



Crystal Whitecaps

The Newsletter of the Crystal Lake & Watershed Association

Vol. 3, No. 2, SPRING/SUMMER 2007

CLWA ANNUAL MEETING

10:00-11:30 AM, Saturday, July 21, 2007, at the CSA Meeting Hall, 2128 Pilgrim Highway (M-22).

A short business meeting and election will be followed by a special tribute to Charlotte Reid, former U.S. Congresswoman, instrumental in the establishment of the SBDNL.

Featured speaker: Tom Ulrich, Assistant Superintendent, SBDNL

"THE BENZIE CORRIDOR – MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES"

Background: The Benzie Corridor was proposed in the original legislation creating the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in 1970 to be an 8-mile "parkway" from M-22 to US-31 along the high ridge between the Crystal Lake and Platte River Watersheds. It would affect the viewsheds of both lakes and encompass ~ 1,200 Acres, or about 7% of the total land area of the Crystal Lake Watershed. Further acquisition of lands in the Corridor by SBDNL allows for some coordinated "protection" of land use. This is contrasted with potential piecemeal development of private properties already subject to the zoning regulations of the Crystal Lake Watershed Overlay District (CLWOD). The Benzie Corridor is considered within four alternatives of the General Management Plan / Wilderness Study / Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/WS/EIS) currently under development by the NPS: (1) continued purchase of lands; (2) cease acquisition of lands; (3) continued purchase for development of a scenic road; or (4) continued purchased with development of a hike/bike trail. Other issues associated with the GMP are how to balance wilderness protection with vehicle access. To settle any debate over possible closures of existing roads, the SBDNL has worked closely with the county road commissions and is proposing that all county roads remain open.

SUMMER INTERN

Jane E. Limmer, a senior majoring in biology at Wheaton College (IL) is the first CLWA summer intern. She was a lifeguard at the CSA and is a Shakespearean actor. Jane, brother, Richard, and parents, Donald and Milly, share a cottage on Crystal Lake. Jane will be coordinating the summer "Walkabout", organizing the CLWA booths at summer events, developing displays of watershed information, and expanding the line of CLWA "Watershedwear". She will do research on hydroids (freshwater jellyfish) associated with zebra mussels and their combined effects upon benthic invertebrates. She is working with Stacy Daniels and other CLWA Board members.

Intern Jane amidst a field of garlic mustard, an invasive plant that CLWA recommends all property owners remove where possible. ["Why then, the mustard without the beef. ...Go, get thee gone, I say." -- Shakespeare, Taming of the Shrew, Act IV, Scene III.]



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



MDNR BOAT LAUNCH ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

On May 25, 2004, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) granted a permit to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to construct a public boat launch on Crystal Lake at Railroad Point. Many individuals and groups expressed concerns about excessive size, scope, and inadequate design. **CLWA** does not object to a public boat launch, but petitioned MDEQ to reconsider its permit to MDNR for several reasons: (1) failure to consider feasible and prudent alternatives for location, size, and configuration; (2) incorrect computation of dredge and fill; (3) adverse wetlands impact at the launch site and at mitigation areas; (4) adverse water quality impact by storm and wastewater draining directly into Crystal Lake; (5) safety concerns at swimming areas of adjoining properties; and (6) inaccuracies in MDEQ field notes and reports. The administrative hearing before Judge Dennis Mack was begun in September 2006 and was completed in March 2007. The Judge will review the record and his decision may be received by Fall 2007. Judge Mack's decision will be reviewed by the MDEQ Director.

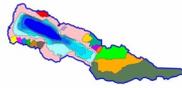
MDOT CONSENT JUDGMENT

CLWA objected to several construction procedures taken by MDOT in connection with the M-22 project (Pilgrim Highway and Crystal Drive) in 2005. These included the use of phosphorus containing fertilizers, erosion of exposed steep slopes, failure to clean sediment out of culverts, and failure to construct large enough ditches or drains to handle storm runoff. **CLWA** commenced suit against MDOT to require corrective action. MDOT has complied with several corrective measures. On May 29th, **CLWA** representatives and our consultant, Warren Studley, conducted another visual inspection of the culverts and ditches along the entire route. Recommendations for continued maintenance and improvement will be forwarded to MDOT.

CRYSTAL LAKE "WALKABOUT" - SPRING 2007

The **Crystal Lake "Walkabout"** is an educational program to teach students, property owners, and visitors about the Crystal Lake Watershed using a "hands-on" approach of observational monitoring and environmental exploring. Participants "walk about" Interpretive Sites representing different parts of the Crystal Lake Watershed. The program focuses on hydrology – how water moves about the watershed - and also addresses water quality, ecology, land use, zoning, septic tanks, green belts, sustainable development, and watershed management. Each participant receives a "**Walkabout**" T-shirt with a colorful map of the Crystal Lake Watershed, and a copy of the Interpretive Manual www.clwa.us/educ_comm.htm#EDUCATION.

