

Winter Newsletter

ALPOA P.O. Box 184 Lake Ann, Michigan 49560



Welcome to 2016, the 17th year of the Ann Lake Property Owners Association.

I would like to thank our Board Members who have served us well and have left the Board at the end of 2015. We greatly appreciate all they have done for the Association. We would like to personally thank; Al Murley, 4 yrs., Bethany Onthank, 3 yrs., and Drew Peterson, 4 yrs. for their service to the Association.

Every year lake property owners go through the cycle of rejoining the Association in January. We send out a postcard reminder then.

We wonder why some don't join and support the association. Typically, property owners who refuse to join a lake association have a million excuses! For example, they claim that the lake association wastes money or does not spend money the way the non-contributing property owner desires. Sometimes there is a perception they were somehow slighted by the lake association, when in fact the association didn't have anything to do with it and was only sharing a local government action item with them.

At some point in the future Ann Lake will get an invasive species that will need big money to combat. The association is working towards catching it in time so it's not a problem. Otherwise the association would need to pursue a special assessment district for the lake for aquatic weed treatment purposes. At that point ALL property owners will be required to participate. Ann Lake owners have made an investment in their lake property and ALPOA is a way to have a say and responsibly support your investment! It's also a way to get to know your neighbors with fun social events!

Board Members volunteer their time and talents to keep the Association going. We have Board Member opportunities coming up for 2017 Board at the June 25th Annual Meeting.

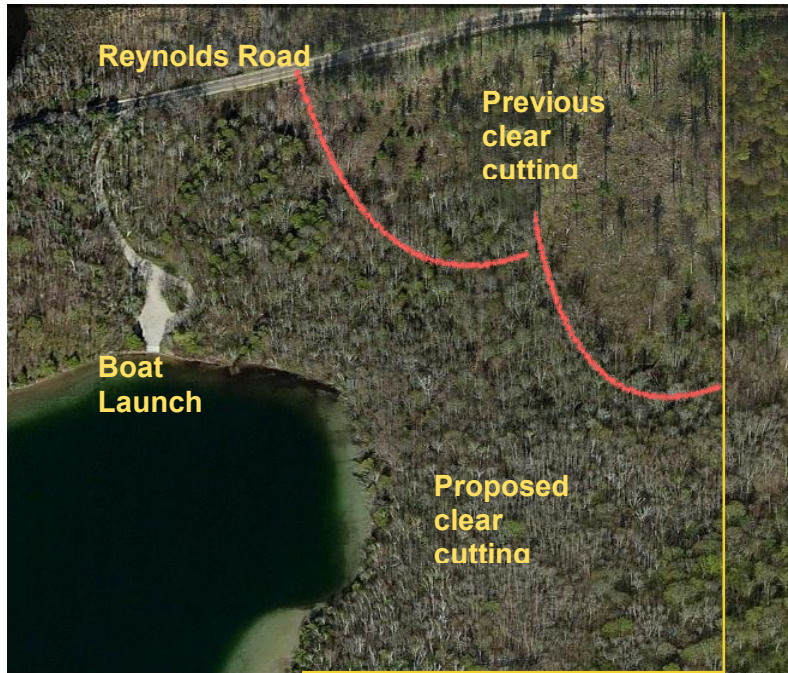
Please contact myself or any board member if you have a suggestion or would like to participate on any of the great committees listed on our website AnnLake.org. Note my email has changed. I found that having an email on the website gets stolen and then spammed from all over the world. You will have to read the website in order to contact a specific Board member.

Thank you,

[Scott Hedberg](#), President of Ann Lake Property Owners Association

Michigan DNR is planning to clear cut 90 - 97% of the seven acre parcel at the Northwest corner of Ann Lake

One of our ALPOA members noticed logging on Mud Lake across Lake Ann Road and called the DNR. A DNR forestry officer called back. The officer mentioned that more cutting is planned near the camp ground, next to the other clear cutting off of Reynolds Road. Around 90 % of the trees are Aspen (or Poplars) and are about 50 years old so the DNR plans to clear cut with retention+. This means that they will keep clumps of trees including oak and maple. Retention will be 3-10% of the trees.



