

2006



*Protecting the integrity of
Crystal Lake, Benzie County, Michigan,
now and for the future.*

**2005 - 2006
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY**

**2005
ANNUAL REPORTS**



CRYSTAL LAKE & WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Mission Statement

The Crystal Lake & Watershed Association is committed to protecting and improving the quality of Crystal Lake, by monitoring the water and surrounding environment, through effective action and leadership, thereby preserving the natural beauty of Crystal Lake for future generations.

Purpose

The purpose of the Association is to protect and promote the natural qualities of Crystal Lake and its surrounding Watershed. The goal of the Association is to preserve for future generations the beauty and recreational resources of Crystal Lake and its Watershed. To these ends, the Association will engage in water quality monitoring, educational programs, promotion of harmonious land development along with also promoting safe use of Crystal Lake. It will conduct such activities as needed to advocate and insure the continued aesthetic beauty and environmental integrity of the Lake and its Watershed.

Membership

The membership of the Association shall consist of all dues paying families (parents with children under age 21), individuals, organizations and businesses interested in preserving the environment and maintaining the quality of life in the Crystal Lake area.

2006 Annual Meeting

**Saturday, July 22, 2006
9:30 – 11:00 AM**

**Congregational Summer Assembly
Community Building**

2005 – 2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Michigan, now and for the future.*

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2005 was an important and challenging year for CLWA, and 2006 will be even more critical for our Association. We have stood by our position that the proposed Launch site will have a negative impact on the Lake, and we are preparing to go to trial in 2006.

When MDOT worked on M-22 last year we objected to several of their procedures which negatively impacted the Lake. MDOT agreed to take some temporary measures to control the discharge; however, MDOT has refused to take any further action to address the problems with soil erosion and the sedimentation of the water of the Lake caused by its action and conduct, or lack thereof, in its reconstruction of M-22. In response we commenced suit last month against MDOT in the Benzie County Circuit Court. Starting that suit shows that the CLWA means it when we say that we will act when the water quality of the Lake is threatened.

Those two matters will be discussed in detail below, and we will keep you advised of developments. In the meantime during 2006 we will also plan to be involved with the Benzie County Master Plan, the Benzie Corridor, water quality monitoring and the regular ongoing educational and environmental activities carried out by our technical committees.

I want to thank our Committee Chair persons and Committee Members for their outstanding efforts in 2005. I also want to thank our Administrator, Vickie

Schmucker, for her excellent services on behalf of the Association. Last but not least I want to thank all of our members for their most generous responses to our solicitations. We believe we are putting your dollars to work on issues critical to our purpose of preserving for future generations the beauty and recreational resources of Crystal Lake and its watershed.

Bob Appleford, President

PRESIDENT'S REPORT **The Proposed Boat Launch**

The proposed Launch has now become a political issue as well as an environmental issue. Proponents of the proposed Launch have written articles published in the Traverse City Record-Eagle claiming that opponents of the proposed Launch seek to keep fishing boats and other pleasure craft off the lake. Although they don't name the CLWA as an opponent, they seek to include us with the Crystal Lake Property Rights Association ("CLPRA") which, as previously reported, filed suit against MDEQ in Benzie County Circuit Court to block the Launch. Both publicly, and at meetings with the MDEQ and MDNR, we have stated we do not seek to block the Launch.

In response to the articles by proponents of the Launch I sent a letter to the Record-Eagle which stated in part: Our position, a middle ground between the MDNR and CLPRA positions, is not to block the Launch or change the site, but rather to question the size of the proposed Launch site, and also the proposed 121 parking spaces. A reduction in size will significantly reduce the negative impact of the Boat Launch on the Lake and the surrounding wetlands and still provide for Lake access. Our concerns include runoff into the lake and clear cutting of trees in the hills for parking.

The Boat Launch issue is not about excluding fisherman and boaters; it's all about maintaining water quality, so the Lake continues to be enjoyed by

the whole community. An Administrative Proceeding before Judge Lacasse in Lansing is now scheduled for the weeks beginning September 11th and 18th.

The Suit Against MDOT

Our positioning this case and the relief we seek are best summarized by the following excerpts from our Complaint prepared by Jim Olson of Olson, Bzdok & Howard PVC in Traverse City.

MDOT's reconstruction of M-22 included widening the road in several locations, which involved the extensive cutting of slopes, ditching, and the alteration of the former pattern of drainage and storm water control along the road.

As part of its reconstruction, MDOT un-plugged a number of formerly plugged culverts that now, as a result, drain into Crystal Lake causing a soil erosion and sedimentation of the waters of the Lake.

