

# ANN LAKE WATER LOG

## President's Letter

Friends,

I am pleased and honored to serve as the president of ALPOA for 2018. For those of you who have no idea who I am, allow me to offer a brief introduction.

My wife, Julie, and I first purchased vacant acreage on Birch Glen Road in 1999. We immediately fell in love with the location, which fronts on the north shore of "Mud Bay" at the south end of the lake. We completed construction of our retirement home, and moved in, in September of 2005.

I became involved in ALPOA almost immediately, serving first as a Trustee, then Treasurer for several years. I "retired" from the board a couple years ago, but continue to serve as the primary Lake Steward, which I've done since 2006. Lake Steward? That's the title the DEQ gives the person who collects data to measure water clarity, chlorophyll, phosphorus, etc., throughout each summer season. Last summer, the board appointed me to fill a vacant position, and I agreed to stand for election as president.



As your new president, I have no ambitious new agenda. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." I will continue to support the ambitious efforts to protect our lake from the risk of invasive species, protect the loons, and maintain the beautiful quality of our water. I believe I have positive rapport with current township officials, and will endeavor to work with them on any issues that threaten the interests and general welfare of our lake community. I believe that what's good for Ann Lake is good for Almira Township.

There is one "new" thing that I advocate. That is, we're going to resume having a guest speaker for the annual meeting in June. We used to do that, but got away from it in recent years. I welcome your input. If you have a suggestion for a topical subject you'd like to address, or a certain speaker for whom you'd make the effort to attend, please let me know at 231-275-7732, or dcmaxson@msn.com.

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## Help Wanted

# HELP

Director, Ann Lake Property Owners Assoc

**Hours:** Depends

**Compensation:** Treasures in Heaven (and warm fuzzies on earth)

**Bonus:** Gratitude from your friends and neighbors around the lake

**Benefits:** Meet new friends; spend time with congenial people who share a common interest; i.e., protecting the quality and beauty of our shared asset, the lake

**Duties:** Attend a board meeting for about an hour a month during the summer and participate in a sub-committee that accomplishes fun and gratifying works, usually involving water

If this sounds the least bit interesting to you, please contact Dave Maxson at 231-275-7732, or [dcmason@msn.com](mailto:dcmason@msn.com), for more information.

Don't hesitate; only two positions available.

# WANTED!

## *Invasive Species Update*

Any year we can attest that no aquatic invasive species have been found during our annual surveys is a good year and this is another good year. Both scientific rake and selected visual surveys have shown that a normal, healthy balance of natural plants populate our lake. Those results are quantified in our annual report you can find online [here](#). Thank you to all you riparians who have been conscientious in their stewardship of our lake. Your efforts are largely responsible for this continually good outcome.

However, some things that can affect this lake's biological health are out of our control. Lately, we have been especially alert for Eurasian Milfoil, a particularly insidious weed that can quickly overtake a medium-sized lake and throw it completely out of balance. This weed is brought in by boats and trailers. If introduced, we would then need professional lake management and treatments. Avoiding this is our goal but it is becoming increasingly difficult as many nearby lakes have been infested including Long, Duck, Crystal, Portage, Little Platte Lakes. This is inevitable some say; we say not necessarily. But if we do find such invasive species and act quickly, we can mitigate the damage and future costs. We as an association are fighting to both prevent and prepare in the following ways:

- We are working with the DNR and Township government to place informational signage at our and other public boat launches in the Township to encourage proper boat cleaning.
- We encouraged the Township to place informational flyers in our tax bills to alert all to the danger of boat-borne Eurasian Milfoil which they quickly did at Township expense. We are assured they will continue this and other educational outreach efforts on the topic of invasive plants.
- We set up our first ever booth at Lake Ann Days to demonstrate proper boat cleaning and how to identify Eurasian Milfoil with the help of Benzie Conservation District.
- We have also petitioned our Township board to take a proactive, preventative approach to this issue and prepare beforehand, a united response to the probably inevitable introduction and discovery of this or other virulent weeds in our lake. You can see the slide show we created for this presentation [here](#). It's not a matter of if, but when.
- We continue to monitor our lake in a scientific survey of 17 areas around our lake as we have for the past 5 years. You can watch a one minute video on what this looks like [here](#).
- As a committee we are placing informational handouts at boat launches, boat sales and rental companies in the area that encourage proper boat washing before launching.
- We have been funding an invasive species reserve within our association for several years. Due to the emerging crisis in the area we felt we needed a lot more money to off-set the need for first-year treatment if any harmful weed is discovered. There is at present no other source of funding for fast remediation treatment which usually minimizes long-term effects and costs. To do this we had a year-long fund raiser which doubled this dedicated reserve to over \$10,000. Thanks to all that donated, you folks get it. We may need more, much more some day soon, so we encourage further contributions [here](#) (use the membership form for this). Monies in this fund will not be spent for any other purpose than supporting an aggressive, professionally managed, immediate response to the discovery of an invasive aquatic weed in Ann Lake.

