



ANN LAKE WATER LOG

A Newsletter of the Ann Lake Property Owners' Association (ALPOA) – June 2010

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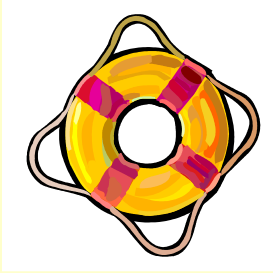
Notes from the President

Ellie Flaherty

Hello to all who use, enjoy, share and take care of Ann Lake. I'm Ellie Flaherty, President of the Ann Lake Property Owner's Association for 2010. My husband, Dale, and I and our 4 children were introduced to Ann Lake in 1975, thanks to the generosity of Dale's boss who let us use his cottage for 3 weeks. From then on, there was no other option for a vacation location.....every one of us only wanted to go back to Ann Lake.....and so we did! In 1980, Dale's boss retired to Florida and offered to sell his cottage on Ann Lake to us....and so we bought it! In 1993, we tore down the original seasonal cottage and built a year around home. Hmmmm, "this would be a great place to retire to someday" ...and so we did in 2000! Ann Lake has been a magnet for family and friends over the years and will continue to be the gathering location of choice.

As Ann Lake property owners, we all have the lake as our common focal point. What a joy and privilege to share such a wonderful resource.....ours to use and enjoy, not abuse and destroy. Being a good steward of Ann Lake is something we all must continue to practice for the sake of the present as well as the future. Therefore, all Ann Lake property owners need to be involved in the present and future preservation of Ann Lake. You can contribute to this worthwhile endeavor by joining the Ann Lake Property Owners' Association. Your support will help to ensure a bright future for Ann Lake.

I look forward to seeing you this summer at the 3 ALPOA events.....Annual meeting in June, 4th of July boat parade, and the new annual ALPOA People Powered Paddle, Pedal, Paddle, Row around Ann Lake in August (see further details in this newsletter).



Boating Education

Annually, the Sheriff's Department offers boating classes. The next boating classes are scheduled for June 12, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and June 26, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Civic Center in Traverse City. The classes are free. To enroll, please call 231-995-5040.

Water Quality

As always, the board and association are indebted to the individuals who have participated and continue to participate in water testing. Water testing is a means for us to determine the status of the lake's health and our impact on that health.



We would like to thank Dave Maxson for his on-going efforts at measuring the quality of the lake. Following is Dave's report on Lake Ann.

ALPOA continues to participate in the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP). This reporter is the designated "lake steward"; i.e., the volunteer who conducts the exercises to collect samples or record observations, and submits the results for analysis.

A lake's condition is influenced by many factors, including the amount of recreational activity, shoreline development, and water quality. "Water quality" is a general term covering many aspects of chemistry and biology. "Productivity" refers to the amount of plant and animal life that can be produced within the lake. Low productive lakes are generally deep and clear with little aquatic plant growth, while productive lakes tend to be shallow, turbid, and support abundant aquatic plant growth. Increasing productivity can impact water quality and result in excessive weed growth, algal blooms, and mucky bottom sediments.

For over 10 years, ALPOA volunteers have participated in monitoring: Secchi disk transparency, Phosphorous, Chlorophyll, and Dissolved oxygen and temperature.

The data that we collect are reduced to a "Trophic State Index", or TSI value. **The lower the index, the healthier the lake.**

Secchi disk transparency is a measure of the clarity of the water, and an indication of the amount of algal growth. Readings were collected in 18 of the 19 weeks during the 2009 season. In 2009, the

"We would like to thank Dave Maxson for his on-going efforts at measuring the quality of the lake."

Water Quality (continued)

TSI's for 180 lakes in the state ranged from 25 to 64, with an average of 41. The TSI for Ann Lake was 35.

Phosphorous is measured twice each year, early in the spring and late in summer. Phosphorous is the nutrient most responsible for increased productivity in lakes.

The TSI's for 193 lakes in the state ranged from less than 27 (as low as they calculate) to 67, with an average of 39. The TSI for Ann Lake was 27.

Chlorophyll, another indicator of the amount of algae in the lake, is measured once each month from May through September. Of the 117 lakes that participated in this test, the TSI's ranged from less than 31 to 61, with an average of 39. The TSI for Ann Lake was 37.

Dissolved oxygen and temperature tests measure the amount of oxygen in, and temperature of, the water at depths from top to bottom every two weeks throughout the summer. The amount of oxygen in the water is an important indicator of overall lake health. Results of these measurements are reported in a graph, rather than an index. Our graphs for 2009 are virtually identical to those from 2003, which indicates a very stable condition; i.e., no deterioration.

While I conclude that there is no indication of deterioration in the quality of the water in our lake over the past ten years, it behooves us to continue to monitor and protect, and your association is committed to do just that.

*June 27 from
noon – 2 p.m. at
the Almira
Township Park
pavilion.*



Annual Association Meeting

The annual association meeting is Sunday, June 27, 2010 from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Please plan on attending. We would appreciate everyone bringing either a covered dish, side item such as chips or vegetables, or a beverage.

