

MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER

Crockery Lake Association



Helpful Links:

Crockery Lake Website: www.crockerylake.org

Facebook Page: www.facebook/crockerylake

HAPPY SPRING

Welcome back to the season of fun on Crockery Lake.

FIREWORKS 2022

It is with great disappointment that we must report there will be **no commercial fireworks on our lake this year**. The company we have worked with for years is struggling to fulfill *any* shows this year because of being short staffed and getting the supplies. After many, many calls to many companies we found that this was the same problem for all fireworks providers.

The amount of money that we have already collected was supposed to provide the same show as last year. By not having fireworks this year this money will now be designated for 2023 and we will secure a company as soon as possible. Because of cost increases we are still campaigning for more donations to assure a good show for next year.

July 3 will still be designated as our official celebration date for Crockery Lake. We will still have the ring of fire and the boat parade. In addition, we would like to have a "Decorate for the holiday" contest. More details in the June newsletter.

We encourage you to SAFELY have your own fireworks on your shores between the hours of dusk and 11:00pm. We can all sit and enjoy them on our lake shores or in our boats as we did before.

As always, we encourage you to be safe and to respect your neighbors by ending by 11:00pm or before.

Thank you to Carl and Karen Elliott for spending so much time researching and calling different companies.

Spring Clean-up

We ask that all residents inspect their shoreline for debris and loose objects that could be picked up by rising waters, the spring thaw, and rain showers. Organic material such as leaves, sticks, and other yard waste make great fertilizer for the spring weeds to flourish so those should be removed. Timber, dock sections, and even children's toys have been known to travel with the rising waters. We ask for your help, not only to protect personal property, but to help keep our outlet clear of items that could dam up the exiting waters. Thank you for your help and consideration in keeping our lake clean.

We would also like to encourage all of you to put your name and phone number on all of your lakeshore toys. Then if something escapes you can be contacted directly.

CLA BOARD AND ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Meeting:

At 6:30 - We will begin collecting dues and signing people up to join the association so that they can vote in the election.

At 7:00 pm - Our speaker will be Julia Kirkwood from EGLE. She will speak about shoreline conservation and stewardship.

After the speaker we will have the business meeting. We encourage you to attend these informative meetings. Each year we discuss issues pertinent to the well-being of Crockery Lake and the surrounding community. This is your home. Please be a part of the conversation. You must be an association member in order to have a vote but not to attend the meeting.

This year we will have a representative from EGLE: Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

Julia Kirkwood

kirkwoodj@mi.gov

The Michigan (MI) Shoreland Stewards Program is an initiative of the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (MNSP) designed to recognize lake front property owners who maintain their properties using lake-friendly practices.

2022 DUES

Last year we were not able to knock on doors to collect dues. But this year it is our plan to come around and greet you again and collect dues for 2022 and any donations towards the fireworks fund.

Annual dues are \$35 to be a member of the Lake Association. Additionally, any extra you give goes toward our 2023 Fireworks. Please go to www.crockerylake.org and click on Association to see why being a member is important to you.

We are offering three options to pay again this year:

* Use the form at the end of the newsletter (you can print just the last page) to send your check to: **Greg Slater, 2500 Crockery Shores Road, Casnovia, MI 49318**

* Use BillPay through your bank website. Send to: Greg Slater, 2500 Crockery Shores Road, Casnovia, MI 49318

* Paypal link from our webpage: www.crockerylake.org

We all have the same goal ~ to enjoy our beautiful lake and keep it healthy!

What does the Crockery Lake Association Board do for you?

1 - MAINTAIN THE LAKE'S USABILITY THROUGH WEED TREATMENTS

Our lake has a substantial amount of weeds that if left untreated would make portions of the lake unusable.

Since the lake is only 108 acres, not treating the lake would severely limit boat traffic. Untreated "Eurasian Milfoil" will be cut and spread by boat motors. Within a couple of years, the lake would require more chemical treatment for the milfoil. Increased chemicals will also increase the cost to you. Because of the high phosphorous level in our lake, untreated weeds will accumulate in large amounts and sit on top of the weeds, creating an unsightly and smelly lake.

The CLA only treats the lake with as small amount of chemical as needed. Options for treatment vary each year, along with the types of weeds and where they grow throughout the lake. The board works with Professional Lake Management to decide what type of treatment(s) are needed and when they should occur.

