

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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CLA General Membership Meeting
July 6th 10am
Sailing Club

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

Goose Round-up Assistance Request

Spring is finally on the horizon and as I write this report on March 18th, I hear that two mute swans have been spotted in the open/standing water on Crystal Lake. That means the geese are on their way too.



This year, in addition to gathering adult geese for transport to a DNR sanctioned

location, emphasis will be put on nest and egg destruction. The DNR requires people removing eggs from nests to be trained to do so and have a permit, whether on public or private land. We won't search your property without your permission, so if you come to the lake in **early April, please look for nests which may have eggs and call me** so I can get someone to check the nest and remove the eggs.

Also, for adult goose round-up, **we will need 10 pontoons and about eight volunteers on the ground.** Please give me a call if you are willing to help. We anticipate the round-up to be Friday, June 21st or 27th, but the date is dependent upon when the geese molt; molting is required to prevent the geese from flying. **Fred Engle (989) 560-4857**

Alternate Universe

Imagine a summer on Crystal Lake when geese haven't been humanely taken off the lake. They take over your yard, leave piles on your beach/lawn, and have many babies who come back next year to add to the mess.

Imagine a July 4th with no fireworks at dusk. Imagine no Facebook page connecting you with others on the lake to ask, "How thick is the ice?" or "Has anyone seen the boat that disconnected from my dock and floated away?"

Imagine no spring directories to help you look up your neighbors and no CLA newsletters to help you learn what's happening on/around the lake three times a year.

Imagine a summer where no one scans and treats the lake for invasive species to keep the water clean, clear and healthy. Imagine no sheriff patrols to keep our beloved lake safe.



Well, that would be our lake's universe if not for the wonderful work of the Crystal Lake Association (CLA). Without financial support each year, (Go to page 5)

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If you are thinking of selling, spring is a great time. Living on Crystal Lake, I can personally serve you best.

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2018-19**

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Kent Roth

New Michigan Boating & Fishing Laws

Effective 3-21-2019 to prevent the introduction & spread of invasive species

What Boaters Need to Know:

Prior to March 2019, the law required only that a person not place watercraft or trailers in Michigan waters if an aquatic plant was attached. Now, all the following are required prior to transporting any watercraft over land:

- Removing all drain plugs from bilges, ballast tanks, and live wells.
- Draining all water from any live wells and bilges.
- Ensuring that watercraft, trailer, and any conveyance used to transport the watercraft or trailer are free of aquatic organisms, including plants.

This means that after trailering boats, and before getting on the road, boaters must pull plugs, drain water and remove all plants & debris.

Violation is a state civil infraction and may be subject to fines up to \$100.

What Anglers Need to Know:

- A person shall not release baitfish, whether purchased or collected, in any waters of this state. A person who collects fish shall not use the fish as bait or cut bait except in the inland lake, stream or Great Lake where the fish was caught, or in a connecting waterway of the inland lake, stream or Great Lake where the fish was caught if the fish could have freely moved between the original location of capture and the location of release.
- A person, who catches fish other than baitfish in a lake, stream, Great Lake or connecting waterway, shall only release the fish in the lake, stream or Great Lake where the fish was caught, or in a connecting waterway of the lake, stream or Great Lake where the fish was caught if the fish could have freely moved between the original location of capture and the location of release.

Violation is a state civil infraction and may be subject to fines up to \$100.

Why CLA Membership?

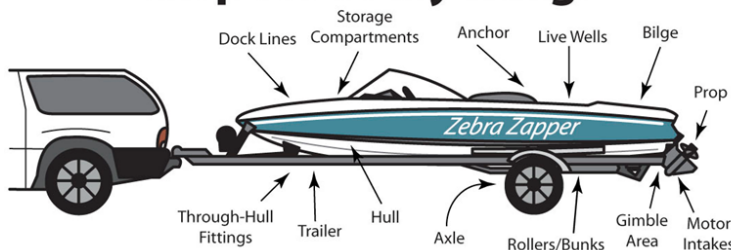
- Fireworks
- Water Quality
- Sheriff's Patrol
- Goose Roundup
- Community Support
- Township Meeting Attendance
- Lake Association Directory

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!**

Before leaving and before launching...
inspect everything!



