



Crystal Whitecaps

The Newsletter of the Crystal Lake & Watershed Association

Vol. 1, No. 1, FALL/WINTER 2004

CLWA - A NEW ORGANIZATION !

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Exciting changes for the future of the Crystal Lake Watershed occurred with the merger of the former Crystal Lake Association (**CLA**) and the former Crystal Lake Watershed Fund (**CLWF**) into a new organization, the Crystal Lake & Watershed Association (**CLWA**). This coming together of minds, energies, and diverse talents into a combined stronger, more efficient organization was made official in September 2004.



We are invigorated and eager to continue the good stewardship begun decades ago by leaders and volunteers of the **CLA** and the **CLWF** and their predecessors. The newly elected Officers and Board Members of the **CLWA** are a compatible blend of both former Boards. They are committed to carrying out projects of the Water Quality, Zoning & Land Use, Education & Communication, and Financial &

Development Committees to the continued stewardship of Crystal Lake and its Watershed. Working together, we will make the difference.

Since the **CLWA** is a new organization, we feel it is important to describe to all past and future members, and other interested members of our public, just who, what, and where we are. This inaugural issue of our new newsletter, Crystal Whitecaps (**CLWA**), a combination of two previous newsletters, Crystal Shorelines (**CLWF**) and Crystal Facets (**CLA**), is dedicated to that purpose. Two websites, www.CLWF.org and www.cla-upnorth.org, are being combined into a new website www.CLWA.us. Please feel free to contact the **CLWA** with your concerns and comments.

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



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It is with great anticipation that I take this opportunity to introduce myself as the President of the Crystal Lake & Watershed Association (**CLWA**), your new Organization. This year brings many important changes: the name of our Organization changed, as did its officers and board members. With this Newsletter, we begin to introduce the officers and other members of Board of Directors.

My wife, Molly, and I grew up in, and still reside in, Birmingham, Michigan, where I practice law, specializing in commercial litigation. We acquired property and built a cottage on Lake Michigan in the early sixties and it will become our principal residence upon my retirement. Our four children and five grandchildren regularly come to the cottage (I enjoy the off season as much or more than the summers) and we all regard the cottage as our home.

As a part-time resident for over forty years, I am dedicated to maintaining the natural beauty of the Crystal Lake area. My intention as President is to work with our current members, supporters, and volunteers, to protect our world-class treasure. Pressures of development and access continue to pose challenges as we seek equality without sacrificing quality.

As your President, I attended the recent MDEQ status conference about which you can read further in the article "Boat Launch Update". Although this matter is currently most important, there are other pressing concerns regarding the Lake. We must remain vigilant about land use and development, water quality, shoreline erosion, and invasive aquatic species. To address these issues, we have assembled a talented team of people who hail from all walks of life and share in their commitment to stewardship of our natural resources. The past three months I have enjoyed working with our dedicated Officers and Board of Directors, and look forward to meeting additional members.

*-- Bob Appleford, **CLWA** President*

PERSONAL NOTES

The "Merger Committee" of Ken Baker, Allen Appelhof, Chuck Clarke, Bob Schmidt, Rusty Lewis, and Jim Martin, is especially commended for bringing together the **CLWF** and the **CLA** to form the **CLWA**.

Char Seabury (in memoriam). The summer of 2004 marked the passing of a long-time, loyal supporter of the Association, Charlene Seabury. As a tribute to her and her dedication to both the environment and the arts, gifts in her memory may be made to the Interlochen Center for the Arts, P.O. Box 199, Interlochen, MI 49643. For questions, contact Norman Beeker at (231) 276-7615.

CLWA ORGANIZATION

The **CLWA** is comprised of the Executive Committee; four standing Committees: the Water Quality Committee, the Zoning & Land Use Committee, the Education & Communication Committee, and the Development & Financial Committee; and one ad hoc Committee: the Boat Launch Committee. This newsletter contains items describing past activities by the Committees of the predecessor organizations, the **CLA** and the **CLWF**, and current activities by the Committees of the new **CLWA**.