Steep exposed slopes along M-22 resulted from MDOT's reconstruction procedures.

A significant rain event in August of 2005 caused soil erosion and the sedimentation of the waters of Crystal Lake from M-22.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Suit Against MDOT (continued)

The harm that will be caused by soil erosion and the sedimentation of the waters of Crystal Lake from M-22 will alter the status quo and will be irreparable and/or difficult to address after the fact.

Michigan's Soil Erosions and Sedimentation Control Act ("SESCA") imposes a pollution standard. It is a violation of the Act to engage in construction that includes earth changes which result in soil erosion or the sedimentation of the waters of the State.

A violation of a pollution standard is a per se or prima facie violation of Michigan Environmental Protections Act ("MEPA")

MDOT has violated the pollution standard established by SESCO

Alternatives exist or are otherwise available that MDOT could take to prevent or minimize soil erosion and sedimentation of Crystal Lake from M-22

The release of sediments is now imminent with the impending snow melt and spring rains.

CLWA requests the court to:

Find and Declare MDOT in violation of both SESCO and MEPA

Order MDOT and its director, employees, agents and contractors to perform remediation measures to prevent or minimize the further degradation and harm to Crystal Lake

Grant temporary and permanent injunction and enter equitable orders directing the Defendant, its employees and agents to take such steps that are necessary and appropriate.

A hearing on our Order to Show Cause Why a Temporary Injunction or Equitable Order Should Not Issue is scheduled for April 14, 2006 at 10:30 am in Beulah.

CRYSTAL LAKE & WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

2005 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Crystal Lake & Watershed Association completed 2005 with a strong financial position. This is an improvement over our strong results in 2004.

Combined equity now exceeds \$136,000. Importantly, our revenue less expense is in the black. This is due to more volunteerism in the membership and, it is important to make special note, of our capable administrative effort in Jean Luedtke Bookkeeping Service and the wonderful efforts of Vickie Schmuker as the administrator. Though we are still in our infancy as a new organization much has been achieved. Thank you everybody.

Highlights this year include four things:

1. Our Endowment Fund has grown to \$64,000 over the \$21,000 reported last year due both to generous contributors and our Fundraiser last summer,

2. Revenue in our General Operating Fund this year exceeded expenses by \$16,000, a big improvement from 2004,

3. We have been able to keep "it's all about the quality of the water and the things that affect it" as the central focus of our association. This focus involves our world-class science panel with their analysis and the necessary funding of external consultants and certain legal expenses and

4. Our total membership exceeds any number in the past. We're on our way to having 2,000 members!

This level of operation with a number of key issues before us would not have been possible without an increasing groundswell of support. The sign of optimism in the air reported last year, if anything, has grown stronger.

R. C. Schmidt, Treasurer

FINANCIAL STATEMENT January 1 - December 31, 2005

Operations	Revenue	Expenses	Net
General Operating Fund	\$75,397.00	\$59,292.00	\$16,105.00
2020 Vision Fund	\$15,165.00	\$32,711.00	\$(17,546.00)
Endowment Fund	\$9,675.00	\$-	\$9,675.00
Fundraiser	\$58,758.00	\$19,908.00	\$38,850.00
Total	\$158,995.00	\$111,911.00	\$47,084.00
Equity			
General Operating Fund	\$23,503.00		
2020 Vision Fund	\$48,779.00		
Endowment Fund	\$63,877.00		
Total	\$136,159.00		



FUNDRAISER REPORT

Summer 2005

The 2005 Crystal Lake & Watershed Association Fundraising Gala raised nearly \$40,000 for the Endowment Fund which will help protect and preserve Crystal Lake and its watershed. On July 24th, over 200 people celebrated the union of the Crystal Lake Association and Crystal Lake Watershed Fund with a gag wedding, food and libation, and music by Tom Kaufman. Attendees dined on hors d'oeuvres and dinner from Catering by Kelly's and a wedding cake by the Crescent Bakery—the food was fabulous!

First and foremost, we would like to thank the Crystal Lake Yacht Club for their generosity and support.

We would also like to thank our sponsors—Sleeping Bear Realty, State Savings Bank, Graceland Fruit, and Glen's Markets—plus, all the generous donors and those who bid on items.

To the tireless volunteers, we cannot thank you enough, for we couldn't have done it without you. And last, but not least, we would like to thank Vickie Schmuker and the entire CLWA Board for their relentless work and guidance in our endeavor to raise funds to preserve our precious resource, Crystal Lake.

