



ANN LAKE WATER LOG

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2020

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THE 2020 BOARD:

Sven Anderson, President

Kent Taylor, Vice President

Kathy Garmes-Taylor, Treasurer

Maggie Sowers, Secretary

ENVIRONMENT

Dave Maxson

AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

Julee Parker

Susan Sharp

Terry Sowers



Platte River in February. Photo courtesy of Susan Sharp

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hi,

I'm Sven Anderson, the new president of ALPOA for 2020. I accepted this responsibility because I recognize and believe in the importance of our lake association. As lakeshore property owners, our most valuable asset is the beautiful and pristine Ann Lake. It is the singular mission of the current lake association board to watch over and preserve the sanctity of this asset. As hard as we try, the ALPOA board cannot do it alone.

It is truly amazing that, historically, only about 1/3 of property owners consider the health of the lake important enough to support ALPOA through membership. In these times of invasive species and relaxed water pollution standards, we need to be especially vigilant.

I am aware that some former members have become estranged because of divergent opinions on how to best take care of Ann Lake. Our new lake association board has a new outlook and would love to work with all of our lakefront owners.

Ultimately, membership of Riparians in our lake association should be unanimous to help safeguard our investments and retain the health of our lake. This may seem unrealistic; however, we can increase our ranks and a collective consciousness. We all have the same goal: the health and preservation of our beautiful Ann Lake.

Let's all work together. Encourage your neighbor. We all benefit.

It has been predicted that lake levels will be high again this year. While lake levels and boat traffic are out of our control, we can control their effect on the erosion of our lakefronts. Establishing a strong green belt while including some of the suggestions in the website <https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/67096.html> can go far to prevent erosion. We might also ask that, out of courtesy to your neighbors, boats producing wakes maintain a reasonable distance from shore.

Sven Anderson
President

LOON REPORT

*Kathy Garmes-Taylor,
Loon Ranger*

2019 was, once again, a great year for the loons on Ann Lake. Two chicks were born on June 19, just two days earlier than last year. Here they are just one day old!



Once again, the loons used the Artificial Nesting Platform, which ALPOA built in 2013. We rebuilt the nest in 2019 and the loons had no problem adapting to the new design. We will use the nest again this year and locate it in the same successful spot in the bay near the State Park. We replace the landscape on the nest each year. We are always looking for small aquatic emerging plants to use for this April landscaping project. If anyone has any plants (Sedge is ideal) along their shoreline that we can use, please contact me at Kathy@annlake.org.

WATER QUALITY REPORT

Dave Maxson

ALPOA volunteers continued to collect samples AND record measurements of clarity, phosphorus, chlorophyll, dissolved oxygen, and temperature throughout the 2019 summer season. Reports and analyses of the data compiled are not yet available. Watch for a complete report of those results in the summer newsletter.

The 2020 season will necessarily require some temporary adjustments to our testing procedures. The Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) was originally funded with proceeds of the Clean Michigan Initiative bond, several years ago. We've been informed that the bond has expired and the funds are exhausted. State administrators struggled to locate alternative funding so the CLMP program can be continued. Funding sources have been secured, but it won't commence until 2021. So the program is "dormant" for 2020. I am investigating alternatives that will enable us to maintain continuity of our data trends through this "gap" year.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Kathy Garmes Taylor, Treasurer

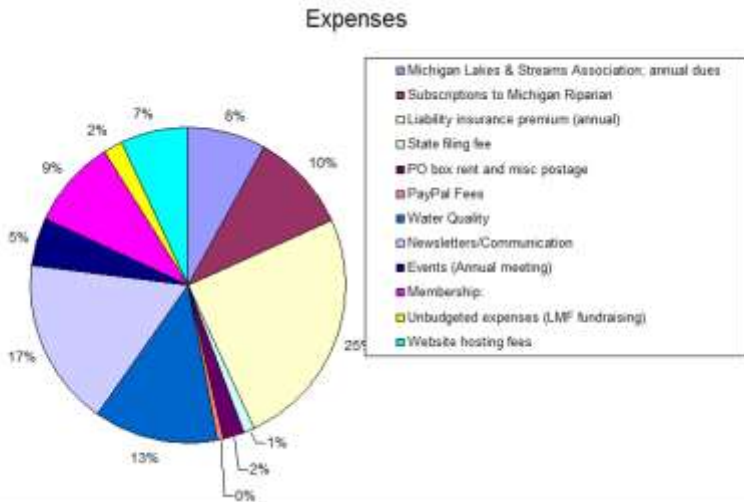
The 2019 books for ALPOA have been closed and submitted for audit. They will be posted on the website on the Treasurer's page. The treasury is split into 3 areas.

The first area is the Invasive Species Fund. The monies in this fund were mainly the result of the special fundraiser that occurred in 2018. The money in this fund is held in a CD and is sequestered to only be used IF an invasive weed is found in Ann Lake. Currently, that fund has \$10,000.

The second area is the Lake Management Fund. The moneies in this fund are used during the year specifically for invasive management. The cost of a professional lake monitoring program (which is split with Almira Township) is paid from this fund. There is a special line on the membership form to donate specifically to this fund. We received \$675 in donations, spent \$625 and ended 2019 with a balance of \$50.

