



ANN LAKE WATER LOG

A Newsletter of the Ann Lake Property Owners' Association (ALPOA) – July 2009

2009 ALPOA

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***"Please note the hours
of high-speed boating
and water skiing are
between 11:00 a.m.
and 7:30 p.m."***

Notes from the President

By Beth Dannecker-Noe

My name is Beth Dannecker-Noe. I am the President of the Ann Lake Property Owners' Association. My family commutes from Indiana to this part of Michigan every year. During one of our long drives, my husband was commenting on the beauty of this region. The change in landscape from the flat land of Indiana to this beautiful part of Michigan is both dramatic and distinct. My hope for both my son, as well as all who enjoy the area, is they recognize and protect the natural resources of this area for years to come. This letter focuses on the health of the lake, as well as safety issues affecting all persons participating in activities on the lake. I hope your summer has been pleasant and safe and continues throughout the rest of the year.

The board encourages all new ideas or issues concerning the lake to be brought to their attention.

Boating Safety Reminders

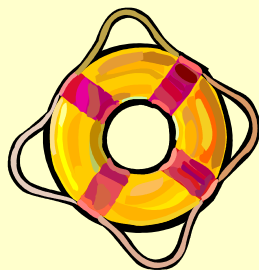
By Ellie Flaherty

The Ann Lake Property Owners Association knows firsthand that our time at Ann Lake means Family, Friends, and Fun for all.

Our time at Ann Lake also means BEING SAFE when in or on the lake. SAFETY should be EVERYONE'S PRIORITY.

That said, these are some frequently observed UNSAFE and ILLEGAL Personal Water Craft (PWC) operations.

- A. Towing of any kind WITHOUT a SPOTTER sitting BEHIND the PWC DRIVER and FACING the TOWEE.
- B. Those being towed NOT wearing a Coast Guard approved type I, II or III personal flotation device.



- C. Operating a PWC or OTHER POWERED BOATS, with or without, towing someone at GREATER than NO WAKE SPEED:
1. WHEN LESS THAN 100 FEET FROM a moored or anchored vessel, a dock or raft, a person(s) in the water and a marked swimming area.
 2. WHEN IN WATER LESS THAN 2 FEET DEEP (unless you are docking or launching your PWC).
 3. WHEN BOATING between the hours of 7:30 PM and 11:00 AM.

Please have FUN with your Family and Friends and please, please be SAFE with your Personal Water Craft and ALL your other POWERED water toys.

Have a great SAFE time on Ann Lake this summer and every summer. Enclosed is a quick reference guide highlighting Michigan boating rules.

On-Line Boating Education

Michigan Lakes and Streams newsletter mentions an on-line Michigan boater education course developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. For more information, please visit www.boat-ed.com/mi or contact Michigan Lakes and Streams at www.mlsa.org.

Water Quality

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

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.



As reported last year, 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.

Water Quality (continued)

For several years, ALPOA volunteers have participated in monitoring:

Secchi disk transparency,
Phosphorous,
Chlorophyll, and
Dissolved oxygen and temperature.

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 17 of the 19 weeks during the 2008 monitoring period, with results indicating that the clarity of our lake continues to be above average.

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. Results of samples taken in 2008 indicate that our lake continues to rank at the bottom of the range (i.e., that's a **good** thing).

Chlorophyll, another indicator of the amount of algae in the lake, is measured once each month from May through September. Here again, results in 2008 indicate that our lake is below average. In fact, the CLMP includes an indexing system, where the lower the index, the healthier the lake. The index numbers for chlorophyll in lakes around the state range from <31 to 65. The index for our lake was 38.

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 in this regard, as well as in the others above, continue to be very consistent with the previous years since ALPOA started to participate in CLMP in 1999.

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.

Invasive Species Discussion

The Michigan Lakes and Streams website mentions two potential threats to inland lakes. The first of these threats is the Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus (VHS). VHS has already spread to Lake Huron, Lake Michigan and Lake St. Clair and is rapidly spreading to inland lakes. Once in a lake it cannot be removed. The virus causes massive fish kills. The second threat mentioned by the Michigan Lakes and Streams website is Botulism Type E which affects fish and fowl. Your help is needed in protecting the lake by disinfecting your boats if moved from Lake Ann to other lakes or vice versa. Please review the enclosed checklist and diagram to assist in disinfection.

<www.mlswa.org>





Wildlife Issues

By Cecilia DrozMcNally - Ann Lake Loon Ranger

I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you while out on the lake this summer and am reassured to know so many of us share in the wonder and excitement of the Common Loon. (Are we Looniacs or Loonatics?) While most of the lake residents are relatively knowledgeable about the bird, many, if not most visitors are not. One person from Indiana I talked to thought they were a myth! If we want to continue enjoying the Common Loon's presence for many years to come, we must be diligent in our shared responsibility to assure their habitat.

Please don't be afraid to speak up when others are too close to a Loon. I know some of you have done so - thank you - we really need to get the word out. The recommended distance to keep is a minimum of 100 feet, or about 5 boat lengths. Loons may swim away from you, lower their posture, look rapidly about, dip their bill, dive or give a distress call. A distress call kind of sounds like Woody Woodpecker! If you hear this, you or someone is WAY too close! Loons need privacy and space. You probably wouldn't like people trespassing on your front lawn either, and given this intrusion once too often, you may well pack up and move!