Snap! Crackle! Pop! Fireworks!!!

Summer is nearly here, with warm weather more than welcome for those who enjoy time at the lake. This also means **JULY 4th** is right around the corner and it's time for our favorite things: family, friends, food and FIREWORKS!

CLA volunteers, Mike Manning and Kent Roth, will spend countless hours preparing for the fireworks show but it **DEPENDS UPON YOU TOO**. Fireworks is the second largest expense the Crystal Lake Association pays each year and only your donations make it possible. Please

contribute via the CLA website, by mail, PayPal, or a donation box around town.

- New vendor - Trident Pyrotechnic Displays (of racetrack fame)
- Barge modifications planned (minor)
- Budget maintained

DONATIONS APPRECIATED!

HOPE YOU ENJOY THE SHOW!

Township Decisions and Discussions

Spring Clean-up funds approved for Saturday, June 15th 9am-2pm at Knoll Park. Large household items (no hazardous waste, tires, electronics).

Six swim buoys for beach area purchased by the Township. Montcalm County Sheriff Marine Patrol will install later this Spring.

Crystal Library is 100% operational in the former Chemical Bank building in downtown Crystal. The building was purchased in 2018 by the Downtown Development Authority for the express purpose of housing the library. The former library location reverted to the Crystal Historical Society.

New Fire Chief Mike Fitzpatrick appointed by the Township after the retirement of 50-year veteran, Scott Brundage.

Crystal Community Center Committee will host townhall meetings to review proposals for the building: 4/7, 5/15, 6/5 and 6/26 at 7pm in the Community Center. Consultant, King-scott & Associates, will be present.

Crystal Park Redevelopment Proposal October 2018, the Crystal Township Board voted to solicit conceptual designs to update the waterfront of Crystal Park. They received a proposal to excavate the steep hillside in order to create a user-friendly slope with built-in terraces for lounging and picnicking, create 230 feet of new sandy beach, and a new swim area in front of this new beach. For full story with images, see: <https://thedailynews.cc/articles/a-premier-park/>

These conceptual designs, by Wolverine Engineering & Surveyors Inc., drew inspiration from recent similar projects at parks in Grand Haven and Charlevoix. The initial, local, public response was positive.

So, in April 2019, the Township Board tentatively decided to move forward with an application for a \$300,000 grant request to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to assist with the estimated \$695,000 total project cost. For more details, see: <https://thedailynews.cc/articles/a-desire-to-improve/>

The Township Board concedes that it will spend the summer gauging how well the public responds to fund-raising efforts, including any offers of labor, equipment, and materials to help defray the total project costs. The Township has initially committed \$100,000 from its general fund but will re-evaluate project feasibility at summer's end. The CLA may become involved and will update members on donation opportunities.

Three-year Lease of Beach Front being explored by the Township (former Lakeside property with parking area across the street)



Water Quality Program for 2019

Continuing this year, we will conduct comprehensive water quality monitoring and treatment programs. These include tracking phosphorous, chlorophyll, and water clarity as well as treating invasive plant species once or twice a season.

Phosphorous: Measured in the spring and late summer, phosphorous occurs naturally as aquatic plants and animals live, die and decompose but it can also be human-generated through runoff, leaky septic systems, and other sources. Too little phosphorous won't support a healthy ecosystem; too much results in excessive algae and plant growth.

Chlorophyll: Water samples are collected each month from May to September to measure the relative amount of algae in the lake. The chlorophyll monitoring results, along with the total phosphorous and Secchi disk transparency measurements, provide an estimate of the level of

productivity or aging of the lake.

Secchi disc: We lower a black & white disk, tethered to a tape measure, to determine water clarity. Readings are taken weekly at the deepest point in the lake. In May, the water will be clearer and have clarity as deep as 23 feet. As the summer progresses, algae growth and turbidity from boating activity, may reduce readings to 8 or 9 feet. These readings are reported and are used to assess trends in transparency of waterbodies across North America.

You can find our measurements on the Michigan Lakes and Streams web site: <https://micorps.net/lake-monitoring/> Click on the "Lake Monitoring" tab to see a more detailed explanation of the results. On the "Data Exchange" tab, you can compare Crystal to other lakes.

