

Becky Kohn

Crystal Lake Association

Fall 2024 Newsletter





Township News

Brad Wooton

Well, as they say.... "summer's over" or "the frost is on the pumpkins"! We're seeing a lot of docks being taken out, and boat storage piling up. I'm afraid it's true, summer is over. By the time you read this, many leaves will have fallen and leaf pick up will be in full gear. As of the last update from township higher ups, leaf pick up will happen, and a schedule is apparently in tact. My understanding is the crew is staffed and all equipment is ready to go, so hopefully it'll be a smooth fall cleanup in comparison to last year. As always, be patient while the crew gets to your area, it is a very demanding job.

For those who live on or around the lake and are planning to spend time away this winter, don't forget the Montcalm County Sheriff's department offers property inspections. They will



Brad Wooton

visit your premises at your request while you are away. Relevant information they need includes contact info, whether the electricity is on or off, which buildings are locked, and your leave and return dates. A form can be obtained from the sheriff's office or call 989-831-7590 for additional details.

As the newly created Park and Recreation Board develops new projects for our community, you are encouraged to get involved if you are interested. Contact the township office for more information on ways to participate. Chris Mason and Linda Horak are the lead members of this board. Thanks to Chris and Linda for taking on this very important role in making the Crystal Lake area a wonderful place to be.



CLA Membership is Easy

Visit our website at crystalonline.org or mail the form on the back page



CLA Lake Quality Report for Fall 2024

Jim Ayres- Water Quality Director

2024 was a good year for water quality in our lake! In 2023 we had to perform two herbicide treatments for Starry Stonewort and Eurasian Water Milfoil. As you may recall, this year our Spring scan found very low levels of these two invasive species. However, as we expected, our scan in late July found higher levels due to Summer growth. We found 1 acre of Starry Stonewort near the boat launch, and a little over 5 acres of Eurasian Milfoil across the rest of the lake. These populations were successfully treated at a cost of \$7,835. Remember that it is virtually impossible to completely eradicate these invasive species once they are established. As a result, it is critical for us to be vigilant with regular lake scans and treatments



Eurasian Water Milfoil



Starry Stonewort

when needed. The health of our lake is at stake. Thank you for your ongoing support of this effort!

Membership Continues to Grow

Nancy Ayres- Membership co-chair

Fall is upon us and we are pleased to report that with 422 members this year we have set a new membership record! Our goal was 425 so we fell just short, but we are still very pleased with our results. Thank you to all our members for your support. We couldn't do the work we do for the lake without you.

Even though it's fall and the lake is much quieter, we would like to remind you that Crystal Lake is a four season place to enjoy. We encourage you to continue to support the local businesses and enjoy the great outdoors with a color tour, campfire, fishing trip or a nice fall walk. Hopefully the lake

will ice over this winter so that ice fishing can take place.

As a reminder, below are all the things you support with your membership:

- July 4th fireworks
- Goose maintenance
- Facebook page
- Newsletters
- Water quality management for a clean and healthy lake
- Sheriff lake patrol
- Township news

We hope you all have a happy and safe fall and winter, and we look forward to seeing you in the spring! Thank you for your continued support.

Crystal Lake Association Board of Directors

President

Steve Meinhardt
e: kc8sid@gmail.com

Vice President

Nancy Ayres
e: nayres3801@gmail.com

Treasurer

Kim Morgan
mtynestmom@gmail.com

Secretary

Ivy Coy

Directors

Jim Ayres, Water Quality
Brad Wooton, Township
Carl Jonas, Membership
Jeremy Johnson, Public Safety
Mike Dyer, Fireworks
Eric Johnson, Goose Roundup

Why CLA Membership?

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

Membership is Easy:

Visit our website at
crystalonline.org or mail the
form on the back page

Dues:

**Only \$45.00 per year directly
supports your Crystal Lake.**

SPECIAL THANKS TO

BECKY KOHN

**for providing photos for this
newsletter**



EVENTS TO REMEMBER

**PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION
NOVEMBER 5
7:00 AM - 8:00 PM**

**TOWNSHIP BOARD
MEETINGS
7:00 PM
2ND WEDNESDAY
OF EACH
MONTH
Township Community
Center
217 W. Park Street,
Crystal**



Fireworks over Crystal Lake

Mike Dyer

Probably the most visible (pun intended) aspect of your CLA organization is the annual 4th of July fireworks show. We try to do a little better each year! For the 2025 season, we've hired a new contractor who should enhance your show significantly! We'll be utilizing Small Town Saturday Night for our pyrotechnicians. STSN is a local company based in Sheridan that has been providing the fantastic fireworks shows at Crystal Motor Speedway for the last few seasons.

As always, we'll be firing the show from barges on the lake. We'll determine in the spring if we will

be adding barges to fit the new show. The show will be held on July 4, *weather permitting*.

When you're talking to your friends and neighbors, either residents or holiday visitors, please ask them to contribute to the fireworks. We need financial support to continue enhancing your patriotic enjoyment. Membership in CLA is not required to donate to the fireworks. If you know folks that come to Crystal to enjoy the show, we can use their donations as well. Everyone that enjoys the firework show can contribute.

