

**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.

**CLA Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday July 19**  
**10:00AM**  
**Sailing Club**

**What's Happening!**

- CLA Board approves purchase of new Marine Patrol Boat Motor
- Yamaha donates two jet ski's to Marine Patrol
- Township Public Dock declared unsafe -- CLA offers to donate funds towards a new public dock
- DNR Buoy permit for Public Beach area application submitted
- Do NOT flush any disposable wipes down toilets! Costly damage to grinders is occurring due to the fibers of the wipes.



Commodore Fred Engle Counts Geese at Roundup

# Crystal Lake Association

Established June 5, 1932

www.crystalonline.org

## Crystal Lake Goose Roundup 2014

This year's Annual Bill Willemin Memorial Goose Roundup (relocation) was a huge success. The rain held off and we were able to remove 67 geese from the lake, 20 adults and 47 goslings. This annual event is approved by the CLA Board, Crystal Township and the State of Michigan. A DNR permit is required and we hire a company to remove the geese to a place determined by the Michigan DNR Wildlife Division. The total cost of

them to the South Park (old boat landing). Here, the geese are encouraged to get back on land and walk into a fenced-in area. The animal control company places them in straw lined cages and transports them to a site determined by the DNR. At the drop off point, a DNR officer meets the captured geese to make sure they are in good health and they are then released into the wild. This year they were sent to the Barry State Game Area at Otis Lake which comprises



67 Geese Cross The Lake During Morning Roundup

the process is \$550.00 which is paid for via your dues to the Crystal Lake Association.

One question always arises, "When will you get the geese off the lake?" The date is given to us by the DNR, when the geese are molting so the adults cannot fly. Volunteers help herd the geese into the water and with pontoons we guide

over 17,000 acres.

It is important that we try to keep our lakefront clean. In addition to keeping the mess off our lakefront properties, the geese carry parasites which can be transferred through their feces. This process takes a lot of dedicated people. Some of the volunteers have participated in the roundup every year for over 15 years. I want to thank Chuck By-

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## Testing Identifies Invasive Plants in Lake

One of most important things your CLA does is to be pro-active on identifying and addressing invasive weeds. On June 25<sup>th</sup> Dr Jo Latimore of the MSU Fisheries and Wildlife Division spent the day with Bonnie Kanitz, CLA Water Quality Chair pulling samples of weeds from Crystal Lake. Dr Latimore and graduate student, Angela Dow, provided on-site assistance in setting up the procedures to map Crystal Lake for plants, plant identification and recording

results for future reference. Plant mapping is part of the Cooperative Lakes Management Program (CLMP) of MiCORPS. The Michigan Clean Water Corps is a network of volunteer monitoring programs in Michigan. It was established to assist the Department of Environmental Quality in collecting and sharing water quality data. Volunteers monitor lakes for phosphorous, Chlorophyll-a, clarity of water, dissolved oxygen/temperature, and invasive aquatic plants.

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## Board of Directors 2013 - 2014

### Board President:

**Steve Meinhardt**

steve@casair.net

### Vice President:

**Bonnie Kanitz**

kanitzb@msn.com

### Secretary/Treasurer

**Kim Siburt**

kimsiburt@hotmail.com

### Newsletter Editor:

**Bill R. Hepburn**

hepburnbs@casair.net

### Directors:

**Roxy Eaton**

**Mike Manning**

**Michael O'Brien**

**Bob Saukas**

**Fred Engle**

## CLA Membership 230 as of June 23

What you get:

- **Fireworks**
- **Polar Plunge**
- **Goose Roundup**
- **Sheriff's Patrol**
- **Lake Association Directory**
- **Water Testing**
- **Community Support**
- **Community Improvement**

Membership is easy – just go to our website and sign up, or mail in your application or call us and we will stop by and pick up your application.

## The Call of the Loon at Crystal Lake

No, these are not ducks, these are loons!! We are blessed to have them here at Crystal Lake. There were four sighted where we normally have had only one in years past. Loons are on the endangered species list. In the early 1980's less than a dozen nesting pairs were in Southern Michigan and on the decline further north. Many lakes in Michigan now have no loons, we are privileged by their presence here at Crystal.

Personal watercraft can be a great problem for loons because of the jet ski small size and speed which allows them to rapidly enter shallow water. Speeding watercraft can overrun chicks and adults and kill them.



Unlike other waterfowl such as ducks, which begin to breed when they are one year old, and produce a clutch of 8 to 12 eggs, loons do not breed until they are least three years old, and they lay only one or two eggs (rarely three). As a result, loons, like eagles and condors, are unable to replenish their numbers in a short time.