As you can see much of our focus has been on encouraging our township government to join us in creating a joint response strategy. This approach focuses first on education and prevention, while we prepare everything we can beforehand to shorten the task list if and when the township must quickly act to deploy professional resources in response to an invasive weed discovery. Establishing such an unprecedented prevention and response strategy can be done with limited to no township dollars. I can say this effort has been thus far encouraged and supported by our township government. We all are pushing ourselves out of our comfort zones as we do things few other townships are doing, creating a response strategy for the entire township with Ann Lake serving as the proto-type to test and implement some forward-thinking ideas.

One such strategy is to interview and select a lake management firm to be “Preferred Vendor” for the township; acting as the Townships go-to experts, there when we need them and helping us develop further prevention and response actions. This will avoid any lengthy procurement process when speed is of the essence. The Township Board has offered welcome openness and support for these unprecedented efforts. We will be jointly interviewing 4 prospective lake management vendors later this spring.

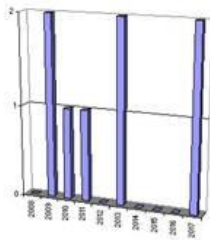
Throughout, our committee’s outreach efforts we have emphasized prevention while creating the ability for us and the township to respond to any future weed incursion with first-year dollars. As in our other prevention/response strategies, we are trying to do everything we can beforehand which requires little or no tax dollars. If, or more likely when we are invaded, a long, involved process is usually required to begin treatment and set up a Special Assessment District to permanently fund ongoing treatments. In most cases this takes many months which can lead to a tardy initial treatment due to lack of approvals and funds. This is important since data proves treatment efforts are most cost effective if done during the following spring growing season. To this end we are requesting a written commitment in the form of a township resolution or establishment of a special reserve fund that survives any future board changes; this to ensure lakes in our township have access to these vital first-year funds while an S.A.D. is established. Our now more robust reserve fund demonstrates this lake’s commitment to help fund this need, so we are not merely standing with out hand out. But we all know ALPOA cannot do this alone. I will keep you informed as this idea is considered by Township government.

Kent Taylor  
[Kent@annlake.org](mailto:Kent@annlake.org)



## Loon Report

History of Loon Chicks



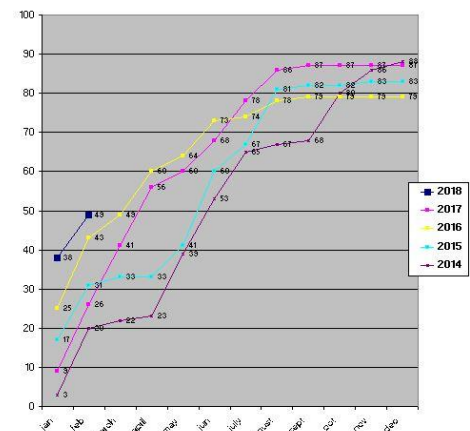
After 3 unsuccessful years, we had 2 loon chicks in 2018! The loons used the artificial nesting platform which was placed at the west side of the lake, near the campground. We will be placing the ANP, surrounded by buoys, in the same location this spring. Please remember to give the loons ample room; remind your guests as well. We will post on the website information regarding the loons' activity this summer.



