

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.

Coming Events

**April/May 2017
CLA Membership
Drive**

**May 27-29, 2017
CLA Membership
Directory Distribution**

**Annual
Lake Association
Fireworks
July 4th 10:30 P.M.**

**General Membership
Meeting Saturday
July 8, 2017 10 A.M.**

**Don't miss the
4th of July
Fireworks
10:30 P.M.**



Crystal Lake Association

Established June 5, 1932 www.crystalonline.org

CRYSTAL LAKE WATER QUALITY UPDATE

Hooray! Our water quality program is working! We now have six years of data for historical trends and the 2016 Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) reported Crystal

fertilizers and soaps, being extra careful to not spill fuels.

This is the third year we have contracted to have invasive aquatic species treated in the lake. Last year the scan and treatment



Spring rains and a wet winter has brought water levels to near record highs

Lake having a TSI score of 35, rating the lake as "oligotrophic". In layman's terms we are reversing negative trends in total phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, and Secchi transparency. Translated, we are a healthy lake! Thank you to all our members for not using phosphorous based

did not occur till mid-summer with a follow-up scan and treatment in August. Due to the warm winter, it is a plus to have had the rescan and retreatment as these species grow over the winter.

Our contractor, Restorative Lake Sciences, has promised an early scan of the lake for

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Your CLA Membership Is Important

What's in it for me, you might ask! If you boat, swim, fish or watch the fireworks at Crystal Lake, you are enjoying the benefits of the Crystal Lake Association. The CLA provides many programs which enhance your enjoyment and safety at the lake. From the 4th of July Fireworks (completely paid for by the CLA members), the June goose round-up, a very successful Lake Water Quality

Program keeping invasive plants to a minimum, decorative signage around the lake, DNR planting Walleye fingerlings, and representation at Township Board Meetings, the CLA works hard to protect and preserve a high quality of recreational life here on Crystal Lake. It also promotes local businesses, sponsors a Facebook Page and publishes the annual Cottage Directory!

We cannot continue these Con't on page 2

Board of Directors

2017-2018

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****Deb Moomey****CLA Membership****What you get:**

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

Membership is easy

Go to our website crystalonline.org and sign up, or mail in your application or call us and we will pick up your application. Dues are only \$45 per year. Please support the Crystal lake.

Crystal Township News**Kim Morgan**

The lake started to come alive Easter weekend as more and more people headed back to enjoy the warm weather and the flowers and trees starting to bloom. The docks are in at the boat launch and private docks are going in daily around the lake.

This year's Winterfest was a success. The warmer temperatures brought people out for all the usual activities except the polar plunge, which was cancelled for not having a good 12 inches of ice.

An update to the proposed Garbage and Refuse Ordinance of Crystal Township Montcalm County, Michigan draft 8-10-2016 the Township is working on has been put on hold.

At the May meeting, a committee will be formed to advise the Township board when considering fees and penalties resulting from actions or inactions by the previous Township Clerk, Bob Naumann and the current Township Treasurer, Ted Padgett. Through the Freedom of Information Act, it was

learned that \$1,180.00 was paid to the State Unemployment Agency because forms were not filed in a timely manner for the 1st three quarters of 2016.

\$3,885.00 was paid to auditors, Yeo & Yeo, for a 20% penalty resulting from extra work required to complete the 2015-2016 audit as the necessary paperwork was not made available in a timely manner. Another \$1,700.00 was paid to the IRS for unpaid payroll taxes for the 4th quarter of 2015 and the 1st three quarters in 2016.

During the April Township meeting, the Board discussed bringing in an independent auditor to reconcile the tax account funds which have not been reconciled since 2015. The estimated cost to the township is \$8,000-\$10,000. As a result of the late unemployment insurance and payroll taxes issues the Township is unable to apply for any grants or issue any bonds.

Remember to support our local businesses and purchase a Crystal calendar which lists all of the important dates for this year's activities in our community.

Goose Roundup 2017

The mild temperatures and rain we had this winter season may have an effect on the number of geese we will have on the lake in the spring.

We are projecting that the goose roundup will occur on June 16th or 23rd. We will need about 12 pontoons for the roundup and five people on the ground keeping the geese in the water.

If you can help, please contact me at fredengle67@gmail.com or my phone number is 989-560-4857. Fred Engle

Membership

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programs without maximum membership and contributions to our programs.