Thank you,

Annie DeVries, Co-chairmen

Jill Greene, Co-chairmen

2005 – 2005 STANDING COMMITTEES

Education and Communications

Directory *Stacy Daniels*
Publications *Co-Chair, Walkabout,*
Walkabout *and Technical*

Amy Kinney
Co-Chair, Publicity,
and Communications

Peg Burns
Ann DeVries
Bob Garrison
Mary Pray
Bob Schmidt

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Ad Hoc Committee

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Ron Renner
Edmond Frost
Cliff Graves



EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Education & Communications Committee goals are to: (1) promote public education on watershed management through watershed handbooks, "Walkabout" interpretive manuals, newsletters, websites, and issue papers, and (2) promote stewardship of Crystal Lake and the Crystal Lake Watershed through education of members, students, and the general public on resource conservation. Activities for 2005 are described below:

The Crystal Lake "Walkabout" is an educational program for students, property owners, and visitors about the Crystal Lake Watershed. It uses a "hands-on" approach to hydrology - how water moves about the Watershed - to address water quality, ecology, land use, zoning, septic tanks, green belts, sustainable development, and watershed management. Participants "walk-about" Interpretive Sites within the Watershed: the Lake, and its tributaries, wetlands, dunes, and high ridges, as they are described by environmental professionals. The "Walkabout" Interpretive Manual contains maps, facts, descriptions of the Interpretive Sites, a chronology of events, and a list of concerns. Since 1994, the "Walkabout" has been presented to over 2,636 students, residents, and visitors. It became a biennial event in 2002 to accommodate all 6th- and 8th-grade students in Benzie County. Cosponsors include many local and regional groups. It will be repeated in 2006: Spring (6th grade), Summer (Public), and Fall (8th grade).

Special thanks to members of the cosponsoring organizations, the Site Interpreters, and other volunteers, and esp. the dedicated teachers from Benzie Central Schools and Frankfort-Elberta Area Schools, who incorporate watershed themes into their curriculums, and provide moral support, chaperons, bus transportation, and their students to make the "Walkabout" worthwhile.

The CLWA website www.CLWA.us contains a wealth of information about the Crystal Lake Watershed, FAQs, the CLWA, Committee activities, concerns & issues, a calendar, references, newsletters, and other publications, and links. The CLWA newsletter, Crystal Whitecaps is published two times per year: Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer.

"The Crystal Lake & Watershed Association – A 'New' Organization!" was the cover story for the Feb. 2005 Michigan Riparian. "The Crystal Lake Watershed - The Value of Having a Lake Association?!" was presented at the Michigan Lake & Stream Associations conference on April 23, 2005. The new CLWA banner was unfurled at the 2005 Annual Meeting

Stacy L. Daniels, Co-Chair

Amy Kinney, Co-Chair

Committee Members

Peg Burns, Ann DeVries, Bob Garrison, Mary Pray, Bob Schmidt.

FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The committee reviewed actions taken in the past several years and discussed at length the feasibility of continuing or discontinuing certain activities and practices. Results showed that the committee felt that we continue along the same course with a few changes. Our responsibilities still remain the same.

At the annual meeting eight Crystal Circle Awards were presented. Those names appear now on the list in the Recognitions section of this directory.

The emphasis on membership was addressed and the results for the year found to be very good. Total membership has increased to over 1200 and the resulting income reached an all time high. The number in our Business Membership category also increased. The 2020 Vision Fund Appeal proved successful in number of dollars raised, as were contributions to the Endowment Fund.

Lisa Christian has volunteered to take over most of the work formerly provided by Bobbe Almer and is doing an outstanding job. We are fortunate to have her with her talents and abilities on this committee.

It is with regret that we announce that Ted Bosler and Alan Applehof have resigned as Co-Chairs of the committee.

Alan will remain on the committee, but presently no chairman has been selected. However, we are continuing our work as usual and hopefully will soon have a new Chairman.

Special gratitude goes to Cliff Graves who spends many, many hours working on updating and improving our data base, to Ted Bosler who spent considerable time in improving our organizational procedures as well as providing his expertise in fund raising and to Lisa Christian for her splendid work and the number of hours she contributed in doing our appeals, the annual bookmark, and this directory which takes many hours to produce.

