

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

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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**

2019 ANNUAL DUES (\$45.00)	\$ _____
Fireworks Donation (2019 Target \$9000)	\$ _____
Water Quality Fund (2019 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>

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.

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Story Suggestion?

Email your ideas for future CLA newsletter topics to mcneilcheryl8@gmail.com

Advertising Sponsors Accepted

Would your business like to sponsor an upcoming issue? Sponsor fees help defray publication costs of the CLA Newsletters.

Contact roxy4msu@yahoo.com

Crystal Lake Association

Established June 5, 1932 www.crystalonline.org

Thankful for YOU, CLA Member!

CLA Membership Chair, Nancy Ayers

Summer is in full swing and I am happy to report that our membership total, at the end of July, is 281. That means we are just 19 members short of our annual goal. We thank you for signing up for membership this year. The financial support you provide to the CLA allows us to do important work for the lake.

Your support allowed us to have the Goose Roundup to safely remove them from the lake. It supported the fireworks on July 4th that went off without a hitch this year. It allowed us to treat the lake for invasive plant species. It supported the newsletter you are currently reading and the Facebook page that keeps more than 1000 followers up to date on hap-

penings around the lake. It helps pay for the Sheriff Marine Patrol on the lake to help keep us all safe.

So how do we sign up those last 19 members to reach our goal? Have you ever considered giving a CLA membership to a friend, relative or neighbor? It makes a great birthday present or just an unexpected "thank you" for someone who did something nice for you. And it's certainly a gift that keeps on giving as you know by all the good work it supports.

Hope you stay safe and happy for the rest of the summer and fall. Thank you again for your support. The CLA would not exist without you!

Goose Round-Up Report

CLA Chair, Fred Engle

In 2019, in keeping with Department of Natural Resources regulations, 101 potential Canadian geese were removed from Crystal Lake. *Potential*, because 66 eggs had been gathered in April and on June 21st, only 38 *actual* geese remained! 35 geese were rounded-up and sent to the DNR designated sanctuary near Belding. Your membership dues pay for this service; there are license and per-bird relocation fees required.

Obtaining the 66 eggs before they hatched (incubation period is 28-35 days) was important in preventing 66 nuisance geese in May and June. This is the first time, since I have been chairman, that this was accomplished and to continue, your help is needed.

The DNR's preferred means of goose control is egg collection in April and early May. Crystal Lake Association has four people trained for this task, but we need to know nest locations and to obtain permission to go onto the property of the identified nest. Whether you come in the spring or live here year-round, **PLEASE check your property and surrounding area for nests and call me, 989-560-4857.**

All in all, despite the rain and high-water levels and geese being in dispersed groups, this was a successful round-up. 14 pontoon boats herded the geese over the water once they were flushed onto the lake by about eight people on the ground. Thank you to my assistants!



Board Directors 2019-20

President

Steve Meinhardt
steve@casair.net

Vice President

Nancy Ayres
nayres3801@gmail.com

Treasurer

Kim Morgan

Secretary

Roxy Eaton

Directors:

Tim Dorch
Fred Engle
Joe Kopchick
Mike Manning
Cheryl McNeil
Kent Roth

CLA Board Volunteers Agree to Continue

At the July 6th Crystal Lake Association General Membership meeting, Roxy Eaton, Mike Manning, and Steve Meinhardt agreed to serve the Crystal Lake community for another three year term. Membership approval was unanimous.



From left to right: Mike Manning, Tim Dorch, Joe Kopchick, Cheryl McNeil, Nancy Ayres, Kim Morgan, Roxy Eaton, Steve Meinhardt, Fred Engle, and Kent Roth

Why CLA Membership?

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

Membership is easy:

visit website

crystalonline.org

or

mail form (page 6)

or

call 616-901-3961

for pick-up!

Dues = \$45 per year
directly support your
Crystal lake!

BOOM BOOM BOOM!!!!

CLA Fireworks Chair, Mike Manning

Our 2019 fireworks show was again a success thanks to the generous donations of those around the lake who either contributed additional money with their CLA membership dues, or placed money in the collection boxes around Crystal. TOGETHER WE MAKE IT HAPPEN, so I'd like to share a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to bring the fireworks to Crystal Lake.

