



Ann Lake Water Log

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2022

President's Letter

by Terry Sowers

As the ALPOA President for 2022 I would like to express my admiration for all the ALPOA Board Members and volunteers now and in the past. These dedicated ALPOA members have actively pursued the mission of ALPOA "To Protect and Preserve Ann Lake." They have given their time and energy for self-education to better educate the public, maintain water quality, provide loon protection and invasive species identification and eradication.

It is not by happen stance that these achievements have been met. Frankly, these efforts go back to the inception of ALPOA some 20 plus years ago. These Board Officers have developed and maintained relationships with like-minded community organizations such as (but not limited to) Almira Township, Village of Lake Ann, Benzie County, Michigan DNR, Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program, Lake and Land Management Corp. and The Michigan Loon Preservation Association. These relationships have allowed continued progress toward our goals. I enjoy our wonderful lake and I am extremely thankful for the efforts of ALPOA.

Reviewing the history of ALPOA I can see the main objective was and still is to "Protect and Preserve Ann Lake." This is where our focus will lie for the future. Unfortunately, there is a misconception that these objectives also include law enforcement such as boating regulation, lake shore management and noise abatement. These issues are in the hands of local government and police. We are happy to help individual members access appropriate agencies to address concerns.

I look forward this year in continuing ALPOAs commitment to you and the preservation of our beautiful lake. Please browse our web site at annlake.org often for updates and informational materials for riparians.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THE 2022 BOARD:

Terry Sowers, *President*

Kent Taylor, *Vice President*

Kathy Garmes Taylor, *Treasurer*

Maggie Sowers, *Secretary*

AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS:

Dave Maxson

Sven Anderson

Jeff Dahlberg

Val Dahlberg

Craig Timm

**ALPOA
ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY
JUNE 25, 2022
10AM-12PM**

**THE MEETING WILL
BE HELD IN THE
ALMIRA TOWNSHIP
HALL IN DOWNTOWN
LAKE ANN.**

ANNUAL BOAT PARADE

**MONDAY, JULY 4,
2022**

1PM

LINE UP ON
NORTHWEST SAND
BAR IN ANN LAKE

THEME: ALL THINGS
"DISNEY" RELATED

**1st, 2nd, 3rd place
PRIZES WILL BE
AWARDED**

2022 Treasurer Report

by Kathy Garmes Taylor

The books were closed on December 31, 2021, and the audit was completed in January 2022. The following conclusions were reached:

- a) Total income was \$4,166.57, which agrees with deposits in fact posted to bank and PayPal accounts.
- b) Total expenses (including transfers to reserves) were \$5091.45, which agrees with charges in fact posted to bank and PayPal accounts.
- c) The net result was a **deficit** of \$924.88 for the year, in the Operating Fund (but \$1,212.17 net **increase** in reserves).
- d) The accumulated balance of the Operating Fund ("working capital") is \$4,883.13, to begin 2022.
- e) The sum of all funds, including reserves, was \$20,253.66, which is in fact on deposit at 12/31/21.
- f) All checks drawn on the account were evidently issued for valid business purposes and adequately documented by invoices or receipts.

The budget for 2022 has not yet been approved; the association is in good standing. Once approved, the budget will be posted on the Treasurer's page which can be found on the website, annlake.org, under the "About Us" option.

2022 Loon Report

by Kathy Garmes Taylor

It is April and there is still ice on the lake; however, one loon has been spotted in Mud Bay:

"Ice has been totally out down here on Mud Bay for a couple days. There's a loon dining right out in front of our house today. And there's a juvenile eagle that's been trying to catch it off guard for about an hour now. Eagle circles low; loon dives. Eagle lights in tree; loon calmly floats. Quite a drama to watch!"



Last year, we launched the artificial nest on April 9th. The nest will be located at the same spot on the west end of the lake. Based on the ice at this end of the lake, the nest will go in a bit later and went in on April 17. Thank you to the volunteers who worked on Easter Sunday to get that done. Last year, the loons didn't actually nest until the end of April, and we had 2 chicks just before Memorial Day. That was great timing; we didn't have to worry about boaters disturbing the nest. It would be nice if we had similar luck this year; but the loons aren't around to discuss the timeline.

As soon as the loons begin to nest, we'll post a note on the website, annlake.org. We will also post pictures of any chicks once they are hatched. Check it out throughout the summer to see what those loons are up to.

