

CROCKERY LAKE ASSOCIATION

April 2017 NEWSLETTER

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WINTER DOESN'T STOP SOME RESIDENTS FROM ENJOYING THE LAKE

During the February warm weather break, Steve Bykerk was seen water skiing and Nichole Gustin ventured out on her stand-up wave board. Ice fishing was very limited year due to the warm weather thaws.

CLA ANNUAL MEETING. May 17. Dinner: 6:30; meeting 7:00. Grose Park Forest Shelter. Hot dogs! Beans! Veggies! Dessert! The perfect meal free of charge! Our speaker this year is Sgt. Dean DeVries, Ottawa County Marine Patrol. He'll have tips for us on water safety and what equipment you need to avoid getting a ticket. And he's bringing his patrol boat with him!! Hope to see every one there. So fun reconnecting with old neighbors and new ones too.

SEEKING TWO BOARD MEMBERS. Kathryn Lipski and Hope DeJonge—long-time board members and even longer lake residents, will be moving soon. Gonna miss you guys! Anyone interested in taking their spots on the Board should contact Pat Wolters, President 88-8707. Serving on the Board has many perks—learning about lake health, possible water quality projects, erosion control, weed treatments and lakescaping to name a few. It is the best way to voice your opinions, share your concerns, and then help take the action necessary to solve lake problems. Your home is your largest investment. The value of your home is dependent on the quality of lake.

NEXT CLA BOARD MEETING. Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 7:00 pm. Bruce Callen's house, 2379 VanDyke.

2017 CHEMICAL TREATMENT DATES May 22, 2017; June 26, 2017; July 24, 2017; August 21, 2017. Dates subject to change re inclement weather conditions. Treatments will be for Weed & Algae (if necessary); and muck pellets.

NEW LAKE RESIDENTS—Del and Marilyn Duer. Welcome! They bought Sue Wobma's house on the north side of the lake. He's an Engineer and she is a Medical Secretary. No kids at home. They are looking forward to meeting their neighbors this spring and enjoying their new lake home.

FASTER, EASIER WAY TO DONATE TO CROCKERY LAKE FIREWORKS!!!

Go to the CLA website (www.crockerylake.org) and click on the box under the Fireworks thermometer "Donate". You are able make a donation using your credit card. The money goes directly into the 2018 CLA Fireworks Fund account. All funds received will be used for the fireworks

2017 FIREWORKS – JULY 3, 2017

We raised approximately \$4,500 for the 2017 Fireworks show. That's a little bit better than in 2016. The fireworks seem to get better and better every year—thanks to your generous donations

Next year we may not be so lucky—export tariffs are expected to drive the price of fireworks up. The best way to avoid a smaller show is for more of you to donate towards the 2018 Fireworks. We have made it super easy for you to donate—such go www.crockerylake.org, click on the donate button on the right side of the page. You can make your donation using your credit card. We are still happy to accept donations the "old fashioned way"--when your Lake Board Representative visits you.

Another way to support next year's fireworks fund with is by shopping at the Crockery Lake Association on-line store at <http://www.cafepress.com/crockerylake> Firework donations for 2018 are accepted at this or any time throughout the year.

DISCOUNTED SEPTIC PUMPING SERVICES

Kerkstra's Septic 616-209-4472. Continues to offer discounted rates to Crockery Lake residents. Please have your septic tanks pumped at least every 3 years. Your family's health and the lake's water quality depends on this. By pumping regularly, you will avoid costly repairs to your system. This is a very important way in which all residents can help preserve the health of Crockery Lake. Call them at 616-209-4472.

TESTING YOUR WELL WATER

Everyone on the lake has a well for drinking water. Is your water safe to drink? The only way to know is to have your water tested—every year-- to ensure water is free of harmful bacteria and other contaminants. Your water may have been safe last year and is not safe this year. "A nearby farm might have started using a different type of

fertilizer that washes dangerous nitrates into your aquifer; your own septic system may be leaching contaminants into your well; everything that comes from the environment ends up in the aquifers (the source of your water). Excerpts from The Grand Rapids Press, January 29, 2017 article.