The time for public input has passed. The plan was presented at a public open house on July 28, 2015 and approved at the DNR compartment review meeting on August 24, 2015.

Adjacent property owners were never informed of the plans. The DNR claimed to have notified Almira Township. Mark Roper, Twp Supervisor was unaware of this project. The DNR has no idea where the property lines are and policy allows them to clear cut to the line. There is concern as to the fragile wetland in this area and the wildlife that call it home. There are two streams that feed Ann Lake from this area. Yellow Birch is becoming more rare. There are Yellow Birch in the wetland and the endangered Massasauga Rattlesnake. Consideration as to wind damage in these sandy soils as to the remaining %clumps of trees+ was obviously overlooked. A larger Oak was blown down in a micro-burst in this area, even with a supporting tree canopy.

The State's properties on Ann Lake make this a concern of the Ann Lake Property Owners Association. The DNR made no effort to contact an ALPOA Board member and will not re-open public comment.

DNR Officer responsible for this plan is Timothy Webb. You may contact him at: WebbT@michigan.gov

Scott Hedberg, President ALPOA

Invasive Species Committee Year-end Report for 2015

The Invasive Species Committee of Ann Lake Property Owners Association (ALPOA) undertook a mapping of the aquatic plants within Ann Lake on August 11th. This was a follow on to previous mappings of 2012 and 2013. The goal was to answer these questions:

- Are there any new plants to be found in our lake?
- How did the densities compare to the results of previous years?
- Was there any plant species found that are non-native and hence invasive?

This year we again decided to change the format slightly from the MLSA (Michigan Lakes and Streams Association), guidelines, this due to the sharpness of our drop offs and the absence of flora at 1 foot depths around the lake. Since we have never found anything of significance at 1 foot, and it is hard to get the pontoon boat consistently held at 1 foot, we have decided to forego this sampling. In addition, since we only had 2 sampling rakes, we decided to only sample to the left and right of the pontoon. This allowed us to form 2 fast-working identification teams. The team members consisted of Kathy Taylor and Sven Anderson (substituting for Maggie Sowers) on one side with Drew Peterson and Bethany Onthank on the other side. Kent Taylor provided and drove the pontoon boat. Dianne Minicucci served as scribe. The whole process took a little over 3 hours as we now do it.

Since we only did 2 samplings at the 4 and 8 foot levels, rather than the 4 suggested by the MLSA procedure, in 2013 we changed how the density factor was determined to



correspond with our slightly abbreviated process. This change is described in detail on the complete report located on our website (link to follow). This process can be changed back again if statistically it makes sense to go back to the method recommended by MLSA. However, we think this density measurement process customized, by our committee, is more logical for this lake and should be maintained going into the future. Because of that, the trend (comparison) charts comparing 2013 to 2015 are the most relevant since they were created using identical protocols.

In 2012 we found 17 different plant species. In 2013 we found 12; those missing were clasping leaf pondweed, coon tail, sago pondweed, water marigold, and white stem pondweed. In 2015 we once again found clasping leaf and sago pondweeds, but again, no coon tail, water marigold or white stem pond weed.

This year we found 3 plants we had difficulty identifying. At first we thought one was curly-leaf pondweed but it turned out to be clasping leaf pondweed (good news!). The second plant we didn't initially identify but found later that this was Illinois pondweed, again good news. The third plant we still have not identified. It looks like algae entangled with some leafy plants. This third plant, shown to the right, is not reflected in any of the tables. Experts at MSU to whom we sent pictures, told us not to be concerned with what to them appeared to be a benign form of algae.





For your information, charts have been completed for each of these transects, comparing plants found year to year. These variants demonstrate the randomness of any sampling survey. That we once again found two plants species this year (clasping leaf and sago pondweeds) that were first found in 2012 but not in 2013, serves to support the process we've adopted and the need to do this regularly to minimize randomness. What our complete report (found online) provides is a series of charts summarizing all of the work noted above. These tables show plant types and densities at all transects and all sampling depths. They are organized both by plant type and locations (the 17 transect points). We feel that for most of our members the summary chart found at the end of this article is the most useful.