Events Committee

by Maggie Sowers and Sven Anderson

Welcome back all Riparians. For those who may not have seen our ALPOA website, we are happy to announce the winners of the 2021 Boat Parade. The Sharp family took first place while second place went to the Schmidt family and third place to the Stuart Family. The theme was Christmas in July and photos are on our website annlake.org. We are thrilled with the success of this boat parade and so pleased that Sven Anderson has again volunteered to arrange the 2nd Annual Themed Boat Parade this summer. Exciting details are below. The Events Committee is now co-chaired. Sven Anderson and I will be working together. Events this year are as follows:

Annual Meeting for ALPOA

Saturday June 25, 2022

10 AM-12PM. Almira Township Hall (Next to Lake Ann grocery, downtown Lake Ann)

The Annual Meeting is open to all ALPOA members and any other interested parties. Please feel free to bring your neighbors and friends. Once again, coffee and donuts will be served. The agenda will include a guest speaker, Nate Walton, Ph.D from MSU extension in Leelanau. He will speak on invasive insects with discussion to follow the presentation. There is also a board meeting with election of new officers for 2023. (Voting is restricted to members only). Ideas for the meeting are always welcome.

Annual Boat Parade

Monday, July 4, 2022

1 PM Meet over at the Northwest Sand Bar on Ann Lake

The second annual themed, judged and awarded boat parade will take place on the Fourth of July at 1:00 p.m. This year's theme is Disney. Dress up your boat and/or dress up the people on your boat around a Disney theme. Boats will be judged, and 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes will be awarded. Winners will be posted in the Lake Ann Brewery.

Be sure to check our website annlake.org for any changes and updates. See you in June.

Water Quality Report

by Dave Maxson

ALPOA volunteers continued (since 1999) to collect samples and record measurements of clarity, phosphorus, chlorophyll, dissolved oxygen, and water temperature throughout the 2021 summer season. Here are the summary conclusions from the report issued by the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP).

- ◆ Based on 2021 Secchi transparency, chlorophyll-a, and summer total phosphorus data, this lake is rated between the oligotrophic and mesotrophic lake classification. The lake leans slightly more oligotrophic than mesotrophic. Oligotrophic are generally deep and clear lakes with little aquatic plant or algae growth. These lakes maintain sufficient dissolved oxygen in the cool, deep-bottom waters during late summer to support cold water fish.
- ◆ Due to its low nutrient level, the lake is able to maintain dissolved oxygen throughout most of the water column for the entire summer, though dissolved oxygen gets low on the very bottom waters (70 feet).
- ◆ Long term trends indicate that the trophic status parameters have not changed beyond minor year-to year variation since monitoring began.

For those who are interested in the details, the full report (19 pages!) as well as others from past years, can be found on the ALPOA website, annlake.org.

Spring 2002 Invasive Species Committee Report

by Kent Taylor

As you know the last report from our lake management firm, PLM, had the following positive comments: *"Out of the 82 sites surveyed, 17 native (submersed) species were found and no nonnative species were identified."* We are optimistically looking forward to another year of minimal invasive plant issues along with a continuation of our significant monitoring and selective plant removals. Due to Covid concerns we did not have any normal meetings last year but the committee is so attuned to our methods and protocols that none were really needed to conduct the work we annually perform. This led to a year of maintaining our desirable status quo but we did not push out any new initiatives that will help keep things as they are going forward. This year we will have a Spring meeting to think through what we are now doing, how we are organizing and running these efforts and how we can better prepare for a challenging future, with so many nearby lakes being infested with nonnative plants. We have a small, dedicated committee which I think could use an influx of additional members with good ideas and an interest in working very hands-on with our lake and shorelines. If you are so motivated, please contact me at kent@annlake.org and we can talk about your future involvement. Some actions we know will be done this year already include:

- ◆ June weed survey to supplement the work of our professionals PLM. This survey will only look for Curly Leaf Pondweed, a species that forms early and dies out by the end of June. Since PLM wants to survey in mid-summer when the lake's flora is most abundant, this early, targeted survey covers a species they wouldn't find in August.
- ◆ The AVS total lake survey will be conducted by PLM in early August. Again, as in previous years, we hope our share of the cost for this will be paid through donations to our Lake Preservation Fund. Last year's report can be found on our website [here](#) or on the following pages. In it you will see very informative data, charts and most importantly, pictures of the plants we are most concerned about. Please review it to stay well informed about our lake and its future challenges.
- ◆ The second of our volunteer lake surveys will be done again late in September to specifically look for Starry Stonewort when it is most prevalent and identifiable.
- ◆ Also last summer through early fall we do a visual survey of the lakeshore looking for the easily seen Purple Loosestrife invasive plant. After locating suspicious plants we see from our boats we coordinate with individual lake owners to remove these plants from their shores. It is always heartening to see how many of our lake owners respond positively to this outreach and either remove the plants themselves or allow us to do it. We hope for similar cooperation this year.

