

**WINTER UPDATE –
ANN LAKE WATER LOG
MARCH, 2014
ISSUE 3**



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT HEDBERG

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Ann Lake Residents:

A prime if not singular goal of our Association is to provide recognizable, added value to all riparians in their ownership and enjoyment of their property. During the past year, my first as president, ALPOA again did just that. Building on its previous accomplishments, I believe we have again increased our value to our members and the lake in general. Let us know how we're doing. We have a committed board open to new ideas, complimented with active and productive committees. As a result, during this past year we have:

- Completed our lake survey of aquatic plants; extensive sampling and study has convinced us and outside experts (DNR, MSU) that we as yet have no invasive plants in our lake habitat. We all must remain diligent.
- Met last year's membership threshold, in spite of last year's dues increase, but we fell short of our goal of expanding membership by 10%. We remain at 82 members which represents a high percentage of lake owners when compared to other lake associations.
- Applied for and attained 501(c) 4 not-for-profit status with the IRS and filed our first federal tax return to go along with the state returns we've been filing for years.
- Increased participation in our social events to include our July 4th boat parade and the increasingly popular People Powered, Pedal and Row event which concludes with a pizza party. All such events pay for themselves requiring no association funding.
- Created, re-printed and distributed in several formats valuable information on invasive species to be alert to and lake-friendly landscaping, septic and boat use tips to our members.
- Continued to expand a robust [website](http://annlake.org) where everyone can look for event schedules, environmental/safely information, board minutes, budgets, committee reports to include new water quality and aquatic plant distribution graphs. Look to annlake.org for wonderful pictures submitted by members,

a history of Ann Lake, important local contact information, county safety rules and maps. You can also use it to pay dues and set up automatic future dues payments. It has in three short years become a truly exceptional site for such a small lake community.

- Created and distributed 500 beautiful Ann Lake brochures to inform our residents and visitors about our lake to include maps and regulations.
- Substantially increased member participation on committees.
- Built and launched a loon platform to enable our resident loons to find an alternate nesting location should the lake remain too high for their normal nesting location. We expect to deploy it again this spring.
- Completed all of this under budget, building reserves for the future.

The ALPOA Board and I are pleased with those accomplishments but we will not rest on our laurels going forward. We will continue our efforts to increase the transparency and communication of our activities while striving to provide an increasing value proposition for our membership. Building on these efforts, some of my goals for this year include:

1. Locating and creating even more scientifically current and relevant information on lake stewardship; providing answers to frequently asked questions of those who want to maximize the enjoyment of their property while guaranteeing a stable, clean lake environment.
2. Sponsoring even more social events for members to foster a tight, friendly community.
3. Expand our membership at least 10%, approaching our long-term goal of 100 members which would represent a majority of lake owners.
4. Take advantage of newly found economies to make our publications more colorful and visually appealing. Again, print and distributed our brochures.
5. Increasing the number of members who chose to communicate with us electronically, (such as receiving our publications via email and paying dues, etc.) all in an effort to control costs and encourage more utilization of our website.
6. Increase participation in Association activities and management by expanding committee memberships and encouraging more people to run for the board.

It is this last goal that is both of vital importance and a nagging problem for our lake association. It is apparent to all that ALPOA relies on a small cadre of dedicated people to run the Association and perform all the labor needed to keep it running, viable and relevant to our membership. In my estimation we now are at risk of wearing people out who have provided years of dedicated service to our lake and the Association. We need new blood, new ideas and the energy they generate. Joining a committee is a great way to start contributing. You can indicate a committee interest or volunteer to run for the board when you send us your application.

If we can't create more interest in board participation, we may have to change our bylaws to provide more flexibility in recruiting and retaining board members. These changes discussed informally at last year's annual meeting, may not be universally popular but may well be necessary if we don't see more interest in open board positions. This and other proposed changes to our past practices will be discussed at what is shaping up to be a very important annual meeting the last Saturday in June. Please plan on attending.

