

CROCKERY LAKE ASSOCIATION

August/September 2017 NEWSLETTER

CROCKERY LAKE WEBSITE: www.crockerylake.org

CROCKERY LAKE FACEBOOK:

[www.facebook/crockerylake](https://www.facebook.com/crockerylake)

CROCKERY LAKE ITEMS:

www.cafepress.com/crockerylake



Purpose of Crockery Lake Association: "To educate, protect, and promote the quality of Crockery Lake and its watershed"

2018 FIREWORKS DONATIONS –GETTING SOOOOOOOOOOOOOO CLOSE!!

So far \$4368.79 (including on-line donations) has been collected. Need at least \$4,500.00 for a show next year. Our goal is \$5,000.00.

Lake residents were treated to the best fireworks show we have ever had. Carl Elliott and Tom Ludwick (lake residents and volunteers) really outdid themselves this year. Tons of huge colorful shots in a variety of combinations. We are so fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers and donees. Let's keep the tradition going so we can have a memorable show next year. To donate: (1) Contact ANY CLA Board Representative—we are happy to pick up your donation; (2) Go to Rally.org. Search for Crockery Lake. Place a donation at this site; (3) If you have not made a fireworks donation, your CLA Board Representative may be visiting you soon!

NEW WELCOME SIGNS UPDATE Last month we included a picture of the proposed welcome signs and asked for your input. The new signs will replace the current ones on the north and south sides of the lake. No negative input was received, so we are planning on going ahead with this much-needed improvement. The cost is approximately \$850.00. We are soliciting donations for this project. Come on! Give us a small donation (\$10?)—it will be well worth it—after all—you have to drive by them every day. Help rid us of our eyesore signs. Contact any board rep to make a donation. If all goes well, we plan on having them up before this winter.

DOCKS & BOAT HOISTS & FLOATING RAFTS. The Township is reporting continued problems with residents placing their docks and boat hoists on their neighbor's bottomlands. Michigan law requires all these items be placed on your OWN bottomlands. It can constitute a trespass for any of those items that encroach on your neighbor's lake bottomlands.

Rafts cannot interfere with navigability or the rights of other riparians to reasonably use their respective riparian properties. Moored or anchored boats cannot drift over the

bottomlands of one's neighbor, even if the dock or anchor is located on the bottomlands of the owner of the boat.

BE A RESPECTFUL NEIGHBOR!!

Given the potential for accidents on the waterfront, it is very important for a riparian property owner to carry sufficient liability insurance regarding your dock, boat hoist and swim raft. Today, even a million dollars in liability insurance coverage is likely not enough. Also, keep your dock, boat hoist and raft in good and safe condition.

Excerpts from article "Docks and Boat Hoists—Everything You Always Wanted to Know, by C. Bloom, The Michigan Riparian, Winter 2016.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO CLA BY-LAWS and 2017-2018 BOARD POLICY. Voting on the below changes is open to all members of the Crockery Lake Association. The vote will take place at the next monthly board meeting. The meeting will be held Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at 2379 Van Dyke (Bruce Callen's house).

PROPOSED CLA BY-LAW CHANGES: ARTICLE VI, Section 7: "Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held on the third ~~Monday~~ **Wednesday** of each month."

PROPOSED 2017-2018 CLA BOARD POLICY CHANGES:

Section No. 2.C.: BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE & NOTIFICATION: "Regular scheduled Board meetings will be scheduled on the third ~~Monday~~ **Wednesday** of those months listed in Section 2.A."

Section No. 9.C.: "Membership dues for those who are age 64 and younger will be in the amount of ~~\$25.00~~ **\$30.00** per membership household, per membership period."

Section No. 9.D.: "Membership dues for those who are of age 65 and older will be in the amount of ~~\$15.00~~ **\$25.00** per membership household, per membership period."

Section 14.C.: FIREWORKS ANNUAL DISPLAY: "The board has set a minimum amount to be collected of ~~\$3,000~~ **\$4,500** (which includes a premium for personal and property insurance protection) in order for a fireworks activity to be conducted."

Section 18.A.: CLA NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION AND FREQUENCY: ~~"The CLA will print an association newsletter from time to time and distribute its newsletter to eligible members of the CLA. (See Section C below)."~~ (Newsletters distributed to all residents—whether members or nonmembers.)

Section 18.F.: CLA NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION AND FREQUENCY: “Businesses may advertise for one (1) year in CLA Newsletter at a cost of ~~\$20.00~~ **\$25.00**. Size of ad not to exceed business-card size. Proceeds will go to the Fireworks Fund.”

Copies of the complete CLA By-Laws and 2017-2018 CLA Board Policies can be viewed at our website www.crockerylake.org.

CROCKERY LAKE GARDEN TOUR

Five homes participated in this year’s Garden Tour. Super fun and informative for the good-sized group who attended the tours.

The Humphrey’s Paula showed us her many gardens filled with 100’s of types of hostas. Most of the hostas have plant identifier tags too! She has a hosta “hospital” and cannot resist adding to her collection. Because of a drain renovation which will take place in early September, she will need to move many hostas. If you are interested in helping her, just let her know—she will appreciate the help.



Mark Irey Mark pots his own hanging baskets every year—with unusual results—lovely!! He has a row of umbrella plants that he digs up each year and replants. The result is a stunning color display with a backdrop of a white picket fence. He has several other colorful annual gardens which are just beautiful!



The Van Dyke's A row of Limelight hydrangas are the first to greet you when you visit their home. Charlie gave us a wonderful tour of his very large yard, which includes part of a creek in the back. He puts down 12 yards of mulch every year—so you can imagine how many planting areas he has! He mixes hostas with precision-cut bushes to create an interesting variety of beds. He has an “artist’s eye” for placement of his plants and bushes.



