

# WINTER UPDATE – ANN LAKE WATER LOG

FEBRUARY, 2013  
ISSUE 3



Dear Property Owners:

Below is our third Winter Update from the Ann Lake Property Owners' Association or ALPOA.

The 2013 President of the Association is Kent Taylor. Mr. Taylor was elected vice president the previous year and comes into office as president for 2013. Mr. Taylor's passion is identifying invasive species and keeping the lake free from these potential threats. Please welcome Mr. Taylor. We look forward to his leadership and direction.

## ALPOA WINTER ARTICLE

As the new president of Ann Lake Property Owners Association (ALPOA) I would like to both greet you and introduce myself. In this letter I wish to provide you a brief overview of last year's accomplishments and activities along with sharing plans for the coming year. As you know ALPOA has been up and running under its present structure for over a decade now. Last year was particularly notable for some of the things we undertook and accomplished on your behalf.

We set up a more formalized budgeting process to allow us to know in real time where we stood on expenses.

We launched our [website](#) and added many features to benefit our members and local businesses wishing to advertise.

The Invasive Species Committee attended training under the auspices of the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association allowing us to "map" or survey our lake for the type, locations and density of aquatic plants. Our goal was establishing a baseline to compare against future findings. Final report and 'map' can be found on our website.

Established an active loon ranger program including the setting of loon buoys.

Continued to scientifically document and report our excellent lake water quality which was incorporated for the first time into Benzie County's watershed planning process.

We increased our association membership by 10% and began the process of developing materials for members that would provide information on lake stewardship issues; this in an effort to provide our members with up to date information on what activities threaten our lake's ecosystem and how to protect shorelines and water quality.

In response to numerous complaints, investigated rules and published a guideline on beach sanding both on shore and in water. This guideline can be found on our website.

This year we plan on building upon those accomplishments. Specifically, we want to increase our membership at least another 10-15%. We will begin marketing our website to local merchants and service providers in hopes of covering our IT costs, thereby allowing us to better utilize this site for the benefit of members. As an example, we plan to allow members to advertise their lake rental property for free and provide a searchable forum to log positive experiences with local service providers. We are also going to continue monitoring the lake for water quality, invasive species and other biological issues concerning our ecosystem here at Ann Lake, a rather labor intensive task but one in which we are now skilled. Also, I plan to do some personal outreach to those who have chosen not to join our Association in an effort to learn why and what we might do to convince them that membership in ALPOA is to everyone's interest.

Last year as a result of the aforementioned lake mapping, we had a bit of a scare when the MSU biologists on board our sampling boat thought they had identified a highly invasive algae called Starry Stonewort. This ultimately false alarm did cause us to scurry a bit late in the year. Subsequent samplings done by board members throughout the fall into November proved to these and other experts that the species was actually a benign, native algae call Nitella. However this 'fire drill' did provide positive outcomes: we established an expert network of plant biologists, developed internal tools, protocols and a process flow chart to use if and when other suspect species are found, we established communication with other local lake associations and most importantly, learned how fragile and uniquely pristine our lake is compared to our neighboring lakes, many of which are dealing with serious invasive species issues. As a board, we are totally committed to preserving this lake's natural animal and plant populations; our Invasive Species Committee is now fully trained and skilled at sampling and plant identification. Part of our plans for this year is to share that knowledge with our members and the entire lake community so everyone can be a lake steward, able to identify both the natural and potential invasive plants and animals that might concern us. The more eyes we have on the lake the better our prospects of getting ahead of any infestations.

Naturally, this expansion of functional activities and services to members cost more money. Annual dues have been set at \$20 since the beginning of the Association. We asked membership at the June general meeting to support increasing membership dues to \$30 annually. The vote was unanimous to do so. We plan on using these additional funds to enhance and expand our communications to you and with that, our perceived value with the lake community. We plan on using a robust website ([Annlake.org](http://Annlake.org)), pamphlets and handouts to increase awareness of invasive species, responsible shore management practices and other information we feel benefit all lake owners and our lake property. We will, of course, be trying to attract new members and empower existing members to help us with this mission. As we stated last year, we want our members and all others to view ALPOA as an indispensable asset to this beautiful lake community. We not only wish to meet your expectations,

we'll strive to exceed them. If we don't, please contact me at [kent@annlake.org](mailto:kent@annlake.org) and let me know. Also, if you have never been a member and would like to tell me why, I would love to have that conversation to see what we can do to change that opinion.

