

News & Views

Newsletter of your Crooked Lake Texas Association



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Another winter is behind us, or so we hope! It was nice to see several boats navigating around on the lake during some of the sunny days we have had. Even a couple of daring water skiers took advantage of the few 70 degree days we experienced in April. I spent one of those nice days fishing out on the lake with my son and to my delight, was able to catch a few fish! We can only hope that the sunny warm days will return soon!

In light of several boating accidents occurring on our lake last year, I would like to stress the importance of boat safety. As you start launching your watercraft into the lake for the summer, please encourage your family and friends to adhere to all watercraft laws and regulation. We encourage you to visit our lake association web site, (www.crookedlaketexas.com) and click on the Michigan Boating Rules and Regulations link to view a copy of the Michigan Boating Laws and Regulations handbook. In addition, Kalamazoo, Allegan and Van Buren County Sherriff offices plan to offer free boater safety courses throughout the summer months. I attended one of these courses myself last year and found it very informative. I would like to encourage you to take advantage of this program since all of us could use a refresher course from time to time. Information on these boater safety courses can be found on the respective county websites.

As in prior years, we have experienced various water levels throughout this past year. We started the season with one of the highest readings only to see the water level drop approximately 2 feet as we approached late summer. As mentioned previously, our current pump is performing very poorly and does little to offset the daily evaporation rate during the summer months. To date, our search for a new suitable well site has been unsuccessful. In identifying potential sites, some of the factors that we need to consider include: accessibility for installation and maintenance equipment; availability of utilities; the ability to obtain required permits such as from the DNR and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality; and the property owner's willingness to sign an easement agreement.

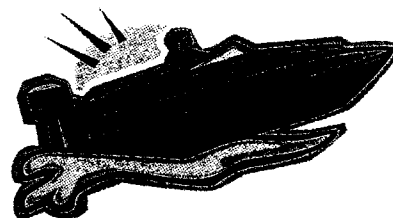
In this newsletter, you will find our Lake Association Dues Form. Please make sure you update your email information on this form. This provides us with an avenue to quickly communicate with our lake residents if something urgent occurs throughout the year. Please note that we do not share any of your information with anyone and we use it strictly for CLTA communication matters. It is our hope that every lake resident would want to join the lake association, but even if you choose not to, we still encourage you to provide us with your current email address for any urgent communication relating to lake or security matters. Please also visit our CLTA website at www.crookedlaketexas.com where you will find a variety of information pertaining to our lake. Our former CLTA president, Jim Hackenberg maintains this website and we appreciate his continued efforts.

Once again this year, we plan to purchase beetles to help prevent the spread of purple loosestrife around our lake. If you are able to donate to this fund, please make a separate check payable to Crooked Lake Texas Association noting the Purple Loosestrife program on the check. Please refer to the separate article in this newsletter for more information.

Please mark your calendar for the **2011 CLTA Annual Meeting to be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, May 25, 2011 at LifeSpring Church** located at 6931 W Q Ave (between Asiago's Bakery/Deli and Bold Restaurant). During this meeting we will discuss our current well situation along with various alternatives that our Board is considering including the Lake Savers Management Program. We look forward to seeing you at this meeting.

Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you on the lake!

