



CRYSTAL WHITECAPS

The Newsletter of the Crystal Lake & Watershed Association

Vol. 8, No. 2

SPRING/SUMMER 2012

President's Letter

The Crystal Lake & Watershed Association is our resource, an organization of individuals committed to protecting our precious natural asset. The entire community that lies within our watershed is entrusted with the responsibility to maintain the integrity of the beautiful waters that we rely on for our livelihoods, our recreation, our solace and as stewards we must work together. The **CLWA** is our voice and our vehicle to make our common positions resonate with all who wish to participate in preserving this most important natural resource.

The **CLWA** has raised the funds to build a boat washing station at the newly opened MDNR boat launch to minimize transfer of invasive species from other inland lakes and the Great lakes into Crystal Lake. This site is proving to be the most widely used boat launch on Crystal Lake. Through very effective event planning and most generous giving, the **CLWA** is currently procuring equipment

and constructing facilities to offer boatwashing services to all boaters. The **CLWA** understands that this is the most effective location to educate transient boaters to be responsible stewards concerning invasive species. Through effective leadership, the **CLWA** is making the boat wash a reality.

This year the **CLWA** and partnering organizations have been awarded \$164,000 to develop a Watershed Management Plan for the combined Crystal Lake/Betsie River watersheds. This project will define watershed issues and prioritize objectives for future action to protect the integrity of our Crystal Lake. With your contributions the **CLWA** remains at the forefront of the plan development.

Active membership and funding determine the success of our efforts. This involves active participation in **CLWA** meetings and planning, and expanding our membership

to involve all voices and facilitate transfer of knowledge to others about the watershed issues. Funding is crucial to an active, membership-driven organization. With your financial commitment, our activities in research, lake monitoring, and watershed management will succeed in making our understanding clear and our voice heard. Please take the step to become a contributor to as well as a user of our shared assets.

And please, enjoy Crystal Lake often and responsibly,

Joel Buzzell, President of your Crystal Lake & Watershed Association.

Lake Level

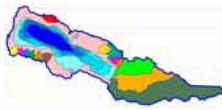
The level of Crystal Lake (measured weekly by the Benzie County Drain Commission) is regulated at two levels [Summer (May 1 - Oct 31) 600.25 feet, for recreational use; Winter (Nov 1 - Apr 30) 599.75 feet, to reduce winter shoreline erosion]. The Spring of 2012 began with the Outlet flowing free and with a sufficient quantity of water to carry over into the dryer summer months. The new level

control devices installed at the Outlet Dam in 2011 should allow improved water management. The **CLWA** contributed to this project which was implemented by the Benzie County Drain Commission following a design by Luedke Engineering. Graphs of historical lake levels are posted at our website. http://www.clwa.us/water_quality.htm#LakeLevelMonitoring.



Past President Ed Hoogterp (left) and current President Joel Buzzell (right.) Our sincere appreciation to Ed Hoogterp who has served two full terms as our President, giving selflessly of his time, sharing his experiences, and shepherding the CLWA in transition from its early merging years to a mature nonprofit organization.

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



Innovative Water Quality Monitoring

The **CLWA** has owned and operated an instrumental system of sensors for monitoring multiple parameters of water quality consisting of a Hydrolab® DS3 datasonde, an SVR3 datalogger and a special cable, capable of simultaneously determining vertical profiles of six parameters of water quality (*) in the deepwaters, nearshore regions, and tributaries of Crystal Lake. [(*) depth, temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, oxidation-reduction potential, turbidity] The **CLWA** has now acquired two Hydrolab® DS4A datasondes at no cost from the South

Florida Water Management District through our former water quality coordinator, Paul Murphy (NPS). These two units have been undergoing retrofitting by Hydrotech (Plano TX), and are about to be field tested.

The **CLWA** has also entered into a cooperative agreement with the Benzie Conservation District for support services for water quality monitoring. Several vertical profiles in the deepwater of Crystal Lake were taken using our Hydrolab® H20 multiprobe in 2011 and continue in 2012. These analyses will be augmented by assessment

of water sample taken offshore of the new MDNR boat launch. With the recent creation of the Benzie Lakes Coalition (Crystal L., Herring L's, Platte L's, Ann L., Pearl L., and others) there are perceived needs for more contractual work through the BCD with other lakes. In addition, remote deployments of Hydrolab sondes in conjunction with other devices (lake level, weather, water quality) at stations on Cold Creek or near the Outlet become real possibilities.