The CLA committed \$9600 to this year's new shooter, Trident Pyrotechnic Displays, Inc. which also has the race-track's fireworks business. Early 4th of July morning, the shooters arrived to load around 610 ordinances ranging in size from 2 ½" to 6" diameter onto the barges. This is not always an easy feat, so CLA board members **Steve Meinhardt** and **Kent Roth** joined me to assist; we ended up working hours that day due to unexpected barge issues.

Each year, weeks before the 4th, one or more of the CLA's four, fireworks barges requires maintenance or upgrades. We plan for this. This year, the little motor used to push the barges got a free tune-up from **Roger Martin of Crystal Lake ATV**, hinged ramps were built by volunteers and myself to allow the shooters to more safely move between barges during the show, and a "hut" was constructed by the vendor for protection of the on-board

shooters. This work took place at Stone's Pontoon and Boat Storage where the barges reside when not in use.

What we didn't plan for, was two of the barges, after having been put in the water the day before, taking on water and not floating as needed the morning of the show! Thankfully, **Brad Stone** brought his trailer quickly when called, helped drain the pontoons, and put them back on the water. Crisis averted; THANK YOU Brad!

Around 9:30 pm, Kent and I motored the barges to the shooting location as the Sheriff's Marine Patrol cleared the way. Once the barges were anchored and their flashing, amber location lights were secured, the Patrol made sure everyone maintained a safe, 500-foot clearance. After the show concluded and the shooters verified that each tube was clear of shells, the anchors were pulled, and the Marine Patrol escorted us in the dark as we slowly motored the barges back to the old landing. The next day, back at the old landing, we ensured that all debris had been cleaned by the pyrotechnics company and that the landing was again available for use before Stones Pontoon & Boat Storage came to stow the barges until next year.

That is the 'life' of the Fireworks Committee! Plans are being set for next year's show so let us know if you'd like to assist, have questions, concerns, or suggestions!

Oh Buoy!!

CLA Township Mtg Rep, Tim Dorch

In case you hadn't noticed, the number of Township Buoys around 'Crystal Beach' has been fluctuating. The buoys were purchased by the Township to enhance swimmer safety and the Sheriff's Marine Patrol volunteered to set them in place.

Though the who, when, why or how remain unclear, from time to time the buoys have detached (or worse) from their anchors. Most have been recovered by the Sheriff. The CLA has extended a supportive outreach to the Township and Marine Patrol in order to help find a more permanent solution for anchoring the buoys. If you see anyone moving a buoy, speak up or contact the Sheriff's office.

Buoys or no buoys, it is incumbent upon all of us who zoom around the waters of Crystal Lake to be hyper-vigilant when throttling near swimmers. Breaching the swim area to beach a watercraft is unthinkable in the absence of a life or death emergency.

Prominent Township Issues

CLA Township Mtg Rep, Tim Dorch

Gazing into our 'Crystal Ball' what does the CLA see regarding the most prominent issues before the Township Board?

Park Redevelopment - Grant application pending; Township contribution identified; Private donor kick-off underway.

Community Center - July 17 special meeting, township board decided to delay a vote on this project until 2020.

Retail Marijuana - Whether the Township Board will opt in and permit a recreational marijuana storefront in downtown Crystal is pending further consideration.

Zoning/Anti-Keyholing - The Crystal Lake Association request for the Township to revisit ordinances in these

two areas will not be considered further until 2020.

One final note: In the Public Comment time during the July 10th monthly Township Board meeting, it was reported (without corroboration) that on July 4th, shortly before the parade began, one or more pontoons breached the swim buoy area to gain a parade viewing advantage. This has not been verified. If true, this action was a serious disregard for the safety of those on the beach and should be universally condemned.

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Let's Build the Park!

CLA Member, Diane Rydahl

The **Crystal Park Redevelopment** consists of a lakefront park with new, expanded public beach and terracing of the hillside. Enhancements will provide improved safety and access to the lake as well as usable park space for everyone.

A project like this can be the catalyst for more community growth opportunities, moving Crystal forward as a destination for families and new businesses. Funding for this \$695,000 project will be made by way of:

- A grant application to the Michigan Department of

Natural Resources Trust Fund.