Since 1994, the "Walkabout" has been presented to 3,200 students, residents, and visitors to the Crystal Lake Watershed. The Spring "Walkabout" was held on Wednesday, May 23, 2007 for 180 students from the 6th grade science classes of Benzie Central and Frankfort/Elberta Schools. The Sites visited: Crystal Lake at CSA beach, Point Betsie, the Betsie Valley Trail, and U.S. Coast Guard - Station Frankfort. We sincerely appreciate the dedicated teachers who support the "Walkabout" and most importantly their students. Special thanks also to the Site Interpreters from the CLWA; MSUE MI Groundwater Stewardship Program; Michigan Land Use Institute; Benzie Conservation District; Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse; U.S. Coast Guard – Station Frankfort; and SBDNL.



CRYSTAL LAKE “WALKABOUT” - SUMMER 2007

9 AM – 12 Noon, Thurs., July 26, 2007, Congregational Summer Assembly, 2128 Pilgrim Hwy.

Our popular educational program is open to the public of all ages. Learn about the Crystal Lake Watershed at three selected interpretive sites: Congregational Summer Assembly (groundwater quality); Point Betsie (dune ecology); and Betsie Valley Trail (river wetlands and Great Lakes). A fee of \$10 per individual includes one T-shirt and Interpretive Manual. Family rates are available. Additional “Walkabout” T-shirts, Watershed maps, and Interpretive Manuals are available for purchase from the **CLWA**.) Sign up at CSA or call the **CLWA** at 231/882-4001 by Monday July 23rd.

www.CLWA.us

The **CLWA** Website contains history of the Crystal Lake Watershed, many maps, facts and figures, descriptions of the **CLWA**, activities by our Water Quality, Education & Communications, Zoning & Land Use, and Financial Development Committees, photographs, a calendar of events, publications and references, links to other websites, and summaries of current events. Recent updates include information on the developing General Management Plan / Wilderness Study by the SBDNL.

MISCELLANEOUS

Special thanks to Sue and Tom Teteak for the donation of the kayak for the raffle fundraiser.

Special thanks again to Lisa Christian for her efforts in creating the 2007 **CLWA** Directory.

Kyle Axtell of the Benzie Conservation District has begun providing water quality monitoring services to the **CLWA**. Kyle is the Environmental Outreach Coordinator for the Benzie Conservation District where he promotes the use of greenbelts (natural vegetative buffers) along waterways.

Our continued thanks to the Benzie County Marine Patrol who assist the **CLWA** in monitoring water clarity with a Secchi disk during their marine patrols on Crystal Lake.

CLWA MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Crystal Lake & Watershed Association (*) includes:

- w Crystal Whitecaps, The CLWA Newsletter.
- w The Annual **CLWA** Membership Directory.
- w Progress reports on Crystal Lake Watershed activities and issues.
- w The Michigan Riparian magazine (optional).
- w An active voice in the protection of the Crystal Lake Watershed.

(*) The **CLWA** is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization with over 1,200 members that support a comprehensive program of activities affecting students, riparian owners, and visitors in the Crystal Lake Watershed, Benzie Co., MI. **CLWA** memberships are \$35 per year. Gifts to the 2020 Vision Fund are for stewardship projects, scientific studies, and educational programs; and those to the Endowment Fund are for future needs. Please contact the **CLWA** with your concerns and comments.

WIN THE CRYSTAL KAYAK !!!

For those of you who always wanted to “paddle their own kayak,” this is your chance to win a brand new kayak (*) and support the **CLWA!**



(*) “Pungo 100”: 10 foot length, 30” beam, padded seat, drink holder, rear storage, 48 pounds, capacity 300 pounds. A very high quality craft, terrific do-anything boat for kids, ladies, anyone who wants an easy-to-manage kayak for ponds, quiet lakes, or slow, deep rivers, by Wilderness Systems, made available locally by Crystal Lake Adventure Sports, Beulah, MI.

Raffle tickets are available from **CLWA** Board members, and at summer events: 11th Spring Craft Fair - Frankfort, Beulah Art Fair, CSA Arts & Crafts Fair, the **CLWA** Annual Meeting, and the 31st Annual Frankfort Art Fair. \$5 for one chance; \$10 for three chances; or \$35 for ten chances plus a full **CLWA** membership. The winner will be drawn on August 18th at the 31st Annual Frankfort Art Fair. Special thanks to Sue and Tom Teteak for the donation of the kayak for the raffle fundraiser.

SUMMER 2007 EVENTS

- June 16** 11th Annual Spring Craft Fair - Frankfort
- July 4** Parades/fireworks – Beulah/Frankfort
- July 4** Firecracker 5K Race - Beulah
- July 7** Beulah Art Fair
- July 21** Elberta Art & Craft Fair
- July 21** Port City Run
- July 21** CLWA Annual Meeting
- July 25** CSA Arts & Crafts Fair
- July 26** Crystal Lake “Walkabout”
- August 11** Crystal Lake Team Marathon
- August 18** 31st Frankfort Art Fair

Check for local times and locations.

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