Conclusion

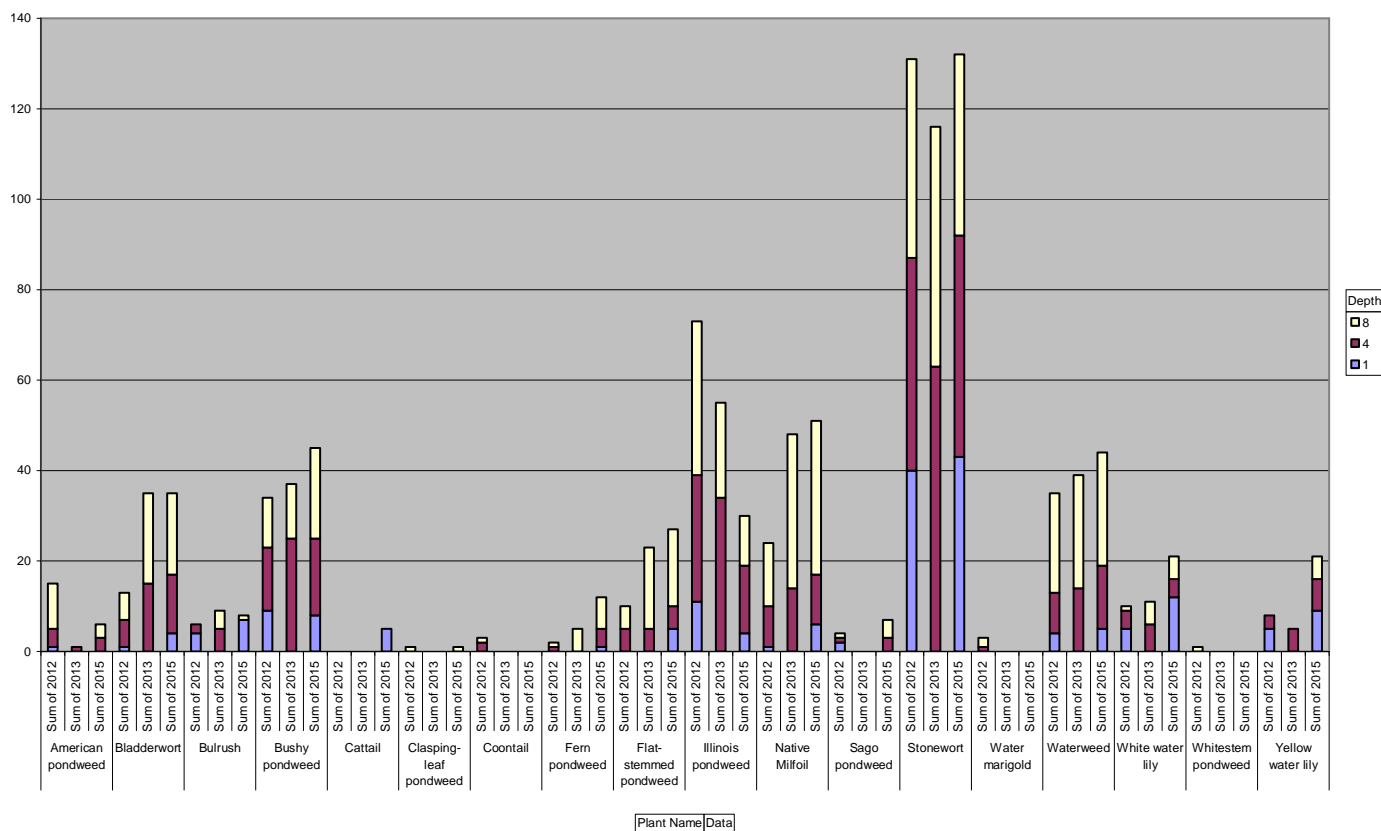
The Committee stands behind the work done in generating the data and creating this report. Based on the data found this year as well as two previous years, we feel this year's project should be viewed as having a very positive outcome. As a result of these activities we can now confidently state that currently our lake is in very good shape, with relatively stable plant populations. The committee has not yet made a final recommendation on how often this mapping should be done but based on what we're finding and not finding, the past two committee chairmen believe this task should be done at least every other year.