The best time to test is in the spring—coliform bacteria, nitrates, dissolved solids and pH levels are included in the test. Cost: \$36. Water collection kits can be picked up and dropped off anytime 8 am to 5 pm Monday thru Friday at the environmental health desk inside the Kent County Health Department, 700 Fuller Ave., NE, Grand Rapids. (they will do tests from Ottawa County residents too).

INTRODUCING JOHN'S TACKLE BOX...

John Truskowski, a long-time lake resident and fisherman, has generously agreed to share some of his best fishing tips with us. John comes highly qualified as he works at Al & Bob's Sporting Goods store in Grand Rapids. He is privy to what everyone is catching, where, and what they are using--in addition to what the hot new tackle items are.

WHAT THEY ARE USING: There are steelhead in the rivers. They are using spawn sacks and bottom bouncing trout beads.

TIPS: Get ready for spring fishing now!!— (1) get your 2017 license (can be ordered on line www.michigan.gov/dnr); (2) test your equipment—motor, batteries and new fuel; (3) trailer lights working? (4) how are those wheel bearings?; (5) check your line on your poles and replace if necessary; (6) go through your lures and make sure your hooks are sharp—sharp=more catches; (7) check your life jackets and replace if necessary; (8) review the fishing laws—do you know the rules? Now you are ready to fish safely and successfully. Good luck and Have FUN!

CROCKERY LAKE ORDINANCES

Chester Township has adopted 2 ordinances created to help maintain the water quality of Crockery Lake. We will discuss each ordinance in upcoming newsletters. This month is fertilizer ban ordinance. All fertilizer is banned. A copy of the Ordinance is attached.

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.

If you use lake water to water your lawn you will also have more than enough nutrients to have a green lawn.

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

SPRING THINGS – “TO DO (OR DON’T 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.

Relandscaping? Add some native plants! There is a Native Plant Workshop on April 19 6-8 pm. Aquinas College. Cost: \$10 at door. Participants may bring a sketch of their yard and will be given ideas for suitable native plants. Facebook.com/Kent CDGRMI. Walk-ins Welcome!

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

Clean out your firepit and dispose of the ashes—so they don’t end up in the lake.

Put reflectors on your rafts. Put your phone number on your paddleboats and kayaks.

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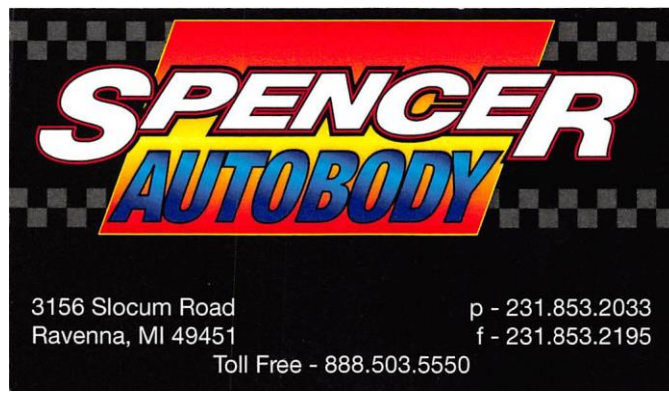
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Advertising in this newsletter is FREE to Crockery Lake Members.

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

People Working for You:

Pat Wolters, CLA President 616 887 8707
patwolters@aol.com
2730 – 2781 Kayce Ln Pvt
2862 – 2871 Crockery Shores Pvt
2773 – 2856 Crockery Shores Rd
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CLA webmaster, Charles Lane
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**Ordinance No. 98-10-1 Chester
Township, Ottawa County Michigan**

An Ordinance to promote the control of aquatic vegetation in Crockery Lake by prohibiting the use of certain chemicals within three hundred feet of Crockery Lake, by prohibiting the dumping of grass clippings or lawn waste in Crockery Lake, providing for the abatement of violations as nuisances, and providing penalties for the violation of the provisions of this Ordinance.

THE TOWNSHIP OF CHESTER, OTTAWA COUNTY, MICHIGAN ORDAINS:

Section 1. Findings and Purpose.