The last area is our operating fund. All normal expenses and dues income is tracked in this fund. ALPOA is in good standing. Income for the year was \$4245.77. Our expenses for the year were \$2547.47. The following chart shows our expenses with the following exceptions: (a) the PPPR is run at no cost to ALPOA so this expense was not included; (b) the invasive species cost was taken from the Lake Management Fund; and (c) the subscription cost to the Riparian was reduced by the donations received. The top three

expenses are the insurance at 25%, communication (e.g., newsletter) at 17%, and water quality at 13%.



INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE REPORT: FEBRUARY 2020

Kent Taylor

It's always a good year for this committee when no invasive aquatic plants are found and 2019 was another good year. But there is other good news to share as well.

As you know Almira Township recently agreed to split the cost with our lake in support for a professional lake management. This spring the township agreed to a new three year contract with PLM, our lake management firm. To make this possible, ALPOA had to ensure we would continue to meet our 50% obligation; \$625 this and the next two years. More about funding later. Meanwhile, here is some of what last summer's [PLM plant survey](#) found in our lake:

"The diversity of native plants in Ann Lake was outstanding. Numerous different pondweed species were found as well as Elodea, Bladderwort, Naiad, Northern Watermilfoil and Chara to name a few. Chara formed a nice mat on the bottom of most of the lake, providing excellent habitat for invertebrates and the healthy fishery witnessed during the survey. A few areas were growing native plants in high densities..." which could cause... *"some navigational impacts from the dense native plant populations. Native plants typically do not cause recreational issues and normally will balance each other out. If there is a concern over this, raking is recommended for breach areas, while promoting healthy native plant beds in the rest of the lake"* They did offer a concern: *"It is important to keep an eye on the milfoil population in the lake. None of the plants sampled showed any indication of being non-native. However, with a public access site in addition to waterfowl, [non-native milfoil](#) could be found and with a dense native milfoil population, could mix quickly and make early detection more difficult. Continue to monitor the bays near the access site as well as the shorelines of the most common prevailing wind side, as those are most likely to be initial locations of exotic species infestation."* So let's all know how to identify Eurasian Water Milfoil and be on the lookout to aid their and our efforts.

To continue to fund ALPOA's 50% obligation to pay for these services a [Lake Preservation Fund](#) was established as an independent 501 c 3. It is our vision that this account will be funded each year by the generous donations of our lake residents and eventually, non-members and commercial interests. The ALPOA board is committed to making up the difference each year to meet our obligation to the township. The fund received \$665 in its first year 2019 but only \$50 from non-members. So last year ALPOA did not need to add any money; we'll roll over the additional \$40 to give us a head start on 2020. This year the committee will be attempting to solicit contributions from non-ALPOA members using this vehicle.

INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE REPORT: FEBRUARY 2020

(continued from page 3)

Please, bear in mind, this fund is in addition to the Invasive Species Reserve created over the years and sequestered in CD's for use in an actual invasive emergency. That dedicated reserve stands at over \$10,000 and is now closed to new contributions. Instead we ask you to add your contribution to the Lake Preservation Fund when you pay your annual dues to support our annual surveys. We are one of the few lakes in the region not having to deal with expensive plant treatments. Let's try and keep it that way. Thanks to all that contributed over the years to these important contingency funds.

Other committee activities this year will be running a booth at Lake Ann Days to help spread the word about avoiding invasive plant species in our lake community. We will conduct a fall survey in support of PLM looking for one particular species called Starry Stonewort; a plant only identifiable during its fall reproductive season. Therefore the summer survey cannot reveal this species if present. We've lost some members due to attrition and would like more volunteers this year. If interested, contact me at Kent@annlake.org.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Dave Maxson

ALPOA ended 2019 with 86 members. That figure has tended to be between 83 and 88 for the past 6 years, so we're holding steady. Unfortunately, that's support from less than half the eligible properties around the lake. We hope to do better.

Having said that, this newsletter is sent only via email, so I assume the audience is primarily "the choir". I won't preach! As we prepare this newsletter, we've received about 33 membership payments so far for 2020. If you're one of those 33 who've already remitted your membership, thank you! We appreciate your support and will endeavor to represent your best interests as lakefront property owners.

ALPOA EVENTS

Maggie Sowers

Happy New Year to ALPOA Members. I am looking forward to a warm and sunny summer with time to spend drifting on the lake and taking in our beautiful surroundings. ALPOA board members are, once again, planning to spend a little of that precious time working for the preservation of our lake. Perhaps you can give a little time for Ann Lake, too.

This year our Annual Meeting is at 10 AM on Saturday June 27, 2020. It will be in the Almira Township Town Hall. Donuts and coffee will be served; it is NOT a pot luck, If you are an ALPOA Member please mark your calendar and be sure to bring your neighbors. Anyone interested in the well being of our lake is welcome to attend.

The Fourth of July Boat Parade will be on Saturday July 4, 2020. Circle around Ann Lake with your fellow Riparians and celebrate our wonderful country. We will meet at 1 PM over the Sand Bar near the center of the lake and we follow the boat with the ALPOA sign. Decorate your boat with the Red White and Blue.





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.

2020 Yearly Membership Dues	\$ _____	\$30.00	___ New ___ Renewal
2021 Yearly Membership Dues	\$ _____	\$30.00	
2022 Yearly Membership Dues	\$ _____	\$30.00	
Michigan Riparian Magazine	\$ _____	\$14 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