
WINTER NEWSLETTER: INVASIVE SPECIES SPECIAL EDITION

Letter from the President

Ann Lake Property Owners this is our 18th year!



New information about neighboring lake issues has come to our attention. As a result, the Board has decided to dedicate this newsletter to Invasive Species and the promotion of our first-ever fundraiser. At additional cost, this Winter Waterlog will be delivered to all lake owners rather than only those requesting it via email. This is that important!

Nearby Northern Michigan lakes, Duck Lake in Interlochen and Houghton Lake, have been invaded by the virulent Eurasian Water Milfoil. ALPOA stands to protect Ann Lake. We have a "Strategic Plan" as a first line of defense. We need your support to fulfill this vital plan.

Without an active lake association vigilant against invasives, property owners on Houghton Lake waited too long and are now required to fund a five million dollar Special Assessment District (S.A.D.) to fight this invasive plant. In contrast, Duck Lake, with an active lake association, discovered the problem early and acted expeditiously with their Township. Their eradication costs are a fraction of Houghton Lake's.

Please realize Long Lake, Green Lake, Crystal Lake all have this problem! Eurasian milfoil can clog waterways, affect fishing, and reduce property values. Loons and other waterfowl species may no longer visit.



It is inevitable that Ann Lake will get an invasive species. We have a proactive plan to combat this problem immediately once discovered. We must be ready, we must be vigilant, and we must have funds for the vital first year after discovery. We have already allocated \$5,000 to an invasive defense reserve. We need to raise an additional \$5,000 with the hope Almira Township will agree to create a similar reserve. Together we can combat any invasive plant infestation at the very beginning. You can't make a better investment in your property. Please study our 2016 Almira Twp Board Presentation on Invasives at AnnLake.org and consider making a generous donation to help bring our "Invasive Plant Reserve Fund" to \$10,000.

** The fund will not be spent unless needed. Your action preserves your property value!*

***Annual Meeting - June 24th**, Twp Hall, downtown Lake Ann for lunch lecture on invasives.

Board Members for the 2018 Board are needed. Please contact any board member, if you have a suggestion or volunteer on a committee listed on our website AnnLake.org.

Thank you,
[Scott Hedberg](#), President

ScottH@annlake.org

FUNDRAISER – A MESSAGE FROM THE INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE CHAIR

As Chairman of the Invasive Species Committee, I was asked by the ALPOA board to present our concerns and ideas on this topic to the Almira Township Board. The 2015 discovery of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) nearby in Interlochen gave some urgency to arranging this meeting. What happened subsequently there at Duck Lake demonstrated that a successful interdiction program requires significant dollars, quick, coordinated action of volunteer lake associations and local governments. By being pro-active and suggesting low to no cost preparations, we can be in a better position to respond when the inevitable happens. You can see the slide show I presented at the December Township Board meeting posted on the front page of www.annlake.org.

Following the presentation and a brief discussion, I found the Board in total agreement with our goal to do what we can **now** rather than wait and scramble with the clock ticking at some future date. To follow through on our promise, ALPOA plans to create \$10,000 in Invasive Plant reserves; we are already half way there with \$5000. We plan to fundraise all year and double this amount to hold in reserve.

The Township was quick to agree to step up on their part and work with our association in the following low cost and proactive ways:

- Lori Florip was designated as Township liaison to ALPOA.
- Township considering pro-active vendor selection as a contingency in case of need.
- Township very interested in helping with educational outreach efforts to the entire township.
- Given the likelihood that any EWM infestation would originate from the boat launch, the Township also agreed to help us with sign installation there and other appropriate Township locations.



Photograph by Jane Alden Stevens
Courtesy of the Lake George Association.

Girl swimming in milfoil



The Township Board made no commitment as to funding their own reserve but that would be premature. They would need to first hear Ms. Florip's recommendations. That said, our views and planning seemed very well received by the entire Board. This is what has spurred us to make the fund raising drive described in this newsletter. We need to create this matching contingency fund so that the vital, first-year costs are sequestered and dedicated.

This is great news! Now let's fortify this reserve with enough money to make a difference! Even if you don't wish to be an ALPOA member please donate to this fund. All are affected when lack of money hinders immediate response to an invasive species.

Kent Taylor
Invasive Committee Chairman
Kent@annlake.org

Treasurer's Report

The books have been closed and audited for 2016. The final balance sheet has been posted on the [Treasurer's page](#) on the web. We closed the year with an ending operating balance of \$2,265.25 and additional reserves of \$5000 for invasive species, \$241.36 for website hosting fees, and \$600 for legal.