WATER QUALITY

The new Crystal Lake and Watershed Association (**CLWA**) Water Quality Committee consists of: Elizabeth Rodgers, Stacy Daniels, Jim Laarman, Scrib Sheafor, Paul Murphy, Bill Decker, and Tom Osborn (Chair). The Committee will start a planning process this winter to prepare for next summer's monitoring program and for a long-term program of understanding the processes that affect the lake's water quality and its likely development over time. The planning process will culminate in discussions with the Science Review Panel Science Review Panel (http://www.clwf.org/sci_rev_panel.htm) that the Crystal Lake

Watershed Fund has used in the past to review its program. Interacting with these experts with both national and international experience gives us insight into ideas and practices most appropriate for Crystal Lake. The objective is to develop an overall science plan that relates water quality monitoring to social and political aspects of watershed planning.

Our past measurements have focused on vertical profiles of temperature, dissolved oxygen, and nutrients. The last 10 years of these data are being collated and prepared



for publication. The capability of the profiling instrumentation will likely be upgraded to include phytoplankton sensors. We will start to monitor phytoplankton concentrations throughout the water column over the growing season.

Future measurements need to include an expanded biological sampling program. Many changes can occur in the biological populations without any strong signal appearing in the physical and chemical parameters. Benthic organisms contain information about the condition of the bottom sediments. Has the hardening of the shoreline around the lake modified the supply of sediment to the lake? Past efforts on delineating the coverage of rooted aquatic vegetation need to be continued and expanded in order to develop a robust data set that would support numerical analysis. How much of the nutrient input to the lake goes into rooted plants? What have zebra mussels done to the distribution of phytoplankton? Has the lake become susceptible to blue-green algae that float on the surface and are not grazed by zebra mussels?

We hope to develop programs that continue to involve participation by local lake residents and volunteers. Often the major cost of monitoring programs is the labor associated with the collection of the samples. With the large pool of knowledgeable and enthusiastic people around the shore, who care greatly for the lake, we hope to develop an efficient, cost-effective, program using trained volunteers and professionals.

-- Tom Osborn



BOAT LAUNCH UPDATE

On May 25, 2004, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) granted the permits requested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to go forward with construction of a public boat launch on Crystal Lake. Three months prior to that date at a hearing before the MDEQ, members of the Crystal Lake Association (**CLA**), the Crystal Lake Watershed Fund (**CLWF**) and other interested residents of Benzie County voiced several grave concerns about the size, scope and justification for the design as proposed.

One of the objectives for the newly formed Crystal Lake & Watershed Association (**CLWA**) is "to preserve for future generations the beauty and recreational resources of Crystal Lake and its watershed." Acting pursuant to this mandate, **CLWA** petitioned the MDEQ for a contested case hearing on the matter last summer. Specifically, we asked the MDEQ to consider invalidating the permit because 1) MDEQ did not properly apply the criteria under the Wetland Protection Act; 2) The permit authorizes pollution, impairment, and destruction of the water of the state in violation of MEPA; and 3) The MDEQ acted arbitrarily and did not consider other alternatives.

Simply put, **CLWA** seeks to have the MDEQ reconsider the propriety of its May 25 decision. On November 9, 2004, a meeting was held at MDEQ offices to discuss the issues put forward by **CLWA**. (Other interested parties that attended include the MDNR and the Crystal Lake Property Rights Association.) Frederick Dilley, an attorney from Grand Rapids who specializes in such matters, represented us at the meeting along with other **CLWA** board members. As soon as any decision or development becomes known, **CLWA** members and supporters will be updated.

In the meantime this matter is on hold. Last month the Assistant Attorney General representing the MDNR confirmed in writing to Mr. Dilley that the MDNR would give us thirty days notice of any request for earth change activity at the boat launch site. It is hoped that the November meeting or anticipated follow up meetings will result in an outcome that provides the people of Benzie County adequate and safe access to Crystal Lake without diminishing Crystal Lake's beauty and unsurpassed recreational opportunities. For history, see at <http://www.cla-upnorth.org/dnr.html> and http://www.clwf.org/DNR_launch.htm.

