



# **CROOKED LAKE**

## **President's Message...**

Hello friends and neighbors. I don't think anyone could've predicted we'd be experiencing the extreme lake levels we've had this season. To put it in perspective, the lake is approximately 42" higher than last year at this time. Currently, we are 27" above our usual high water mark - the level from which all association measurements have been taken. The highest level the lake reached during 2018 was 27-1/2" above the high water mark.

Russ Walters and I have been attending the Flood Task Force meetings at Texas Township and are keeping up with its progress, as well as offering our input. We learned during one of the meetings that the Texas Township area hasn't had this much annual precipitation since 1888—131 years ago; that's some serious rain! That much rain has certainly contributed to our current lake elevation being a couple inches over the 100-year flood plain of 897' above sea level. We haven't had that high of a lake level since 1952.

The township is doing everything within its control to find a solution to this area's water level problem. Not only are the lakes impacted, but the surrounding areas to the north, south and west are experiencing flooded basements and walkout levels. Julie VanderWiere, the Township Superintendent, has done an excellent job coordinating local, county, and state authorities. If you see Julie or one of the township board members, it would be most appropriate to thank them. For the most updated information on the Flood Task Force efforts, visit the Texas Township website at [www.texas township.org](http://www.texas township.org) or call a lake association board member. We hope to have a temporary solution in place to lower the lake level by February or March. A permanent solution to prevent this kind of flooding from happening again could take 2 years or longer.

Over the winter, the Board will be working on the gate and key card access for the ramp. Our goal is to have it in place by next spring when everyone starts to launch boats. We will keep you informed by posting on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CrookedLakeTexas](http://www.facebook.com/CrookedLakeTexas) and our website at [www.crookedlaketexas.com](http://www.crookedlaketexas.com).

Now that the Crooked Lake Market is closed, the Board is planning a lake community winter function at its former location. Lesa Newby is in charge of planning the event and welcomes your ideas or your help. Please text Lesa at 269-760-0040. Might I say, my suggestion of a polar plunge event was not well received.

Thanks again to the vast majority of lake residents who observed the "no wake" policy in effect this season. Your friends and neighbors appreciate you, and so does the Board. The entire Board wishes you a safe and blessed Holiday season.

- Jim Roberts, President



# Legal Lake Level

As you all know, we are currently experiencing the highest lake level Crooked Lake has seen in over a hundred years. The board discussed the high-water level at the annual meeting on May 24, 2018 and the possibility of establishing a legal lake level at a special meeting for all lake residents on August 9, 2018. The Township have authorized it's engineering firm to conduct a study of possible solutions and we expect to receive that report in the next week or two. The Township continues to post updates regarding the flooding issue and they can be viewed on the Township Web Site.

The Board continues to collect the needed petitions to establish a legal lake level because they **may be needed** to execute the pro-

posed short term and / or long term solution. A full packet of information regarding Legal lake Level has been mailed to every home on the lake. **The Board will not submit the petitions to the county** until the current engineering study has been completed and it is determined that a Legal lake Level is **required** to implement the best available solution. We are working concurrently on as many aspects of this issue as possible to speed up the process. A full solution may take a year or more, but we will do what we can to keep it to a minimum. If we wait until the study is finished to complete this petition drive, we will have delayed implementing the potential solution.

- Russ Walters, VP

## RAMP UPDATE



We want to thank the 117 Lake property owners who are participating in the Ramp Program. As you may know or have observed, the Association now owns the Crooked Lake Market and most importantly has legal control of the Boat Ramp at that Location. The store has been cleaned out and the Upstairs apartment has been leased for 12 months.

The ramp is now closed for the year and will reopen again next spring. The procedure for scheduling access to the ramp is posted on the door at the Market and on Facebook, but will change for next year.

