



April 2017

**CTRA ANNUAL MEETING May 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8PM Cascade Library Wisner Center**

**Agenda May 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8pm**

- 6:20 Petitions Available for signing
- \$5 *Purchase river maps, they save propeller's!!!*
- 6:30 Welcome Call to order
- Secretary/Treasurers Reports
- Election of new board members
- Petition/SAD Update
- Boat launch access for members
- Navigation/channel
- Riverdown
- Raffle off a few items

**River Draw Down**

April 5th-9th

October 11th-15th



Despite the township typically publishing river down as beginning on Wednesday's, I would not anticipate water to begin to drop until mid-day on Thursday. Remember it takes about 24 hours for the water to drop the 4 feet.

I am pleased to announce a benefit now available to those who support the river association. Any river property owner who is a member of the association, with legal access to the river, may now pay an additional \$100 annual fee to have spring launch and fall retrieval access of their watercraft. Some rules and restrictions apply. The CTRA went before the Cascade Township Planning Commission and the Township Board in 2016 to receive the approval and conditions. In the past years we have seen dozens of ramps built to accommodate those living on the river, which unfortunately sometimes accommodates those who don't. Our goal is to provide a way for those who reside here to get access to the water they live on. The CTRA Board is hopeful another neighborhood group with an existing launch site will want to take all or some of this "business" in the future, but in the meantime we have an arrangement that looks to be a good solution to the problem. You can pay online, and to schedule use of the ramp please email the board at [cascadethornapple@gmail.com](mailto:cascadethornapple@gmail.com) a week's notice in advance of the need is much appreciated. (Please remember a week is longer than 15 minutes) Heavy rains may cause delays or potential rescheduling that is beyond our control.

**SAD - PETITION UPDATE** We are in need of about 60-70 signatures. We had two volunteers misplace a large number of petition signatures while counting/verifying them. In particular the neighborhoods of Kenrob, much of Cascade Rd, and Thornapple River Drive appear to be gone. While, we are thankful for everyone's efforts we intend to recollect these and any other signatures to proceed with the cleanup and reduction of weeds and muck in our river. Please come to the annual meeting to make sure we have your signature! Thanks for your dedication and help in this large task/effort. We have been particularly careful in this process to make sure it is done correctly so this set back is a bit unfortunate but not the end of the line.

Send your 2017 dues of \$50.00 Payable to the CTRA or pay online.

Cascade Thornapple River Assoc.  
PO BOX 888401  
Grand Rapids MI 49588

Pay online right now and save a stamp!  
[www.cascadethornapple.org](http://www.cascadethornapple.org)

2017 Dues 4-1-17 thru 3-31-18

2016 Dues if name not listed below, list is not in any order:  
2017 Boat Launch membership upgrade  
FALL FIREWORKS DONATION Saturday after Labor Day

\$50  
\$50  
\$100  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Our 2015 Fireworks required about \$2,000 in donations. Currently we have about \$500.00. This event is held in the fall and further details are provided at the annual meeting and in the summer email newsletter. The board is considering adding a picnic to the event.

Total

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ **We only send about 4/year!**