Committee members deserve thanks for the hard dirty work they do on the behalf of the Association. The committee would also like to thank Sven Anderson for filling in that day. In our opinion the most important chart is the first one, the year to year plant comparison chart. If you have any questions concerning this report or would like additional information on its findings, you can contact the chair of the committee and the author of this report, Kent Taylor kent@annlake.org. Other Committee members are:

- Dianne Minicucci
- Bethany Onthank
- Drew Peterson
- Kathy Taylor
- Maggie Sowers

Transect (All)

Year to Year Plant Comparison



We feel the above chart is the most valuable in our series. At a glance it illustrates trends seen lake-wide by plant species over the past 3 years of sampling (2012, 2013, and 2015). One can quickly gain a visual impression of the changing densities we found by species in Ann Lake. Since the first sampling, no new plants have been found. If a plant is gaining an increasing or decreasing foothold, the trend can be seen quickly without diving too far into the data. All of our charts by individual transect and individual plant can be found within our complete report posted on our website at this [link](http://www.annlake.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Reports-Invasives-Committee-Yr-End-Report-2015.pdf). Or you can cut and paste this link into your browser:

<http://www.annlake.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Reports-Invasives-Committee-Yr-End-Report-2015.pdf>

Submitted by [Kent Taylor](#)

Water Quality Report Phosphorous on Ann Lake

Phosphorus is a common constituent of fertilizer use, pet wastes, storm water runoff, septic system effluents, waterfowl, and agriculture. It is an essential element for plant life, but when there is too much of it in water, it can speed up eutrophication (a reduction in dissolved oxygen in water bodies caused by an increase of mineral and organic nutrients) of rivers and lakes.

Phosphorus tends to attach to soil particles and, thus, moves into surface-water bodies from runoff. As phosphorus levels increase, the amount of algae increases too. At very high levels of phosphorus, other nutrients or light may limit the growth of algae. Long-term management of excessive algae requires the removal of phosphorus sources to the water body. Reducing phosphorus inputs to lakes can affect the amount of algae in the lake by removing a key nutrient.

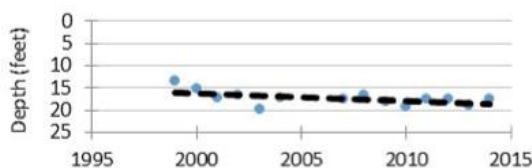
While the CLMP report for 2015 has not yet been completed (it will be posted on the [Water Quality web page](#) once it is available), past reports indicate the phosphorus has been increasing in Ann Lake these last 16 years. Ann Lake is still doing well relative to algae and transparency.

Please monitor your properties by:

1. Don't use lawn fertilizers.
2. Pick up after your pets near the lakeshore.
3. Monitor your septic system to be sure it's in good working order.
4. Use no or low phosphate laundry detergents.
5. Monitor runoff from your property. No soil erosion near the lakeshore.

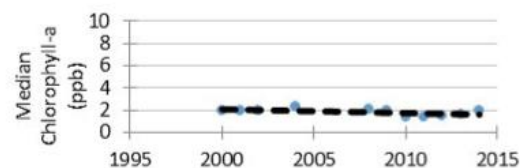
Secchi Disk Transparency (feet)

Year	# Readings	Min	Max	Average	Std. Dev	Carlson TSI
2014	17	13.0	25.0	17.5	3.4	36
2009-2013	86	7.0	31.5	18.2	5.2	35
1999-2008	123	8.0	30.0	16.7	4.9	37
2014 All CLMP	3050	2.0	50.0	13.1	2.1	41



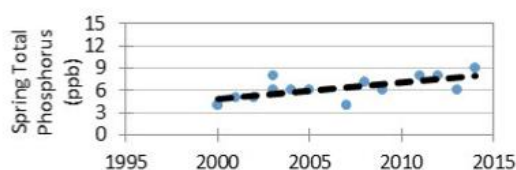
Chlorophyll-a (parts per billion)

