



## CROCKERY LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER September 2003

### OKTOBERFEST '2003' PARTY-N-THE PARK!

Well neighbors and fellow CLA members, we have finally come to the end of yet another FUN summer here on Crockery Lake. As we begin to “**consider**” putting away our boats, pontoons, jet skis, docks, and yes our rubber duckies, we can't forget how much enjoyment we had during this beautiful summer of '2003'. However, the reality of fall is upon us and we'd like to close out the year with a **CLA Membership Party** celebrating the old traditions of a real German Oktoberfest (without the beer of course).

Our fall party will be held in **GROSE PARK** and is scheduled for **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2003** from **12 noon to 3 pm** and is **FREE** to all '2003'-04' Crockery Lake Association Members and those who can get their annual dues in before September 30, 2003. [NOTE: **John because we are 501(c)(3) this party must be open to everyone. Nonmembers must be invited and you can charge them to attend. You need to add this in this article. Linda**] food, fun, games for the kids (with prizes) and laughter for all will be awaiting those who put on an extra layer of clothing and head out to the park to PARTY. We'd like to have an estimate of how many will be joining us for the fun and festivities, so if you can contact one of the following and let them know how many will be attending--that would be great: John Thornton 899-2255 @ 6 p.m.; Pat Wolters 887-8707; Chuck Lane 887-1562 @ 6 pm

### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

John Thornton, CLA Treasurer, and Harold Vogel, CLA Member, have agreed to team up and **TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME** by hosting a **Neighborhood Watch and a Home Security Protection Program/Presentation** with lake residents living in their neighborhood comprising of the following addresses: 2081 Van Dyke through 2400 Van Dyke at a time and date to be determined in September 2003. Thornton and Vogel have been working on this project together for over a year now by researching information from bookstores, libraries, Internet, and most importantly from the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department who conducted a special security meeting at the Chester Township Hall during the last year. Their goal is to provide each resident sufficient information to protect their homes, property, personal belongings, their neighbors, and most importantly their own lives and those of their loved ones. Once Thornton and Vogel have addressed the individual neighbors within their own neighborhood, their plans including with other **Team Leaders** (volunteers) from other Neighborhoods surrounding Crockery Lake. Their ultimate hopes for the Crockery Lake Community and that of its residents is to develop 3, 4, and possibly more individual Neighborhood Groups that can carry on with the information and knowledge that has been obtained thus far on the subject material of **Security and Protection**. Thornton was quoted as saying, “Once we have established a link of Neighborhood Groups surrounding

Crockery Lake we can begin a communication system with one goal in mind -- that is.....**Taking a Bite Out of Crime!**

**DUES, DONATIONS, AND GIFTS STILL COMING IN!**

Thank you to each and every one of you who has generously given financially in one form or another towards membership, fireworks donations, and/or special gifts. Your Crockery Lake Association depends on its residents each and every year to support our lake association financially and to help in any way possible for us to continue the **ANNUAL FIREWORKS DISPLAY** that all of us have come to enjoy so very much. However, there are many residents who have planned to help in some small way but have not sat down to write the check just yet. Please do so as '2003' is fading fast and your financial support is so critical to our ability to provide all of you with information about the lake, about the community, about the availability of educational programs, and most importantly about how we can protect and care for this natural resource of which we are so proud to be a part of...Crockery Lake! Once again please send your dues and donations today if you have not already done so to the following:

John Thornton, CLA Treasurer  
2233 Van Dyke  
Conklin, MI 49403

Through our working together there is so much we can accomplish as residents of Crockery Lake; however we all need to play a part in order to continue our CLA Program which was started so many years ago. Please send a check today and thank you!

**[JOHN: What is the minimum we need to have fireworks next year? How much have you collected so far? (update from last month) Residents need to know how much money is needed to fund this next year. Is the understanding still if we don't get \$\_\_\_\_, there will be no fireworks????? Better let them know!**

**Also, what is the status of the rummage sale? Did anyone volunteer to run it? If so, details need to be added. If no one has volunteered and there will be no sale, this was 1/3 of the amount used to fund last year's fireworks and we won't have it this year. Residents need to know this too.**

**Also, remind members that their donations to CLA--fireworks or a general donation is TAX DEDUCTIBLE off their federal tax return!!!! Linda]**

[NOTE: I have e-mailed Russ Lowell to see if he wants to contribute a Lowell Down on Fishing article] If he gets it in before final of this goes out, I will include it. Linda]

## **LEAF GRIEF**

(happens to rhyme with last month's "Goose Grief" article).

QUESTION: As a lake resident, what are the best ways to rid my lawn of leaves in the fall without harming the lake?

**THE BIG PICTURE: The less leaf debris that falls in the lake the better. Leaves turn into muck which turn into more weeds (for you to pull out). They also make the water less clear.**

*Best ideas are:*

Compost. Build a compost bin. Throw the leaves in the bin. The leaves will decompose and turn into "black gold". The best soil ever for your garden! There are many articles on this subject. If you need more info, contact me.

Insulation Device. Cover your perennials in the fall with the leaves to insulate them from the cold winter. In the spring, dump the remainder in your compost bin.

Mulch. Use your mulching lawn mower to pulverize them into tiny pieces. No raking necessary! The pieces break down and fertilize your lawn. If you don't have a mulching mower, think about getting one. They save you a ton of time and work--no more burning or bagging of leaves or grass. We have a mulching mower. I have mowed over 6" of thick, dry leaves and mulched them successfully.

Haul Off and Dump. With prior approval, of course, some farmers will take your leaves and use them on their farms.

*Not-So-Hot ideas are:*

Burn. Realistically, most of us do end up burning some leaves and brush, even if we compost, insulate & mulch. But even the effects of burning can be minimized by: (1) Not burning close to the lake; (2) Picking a day when the wind is not blowing toward the lake; (3) Disposing of the ashes left in your burn pile. A yucky job, but so important! Rain and winter runoff will eventually deposit the ashes into the lake where they will create more problems (and work) for us.

Raking Leaves into Lake. The worst idea of all--and we have an ordinance against it!

If you have any other good ideas on this subject, let me know and they will be published in the next newsletter.

Submitted by Linda Lane

**FOR SALE:**

1991 Jayco Popup Camper 10 foot box - 6 sleeper; 1 side is a king bed. Stove also mounts outside, so does the table. Includes an icebox and awning with carrier. Clean and in good condition. \$2,000 or best offer 887-6238. (Wobmas)

Cross Country Skis--woman's boot about 8 1/2; skis (length for 5'7" or 5'8") and poles. \$100. Men's boot size 12; skis (length for 6') and poles. \$100 Both sets used twice. Trak brand. 887-6238 (Wobmas)

**YOUR 2003-2004 CROCKERY LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD:**

President, Pat Wolters, 887-8707  
Vice President, Kathryn Griep, 899-2228  
Secretary, Chuck Lane, 887-1562  
Treasurer, John Thornton, 899-2255  
Trustee, Buzz Holtvluwer, 899-2647  
Trustee, Randy Keena, 899-2108  
Trustee, Tim Van Laan, 887-1306  
Trustee, John Vander Werff, 887-1368

Yearly Dues: \$25 under 65 years of age; \$15 over 65 years of age.