Kathryn Simpson, Membership Chairman,
for the Financial Development Committee

Committee Members

Alan Applehof, Doug Bard, Lisa Christian, Cliff Graves, Phil Meek, Weezie Morris, Ron Renner, Kathryn Simpson, Susan Teteak, Toby Tull



WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

During the last year we received some very focused comments from outside reviewers. One reviewer, Dr. Alan Tessler, has visited the Lake several times in the past when he was at the The Kellogg Marine Station in Kalamazoo. He now serves as Director of the National Science Foundation Ecology Program. His comments form a good summary for where the Committee should focus its major effort.

“Crystal Lake is a treasure, one of the deepest and clearest of lakes in lower Michigan. It also holds promise as a lake that could beat the odds. The greatest threat has been apparent for decades: nutrient enrichment. What the lake has to protect it is an exceptionally large volume of deep water, an alkaline rich water chemistry that decalcifies each summer to precipitate phosphorus, and a relatively small watershed area.

There are other issues important to lake maintenance (siltation, fisheries management, invasive species, etc.), but by far, eutrophication of the lake should be the focus of any group interested in protecting the quality of the lake.”

The Water Quality Committee is working to expand its monitoring program to include biological indicators around the Lake as well as the present dissolved oxygen, temperature and nutrients at the deep water, central station. We are continuing to work to determine the sources and limit the flow of nutrients into the Lake.

Tom Osborn, Chairman

Committee Members

Eleanor Comings, Stacy Daniels, Bill Decker, Elizabeth Hill, Jim Laarman, Scribner Sheafor

ZONING AND LAND USE COMMITTEE

Quality and consistency of zoning standards and their enforceability are goals the CL&WA strives to advocate. This seemingly altruistic objective would appear on the surface to be readily embraced by those who care about the gem of Crystal Lake and the natural beauty of the surrounding region. Efforts to achieve these goals, however, face constant and serious roadblocks posed by developers, property rights types, special interest groups, bureaucrats, and those who prefer the status quo.

Striving towards these goals is a challenge that the CLWA has met head on and has become an area in which we have to provide leadership in the advocacy of seeking and maintaining quality standards in order to have the objectives be successful

We have seen the M22 road project at the west end of Crystal Lake come in with overbearing inertia. We have had to react to issues that accompanied it that we believe will potentially affect water quality. We challenged the Department of Transportation's plans that were being implemented to address soil erosion and runoff into the lake. These efforts were not resolved to our satisfaction and we continue to pursue corrections to the issue. We will go the extra mile as necessary and appropriate.

We have advocated for larger lot sizes in improvements to existing zoning law within the jurisdictions that surround Crystal Lake and have had some initial success. Large lot sizes, especially in the second and third tiers, provide for better opportunities to prevent degradation of the ground water and discharge into the lake. It also promotes the maintenance of the aesthetics in the hills by lessening clear cutting.

And, regarding the issue of the proposed boat launch, effort continue to attempt to the improve the design, limit the size and address the whole scope of environmental impact.

We also want to make sure the state adheres to the permitting requirements that are in place. It is a long and arduous process.

We will continue to persevere!

Chuck Clarke, Chairman

Committee Members

Alan Applehof, Cliff Graves, Toby Tull



THE CRYSTAL CIRCLE

The Crystal Circle was established to honor permanently those who have contributed most generously of their time, talents and/or financial support in an outstanding way that has "made a difference" in the well being of Crystal Lake. Members of this Circle are selected by the Crystal Lake & Watershed Association Board of Directors in gratitude for their outstanding commitments to the Association that have provided us with the ability to continue the work of protecting Crystal Lake for the enjoyment of future generations.

Crystal Circle Awards

Mr.* and Mrs. Carl W. Albright

Kim Albright and Michael Dow

Mr. and Mrs. Marquard J. Anderson*

Gretchen and Bruce Bieneman

A.Y. and Jackie Bingham

Dr. and Mrs. Harry H. Blecker

Theodore and Suzanne Bosler

Thomas H. and Susan E. Cobb

Congregational Summer Assembly

William and Charlotta Decker

Herbert H. and Barbara C. Dow Foundation

Wallace and Jean Edwards

CRYSTAL LAKE & WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

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William W. and Dorothy L. Houghton

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Kimball and Louise F. Morris

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*Charlene Seabury**

Charles Seabury

Seabury Foundation

Kathryn J. and Howard M. Simpson

Rolf and Kathy Stadheim

Willard III and Janet Webb*

**deceased*



THANK YOU

The Crystal Lake & Watershed Association extends a very special thanks to all of our generous donors. The following list recognizes all who made contributions from January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005 and includes all gifts of \$50 or more. All gifts, regardless of size, play a significant role in helping to preserve Crystal Lake and the surrounding areas.

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