2 - ORGANIZE THE YEARLY FIREWORKS SHOW

The fireworks show is 100% funded by the lake residents, friends and family. Obtaining permits for the show and boat parade, donation collection, contract negotiation, coordination with the fire department and owners of the firework site, and the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department are just a few of the tasks required to put the show on every year. The Board member in charge of the fireworks spends a substantial amount of time on the day of the event dealing with problems and questions from the various involved parties.

3 - INFORM RESIDENTS ABOUT IMPORTANT ISSUES IMPACTING THE LAKE

Because of our lake's continued membership of the Michigan Lake & Stream Assn., our lake is light years ahead of many other lakes in the state.

Michigan Lake & Stream is a nonprofit organization which keeps lake associations up-to-date on a huge variety of issues—lake studies, grants, pending legislation, monitoring programs, education, boating laws and regulations. CLA members attend regional and annual meetings where this valuable information is obtained (they are not reimbursed for their attendance at these meetings, they attend to help with the well-being of the lake). As an active member of ML&SA, we obtain additional help and immediate help with any lake problems. Additional perks to us being a member include: the best ways to handle weed treatments; a heads up on any legislation pending in Lansing that may affect our lake, being the first in line for lake monitoring studies, and working relationship with other lake associations.

We also coordinate with many governmental entities—The Drain Commission, The Road Commission, The Parks Commission, and Chester Township on lake problems.

4 - PROTECT THE LAKE THROUGH ACTIVE TOWNSHIP ORDINANCES

We were the first lake association in the state to implement a total fertilizer ban around the lake, other lakes request our ordinance to implement to their own.

Education from ML&SA programs, including phosphorous loading from fertilizers and water runoff are the #1 reason for algae problems. The newspapers are loaded with articles on lakes in our area with chronic algae problems which keep residents from swimming and boating in the lakes. Because of CLA actions, a smaller amount of fertilizer is now entering our lake and helping to ward off algae blooms. Residents should take credit for this also, because without your cooperation, this ordinance would not be as successful as it is!

The second ordinance is the “Dock/Funneling” ordinance. “Funneling” is when there is one undeveloped lot on the lake and homes built in the vicinity of the lot, but not on the lake, are given lake access on their deed to own a percentage of the lot. Without specific ordinances against this, these undeveloped lots have the potential of turning into a small marina—a dock holding an unlimited number of boats from all the residents given lake access. The ordinance also limits the number of docks per household to one, and licensed boats to three.

5 - SUPPLY INFORMATIVE NEWSLETTERS

The newsletters are an important source of information and allows residents to stay connected as a lake family. These are available digitally via email or from our website and Facebook page. Printed copies are available by request.

Careful research is done before any article is placed in the newsletters. Upcoming meetings and events, planned weed treatments, lake health results, new neighbors, and general information that lake residents would want to know about, are just some of the topics provided in the newsletter.

Registration form included at the end of the newsletter or you can join by going to our website: www.crockerylake.org.

Nominations for BOARD MEMBERS

Every year at the Association Board Meeting we elect 2 representatives to the Board of Directors. Many years, an incumbent board member will agree to run for re-election. Paula Humphrey and Greg Slater have agreed to run again. But!!! You will make a great board member if:

- You have an interest in learning about lake health
 - Be a resource for your neighbors on water quality projects, erosion control, weed treatments, lake-scaping and more!
- You want to take a positive, active role in making decisions that affect our lake
- You have current concerns for the lake and have ideas how to fix them
 - Make a positive difference to help solve lake problems.

Meetings are the third Wednesday of the month from March through September.

If anyone is interested in being nominated or volunteering to put your name on the docket, give your current lake representative a call or email crockerylakeassociation@gmail.com or contact Betsy Ludwick, President, or any board member. Phone numbers at the end of the newsletter.

Welcome to New Residents:

Welcome! We encourage you to attend the annual meeting at Grose Park on May 18 at 7:00pm so we can meet and greet you! This is your new neighborhood!

Welcome to All of You!!! We look forward to getting to know you as we peek out from hibernation this Spring!

Remember if you have a new neighbor, please let Paula Humphrey (616.498.0363) know so she can pay them a visit.

DOCK ORDINANCE

Please read the ordinance before placing docks and boats in the water this year. Follow this link: <http://www.chester-twp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2019-02-01-Lake-Regulation-Ordinance.pdf>

Respecting our neighbors makes for great community!