Year	# Samples	Min	Max	Median	Std. Dev	Carlson TSI
2014	5	1.2	2.5	2.0	0.5	37
2009-2013	25	<1.0	2.5	1.5	0.4	35
2000-2008	24	<1.0	3.0	1.5	0.6	37
2014 All CLMP	583	<1.0	23.5	2.0	2.9	37



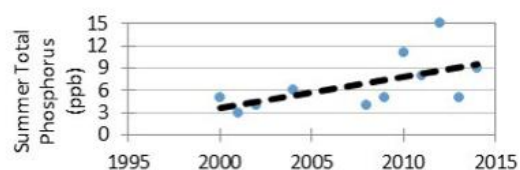
Spring Total Phosphorus (parts per billion)

Year	# Samples	Min	Max	Average	Std. Dev
2014	1	9	9	9.0	NA
2009-2013	4	6	8	7.0	1.2
2000-2008	10	<5 T	8	5.5	1.4
2014 All CLMP	164	3 W	77	13.2	11.1



Summer Total Phosphorus (parts per billion)

Year	# Samples	Min	Max	Average	Std. Dev	Carlson TSI
2014	1	9	9	9.0	NA	36
2009-2013	5	5	15	8.8	4.3	34
2000-2008	5	<=3 W	6	4.4	1.1	<27
2014 All CLMP	180	4 T	62	13.5	7.9	41



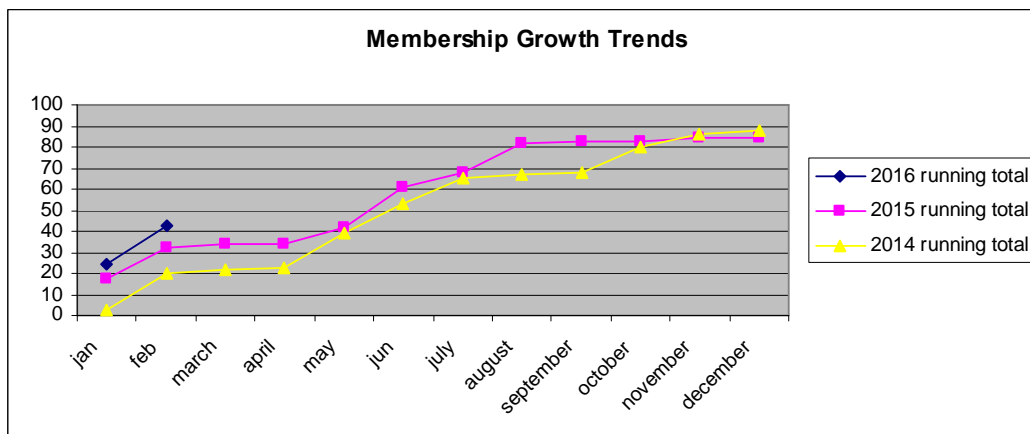
Membership Report

Our membership goals are two-fold, retain existing members while trying to expand our overall membership. In 2014 we had 88 members, a 10% improvement over the last year. In 2015 we gave up some of that gain as membership shrunk slightly to 83 members. As such, even last year's number puts us at 40% membership out of 206 land parcels on the lake, a fairly good ratio as lake associations go. Yet we strive for more, not so much for the money but rather to ensure that all opinions and issues of our riparian community are represented in our association. We gained 7 new members this past year though we lost 12. Pursuing the reasons for that drop-off in old members is something we will aggressively pursue this year, to ensure we only lose members who move off the lake and not members who have become disaffected. If anyone has any ideas or reasons for this fall-off or opinions on other aspects of this report, please contact me and share your thoughts. kent@annlake.org

We realize that increasing membership requires both hard work on the part of the Board and Volunteers planning events and getting the word out but by also continually making membership more meaningful. Those results are found below and throughout this newsletter. In Membership it all starts with communication. Spearheading that the past two years, Bethany Onthank marshaled the resources of many other board members in:

- Designing a post card reminder system to economically and repeatedly, if needed, encourage prompt dues payments.
- Applying more data tracking to encourage earlier dues payment and target non-members who have yet to join or whose memberships have lapsed.
- Responding to the clamor for more group events by adding the Summer Swan Song Soiree and October Pub Crawl, events costing the Association nothing to create and organize.
- Taking an even more pro-active role in local government issues to make sure our lake residents' opinions are heard.
- Creating new membership forms that provide us with much needed information on our members' preferred addresses, emails and other important details. Note: many still merely send us a check without including this form, so please download and use [this form](#) to make our work and member contact easier.