Know the warning signals of a loon in distress – the tremolo call, and the pen-guin dance are both defensive behaviors. When boating, be aware of the loons and avoid them. Keep speed limit to a no wake speed when near loons nesting, nursery, and fishing areas. Keep your distance when you see them in open water. Protect this endangered bird and listen to the call of the loon on a warm summer night. It is magical!

## Crystal Lake Association Facebook Page

Our Facebook page is up to 255 followers!

For quick, updated information on Crystal issues, events, or to post your favorite pictures or comments about the lake, go to <https://www.facebook.com/CrystalLakeAssociation> and hit "Like". You will be informed instantly of new postings and information!

## Goose Round Up - 2014

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am, Bill Tomlin, Ken Lawless, Denny Woodworth, Bob Swanson, David McCuen, Bob Saukas, Steve Meinhardt, Tom Crites and Bill Hepburn for manning the pontoons. Our spotters on the ground were Mike Manning, Bonnie Kanitz, Maureen O'Connor, Theron Guild, Dan Manning and Jeremy Thelen. For pictures of the "Great Goose Roundup" go to our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/crystallakeassociation](http://www.facebook.com/crystallakeassociation). Fred Engle, Goose Roundup Chairman

**The Crystal Lake Association board of directors would like to recognize and thank Fred Engle and his crew for a very successful Goose Roundup this year.**

# Invasive Plants in Crystal

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To gather the samples a weed rake was cast out in four directions along a transect line. Over 40 transect lines will be required to completely map Crystal's 727 acres resulting in 480 samples.

It was a great day to learn, but as they say, "Houston, we have a problem" and so does Crystal Lake. The invasive plant called *starry stonewort* was found at the North Shore boat landing. Secondly, the milfoil found around the South Shore Park (old boat landing) and the North Shore boat landing is very suspect of being a hybrid milfoil. According to Dr Latimore, DNA testing through Grand Valley State will give us the ability to identify which milfoil is present. As in the past your CLA board will take immediate action to address this and early detection certainly will lower our cost to control it.

Since both invasive species are found in the boat launch locations, it is very likely these species were introduced into Crystal Lake by visiting boats. It is time to remind all visitors to Crystal Lake to check boats each time you leave the water. Recheck before launching your boats into another lake. Check hitch, roller, and axle areas on trailers. Ensure live wells and bilge water is empty. Check lower unit and propeller on motor for weed debris. Just a fragment of an invasive species can survive and take root! Clean it. Drain it. Dry it.

**Invasive Species** - Starry Stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*)



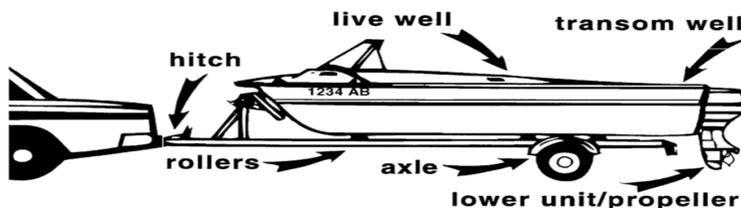
Bonnie Kanitz participates in Invasive Plant Identification



now in over 150 lakes in Michigan. Starry Stonewort resembles the native aquatic plant Chara. Starry Stonewort has tiny, star-shaped, tan-colored reproductive structures called "bulbils" that are firm to the touch when compared to its soft branches. The presence of bulbils is one way to distinguish between Starry Stonewort and Chara. Unlike Chara, which is generally considered to be a beneficial plant, Starry Stonewort has a tendency to colonize in deeper water and can form dense mats several feet thick. Starry Stonewort can impede navigation and limit growth of more beneficial plants by choking out native species. The dense mats also reduce or eliminate much of the habitat used by bass and bluegill for spawning. Compared to many other aquatic plants, Starry Stonewort may begin growing later in the season and persist longer. The really bad news is it is one of the most aggressive aquatic plants ever observed in Michigan and is able to out compete all other Michigan plant species, including all invasive species and current alien species such as Eurasian milfoil, fanwort, and curly leaf pondweed. When asked which plant is more important to deal with immediately, Dr Latimore did not hesitate in her reply, "Starry Stonewort".

Starry Stonewort is a confirmed new addition to Crystal Lake as of 2014. The North Shore boat landing area and the shallows immediately surrounding it reflects aggressive growth and spread of this invasive species. It was first observed in Montcalm County in 2006 at Tamarack Lake and 2007 added Townline Lake. As of 2014 it is

## Simple Inspection Can Prevent Lake Contamination



## CLA Membership Application and Donation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Crystal Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**GO PAPERLESS!**

*CHECK HERE IF YOU WOULD LIKE FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE VIA EMAIL* \_\_\_\_\_

2014 ANNUAL DUES ( \$35.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

FIREWORKS DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

LEGAL FUND DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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