Watershed Management Plan

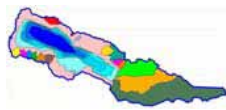
Final approval of \$164,000 in funding for the development of a comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (WMP) for the combined Crystal Lake and Betsie River Watershed was received from MDEQ. The WMP is a multiyear project to be administered by the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG), in association with the **CLWA** and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC),

and other stakeholders, including: the Benzie Conservation District; the Conservation Resource Alliance; the Benzie/Leelanau District Health Department; the Benzie Co. Drain Commission; the Benzie Co. Board of Commissioners; Benzonia, Crystal Lake, and Lake Townships, the Conservation Resource Alliance, the Green Lake/Betsie River Association, and the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (NPS). The WMP, which

must meet guidelines by both MDEQ and USEPA, involves identification of stakeholders, scheduling of public meetings, reviews of current watershed status, and prioritization of issues of concerns. This planning process is scheduled to begin early in 2013. Once the completed WMP is submitted and approved by MDEQ, future implementation projects will then proceed.

Plaudits & Congrats

- ✔ Molly Appleford and Heather Perry, who made our "Mexican Fiesta" fundraiser a success.
- ✔ Retiring Board members Jim Laarman, Julianne McKnight, and Sandra O'Neal for their services.
- ✔ Alan & Joann Applehof, Crystal Circle Awardees for 2011, for their many years of meritorious services to the CLWA and its predecessors
- ✔ Terry Money, retiring Drain Commissioner and Bob Crossman (dec), Asst. Drain Commissioner, for dedicated measuring of the level of Crystal Lake.
- ✔ Buel C. Hubbell, for drawing the 1873 map for the Benzie Co. River Improvement Co.; William E. Milliron recognizing its historical significance; and Florence Bixby, former Curator, and Lou Yock, current Curator, Benzie Area Historical Museum, for its rediscovery.



Summer Interns

The **CLWA** welcomes our 2012 Summer Interns: Noah Hahn, a 2012 graduate in political science from The University of Michigan; Shelby Riggle, a political science major from Tufts University; and Madison Lutzke, a junior from Benzie Central High School. They are assisting the **CLWA**

in the summer art fairs and parades, the fund-raiser, the **CLWA** annual meeting, and other events, and participating in the Swimmer's Itch studies.

Interns: *Madison Lutzke, Noah Hahn, Shelby Riggle*



Crystal Lake "Walkabout"

The Crystal Lake "**Walkabout**" is a continuing 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. The program focuses on hydrology – how water moves about the watershed - but also addresses water quality, invasive species, ecology, geology, land use and zoning, wells and septic tanks, green belts, sustainable development, watershed management, and local history.

Participants "walk about" Interpretive Sites that represent different facets of the Crystal Lake Watershed, where they interact with environmental professionals from the cosponsoring organizations. The "**Walkabout**" has now been expanded to include twelve different Interpretive Sites. The "**Walkabout**" is supported by the dedicated teachers and administrators of Benzie County schools who provide their inquisitive students as participants. Dr. Stacy L. Daniels of the Crystal Lake & Watershed Association (**CLWA**) is the "**Walkabout**" Coordinator.

This year (2012) represents the 20th year of the Crystal Lake "**Walkabout**". Since 1993, this successful program has been presented to more than 5,000 students, residents, and visitors to the Crystal Lake Watershed. It is offered three times each year: Spring (5/6th grades), Fall (7/8th grades), and Summer (general public). There was no Spring 2012 "**Walkabout**" because of limited transportation funding by the schools. A Fall 2012 "**Walkabout**", however, is anticipated.

ARCHIBALD JONES DAY

The 3rd Annual Archibald Jones program to be held from 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM, Saturday, August 25, 2012, will include: "The Story of Archibald Jones"; Re-enactment of the "Tragedy"; Unveiling of the restored 1873 map; awards of honorary stock certificates; Fun & games from the 1870's; Entertainment, food, and music A separate lecture: "Archibald Jones and the Benzie County River Improvement Company (BCRIC): Implications in the "Tragedy/Comedy" of Crystal Lake", will be presented by Dr. Stacy L. Daniels, at the Darcy Library at 7:00 PM on Friday, August 24, 2012.

