



News & Views

Newsletter of Your Crooked Lake Texas Association

From Your CLTA President

The ice is gone, the robins are back and it won't be long before the docks will be in and the boats will be back on the waters of Crooked Lake Texas. Is it just me or do the Michigan winters seem to be getting longer every year? It will be great seeing the lake residents once again enjoying the numerous recreational activities the lake has to offer.

As we do every year at this time, we need to encourage all lake residents to operate their watercraft safely and to adhere to all the Michigan boating laws and regulations. We encourage you to go to our lake association web site, (www.crookedlaketexas.com) and click on the Michigan Boating Rules & Regulations link to view a copy of the Michigan Boating Laws and Regulations handbook. It's a good time for the whole family to review the regulations. We had an increase in lake patrols last year resulting in numerous citations and fines. Also, as you may recall, our neighbors on Eagle Lake were witness to a tragic fatal watercraft accident last year. We want everyone to enjoy the lake, but please exercise care and caution.

Now that the ice has melted we can once again take accurate lake level measurements. On March 24, 2010 our lake level was 10,745.55 inches above sea level, which is almost exactly the level the CLTA established as the target lake level. Even though the lake level is relatively high the CLTA Board is continuing its efforts to locate a site for a new well and pump. As we have stated repeatedly in the past, our current well is performing very poorly and will not be able to offset the daily evaporation rate during the summer months. Last year we benefited from above normal precipitation and water table levels but how long these conditions will continue is anyone's guess. We hope to be proactive and address this matter before it becomes too late and the lake level drops to drastic levels as it did in 2000. By not running the pump last summer we were able to set aside approximately \$37,000.00 in a well replacement fund. While these reserve funds will not cover the entire cost of a new well and pump, they will substantially reduce the amount of money we would need to borrow from a bank. The main challenge, however, is finding a suitable

location for the well and pump. Several factors weigh into this decision: accessibility for a well-drilling rig; available electrical line; property owner's willingness to sign an easement agreement; and the site passing the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool needed for a permit to be granted by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. We will provide more details on these efforts, as well as a financial report in our Annual Meeting.

You should mark your calendar for the **2010 CLTA Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 19, 2010, 7:00 p.m., Texas Township Hall**. During this meeting we will share more detailed information regarding our well situation as well as other water quality options the Board is exploring. Also during this meeting we will hold the election of new Board members. We have three Board members whose terms expire and two members will not be seeking reelection. If anyone is interested in serving on the Board, please contact me prior to the meeting so your name can be placed on the ballot. A full meeting agenda will be posted on the web site prior to the meeting.

One final note I would like to make. Over the winter we had a rash of break-ins around Crooked Lake and other areas of Texas Township. I posted this information on our web site and I also issued an email to all the residents for which we had an email address. These are two ways we can quickly communicate to our lake residents if something like this occurs. On your CLTA Dues Application Form there is a place to include your email address. We do not share this information with anyone and we use it strictly for CLTA communication matters. We hope that everyone would want to join the lake association for the modest fee of \$35.00/year. However, even if you don't choose to join we would hope you'd be willing to provide us with your email address so we can communicate with you on a timely basis if something urgent comes up. Here's wishing you a wonderful, safe summer, and see you on the lake!

Sincerely,
Jim Hackenberg
CLTA Board President
375-1792 or jkhacken@comcast.net



Don't Miss Crooked Lake Association's Annual Meeting

**Wednesday
May 19th 7:00 pm
at Texas Township Hall**

Purple Loosestrife Update

This would have been the fourth summer that we 'planted' Purple Loosestrife beetles around the edge of Crooked Lake where the beautiful but invasive Purple Loosestrife is growing. The plant is considered to be an environmental threat because it forms dense stands that choke out native plant and animal habitats. For the last three summers the beetles have been raised in the greenhouse at Vicksburg High School under the auspices of the Kalamazoo Nature Center, but Vicksburg's greenhouse is undergoing repairs, so Purple Loosestrife beetles will not be available this summer.

We would have liked to add to our growing population of beetles, as we have been encouraged by the evidence of beetles already at work. Hopefully, the offspring of the beetles placed on the edges of our lake in previous summers will continue to munch their way through our Purple Loosestrife. It will be interesting to see if the beetles that we have now can begin to win the battle or if we will need to augment their numbers next summer by buying and placing more pots of beetles around the lake.

Please continue to pull and/or dig all Purple Loosestrife from your waterfront area. That always has been and still remains the fastest and best way of reducing the number of Purple Loosestrife plants on our lake.