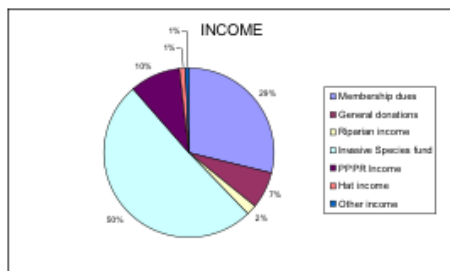
## Membership Update

We finished 2017 at 87 members. That is one shy of our largest membership of 88 which was in 2014. And we have a good start in 2018. We have already received renewals from 49 members! If you haven't already renewed, print off a [membership form](#) and send it, along with your check, to ALPOA, P.O. Box 184, Lake Ann, MI 49650.

Membership Growth Trends



## Treasurer's Report



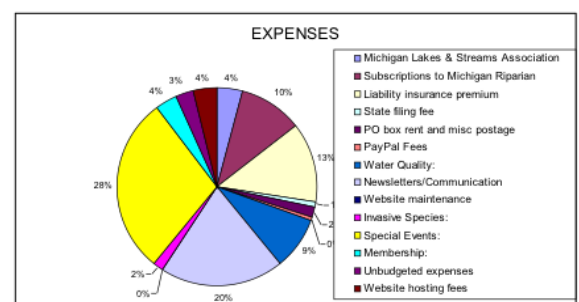
The 2017 books for ALPOA have been posted on the website [www.annlake.org](http://www.annlake.org) on the Treasurer's page. You can also view the report using this link <http://www.annlake.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Budget-2017-EOY.pdf>.

ALPOA is in good standing. Income for the year was \$8727.26 which included donations for the Invasive Species Fund of \$4434.81. Our expenses for the year were \$7587.50 (\$3030.69 when you exclude the transfer to the reserve funds).

Including the starting balance of \$2265.25, we are starting 2018 with an operating balance of \$3405.01 and reserve funds for web hosting, invasive species and legal of \$10038.53.

The 2017 books have not yet been audited. A final copy will be posted on the web once the audit has been completed.

Kathy Garmes-Taylor, Treasurer



## **ALPOA Special Events 2018**

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR:**

- **SATURDAY JUNE 30, 12:00PM - 2:00PM:** The **Annual Meeting and Picnic** at the Almira Township Hall in beautiful downtown Lake Ann. Main entree (likely a barbecue sandwich), table ware and water provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. RSVP if you are coming to Maggie Sowers (616-292-8364 or [maggiesowers@icloud.com](mailto:maggiesowers@icloud.com))
- **WEDNESDAY JULY 4, 1:00PM:** The **Annual Unofficial Boat Parade**. Gather at the big sandbar in the middle of the lake. 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!
- **SATURDAY JULY 7: ALPOA Booth at Lake Ann Homecoming Days.** This is a educational inspiring and fun way to learn more about the work of **ALPOA**. Be sure to stop by while you are there in Downtown LA.
- **SATURDAY AUGUST 4, 8:00AM - 11:00 AM: 8th Annual Paddle, Pedal, Paddle, Row Around Ann Lake.** See registration form in this newsletter for complete information. Registration forms must be received by July 6 so tee shirts can be ordered in time for the event. We plan to repeat the Popular Poker Run again this year.
- **SATURDAY AUGUST 4, 12:30 PM: Pizza Party** to be held in Burnett Park in Lake Ann. Pizza and Prizes to follow the PPPR.
- **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 2:00PM - 4:00PM: Summer Swan Song Soiree.** Say goodbye to summer with your fellow Riparians, friends and family. Raft your boat with others over Ann Lake’s center sandbar. Bring your own snacks/beverages/boat bumpers and stern lines.
- **MID OCTOBER: 4th Annual Unofficial Pub Crawl.** Spend a social evening at the Lake Ann Brewery with other die hard folks. Your feedback on this event is requested. We cancelled it in 2017 due to insufficient interest. Please send your thoughts to Maggie Sowers at [maggiesowers@icloud.com](mailto:maggiesowers@icloud.com)
- **ONGOING: ALPOA Photo Gallery** is a year round event. See website [www.annlake.org](http://www.annlake.org) Photo Gallery for information and to view photos.

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**     \$\_\_\_\_\_ dedicated to removal of invasive plants  
 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](mailto:kathy@annlake.org)*