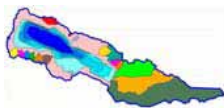
Archibald Jones Day is held

annually to celebrate the "man who pulled the plug at Crystal Lake". This festival commemorates the lowering of Crystal Lake in 1873, an epochal event in our local heritage which greatly influenced the future development of Crystal Lake and Benzie County. It is cosponsored by the CLWA, the Beulah Boosters, the Darcy Library, the Crystal Lake Community Business Association, the Friends of the Benzonia Library, and the Benzie Area Historical Society.

The highlight of the event will be a grand unveiling of the recently rediscovered and historically significant document: "Map Showing Sources & Courses

of the Platte & Betsey Rivers, Benzie County, Together with Some of the Obstructions and Proposed Improvements, drawn for the Benzie County River Improvement Co., by Buel C. Hubbell, Draftsman, Benzonia, Mich., ca. 1873.





IN MEMORIAM
MOLLIE ROGERS

1921 – 2012



It was with deep regret that the Crystal Lake & Watershed Association (**CLWA**) learned of the passing of our dear friend Mollie Rogers on June 12, 2012. We extend our most sincere condolences to her family: son Ed (Rose) Rogers of Crandon, WI; daughter Claudia (Vernon) Bailey of Honor; son James (Mary) Rogers of Frankfort, and her grandchildren Erik (Danielle), Nichola, and Renée Herman; Julia, Jason, and Josefina Rogers; Tristan and Jaylon Rogers; and great grandson Ruben Rogers. She was predeceased by her husband, Jim, and brothers Bob and George.

Mollie was a true inspiration to all her friends living on Crystal Lake and to the many visitors to Chimney Corners Resort located in a deeply wooded rolling piece of land extending about a mile along the North shore of Crystal Lake. The Piqua Handle & Mfg. Co. Resort, ne' Pine Bluffs, its predecessor, began as a private family resort about the time the West Michigan Pike first ran along the NW shore of Crystal Lake. Leola and Olin Rogers, Jim Sr's parents, opened the first guestbook at Chimney Corners' main lodge in 1935, and under the management of Mollie and Jim, it assumed a special place for generations of summer visitors.

"I have the great joy, not always vouchsafed to the old, of seeing the object of Jim and my life's labors, Chimney Corners, prospering. ... We are surrounded by love, and we hope this is true of all of you, dear friends."

Mollie was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, moved to Detroit as an infant, graduated as salutatorian from Highland Park High School. She attended Olivet College, where she studied French, sang in the choir, met her "dearest, closest friend," Mary Kehrer (Arnheim), and found

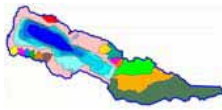
the love of her life, James Rogers. Mollie and Jim were married October 10, 1942 in Birmingham, and honeymooned at Chimney Corners. During World War II they left college to work in the Ford Aircraft Plant, and returned to Olivet after the War. They also developed a love for sailing the coasts and waterways of Florida from that time on. From 1947 and 1949, they worked with the American Friends Service Committee in St. Nazaire, France.

They then took over Chimney Corners from Jim's aging parents, where Mollie began to integrate French cuisine into the menu, leading to her authorship of five editions of "There's Always Something Cooking at Chimney Corners"; and "The Chimney Corners Family Album, A Northern Michigan History. She also wrote frequent letters to the editor on local, environmental, and political issues about which she cared deeply. She was involved in founding the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy and their first project, the Trapp Farm Nature Preserve. She was also a past President of the Crystal Lake Watershed Fund and served on its Board for several years.

Funeral services were held at St. Philips Episcopal Church in Beulah on Sunday, June 24. Memorial donations may be made to St. Philips Church or to the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy.

Above the mantle of the cobblestone fireplace in the Main Lodge at Chimney Corners is the inscription: "Come Sitte Besyde My Hearthe, Tis Wyde for Gentle Companie." It was indeed!

Dr. Stacy L. Daniels, *Crystal Lake & Watershed Association*



CLWA Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the **CLWA** was held Saturday, July 21, 2012, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM at the CSA Meeting Hall, 2128 Pilgrim Highway (M-22). A short business meeting was followed by elections of officers and Board members. New Board members include: Phil Downs, Alan Marble, and Peter Payette. A special presentation was made to outgoing President, Ed Hoogterp, for his capable leadership as the **CLWA** transitions into a new era of responsiveness and planning efforts.

Committee updates and remarks by President Ed Hoogterp were followed by a program on Swimmer's Itch. The program was led by Board Member Jana Way, who heads **CLWA**'s Swimmer's Itch subcommittee. It also included an informative Power Point presentation created by our three interns.