Signage Contest:

As part of our educational outreach, we wish to construct a series of signs going into and out of our boat launch similar to the signs on the TARP Trail:



We'd like to model them on the sequential rhymes of the Burma Shave signs many of us older than 50 remember along our highways. We remember them because we took our time to read them, often out loud, such as this:



So here are some ideas to get you started from two board members:

**On your trailer
Bad plants hide
Ann Lake requests
Don't offer a ride
Wash your boat!**

**Invasive plants
Are on your boat
Rinse them off
Before you float
STOP INVASIVES!**

Have some fun. Submit your rhyme to Kent@annlake.org and we'll announce the winner at the annual meeting.

Membership Report

We ended the year with a total of 79 members. This is down slightly from 2015 which had a total of 84 members. Donations were up in 2016 to \$579.45 from the amount of \$411 in 2015. A chart of membership trends is on the [Nominating & Membership](#) page on the website.



Invasive Committee Report

The committee completed another mapping of Ann Lake; the report is available on the [Invasive Species](#) page at www.annlake.org. While the committee continues its efforts to monitor Ann Lake for invasive species, **WE NEED YOUR HELP**. We have taken space in this newsletter to highlight 4 aquatic invasive plants and 2 invasive marsh plants that we need your help in finding and eradicating/controlling. Michigan Invasive Species Coalition is a very helpful website that can help you in identifying these plants. Go to <http://www.michiganinvasives.org/facts/> and on the common name drop down menu, select the plant. Then scroll down on the right side of the plant page. Under web links there is a selection called training guide for all but curly pondweed. It walks you through each plant on how to identify the plant. Please email the ALPOA invasive committee at kent@annlake.org of any findings or concerns you might have. While you can remove the invasive land plants; the **aquatic** invasive plants will require the professional services discussed in this newsletter.



Midwest Aquatic Plant Manager

CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED

(*Potamogeton crispus*)

This undesirable exotic, also known as Crisp Pondweed, bears a waxy cuticle on its upper leaves making them stiff and somewhat brittle. The leaves have been described as resembling lasagna noodles, but upon close inspection a row of "teeth" can be seen to line the margins. Growing in dense mats near the water's surface, it outcompetes native plants for sun and space very early in spring. By midsummer, massive natural die-offs can dramatically lower oxygen levels triggering fish kills.



EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

(*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

An aggressive plant, this exotic milfoil can grow nearly 10 feet in length forming dense mats at the water's surface. Growing in muck, sand, or rock, it has become a nuisance plant in many lakes and ponds by quickly outcompeting native species. Identifying features include a pattern of 4 leaves whorled around a hollow stem. Feathery in appearance, each leaf consists of 10-21 pairs of closely packed leaflets. Out of the water the leaves become limp, compressing against the stem. Hybridization with native milfoil species is common.



HYDRILLA

(*Hydrilla verticillata*)

This extremely invasive submersed plant contains oppositely arranged leaves with whorls of 3 to 8 leaves. The leaf has distinctive toothed margins, with pointed spines on the underside mid-rib. It is easily confused with native elodea, which has 3 leaves per whorl and lacking evident toothed leaf margins. This plant reproduces through turion formation and fragmentation. In 2006 Hydrilla was confirmed in the Midwest.

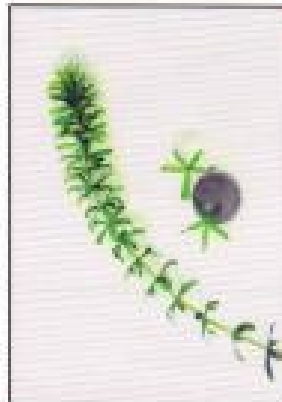
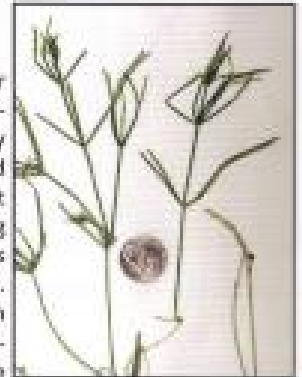


Photo courtesy of Michael Libralatti,
U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center

STARRY STONEWORT

(*Najas obtusa*)

This plant-like algae is very similar in appearance to Chara. Unfortunately it is highly invasive not only outcompeting native submersed plants but exotic species also. It also destroys crucial fish spawning habitat. It has uneven branches that look angular at each joint. Branches feel smooth with a green gelatin appearance. A cream colored bulb can be found at the base of each cluster of branches. This species can be found growing in shallow and slow moving deep waters.



COMMON REED

(*Phragmites australis*)

This emergent exotic plant grows extremely tall (15 ft.), outcompeting native wetlands plants and altering hydrology and blocking sunlight to aquatic shoreline species. *Phragmites* is a perennial

grass that has broad pointed flat leaves (6-24 in. long) (1-6 cm wide), which arise from a very thick stalk. The plant flowers in July thru October with dense, fluffy, gray or purple appearance. Native species also exist.



PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

(*Lythrum salicaria*)

An established invasive species. Outcompeting many wetland species and altering habitat. Plants form dense stands reaching heights of six feet. Leaves are alternate and oppositely attached directly to the stem with a heart shaped base. The flowers are magenta with five to seven petals. Flowers usually appear in July and continue to bloom thru October.



Water Quality Report

The water testing program results from 2016 indicate that Ann Lake is still in pretty good shape. It fits the criteria for an oligotrophic lake, that is, a lake that is low in nutrients. This is important because it not only keeps our water clear and beautiful, but it also helps to limit weed growth. As indicated in another article in this publication, we are very concerned about the introduction and proliferation of invasive species of weeds into Ann Lake. We should also be concerned about the potential for increased growth of our native plants.

While plant nutrients such as nitrogen and potassium are of concern, water quality studies focus mostly on phosphorous. This is the nutrient whose low concentrations normally limit plant growth. While the phosphorus levels did dip a little last summer, thanks to people who changed what they were doing, they still indicate an upward trend. Riparians can continue to help to limit phosphorous introductions into our lake by refraining from applying fertilizer to their lawns within a recommended 100 feet from the water's edge.

Geese can also contribute phosphorous through their excrement, so if you don't appreciate geese loitering on your lawn, just don't mow the grass to the water's edge. They won't intrude if you leave a buffer. We all value the beauty of Ann Lake. Please don't compromise it by obsessing over your lawn.

ALPOA SPECIAL EVENTS AND SAVE THESE DATES 2017!

1. **Saturday, June 24** for the **ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC, 12:00 NOON TO 2:00 PM** at the Almira Township Hall in beautiful downtown Lake Ann. Main entree (likely a barbeque 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. **Tuesday, July 4** for the **ANNUAL UNOFFICIAL BOAT PARADE**. Gather at the big sandbar in the middle of the lake at **1:00 PM**. Think about how you can dress up your boat to be the most patriotic on Ann Lake!
3. **Saturday, August 5** 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 on-line for complete information. REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JULY 7, 2017 so t-shirts can be ordered in time for the event.

As an Association, each year we have been trying to add more social events for our members. In previous years, we added the September Summer Swan Song Soiree and the October Octoberfest Pub Crawl. Last year, both events were only attended by ALPOA Board members. We will attempt both events again this year but would like feedback on whether these events should be continued or changed. Watch the [Event Committee](#) page on the web site for more information.

Loon Report

For the last several years, Ann Lake has experienced a high water level. As a result, the loons stopped nesting in Mud Bay. Last year, we put out the Artificial Nesting Platform (ANP) at the west end of the lake. The loons nested on it for 4 weeks but were still unsuccessful at having any chicks. This year we have requested a permit to put the ANP and buoys in the same location. It is possible that we might not experience as high a lake level in the spring as last year; the loons may go back to their old nesting area. If so, we will work with the DNR to relocate the buoys as necessary. **PLEASE BE OBSERVANT AT BOTH LOCATIONS SO WE CAN HAVE A SUCCESS THIS YEAR AND ENJOY WATCHING THE LOONS GROW UP ON THE LAKE THIS SUMMER.**

ANN LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION



Annual Membership Application Jan. 1 to Dec. 31

Thank you for your continued support ! Dues and donations are not tax deductible. ALPOA is a 501c4 non-profit corporation and not a "charitable" organization.

Your contributions are used to protect the quality of our lake, protect the value of our properties and to promote social opportunities for our members.

If you are not a member or have already renewed, you can still donate to the Invasive Species Fund. Please use this membership application when sending in your donation. Enter your donation amount on the 3rd line. We would also appreciate if you filled in your name and both your winter and summer addresses. If you are not a member, we would like feedback on why not and what we might be able to do to convince you to join the Association.

Yearly Membership Dues \$_____ \$30.00 ___New ___Renewal
Michigan Riparian Magazine \$_____ \$6 donation required
Invasive Species Fund **\$_____ 2017 Fundraiser**
Additional Donation \$_____
Total Amount Paid \$_____ For calendar year 20____

Please Print Information:

Owners Name/s: _____

Home Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Lake Phone _____

Summer Address: _____ Lake Ann, MI 49650

E-Mail Address: _____

I would like my Newsletter first class mailed to me: Yes ___ No___ It will be emailed

I would like to volunteer to ALPOA: Yes ___ Committee: _____

Comments: _____

Mail form and check to: ALPOA P.O. Box 184 Lake Ann, MI 49650

Or go to website "Membership Application" pay online via PayPal and email form to kathy@annlake.org