



Photo by B. Kohn

Crystal Lake
Association
Fall 2023 Newsletter



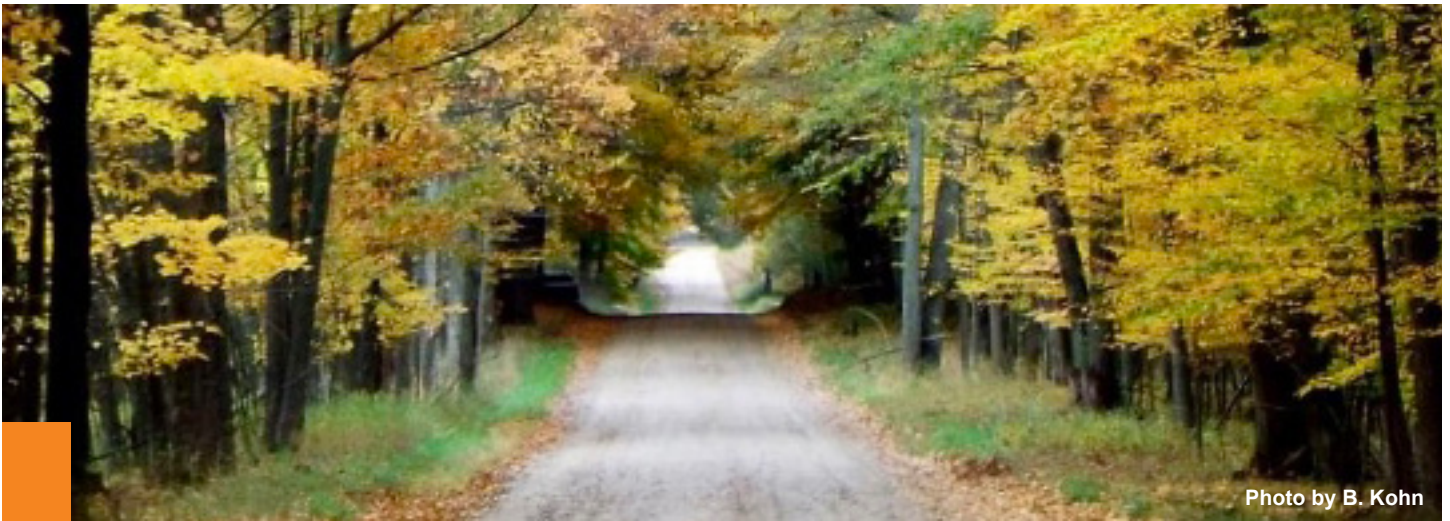


Photo by B. Kohn

Prominent Township Items

Brad Wooton

Since just recently becoming a member of the CLA board, my roll as a director is to take over where Tim Dorch left off. Hopefully I can achieve this as diplomatically as Tim did!! I want to take a moment to thank Tim for his years of service on the board that he so graciously volunteered to do. I looked forward to getting the CLA newsletters and Tim's diligent, detailed reporting that kept our members in touch over the years. Thanks Tim and to all of the board members who make a difference.



Brad Wooton

New news on the trash compactor

Just like everyone else, I am also anxiously waiting for this project to show more signs of progress. The township had already approved \$5,000 months ago to help in developing the plan. At this point the location for the new compactor will be at the current recycling location due to the availability of the required 3 phase power. The current recycle bins will be relocated across the parking lot until the compactor is installed. There is potential for surveillance cameras at the site as well to hopefully quell the desire to leave old grills and or mattresses deemed NOT recyclable!! There may have to be some upgrading for a concrete pad at that site but as of now the plans are still being reviewed by Republic Sanitation Services and Consumers Energy. A new and improved recycling center is right around the corner, but in the mean time lets do our part in

keeping our recycling area nice and neat.

The Missing Money.... \$1000

It's still a mystery! As of the last township meeting in August it was disclosed that the investigation was closed with no one being charged with any crime. There were multiple people questioned and some submitting results from lie detector tests that proved their innocence but still resulting in no new leads or evidence. I would recommend reading two Daily News articles that explicitly describe the chain of events: "Crystal Township theft investigation closed, no charges filed", and the other article dated August 15th, "Crystal Township Board looks into internal controls study" that details further audit discrepancies and corrective action plan recommendations over the course of the last ten years. These articles get to the nitty gritty! In connection with all of this, the subject of recalling our township treasurer has fallen short. Not enough signatures were obtained to proceed with a ballot option, however, it is her primary goal to clear her name with an internal controls audit due in October.