As I've stated last year in this letter, 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 strive to exceed them. If we don't, please contact me at 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 of ALPOA

A SYNOPSIS OF THE ANN LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES
SUMMER OF 2013 PLUS FALL AND WINTER

JUNE.....The Annual ALPOA general meeting and picnic was held June 29, 2013. 38 people attended. An email reminder was sent to all the ALPOA members who had given us their email address. Of the 38, 15 were Board members and family. 23 were ALPOA members/family/guests. 30 RSVPed and 8 did not RSVP. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the next ALPOA General Meeting and Picnic, June 28, 2014, 12 noon to 2:00 PM** at the Almira Township Park Main Pavilion. Come for food, fun, fellowship and updated information about our wonderful Ann Lake.

JULY.....The 4th of July Boat Parade had 24~boats joining in the colorful, horn tooting tour around Ann Lake saluting our wonderful country's birthday.
MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the 2014 4th of July Boat Parade on (surprise?) July 4, 2014, 1:00PM start from the sand bar in the middle of the lake.

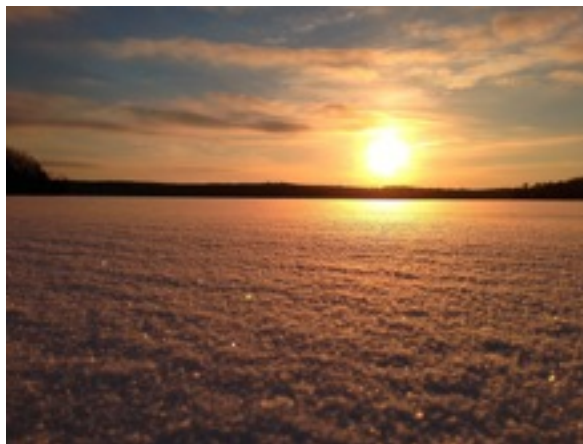
AUGUST.....The 4th annual Paddle, Pedal, Paddle, Row (PPPR) around Ann Lake had 36 preregistered plus 3 participants not preregistered, plus 6 who paddled the week before and bought shirts, less 7 preregistered who were no shows equals 45 showing interest and 38 actually participating. **29 completed** the circumnavigation of Ann Lake... **Well done!** The watercraft used were 1 two person kayak, 21 one person kayaks, 2 two person canoes, 1 three person canoe, 2 two person pedal boats, and 4 paddle boards (standing up). 37 joined the pizza party afterwards.
MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the 5th Annual PPPR event on Saturday, August 2, 2014, from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM followed by a Pizza Party at 12:40 PM.

OCTOBER.....The reconstruction and repaving of North Long Lake Road (County road 610) was completed!! The new road is so smooth that you feel like you are floating....gone are the days of having "fun" doing the "Pot Hole Dodge'em" while driving to Traverse City and back.

NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY.....The snow started in earnest in early-mid November and has stayed and piled up higher and higher as winter goes on. Ann Lake was frozen over by mid December. The November through December snow total (on Skunk Hollow) was 101 inches, followed by January's 47 inches for a total of 148 inches or 12 feet 4 inches more or less. February has added 20 plus inches (it is hard to measure when the snow has been blowing horizontally most of this month), for a total of 14 FEET of snow~.... and more is forecast!! I know that all of you who do not winter in Lake Ann have also had a hard winter....one that all of us will remember no matter where one resides.

The ALPOA Board looks forward to seeing all of you back on a **LIQUID** Ann Lake later this year. In the mean time, stay warm and safe.

