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“Skip a stone.
 Take a hike.
 Sit a spell.
 Listen.
 Daydream.
 Just breathe.
 This is lake living.”

CRYSTAL LAKE PERCH LAKE POA

“Summertime and the living is easy, fish are jumpin’ and the eagles fly”

PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Kevin McMaster

Welcome back to your lake and our summer newsletter. What song of summer comes to your mind? *“Hot Fun in the Summertime”* by Sly and the Family Stone, *“Summer Breeze”* by Seals and Croft, or Sheryl Crow’s *“Soak up the Sun.”* Kris and I spent most of the winter here and enjoyed the quiet beauty of Michigan’s lake life. We have enjoyed seeing more and more boats getting put in the lake and waving at neighbors and friends on their tour around the pond.

Bald Eagle TWINS on Crystal

There are 2 new baby eaglets on Crystal. They are between 8-10 weeks old. They have lost their grey thermal down, and their entire bodies are covered in juvenile feathers. They are quite large and like to sit on the edge of the rather large nest. They should be ready to fly in the next 4-6 weeks. There is great viewing of the eagle nest on Crystal Lake by the McMaster and Carr lake homes. I’ve included a picture that I borrowed from the internet which shows a mirror image of what we see from our patio as we use our binoculars to view the twins in their nest.



2024 BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

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VICE PRESIDENT

Patty Maher
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ROADS AD HOC

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SPECIAL PROJECTS

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FOUNDATION MEMBERS

President – DaveVanDerworp
Treasurer – Robert Burns
Secretary – Annamarie Asher
Wayne Snyder

PRESIDENT’S REPORT, continued – Kevin McMaster

Lake Light Show

Just when you think you have seen all the wonder and beauty of our lakes mother nature one-ups herself with an amazing light show, aurora borealis – northern lights this past May. If you missed it, here are a couple of photos taken from Janet Mulloy and Marty Frew who live on Crystal ... breathtaking!



Annual Meeting

Please mark your calendars to attend our Annual CLPLPOA meeting on Saturday, July 13th at Township Hall. In addition to reports by the Board Trustees and the Lake Foundation President, we will present the annual POA budget (2024-2025) for Membership approval and hold elections for the POA Board. It will be a full agenda! Please join us at 9:30am for coffee and doughnuts with the meeting starting at 10:00am.

Board Trustees and Election

There are three Board positions open. Nominations prior to the meeting or from the floor are accepted.

Terms Coming to an End

It’s been a pleasure and an honor serving as your president for the last 3 years. My term is coming to a close just as Kris and I have built a new home in Naples, Florida. We will homestead there and take possession late June. We will be in Florida most of July getting our house in shape. Unfortunately, we will miss the CLPL annual meeting and luncheon. In my absence, our current Vice President Patty Maher will facilitate the meeting. I feel we were able to accomplish many things during my tenure and could not have been successful without the support of our amazing lake Board. I will stay involved with the board in a consultant role to help in any way I can for a smooth transition.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, continued – Kevin McMaster

Recall, in summer 2023, **Rob Shier** and **Jim Carr** were voted to the Board in Ad Hoc positions. They have been working alongside Rick Applegate (Roads Trustee) and Bob Conn (Lakes Trustee). Rob and Jim will be nominated for 3-year Board terms at the July meeting for these two critical roles.

Rob Shier has volunteered to take over the **Roads** position from the “road master” himself Rick Applegate. Rick is stepping down from the Board after many years of steadfast attention to our roads and excellence while serving on the Board. He will be missed; however, he will be staying on the roads team along with Frank Dietrich, Terry Yamarino and Tim Ostrosky.

Jim Carr has positioned himself to take over the **Lakes** position from Bob Conn. Bob has been a dedicated steward of the Lakes, and this is a challenging role. The Ad Hoc position has allowed for a seamless transition process which has been on-going over the year. Jim has been taking lake classes at Michigan Lakes and Streams as well as working with Wayne Snyder as he measures the Crystal Lake clarity and oxygen levels each week. Jim is a fast learner and will be an asset to our lakes. Bob will continue to stay on the lakes team adding his wealth of knowledge.

Thank you to Jim and Bob for your service to our CLPL lakes!

Patty Maher finishes her 3-year term as **Vice President** in July. She has agreed to extend her term by one year pending the outcome of the Membership voting process. I thank Patty for her strong leadership as Vice President. In this capacity, she spearheaded the By-Law revisions committee and CLPL website updates which were no small task – among many other assignments. Patty is a “rock star” and will continue to steward our CLPL team to greater heights.

Laura Dietrich enters the second year of her term on the Board. As Trustee for **Special Projects**, Laura has done a superb job organizing many community activities, including annual picnics, luncheons, flotilla's, chili cook offs, and meeting organization. Laura provides keen insight on all topics, and her tenure provides strength and continuity on the Board.

