



# News from Crystal Lake Conservancy

Spring 2019

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 16, 2019**

**(Rain Date: Sunday, June 23, 2019)**

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

**20 Rogers Street, Newton Highlands, MA**

**Support Crystal Lake Conservancy's efforts to keep Crystal Lake healthy  
\$15 donation per canoe/kayak/paddleboard**

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

**The City's swimming season pass and day pass will be open as usual**

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.

**Volunteers are needed to help that day!**

**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.

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



## Updates from Crystal Lake

### Crystal Lake Intergenerational Community Dance Project: Global Water Dance Day Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> 11am-Noon

Cronin's Cove, Levingston Cove and Bathhouse

Join horn players and a drummer as they call and respond to each other from **across the three main areas of Crystal Lake** accompanied by a movement score by community members and dancers from the Newton Choreographers Collective.

### The Fish are Here!!



Annually the MA Dept of Fish and Game stocks Crystal Lake with 300 Rainbow Trout.

### Newton Highlands Village Day

Please visit our booth!  
Sunday, June 9, 2019  
Newton Highlands Village Center  
11am - 4pm

- See the Levingston Cove restoration schematic
- Learn more about the Conservancy's efforts.
- Pick up a copy of our newsletter
- Provide your email to keep informed
- Become a member or sign up to volunteer!
- Buy a gift mug, poster, or T-shirt

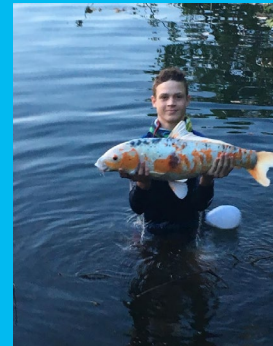
### Spring/Summer Reminders Storm Drains

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 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.*

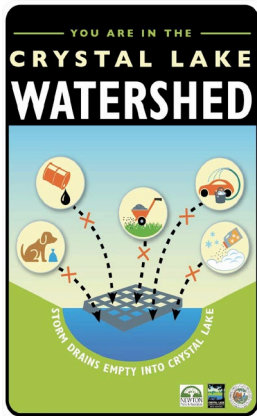
***Get your picture on our website  
if you catch them!***



## Crystal Lake Updates

### Watershed Project

Crystal Lake Conservancy (CLC) reached out to Rep. Ruth Balser, Rep. Kay Kahn and Sen. Cindy Creem to file a State budget appropriation for continued improvements to Crystal Lake. CLC with Rep. Balser leadership had secured a previous State Budget funding of **\$88,000 currently which is being used for a restoration plan for Levingston Cove**. In 2018 CLC and with the leadership of Rep. Balser, City was able to secure an **additional funding of \$28,000 for the City** for Crystal Lake improvements. **The \$28,000 will fund the first phase of a watershed plan for Crystal Lake**. The City will fund the second phase. The goal is to create a complete watershed analysis and plan for Crystal Lake. As a reminder, **the watershed includes all the surrounding streets whose runoff flows toward Crystal Lake**. The CLC has been collecting water quality data for the past 10 years and had engaged Larry Beals Associates to create a bathometric map of Crystal Lake depths and lake floor topography, a map of the storm water drainage system along with soil analysis to establish the watershed area. **You are in the Crystal Lake Watershed if you see a sign like this one on a pole on your street.**



American Crow



Fish Crow

### Wildlife

Most people can identify a crow—they are the large, noisy black birds that often pick at trash. But not many people know that there are **two types of crows found near Crystal Lake**.

The crow that we are **familiar** with is called the **American Crow**, and the second type of crow is called the **Fish Crow**. Most people, including experienced birders, cannot tell the two types of crows apart until they hear them.

**American Crows** make a variety of noises, but the most common is the **caw-caw-caw noise**.

**Fish Crows** make a different **noise “nyuh-nyuh”**. One birder joke is that you ask the crow if it is an American Crow and if it says **“unh-unh”**, it is a Fish Crow.

Fish Crows are slightly smaller than American Crows and almost always found near water. Fish Crows are very social birds—look for them in pairs in the breeding season and up to several hundred or more during migration or winter. When feeding and roosting they may mix with American Crows. When Fish Crows give their distinctive nasal calls from the ground, they often puff out their neck and body feathers, forming a distinctive, ragged ruff on the throat. Massachusetts is in the northernmost part of their range. They are found near the coast from Massachusetts down to Florida and Louisiana, and along the Mississippi River.

So, the next time, you walk along Crystal Lake, enjoy not just the sights but the sounds, and maybe you'll hear a Fish Crow's distinctive call.





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## Restoration of Levingston Cove



**Levingston Cove fishing wall slope erosion**



**Levingston Cove eroded sloping lawn to the alcove**

The Crystal Lake Conservancy has been working to address the multiple locations that generate significant nutrient runoff into Crystal Lake. One such area is Levingston Cove. At the fishing wall the steep dirt slope continues to erode despite the City's extensive and intensive efforts. Additionally, the expansive lawn area sloping into the cove is heavily used and grass can no longer be sustained on that slope. Dirt is washed into the lake, worsened by the street runoff which jumps the curb causing sediments and nutrients to wash into the lake. Crystal Lakes natural shoreline has been damaged and plants and natural wildlife are challenged in this area. Any large amount of nutrient load from storm water and street runoff fuels potential algae blooms as it increases the phosphorus, nitrate and ammonia loading in the lake's water.

In 2016 the Crystal Lake Conservancy asked Rep. Ruth Balser, Rep. Kay Khan and Sen. Cindy Creem to support and file a request for State funds to improve the quality of the lake. With their leadership, the appropriations became part of the final 2017 State budget and **\$88,000 was awarded for the care of Crystal Lake**. In 2018, the CLC again engaged Rep. Balser to file an appropriation for Crystal Lake. As a result, the City **received \$28,000** from the State and is being used for a restoration design plan for Levingston Cove. A City RFP process selected Weston and Sampson to analyze the existing conditions of Levingston Cove and engage in discussions with Parks and Recreation's Crystal Lake Working Group (CLWG) regarding use, challenges and opportunity for improvement. Three initial designs were presented to the public on May 30, 2018 at the Newton Library for comments and ideas. Weston and Sampson consolidated those suggestions and presented a schematic final version to the Newton Parks and Recreation Commission on April 22, 2019 and a presentation to the public on May 20, 2019. The next step will be integrating the additional feedback and suggestions to create construction documents. Funding will be needed for execution of the final plans and CLC will continue to work collaboratively to obtain State, CPC and City funding.