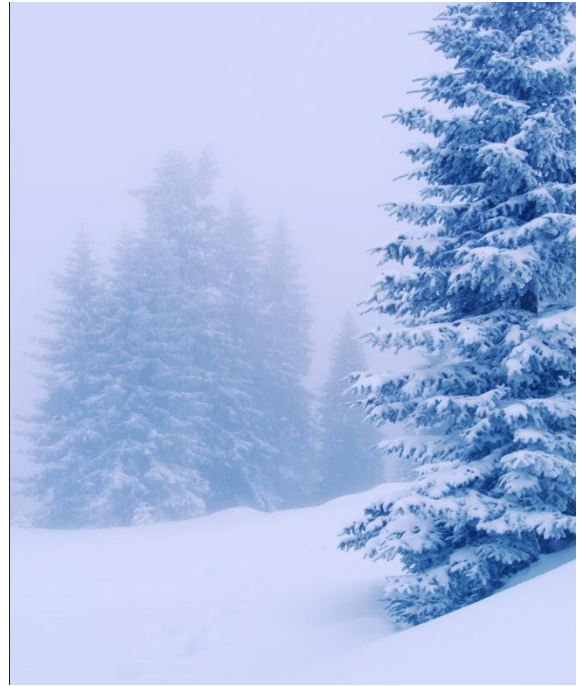


WINTER UPDATE – ANN LAKE WATER LOG

**FEBRUARY, 2012
ISSUE 2**



Dear Property Owners:

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

Ellie Flaherty has completed her second term as President of the Ann Lake Property Owners' Association. She has been and continues to be a positive force for this association.

As one President leaves and another takes office, the focus of their leadership shifts as different issues affecting the lake community arise requiring attention. The 2012 President of the Association is Lee Muehlmann. Lee is the founding President of the Association and comes into office offering a wealth of knowledge and experience. Please welcome Mr. Muehlmann. We look forward to his leadership and direction.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

I am both humbled and proud to be writing this to you as the incoming President of your Association. I have a great role model and big shoes to fill following Ellie Flaherty's terms as President. We all need to thank her, not only for doing a great job, but also for voluntarily stepping in for an additional year as President. During her two terms she built a strong Association, and an even stronger Board. Your Board is composed of informed, active members, willing to serve you and the Association. Without them, we could not have an Association.

2012 promises to be an exciting year, filled with both new and old projects. The start up of the web site (Annlake.org), Loon Liaison and Ranger, Watershed Coalition, Grant applications, Invasive Species Committee, are all new and demanding. The continuation and possible expansion of the water testing program, PPPR (Aug 4), Boat Parade, General Meeting (Jun 23), and Newsletter are just some of the things your Board is involved with. Look elsewhere in the Newsletter to learn more.

Of course, all of this is made possible by your, and others membership dues and additional donations. Our dues of only \$20 have not changed since the inception of the Association, and the only way that can continue is to increase our membership ranks. If you have a friend or neighbor who is a riparian owner on the lake, and not a member, encourage them to join. 2012 membership fees are due now and can be paid by filing out the attached form ... PLEASE DO IT TODAY!

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve, I look forward to it!

Lee Muehlmann

Synopsis of Ann Lake Property Owners' GREAT SUMMER of 2011, plus a peek at Fall and some Winter.

JUNE-----The Annual ALPOA Picnic and meeting was held June 25 at the Almira Township Park main pavilion. The guest speaker was Heather Seites, Fisheries Biologist, Michigan DNR. She talked about the health of Ann Lake (very healthy) and the status of the fish population in the lake (varied and healthy). The following is a synopsis of her question and answer session, taken from the minutes of the meeting by Arnie Noe, Secretary.

How do you classify Ann Lake?It's a young eutrophic lake---a healthy system. She does not see signs of excessive aging.

Does she receive requests for stocking the lake and what is the process for reviewing the requests? She has received a number of requests from the public for stocking Ann Lake with walleye. The process would include her review followed by review/approval from her manager. She currently feels that Ann Lake has an ideal balance of bait fish versus predator fish and would be concerned about introducing

another predator species like walleye into the lake. She feels that introducing a new species would probably adversely affect other types of fish in Ann Lake. If it were to be stocked with walleye, it would cost the DNR \$9K each time and they would likely stock it every year for 3 years (there is already a backlog and the earliest would be 2014 for Ann Lake).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the next Annual Picnic Meeting, Saturday, June 23 at the Township Park main pavilion, 12 noon to 2:00 pm.