Last year, 278 members were signed up! Thank you for your support in joining the CLA. Membership is open to all friends of the lake whether you live on or off the lake. Our 2017 goal is 300 members!

Membership placards and cottage directories will be handed out Memorial Weekend, so get your membership in early.

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

An update from Montcalm County Sheriff Mike Williams



Montcalm County Sherriff Mike Williams

I am sure most have read that we have lost numerous Law Enforcement Deputies and had other deep cuts this past budget year. We effectively have no regular general Sheriff patrols in Montcalm County. Crystal Township, however, is fortunate to have a separate contract for one Deputy that works 40 hours a week within the Township borders. If you have a situation that requires law enforcement involvement, please continue to call Central Dispatch at [989-831-5253](tel:989-831-5253) or 911. If your Township Deputy is not on duty, the State Police will handle your call.

I am happy to announce that our Marine Patrols will continue

in 2017, although at reduced hours. The extra weekend patrol that the Lake Association has arranged with us will also continue. The partnership we have had for the past years has been important to ensuring safe recreation on the Lake. In keeping with this cooperation, the Lake Association has recently installed a new motor, paint job, and upholstered seats in the patrol boat we leave on Crystal Lake. I appreciate the efforts of the association to assist us in this manner.

You may also see our Marine Deputies on PWC's this summer. Nelson's Speed shop in Greenville donated two watercraft for our use this summer at no cost to the taxpayers or the Crystal Lake Association. If you happen to be in their store be sure to thank them for supporting us. As always, if you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Have a safe and enjoyable 2017 boating season,
Sheriff Mike Williams

WATER QUALITY UPDATE

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starry stonewort and Eurasian milfoil, etc. We hope to have treatment done by mid-May. The CLA, with the generous help from our members, have spent over \$25,000 in the past two years. Today, most lakes in Michigan have these invasive plants. Improperly cleaned boats can carry these from lake to lake! We have received many phone calls from other lakes asking about our water quality program and the methods we use.

Please remind your friends bringing their boats to follow Michigan's "Clean Boats – Clean Waters" Act! Ensure bilge water has been emptied, boats and trailers have been washed and allowed to dry for a minimum of 3 to 5 days. Inspect to ensure no plant matter (even dry) is present, as it can and will reconstitute itself once rehydrated!

Fireworks 2017

One of the more visible programs supported by the CLA is the 4th of July fireworks show. Fireworks Chair Mike Manning, with some assistance from Steve Meinhardt, sets the budgets, selects the company, gets the permits, provides for the maintenance and storage of the barges and coordinates with the township, public safety and shooters. On the day of the fireworks Mike arranges for the barges, anchors, motor and ropes to be available for the vendor at the old boat launch. Mike and Steve meet the vendor and public safety personnel early in the morning to discuss the event logistics. Once the fireworks are attached to the barges they escort the barges to the selected GPS center of the lake and set the anchors. Bill and Sharon Hepburn provide a pontoon for the shooters to remotely set off the fireworks. They transfer the shooters to and from the barges before

Our program depends on the generosity of our members and contributions from others within the community as the State of Michigan provides no funds for this program.

Average costs are estimated to be \$12000 per year to maintain the needed level of water treatment. Please be generous when contributing to the water quality program! A healthy lake ensures all property values are protected.

We are always in search of volunteers to help with weekly and monthly water quality testing! If you are interested, please contact Bonnie Kanitz, 989-283-9339.

and after the show.

The budget is set based on ear marked donations that for many years has covered 100% of the costs. Last year a malfunction occurred during the show that resulted in a portion of the program not functioning and damaged two barges. The vendor agreed to replace the two damaged barges and reduce the charge for the show accordingly. Learning from this experience, the barges will be anchored separately this year with enough space between to ensure a malfunction will have limited impact. We encourage everyone to donate to the fireworks fund to insure we have good show and more importantly give our children memories that we had while growing up here. Its tradition going back many years. Our goal is to always improve the show. Thank you for your continued support.

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 _____

WE NOW ACCEPT PAYPAL, CREDIT CARDS or ACH. Pay to: Crystal Lake Association	2017 ANNUAL DUES (\$45.00)	\$ _____
	Fireworks Donation (2016 Target \$9000)	\$ _____
	Water Quality Fund (2016 Target \$11,000)	\$ _____
	Legal Defense Fund	\$ _____
Mail To: Crystal Lake Association (CLA) PO Box 307, Crystal MI 48818	Total	\$ _____

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

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

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On Facebook Let's be Friends**