-- Amy Kinney

SEPTIC SYSTEMS & ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT UNITS

In 1989, Benzie County was one of the first counties in the U.S. to adopt a precedent-setting ordinance to require upgrading of onsite wastewater treatment systems (septic tanks with drain fields, or holding tanks subject to periodic collection and disposal). Upgrading is required prior to sale of any properties. Priority of enforcement was placed on upgrading failed or poorly operating systems located near water bodies. To date, several hundred individual systems, within the Crystal Lake Watershed and elsewhere in Benzie County, have been upgraded. Alternative Treatments Units (ATU's) using "innovative" or "advanced" treatment technologies provide a higher degree of treatment to protect water quality of lakes and groundwater. Holding tanks without outlets must be pumped periodically and the contents properly disposed of in an approved treatment facility. Benzie and Leelanau Counties adopted new standards allowing septic systems to be constructed on properties having soils that do not "perc", i.e. allow partially treated wastewater to percolate through the soil for further treatment. An advisory group comprised of Walter Nielson and Dave Schmidtke, of Leelanau Co., and Stacy Daniels, of Benzie Co. supports the Benzie/Leelanau District Health Department in implementing these new regulations. <http://www.clwf.org/development.htm#Regulations>

-- Stacy L. Daniels



CRYSTAL LAKE "WALKABOUT"(*)

The **Crystal Lake "Walkabout"** is an educational program to teach students, property owners, and visitors about the Crystal Lake Watershed. It focuses on hydrology - how water moves about the Watershed. It also addresses current concerns about water quality, ecology, land use, zoning, septic tanks, green belts, sustainable development, and watershed management. The "hands-on" approach to public education involves observational monitoring and environmental exploring. Participants "walk about" Interpretive Sites in the Watershed representing the Lake, and its tributaries, wetlands, dunes, and high ridges, as environmental professionals describe features and conduct activities.

The **Crystal Lake "Walkabout"** held on October 14, 2004 was attended by 216 students from the 8th grade science classes of Benzie Central Middle Schools and Frankfort-Elberta Schools. Since 1994, the "**Walkabout**" has been presented to over 2,200 students, residents, and visitors to the Crystal Lake Watershed. It became a biennial event in 2002 to accommodate all of the 6th and 8th grade students in Benzie County. The Sites visited this Fall included: Crystal Lake at the Beulah beach (water quality), the Cold Creek Sediment Basin (groundwater and biomonitoring), the Trapp Farm Nature Preserve (wetlands), and the Railroad Point Natural Area (high ridge, watersheds). Since 1997, the "**Walkabout**" has been presented to 2,200 participants from local schools and the general public. Cosponsors of the Fall "**Walkabout**" included: the Crystal Lake & Watershed Association; the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy; the MSUE Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program; and the Watershed Center - Grand Traverse Bay.

Each participant receives a commemorative "Walkabout" T-shirt with a full-color GIS map of the Crystal Lake Watershed. The "**Walkabout**" Interpretive Manual is both "An Educational Primer for Students" and "A Reference Handbook for Property Owners and Visitors" (http://www.clwf.org/PDF/CLFWWalkabout04Fall_Manual.pdf). It contains maps, facts, descriptions of the interpretive sites, a chronology of events in Crystal Lake Watershed history, and a list of concerns of the owners of Lake and Watershed property. (T-shirts, Watershed maps, and the Interpretive Manual are available from the Crystal Lake & Watershed Association.)



Special thanks are given to the John N. Barnes Environmental Education Fund for financial support. Other thanks are due to the dedicated teachers from Benzie Central Schools and Frankfort-Elberta Area Schools who include the concepts of watershed interpretation and management into their curriculums, and provide moral support, chaperons, bus transportation, and especially, the student participants. A most sincere thanks to all of the students, who play significant roles in organizing and assembling the Interpretive Manual, and who participate and make the "**Walkabout**" worthwhile.