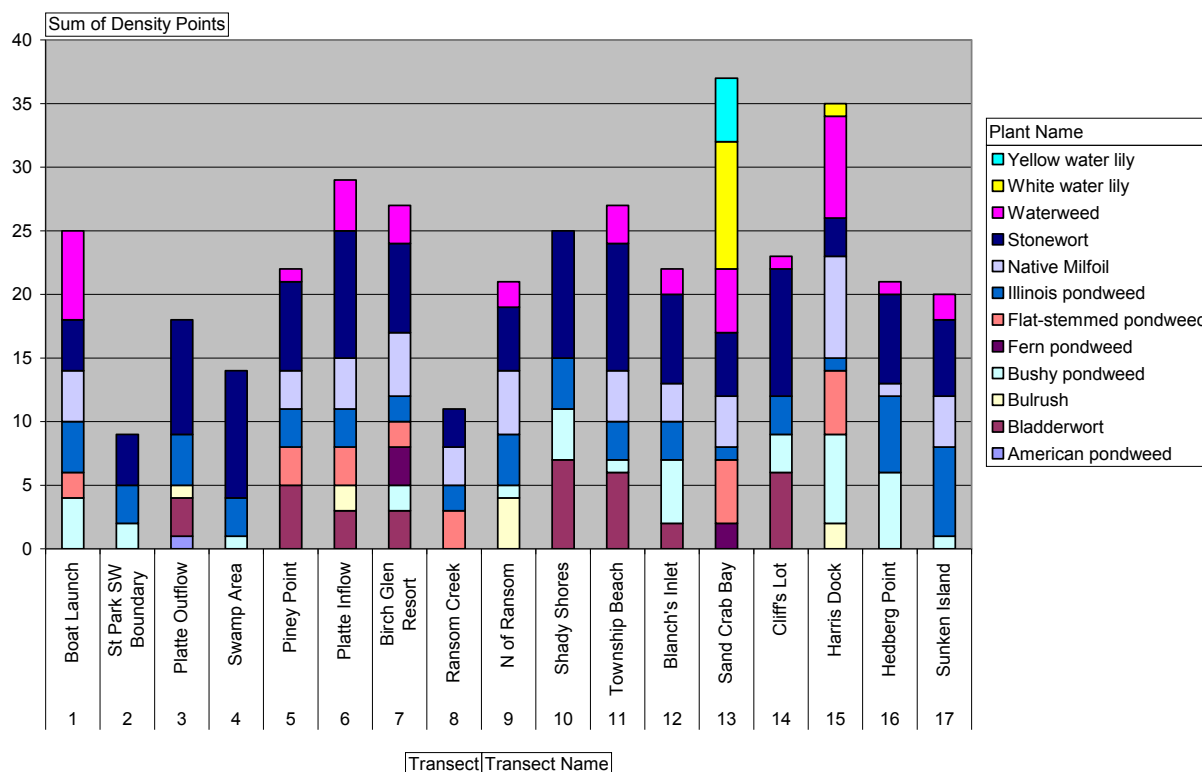
Ellie Flaherty, Special Events Chair



Aquatic Plant Lake Mapping Project - Update

In 2013, we continued the aquatic invasive plant monitoring program. Besides the continuous effort to monitor the shoreline for Eurasian Phragmites, we again completed lake sampling activity. This consisted of a complete mapping in the summer followed by a sampling in November to again ensure we DO NOT have Starry Stonewort in Ann Lake. A full report of our findings can be found at [Ann Lake Invasives Committee](#).

Depth in Feet (All)



The most common plants found in the lake were Waterweed, Stonewort, Native Milfoil and Illinois Pondweed, all native. The same 17 transect points used in 2012 were used in 2013. The only concern raised this year was we found a form of bushy pondweed different than what we expected. This plant was confirmed to be bushy pondweed by Dr. Jo Latimore of MSU.

Based on the data found over the last 2 years, we feel this project should be viewed as having a very positive outcome. As a result of these activities we can now confidently state that currently our lake is in very good shape with stable fish and plant populations.

While the committee will continue its monitoring efforts in 2014, we will also be starting a new outreach to help ensure that only “clean” boats are launched on Ann Lake. The park services will be installing signs at the boat launch. The committee will reach out to (a) those riparian’s who rent their home and (b) those facilities that rent boats to help educate what they can do to help keep any invasive hitch-hikers off their boats and trailers out of Ann Lake.

The committee is always looking for feedback as well as additional volunteers. You can contact the chair of the committee, Kathy Garmes-Taylor, at kathy@annlake.org. Other members of the committee are Dianne Minicucci, Bethany Onthank, Drew Peterson, and Maggie Sowers.