The Chester Township Board finds that Crockery Lake is a valuable natural and recreational resource, and that the overgrowth of certain varieties of aquatic vegetation poses a substantial threat to the use and enjoyment of this resource. The Board also finds that the application of commercially available fertilizers which contain manure, nitrogen, phosphorous or potassium on land located within three hundred feet (300') of Crockery Lake has a tendency to promote or increase the growth of aquatic vegetations, such as algae and other aquatic plants. The Board, therefore, enacts this ordinance for the purpose of limiting the application of such fertilizers within three hundred (300') of the waters of Crockery Lake.

Section 2. Definitions.

As used in this Ordinance, the following terms as hereinafter provided:

- (a) "Algae" means any of the group of nonvascular aquatic plants without true stems, flowers, leaves, and roots, either single-celled or colonial forms.
- (b) "Aquatic vegetation" means algae and higher aquatic plants.
- (c) "Fertilizer" means any commercially available natural or synthetic material containing manure, nitrogen, phosphorous, or potassium, or any mixtures containing a combination thereof, which is applied to land to increase the fertility of the soil.
- (d) "Higher aquatic "plant" means any of a group of vascularized plants with true stems, flowers, leaves, and roots which live in water and belong to the class Angiospermae.

(c) "Lakeshore" means the water's edge of Crockery Lake, located in Chester Township, Ottawa County, Michigan, as represented by the meander line on the government plat of Crockery Lake.

(a) "Notice to Abate Nuisance" means a written document sent to the owner or occupant of real property upon which a nuisance is alleged to exist, which document directs the recipient to abate the nuisance with a time specified in the Notice.

(b) "Person" or "Persons" mean any individual, firm, public or private corporation, partnership, trust, agency, or any other entity or group of such persons.

Section 3. Regulation of Application of Fertilizer Within Three Hundred Feet of Crockery Lake.

A. No Person shall apply, deposit, leave, maintain, place, use or permit another Person to apply, deposit, leave, maintain, place, or use any fertilizer on any land or property within three hundred feet (300') of the lakeshore of Crockery Lake.

B. No Person shall deposit, dump, or place, nor permit another Person to deposit, dump, or place any grass clippings, yard wastes, shrubs, leaves, tree branches, brush or other plant materials either on or in Crockery Lake, nor shall any Person store any such materials in a location in such close proximity to the waters of Crockery Lake or in any manner that makes it more likely than not that such materials will be moved into the waters of Crockery Lake by wind, water or other means.

Section 4. Declaration of Nuisance

Any violation of this Ordinance shall constitute a public nuisance *per se*, which may be abated as provided in this Ordinance, any other ordinance of Chester Township, or as provided by means available under the provisions of the laws of the State of Michigan.

Section 5. Notice to Abate Nuisance.

Whenever any Township officer or official determines that a violation of this Ordinance has occurred, a notice to abate nuisance shall be served upon the owner or occupant of the premises on which the nuisance exists, which notice shall require the person to abate the nuisance immediately by ceasing or stopping such violation. The notice shall specifically describe the particular violation of this ordinance which is to be abated. The notice may be served by any of the following means:

(a) Personal delivery of the notice to the owner or occupant, or by leaving the notice at his or her residence, office, or place of business with a person of suitable age and discretion;

(b) Mailing a copy of the Notice, first class certified mail, to the owner or occupant at his or her last known address; or,

- (c) Posting of the notice in a conspicuous place on the premises for five (5) days, if the owner or occupant of the premises is unknown.

The nuisance specified in the Notice to Abate Nuisance shall be abated as follows:

- (a) Immediately upon receipt of the Notice if the violation of the ordinance involves the application of fertilizer in violation of Section 3 (a);
- (b) For violations of Section 3 (b), no further dumping of lawn clippings, yard wastes, etc., shall occur once the notice has been served. Removal (clean-up) of any lawn clippings, yards wastes, etc., from the waters of Crockery Lake, if practicable, shall be completed within seven (7) days after the notice has been served.

Section 6. Penalty for Violation of Ordinance.

- (a) Any person who violates Section 3 of this Ordinance shall be responsible for a municipal civil infraction, and upon a admission or determination of responsibility thereof, shall be subject to a fine of not more than Five Hundred and 00/100.

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