Diane Ostrosky begins her second year on the Board of Trustees as well, currently filling the role of **Treasurer**. She has done a great job in this role having taken over the reins from Mike King. She is a valued and capable member of the Board.

Thea Kirkwood finishes her 3-year term as **Secretary**. Thea's organization and effective communication skills, along with bringing new ideas forward, have been instrumental in helping the board succeed.

Amy Kochendoerfer has expressed interest in joining the Board and has been nominated by Thea Kirkwood for Trustee.

We have ad hoc positions to assist in a smooth transition when the term for a Board Member may expire. However, if you are interested in nominating someone (who agrees to be nominated) or self-nominating for the Board, please contact Thea Kirkwood at CLPLSecretary@gmail.com.

CLPL POA Annual Lake Luncheon

Following our meeting at the Township Hall, our dynamic duo Laura Dietrich and Barb Yamarino have planned a fabulous **Italian Luncheon Feast**. Fun for the entire family! “*When the moon hits your eye like a big pizza pie it's the CLPL Annual Luncheon*” ... *Buongiorno!* ... *Ciao!* Please join us for the feast!

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Patty Maher

Hello everyone. It is great to be back out at the lake. We spent the past month getting our yard and lake house spruced up, the boat into the water, and everything ready for the summer season. It is always an energetic and happy time of the year!

Since the spring meeting, I have continued to work with the Board on governance and operational issues. And, most recently, I have begun drafting some standard operational procedures for voting on our yearly budget and election of Board Trustees. These procedures of course align with our current By-Laws and practices. 😊 These documents will make it easier for the current and future Board Members to navigate the voting process.

I have also continued my main focus: working on our new Crystal Lake – Perch Lake POA website. As you may recall from the spring meeting, I reported that the content for the new site was relayed to our website developers – lake community member Ryan Carmody and son Marshal. They are preparing the *first draft* of the new site, and it is nearing completion. There are several steps and iterations such as content checking, making sure the links are all active, final Board sign-off, and training our web support person before the new site can go “live” for us to use. We are shooting for end of the summer to have it ready for you. Our hope is that community members will use the site to get useful information about POA activities and answers to commonly asked questions.

Also, as a reminder, given the amount of time and focus it has taken to develop the website material, initially, we will only have an abbreviated section on the lake history when the new site launches. My intention is to expand this area over time. We are adding members to the small team who will be working on this topic. Contact me if you are interested in helping at CLPLVeep@gmail.com.

I look forward to seeing you at the summer meeting, picnic, and out on the lake!

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Thea Kirkwood

As I conclude my three-year tenure on the board, I would encourage members to consider participating on the board in a role that reflects your personality and service inclinations. The time goes quickly, but the interactions and meetings forge a strong connection to others with whom you share this community. Board members, past and present, have helped to make the lake an outstanding place to live and share with friends and family.

We spoke of the passing of Gary Driscoll at our spring meeting, but I wanted to share our condolences in this newsletter. Gary and Carolyn (wife) are well-known on our lake, in the charming red cottage on the island, and have been active members of our community and leadership.

A reminder that we have a Facebook page for Crystal and Perch Lake residents thanks to Marty Frew. The page is private and can only be joined by contacting Marty at dwyerfrew@comcast.net.

As always, remember to notify me if you make changes to your address or contact information so that we can keep our directory current and keep you informed.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Diane Ostrosky

We had a successful year again gathering required dues. We received payment for road dues from all but one (1) member of our association for this fiscal year. Six (6) members that only pay the administration dues did not pay. Thank you to everyone who paid their dues in a timely manner, as it is greatly appreciated and makes my job a lot easier.

I will begin invoicing for the 2024-2025 fiscal year after our summer meeting. Invoices will once again be going out via email. This is a huge cost and time savings for us, so please ensure to check your email to make sure it doesn't go into your SPAM folder.

During the Spring Board meeting, it was agreed that I will open another Certificate of Deposit for \$15,000 from our savings. That will give us two CDs earning the Association much more interest on our money than if it just remained in our savings account. There is no risk involved in this, because we still have access to this money at any time if we determine that it is needed.

If you have any questions, please let me know and I will do my best to answer them or at least refer you to someone who can. Thank you!

ROADS' REPORT – Rob Shier

The most important thing about managing our private roads is knowing what to look for by anticipating and then setting a sequenced plan and schedule. The transition period from Rick to myself has occurred, and I am very thankful to have been able to tap the years of experience that Rick Applegate and fellow roads crew volunteers have graciously provided.

I have put together a 100-day plan which typically is full of improvements and things that need to be challenged and changed, but as I was absorbing the transition knowledge transfer the volunteers provided, it was very easy to see that our dirt roads are "best in class" with a couple of very minor improvement opportunities to mitigate storm wash out impact and equipment wear and tear.

