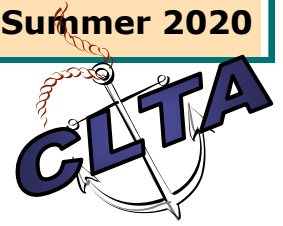


President's Message



Well, since our last newsletter COVID-19 hasn't gone away! Darn, I think I've had enough of COVID. Saturday night, August 8th, was our night with Zion Lion. The weather was great and so was the band. Special thanks to Lesa Newby and Sanjay Dalal for making that happen for us; the turnout was the best I'd ever seen.

We were at 19" above our high water mark at the time of our spring newsletter. On August 9, 2020 we are at 7" above our high water mark, so we've gone down another 12" since the end of April. Great progress! In



a little over 3 months, we've dropped another foot. Obviously, the no wake restriction was lifted and everyone is enjoying the lake again. Just

a reminder the "no wake" buoys are in an official "no wake" zone as directed by the DNR. The no wake is all through the channel, so if you didn't realize that please start observing the rule.

The weed treatment that occurred in early June was very effective and knocked down the Curly-leaf Pondweed (invasive species) very well, which was more than likely brought on by the increased nutrients in the lake due to the high water. Our lake manager/expert, Jennifer Jermalowicz-Jones from Restorative Lake Sciences, has informed us that since the Laminar Flow Aeration (LFA) system has been turned off for 2 years due to flooding, we now have low dissolved oxygen levels again in the Big End. Unfortunately, that allows for increased phosphorus and ammonia release which in turn increases weed growth. That being said, EverBlue Lakes, formerly Lake Savers, will be turning the LFA back on in the Big End of the lake,

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Crooked Lake Status Update-July 2020



Dr. Jennifer Jermalowicz-Jones, Restorative Lake Sciences (RLS)

Due to the extreme flooding that has occurred over the past few seasons on Crooked and Eagle Lakes, there have been some changes in water quality. When the water tables are saturated, nutrients are transported from the land to the water and feed aquatic plant and algae growth. Typically, the laminar flow aeration system (LFA), reduces nutrients in the water; however, with the system not working, these nutrients have accumulated and have resulted in enhanced aquatic plant and algae growth in the lake. RLS has recommended that the LFA system be activated in the West Basin to reduce nutrients when the bottom depth dissolved oxygen declines.

On May 22, 2020, scientists from RLS found 45 acres of invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) and 41 acres of invasive Curly-leaf Pondweed (CLP) scattered throughout all 4 lake basins. This growth was very robust and is being driven by excess nutrients, sunlight, and the lack of LFA activity. On June 1, 2020, these areas were treated by PLM with the contact herbicide diquat with oversight of the treatments by RLS.

On May 29, 2020, RLS sampled the lake and noted very good water clarity with a Secchi disk transparency reading of 26.9 feet! This clarity is also responsible for encouraging some aquatic plant and algae growth.

On June 26, RLS was accompanied by Russ Walters and Jim Roberts of the CLTA to conduct a post-treatment survey of the entire lake. All agreed that the recent treatment was very effective and that a few areas of dense lily pads and decaying vegetation may need some harvesting this summer. RLS will continue to monitor the lake aquatic vegetation, algae, water quality, and any other issues and will provide updates to the CLTA.

(Continued from page 1)

probably early this week. You should start seeing the diffusers, “bubblers”, bubbling again on the Big End. In the next couple of weeks, we should have the rest of the system going also.

Progress is being made with plans for the long-term flooding project. The Drain Commissioner is waiting to hear when a court date will be set to hear our request for a legal lake level (LLL). We will keep you informed so anyone who wants to attend will know when it is. The Drain Commissioner’s proposed LLL is what our CLTA Board of Directors recommended. It is what we used prior to flooding, so we are comfortable with that as it has served the majority of our residents very well over the years.

The CLTA Board continues to have our monthly meetings and I suggested at this month's meeting that we have a second membership meeting this year once we know our court date for LLL, and to address extending our LFA program once it expires next year. Look for more information on this on our facebook page and our website.

You may have noticed that development is occurring on the old Clements’ property on the North side of the middle lake. The original 31 acres is being developed into 6 large lake lots and 1 non-lake lot. The Brennan Family purchased the property and engaged Jim Roberts Construction to develop it. We have extended Hidden Cove Place as the access point. This development is the best case scenario for Crooked Lake as we are only developing 7 lots. With current zoning, the property would have supported more than 20 lots. The Brennans will build their home on the lot you see currently being cleared and will start construction early this fall. The Brennan family are lifelong residents of Kalamazoo and are excited to be a part of our Crooked Lake community. Many of you have already met them. If you haven’t, introduce yourselves on the lake and welcome them to the community.

Have a safe, fun, COVID-free summer on Crooked Lake. -Jim Roberts



Thanks to all who have contributed to the Boat Ramp property and as well for taking care of our property.

Things are working well and we appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions about your Ramp Access card, please contact Sandy Steinbach at 269-568-0770.

- The boat ramp is open from dawn to dusk, but no earlier than 7 am and later than 9 pm for respect of the immediate neighbors.
- You do not have to schedule a specific time to launch your watercraft as access is on a first come basis.
- Annual Membership dues (last year \$50) and Ramp Maintenance Fees (last year \$75) are due April 1st and if not paid your card will be deactivated on April 2nd.
- Your card should not be shared with anyone including Boat Storage Companies or Dock Companies. You are required to meet your guest at the ramp to let them

in. This attendance is necessary to protect our property and report any damage if any for the visit.