Enjoy your fall activities!





Photo by Becky Kohn

Goose Control Update - Fall 2024

Eric Johnson

As many of you know, the Michigan DNR has announced that Goose Roundup and Relocation will no longer be an option. This is due to health concerns and questions about its overall effectiveness. I am sorry to say that we can stop waiting for that option to come back. It has been our most effective resource over the years, but effective immediately, it is gone for good. (You can find more information at – Goose maintenance update, Fall 2023:

<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/wildlife/nuisance-wildlife/nuisance-canada-goose-faqs>

AND

<https://www.mlive.com/environment/2024/10/lethal-goose-round-up-authorized-as-birds-thrive-in-michigan-cities-and-suburbs.html>)

That being said, the only official method of Canadian Goose Control sponsored by CLA continues to be Nest Harassment and Egg Maintenance. Death squads (one of the options offered in the articles above) are not feasible in our area for many reasons.

I will update you in the Spring Newsletter about our progress. Since the Spring Newsletter doesn't come out until we are well into Egg Maintenance, I would also like to share some ways you can help long distance next spring:

1. Be observant around your cottages and note any spots that you see nesting potential.
Geolocate or simply mark it on a map and get the information to me. We will use this information next year.
2. Stop by the lake in early spring and take a walk around your area and note any evidence of nesting geese.
3. Encourage your neighbors to do the same.
4. If you haven't already, join CLA (and encourage your neighbors to join as well).
5. Give us permission to canvas your property in your absence. Be sure to note the location. (a letter, text or email sent to us is sufficient).

The Goose Patrol Group here at CLA are looking into "Best Practices" for personal control of your properties. As we find good options, we may consider offering a group purchase to make these options more affordable. If you have any thoughts, ideas, recommendations or even gripes, please feel free to contact me at ejohnson@edzone.net.

Thank you for your help and enjoy your fall and winter.

Know Your LAKE

Jim Ayres

Water Quality Director

Is anything more moving than hearing a Loon's call on a calm summer morning, or seeing these amazing birds diving for food? We are lucky to have them on our lake.

Loons are exceptional and fascinating creatures.

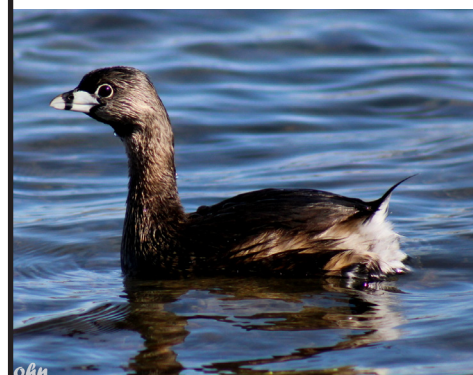
Recognizable by their black head and black-grey body feathers, they have a

wingspan of about 4 feet and can weigh up to 12

pounds. They are exceptional swimmers, able to dive to a depth of 200 feet, and hold their breath for several minutes while underwater.

They typically pair for life and return to the same breeding grounds year after year.

They are very sensitive to pollution, so seeing them every year on Crystal Lake is yet another sign of lake health. We look forward to welcoming them back next Spring!



Egg Maintenance Permission Slip

I give the the "CLA, Goose Maintenance Team", licensed by Michigan DNR, authorization to enter my property for the purpose of finding and removing goose eggs during the dates authorized by the licensing authority.

Name: _____

Crystal Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Contact Email: _____

Signature _____

Mail To: Crystal Lake Association Goose Maintenance Program,
P.O. Box 307, Crystal, MI 48818
or Email: ejohnson@edzone.net

MONTCALM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PROPERTY INSPECTION REQUEST

NAME : _____ PHONE: (____) _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

DESCRIPTION OF HOUSE: _____

ALL BUILDINGS LOCKED? _____ ANY UTILITIES ON? _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER OF SOMEONE NEARBY WE CAN CONTACT IN CASE OF A PROBLEM

WHERE CAN YOU BE CONTACTED WHILE AWAY? _____

PHONE: (____) _____

LEAVE DATE: _____ RETURN DATE: _____

OTHER NOTES: _____

The Montcalm County Sheriff's official website continues to offer a Property Inspection check program. The Sheriff's Office has forms available for interested property owners (shown above). You may request a vacation house check by downloading the 2-page form at this web address:

http://www.montcalm.us/document_center/Sheriff/property%20inspection%202017.pdf

Fill it out and either print/mail it to the Sheriff's Office; or if you wish, scan/email it to mcsherff@montcalm.us.

Working Hard to Keep Crystal Beautiful



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



CLA Membership Application and Donation Form

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Mailing City, State & Zip: _____

Crystal Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____ Contact Email: _____

Check here if you would like future correspondence via email: ☐

We now accept PayPal, Credit Cards or ACH

Pay to:

Crystal Lake Association

Mail To:

Crystal Lake Association

P.O. Box 307

Crystal, MI 48818

2025 Annual Dues (\$45.00) _____

Fireworks Donation _____

Water Quality Fund _____

Total _____

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