In 2019, the Ramp will ONLY be open to those Association Members who are participating in the Ramp Program and are current on their agreed-to payments. We intend to have a new Security Gate installed between now and the start of the 2019 Boating Season, that will allow Participating Members access to the ramp utilizing a card control system. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

The Crooked Lake Texas Association Board again thanks all of those members who participated in the Ramp program that allowed us to purchase the Market and gain control of the Boat Ramp. **It is still not too late to Participate.** If you wish to signed up, please contact Rodney Nimtz at [sunfiremi@hotmail.com](mailto:sunfiremi@hotmail.com).



# It's Autumn Again

Even though it's overfilled and bloated with excess water, our lake is still a magnificent place in the Fall. The gorgeous leaves fill even the cloudiest days with a brilliant palette of color. We know it won't last. The leaves will let go and drift with the breezes to the ground. Then we face the issue of what should be done with them.

My wife and I spread lots of them out over our grass and use our mulching mower to turn them into free organic fertilizer for next year. We also pack them around the bases of our roses, azaleas, and rhododendrons to protect them from the harshness of winter.

Many lake residents have more trees and leaves than we do. The township will have a bagged leaf drop off on December 1 from 9:00 A. M. until noon at the 6th Street Park.

If you still want to burn leaves, please do so on the road side of your property to prevent leaves and brush from washing into the lake and adding fertilizer that will encourage weed growth. The lake is already overwhelmed with too much organic material from flooded lawns and gardens this year. Our water quality is greatly diminished from last year. If you do burn, you'll need a permit from the township fire department. This year, you can obtain one free of charge at the Texas Township web site: <http://www.texastownship.org>, where there is a link on the home page to the burning permit.



We are facing new environmental problems this year: repairing damage to our lawns and gardens and working to protect our properties from further damage by future high water. If you are thinking of adding additional soil to your lakeside yard, you must put up an impermeable barrier so it won't wash into the lake. Contractors use silt fences for this purpose. When the shrubs and grasses you plant (hopefully, lots of native species), get established and can prevent erosion, you can remove the silt fence.

Rod Krapf,  
CLTA Secretary

*Crooked Lake Texas Association*  
2017-2018 BOARD of DIRECTORS  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

*Jim Roberts, President*  
1213 E Crooked Lake Dr  
269-372-7084

*Chuck Buxton, Director*  
446 W Crooked Lake Dr  
269-743-7892



*Russ Walters, Vice-President*  
7414 Field Bay Avenue  
269-372-4488

*Dot DeYoung, Director*  
8220 West Q Avenue  
269-353-3647

*Rodney Nimitz, Treasurer*  
1441 E Crooked Lake Dr  
269-353-1848

*Roy Holmberg, Director*  
432 W Crooked Lake Dr  
269-598-4886

*Rod Krapf, Secretary*  
43 N Crooked Lake Dr  
269-375-9073

*Lesla Newby, Director*  
7276 Bentwood Trail  
269-760-0040

*Jennifer Abnet, Director*  
47 N Crooked Lake Dr  
312-498-2363

*Sandy Steinbach, Director*  
184 W Crooked Lake Dr  
269-568-0770

**CLTA**

Visit our Website:  
[www.crookedlaketexas.com](http://www.crookedlaketexas.com)

### YOUR LAKE ASSOCIATION GOALS

The Association's goal continues to be to protect our lake from invasive species, take steps to create a healthier lake, "which includes a better environment for fish, frogs, turtles and other friends", educate our residents on best practices when using the lake, bring a sense of community to Crooked Lake, and to enlist the help of lake management professionals to safeguard and improve waterfront owners' property values. ...Jim Roberts, President, CLTA

## What Responsible Wakeboat Operators Can Do to Help Minimize Damage to Inland Lake Ecosystems and Shoreline Property —ML&SA June 2018 Newsletter



1. Restrict the operation of their boats to large inland lakes.
2. Always operate a minimum of 150 yards from shore.
3. Adjust the displacement, and wave amplitude of their boats based on the size of the lake they are operating on.
4. Restrict the operation of their craft to waters of a minimum depth of twenty feet.
5. Always use sound judgement, and be mindful of the fact that improper operation of their boats can cause damage to docks, hoists, moored boats, and other shoreline infrastructure as well as destroy fish spawning areas and other ecologically sensitive habitat.