Fire alarm for the community center

We are all aware of the potential the Crystal Community Center has, but with all its disparities it can be perplexing!! There was a special township board meeting on Aug 17th regarding an investment for a fire alarm system that was a much needed safety

Continued on next page



Photo by B. Kohn

Prominent Township Items

Continued from previous page

upgrade. It was voted on and approved quickly. Because Eight-CAP is occupying some of the office space, they will also be footing half of the bill. It is state of the art... including battery back up, digital communication for offsite monitoring, photoelectric smoke detection and HVAC duct detection for smoke in the system during air movement. Pretty fancy

but the old system was outdated and could no longer be used. There has been discussion for many years regarding what's next for the community center only to be perpetually delayed due to use options and costs involved in required repairs. Hopefully our community can come together on a resolution moving forward at some point.



Photo by B. Kohn

Record setting year for Membership

Carl Jonas, Membership Co-Chair

We at the Crystal Lake Association are pleased to announce that the 2023 season membership has reached an all time high of 404 members! If you are reading this and have not yet become a member in 2023 - it's not too late. We are still 11 memberships shy of our goal for the year so please renew today if not yet a member.

Thank you to all who have worked hard to help us achieve this historic membership number. We are hoping to increase membership again in 2024 so your continued support is very important. To all our members – we couldn't begin to do our work without your support. Thank you from all of us at the Crystal Lake Association.

Crystal Lake Association Board of Directors

President

Steve Meinhardt
e: steve@casair.net

Vice President

Nancy Ayres
e: nayres3801@gmail.com

Treasurer

Kim Morgan

Secretary Pro-Tem

Bonnie Kanitz

Directors

Eric Johnson
Carl Jonas • Kent Roth
Jim Ayres • Brad Wooton

Why CLA Membership?

Water Quality
Goose Roundup
Fireworks • Sheriff's Patrol
Newsletters
Township Meeting Attendance
Lake Association Directory
Community Support

Membership is Easy:

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

Dues:

Only \$45.00 per year directly supports your Crystal Lake.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO
BECKY KOHN
for providing photos for this
newsletter**

DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPT. 27 - 4:00 PM
Paint with Tara
Crystal Comm. Library

OCT. 8 - 1:00 PM
Paint with Tara
Uptown Bar

OCT. 25 - 6:00 to 7:30 PM
Halloween Bash
Crystal Comm. Center

OCT. 28 - 7:00 to 10:00 PM
Rainbow Garden
Halloween Party and
Costume Contest

OCT. 31 - 5:00 to 7:00 pm
Trunk or Treat
Township Parking Lot

NOV. 12 - 1:00 PM
Paint with Tara
Uptown Bar

NOV. 29 - 6:00 PM
Dan Eller Memorial Tree
Lighting - Crystal
Congregational Church

DEC. 16 - 7:00 to 10:00 PM
Rainbow Gardens
Christmas Party with Santa,
Games and Prizes

FEB. 17, 2024
Winterfest
and
Free Fishing Weekend



CLA 2023 Fall Fireworks News

Kent W. Roth

Crystal Lake Association sponsors and funds the annual fireworks show, one of Crystal's most popular events. The show brings considerable visibility to the CLA's commitment to the community. With a successful, safe, fantastic 2023 show behind us, planning for the 2024 show is well underway. Contracts have been negotiated with the vendor, permits acquired and safety meetings with local fire department and law enforcement done. Normally, fireworks are held the evening of July 4th at 10:30 pm. The show is launched from our four barges with the addition of a fifth this year at the center of the lake, making it visible to all the residents and visitors. A decision on whether to proceed with the launch due to inclement weather is made by noon on the day of launch. Notification is made through a post on the CLA's face

book page and website.

A special thank you goes to our former CLA director and firework chair Mike Manning for his tireless work to bring the sky to life for so many years. We would also like to thank CLA directors Eric Johnson and Carl Jonas for their wizardry this year on fastening the fifth and newest barge to our armada, making for a safer launch platform. It sailed high and dry. Finally, the CLA would like to extend a thank you to Justin Palethorpe for the generous donation of the said new barge/pontoon.

As a reminder, 100% of the cost of the annual fireworks show comes from the generous donations from our members and the public. Please help to make 2024 show the best when you renew your membership.