To budget and plan appropriately we need to receive your dues payment as soon after the New Year as possible. Here's a chart illustrating this and other membership trends:



As to the Board's efforts to control costs incurred in providing free membership subscriptions of *The Riparian*: This Michigan-centric magazine, though very informative on lake ownership and shoreline management issues, remains an increasingly expensive membership perk (\$12/yr.) we've provided to members over the past several years. Even with our group discount, it remains a very large a portion of membership dues. So in 2011 we added a check box to the membership form (another reason to use this form) to ensure we paid for only those members who wanted and presumably read the magazine. This knocked off only a few uninterested subscribers and it remains a considerable expense. To encourage both earlier renewals and the continued circulation of this valued magazine, while still keeping an eye on costs, late last year the Board voted to offer a 50% discount (\$6) on our cost of subscriptions to those who paid by March 1st. Late-payers can always subscribe directly to the magazine at its standard rate of \$14/yr. This program will be in full effect next year since our renewals are a year in advance and new forms had to be created. Any comments on this evolving policy are gladly accepted.

I will be assisting with membership this year and will need committee members to help. If you can help, please let me know. Let's all have another great year working on the issues that tie us together, maintaining a beautiful Ann Lake and having some fun.

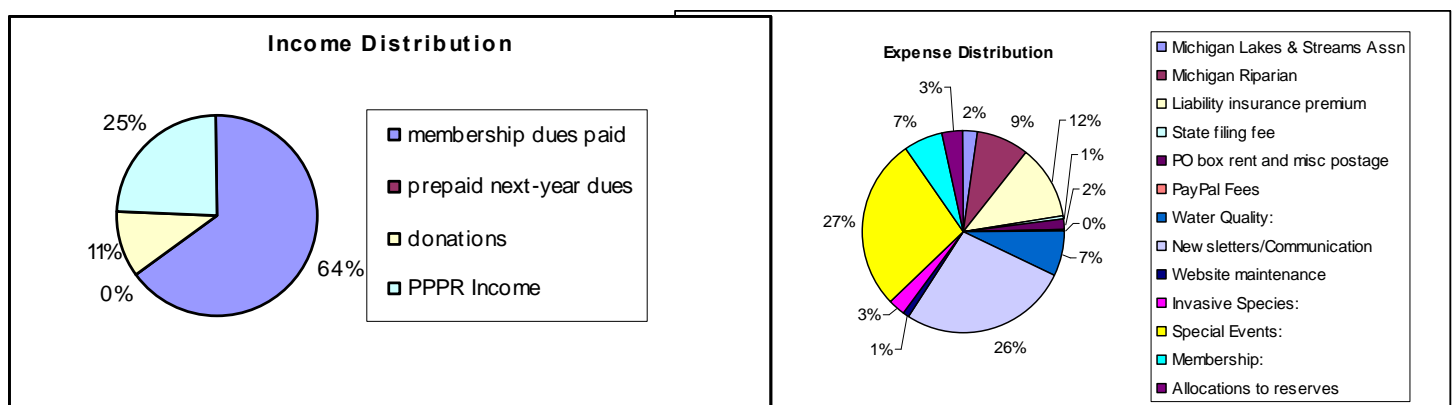
Submitted by [Kent Taylor](#)

2016 Spring Treasurers Report

Attached is the proposed 2016 budget for ALPOA. Income is conservatively based on the same membership level as 2015; expenses are similar to previous years. ALPOA will run with an extremely small surplus.