Lake Temperature

Remember the lake temperature is still very cold and hypothermia can set in quickly. Also, remember to wear a lifejacket if you are on the lake. Life jackets are very important in this cold water with cold air temperatures. And the number of people in a boat sets the requirement for the number of life jackets: One per person!

2022 CHEMICAL TREATMENT DATES

Crockery Lake Schedule of Weed & Algae Treatments for 2022

Here is what to expect:

-DEQ permitting restrictions, national holidays, and/or weather conditions may influence the timing of treatments throughout the 2022 season.

-PLM treats each lake according to a schedule or season established with the cooperation of your lake association, lake board or residents on the lake.

- The treatment schedule is approximate. Please watch your shoreline for the posting of the 8.5x11 inch, yellow or green signs. The signs will indicate the date of the treatment, the products used, and any restrictions on the use of treated water for swimming, watering lawns, etc. The property owners in this area are planning to have the waters chemically treated to control lake weeds and/or algae. This notice is being circulated in accordance with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) procedures.
- On the day of treatment, signs will be posted along the shoreline within 100 feet of treatment areas that indicate what products were used and specific water use restrictions that apply.
- The chemicals used for Aquatic Nuisance Control are registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Michigan Department of Agriculture. The potential for damage to fish and other non-target organisms is minimal provided that the product is used as directed on the product label and the permit.
- The CLA Board of Directors would suggest using caution in using or being in the water the day of treatment according to posted warnings.

This years approximate dates are the week of:

4/18/22 Spring Inlet Sampling

5/9/22 Spring Survey

5/16/22 Weed and Algae Optional Treatment

6/20/22 Weed and Algae Optional Treatment

7/18/22 Weed and Algae Optional Treatment

8/18/22 Fall AVS survey, Optional Treatment

SEPTIC TANK UPKEEP

There are no government ordinances that require you to inspect, pump, or maintain your septic system. Our lake is directly affected by the health of your septic tank and drain field. Please, please be diligent in the care of our lake by taking care of your septic system. The longer you wait the more it affects lake quality and health.

Here are some good guidelines from michigan.gov

1. Protect It and Inspect It

Homeowners should generally have their system inspected every three years by a qualified professional or according to their state or local health department's recommendations. Tanks should be pumped when necessary, typically every three to five years.

2. Think at the Sink

Avoid pouring fats, grease, and solids down the drain. These substances can clog a system's pipes and drain field.

3. Don't Overload the Commode

Only put things in the drain or toilet that belong there. For example, coffee grounds, dental floss, disposable diapers and wipes, feminine hygiene products, cigarette butts, and cat litter can all clog and potentially damage septic systems.

4. Don't Strain Your Drain

Be water-efficient and spread out water use. Fix plumbing leaks and install faucet aerators and water-efficient products. Spread out laundry and dishwasher loads throughout the day - too much water at once can overload a system that hasn't been pumped recently.

5. Shield Your Field

Remind guests not to park or drive on a system's drainfield, where the vehicle's weight could damage buried pipes or disrupt underground flow.

6. **Pump Your Tank**

Routinely pumping your tank can prevent your septic system from premature failure, which can lead to groundwater contamination.

7. Test Your Drinking Water Well

If septic systems aren't properly maintained, leaks can contaminate well water. Testing your drinking water well is the best way to ensure your well water is free from contaminants.

For more information visit <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/Drinking-Water-and-Environmental-Health/onsite-wastewater-management/SepticSmart#:~:text=Protect%20it%20and%20inspect%20it,every%20three%20to%20five%20years.>

This is an MLive article that reiterates the problem with our septic systems (an excerpt follows). To read the entire article go to https://www.mlive.com/environment/2013/05/thousands_of_failed_septic_tan.html

Problems Extend Statewide

There are about 1.3 million on-site wastewater treatment systems in Michigan, most of which are septic systems for single-family homes. State officials estimate that 10 percent of those (130,000) have failed and are polluting the environment

But the problem may be far worse. Several counties that require septic tank inspections during real estate transactions have reported a septic system failure rate of 20 percent to 25 percent, according to a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality report

Failed septic systems are a concern because human sewage is loaded with pathogens that can threaten the health of people who swim in polluted waters or drink contaminated well water. Several experts interviewed by Bridge said water pollution from failed septic systems is a serious, but under-appreciated, problem across Michigan.

“It’s affecting our groundwater and surface waters,” said Joan Rose, a water quality expert who holds the Homer Nowlin Chair in Water Research at Michigan State University.