Have News or Stories?

We welcome your input to News & Views, whether it be a full scale article or small bits of information.

Jim Hackenberg, Editor

Phone 375-1792 or e-mail jkhacken@comcast.net

Burning of Yard Waste

Did you know that burning of yard waste is legal in Texas Township, BUT, you are required to have a permit? Here is the permitting requirement taken from the Texas Township web site:

Texas Township does allow open burning for yard debris disposal, except for all areas of Colony Woods and some surrounding platted and unplatted areas.

You must apply for a burning permit annually. Stop in each spring at the Township office to obtain your burn permit, or you can print the online permit form and fax it to the township at (269)-375-0791. Once you have a signed permit on file, you can call the township office for permission to burn on the day you wish to burn. The office is open Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Burn permits are issued one day at a time. For after hours burning requests, dial extension 119 when you hear the voice mail greeting.

The purpose of calling the office for permission to burn is that the Fire Department monitors the weather and outdoor conditions for safe burning days. Also, if we receive reports from residents regarding smoke, we can check our permit list to see if anyone in the reported area is burning that day, which would explain the smoke. It is not necessary to obtain a burn permit for recreational fires. See [Burning Regulations](#) for more information.

Signed forms can be faxed to the township at (269) 375-0791.

Please keep in mind that some folks are very sensitive to smoke from burning leaves and yard waste. Please do not burn when the weather conditions are unfavorable.

**Don't Forget to Check Out
the CLTA Web Site
www.crookedlaketexas.com**

About Your Dues

It is once again time to send in your annual CLTA dues. Here is some general information you should know about our annual dues.

The first step in the establishment of the level of dues for an operating (calendar) year is the adoption of a budget for that year. The budget is determined by estimating the cost of Association projects for that year. Total estimated expenditures are then divided by the number of residents the Board estimates will become dues-paying members that year to determine the level of dues for that year. Once dues are established, announcement of that dollar amount is made in the first newsletter of the year. Dues are then payable any time after that. **It is important to note, however, that only those who have paid their dues prior to the annual meeting are eligible to vote on issues which may arise at any meeting of the Association. The 2010 Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 19th at 7:00 p.m., Texas Township Hall.**

Of course, payment of dues is optional and we are always happy to accept payment of dues whenever, as we realize a multitude of reasons can cause late payment. Accounting

records for CLTA are kept on a calendar year basis. Thus, if a person pays dues in August, he/she would be a member in good standing for the remainder of that calendar year and will need to pay dues in the succeeding year prior to the annual meeting in order to maintain voting status.

Because dues do trickle in throughout the year, the policy regarding the Riparian magazine was altered three years ago. Now those households which have paid their dues within a calendar year are eligible to receive a subscription to the magazine throughout the **following** calendar year. This eliminates having to amend the subscription list on a monthly basis. **Please note, however, that a desire to receive the magazine must be indicated at the time of dues payment in order for the household to be included on the list of subscribers.** Each subscription is a cost item to the Association, and previously we found that we were paying for many unwanted subscriptions. An alternative to receiving a hard copy of the Riparian is to access it through a link provided on the CLTA web site, (although their web site does not contain the most current issues of the Riparian, only back issues.)

If at any time you should have questions regarding dues, whether your dues payment has been received and credited, or other questions of a financial nature, our Treasurer, Fred Bowman, can be reached by telephone at 375-4798.

Your Lake Association's Membership Drive

Why be a member? Besides being eligible to vote on matters of the association, here are some reasons why we encourage you to fill out and mail your dues with the printed form below. Your annual dues pay for:

Lake Quality Monitoring
Michigan Lakes & Streams Dues
State Licensing
Newsletters and Special Mailings
Riparian Subscriptions

Water Level Management
(web site, markers, measuring devices, etc.)
Fun Day Expenses
Miscellaneous Expenses
(for example, No Wake Buoys)

Lake Association Dues Form / Current Information Sheet

2010-2011 Annual Dues are \$35. Please fill in the information below in order that we can keep our records current.

Name(s) _____

Lake Address _____

Mailing Address (if different) _____

Phone(s) _____ E-mail address _____

Do you want to receive the Riparian? Yes No (Please circle one.)

The Riparian is the Michigan Lakes and Streams Publication about our state's waterways. The association provides it at no cost to any paid member. Because it is a cost to the association, if you do not want it, please help us to save the cost.

Make your **check payable to Crooked Lake Texas Association.**

Mail to CLTA Treasurer, 400 W. Crooked Lk. Dr., Kalamazoo, MI 49009