The 2015 books successfully passed an audit, completed by Dave Maxson, in Jan., 2016.

The approved budget with running expenses will be published on the [Treasurer's Page](#).



Submitted by [Kathy Garmes Taylor](#)

Ann Lake Property Owners Association				
2016 PROPOSED BUDGET (as of Feb 19, 2016)				
	Actual	Actual	2016	
	2014	2015	Proposed	
Beginning Balance January 1, 2014 / 2015	5,276.75	4,282.79	5,277.48	
INCOME				
membership dues paid	2,520.00	2,430.00	2,310.00	
prepaid next-year membership dues	90.00	150.00		
donations	287.00	411.00	400.00	
PPPR Income	790.00	916.00	916.00	
Total Income	3,687.00	3,907.00	3,626.00	
EXPENSES				
Michigan Lakes & Streams Association; annual dues	90.00	90.00	90.00	
Subscriptions to Michigan Riparian (for 2016)	336.00	72.00	348.00	
Liability insurance premium (annual)	389.88	412.13	435.75	
State filing fee	20.00	20.00	20.00	
PO box rent and misc postage	39.80	53.60	60.00	
PayPal Fees	12.60	11.98	12.55	
Water level gauge	50.45			
Water Quality:	374.40		277.00	
CLMP Enrollment		217.00	217.00	
Travel			60.00	
Newsletters/Communication	331.65	605.85	700.00	
Website maintenance			50.00	
Invasive Species:	130.06	25.00	100.00	
Special Events:				
Annual meeting	112.14	112.87	120.00	
PPPR expenses (offset by income above)	732.22	792.30	916.00	
Membership:	242.76	131.08	250.00	
Health and Safety				
Unbudgeted expenses				
Board Education		46.50		
Donation to Benzie Conservation District		100.00		
Donation to Lake Ann Township Park		100.00		
Allocations to reserves (unbudgeted, from undesignated Operating)				
Website hosting fees	119.00	122.00	122.00	
Invasive Species Reserve	1,000.00		0.00	
Legal Reserve	500.00		0.00	
Loon Reserve	150.00		0.00	
Sign Maintenance (@ boat landing)	50.00		0.00	
Total Expenses	4,680.96	2,912.31	3,501.30	
Ending Balance Operating Fund	4,282.79	5,277.48	5,402.18	
Reserve balances (unbudgeted, from undesignated Operating)				
Website hosting fees	-2.64	119.36	241.36	
Invasive Species Reserve	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Legal Reserve	600.00	600.00	600.00	
Loon Reserve	179.93	179.93	179.93	
Sign Maintenance (@ boat landing)	75.00	75.00	75.00	
Ending Balance (including reserves)	6,135.08	7,251.77	7,498.47	
Budget Surplus/Shortfall		994.69	124.70	

ALPOA 2015 SPECIAL EVENTS RECAP



It seems to me that last summer we had the best attendance for a **Pedal Paddle Pedal Row** ever. We had 48 **Paddlers** in **Perpetual motion** on the **Pond** and many more **Phrends** and **Phamily** at the **Pizza Party**. We were spilling out of the **Pavilion** at Burnett Park.

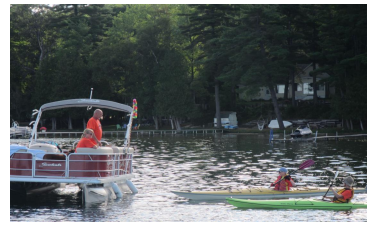
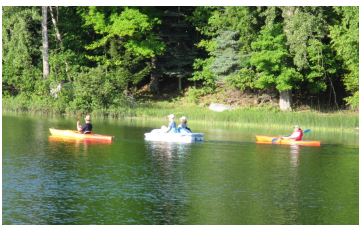
The September Sunday Summer Swan Song Soiree was an interesting event. Apparently we all have different ideas about where the Sand Bar is! as there were separate gatherings of smaller groups for that event. Just the same, those who attended enjoyed each other's company. We plan to give it a go again this year. We will be clearer about the gathering location!!