Sincerely,
Rodney Nimitz
CLTA Board President
(269) 353-1848



PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE UPDATE

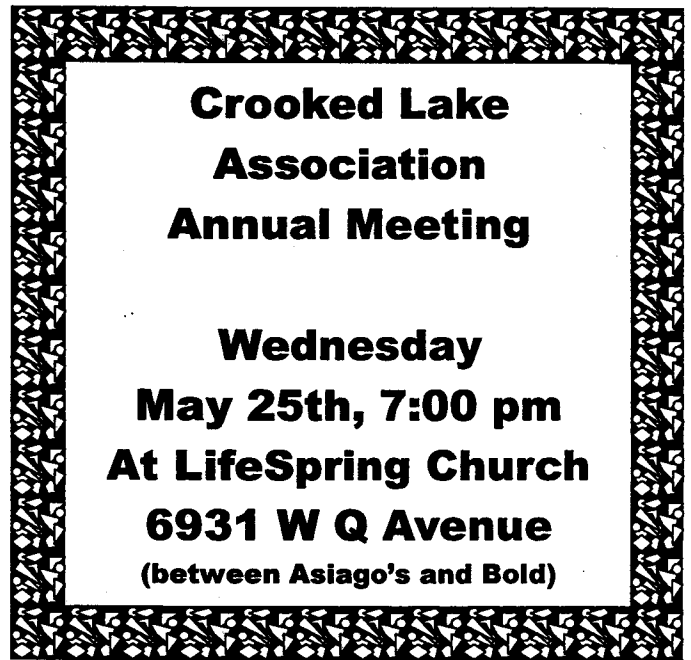
This will be the fourth summer in five years that Purple Loosestrife beetles will be 'planted' around the edge of Crooked Lake where the beautiful but invasive Purple Loosestrife is growing. The plant is considered to be an environmental threat because it forms dense stands that choke out native plant and animal habitats. Each Purple Loosestrife plant produces as many as 2.5 million seeds, which can remain viable for up to a decade before sprouting. The plant can be pulled out by hand in its first year of growth, but even tiny bits of root remaining can produce plants the next year.

Two years ago in the spring, in response to a request from myself and the Board, lake residents gave donations totaling \$440 which was added to money budgeted by the CLTA Board. With that money we purchased the species of beetle called *Galerucella calmariensis*, which is plant specific and has shown promise in defoliating Loosestrife. The beetles have been introduced around Kalamazoo County and other areas with positive, although not immediate, results. On the CLTA website are photographs showing some of the damage the beetles have done to plants along the shore of our lake.

The beetles are grown at Vicksburg High School in conjunction with the Kalamazoo Nature Center, costing \$40 for each container which includes many adult beetles and some larva.

Although a lot of the beetles we purchased during the last five years have reproduced and their offspring will continue munching on the Purple Loosestrife, we plan to augment their numbers by purchasing more beetles as they become available in June. As before the Board has budgeted money to purchase beetles, but we are again asking lake residents to donate funds to increase the number of containers we can purchase.

If you are interested in being part of the group working to eliminate Purple Loosestrife from Crooked Lake or to donate money to this cause, please contact Nancy Clark at (269) 372-8009 or nancy@nancyanddave.com. Thank You!



CROOKED LAKE CONSIDERING NEW MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Crooked Lake Board is considering the use of an innovative, **all-natural** approach to reducing weed growth and muck accumulation in Crooked Lake. This approach utilizes Engineered Aeration Technology and Beneficial Bacteria and Enzyme Treatment to increase the lake's capability to remove the nutrients that cause excess weed and algae growth. In addition, this technology has been proven to remove as much as a foot of organic muck from the lake bottom per year on many projects in Michigan since 2007.

Summary of Benefits:

- Naturally control weed growth without the need for chemical herbicides
- Improve water clarity
- Reduce organic muck on the bottom – this will make the lake deeper in shallow areas of the lake making navigation easier

This approach is being used on many lakes in the area including Sherman Lake (Channel project with permit in for the whole lake), Indian Lake in Dowagiac, Maple Lake in Paw Paw, Keeler Lake in Decatur (to be installed in July).

We are excited about this new program. Join us at our 2011 CLTA Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 25 at 7:00pm at LifeSpring Church located at 6931 W Q Ave (between Asiago's Bakery/Deli and Bold Restaurant) where John Tucci, President of Lake Savers will be reviewing this approach and the results it is achieving on projects around the country.

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 2011 Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 25th at 7:00pm, at LifeSpring Church located at 6931 W Q Ave (between Asiago's Bakery/Deli and Bold Restaurant).**

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 payments. 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 the 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 a few years ago. Now 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 issue 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, please contact Fred Bowman at (269) 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 complete and mail your dues with the printed form below. Your annual dues pay for:

- Lake Quality Monitoring
- Michigan Lakes & Streams Dues
- State Licensing
- Newsletters & Special Mailing
- Riparian Subscriptions
- Water Level Management (markers, measuring devices, etc)
- Fun Day Expenses
- Miscellaneous Expenses (no wake buoys, etc)

Lake Association Dues Form / Current Information Sheet

2011-2012 Annual Dues are \$35. Please complete this form 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 Lake Dr., Kalamazoo, MI 49009