Kent Taylor

President

Ann Lake Property Owners Association

A synopsis of the Ann Lake Property Owners' Association's Summer of 2012, plus Fall and some Winter.

**JUNE ....**The Annual ALPOA general meeting and picnic was held June 23, 2012. 36 people attended. For 2013, let us all encourage our riparian neighbors to join us at the picnic meeting for food, fun, fellowship, and **up to date information** about our wonderful Ann Lake. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE NEXT ALPOA GENERAL MEETING ON JUNE 29, 2013, 12 NOON TO 2:00 PM AT THE ALMIRA TOWNSHIP MAIN PAVILION.**

**JULY....**The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Boat Parade had 27 boats and many people participating. The parade was stopped several times by boats stopping to raft together. While ALPOA has no authority to control the parade participants, we suggest if this happens in the future that the other boats go around the stopped boats and keep up with the official parade lead boat. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR....of course...JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2013, 1:00PM. GATHER AT THE SAND BAR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LAKE.**

**AUGUST....**The third annual Paddle, Pedal, Paddle, Row around Ann Lake had 42 people registered, plus 8 people who were not preregistered but participated for a total of 50 people who showed interest. Seven people who preregistered did not participate so the total who participated was 43! The watercraft used were 23 single person kayaks, 1 two person kayak, 2 two person canoes, 4 two person pedal boats, 3 paddle boards (standing up), and 1 two person row boat. The Post PPPR Pizza Party was attended by 32 people who had "fun, fun, fun 'til daddy put the pizza away", **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE FOURTH ANNUAL PADDLE, PEDAL, PADDLE, ROW EVENT ON SATURDAY AUGUST 3, 2013 FROM 8:00 AM TO 11:00 AM, WITH PIZZA AT 12 NOON.**

**OCTOBER....**The Almira Township Lakefront Park was dedicated October 21, 2012. The small pavilion was complete by the 21<sup>st</sup>, but the large pavilion was not completed until November. The wetland plantings along some of their shoreline will be done in the spring of 2013. The township closed the Lakefront Park for the winter on November 1, 2012.

**NOVEMBER....** Election results for the Almira Township Board:

Supervisor....Mark Roper; Treasurer....Mandy Gray Rineer; Clerk....Tammy Clous; Trustee.....Ann Beaujean; Trustee....Matt Therrien. All of these officials are new to the Township Board.

Election results for the Village of Lake Ann Council:

President....Dale Flaherty; Treasurer....Del Roelofs; Council person....Larry Poulisse; Council person....Bonnie Supina; continuing Council member.... Phyllis Roelofs;

continuing Council member.... Barb Hood; continuing Clerk....Cathy Werts. All these people are incumbents.

**DECEMBER/JANUARY....**For those of you who do not winter on Ann Lake, we had a beautiful white Christmas with about 12 inches of snow on the ground. January has seen temps in the mid 40's to low 50's then a plunge down to single digits. Even with low temps the lake is still not frozen in the center as of the 21<sup>st</sup> of January. This too shall change, as those of us who were here for last Marches 20 inch dump of snow well remember. Look forward to seeing all of you back at Ann Lake in 2013. Ellie Flaherty

## 2012 Loon Ranger Report

During the summer of 2012, Lake Ann was lucky to have one nesting pair of loons on the lake. Even though we had no reports of eagle attacks this spring, the loons were unsuccessful at having any chicks. The loons finally abandoned their nest in early July leaving one egg un-hatched on the nest.

Assuming we are lucky enough to have a pair of loons again this year, we will be putting the loon nesting buoys out again in the spring. The loons have been nesting consistently in Mud Bay so we plan on placing the buoys in a similar location as last year. The buoys are usually out by early May. This is usually after the loons have established a nest, and more importantly, after we have a pontoon in the water which makes placing the buoys a simple project. Please advise any guests you have to respect the loons and stay outside the area of the loon buoys.

We did have a "loon alarm" this summer. Several residents contacted me concerned that one of the loons was injured. The loon was exhibiting a behavior unfamiliar to any of us. The loon was continuously preening one side of his body as if a hook or parasite was attached. We observed the loon for several hours until eventually it assumed a normal behavior pattern. We did learn several things as a result of this event.