On the other hand, there is absolutely no misunderstanding about where the Lake Ann Brewery is located. About a dozen of later summer revelers got together the weekend before the Halloween for the first unofficial pub crawl. We had dinner, watched football and talked about winter plans.

Where I sit right now, there is practically no snow on the ground. But, we just drove back from Lake Ann and there is still about 18 inches of snow there. Today the temperatures were practically balmy and I was told that you could see standing water on the lake. Surely these are signs of spring!

Be sure to plan your time this summer to include the Annual Meeting on June 25, the Unofficial Boat Parade on July 4, the Pedal Paddle Pedal Row on August 6 and the Summer Swan Song Soiree for September 4. We will have another Unofficial Pub Crawl in October! date to be announced.

Submitted by [Maggie Sowers](#)



ALPOA SPECIAL EVENTS 2016

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR:

1. **Saturday, June 25** for the **ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC, 12:00 NOON TO 2:00 PM** at the Almira Township Park Main Pavilion on Ole White Drive. Main entree (likely a barbecue sandwich, table ware and water provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. **Please RSVP if you are coming** to Maggie Sowers (616-292-8364 OR TSowers426@charter.net).
2. **Monday, July 4** for the **ANNUAL UNOFFICIAL BOAT PARADE**. Gather at the big sandbar in the middle of the lake at **1:00 PM**. Then follow the lead boat with "Support ALPOA" sign as we cruise around Ann Lake to salute our wonderful country. Think about how you can dress up your boat to be the most patriotic on Ann Lake!
3. **Saturday, August 6** for the **7th ANNUAL PADDLE, PEDAL, PADDLE, ROW AROUND ANN LAKE, 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM** followed by a **Pizza Party at 12:30 PM**. See registration form for complete information. [REGISTRATION FORMS](#) MUST BE RECEIVED BY JULY 15, 2016 so tee shirts can be ordered in time for the event.
4. **Sunday, September 4, 2:00 PM TO 4:00 PM** weather permitting. **LABOR DAY WEEKEND SUMMER SWAN SONG SOIREE**. Say goodbye to summer while socializing with fellow Riparians, friends and family. Raft your boat with others over Ann Lake's center sandbar. Bring your own snacks/beverages/boat bumpers bow and stern lines.
5. Mid October (Date TBA) **THE 2ND ANNUAL UNOFFICIAL PUB CRAWL**. This event is for the die hard folks who cannot miss one more opportunity to gather with friends and family. Spend a social evening at the Lake Ann Brewery, eat dinner from the carry out restaurant of your choice, watch football, visit with other Riparians and neighbors. The 2015 gathering confirmed the desire for another-in 2016.
6. **ALPOA PHOTO GALLERY** is an ongoing year round event. See website www.annlake.org Photo Gallery for information and to view photos.

7th 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 6, 2016 8:00AM TO 11:00 AM (no wake boating hours). SUNDAY, AUGUST 7 is the **alternate date**, if the weather/wind is unfavorable on August 6.

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 **A**, then move to **F**, **E**, **D**, **C**, **B**, and **BACK** to **A** to complete your circumnavigation of Ann Lake.

Registrants will be entered into a drawing for various prizes. Drawing is at the Pizza Party

REGISTER NOW for the August 6, 2016 People Powered, Paddle, Pedal, Paddle, Row event. \$15.00 for each person participating covers the cost of an event tee shirt, plus water and snacks along the course, or \$5 with NO shirt.

PLUS, a Post Paddle, Pedal, Paddle, Row Pizza Party for Participants, Family, and Friends.

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

When: 12:30 PM after PPPR Event

Where: Downtown Lake Ann in Burnett Park- bring your lawn chairs or sit upons

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

REGISTRATION FOR ALPOA PEOPLE POWERED EVENT AUGUST 6, 2016

Number Registering for PPPR Event WITH Shirt _____ @ \$ 15.00 per person ÷ Amount Due _____

Number Registering for PPPR Event . NO Shirt _____ @ \$ 5.00 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- use back of form if necessary

How many children younger than 10 are in your party _____

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: 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 15, 2016 so shirts can be ordered on time

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