



ANN LAKE WATER LOG

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2019



View from Lake Ann Campground in January. Photo courtesy of Susan Sharp

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THE 2019 BOARD:

Dave Maxson, *President*

Kent Taylor, *Vice President*

Kathy Garmes Taylor, *Treasurer*

Maggie Sowers, *Secretary*

AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS:

Sven Anderson

Julie Parker

Susan Sharp

Terry Sowers

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Friends,

My first year as President, 2018, was gratifying in several respects. I'd like to comment on some of the highlights.

The annual meeting, in June, was well attended, and (in my humble opinion) quite successful. Besides the good food and fellowship, the presentation by our guest speaker proved to be quite interesting for those in attendance. BreAnne Grabill, Environmental Scientist, with PLM Lake and Land Management, explained the threat of aquatic invasive species, and the testing activity

that her company has been engaged to conduct during each summer. Also at the meeting, a full complement of officers and directors was elected, including Susan Sharp and Terry Sowers, who had volunteered to fill two positions that had been vacant for some time. The meeting this year is June 29. Save the date!

Perhaps the most gratifying of the 2018 activities was the result of the testing conducted by Ms. Grabill's company. Lest I steal any thunder, I refer you to the detailed report from the Invasive Species Committee, elsewhere herein.

The selection of PLM, and the proactive monitoring that they provide, is evidence of a gratifying collaboration with Almira Township governance. Township officials recognize that Ann and Pearl Lakes are assets that deserve to be protected, and have been supportive of efforts to maintain their natural quality. Rapport is good, which hasn't always been the case.

The board is a team of dedicated volunteers who share a passion for life on the lake, and maintaining the quality of the lake for the mutual benefit and general welfare of all property owners. On the pages that follow are detailed reports of the various activities in which they are engaged. I encourage you to read each one. I believe you'll find them of interest.

Finally, a regret. Terry Dorgan resigned from the board this month, so we have a vacancy for someone who shares an interest in what we accomplish. If you're interested, please let me know. (231-275-7732 or dcmxson@msn.com)

Dave Maxson
President

LOON REPORT

*Kathy Garmes Taylor,
Loon Ranger*

2018 was, once again, a great year for the loons on Ann Lake. Two chicks hatched on June 21. They remained on the lake with their parents throughout the summer.

Once again, the loons used the Artificial Nesting Platform, ANP, which ALPOA built in 2013. After five years the ANP needed repairs. This fall several ALPOA members got together to bring in the ANP, disassemble it, and assess the needed repairs. Major work was required.

Luckily, landscape architect Scott Hedberg is very creative. Previously a 4" PVC ring had been added to the underside of the cedar base to promote floatation. Scott suggested using the same ring and adding strapping (rather than wire mesh) for the base. Landscape filler was then added for the plant base. New plants are added every spring. A second ring was also added for the nest itself, giving the platform even more floatation.

In the spring the ANP will be reassembled, including the natural nest that the loons built on the raft last summer. The team will need to add the PVC float to the cedar logs, add the loons' nest, and add plants before the ANP can be launched.

Anyone handy with some good boots or waders who would like to lend a hand in April, please contact Kathy@annlake.org.



Top: One-month-old loons swim on Ann Lake with their parents.

Middle and bottom: Scott Hedberg and Kathy Garmes Taylor updating the artificial nesting platform. All photos courtesy of Kathy Garmes Taylor

WATER QUALITY REPORT

Sven Anderson and Dave Maxson

Reports and analysis of water monitoring tests compiled during the summer season of 2018 are not yet available. Watch for a complete report of those results in the Summer newsletter.

Meanwhile, ALPOA volunteers will continue to collect samples or record measurements of clarity, phosphorus, chlorophyll, dissolved oxygen, and temperature throughout the 2019 summer season.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Kathy Garmes Taylor, Treasurer

The 2018 year ended with 88 ALPOA members plus three pre-paid members for 2019. The 2018 books have not yet been audited.

- Income was \$5,174.25. This includes \$1,164 in donations to the *Invasive Species Fund*.
- Expenses were \$4,918.72 (which includes the transfer of \$1,164 to reserves).
- ALPOA reports a positive cash flow of \$255.53, ending the year with an operating balance of \$3660.54 plus \$11,224.53 in reserves for web site, Invasive Reserve, and legal.
- The Invasive Reserve, which is earmarked to be used AFTER an invasive has been found, has over \$10,000. The Board has decided to invest the funds in CDs.

The full Treasurer's Report can be found on the website at www.annlake.org. The 2018 end-of-year budget, along with the proposed 2019 budget, are available for review.

INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE REPORT: FEBRUARY 2019

Kent Taylor

As you know Almira Township recently agreed to split the cost with our lake for a professional lake management firm, PLM, to conduct an annual survey of our lake's aquatic plants. Such professional support to our existing volunteer surveys is a tremendous aid to our efforts to identify early and treat any invasive species. PLM's first survey report came in August confirming our previous results; we currently have no aquatic invasive plants in Ann Lake. They stated that the lake "has a healthy and diverse native plant community. No exotic submersed plant species were found. The native milfoil population is, however, strong and this needs to be watched as often times a native population can switch to exotic quickly. So we must remain vigilant. Our own volunteers conducted a complementary fall survey looking specifically for and not finding the insidious Starry Stonewort, a plant that is only identifiable in its fall reproductive stage. We will continue to augment the efforts of PLM with our own to handle late spring and early fall surveys looking only for certain seasonal plants, thereby holding down costs and keeping our plant I.D. skills sharp.

We also keep an eye on our shorelines for invasive plants like Purple Loosestrife and Eurasian Phragmites. Here we are more limited in our role since these areas are mostly on private property, so homeowner cooperation is vital in our shoreline efforts. It is very gratifying to report that due to the cooperation of individual home owners, we saw the removal of all visible Purple Loosestrife on the lake shore. Where plants were spotted by our members, emails were sent and written material left on the property. In every case permission was granted for us to remove them or the owners did it themselves. Our educational outreach is proving effective and our cooperating lake owners should be commended.

PLM determined this fall that Pearl Lake is also free of aquatic, submerged invasive plants. So this means that the main two bodies of water in the township are free from aquatic invasives a rarity for this area of the country. The township's efforts to stay ahead of this problem therefore start with a clean slate. This is even more important as we learn of still more lakes in the county being infested with invasive weeds and the incredible expenses they are now budgeting for ongoing treatment programs. To prepare for this eventuality, over the past few years ALPOA has created a \$10,000 fund dedicated only to offset any initial treatment funds should we find an invasive

A healthy Ann Lake is our responsibility. Please join ALPOA in protecting this lake we all love. *Photo courtesy of Susan Sharp*



INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE REPORT: FEBRUARY 2019

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that needs to be managed. That is done and sequestered. We still have to figure out a way to fund the half of PLM's costs (\$625) not covered by the township. Without increased membership, this is an ongoing burden to be borne by ALPOA.

This added expense has us seeking ways to involve more riparians in sharing this cost, even those who have over the years chosen not to become ALPOA members. For that reason we've created a DBA called the Lake Management Fund – Lake Ann to provide a funding mechanism to support these new costs we are sharing with the township. We've also determined we can establish this DBA as a 501(c) (3), making contributions Federally tax deductible should you itemize. This designation would also facilitate any future grants we might apply for if the need arises. You will see a line to contribute to this fund on our membership application.



Residents and visitors, alike, must work together to insure a healthy Ann Lake for all to enjoy. Photo courtesy of Susan Sharp

We feel it is not fair for only ALPOA members to be covering the lake's share of PLM's costs; we believe many non-members will realize this too. We plan an outreach effort this spring to non-member lake front owners to make this case and to solicit donations to this new fund to support only these lake management activities. We hope that no matter what their opinion of ALPOA, they will nevertheless be willing to share in these costs. We've chosen the name of this DBA carefully to keep ALPOA separated from this campaign in as much as possible. Furthermore, our committee suggests that this fund be the source of future dollars needed for lake monitoring, possibly the most important function ALPOA is undertaking. By leveraging the impact with a 501 (c) (3) designation, we could put lake management on a sustainable path regardless the future financial state of ALPOA. However, this emphasis could prove to be a detriment to other ALPOA donations members have provided over the years. This issue obviously warrants further board discussion. Watch our website and future newsletters for developments.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Dave Maxson, President

ALPOA ended 2018 with 88 members. As we prepare this newsletter, we've received about 30 membership payments for 2019.

This newsletter is sent only via email, so I assume the audience is primarily "the choir". I won't preach! Suffice to say, if you've already remitted your membership payment, we appreciate your support and will endeavor to represent your best interests as lakefront property owners.

If not, we hope you will do so soon. A membership form is included at the end of this newsletter.



ALPOA SPECIAL EVENTS for JUNE, JULY, & AUGUST, 2019

Maggie Sowers, Secretary

Mark your calendars!

SATURDAY JUNE 29, 12:00PM - 2:00PM: The **Annual Meeting and Potluck**. This is an important event for all ALPOA members. The Board will give updates on all ALPOA activities including financial standing, membership, invasive species and events. Our planned guest speaker will address Greenbelt Landscaping. The meeting will be held in the Almira Township Hall in downtown Lake Ann. Main entree, tableware and water will be provided. *Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.* RSVP to Maggie Sowers if you are coming.

THURSDAY 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 the "Support ALPOA" sign as we cruise around Ann Lake to salute our wonderful country. Dress up your boat to be the most patriotic on Ann Lake!

SATURDAY JULY 6: ALPOA Booth at Lake Ann Homecoming Days. This is an educational, inspiring, and fun way to learn more about the work of ALPOA. Be sure to have your whole family stop by while you join in this annual community event in Downtown LA.