Please contact Ellie Flaherty at 275-6313 or Beth Noe at 275-7911 if you are attending, as Sloppy Joes and some beverages are provided and a count of attendees is helpful. The speaker for this year's meeting is Vance Bates, Township Supervisor. The topic of Mr. Bates discussion is the Township's role in Ann Lake.

Annual Dues

The 2010 annual dues are \$20. Please complete the attached form and remit your payment as soon as possible. Thank you for your support.

Why Join the the Lake Association

By: Lee Muehlman

I was asked to write a short column on the benefits of membership in our association. It occurred to me that most people would be aware of the obvious things, like water quality testing and striving to have a clean, vigorous lake. However there are several other reasons for membership and I will outline one of them here.

It is a given that political bodies (Federal, State, County, Township) listen to constituents. It is also a given that if you as an individual voice an opinion to a government body, you are but one small voice. However, if a group voices that same opinion it has much more impact, especially at the Township and County level. This is where your association steps in. Did you know that we are represented at every Township board meeting?

If your principal residence is on the lake you do, as I mentioned, have one SMALL voice in the political arena of the Township, County & State. If however, your principal residence is elsewhere you have the privilege of paying almost twice as much in property taxes as a resident without the benefit of the right to vote on issues or people that affect you, your property or its value. That means that you have NO representation unless of course you are a member of the association.

We do keep an eye on present and future issues that may affect you. Let me give you just one example of what we have accomplished in the past.

The recently adopted revised Township Zoning regulations would have greatly affected you and your property, as well as its value if they were implemented as originally proposed. Did you know that, as first written, your property could only have 100 square feet of dock? Think of it, a 4' wide dock could only be 25' long! Or that only 20% of your home, garage, shed, etc. (combined) could be visible from the lake? Or that a strict greenbelt provision would extend at least 50' from the waters edge? Your association protested these things (and others) at a Township board meeting presenting our reasons for opposing these restrictions. The Township heard the associations voice, and many of the proposals were altered or eliminated. We could only do this because 1) we were aware of it, and 2) we were a strong association with a lot of members. There were no other riparian owners at any of these meetings. Without our input, the regulations would have passed as written.

It takes members, it takes money, and it takes involvement to keep an association strong and viable. If you are not a member, please consider the above points and join by calling Dave Maxson at 275-7732. If you are a member, thank you, and promote the association to a riparian friend or neighbor who is not.



Treasurer's Report

Included in this letter is the 2009 Treasurer's report. This report indicates how the money is used by the Association and how it benefits property owners and all who use the lake. An example of this may be found in water testing. Both lakefront property owners and users of the lake benefit by having clean water. Our dues help pay for the maintenance of this function. Please take a moment to review the report.

ANN LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION TREASURER'S REPORT FOR CALENDAR 2009			
Balance Forward 01/01/09:			
Checking		1,714.05	
Savings		1,948.45	
Total Cash			3,662.50
Income			
Membership Dues		1,040.00	
Donations		80.00	
Interest		3.60	
Total Income			1,123.60
Expenses			
CLMP registration (lake monitoring program)		187.00	
Dues: Mich Lakes & Streams		80.00	
Reserve park for annual meeting		30.00	
Copies/postage for revised bylaws to board		12.77	
Sign for boat launch		200.00	
Printing/postage for newsletter		238.57	
Copies/materials for annual meeting		159.86	
Michigan Riparian subscriptions		200.00	
Annual filing fee for Mich non-profit		20.00	
Mileage to deliver water samples for analysis		53.35	
Post Office box rent for one year		24.00	
Total Expenses			-1,205.55
Balance of Total Cash* as of 12/31/09			3,580.55



SAVE THESE DATES!!

June 27, 2010 – 12:00 – 2:00 P.M. – annual association meeting

UNNOFFICIAL **4TH OF July** Pontoon Parade

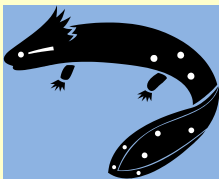
Rumor has it the pontoon parade will start at the sand bar around 1:00 P.M.

NEW EVENT

Saturday, **August 7, 2010** from 8:00 am. – 11:00 a.m. People Powered Paddle, Pedal, Paddle, Row – see insert and registration form

A STORY - Muddy, the Ann Lake Monster

By Ellie Flaherty



A few years ago I had my first encounter with a creature we later named “Muddy the Monster”. While putting our docks in one spring, I picked up a wide piece of driftwood that was in the way of one section of the dock frame. BAM!something struck my ankle....and then slowly swam...no..... crawled away. CRAWLED? It looked like a small 12 inch long “alligator” with strange feathery protuberances on each side of its head, four tiny legs with 4 toes on each foot, and a tail fatter in the middle and tapered top and bottom. A scary mini monster! After my heart rate slowed to a more normal level, we continued to install the dock sections, all the while keeping a wary eye on “the monster”.