**Thanks to the 116 members who paid their 2016 Dues!!!**

- |                                       |                                       |                                      |                                         |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <i>Al &amp; Karen Parent</i>          | <i>Jeffrey &amp; Shirley Hoogstra</i> | <i>David &amp; Kay Linden</i>        | <i>Melinda Widdis</i>                   |
| <i>Andrew Brown</i>                   | <i>Dick &amp; Sandra Donker</i>       | <i>Jens &amp; Margie Bach</i>        | <i>Rich &amp; Jennifer Wolbers</i>      |
| <i>Ali &amp; Nadia Metwalli</i>       | <i>Mark Andrakowicz</i>               | <i>Paul &amp; Julie Wesselink</i>    | <i>Richard &amp; Cynthia Walker</i>     |
| <i>S-J &amp; Rusty Trapp</i>          | <i>Don &amp; Chris Spykman</i>        | <i>Jim &amp; Sheri Stein</i>         | <i>Richard &amp; Leslie McKinney</i>    |
| <i>Eric &amp; Helen Hanson</i>        | <i>Don &amp; Kathy Ladner</i>         | <i>John &amp; Diana Meyer</i>        | <i>Rob &amp; Judy Beahan</i>            |
| <i>Bruce &amp; Denise Kunkler</i>     | <i>Donna Stuit</i>                    | <i>John &amp; Kathy Gatti</i>        | <i>Rob &amp; Stephanie Andrews</i>      |
| <i>Barbara J Peters</i>               | <i>Doug &amp; Chris Bouwer</i>        | <i>Rob Harmon</i>                    | <i>Robert &amp; Amy Marsh</i>           |
| <i>Barbara Skinner</i>                | <i>Duane &amp; Adele VanderBrug</i>   | <i>Don &amp; Laura Finelli</i>       | <i>Robert &amp; Kay VanderWeele</i>     |
| <i>Ben &amp; Liz Greemann</i>         | <i>Dwight G Frey</i>                  | <i>Jon &amp; Jodi Kortman</i>        | <i>Robert Ohlman</i>                    |
| <i>Moe Damgahni</i>                   | <i>Jim &amp; Diane VanHoven</i>       | <i>Desi &amp; Evelyn Ines</i>        | <i>Ron &amp; Catherine Stacilauskas</i> |
| <i>Marilyn Prindiville</i>            | <i>Evelyn DesJardin</i>               | <i>James &amp; Jennifer Messner</i>  | <i>Ron &amp; Lisa Hyde</i>              |
| <i>John Clark</i>                     | <i>Frances Newby</i>                  | <i>Paul &amp; Sheryl D'Amato</i>     | <i>Ron McCullem</i>                     |
| <i>Josh &amp; Rachel Ralya</i>        | <i>Gary &amp; Maxine VanTil</i>       | <i>Ken &amp; Amy Brown</i>           | <i>Sandy &amp; Diana Kingsland</i>      |
| <i>Bob &amp; Paula Riley</i>          | <i>Jim &amp; Chris Brundidge</i>      | <i>Brent &amp; Angela Jordan</i>     | <i>Scott &amp; Hazel Rissi</i>          |
| <i>Tom &amp; Pam Bement</i>           | <i>Mike &amp; Kathy Nedwick</i>       | <i>Paul &amp; Leann Rowland</i>      | <i>Scott &amp; Robyn Carlson</i>        |
| <i>David &amp; Lisa Hovinga</i>       | <i>Gerald &amp; Kathy Munger</i>      | <i>Lyle &amp; Judy Breen</i>         | <i>Scott Hickey</i>                     |
| <i>Bud &amp; Margie Wolfe</i>         | <i>Harry &amp; Sheri Herbruck</i>     | <i>Mark &amp; Catherine Sinning</i>  | <i>Shannon &amp; Molly Gary</i>         |
| <i>Jeff &amp; Lisa Dionne</i>         | <i>Heath &amp; Tracy Walker</i>       | <i>Mark &amp; Kathy Oberlin</i>      | <i>Shirley Neitzel</i>                  |
| <i>David &amp; Marcia Rundhaug</i>    | <i>Rhonda Kamphuis</i>                | <i>Mark &amp; Robin Renzenbrink</i>  | <i>Steve &amp; Cheryl Timyan</i>        |
| <i>Chip &amp; Judy Perschbacher</i>   | <i>Jack Bos</i>                       | <i>David &amp; Karen Reifler</i>     | <i>Tim &amp; Heather Werkema</i>        |
| <i>Chris &amp; Kim Branoff</i>        | <i>Peg McKeown</i>                    | <i>Matthew Whetter</i>               | <i>Tom Williams</i>                     |
| <i>Chuck &amp; Kathy Whitley</i>      | <i>Jaculin &amp; Cole Morgan</i>      | <i>Michael &amp; Deana Dale</i>      | <i>Win &amp; Julie Merrill</i>          |
| <i>Craig &amp; Janet Klamer</i>       | <i>David &amp; Deidre Mills</i>       | <i>Michael &amp; Erika Hoy</i>       | <i>William Trapp</i>                    |
| <i>Jim &amp; Julie Petrie</i>         | <i>Jeanne Kohn</i>                    | <i>Michael &amp; Lisa K. Mancini</i> | <i>Charles &amp; Shelly Slauer</i>      |
| <i>Dale &amp; Melodie Shoemaker</i>   | <i>Jeanne Rissi</i>                   | <i>David Finkelstein</i>             | <i>Anton &amp; Suzette Colón</i>        |
| <i>Dan &amp; Karen Robertson</i>      | <i>Jeff &amp; Amanda Carpenter</i>    | <i>Mike &amp; Debbie Wiegand</i>     | <i>Richard &amp; Kristi Veldman</i>     |
| <i>Dan &amp; Tia Hooper</i>           | <i>Jeff &amp; Audrey Lobdell</i>      | <i>Mike &amp; Sheila Reid</i>        | <i>Asif &amp; Tahira Azeem</i>          |
| <i>Dar Cutler</i>                     | <i>Jeff &amp; Lisa Dionne</i>         | <i>Mr. Mahi Mahesh</i>               | <i>George Clark</i>                     |
| <i>Dave &amp; Jessica Christensen</i> | <i>Jeff Gorski</i>                    | <i>Mrs. Elaine Walco</i>             | <i>Todd &amp; Hester Hendricks</i>      |