- The Ramp Access is for your water crafts that you own. Please do not let others on the ramp as you are not aware if their access is valid (they have paid their share or up to date on dues).
- We have surveillance on the property to allow for monitoring invalid access or damage to the property.
- Please take care of your card. There is a \$25 charge for any lost card and needs to be paid to Rodney Nimtz. If you are selling your residence and including ramp access with the sale, please notify Sandy Steinbach or Rodney Nimtz so we can provide them a ramp agreement to sign and change the billing information for future dues.

Thanks, Sandy

Boater Safety

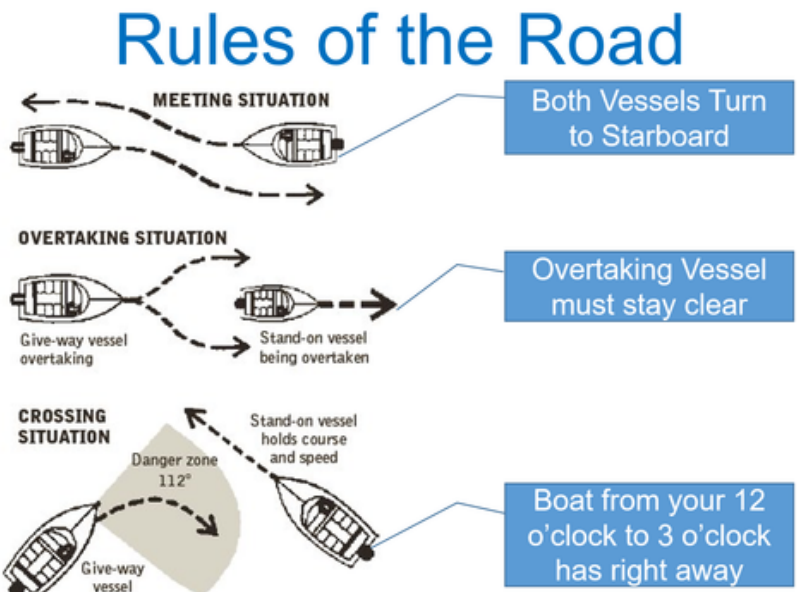
It is critically important that everyone who operates a boat on Crooked Lake have a working knowledge of Michigan Boating laws and how they apply to our lake. The Crooked-LakeTexas.com website has a link to the Michigan Boating Rules and Regulations Handbook where you can get a complete copy of all the rules that apply to operating a boat on Crooked and other Michigan Lakes.

Those rules include:

- ◆ You should travel in a **COUNTER-CLOCKWISE DIRECTION** when circling the lake.
- ◆ When operating a power-driven boat you must give way to anchored boats and sail boats.
- ◆ Utilize your navigation lights (red and green sidelights and all around white) when operating your boat after sunset.
- ◆ Children **less than 6 years** of age must wear a USCG-approved Type I or Type II PFD when riding in the open deck of any vessel underway.
- ◆ Every vessel towing a person(s) must have a person on board, in addition to the vessel operator, observing the towed person(s) at all times.

Always watch out for swimmers, downed skiers/rafters and anyone utilizing a non-powered vessel / object (i.e., raft, kayak, paddle board, etc.)!!

-Safety Rules compiled by Russ Walters



Lake Flooding Update

By: Jim Roberts and Russ Walters

Board of Directors for the Crooked Lake Texas Association and Eagle Lake Texas Association were part of the Short-term Flooding Task Force. Thank those board members the next time you see them as they were very influential in making this project happen for all of us.

Beyond that, the next group of people selflessly gave up easements on their properties in order for equipment such as pumps, filters, piping, etc. could be installed, so that the rest of us on Crooked and Eagle Lakes are able to get relief from the flooding and make this project a success. Next time you see these people please let them know how much we appreciate their contribution to our lake community.

- ❖ Lukas and Rachelle Niec—The Crooked Lake pump is located on their property
- ❖ PJ and Heather Fleck—The big filter is located on their property
- ❖ Bentwood Shores Property Owners—Easement in wetlands
- ❖ Jim and Trish Roberts—Use of Bentwood Shores Lots 12, 13, 14

(Continued on page 4)

The short term pumping program has been a success despite being hampered by unusually high levels of rain since it began. It was a collaboration of expertise by many people pulling in the same direction. Yes, there were some challenges and setbacks; anything worth doing never comes easy as we all know. The

News & Views—

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CLTA

Visit our Website:
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. We look forward to seeing you on the lake this summer. Let's enjoy a safe season on the lake.Jim Roberts, President, CLTA

(Continued from page 3)

❖Bass Lake Property Owners: George & Clare Todd, John Casper, Mary Ewalt, and James Melvin—Allowing Crooked Lake to pump into Bass Lake

❖CLTA Board of Directors—CLTA Boat Ramp easement

❖Eagle Lake easement grantors

Once again, please thank these individuals because without them, the project couldn't have happened and I can't imagine the disaster we would be dealing with if we didn't pump.

The Township is currently investigating what is required to extend the short term project for an additional year. The current operation permit expires in September 2020 and the easements needed to operate the system expire in December 2020.

The Township is actively working with both Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) and the Easement holders to determine if the project can be extended for another year.

The long term project is in the hands of the Kalamazoo Drain Commissioner and is moving forward. The courts have a major role to play in the process and are still being impacted by the Governor's Virus response. We do not have a completion date for the project but expect it to be completed by the end of 2021.