CLA Membership is Easy

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





Goose Maintenance Update - Fall 2023

Eric Johnson

No updated news to report on the Goose front. We plan to apply for a "Goose Control Permit" in 2024 to include whatever methods are available to us. Hopefully, we will be able to do the Roundup.

I will update you in the Spring Newsletter about our progress. Since the Spring Newsletter does not come out until we are well into Egg Maintenance, I would also like to remind you of ways you can help long distance next spring:

- 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 information 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 have not 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 or use the permission slip included in this newsletter).

If you have any thoughts, ideas, recommendations or even gripes, please feel free to contact me at ejohnson@edzone.net.

Thank you for your help and enjoy your fall and winter.

Below are all the programs and activities that your membership supports:

- *July 4 fireworks show
- *Goose control program
- *Newsletters
- *Facebook page
- *Water treatment to keep the lake clean
- *Sheriff patrol on the lake for safety
- *Annual Directory of lake residents

Know Your LAKE

What is Eurasian Water Milfoil?

Eurasian Water Milfoil is an invasive aquatic plant that can cause significant problems for freshwater lakes. It is native to Europe and Asia but has become a problem in the United States. Milfoil grows underwater on the lakebed. It can outcompete our natural aquatic plants, forming dense mats that make it difficult for fish to feed, swim, and reproduce. If left untreated it will also reduce the oxygen levels in the lake, leading to poor water quality and fish kills. It can grow and spread very fast, so ongoing monitoring and treatment are essential.



Egg Maintenance Permission Slip

I give the the "CLA, Goose Maintenance Team", licensed by Michigan DNR, authorization to enter my property for the purpose of finding and removing goose eggs during the dates authorized by the licensing authority.

Name: _____

Crystal Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Contact Email: _____

Signature _____

Mail To: Crystal Lake Association Goose Maintenance Program,
P.O. Box 307, Crystal, MI 48818
or Email: ejohnson@edzone.net

MONTCALM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PROPERTY INSPECTION REQUEST

NAME : _____ PHONE: (____) _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

DESCRIPTION OF HOUSE: _____

ALL BUILDINGS LOCKED? _____ ANY UTILITIES ON? _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER OF SOMEONE NEARBY WE CAN CONTACT IN CASE OF A PROBLEM

WHERE CAN YOU BE CONTACTED WHILE AWAY? _____

_____ PHONE: (____) _____

LEAVE DATE: _____ RETURN DATE: _____

OTHER NOTES: _____

The Montcalm County Sheriff's official website continues to offer a Property Inspection check program. The Sheriff's Office has forms available for interested property owners (shown above). You may request a vacation house check by downloading the 2-page form at this web address: http://www.montcalm.us/document_center/Sheriff/property%20inspection%202017.pdf. Fill it out and either print/mail it to the Sheriff's Office; or if you wish, scan/email it to mcsherff@montcalm.us.



Photo by B. Kohn

Water Quality - Fall 2023

Jim Ayres

Our lake remained healthy this summer, but it required ongoing monitoring and investment. Our Spring survey, as reported in the previous newsletter, found 13 acres of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), which was treated with a total cost of \$13,000, including the survey.

In July, we had a second survey performed by Restorative Lake Sciences. The second survey found an additional 9 acres of EWM, and 1 acre of Starry Stonewort (SSW). Both of these invasive species are a major concern, and if left untreated can cause irreparable, long-term, damage to our lake. The additional growth found in the second survey was likely related to last year's mild winter. We had less ice, and also less snow on the ice. This means more light to enable survival of the weeds and seed beds. In July, we had a second treatment performed for both species at a cost of \$7,900, which should drive levels down as we enter Winter.

Throughout the summer we also monitor lake clarity, and we take samples for the DNR to assess chlorophyll levels and phosphorus levels. Our lake clarity over the summer was good and remained similar to past years. Our Spring phosphorus reading was 5 parts per billion, which is a very healthy level. High phosphorus levels are warning signs of excessive weed growth that can lead to lake death. We will be

taking final samples for both chlorophyll and phosphorus in September and will receive the DNR report summarizing all of the data later this year.

It is very important that we continue our monitoring, surveys, and treatments to ensure that invasive species are controlled and that our lake is healthy. This is one of the most important missions of the CLA. We appreciate your support!



Photo by B. Kohn

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 _____

Legal Defense Fund _____

Total _____

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