



Crystal Whitecaps

The Newsletter of the Crystal Lake & Watershed Association

Vol. 1, No. 2, SPRING/SUMMER 2005

CLWA Annual Meeting

9:30 AM, Saturday, July 23, 2005, at the CSA Meeting Hall, 2128 Pilgrim Highway (M-22).

Please plan to attend this first annual meeting of the new **Crystal Lake & Watershed Association (CLWA)**. There will be a short business meeting and election followed by a featured speaker on a topic of interest to residents, visitors, and property owners.

A Celebration of Lake Associations

Mark your calendar now for 6:00 PM, Sunday, July 24, 2005, when CLWA will celebrate a new beginning at the Crystal Lake Yacht Club, 3491 Pilgrim Highway (M-22).

Join us at this special fundraiser for an evening of dinner and dancing on the shores of Crystal Lake.



Meet your fellow members, Officers, and the Board, as we celebrate the union of the Crystal Lake Watershed Fund and the Crystal Lake Association into the new Crystal Lake & Watershed Association!

The event will feature a silent and live auction, with items such as golf at the Kingsley Club, four season ski passes at Crystal Mountain, and a gourmet dinner with local chef Jim Milliman. Your participation in this year's event is encouraged. Annie Devries (231/933-4565), co-chair of the event, is accepting auction items. Please call with ideas or contacts, or to volunteer for set-up or clean-up.

CLWF + CLA = CLWA !

Crystal Lake "Walkabout"

1:30-5:30 PM, Saturday, July 30, 2005, at Crystallaire Camp, 1327 S. Shore East. (Call **CLWA** at 231/882-4001.)

Our popular educational program is open to the public. Learn about the Crystal Lake Watershed from environmental experts at four selected interpretive sites: Crystal Lake (water quality); Point Betsie (dune ecology); Betsie Valley Trail (river wetlands); and the Schoolship, Inland Seas (Great Lakes). A fee of \$10 per individual includes a T-shirt and the Interpretive Manual. Family rates are available.

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



Other Summer Events

Elberta Farmer's Market. Locally-grown organic produce is sold every Thursday from 7:30 AM-12 Noon in an open-air setting at the Marina Park in Elberta across from the Betsie Valley Trailhead. On July 28, area caterers will be onsite to prepare lunch from the fresh foods featured at the market. Participating merchants will donate 10% of their proceeds to **CLWA** as a token of appreciation. Support of local farms is an important step toward better stewardship of our Watershed. Make the tasty trip to the Market and benefit both the local farmers and the **CLWA**.

Look for information and merchandise of the **CLWA** at the following events:

Frankfort Craft Fair (June 18, 2005)
Beulah Art Fair (July 9, 2005).
Elberta Arts and Crafts Fair (July 16, 2005).
Crystal Lake Art Fair (July 20, 2005)
CSA Art and Craft Fair, CSA (July 24, 2005).
Crystal Lake Marathon (August 13, 2005).
Frankfort Art Fair (July 24, 2005).

CLWA WEBSITE

The new **CLWA** Website is found at www.CLWA.us. It contains the history of the Crystal Lake Watershed, supported by many maps, facts and figures about the Crystal Lake Watershed, a description of the **CLWA**, activities by our Water Quality, Education & Communications, Zoning & Land Use, and Financial Development Committees, photographs of our Watershed, a calendar of events, publications and other references, and links to other websites. We appreciate your comments and suggestions.

M-22 RESURFACING PROJECT

In early July, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will begin a major road project on M-22 (Crystal Drive) running from the CSA along the NW shore of Crystal Lake to Hurdman's Bay. This project will involve considerable efforts in relocation of utilities, tree removal, and road resurfacing. Please be patient and considerate of the safety of workmen and fellow riparians.

BOAT LAUNCH UPDATE

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. Many individuals and groups expressed concerns about size, scope and design. The former CLA petitioned MDEQ to reconsider its permit because: (1) MDEQ did not properly apply the criteria under the Wetland Protection Act; (2) the permit authorizes pollution, impairment, and destruction of State waters in violation of MEPA; (3) the action was arbitrary and did not consider other alternatives; and (4) the process was unlawful. It is hoped that a thorough and thoughtful reexamination will result in an outcome that provides the people of Benzie County adequate and safe access to Crystal Lake without diminishing the beauty and unsurpassed recreational opportunities that make Crystal Lake unique. Updates will be posted at http://www.clwa.us/zoning_landuse.htm#BoatLaunch.



CRYSTAL LAKE "WALKABOUT"

The **Crystal Lake "Walkabout"** is an educational program to teach students, property owners, and visitors about the Crystal Lake Watershed. This "hands-on" approach to public education involves 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. It also addresses water quality, ecology, land use, zoning, septic tanks, green belts, sustainable development, and watershed management. Since 1994, the "**Walkabout**" has now been presented to 2,350 students, residents, and visitors to the Crystal Lake Watershed. In 2002, it became a biennial event for all 6th and 8th grade students in Benzie County, There is also a special program in mid-summer open to the public.

