

# News from Crystal Lake Conservancy

Spring 2017

The Crystal Lake Conservancy is dedicated to preserving and protecting Crystal Lake for the benefit of the public by promoting and supporting the enjoyment of the lake and the lake's unique natural beauty.

Come Join Us for An Afternoon of Fun on Crystal Lake!!

## **"PADDLES AND PICNICS"**

**Sunday, June 18, 2017**

**(Rain Date: Sunday, June 25, 2017)**

**1:00pm-5:00pm**

20 Rogers Street, Newton Highlands, MA

**Support Crystal Lake Conservancy's efforts to keep Crystal Lake healthy**

**\$10 donation per canoe/kayak/paddleboard**

**Enjoy a lovely canoe, kayak or paddleboard ride on Crystal Lake!**

**Bring your own picnic to enjoy in the park**

**Season Pass and Day Pass Swimming - Open as usual**

**Enjoy the installation of Hooked on Newton Yarn Art Decorations!**

The Crystal Lake Conservancy and the Newton Parks and Recreation Department invite you to join us for a Sunday afternoon of activities on Crystal Lake. Participants may sign up for half hour slots between 1-4:30pm to enjoy the pleasures of canoeing/kayaking/paddle boarding. A lifeguard will be on duty and all participants will be required to wear life jackets and sign a waiver. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult while on the water.

**View our vision of a new Bathhouse**

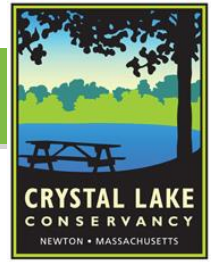
**Learn about the Conservancy's ongoing watershed activities  
to protect Crystal Lake!!**

Visit our website at [www.CrystalLakeConservancy.org](http://www.CrystalLakeConservancy.org) or call Janice Bourque at 617-967-0797.

**Volunteers are needed to help that day! Go to our website to volunteer or go directly to**

**SignUP: <http://signup.com/go/XNCbCRK>**

**For more information visit our website at [www.CrystalLakeConservancy.org](http://www.CrystalLakeConservancy.org)**



## Updates from Crystal Lake



### Vandalism at Crystal Lake

There have been instances of vandalism around Crystal Lake. The docks were damaged and will cost a few thousand to replace/repair the top dock in this picture. A few weeks ago, the fencing to protect new seeding near the fishing wall was pulled up and thrown in the trees, and water. Junipers were pulled out near the park and neighbor house signage was ripped off and thrown into the lake. **Please “watch” and “listen” and report any potential activity to the police immediately (call 911).** The culprits have not been identified yet, but given the destruction it appears to involve more than one individual. This is of great concern to the CLC given planned events and projects around the lake.

**PLEASE HELP!**

## Newton Highlands Village Day

**Please visit our booth!  
Sunday, June 11, 2017**

**Newton Highlands Village Center  
11am - 4pm**

Come learn more about the Conservancy's efforts. Pick up a copy of our newsletter, provide your email so we can keep you informed, and you can find out how to become involved, become a member or sign up to volunteer! Find that unique gift of note cards, a mug, poster, or T-shirt.

## Spring/Summer Reminders Storm Drains

**No dog waste, no oil, no fertilizer, and no car washing detergent should find its way into the storm drains.**

### Fertilizer:

Phosphorus in fertilizers contributes to algae blooms in rivers, streams, lakes and ponds and has impacted Crystal Lake directly from storm runoff from surrounding watershed properties. **Lawn care companies and property owners must ensure that no fertilizers containing phosphorus are being used.** “Organic” does NOT imply there is no phosphorus. **Please check the labels and products used by your landscapers as some may still have products containing phosphorus!**



**Catch That Koi Fish!!  
Don't Release!  
Call 617-212-5286!**

***There is a story about these two giant Koi fish that had been released into Crystal Lake.***

***We believe they may have been released “into the wild” from a local homeowner’s koi pond. While it is a lovely thought of giving the small koi a bigger home, in fact, the koi grow very large and dominate and destroy the local fish including trout and small mouth bass. They eat the fish eggs in the local beds and compete aggressively for food. If you catch this fish, do not eat it and do not release it. We would like to remove them from Crystal Lake.***

***Get your picture on our website  
if you catch them!***



## Visitors to Crystal Lake

### Bathhouse 2020 Vision

The Crystal Lake Conservancy, in collaboration with the Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Council, held a meeting last fall with the community to discuss the need for a new bathhouse and improved adjacent park. As the board members listened to the community, we realized we needed to learn more about the needs of the multiple groups that either currently use or would use the bathhouse. These groups include young children and their parents, seniors, teenagers, individuals with different abilities, young adults, and older adults without children. The CLC will be conducting a series of small focus groups this summer. We will be reaching out to the individuals who attended the meeting and those in the greater community. If you would be interested in participating in one of the focus groups, please let us know and contact Janice Bourque at [j\\_bourque@comcast.net](mailto:j_bourque@comcast.net). Watch for a notice on our website or email blasts.