JULY-----Means the 4th of July Boat Parade.....this year more than 30 boats, all decked out with patriotic decorations and happy passengers. circumnavigated Ann Lake. If you missed being in the parade this past summer **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for July 4, 2012, 1:00 pm. See you there.

AUGUST-----The second Annual Paddle, Pedal, Paddle, Row event had 39 people registered, of which 33 participated and 30 made it all the way around the lake. There were 26 kayaks, 2 paddle boards, 2 pedal boats (4 people) and 1 ocean scull. New this year was a Post PPPR Pizza Party for Participants and their family and friends.....great fun! **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for Sat. August 4, 8:00 am to 11:00 am for the event, followed by the pizza party at 12 noon. Aug 5th will be the alternate date if the weather/wind is unfavorable Aug. 4th. A PPPR registration form which may be printed is included with this letter.

SEPTEMBER-----The ALPOA Board was contacted by the Riparian Magazine and asked to send the magazine information about ALPOA, how and why the association was started. Lee Muehlmann, founding President of ALPOA and current President this year, wrote a brief history of ALPOA, and Beth Dannecker-Noe sent a copy of the Ann Lake Water Log published June 2011. It was exciting to receive the October issue of the Riparian Magazine and see a photo of Ann Lake on the cover and to read the articles inside.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER/JANUARY-----For those of you who do not winter on Ann Lake, you missed a long, mild Fall and a mild Winter (thus far). The lack of snow was especially noted at Christmas....someone stated that we had a “dreaded green grass Christmas” instead of a white Christmas. Even a much ballyhooed “blizzard” at the end of December fizzled out to a total of about 3.5 inches here on Ann Lake. We are ready for some snow....the firewood is stacked and ready, the snow blower is tuned up, the lake still has lots of open water as of 1/8/12....BUT,WE ARE READY!

Ellie Flaherty

Riparian

As previously mentioned, Ann Lake was featured in the October issue of the Riparian Magazine. You may view the cover of the Michigan Riparian featuring Ann Lake, as well as the article written by Lee Muehlmann on ALPOA's website at www.annlake.org. Receiving the Riparian Magazine is one of the benefits of joining the association. The magazine offers a multitude of ideas and information for lakefront property owners.

2011 Membership has grown to 75!! Let's aim for 100 plus in 2012. Attached is the 2012 membership form. Please remember to include your email address with your membership form.

Treasury and Membership Report

Our membership continues to grow. We encourage anyone who has not joined the association to consider becoming a member. For those individuals who are existing members, please remember to renew your membership. Last year the membership grew to 75. This year we hope for 100 or more. As the membership continues to grow, so does the treasury. Membership dues for 2011 totaled \$1500, with donations of \$257. Thank you!!

We began the year with a balance of \$3,978.14, and received income totaling \$2,633.27 during the course of the year. We disbursed \$2,647.37 in expenses (including fees of \$355.70 for the new website), leaving a balance of \$3,964.04 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 be "the first on your block" to renew your membership for 2012, you'll find a printable membership form elsewhere in this email.

Figures provided by Dave Maxson, Treasurer

Wildlife Update

To some extent, we are all Loon Rangers on Ann Lake. We have the privilege of periodically being visited by 2% of the entire loon population for the state of Michigan. Up to 10 pairs of loons have been reported on the lake. Two hundred pairs remain for the state of Michigan. The following article is written by Kathy Taylor, our newest Loon Ranger. Please assist Kathy when possible, by providing the needed information for her report to the MLPA (Michigan Loon Preservation Association). The information may be provided by going to www.annlakel.org and clicking on the loon tab. A large thank you from ALPOA is

extended to Kathy for providing this valuable assistance to both the Association and the MLPA on our behalf.

Hi. I'd like to introduce myself. I'm Kathy Taylor and I'm a Loon Ranger for Ann Lake. What is a Loon Ranger? A Loon Ranger is actually a volunteer for the Michigan Loon Preservation Association (MLPA). Loon Rangers keep track of the loons on their respective lakes so MLPA can track the loon population statewide. Previous years, Cecelia Droz acted as Loon Ranger for the lake. Since she has moved, I'm now asking for your help in tracking the loons on Ann Lake.