- First, the Michigan Loon Preservation Association did get back to me and stated that the behavior was normal and has been observed, although infrequent.
- Second, the DNR is not equipped to help with wounded loons. Their response would be to observe and, if necessary, put the loon out of its misery.
- Third, if we needed to capture the loon for medical attention, it would take a village. Or in our case, a large contingent of lake residents. We would need to watch the loon throughout the day so we would know its location at dusk. Then at dusk, we would herd the loon towards the shore where we would then be able to capture it. We would need to find someone to assist in caring for the loon. We currently have no relationship with any vet or protection group to provide this assistance. I will be working on establishing some contacts this summer so any help or assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Submitted by Kathy Garmes Taylor, Loon Ranger and Lake Ann Loon Liaison

## Treasury and Membership Report

Last year was a very good year for membership, and thus the treasury. We received dues payments for 80 memberships. In addition, we received \$577 in donations, over and above the dues. Thank you!!

We began the year with a balance of \$3,964.04, and received income totaling \$3043.31 during the course of the year. We disbursed \$2,483.20 in expenses, leaving a balance of \$4,524.15 at the end of the year.

This is purposely just a brief summary. A complete, detailed report will be published in the spring newsletter later. In the meantime, if you want to renew your membership for 2013, you'll find a printable membership form elsewhere in this email.

### Ann Lake Property Owners' Association

#### BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 2012

Operating Fund	4,524.15
Reserves:	
Website hosting fees	119.00
Legal	50.00
Loon	25.00
	<hr/>
<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>4,718.15</b>
	<hr/>

**Ann Lake Property Owners' Association**  
**TREASURER'S REPORT and BUDGET: DECEMBER 31, 2012**  
 Respectfully submitted by Dave Maxson

	Actual to date	Budget
Beginning Balance January 1, 2012	3,964.04	
<b>INCOME</b>		
interest income on savings	3.31	4.00
2012 membership dues paid (80)	1,600.00	1,500.00
2013 dues prepaid	40.00	
donations	577.00	250.00
People Powered Paddle registration fees	645.00	
Pizza Party fees paid	178.00	
Total PPPR Income	823.00	970.00
<b>Total Income</b>	3,043.31	<u>2,724.00</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Michigan Lakes & Streams Association; annual dues	80.00	80.00
Annual meeting	78.63	60.00
Subscriptions to Michigan Riparian (for 2013)	304.00	275.00
Liability insurance premium (annual)	390.03	400.00
State filing fee	20.00	20.00
PO box rent and misc postage	28.00	50.00
Water Quality:		
enrollment in CLMP (lake monitoring program)	185.00	200.00
mileage to deliver samples for analysis	42.00	65.00
June Newsletter:		
Postage	99.00	58.00
Printing	20.00	202.00
Maintenance on sign at boat landing		25.00
Website hosting (reserve)	119.00	119.00
Invasive Species:		
training class in aquatic plant mapping	225.00	225.00
ship algae samples to MSU for analysis	25.68	
Special Events:		
PPPR expenses (offset by income above)	714.48	950.00
Membership:		
Banner	77.38	150.00
follow-up mailing to non-members		99.00
Legal Reserve	50.00	50.00
Loon Reserve	25.00	25.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>2,483.20</u>	<u>3,053.00</u>
Ending Balance Operating Fund December 31, 2012	<u>4,524.15</u>	

2012 Membership has grown to 80!!! Let's aim for 100 plus in 2013. Attached is the 2013 membership form.

ANN LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 184  
Lake Ann, MI 49650

Annual MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$ 30.00 (for Jan-Dec calendar year)

Additional Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support! While dues and donations are not deductible (ALPOA does not qualify as a "charitable" organization, per IRS definitions) your contributions are used to protect the quality of our lake, and the value of our properties, for the mutual benefit of all property owners.

Please PRINT the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

( ) You may send any newsletters via email; I don't need a hardcopy.

( ) I still prefer to have a hardcopy of the newsletter, via "snail mail".

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

A subscription to the Michigan Riparian is an optional benefit of membership, but costs the association \$12 per subscriber per year. Please check your preference:

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

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