- \$100,000 matching funds from Crystal Township
- Community donations

Your donation is an intricate part in building the park and strengthening the bonds of our community. The amount of funds raised so far, including the township's pledge, is more than \$103,000.

Visit the project's website Crystal-park.org for more illustrations, information, and fundraising events!



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Proud to call Crystal Home!

Starry Stonewort: A Potential Lake Killer

CLA Chair, Joe Kopchick

On March 15th, the Michigan Waterfront Alliance held a conference to bring lake associations up to date on the management and control of Starry Stonewort. There were nearly 100 participants at the Lansing conference from across lower Michigan indicating this is a widespread problem. It's also a problem in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio, Indiana, and New York. Fortunately, at Crystal we have had only minor infestations, but for some lakes this has been a huge and expensive problem.

Starry Stonewort is a member of the Chara family native to northern Europe and Japan but is much thicker and taller than our native Chara Vulgaris:

- * It can be up to 5 feet tall in 10 feet of water.
- * Is identifiable by white star-shaped bulbils.
- * It detracts from the fish habitat and can cover spawning beds for bluegill and bass.
- * Is typically introduced to the lake from pieces attached to boats and boat trailers.
- * Most lakes in the southern two thirds of the lower peninsula have some.
- * It likes marl-bottom lakes with hard water (high in calcium carbonate), like ours.

Starry Stonewort is unpredictable in that it comes and goes, booms and crashes. When it crashes, it contributes rotting biomass causing oxygen levels to drop which impacts fish populations. It can be controlled and experience at other lakes has shown that even severe infestations can be pushed back. In some cases, weed harvesters have to be used to cut it, but it can be chemically treated as well.

Some ways to reduce future infestations include:

- * Awareness program to educate boaters on invasive species

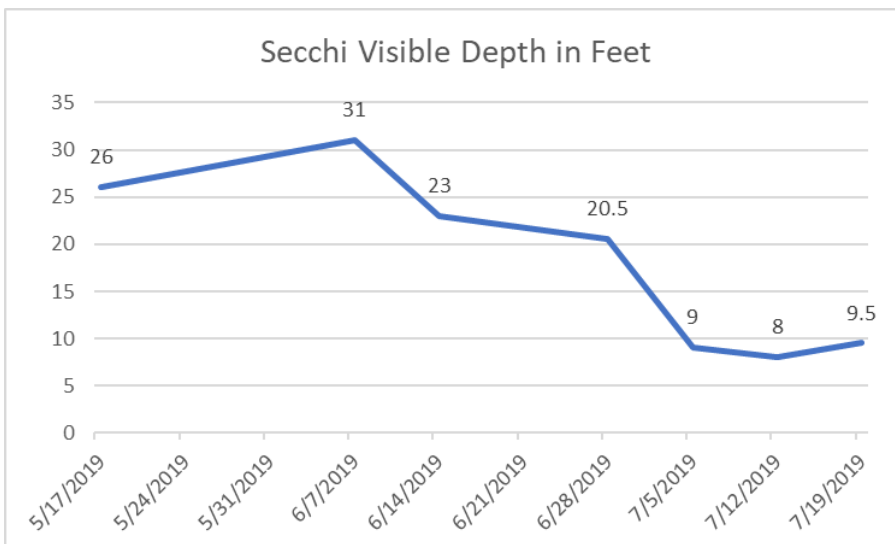
- * Installation of a boat wash at the DNR launch site
- * Support from the DNR of invasive species weed control
- * Charging a fee to launch boats to cover treatment cost
- * Legislation to ensure boats are clean prior to launching, i.e. fines for transporting weeds on boats and trailers.

At Crystal Lake, we have had some of this pest in the cove and in the channel. We will continue to monitor and treat Starry Stonewort as part of our water quality program.



The Clarity of Crystal Lake

CLA Water Quality Chair, Joe Kopchick



Secchi disc readings have been recorded since May. We measure the depth that the disc remains visible. As expected, visibility is reduced as algae grows and turbidity increases when the water warms and boats stir up the lake bottom. The chart to the left depicts how Crystal has become less clear this summer.

This data is reported to the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MICorps). You can see our Crystal Lake results at <https://data.micorps.net/view/lake/>

We also test monthly for chlorophyll, but samples are frozen and will not be turned in to Michigan Lake Stewardship Association until September.