The information reported yearly to MLPA is when the loons arrive, how many chicks they have and do the chicks survive the summer, and when the loons and chicks leave. Please go to www.annlake.org and help track the loons on the lake.

On Ann Lake we have one pair of nesting loons. There are two nesting locations approximately 20 feet apart in Mud Bay. The loons have been successful in raising chicks except for 2009. In 2009, it seems that the loons abandoned their nest. We're not sure why, whether someone or something got too close to the nest, so since then, ALPOA purchased loon buoys to notify boaters that they are approaching a loon nest and to stay clear. These buoys were first used in 2011 and we will be placing them out again this spring. If you notice the loons building a nest in a different location, let us know so we can adjust the buoys as needed.

If you recall the discussion last year, eagles attacked the nest; must've missed the buoys! We believe the eagles have a nest somewhere on Harris Point but it hasn't been located. If you have any additional information regarding the eagles, please let us know, we would like to track them as well.

In 2011, the adult loons appeared on the lake around mid-April. By early May, they were on the nest and the chick was spotted around Memorial Day. If you're here in April, keep your eyes open and let me know when you spot the loons.

Invasive species (fauna as well as flora) will be addressed in the Spring/Summer Newsletter.

ALPOA Website

The Ann Lake Property Owners' website is up and running. Features of the website include a home page describing the history of the lake, a map of the lake and Michigan boating regulations, information on local government contacts for the Village of Lake Ann, Almira Township, and Benzie County are included. An explanation of the purpose of the association, an events tab listing all scheduled

events sponsored by the association, a for sale/rent section – still under construction, and a referral section that is still under construction. Please feel free to peruse the site and look for instructions on how to navigate through the various topics. The website is fluid and will continue to change. We will keep you posted in the annual newsletter for changes as they become available. Scott Hedberg, one of ALPOA's board members has put in a generous amount of time and effort in creating a wonderful, useful website. Please visit www.annlake.org and discover one of the newest ALPOA endeavors.

ANN LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 184
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:

Name: _____

Permanent Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone # _____

Summer Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-Mail Address _____

Please print clearly, as using this will help to save on postage.

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

3ND ANNUAL PADDLE, PEDAL, PADDLE, ROW AROUND ANN LAKE

For kayaks, pedal boats, canoes, row boats, paddle boards ONLY . No motors, no sails. **THIS IS NOT A RACE.** It is a slow, fun way to enjoy all the wonderful nooks and 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!"

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 8:00AM TO 11:00 AM (no wake boating hours). SUNDAY, AUGUST 5 is the alternate date, if the weather/wind is unfavorable on August 4 .

Committee docks or boats will be labeled A, B, C, D, E, F, and anchored around the lake in alphabetical order. You will check in at the Committee dock or 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 dock or boat. For instance, if you start at "D", then move to "E", "F", "A", "B", "C" and BACK to "D" to complete your circumnavigation of Ann Lake.

Certificates of Accomplishment will be awarded to all who check in at all 6 check points thus completing the circumnavigation of Ann Lake. These people will also have their name put into a hat for a drawing for various prizes.

REGISTER NOW for the August 4, 2012 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.

PLUS, a Post Paddle, Pedal, Paddle, Row Pizza Party for Participants, Phamily, and Phriends.

What: Eat Pizza; maybe win a Prize Drawing; Reminisce about your Participation.

When: 12:30 PM after PPPR Event

Where: location TBA

Cost: \$4.00 person over and above the PPPR registration fee

REGISTRATION FOR ALPOA PEOPLE POWERED EVENT AUGUST 5, 2012

Number Registering for PPPR Event _____ @ \$ 15.00 per person. Amount Due _____
Number for Pizza Party _____ @ \$ 4.00 per person.... Amount Due _____
Total Amount Due _____

Name(s) of person(s) registering for PPPR Event _____
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

YOUR SUMMER ADDRESS

Name _____
Address _____
Email _____

REGISTRATION MUST BE IN BY JULY 14, 2012

NOTE: Tee shirts should be picked up Friday, August 3, between 5-6 pm at the Pavilion in the Lake Ann Village Park across from the LA Café.