The Michigan Loon Association (of which Loon Rangers are a part) reports that Michigan Loons have been attempting to breed on the larger lakes, but are not returning to them mainly due to the high volume of boat traffic. While there are many threats the birds face (raccoons, turtles, eagles, gulls, lead sinkers) it appears boat traffic is high on the list. The MLPA also reports that it is just within the past years many loons are returning to the smaller lake (of which Ann Lake is one) in hopes of raising a successful brood. We have every reason to be honored to be sharing the lake with these amazing birds!

Soon we will be seeing additional Loons gathering and socializing on the lake. This is the ritual of the Common Loon prior to their fall migration, where they most likely head to the Gulf of Mexico. There they will face many threats and hazards as well - mercury, food shortages, lead, pollution, severe weather, etc.

In closing, a Loon trivia question! If you're driving down a freeway speeding (snowbirds heading south) can a Loon pass you? Surprise, they can - Loons travel about 90 mph and have been clocked at over 100 mph. Let's hope that in spring 2010, they'll be in just as big a hurry to head north again to Ann Lake! May we never take their presence for granted.

Ann Lake Loon Ranger - Cecilia DrozMcNally - 231-409-2393

MLPA at www.MichiganLoons.org

Cecilia has generously donated her time in an effort to educate all individuals utilizing the lake about loons. She would like to retire from volunteering and needs a replacement. Please contact her at the above-referenced number and she will be glad to train you. Time requirements are minimal - report to the Loon Association, making sure a sign about loons is posted at the boat launch, filling the brochure holder at the Long Lake Grocery. Please call her if you wish to help.

Civic Issues

By Joni Keskey - Almira Township Planning Commission Chairperson

Recently, you received a survey in your summer tax bills. This survey was written and sent to you by the Planning Commission of Almira Township. As a Planning Commission, we are charged with reviewing and amending the Zoning Ordinance once every 7-10 years and the Master Plan once every 5 years. To do this, we need your input.

The purpose of the Master Plan is “to provide guidelines for future development, while protecting the water resources, other natural resources and rural character of the Township.”*

It is the detailed plan that guides the future of the township and upon this plan is based the Almira Township Zoning Ordinance. The purpose of The Almira Township Zoning Ordinance is:

- a. To meet the needs of the citizens for food, fiber, energy, and other natural resources, places of residence, recreation, industry, trade, service and other uses of land;
- b. To insure that use of land shall be situated in appropriate locations and relationships;
- c. To limit the inappropriate overcrowding of land and congestion of population, transportation systems, and other public facilities;
- d. To facilitate adequate and efficient provision for transportation systems, sewage disposal, water, energy, education, recreation, and other public services and facility requirements;
- e. to promote public health, safety and welfare.*

We have been and currently are now in the process of reviewing both the Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance. The process will be based on what we as a commission and you as the citizens of Almira Township wish to see for the future of Almira Township. We invite your participation in the process by filling out the survey provided and returning it to the Township Offices by September 1st, writing to us via the Township Offices, or attending our meetings. Our meetings are held in the Almira Township Fire and EMS Facility located at 7272 Ole White Drive and begin at 7 p.m. Following are the dates for the remainder of 2009.

August: cancelled

September: Monday, September 21

October: Tuesday, October 6

November: Monday, November 2

December: Tuesday, December 1.

Join us. We welcome your questions, concerns and opinions.

*Almira Township Master Plan, Chapter 1, Page 1

*Almira Township Zoning Ordinance Article 1, Section 1.02, Page 5



The Beach Project

By Vance Bates

Almira Lakefront Park is closer to becoming a reality. Local fundraising is nearing its goal and the DNR Trust Fund money has been awarded. The township is waiting for one more appraisal which will be sent to the State and then they have 120 days to close. Almira Township will then begin the process of park improvements. Almira Township does not expect much to happen till 2010. The existing structure will be removed. It is important to remember that Almira Township does not currently own the property. Any questions feel free to contact Vance Bates Almira Township Supervisor at 1-231-275-5862 Ext # 5.

**August 16 from 12
– 2 p.m. at the
Almira Township
Park pavilion.**

Annual Association Meeting

The annual association meeting is Sunday, August 16, 2009 from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Please attend and bring a covered dish. Sloppy Joes and drinks will be provided. As some food is being prepared, please call Beth at 275-7911 or Shirley Drews at 275-5270, as the number of individuals attending is important for food preparation. The speaker for this year's meeting is a representative from the Marine Patrol Division of the Sheriff's office. The topic is safety on the lake.



Pontoon Boat Parade

The unofficial 4th of July Pontoon Boat Parade was a success this year. Perhaps next year we will parade in the correct direction around the lake - counter-clock wise.

Annual Dues

The 2010 annual dues are \$20. Please complete the attached form and remit your payment as possible. Thank you for your support. Your dues include a subscription to The Michigan Riparian. An additional form is included if you know of someone interested in joining the Association.



SPECIAL THANKS

Please thank Scott Hedberg for designing and installing the new Boating sign at the boat launch. The sign informs all boaters of important Michigan boating regulations, as well as highlighting various features of the lake such as depth, public, and private lands. Scott did much research and produced a beautiful sign that is beneficial to all boaters. Attached is a copy of the sign for your review.

Also, we would like to thank retiring board members Ann Skory and John Dykstra.