

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

July 28 – 7-9 pm

Concert in the Park
with Hagen/Hudson
(Swing/Jazz/Pop)

Aug 6th 8 a.m.

Annual Run the Lake
(20 year Anniversary)

Aug 11 – 7-9 p.m.

Concert in the Park with
Country Rhythm (old
country/gospel)

Aug 13 – 9-3 p.m.

ARTFEST and Car Show
with Chicken BBQ

Aug 20 – 10 p.m.

Moonlight Golf Cart Ride
Around the Lake

Aug 25 – 7-9 pm

Concert in the Park with
Repop (Country)

September 10 - 11

The Crystal Ball
Invitational Regatta

Danger Buoy

CLA has gotten approval to place a danger buoy to warn boaters that there are two large rocks in the sandbar on the southeast side of the lake. The Sheriff's Department assisted in gaining approval for the placement of the buoy and will be putting it in place when it arrives. The buoy is on order and should be in place by the first week in August .

Crystal Lake Association

Established June 5, 1932 www.crystalonline.org

2016 Crystal Lake Fireworks

Steve Meinhardt

The most visible activity of the CLA is the annual 4th of July fireworks show. There is a lot involved in making this happen. We advertise, we collect donations, we handle the permitting, we hire the shooters, we maintain our barges and motor, we coordinate and transport the shooters on the day of the event. As on-lookers could see, a bad shell destroyed half of our show in a chain reaction explosion right on the deck of one of the 4 barges tethered together. The previous fireworks contractor had two shooters on one of the barges during the show. This was one of the deciding factors in selecting Bill's Fireworks. The firing process they use is wireless and

allows the shooter to detonate shells remotely from 300 yards away. Bill's Fireworks is also a local company.

Most important no one was hurt other than the pride of everyone involved. After the mishap, they were able to salvage the grand finale, albeit early. What did go up did look great. They still managed to get 70% of the purchased shells fired over the 50% of the time allotted. After the show the cleanup was enormous. We applaud our Montcalm County Sheriff's personnel and DNR for staying late and helping with the cleanup. When it was all said and done CLA Chair Mike Manning and I finally got back home close to 2am.

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In spite of a shell which misfired during the show damaging some of the remaining fireworks the grand finale was truly spectacular. Photo courtesy of Larry Johnston

Board of Directors

2016- 2017

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 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**

—On July 23 and July 24 Tony Ellis will be holding a Jazz and Car show in Crystal Township Park. The car show will include classic cars and new cars to show how cars have changed over the years.

—Renewal of the current EMS millage will be on the Montcalm County ballot on August 2nd, Please note that this is a renewal of the current millage and not an increase. These tax dollars go directly to Montcalm County EMS and are not used by the County for any other service.

—There will be a special Township meeting on July 27, 2016 at 7pm to discuss adopting a local Township ordinance on blight. Other topics will include contracting with a single trash hauler and possibly including recycling pickup as part of the service.

—The CLA's members have always been concerned about funneling as this could have a very negative effect on property values. Your Township officials are considering granting a variance creating two 25ft parcels near the Golf Course. If this variance is granted, it could set a precedent over the minimum 50-foot frontage now in place. The CLA's mission from 1932 is to protect our member's real property. While it's important to have proper development of abandoned land

the Township Officials must consider the impact to all the neighboring residents values which certainly could result in lost tax revenue. When you consider riparian rights at 25ft it is nearly impossible to get a boat in or out without encroaching on neighboring property and this could cause problems down the road for the owners of the small parcels. This is exactly why majority of lakes in Michigan have an "Anti-Funneling Ordinance" in place. The CLA encourages all cottage owners to attend the August 1 Township Board Meeting to express your concerns and views.

—The Township board members voted to accept a contract from the Carson City Library to move our Crystal library from its current location at the corner of Park and Lake St. into the Crystal Community Building which will allow the Crystal Historical Society to move into the old library building.

—The Downtown Development Authority has presented ideas to the Township board for new signage for Crystal Township Park. The new signage would include removing the old signs and putting one 6 ft. sign at the northwest corner of the park with the name of the park on one side and the rules on the opposite side. The Township board suggested additional rule signs in various places in and around the park.

To Change or not to Change the Fireworks Date

At the annual meeting there was discussion of holding the fireworks on July 3rd. This was tried in the past but received a lot of negative feedback. With social media and better communications with our members we plan to ask the question again. The pros to the 3rd are that most everyone can attend, it gives us a rain day, or in the case of this years mishap would have given us the 4th to do another

show. Also the 4th of July is a holiday for many people so we could avoid having the fireworks late at night before a "back to work" day. After listening to the pros and cons discussion at the meeting, it appears that the middle of the road would be to have the fireworks on the 4th only when the 4th falls on a Friday or Saturday and have it on the 3rd the rest of the time. We plan to put out a survey about this. So check your email and like us on Facebook.