(*) Dedicated to "Winnie" (An awful good dog!), the unofficial "**Walkabout**" mascot (1989-2004).

-- Stacy L. Daniels



THE BENEFITS OF BEING A MEMBER ORGANIZATION

To all participants and donors to the Crystal Lake Watershed Fund: thank you for your past financial support in helping maintain and preserve Crystal Lake through your contributions to the **CLWF**. As former supporters of **CLWF**, you are cordially invited to become members of the new Crystal Lake & Watershed Association. Past members of the Crystal Lake Association are also invited to continue their memberships. Membership offers you a channel for your ideas and concerns, plus an active voice in the protection of Crystal Lake. Membership also includes the following benefits:

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

Functioning as a membership organization provides the **CLWA** with a reliable annual income to defray operating costs and to fund key stewardship projects, scientific studies, and educational programs geared toward protecting Crystal Lake. **CLWA** encourages its members to contact local and state representatives on issues, such as boating access sites and keyhole development. An organization with over a thousand members attracts more attention than the voice of one concerned citizen. Together, we can impact matters of critical importance to the preservation and care of Crystal Lake. Association dues are only \$35 per year, although more is certainly appreciated. Gifts earmarked to the 2020 Vision Fund or the Endowment Fund are used for stewardship projects, scientific studies, and educational programs. We look forward to a long and pleasant relationship with all our members.

IF IT IS TO BE, IT IS UP TO ME!

If each member of the Crystal Lake & Watershed Association were to adopt this belief, then we would certainly have many more means, when needed, at our disposal to carry out our mission. If we all truly believe in preserving Crystal Lake, and surely this is our common desire, then we, yes, each one of us must assume our fair share of the financial responsibility to provide the necessary funding.

One great need today is to provide for tomorrow. To help achieve this, each of us can do our part in making generous and continuing contributions to our Endowment Fund. A larger principal means more interest income to provide for future needs. A donation to the Endowment Fund in memory or in honor of a friend or family member takes on an additional meaning as a gift that keeps on giving. Let us act now, and embrace the true meaning of "if it is to be, it is up to me."

The **CLWA** can accept many types of gifts: cash, checks, appreciated securities, charitable trusts, etc., and remembrance in your estate planning through bequests of various kinds. Another way you may wish to give is in year-end planning with a generous contribution. Each and every gift makes a difference. Crystal Lake will thank you for years to come, and you will have the satisfaction of being part of maintaining this beautiful jewel of the north, and know that *"IT IS TO BE BECAUSE OF ME!"*

NOTICE:
The deadline for inclusion in the annual membership directory is now December 31, 2004. This deadline applies to members listings, recognitions, memorials and honoraria.

-- Kathryn Simpson



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3. Daniels, Stacy L., The Crystal Lake **“Walkabout”** – Education Thru Observational Monitoring and Environmental Exploring, Crystal Lake Association, Annual Meeting, July 31, 2004.
4. Hill, Elizabeth, Ecology of Crystal Lake, Crystal Lake Watershed Fund, Annual Meeting, July 24, 2004.
5. Daniels, Stacy L., The Crystal Lake Watershed, A Myriad of Environments, Kiwanis Club of Crystal Lake, Beulah, Michigan, September 21, 2004. (A powerpoint presentation review of our Watershed.) www.clwa.us.
6. Daniels, Stacy L., and Murphy, Paul C., Biomonitoring of the Cold Creek Watershed - Three Subwatersheds of the Crystal Lake Watershed, Benzie County, Michigan, Final Report, Supported by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Volunteer Monitoring Program, Clean Water Fund, Clean Michigan Initiative, July 15, 2003, 40pp + 100 pp appendices. <http://www.clwf.org/ecology.htm#Biomonitoring>.
7. Nutrient sources and biological production in the near shore regions and central basin of Crystal Lake, Michigan Water Research Center, CMU, for **CLA**, draft, in review, July 14, 2004.