What I realized quickly is that this "Best in Class" can only happen when the volunteers working on our roads have high standards and absolute passion about providing our association members with the best possible road conditions. Again, thanks to Rick Applegate, Frank Dietrich and Terry Yamarino for giving their time and physical effort that they have reliably provided us. We salute you!!!!

There has been a tremendous amount of road traffic this year with all the members and utility company / contractor work; however, the road crew has stayed diligent, and I am proud to report the roads look great! The road crew will be doing some minor improvement projects on Crystal / Perch in July / August to further help mitigate storm washout areas.

The grader equipment is being maintained with oil changes, hydraulic hose replacement, blade changes and general lubrication from our awesome volunteers! We know our current used grader is closing in on its "end of life". Therefore, the road crew will be evaluating other grading technologies available as well as looking at other potential options. To give credibility for new technology and be diligent about assessment, the road crew will be renting a tractor with bucket and box grader for the months of July and August. Option analysis and financials will be assessed with Board members and reported back to all association members.

ROADS' REPORT, continued – Rob Shier

** Please keep in mind that members can do their part by keeping their road frontage clear, reporting minor issues before they become major, and helping maintain drainage areas along their roadside property.

The Dust Control Strategy this year will be to focus the applications on our highest road traffic areas. To be environmentally responsible and minimize costs as well as to improve control for members in these higher traffic areas, we have set our Dust Control supplier up with a schedule. Dust control coverage for our roads is 1.3 trucks for the 3.1 miles of roads. A larger truck supplier and single pass strategy will be deployed to ensure our members receive adequate controls.

** Key items to help us sustain our roads and controls is keeping our traffic speed down and within our speed limit of 15 MPH and for our members to advise our contractors to minimize parking on side roads and to be sure they leave our roads in the same shape after their job is complete. Please also remind them to be cooperative to fellow volunteers and association members when requested

There have been numerous members that have had trees trimmed or removed and some of which had brush hauled away or they rented woodchipper to help clean up. This is awesome and encouraging so our compost area continues to have space for our yard debris!!

The Road crew volunteers' commitment to sustaining our roads is rock solid.

LAKES' REPORT – Jim Carr

Hello CLPL Lovers! As this is my first ever Lake newsletter article, please forgive any omissions / mistakes. Bob Conn has done his best to prepare and coach me and remains a valuable advisor. However, the learning curve is steep so I appreciate your patience.

As you know we had a mild winter here in SE Michigan with lots of rain. In addition, the weather experts are predicting a hot summer. These factors result in increased difficulty in managing the algae and invasive species in our lakes. The good news is that our Lakes are in fine shape. Please refer to the CLPL webpage for more detailed information.

Earlier this year, 48,000 fathead minnows were released into the Lakes. We also have a large panfish spawning area as seen here.

Our longtime lake management advisor, PLM, has been contracted to provide invasive plant and algae control treatments. They recently provided a map of the scheduled treatment areas. Please contact me if you'd like to see the map. In May, PLM hit Perch Lake hard for Milfoil. At the same time, they treated the back channels and Little Crystal Lake for invasive species. Crystal Lake was treated for invasives in early June. PLM will follow up with algae treatments two weeks prior to July 4th so our lakes will be ready for maximum enjoyment for the holiday weekend.



LAKES' REPORT, continued – Jim Carr

We are a community of lake lovers, and Crystal and Perch Lakes are our most valuable assets. Help us protect these assets. Remember that human beings are an invasive species, and our behaviors and actions can have either a positive or negative effect.

A couple of reminders:

- * Please be conscious of fishing beds when boating / swimming / fishing
- * Ensure that watercraft and rafts have lot numbers on them.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as I learn.

In closing I'd like to propose a BIG THANKS TO BOB CONN for his years of dedication and stewardship! Thankfully, he is still with us and continues to serve as an invaluable asset to the lakes committee. We welcome anybody who would like to participate in the lakes committee

You may reach out to me directly:

Jim Carr

419-705-3778

Email: cjconsulting8@gmail.com

12515 Crystal Lake Drive

SPECIAL PROJECTS – Laura Dietrich

We will be having our Flotillas again this summer on the 4th Saturday of the month at 5:00! The idea is for anyone interested to meet in the middle of Crystal Lake. We will secure the boats together and enjoy a happy hour (BYOB). Make sure your boat has bumpers and a rope to use for tethering and invite Perch Lake friends.

The Flotilla dates are:

- Saturday, June 22nd at 5:00 pm
- Saturday, July 27th at 5:00 pm
- Saturday, August 24th at 5:00 pm

We had a wonderful time at last years' Flotillas and hope you will join us this summer!



Bring out your red, white and blue spirit for our annual July 4th boat parade! If you would like to participate, meet at the Crystal Lake boat launch at 1:00. This year, the parade will be non-competitive and just for fun.