If you cannot make the annual meeting, and wish to support the SAD petition please email the board at [Cascadethornapple@gmail.com](mailto:Cascadethornapple@gmail.com). A direct mailer may also be sent to those who have not yet indicated a response to the special assessment district.

**CTRA ANNUAL MEETING May 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8PM Cascade Library Wisner Center**

## **Airport Storm Water Update:**

The airport is using its new storm water system. This was the second winter that all storm water was diverted from Trout Creek (and some from Plaster Creek) and routed to the Thornapple River near I 96. This winter season, aside from some minor aesthetics noticed, such as abnormal discolorations and foam, no problems have been noted. You may recall in late February 2016 we began to notice odors and a film, or scum on the water. After much research and monitoring it was discovered that "stuff" only seems to occur downstream of the airport inlet. We traveled upstream a couple miles when it was very prevalent and saw no significant oils or fats on the water. The last time this "film" on the water was seen or noted was on March 14<sup>th</sup> 2016. Around March 5<sup>th</sup> 2016 huge (10-15' across) floats of foam that looked like ice came floating down stream. They would surface from underwater in the 7400 block of Cascade Rd. about half way between the dam and I96. A few people have noted the foul odor mainly in the vicinity of the golf course, but there have been reports in the area of Maracaibo Shores and Kenrob neighborhoods. If people notice things out of the ordinary next winter we ask you document and photograph the observations and send them to the association at [cascadethornapple@gmail.com](mailto:cascadethornapple@gmail.com). It is very, VERY, HELPFUL for people to report odors and other things not normally seen at this time of year. The items noted in spring 2016 were largely ignored/dismissed by the Airport and MDEQ. We are assuming a mild winter, led to little or no problems this winter, but we remain hopeful the airport is just doing a better job.

### **SPECIAL ASSEMENT DISTRICT FACTS (SAD)**

This assessments exact detail will be determined and discussed through public hearings at Cascade Township. Funds will be collected as needed and the dollar amount each year may fluctuate based on annual costs (not to exceed \$300 per year). If no projects are conducted or the association wants to end the assessment earlier than the 15 years it may. Our goal is to work with the township to have projects chosen to maintain or improve the current health and recreational value of the river. This not only benefits the river, but all of us as property owners, by maintaining and increasing property values.

