

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 \$50  
2017 Boat Launch membership upgrade \$100  
FIREWORKS DONATION Saturday AUGUST 26th \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Our 2015 Fireworks required about \$2,000 in donations. Currently we have about \$1500.00. This event is held August 26<sup>th</sup> 20-30 min after sunset. We are hoping for a bigger display this year, so don't miss it! Donate at [www.cascadethornapple.org](http://www.cascadethornapple.org) Click on the membership page

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Thanks to the 111 members who paid their 2017 Dues!!!**

- |             |           |              |              |                               |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Andrews     | Damghani  | Kohn         | Reidsma      | Veldman                       |
| Asadi-      | Degraaf   | Koops        | Reifler      | Walco                         |
| Moghaddam   | Desjardin | Kortman      | Riley        | walker                        |
| Back        | Devries   | Ladner       | Rissi        | walker                        |
| Banks       | Devries   | Linden       | Rissi        | watt                          |
| Blake       | Donker    | Lobdell      | Robertson    | Weber                         |
| Borisch     | Dowling   | Mancini      | Rowland      | Whitley                       |
| Bos         | Ferwerda  | McKeown      | Sanns        | Wiegand                       |
| Bouwer      | Gary      | McKinney     | Shay         | wolbers                       |
| Bowling     | Gorski    | Metwalli     | Shoemaker    | wolfe                         |
| Brown       | Gorsuch   | Meyer        | Sinning      | Zadvinskis                    |
| Brundidge   | Grassmid  | Mills        | Skinner      | Now the list                  |
| Butts       | Greemann  | Munir        | Smith        | Is alphabetical!              |
| Carlen      | Grubbs    | Neitzel      | Smith        | Perhaps next year             |
| Carpenter   | Haehnel   | Oberlin      | Spykman      | We will have                  |
| Carpenter   | Hammerman | Ohinski      | Stacilauskas | First names too.              |
| Cho         | Hansen    | Ohlman       | Stein        | <i>If everyone paid their</i> |
| Christensen | Hartman   | Perschbacher | Stuit        | <i>dues this list would</i>   |
| Clark       | Hendricks | Peters       | Swider       | <i>be twice as long! Ask</i>  |
| Clark       | Herbruck  | Petrie       | Timyan       | <i>your neighbor to get</i>   |
| Clem        | Hoogstra  | Plakmeyer    | Tobian       | <i>their name on here!</i>    |
| Colon       | Hyde      | Prindiville  | Trapp        |                               |
| Cutler      | Jeffreys  | Ragains      | Turner       |                               |
| D'Amato     | Kingsland | Ralya        | uecker       |                               |
| Dale        | Klamer    | Reid         | vanHoven     |                               |

Pay online right now and save a stamp! [www.cascadethornapple.org](http://www.cascadethornapple.org)  
Pay dues or donations online, It is the most reliable & fastest way to do it!  
PayPal, Debit, and Credit Cards accepted.

For those who wish to use a ramp to launch your watercraft you can pay \$100 per season in addition to your dues. 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.

**FIREWORKS August 26<sup>th</sup> 9pm**

**This article is a reprint from a newsletter in 2015. It is here again due to many requests, which tells me it was read by many, but not applied. –**

While standing on my dock watching people enjoy the sport of wake surfing and fielding phone calls and emails from people concerned about shoreline erosion I couldn't help but discuss this topic in the newsletter. Some say let sleeping dogs lay, but this dog has awoken and is barking at me A LOT. Quite possibly one of the greatest aspects of our river is the fact it is all sports with no restrictions. My hope has always been that it stays that way, but recently I feel it may be in jeopardy.

My dad a few decades ago taught me how to drive the boat. One thing I clearly remember being told was if I was ever caught plowing in the boat I would not be allowed to use it. Plowing was defined as driving the boat at a speed above idle but less than what is necessary for the boat to plane or level off. Unfortunately in today's age it seems that is no longer taught as a courtesy. In the 1980's almost no one made a wake, and if they did people educated them. The main complaints back then were these new deck boats with a huge wake, and loud jet-skis, the kind you would stand on. Wow, times have changed, we rarely see either now.

I see no problem with boaters who are making a wake while someone is in tow. I recently tried wake surfing myself. I support all water sports, although I personally enjoy this old school sport you may have heard of once called water skiing (it involves a small wake or none at all). This issue is being brought to the forefront with the advancement of really large boats and new water sports, specially designed around a huge wake or wave. While a wake being enjoyed by a surfing guru or a wakeboard is great and fun to watch, the problem now is many of the drivers these days are driving with ballast and plowing down the river just to get from point A to point B with no one in tow. This is a serious issue. They don't even realize the destruction they can create or that they are upsetting people as they watch their shoreline disappear and their boat buck like its riding a bull. Everyone should realize and convey this concern, for I fear it is the one thing that currently could jeopardize our all sports all the time mentality, and that would ruin what my wife and I like to call "the best kept secret in Kent County". So in short....

**Remember please educate your neighbors, friends and children that a boat should be at an idle speed or planed off at high speed, not plowing unless someone is in tow. You don't want to create a huge wake just because you can, it is common courtesy.**

**A new article on this topic through Michigan Lakes & Streams: <http://www.mymlsa.org/of-mosquitoes-and-killer-bees/>**

Another Safety reminder is many people have complained to the board that we have a lot of night traffic on the river this summer. Please remember to check your lights, if they don't work, repair them! This is particularly important as of lately several individuals are driving fast on the water at night, and they can't see you.

**SAD Petition** UPDATE: For those who haven't signed the petition it is still alive and a volunteer should track you down before fall. We are seeking at least 70 people who have not previously signed. Please read below to help understand what you are signing. Yes the foul smell this summer in the heavily weeded areas of the river is most likely the cause of decomposing weeds. We now have reached a point where we have so much decomposing matter out there it stinks, literally, then it turns to muck. Remember signing the petition only allows the next step which is a series of public hearings and meetings with the township, it is not a guarantee projects will take place and you will be assessed. It is clear we desperately need to take some action as our water depth is shrinking and invasive weeds are spreading quickly. Remember if you cut weeds, remove them from the river, if they float downstream they multiply and spread, they don't die.



Curly Leaf Pond Weed



Eurasian Milfoil

#### **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 protect) 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.

GREENRIDGE REALTY

Kim Jeffreys  
REALTOR®



My family moved on the Thornapple River in 2015 and we absolutely love it! My real estate experience has allowed me to help families find their dream home. If you're looking for real estate advice from someone who will put your needs first, please think of me. Greenridge Realty is a full service local broker.

kim@kjrealty.net  
616.485.5567

Call or email me today!



GREENRIDGE.COM  
3115 ORCHARD VISTA DRIVE SE | GRAND RAPIDS MI 49546

**FIREWORKS Saturday AUGUST 26<sup>th</sup> 9pm**



**CTRA FIREWORKS** will be launched near the Cascade Dam from a vacant lot 3010 Thornapple River Dr. There is limited space here for spectators. Best viewing by land would be at a home along Burger or the first 10 houses on Thorncrest & the park area at the dam on Thorncrest. Anywhere by boat / water in the impoundment area is ideal.

### River Draw Down

October 11th-15<sup>th</sup>

April 12 - 15<sup>th</sup> 2018



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, it will return to normal level on Monday or Tuesday.

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**Mailing Address**