2016 Crystal Lake Fireworks

Continued from page 1

As a follow-up Bill's Fireworks hired a scuba diver and we spent the better part of a day searching the bottom of the lake in 45 feet of water. The diver commented on how clear our water is and deemed the area clear, only finding two pop cans and part of a flag. Bill Collins, the owner, hasn't had a similar issue in over ten years and offered to take no payment for the show.

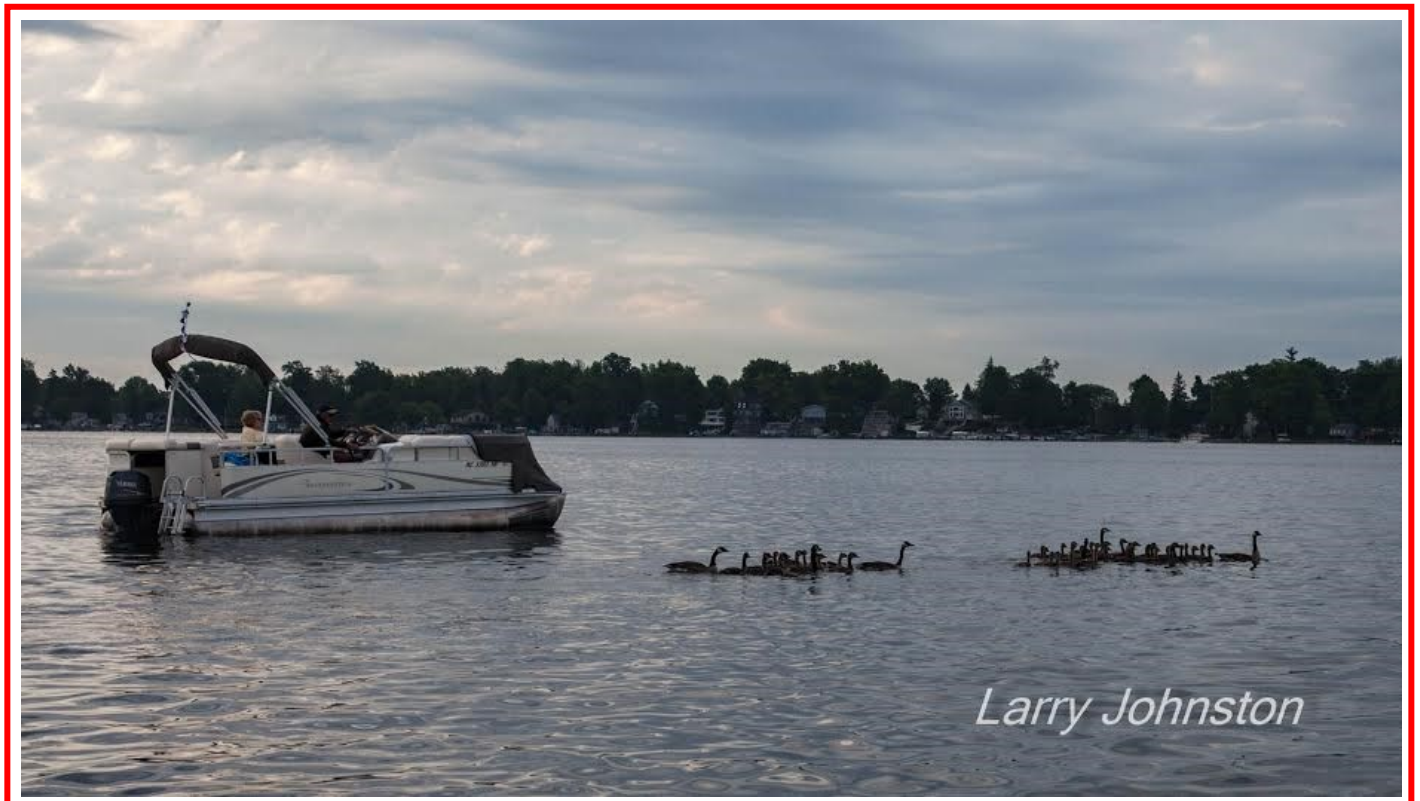
The day after the show we assessed our four barges and agreed two would need to be scrapped. As replacements Bill's Fireworks donated a nicer barge than we started with and we have

a purchase agreement for the 2nd one. To make it right with the vendor and fair to the CLA, we negotiated a payment of 50% minus the cost of the replacement barge and rigging. He also agreed to no price increase for next year's show.

We discussed how to prevent or minimize damage in the future and agreed we will separate the barges next year to minimize the chance of a problem on one barge affecting another. This incident has been taken very seriously by all involved and we have taken a lot of time to make sure we've addressed every detail.

Membership Report

268 Memberships have been renewed in 2016. Last year we had 288. Our goal for 2016 is 300! If you still have a 2015 membership card in your window, let's replace it with a 2016 renewal. It takes the whole community to sustain the lake and the programs the CLA administers. Remind your neighbors that the Goose Round-up, Fireworks, Water Quality and Treatment Programs, etc. are 100% funded by the CLA, not local government and without your support they would not exist. If you have not yet done so please renew your membership today.