“We’ve tested rivers in the Lower Peninsula during low flow conditions (when most of the river water is groundwater, not runoff from the landscape) and we can detect signs of septic tank waste,” Rose said. “The more sewage tanks that are in the area, the higher the human sewage markers in the water.”

Among the rivers studied, MSU scientists found the highest levels of genetic markers, indicating the presence of human fecal matter, in the South Branch of the Black River in Southwest Michigan, Bear Creek, the Kalamazoo River, the Huron River and the Pere Marquette. Rose said there was no doubt that the fecal matter in those rivers came from leaky septic systems.

Human Waste has to Go Somewhere

Each day, Michigan residents discharge about 264 million gallons of wastewater into septic systems and other on-site treatment facilities. About 10 percent of that wastewater is piped into failed on-site treatment systems, according to state data.

Over the course of a year, that amounts to 9.4 billion gallons of untreated wastewater flowing into failed treatment systems, DEQ estimates.

Some of that raw sewage — no one knows how much — ends up in lakes, streams and underground aquifers that supply drinking water wells.

Septic systems and other on-site wastewater treatment systems for homes and businesses work well when properly installed and maintained. The problem is that many homeowners fail to maintain septic systems because it's not required.

Michigan is the only state without a statewide code governing how septic systems are designed, installed and maintained. County health departments regulate where septic tanks can be installed, but just 11 of Michigan's 83 counties have programs that identify failed septic systems and force repairs.

The result is a patchwork of regulations and scores of failed septic systems that go undetected, said Richard A. Falardeau, chief of DEQ's environmental health section.

Septics Go Suburban

Septic systems were originally designed for rural areas, where homes often were too far away to connect to a centralized, municipal wastewater treatment system. Now the devices are a popular method of sewage disposal in many suburban communities.

The growth of suburbs over the past 50 years did more than transform the landscape: Urban sprawl also fueled a dramatic increase in the number of septic systems.

In 1990, 28 percent of single-family homes in Michigan were connected to septic systems, according to state data. By 2004, 50 percent of all new homes were using septic systems to handle household wastewater.

Local health departments issue more than 30,000 permits each year for new and replacement septic systems in Michigan.

"Back in the day we had dense communities and farms were the only places that had septic tanks. Along come interstates and urban sprawl and now you have septic systems being used in a completely different manner than they were born into," said Jim Hegarty, a civil engineer and expert on wastewater treatment systems.

Nationally, 26 million homes and 60 million people use septic tanks or other on-site sewage treatment systems. The majority of those devices work as designed, but many states have reported septic system failure rates that rival Michigan's.

One of the worst cases of a failed septic system contaminating well water occurred in Door County, Wis., in 2007. More than 200 customers at a restaurant and six employees suffered intestinal ailments after drinking contaminated water.

Septics vs. Sewers

Larry Stephens, an engineer and president of the Michigan On-site Wastewater Recycling Association, said septic systems and other on-site wastewater treatment systems get a bum rap. He said small, decentralized treatment systems are more environmentally friendly than large municipal wastewater treatment facilities that serve entire communities.

“A properly maintained on-site treatment system is more sustainable than the centralized treatment systems,” said Stephens, whose consulting firm oversees construction of on-site systems.

He said municipal sewer systems dump more untreated sewage into lakes and rivers than all the septic systems in Michigan combined. State data support his claim.

According to DEQ data, Michigan’s municipal wastewater treatment facilities discharged 7.8 billion gallons of raw sewage and another 21.6 billion gallons of partially treated sewage into lakes and rivers in 2011. Most of those discharges occurred in Detroit and other cities where heavy rainfall overwhelmed combined sewer systems that treat both wastewater and stormwater. (See additional coverage on this at Bridge on May 16.)

“Wastewater treatment plants are supposed to fix their combined sewer overflows, but anytime untreated sewage enters the environment it is a risk,” Rose said. “Septic tanks are a known risk contributing viruses to groundwater and surface water. They have been linked to (disease) outbreaks ... so we cannot ignore this.”

Jeff Alexander is owner of J. Alexander Communications LLC and the author of "Pandora's Locks: The Opening of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway." A former staff writer for the Muskegon Chronicle, Alexander writes [a blog on the Great Lakes](#).