CLA has again contracted Restorative Lake Sciences to create a

GPS map of the lake's aquatic vegetation: immediate concerns are invasive **Eurasian Water Milfoil & Starry Stonewort**. Infestation areas will be treated by our second service provider, PLM Lake and Land Management. PLM is authorized to use DEQ/EPA approved chemicals for invasive, aquatic plant control.

We hope that less than 12 of the lake's 724 acres will require treatment; at \$1,000 per acre, it's expensive. But while we may spend over \$10,000 this year, other Michigan lakes of similar size to Crystal are spending many times more. Horror stories of weeds so thick that boat propellers clog, swimming areas ruin, and fish spawning grounds choke, have been relayed.

So you may be asking, "Aren't my tax dollars protecting Crystal Lake from these risks?" The answer is, "No." Beginning in 2014, some state grant monies were allocated annually for prevention (Go to page 5)

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Alternate Universe (cont'd)

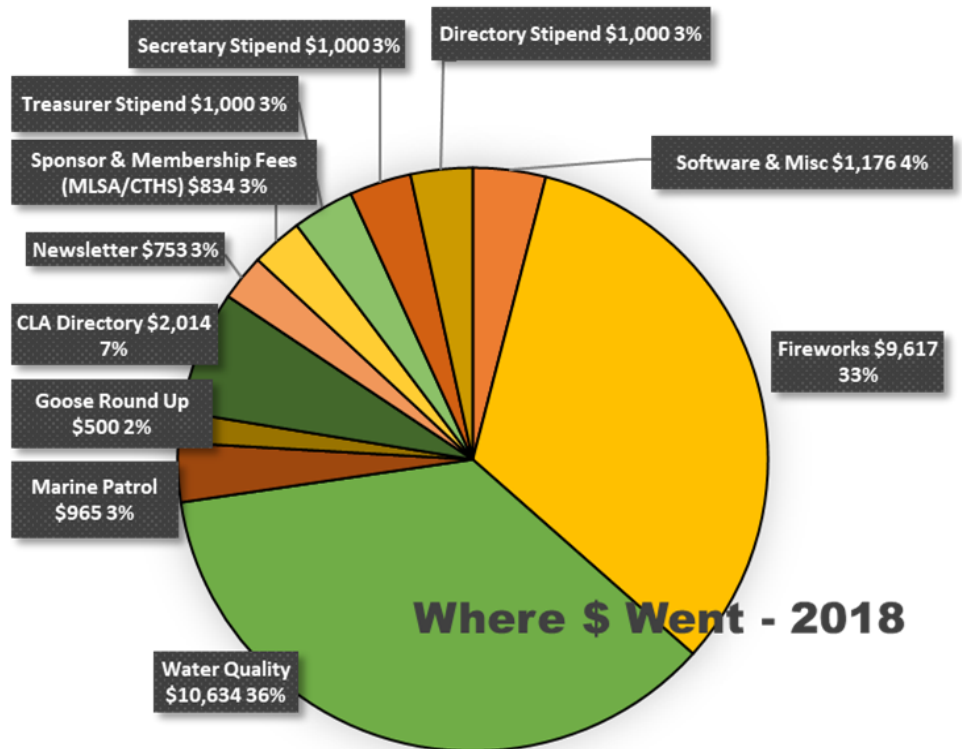
the CLA Board would not be able to do all that keeps Crystal Lake the beautiful, clean, fun, safe lake we have all come to enjoy.

Every single membership is critical to the work of the CLA. Every donation to support the roughly \$9000 fireworks display is greatly appreciated. Every dollar pledged to water quality, and the approximate \$10,000 a year it takes to keep our lake clean, is beneficial.

Our goal for 2019 is 300 members: a goal reached only once in the recent past. Show your support of the lake by becoming a member and encouraging your friends, neighbors and family to join as well. If not you... who?



Crystal Lake Association Expenses



Water Quality (cont'd)

education, monitoring, and research statewide but so far, there isn't anything for treating our lake.

Crystal property values, as well as recreational enjoyment, depend upon a clean, healthy lake. Please support this water quality program with your donations.

(paid advertisement)

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- Full Kitchen
- Livingroom
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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>

Crystal Lake Association

P.O. Box 307

Crystal, MI 48818

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on Facebook for Current Events**