### Mayoral Candidates

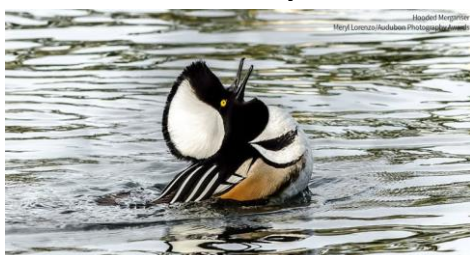
The Crystal Lake Conservancy has been busy hosting meetings with each of the respective mayoral candidates: Ruthanne Fuller, Amy Sangiolo and Scott Lennon. The board members have been sharing the vision for Crystal Lake, the need to ensure that any call for environmental leadership must include preserving the health of Crystal Lake by restoration of Cronin's Cove and Levingston Cove and installation of a storm water treatment system at the end of Lake Terrace. The CLC has also shared the poor condition and antiquated state of the current bathhouse, calling for a completely new, eco-friendly and energy efficient full season facility to better serve the various constituents from all of Newton's villages.

### Hooked on Newton -Yarn Art at Crystal lake

As part of Newton Festival of the Arts, Crystal Lake was selected to be the lucky recipient of creativity by local yarn masters. Installation started a few weeks ago and finish during Paddles and Picnics event on June 18<sup>th</sup> in the park. Come see the lovely art!



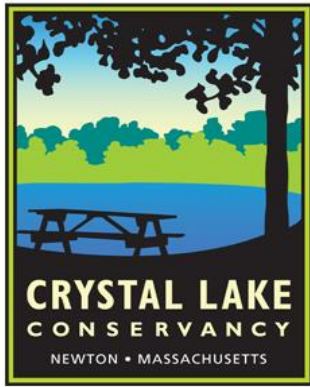
### Animal Visitors on Crystal Lake



Hooded Merganser - Male

“Hooded” is something of an understatement for this extravagantly crested little duck. Adult males are a sight to behold, with sharp black-and-white patterns set off by chestnut flanks. Females get their own distinctive elegance from their cinnamon crest. Hooded Mergansers are common on small ponds and rivers, where they dive for fish, crayfish, and other food, seizing it in their thin, serrated bills. They nest in tree cavities; the ducklings depart with a bold leap to the forest floor when only one day old.





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### ***Crystal Lake Conservancy Donations "in memoriam"***

***Sonia Baker loved Crystal Lake and her family chose to direct their donations in her honor and memory to support the efforts of the Crystal Lake Conservancy.***



Our family lived around the corner from Crystal Lake from 1955 until 1980. "The lake" as we simply thought of it held a central place in our childhood and our family life during those years. We skated on, swam and boated in, walked around and picnicked at the lake. In fact, we had our own special bench for picnics. It was higher than the other benches and somewhat secluded by large jagged rocks. Mom and Dad would re-connect at the end of busy days with a walk around the lake, while we "kids" walked down by the water on our way to and from Mason-Rice Elementary and Weeks Junior High School.

In the winter, we skated across the lake to the public skating area near the beach house. When our legs got too numb we'd go inside, drink hot chocolate and toast our feet by the fire. Then we were back out for more skating. Dad taught us that to learn to skate you first had to fall 100 times. We counted. And sure enough, by the time we got to 100 we had stopped falling!

We also learned to swim at Crystal Lake, with formal lessons this time (flutter kick, anyone?). Mom would take us to the lake every day during the summer. Our self-designated spot was at the far end of the beach. We would meet our friends there and play in the sand and swim while our mothers lay on towels and talked. Eventually they'd make it into the water too. On hot days Dad would join us for a swim after work and we'd all walk home together for supper.

There was one other family member that loved swimming at the lake. On hot days Peppy, our dog, would disappear for periods of time and come back soaking wet. It finally dawned on us: Peppy was going for a swim, just like us! He apparently considered himself to be included in the family pass.

These cherished memories make the Crystal Lake Conservancy a fitting tribute to our mother, Sonia Baker. She would be very happy to know that she has an active part in the future of Crystal Lake as well as the past.

***Daughters Marla Baker and Linda Chessman***