SPRING THINGS - TO DO (OR DON'T DO LIST)

Oak trees—don't prune April 15 - July 15. Increases possibility of infestation by fungal disease, allows native picnic beetles to spread spores from infected trees to healthy trees; oak wilt causes rapid defoliation and die back in the crown, killing red oak trees in a matter of weeks. Treatment can be costly and destructive—prevention is key!

Need firewood for your lake campfires? Purchase your firewood locally, or buy your firewood where you plan to burn it.

Re-landscaping? Add some native plants!

Clean up animal waste—don't let it end up in the lake.

Clean out your fire-pit and dispose of the ashes—so they don't end up in the lake.

Don't let those TV commercials for lawn fertilizers get to you! According to the MSU Extension Office, most lawns in Michigan have adequate levels of phosphorous without adding chemicals to your lawn.¹¹

Use lake water to water your lawn. Your lawn will have more than enough nutrients to keep it green. Do not water on days the lake is sprayed.

You can still use crabgrass killer (without fertilizer) and other insecticides.

No types of fertilizers may be used within 300 feet of the lake.

No grass clippings, leaves, sticks, etc. may be placed in the lake.

Fertilizers applied by lawn fertilizer companies are prohibited. If you see your neighbor violating this ordinance, please remind him of the ban. Violation of this ordinance may result in a \$500 fine.

Put reflectors on your rafts. Phone numbers should be added to your paddle boats and kayaks.

Violations and questions should be directed to the Chester Township Zoning Administrator 616-899-5544.



ADVERTISEMENTS

Lesha and Nicole Gustin are offering T-shirts again this year. Specially designed and printed by Nicole. All profits go to the Crockery Lake Fireworks Fund.

Adults S-XL— \$20

Larger sizes will be more

Kids - \$15

Call or text Lesha Gustin at 616-822-7139.



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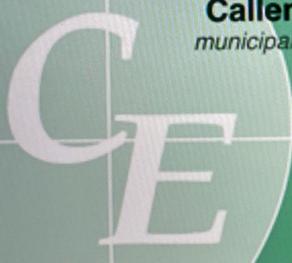
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Advertising for business is \$25/year. Inclusion of any advertisement in the CLA Newsletter does not equate to an endorsement by the Crockery Lake Association.

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CLA BOARD of DIRECTORS

President / Betsy Ludwick

Position Expires: 4/30/24

616.723.5704 / betsylud@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor, Website and Facebook page Administrator

Vice President / Pat Wolters

Position Expires: 4/30/23

616.887.8707 / patwolters@aol.com

Represents: 2833 - 2871 Crockery Shores, Kaycee Lane, Crockery Woods

Treasurer / Greg Slater

Position Expires: 4/30/22

616.638.6930 / greg.gsesllc@outlook.com

Representing: 2221 Van Dyke St - 2391 Van Dyke St

Secretary / Susan McClure

Position Expires: 4/30/23

616.899.5480 / smcclure527@comcast.net

Represents: 2519 - 2681 Van Dyke

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Position Expires: 4/30/22

616.957.9007 / rblauwkamp@gmail.com

Representing: 2332 - 2550 Crockery Shores Road, 24th Ave, Hoover

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Mollie Gaggen

Position Expires: 4/30/23

313.712.6437 / molliesterr@gmail.com

Representing: 2081 Van Dyke - 2211 Van Dyke

John deGeneres

Position expires: 4/30/24

225.287.1420 / johnkassidegen@gmail.com

Representing: 2563 Crockery Shores Road - 2798 Crockery Shores Road

Paula Humphrey

Position Expires: 4/30/22

616.498.0363 / paulah2700@gmail.com

Representing: 2392 Van Dyke - 2516 Van Dyke

Carl Elliott

Position Expires: 4/30/2024

616.822.9250 mobile

616.887.4203 home / versilecbe@yahoo.com

Representing: 2705 Van Dyke St - 2835 Van Dyke

CROCKERY LAKE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

YEARLY DUES: \$35 paid by _____ Date _____

FIREWORKS DONATION: \$ _____ CANDLES _____ at \$1.25 each

Crockery Lake Association is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Dues are not tax deductible. However, firework donations are tax deductible.

Please make your check to: **CROCKERY LAKE ASSOCIATION**

Send to: **Greg Slater, 2500 Crockery Shores Road, Casnovia, MI 49318**

_____ ***RETAIN A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS*** _____

DUES PAID \$ _____ DATE _____

CANDLES _____ X \$1.25 = _____

FIREWORKS DONATION \$ _____

CHECK NUMBER _____