The Fourth of July boat parade is fun for all ages! Photo courtesy of Stacey Cushman

SATURDAY AUGUST 3, 8:00AM - 11:00 AM: 10th Annual Paddle, Pedal, Paddle, Row Around Ann Lake. There are some exciting new changes to this year's event. The event is now FREE. For those who want one, there is a special edition T-Shirt available for \$17. See registration form in this newsletter for complete information. Please submit t-shirt orders to Maggie Sowers or Kathy Taylor. Deadline for t-shirt orders is July 5.

SATURDAY AUGUST 3, 12:30 PM: Pizza Party to be held in Burnett Park in Lake Ann. Sign up all your family members for \$5 each. Join your fellow Riparians for the festivities.

ONGOING: ALPOA Photo Gallery is a year round event. See website Photo Gallery for information and to view photos.

10th ANNUAL PADDLE PEDAL PADDLE ROW

Maggie Sowers, Secretary

Picture yourself in your self-propelled water craft at the height of the summer season. Slowly, you propel yourself around beautiful Ann Lake enjoying the wonderful sites nature has to offer. Perhaps you are with your friends or your family. This event is not a race, but a slow easy paddle around the lake. Watercrafts should be people-powered canoes, kayaks, row boats, and paddle boats. Paddle boards are also welcome.



Ann Lake is a beautiful place to kayak. Photo courtesy of Susan Sharp

There will be ALPOA members positioned at several sites around the lake. Moving counter clockwise with the shoreline on your right, paddle around the lake, checking in at the ALPOA station sites. Start at the station closet to your launch site.

10th ANNUAL PADDLE PEDAL PADDLE ROW

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You can also participate in a shoreline photo scavenger hunt. Photos of special shoreline features can be found at the ALPOA web site. Match the photos with their location to get extra benefit from your participation efforts. Teamwork is encouraged on this activity! See our web site for more details.



THIS IS THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PADDLE PEDAL PADDLE ROW and to mark the occasion we have made the event FREE OF CHARGE (snacks and water are BYO. Be sure to supply yourselves generously with sunscreen, water and trail mix.

PPPR EVENT REGISTRATION FORM

(To register and/or order t-shirts, please print this page and submit. Instructions below. These forms can also be found on the [ALPOA website](#).)

EVENT REGISTRATION:

NUMBER OF PADDLERS IN YOUR PARTY _____

PLEASE LIST THEIR NAMES: _____

10th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

EDITION EVENT T-SHIRT ORDER FORM:

There will be a Special Edition Event T-Shirt available to all for \$17 each. The shirt is a commemorative 10th anniversary silver color with a one-time-only logo. It is slightly different from previous shirts. See photo.



Option 2:



NAME _____

ADULT SIZES/QUANTITY

SM _____ MED _____ LG _____ XL _____

2XL _____ 3XL _____

CHILDREN SIZES/QUANTITY

SM _____ MED _____ LG _____

QUANTITY TOTAL _____ @ \$17.00 EACH = GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

POST PPPR PIZZA PARTY RSVP:

As is our custom we will have a Pizza Party at Burnett Park after the PPPR. It starts at 12:30 PM and the cost is \$5 per person. You may choose to bring your own lawn chairs and a salad or dessert to share. Registration forms available on the ALPOA web site or below.

NAME _____

OF PEOPLE IN YOUR PARTY _____ @ \$5.00 EACH = GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

PAYMENT:

****Please make check payable to
Ann Lake Property Owner's Association**

YOUR SUMMER ADDRESS:

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

MAIL THIS FORM & CHECK TO:

**Treasurer
Ann Lake Property Owner's Association
P.O. Box 184
Lake Ann, MI 49650**



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 but not deemed a "charitable" organization by IRS definition.

Your contributions are used to protect the quality of our lake and protect the value of our properties for the mutual benefit of all property owners.

If you are not a member or have already renewed, you can still donate to the Lake Preservation Fund. Please use this membership application when sending in your donation. Enter your donation amount on the Lake Preservation Fund line. We would also appreciate if you filled in your name and your winter, summer and email addresses. If you are not a member, we would like feedback if you are willing to tell us why not and what we might be able to do to convince you otherwise.

2019 Yearly Membership Dues	\$ _____	\$30.00	___ New ___ Renewal
2020 Yearly Membership Dues	\$ _____	\$30.00	
2021 Yearly Membership Dues	\$ _____	\$30.00	
Michigan Riparian Magazine	\$ _____	\$6 donation per year required	
Lake Preservation Fund	\$ _____		
Additional Donation	\$ _____		

Total Amount Paid \$ _____ **For calendar year 20** _____

PLEASE PRINT

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 ___
(The Newsletter will always be emailed.)

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

Comments: _____

Please mail this form and check to:

ALPOA
P.O. Box 184
Lake Ann, MI 49650

OR GO TO www.annlake.org, search "Membership Application", pay online via PayPal, and email form to Kathy@annlake.org