The **CLWA** cosponsored the **Crystal Lake "Walkabout"** on Wednesday, May 11, 2005 for 210 students from the 6th grade science classes of Benzie Central Schools and Frankfort-Elberta Schools. The Sites visited this Spring were Crystal Lake at the Beulah beach (water quality), the Cold Creek Sediment Basin (groundwater, land use, and biomonitoring), and the Trapp Farm Nature Preserve (wetlands and invasive species). Environmental professionals and volunteers described environmental features of each Site and conducted group activities.

Each participant receives a "**Walkabout**" T-shirt with a colorful map of the Crystal Lake Watershed, and the "**Walkabout**" Interpretive Manual www.clwa.us/educ_comm.htm#EDUCATION, which is both "An Educational Primer for Students, and A Reference Handbook for Property Owners and Visitors". It contains maps and facts, descriptions of nine interpretive sites, a chronology of significant events in the history of the Crystal Lake Watershed, and a list of concerns of the property owners and visitors. A special activity at the Trapp Farm Nature Preserve was pulling garlic mustard, an invasive species that can grow four feet high! When crushed, its leaves and stems emit a garlicky odor. Introduced from Europe by early settlers for medicinal purposes and cooking, it has spread rapidly in woodlands, displacing native wildflowers.



We sincerely appreciate the dedicated teachers of Benzie Central School and Frankfort-Elberta Schools who have supported the "**Walkabouts**" and most importantly their students. Special thanks to the Site Interpreters: Amy Kinney, Jim Laarman, and Toby Tull, **CLWA**; Doug Gibson, Lake Ann Elementary School; Becky Gray, and Eric Schaub, Great Lakes Water Quality Laboratory; Lisa Gruber, MSUE MI Groundwater Stewardship Program; Abby Gartland, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy; Liz Leavens, The Nature Conservancy – Michigan Chapter; Keith Schneider and Jim Dulzo, Michigan Land Use Institute; and Mike and Sarah Litch, Glen Lake Association.

Megan Goodchild (L) and Kathie Belanger (R), Platte River Elementary, with Garlic Mustard.

The T-shirt, Watershed maps, and Interpretive Manual are available for purchase from the **CLWA**. Please plan to bring your family to the Summer 2005 "**Walkabout**" on July 30th!

CLWA MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to all past members of the Crystal Lake Association and past donors to the Crystal Lake Watershed Fund for your financial support to maintain and preserve Crystal Lake. Membership in the new Crystal Lake & Watershed Association (**CLWA**) offers a channel for your ideas and concerns, plus an active voice in the protection of the Crystal Lake Watershed. Membership includes:

- w White Caps, The **CLWA** Newsletter (published biannually).
- w The Annual Membership Directory.
- w Progress reports on Crystal Lake Watershed activities and issues of concern.
- w The Michigan Riparian magazine (free subscription, if desired).
- w Participation through voting power.

The **CLWA** is a nonprofit organization (501c3) that provides a reliable income to defray operating costs, and to fund key stewardship projects, scientific studies, and educational programs to protect the Crystal Lake Watershed. The **CLWA** encourages members to contact local and state government on issues of critical importance to the preservation and care of the Crystal Lake Watershed. **CLWA** dues are only \$35 per year. Gifts to the 2020 Vision Fund or the Endowment Fund are used for stewardship projects, scientific studies, and educational programs.

MISCELLANEOUS

Crystal Lake was featured on the cover of the Michigan Riparian for February 2005. The full article is posted at www.clwa.us/PDF/CLWA_MI_Riparian_Art05a.pdf. Hard copies of the issue are available.

Stacy Daniels gave a paper at the Michigan Lake & Stream Associations 41st Annual Conference at Boyne Falls, MI, on April 24, 2005. The subject, "The Value of a Lake Association", described the history of the recent formation of the **CLWA**. A poster display described the new **CLWA**.

Our thanks to the Benzie County Marine Patrol who have been assisting the **CLWA** in water quality monitoring. We provided them with a Secchi disk to monitor water clarity on a regular basis.

Paul Murphy has accepted a position with the National Park Service at the Big Cypress National Reserve in Florida. Paul has done an outstanding job in monitoring the water quality of the Crystal Lake Watershed since 1994. We wish Paul well as he embarks on his new career.

CLWA MISSION

The purpose of the Association (**CLWA**) 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, and promotion of the safe use of Crystal Lake. It will conduct other such activities as needed to advocate and ensure the continued aesthetic beauty and environmental integrity of the Lake and its watershed.

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