2013 Loon Summary

Submitted by Kathy Garmes Taylor

Last year, our loons were successful and had 2 chicks! However, they did have a tough start. Both loons had arrived by mid April and had started working on their nest in Mud Bay in May. But every time they added mud to the nest, a wave would wash it away. Over Memorial weekend, several of us got together and built a loon platform. While the loons showed an interest in the platform, they were finally able to complete their own nest and the chicks arrived on July 1, 2013. While we didn't have any chicks in 2012, in 2011 the chicks had arrived by Memorial Day. So this was much later but as far as could be seen, the chicks survived the summer and left south at about the same time as in previous years, the end of October.



We'll be expecting the loons to arrive again this April and hopefully have their nest completed earlier in May this year. Based on all the snow



this winter, we expect the lake will be high again in the spring. If this is true, we'll put the loon platform out earlier than last year so the loons have a longer time to get acquainted with it. Also, we'll leave off the eagle protection; this might have scared off the loons from using the platform. So keep your fingers crossed for a successful year and remember to keep clear of the loon nesting area. The buoys will be out again as soon as the loons choose their nest location.

Here are some ways you can help our Association.

We need to assist in testing and documenting our water quality during the summer. Contact: Dave@annlake.org

We are looking to slate board member candidates for 2014.

Contact: Scott@annlake.org

We need volunteers to help us in a variety of ways this year.

Contact: Kent@annlake.org

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 \$404 in donations over and above the dues. Thank you!!

We began the year with a balance of \$4,524.15 and received income totaling \$3,966.10 during the course of the year. We disbursed \$3,213.50 in expenses, leaving a balance of \$5,276.75 at the end of the year.

A detailed report follows and is also published on the website at www.annlake.org. In the meantime, if you want to renew your membership for 2014, you'll find a printable membership form on the last page of this document. Your membership dues support water quality, health and safety, the ALPOA newsletter, loon preservation, the website, and invasive species protection and education.

Ann Lake Property Owners' Association
TREASURER'S REPORT and BUDGET: December 31, 2013

	Actual to date	Budget
Beginning Balance January 1, 2013	4,524.15	4,524.15
INCOME		
interest income on savings	1.10	5.00
2013 membership dues paid (80)	2,355.00	2,340.00
2014 dues prepaid	60.00	
donations	404.00	500.00
PPPR registrations plus pizza	886.00	
Extra shirts	260.00	
Total PPPR Income	<u>1,146.00</u>	<u>950.00</u>
Total Income	3,966.10	<u><u>3,795.00</u></u>
EXPENSES		
Michigan Lakes & Streams Association; annual dues	90.00	80.00
Subscriptions to Michigan Riparian (for 2014)	420.00	304.00
Liability insurance premium (annual)	389.91	400.00
State filing fee	20.00	20.00
PO box rent and misc postage	37.20	50.00
PayPal Fees	10.76	
Water Quality:		
enrollment in CLMP (lake monitoring program)	160.00	200.00
mileage to deliver samples for analysis		65.00
special (local) test for phosphorus	15.00	
Newsletters:		
Postage	82.50	100.00
Printing	71.77	200.00
Website maintenance		0.00
Invasive Species:		
Sample shipping		75.00
Communication and brochures	159.00	400.00
Special Events:		
Annual meeting	103.12	100.00
PPPR expenses (offset by income above)	1,126.39	950.00
Membership:		
Letters and brochures	200.85	462.00
follow-up mailing to non-members	58.00	100.00
Health and Safety		
Brochure boxes at launch and campground		60.00
Boating map/safety brochures (@ \$0.10)		10.00
Annual allocations to reserves:		
Website hosting fees	119.00	119.00
Sign maintenance at boat landing	25.00	25.00
Legal Reserve	50.00	50.00
Loon Reserve	75.00	25.00
Total Expenses	<u>3,213.50</u>	<u>3,795.00</u>
Ending Balance Operating Fund December 31, 2013	<u>5,276.75</u>	<u>4,524.15</u>

Ann Lake Property Owners' Association

BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 2013

	Deposit Balances	Fund Balances
Operating (Undesignated) Fund		5,276.75
Reserves:		
Website hosting fees		238.00
Sign maintenance at boat landing		25.00
Legal		100.00
Loon		29.93
Honor Bank checking	5,402.44	
PayPal	267.24	
Total Deposits	5,669.68	5,669.68

Let's aim for 100 plus members in 2014. Attached is the 2014 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