunset and one hour prior to sunrise.
2. At least one competent person, in addition to the driver, shall be in any boat towing persons on water skis, sleds, etc. This additional person shall be in a position to observe the progress of the person being towed.
3. The tow boat must be equipped with a 170 degree wide angle rear view mirror affixed to permit the driver to observe the progress of the person being towed.

III. DISTANCE BETWEEN PERSONS BEING TOWED AND OTHER OBJECTS

Vessels and persons being towed on water skis, water sleds, etc. shall maintain a distance of **100 foot** from any dock, raft, buoyed or occupied bathing areas, or vessels moored or at anchor, except when the vessel is proceeding at a slow-no wake speed or when water skiers are being picked-up or dropped off.

IV. COUNTER-CLOCKWISE OPERATIONS

Persons operating vessels shall operate in a **counter-clockwise** fashion when it is reasonably possible.

V. NOISE LEVEL OF BOATS - Motorboats are required to have mufflers or an underwater exhaust system such that it does not produce sound levels in excess of 90 dB when subjected to a stationary (neutral) sound level test of the engine at no closer than one meter (3.3 feet)

VI. CHILDREN OPERATING MOTORBOATS

1. Persons under 12 years old operating motorboats:
 - Must be under the direct supervision of a person 16 years of age or older; and,
 - The boat must have no more than 35 HP.
2. Persons 12 through 15 years may operate motorboats if either condition below is met;
 - Accompanied by at least one person 16 years or older, or, the person has a boating safety certificate.
3. Any person may operate a motorboat that is powered by a motor of no more than 6 HP.
4. As of October 1, 2011, a person of **less than fourteen (14) years of age** may not legally operate a PWC under any circumstances.
5. A person who was born after December 31, 1978 shall not operate a PWC on Michigan waters unless they have obtained a boating safety certificate.

VII. LIQUOR AND / OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

1. A person who is intoxicated (as defined in the same way as for driving a car) may not operate or be in control of any vessel. The Michigan implied consent law applies for boat operator intoxication testing. Severe fines and/or jail time await those who are observed operating a water craft while intoxicated on alcohol or drugs (legal or illegal).

VIII. OPERATION OF VESSELS

1. Sailboats have the right-of-way to motorboats while they are under sail power.
2. Motorboats shall give way to non-motorized vessels.
3. When two vessels are approaching each other head-on, or nearly so, the operator of each shall cause his vessel to pass on the port (left) side of the other (i.e. keep the approaching boat to your left).
4. When over taking a vessel proceeding in the same direction, the operator of the over taking vessel, unless it is not feasible to so do, shall pass on the port (left) side of the vessel ahead (i.e. keep the overtaken boat to your right).
5. When two vessels are approaching each other at right angles or obliquely so as to involve risk of collision, the operator of the vessel which has the other on his own port (left) side shall hold his course and speed, and the operator of the vessel which has the other on his own starboard (right) side shall give way to the other by directing his course to starboard so as to cross the stern of the other vessel or, if necessary to do so, shall slacken his speed, stop or reverse.

CLA Membership Application and Donation Form

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Mailing City, State & Zip _____

Crystal Address _____

Contact Phone _____ Email _____

CHECK HERE IF YOU WOULD LIKE FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE VIA EMAIL _____

	2016 ANNUAL DUES	\$ <u>45.00</u>
FIREWORKS DONATION (2016 TARGET \$9,000)		\$ _____
WATER QUALITY FUND (2016 TARGET \$8,000)		\$ _____
LEGAL DEFENSE FUND		\$ _____
	TOTAL	\$ _____

WE NOW ACCEPT PAYPAL, CREDIT CARDS or ACH. Pay to: Crystal Lake Association
Mail To: Crystal Lake Association (CLA) PO Box 307, Crystal MI 48818

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

Crystal Lake Association

P.O. Box 307

Crystal, MI 48818

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