Later that day, after a little on line research, we discovered that our “monster” was a Mudpuppy, aka Waterdog. It is a large salamander that has bushy maroon external gills behind the head. In warm oxygen-poor water, the gills are larger and more brightly colored, whereas they are smaller and paler in oxygen-rich water, like our Ann Lake mudpuppy. Mudpuppies tend to live on the bottom of its aquatic habitat, burrowing under submerged objects (like the piece of driftwood I picked up). They are found in permanent bodies of water that are at least 3 feet deep. When fully grown, they range in size from 11-16 inches, and live to be more than 20 years old.

Due to their odd appearance, Mudpuppies have been falsely labeled as dangerous, and people who catch them while fishing often kill them. Mudpuppies have no negative impact on humans. People are sometimes frightened (an understatement) by the strange appearance of Mudpuppies, but they are completely harmless. They are completely aquatic and usually nocturnal though may be active during the day. They usually walk along the bottom but can also swim with fish-like movement of their body. Mudpuppies eat a variety of aquatic organisms....crayfish are a major part of their diet, but

they also eat insect larvae, small fish, aquatic worms, snails, etc., and carrion. Mudpuppies themselves are tasty tidbits for larger fish, water snakes and water birds such as herons.

Each year after our initial encounter with “Muddy”, we looked for him but never saw him again until this spring. This time the circumstance of our meeting was sad. Somehow, this winter before the lake froze over, Muddy was plucked from the lake and deposited on the second story deck of our carriage house where he remained, untouched, buried under snow, sight unseen until the snow melted this spring. I looked out the window one day and saw a strangely shaped “piece of wood” on the deck. Upon close inspection I saw it was Muddy! We surmise that a fish-loving bird grabbed Muddy and flew off with him in its talons until the bird apparently flew into the plate glass window and dropped Muddy on the deck. How else would a creature that lives in the lake wind up on a deck 10 feet in the air and 100 feet from the lake?

However he arrived on our deck, he still exists because we put him on a board and set him in the sunshine....of course, winged insects buzzed around him until I gave him a liberal spraying of “Yard Guard”. He has slowly mummified and is ready for a nature lesson for our grand children (and their parents). We would be glad to share Mummy Muddy with you if you are not “grossed out”

Ann Lake’s nature is varied and wonderful. A Mudpuppy is one of the more uncommon, but fascinating creatures that call Ann Lake home. If you have the opportunity to encounter a Mudpuppy, after your initial heart thumping startle, stop and enjoy your rare encounter with the Ann Lake “monster” we named Muddy.

REMEMBRANCE – Jack Harris (1929 – 2010)

This issue of the Ann Lake Water Log is dedicated to the memory of Jack Harris. Jack passed away on April 3, 2010. Jack was a living part of the history of this lake or “Lake Ann” as he always called it. Jack’s humor, wit, and wisdom will be missed. Our condolences to his family.



DOCKS INSTALLED

DOCKS REMOVED

GENERAL CLEAN-UP

DEREK ROELOFS

231-645-3570



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Lake Ann, MI 49650

YEARLY MEMEBRSHIP DUES: **\$20.00**

I/We would like to make an additional donation to support the Ann Lake Association activities.

Additional Donation: \$_____

Total Amount Paid: \$_____

Thank you for your support!

Please PRINT the following Information:

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COMMENTS: _____

Please check one of the following:

() Yes, I would like a subscription to The Michigan Riparian magazine

() No, I do not want a copy of The Michigan Riparian magazine



NEW ANN LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' EVENT

People Powered Paddle, Pedal, Paddle, Row around Ann Lake for kayaks, pedal boats, canoes and row boats **ONLY**. No motors or sails. **THIS IS NOT A RACE**. It is a slow, fun way to enjoy all the wonderful nooks, crannies and wild life around Ann Lake. And, you'll be able to brag, "I went all the way around Ann Lake under my own power!"

People Powered Paddle, Pedal, Paddle, Row 2010 will take place **Saturday, August 7, 8:00 am to 11:00 am** (No Wake Boating Hours). Sunday August 8 is the alternate date if the weather/wind is unfavorable on August 7.

Committee Boats will be labeled A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H, and anchored around the lake in alphabetical order. You will check in at the Committee Boat closest to your launch area, then move in a counter clockwise direction (the shore line always on your right) in alphabetical order, checking in at each Committee Boat. For instance, if you start at "D", then move to "E", "F", "G", "H", "A", "B", "C" and BACK to "D" to complete your circumnavigation of Ann Lake.

REGISTER NOW for the August 7, 2010 People Powered, Paddle, Pedal, Paddle, Row event. \$ 15.00 for each person participating covers the cost of a special tee shirt, plus water and snacks along the course.

REGISTRATION FOR ALPOA PEOPLE POWERED EVENT AUGUST 7, 2010

Number Registering _____ @ \$ 15.00 per person, Amount Due _____

Name(s) of person(s) registering _____
Please Print

Number of each shirt size needed: Adult: S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___ 3XL ___ 4XL ___

Youth: S ___ M ___ L ___

Make check payable to Ann Lake Property Owners Association

Send to: Dave Maxson, Treasurer
Ann Lake Property Owners Association
P.O. Box 184
Lake Ann, MI 49650

REGISTRATION MUST BE IN BY JULY 15, 2010