Our Summer picnic will be an Italian theme and occur on Saturday, July 13th immediately following the CLPL summer meeting at the Somerset Township Hall. If you are interested in bringing food or helping with the event, please text Laura Dietrich at 502-905-1235.

As roles may change, I am interested in another position on the Board which could leave the Special Projects position available. This position is a lot of fun, and it has a tremendous amount of support from the Lake community. It also provides a great opportunity to meet new people and make friends. If you would like more information on the position, please contact me at 502-905-1235.

FOUNDATION – Dave VanDerworp

Observations from the 2024 Michigan Lakes and Streams Conference:

- Michigan is the only state in the union that has no statewide laws pertaining to septic inspections. Please contact your Congressperson and Senator and urge them to support HB 4479/4480 and SB 299/300.
- New invasives on their way to Michigan: Hydrilla and European Frogbit
- “The greener the grass, the greener the lake”. Author Dan Egan on the use of lawn fertilizers.
- Toxic algae blooms are becoming more common on Michigan lakes. They can kill pets and small children, can cause kidney disease, and even ALS. (Crystal / Perch Lakes have not had this problem – as of yet)

Other notes:

The septic tank surveys have been collected. The grants will be awarded in the next few weeks.

Finally, you may make tax deductible donations to the Foundation. Send your donation to:

Crystal Lake Perch Lake Foundation
P.O. Box 193
Somerset Center, MI 49282

Shoreland Stewardship Update – Annamarie Asher

On May 25th, 10 CLPL Association members gathered to discuss “The Michigan Shoreland Stewards Program.” Our lakes suffer from nutrient pollution, and this leads to an overgrowth of invasive aquatic plants and algae. We currently treat this overgrowth with chemicals. The good news is that since many of these nutrients come from our lake properties, we can reduce the pollution with our practices on land which directly improves our access to the lake, reduces the need for chemicals, restores wildlife habitat and in the process, increases property values.

Everyone at the meeting was enthusiastic about finding ways, big and small, to improve their shoreline. Two of the first steps in addressing the nutrient run off from our properties is to be sure our septic tanks are serviced at the recommended intervals and to eliminate using lawn fertilizers, especially those with phosphorus.

Here are some specific things that we discussed at the meeting:

1. Use of native plants. Native plants help to reduce shoreline erosion and run off with their deep roots. Some examples of native plants in abundance along our shore, should they be encouraged to grow are asters, bulrush, buttonbush, sedges, smartweed, burr marigold, joe pye, jewel weed, flag iris, milkweed, goldenrod and wild bergamot. We took a shoreline walk and identified these. Of added benefit, if you want to prevent geese from visiting your property, try a bulrush barrier: they cannot penetrate it.
2. Guilt free program. Everyone who is interested will have their own level of ability and interest in helping to reduce nutrient overload. It will not look the same for everyone. For example, if someone improves their septic tank maintenance, their shoreline won't look any different but they will have made a substantial contribution to reducing nutrient overload in our lakes. The same for eliminating lawn fertilizers. There are many ways to make a contribution.
3. Group projects. We talked about ways to stabilize shorelines that allow native plants to grow and prevent erosion, sometimes called bioengineering. Using rocks that allow plants to grow between and around them is one simple method. Coir logs were also discussed as a way to start plants at the shoreline. Plants are placed in holes in the log, and they develop strong roots. We discussed

FOUNDATION, continued – Dave VanDerworp

the possibility of buying some of these in bulk and making them available to CLPL property owners. These coir logs could be used at our boat launches as we restore the shoreline. Look for news of that project in the near future. The Lakes Foundation has suggested using the edges of our boat launches as an example of shoreline restoration.

A good place to start is to visit the following website: mishorelandstewards.org

This website is loaded with information and links to videos. You can also learn a lot by taking the property survey on the website. If you do take the survey, please consider registering so that we can see how many have taken the survey. You may also take it anonymously.

Finally, feel free to contact me if you have ideas or questions or perhaps want to take a walk or lake tour to look at native plants.

Annamarie Asher
734-834-4362
asher@umich.edu

CALENDAR OF EVENTS**Lake Flotilla Gatherings:**

Saturday June 22 at 5:00 pm

Saturday July 27 at 5:00 pm

Saturday August 24 at 5:00 pm

Boat Parade – July 4 at 1:00 pm

Summer Membership Meeting – July 13 from 10:00 am to 12 noon, coffee and doughnuts at 9:30 –
Somerset Township Meeting Room

Summer Picnic – July 13 following Membership Meeting – McCourtie Park

Fall Membership Meeting – October 5 from 10:00 am to 12 noon, coffee and doughnuts at 9:30 –
Somerset Township Meeting Room

Chili Cook-off – October 5 following Fall Membership Meeting