The Holton's Brian Holton's vegetable gardens are not only neat as a pin but highly productive. He gets so many zucchini that he gives them away to lucky neighbors! He keeps weeds to a minimum by using black landscape material around his peppers and underneath the squash vines. He has 4-foot tall gladiolas which are in full flower but require no staking. How does he do that? He also has a rare Wolf River apple tree. It bears apples which weigh at least ½ lb each. Great for applesauce!



The Rooks' Dean spends only 5 minutes a week mowing his grass. The rest of their yard is devoted to native plants and grasses. In the front yard, they have created a beautiful "dry bed" of rocks which takes care of any rainwater runoff. In the backyard, is a very large waterfall surrounded by water plants. Tina like to use herbs when she cooks. They have a vegetable garden on their upper deck—no rabbit problems and just a few steps from the kitchen. Great idea!!



FREE PLANTS: Red Hot Pokers: Sue McClure; Purple Water Iris: Rooks; Michigan Cactus: Rooks; Sage & Oregano: Rooks.

We are tentatively planning on 5 more gardens to tour next July. If you would like to participate, please contact Sue McClure.

LAKE HEALTH UPDATE

Jaimee Conroy gave us lots of great information. Went over the goals of Crockery Lake re weed treatments: (1) reduce exotics; (2) promote native plants. This is a challenge—we currently have only 14 kinds of native plants in the lake; (3) healthy fisheries—need a balance of weed overgrowth and needs of fish population; (4) education of residents—encourage good stewardship and the impact of invasive species.

This winter was mild. Excessive plant growth and algae is a problem for all lakes—including ours. They are not seeing much milfoil. They are now using cClear for algae treatments. C Clear includes an ingredient that strips out phosphorous together with the copper sulfate. Phosphorous is what fuels algae. On 6-26-cClear treatment; 7-13-Diquat treatment for coontail and thin leaf pond weed. Because of the conservation easement on the west end of the north bay, they are not allowed to treat within 100 feet of the shoreline in that area. The weedbed in the north bay will not be treated. It would be OK to harvest for coontail. Cost--\$3,000-\$5,000.

The treatment in August is optional—hoping for no weed treatment; the muck treatments continue to decrease the percentage of organics in the sediment. This is the fourth year of treatment—PLM needs to know if we want to continue with the treatments. PLM suggests we continue the treatment. The amount of muck is decreasing. Because all lakes are “dying” it will be a continuing war to keep the amount of muck from filling in the lake. More areas could be treated with the pellets.

Question asked: What happens to cut weeds and/or weeds killed by chemical treatments? Per Conroy—most disintegrate. Stems usually drop to lake bottom. If weeds are not cut or killed, they drop to the bottom of the lake anyway in the winter.

Per Conroy, a new invasive in Reeds Lake is frogbit floating lily pad. There are no treatments for this weed. There are no new eel grass treatments available.

LAKE TESTING RESULTS DONE BY DENNIS ARMS AND BOB BLAUWKAMP (LCA BOARD MEMBERS)

Bob & Dennis have done NINE Secchi disk readings with the minimum being 2.5 ft and a maximum reading of 5 ft. (Tests to see how clear the water is). Out of the 9 tests, we have an average reading of 3.2 ft. The best news is the most recent readings have shown a higher clarity reading than at the beginning of the summer. This means the chemical/muck pellet treatments have helped improve the water clarity.

We have done FOUR Chlorophyll tests and one more next month before we submit the samples to the DEQ at the end of September. We also have a late summer phosphorous test due next month that will be submitted with the other tests.

NOTE: Each of these tests takes approximately 2 hours to complete. Thank you Bob & Dennis!



JOHN'S TACKLE BOX

Well summer is coming to an end--soon fall will be here! Fall can be one of the best times of the year to fish. Usually there is less boat traffic on the lake and many times you will have the lake all to yourself.

Fish will go on a fall feeding frenzy to prepare for winter. They will usually eat just about anything you throw at them. Look to fish around weed edges. Most fish are now in deeper water. Bluegills are hitting on wigglers and wax worms. Best fishing is early mornings and evenings. Bass fishing has slowed up. Big lake fishing is going strong. Check your local

harbor and charter captains for up-to-date reports. Hope you enjoyed my reports—see you next spring!

ARE YOU A GOOD LAKE NEIGHBOR?

We all want to enjoy the lake in our own way. Some like it quiet, some like parties. Please be thoughtful of your immediate neighbors. Don't assume it is OK for you or your guests to use your neighbor's dock or lakefront. Don't use it unless you ask permission EVERY TIME. Just because they have not complained to you does not mean it is OK.

Next CLA Board Meeting: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., Bruce Callen's, 2379 Van Dyke. Everyone is welcome!

What CLA Does For You: Coordination of Weed treatments each year; Fireworks; Keep Residents Informed About Important Issues Impacting the Lake; Township Ordinances affecting Lake; Newsletters; Input on Problems; Continuing education and community involvement to remain informed of important issues that affect the lake, and to seek opportunities and cooperation with governmental agencies to find solutions to address and fund lake improvements. We also provide sampling through the volunteer program CLMP.

CLA Dues: \$30 per household (under 65); \$25 per household (over 65) A TRUE

BARGAIN!!

Advertising in this newsletter is FREE to Crockery Lake Association 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.



Don Scott

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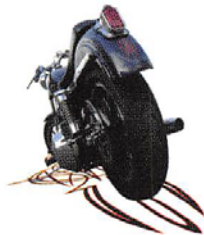
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