Swimmer's itch is caused by an allergic reaction to a parasitic

organism that is sometimes present in the water as it cycles between fresh-water snails and waterfowl. The problem is often found in lakes with the highest water quality, and it seems to be increasing throughout the northern region of the United States.

Jana explained that **CLWA** has worked with other entities around the lake to form the Crystal Lake Swimmer's Itch Partnership, with representatives from the city of Frankfort, the Village of Beulah, Congregational Summer Assembly, Chimney Corners Resort, Crystal Lake Yacht Club, Crystal Conference Center, Crystal Beach Cottagers Association, and numerous individuals. Funding for the partnership is provided through **CLWA** membership donations.

The partnership uses research, education and several active strategies to reduce the incidence of Swimmer's Itch. Included are: A

program to subsidize fall hunting of merganser ducks, which are a common host of the organism; raking the lake bottom at popular beaches to impact snail populations; using pyrotechnics to discourage mergansers from congregating in large flocks in the spring; publishing a new informational brochure; and working with local pharmacies to ensure that possible preventatives or treatments are available.

This summer, the partnership is conducting a study to test the effectiveness of one product labeled as a swimmers itch preventative.

Partnership members are also working beyond the borders of the Crystal Lake Watershed to develop joint strategies with other lake associations, the DNR and our state legislators. This important work will continue through the off-season and we hope to report progress in the spring.

Wash Station Under Construction, Thanks to Donors

Thanks to the enthusiastic volunteers and generous donors who made the July 14th Mexican Fiesta fund-raiser such a success, construction is now underway on the **CLWA** boat wash station at the Mollineaux Road boating access site.

The Fiesta, at the Crystal Lake Yacht Club, exceeded its goal of \$40,000 and raised enough to fully fund the wash station and an invasive species education effort that will include informative signs at other potential launch sites on Crystal Lake.

Donors provided exciting items for the live and silent auctions; underwriters covered much of the event cost; volunteers kept everything running smoothly; and nearly 300 people attended on a beautiful evening on the shore of Crystal Lake.

The **CLWA** Board and membership are grateful to event chairs Heather Perry and Molly Appleford, and to all who participated. Donors and

underwriters will be recognized in the upcoming **CLWA** annual report and directory.

The boat washing station is the centerpiece of **CLWA**'s effort to protect Crystal Lake from invasive species such as quagga mussels, VHS virus and round gobies, all of which exist a few miles away in Lake Michigan.

The new facility will provide a convenient way for boaters to clean their vessels of potentially harmful plants and animals, and will also serve as the central point for educational efforts on aquatic invasive species.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources signed a long-term lease allowing **CLWA** to build operate the boat wash on state property. The lease is part of a negotiated settlement that also improved the environmental footprint of the boat launch site, which formally opened in June.

DNR also agreed to assist in the cost of bringing electricity to the site, and to perform much of the excavation and paving work in preparation for the wash station. The agreement marked the first time the DNR has formally participated in the cost of boat washing facilities at a launch site.

According to the design approved by the **CLWA** Board of Directors, the boat wash station will use a modified version of industrial car-washing equipment in a fixed, self-service operation that will be open at all times during the boating season. Volunteers will staff the facility during busy times, and a second, mobile wash unit will be available if needed to keep the operation going quickly.



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Past President

- Bob Appleford
- Ed Hoogterp

CRYSTAL LAKE & WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

“The purpose of the **CLWA** is to protect and promote the natural qualities of Crystal Lake (Benzie Co., MI) and its surrounding Watershed. The goal of the **CLWA** is to preserve for future generations the beauty and recreational resources of Crystal Lake and its Watershed. To these ends, the **CLWA** 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.” (CLWA Bylaws)

The **CLWA** (a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization) supports a comprehensive program of activities affecting students, riparian owners, and visitors in the Crystal Lake Watershed, Benzie Co., MI. The **CLWA** is comprised of an Executive Committee; four standing committees: Water Quality; Education & Communication; Zoning & Land Use; and Financial Development; and ad hoc committees on Public Access, Shoreline Stewardship, Finance, Swimmers Itch & Invasive Species, and Long-Range Planning. Please contact the **CLWA** if you would you like to participate on a Committee!

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

Crystal Whitecaps, The **CLWA** Newsletter; the webpage at www.CLWA.us, the **CLWA** Membership Directory; progress reports on Crystal Lake Watershed activities and issues; and an active voice in the protection of the Crystal Lake Watershed. **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.