Larry Johnston

Eight pontoons and seven people on shore participated in this year's annual goose roundup. The effort netted 62 geese which were successfully relocated.

Water Quality – Securing Our Lake’s Future

The survey of the lake for aquatic invasive plants/species was done on June 17th. After much debate, the treatment was delayed to July 12th as swimming is not recommended for 24 hrs of treatment so the July 4th vacations were not impacted. All CLA members with email addresses were sent notice plus the map of the lake where Eurasian Milfoil and Starry Stonewort weed beds were located. Eurasian Milfoil has been reduced from 15.5 acres to 13.5 and starry stonewort reduced from 1.5 acres to .33.

So far, our plan of action is working. A post survey scan of the lake will take place about five weeks after treatment to assess the effectiveness. The total cost for this year’s lake management has been reduced from \$15,000 last year to approximately \$9300. Thru the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) and volunteer time, we were confident to drop some of the contractor’s lake tests as they duplicated our

efforts, i.e. Spring/Fall phosphorous, monthly Chlorophyll(a), secchi disk. Contributions from our CLA members is \$6,600 and the fundraiser, Pig in the Park, netted \$1200, leaving approximately \$1800 shortfall in program funds this year. We hope that additional contributions will be made to cover total cost.

To prevent the spread of invasive plants:

- ◆ Remember to have your visitors follow the Clean Boat/Clean Water Act of Michigan if they are bringing watercraft to our lake!
- ◆ Recommended Actions:
 - **CLEAN** boats, trailers and equipment
 - **DRAIN** live wells, bilges and all water
 - **DRY** boats and equipment
 - **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait in the trash

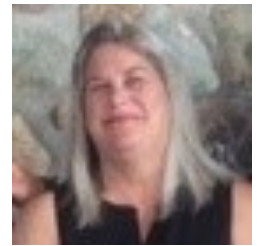
CLA Committee Assignments

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Fireworks | Meinhardt and Manning |
| Directory | Eaton |
| Membership | Kanitz |
| Goose Relocation | Engel and Manning |
| Public Safety | Meinhardt |
| Water Quality | Kanitz |
| Online/Website | Kopchick |
| Facebook | Eaton and Kanitz |
| Newsletter | Hepburn |
| Winterfest | Moomey and Manning |
| Township | Morgan |

Please feel free to contact these committee chairs if you would like to volunteer to help.

Deborah Moomey joins the CLA Board

Deborah and her husband Miles moved to Crystal three years ago. She works for the Gratiot County Commission on Aging part time. They have two grown children and four grandchildren. Deborah has been involved with community activities for the past 30 years and is excited to work with the Crystal Lake Association. Deborah will be chairing the Winterfest committee and looking forward to helping with other CLA programs and meeting more people in the Crystal community.



Goose Roundup Report

This year’s goose roundup was on June 10, 2016. There were 62 geese rounded up. We had great participation (eight pontoons and seven people on land). One of the new issues with this round up was all the geese were not located in the same place. While 62 of the geese were on the North Shore west of the roller rink, there were 20 more

birds down by the inlet at Waldron Road. These geese moved back away from the lake and took shelter in the fields and woods and could not be found. So while we got the majority of the geese there are still about 20 left on the lake. See photo on page 3.

Fred Engle



2016-2017 Crystal Lake Association Board of Directors. Standing (L to R) Mike Manning, Joe Kopchick, Steve Meinhardt, Fred Engle, Deborah Moomey, Bill Hepburn. Seated (L to R) Bonnie Kanitz, Kim Morgan, Nancy Ayres, Roxy Eaton.

2016 Crystal Lake Association Annual Meeting Held July 9th

A group of 58 cottage owners attended the annual meeting of the Crystal Lake Association held July 9, 2016 at the Crystal Sailing Club. Representatives of the Montcalm County Sheriff's Department, John Russell (Sheriff's Patrol) and Cameron Bunker (Marine Patrol) were on hand to report on our local community and answer questions. In response to complaints regarding jet ski operators and boaters who fail to comply with the law requiring them to maintain the appropriate distance from occupied docks and other watercraft the officers indicated that they were aware of the problem and would be taking action to cite offenders.

Jim Robertson of the Coast Guard Auxiliary spoke to the group regarding the role of the Auxiliary. They are volunteers and they provide direct support to the Coast Guard in all areas. He represents boater

safety and education. He is available periodically at the boat landing to provide boat inspections for those who would like to know if their boat is in compliance. The primary focus is to educate boaters on required safety equipment and the safe and legal operation of their boat.

During May 161 boats were inspected- 143 power boats 17 wave runners 1 paddle craft. Of the 161 inspected- 48% passed and 55 failed due to lack of registration. The next most common infraction was no throw able life preserver. Most people forget that a throw able must be attached to a rope so that you can pull a person back to the boat. Missing or expired fire extinguishers and inoperable lights were two of the other most common reasons for failure to pass inspection.

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 _____

GO PAPERLESS!

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| 2016 ANNUAL DUES (\$45.00) | \$ _____ |
| 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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On Facebook Let's be Friends**