Contributors to this issue of Crystal Whitecaps include: Bob Appelford, Stacy L. Daniels, Amy Kinney, Tom Osborn, and Kathryn Simpson. Photo subjects: Alex Thayer, an enthusiastic young participant with caterpillar on the Summer 2004 **“Walkabout”**; Paul Murphy, biomonitoring Cold Creek; and Evan Urchick, 8th grade Benzie Central Schools, with toad, on the Fall 2004 **“Walkabout.”**

2005 CALENDAR. (Please check at www.CLWA.us for final 2005 dates & times.)

April	Michigan Lake & Stream Association Annual Conference.
May	Crystal Lake “Walkabout” - 6th grades (Benzie Central & Frankfort/Elberta Schools).
July	Beulah Art Fair - Beulah Park.
July	CLWA Annual Meeting.
July 24	A Celebration of Lake Associations.
July	Congregational Summer Assembly Arts & Crafts Fair.
August	Crystal Lake “Walkabout” - Open to the general public.
October	Crystal Lake “Walkabout” - 8th grades (Benzie Central & Frankfort/Elberta Schools).

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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MEET THE CLWA BOARD (*)

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Vice President

Alan Appelhof

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Sue Teteak

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Bob Schmidt

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Elizabeth Hill

Amy Kinney

Jim Laarman

Tom Osborn

Jay Pettitt

Kathryn Simpson

Virginia Sorenson

Toby Tull

Ex-Officio

Bill Decker

Ron Renner

Bob Schmidt, Treasurer

Bob Schmidt has been coming to Crystal Lake for more than 30 years. "When we started in St. Louis this wonderful place was fairly close. When work took us to New York and later to California, the trip was more complicated. It has always been worth it. The community has nurtured each member of the family. We are all better because of Benzie County. This is a place worth fighting for." Bob has been involved with the CSA Education Fund, The Endowment for Experiential Architecture and is an active volunteer in other Benzie area activities. On the business front, Bob is an advisor to companies often related to financial matters.

Susan Teteak, Secretary

Sue Teteak is the 5th generation summering at Crystal Lake. Her granddaughter is the 6th. Sue and her husband Tom recently retired and now spend five months at the family cottage in the CSA, where Sue is a past Trustee and current Budget Chair. As a retired credit union president, Sue is using her financial skills to help the **CLWA** meet its goal of preserving the water quality of Crystal Lake for future generations. Their two sons Jason and Jim, wives, Tricia and Michelle, and granddaughter Jada live in Madison, Wisconsin. The entire family vacations each summer at beautiful Crystal Lake. Sue's mother, Lois Wrench, still summers at the CSA with the extended clan.

Chuck Clarke, Zoning and Land Use Committee Co-Chair

Chuck began vacationing with his family on Crystal Lake as a child in 1957. Chuck later purchased the lot adjoining the family property where he built his current home in 1994. He is a past member of the North Shore Property Owners Association, and the Crystal Lake Clean Water Committee, which became the Crystal Lake Watershed Fund for which he served as President and Treasurer. Chuck says, "The key to preserving the precious quality of Crystal Lake and its Watershed is addressing potential issues before they become problems and enforcing appropriate regulations." Chuck is a retired U.S. Marine Officer and currently is the Administrator/Controller of Benzie County.

Cliff Graves, Executive Committee

The Crystal Lake area has been Cliff Graves' summer home since birth. For years, cherries were grown on the nearby family farm. Then in 1997 Cliff and his wife Dee moved to Frankfort from California to become full-time residents. Over the years, Crystal Lake has been a never-ending source of enjoyment and happy memories. Becoming a board member of the **CLWA** has afforded Cliff the opportunity to work towards the long-term protection and preservation of our cherished Lake. "I believe that working with our local and state units of government is an important component of our strategy as we reach out to all who have a stake in protecting beautiful Crystal Lake."

(*) Other Board members will be introduced in future newsletters.

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