#### **Weeds**

Preliminary estimates show costs of around \$50,000-\$70,000 annually for aquatic weed management. We will not treat and remove all weeds. Since the Thornapple River is being treated for all weeds both above (upstream) and below us (downstream, Ada) we believe there will be a significant cost decrease after several years of management. All products used will be similar to those currently being used on the river. All are permitted thru the MDEQ. Unlike neighboring parts of the Thornapple River our target is invasive species only. The native areas of weeds will be harvested only if they create a nuisance to those living nearby. In non-navigable areas, of undeveloped riverfront, again only invasive species will be treated. This is the fundamental difference in our boards approach. Every lake/river association we have spoken with treats the maximum area allowed by law. To be conscience to the environment we are looking to be a little more conservative. If natural options for weed management are found, and proven to work, we would use them over pesticides. We recently asked another third party to review our strategy their preliminary discussion says our plan appears economical and environmentally reasonable.

#### **Sediments.**

Almost every bayou on our stretch of the river has silted in. Now the silt and runoff that has been filling the bayous is now filling the river. An area on the river map from 1983 is marked as 28' deep near the dam, in 1994 this area was measured at 24 feet deep. This spring doing water testing we found water depths around 14 feet. As you can see once the bayous filled in the river really received an impact. This material is no longer able to settle in the bayous and is now working its way downstream. All this silt and muck is very bad and causes problems with the fish population, water clarity and overall health of the river. Our plan is to use funds from the assessment to better manage storm water and silt in bayous. Our hope is to construct and maintain sediment capture controls in all bayous. You may have read the township is working to restore and enhance storm water in one of the creeks that flows to the river, unfortunately current township plans stop up stream of the river, leaving a lengthy gap to the bayou, so the benefits to the river are limited. Our program will help close the gaps so the river and all of us can see the most benefit. We are also hopeful that since the association would be paying to mobilize companies for that work, (mobilization is typically a large part of the cost associated with a dredging project) that groups of nearby homeowners would adopt or pay to do much needed dredging because the rates or cost would be significantly reduced and more affordable.

#### **Hazardous Objects**

As hazardous objects like the deck that showed up at the point by the golf course appeared a number of years ago we would have the means to have it removed immediately, instead of by groups of volunteers. Actually another deck came floating down this summer too! Also we could remove trees and other potential hazards as they occur instead of watching them float down to the dam over a few months or years as they bounce off docks.

#### **Train bridge.**

Another victim of silt, the bypass around the train bridge for taller pontoon boats has been unusable for at least the past 15 years. Our goal would be to remove sediment from this area as well as the fallen trees and secure/stabilize the shoreline. This would be a similar plan to one the association proposed but failed to follow through on around 2005 to reopen this bypass. The DEQ will not allow us to dredge the bypass larger to accommodate larger craft such as wake boarding boats, as its intent has always been for pontoons, outboards, and shallow craft, that wouldn't clear the railroad structure.

# **The Cascade Thornapple River Association**

## **Purpose**

To protect and perpetuate the natural resources around the Thornapple River from the Cascade Dam south to the Alaska Bridge (68th Street)

## **Benefit**

Preservation and improvement of property values and the enhancement of the river lifestyle and experience.

## **What the Association Does** – Your Membership Dues at Work

- Water Quality and Safety
    - (a) Annual water testing was organized in the late 90's and has been done on a regular basis since.
    - (b) Removed or organized removal of docks, sunk boats, bridge construction materials, stumps and any foreign objects that serve no purpose being in the waterway or flood plain.
  - 1. Support of the Thornapple Watershed Council with volunteers and donations
  - 2. Monitoring of the airport drainage
  - 3. Sediment control and prevention
  - 4. Invasive species management
  - 5. Weed control and prevention
  - 6. Mark and removal of navigable hazards
- 
- Work to accomplish Association stated purpose and represent members best interests related to commercial and governmental issues
  - Work in conjunction with neighbouring river associations
  - Enhancing the river lifestyle, enjoyment and experience some past examples are:
    1. Annual Fireworks
    2. Ski course
    3. Picnic
    4. Ski show
    5. Boat parade
    6. Pig roast

**E-Mail the Board at:  
cascadethornapple@gmail.com**



As a not-for-profit, volunteer based organization, your support through membership is vital for the Association to continue to provide a clean, safe and enjoyable environment.

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**Cascade Thornapple River Association  
PO Box 888401  
Grand Rapids Mi 49588**

## **Mailing Address**

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