I am very proud of the people on this committee and others who assist them. They all do good work in a timely, cheerful manner. **Thanks to all.**



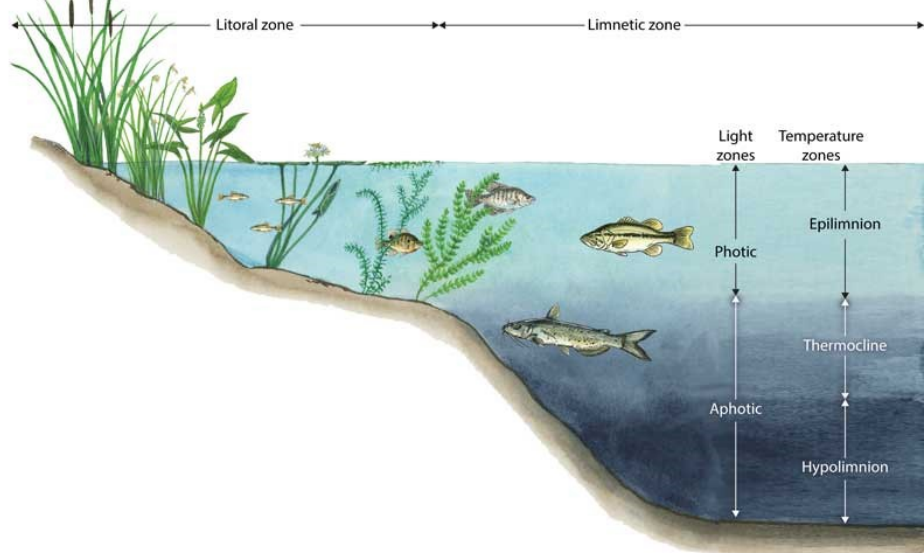
Protecting your
environment today
for tomorrow.

Lake Evaluation Record

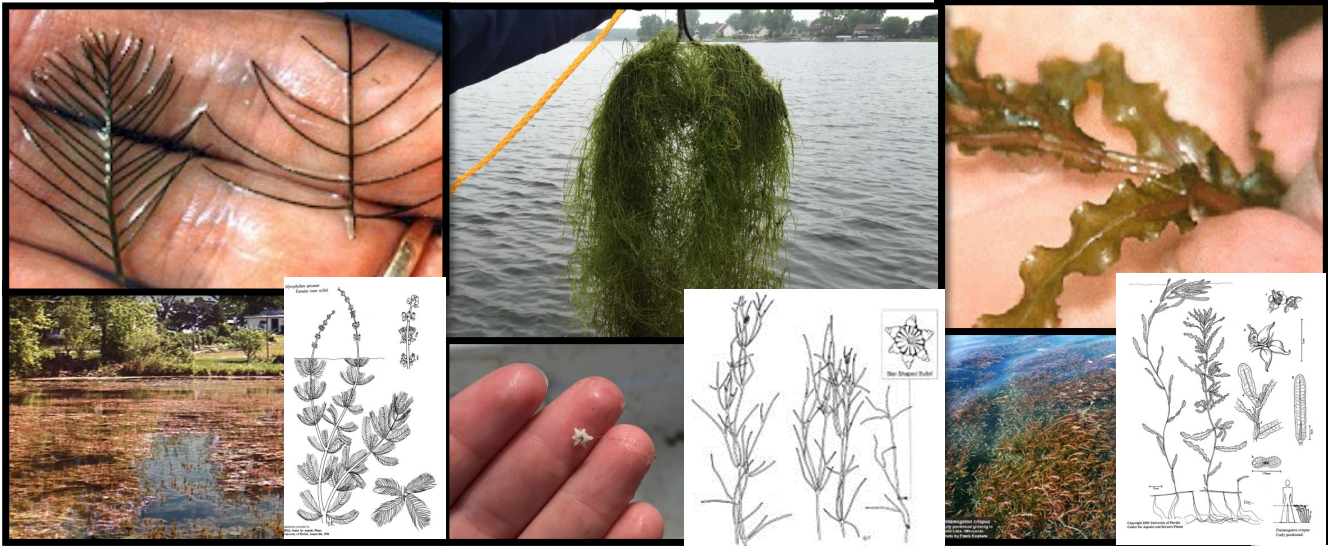
Lake Name: Ann Lake County: Benzie

Evaluated by: Sal Adams Reviewed by: Bre Grabill Date: August 5, 2021

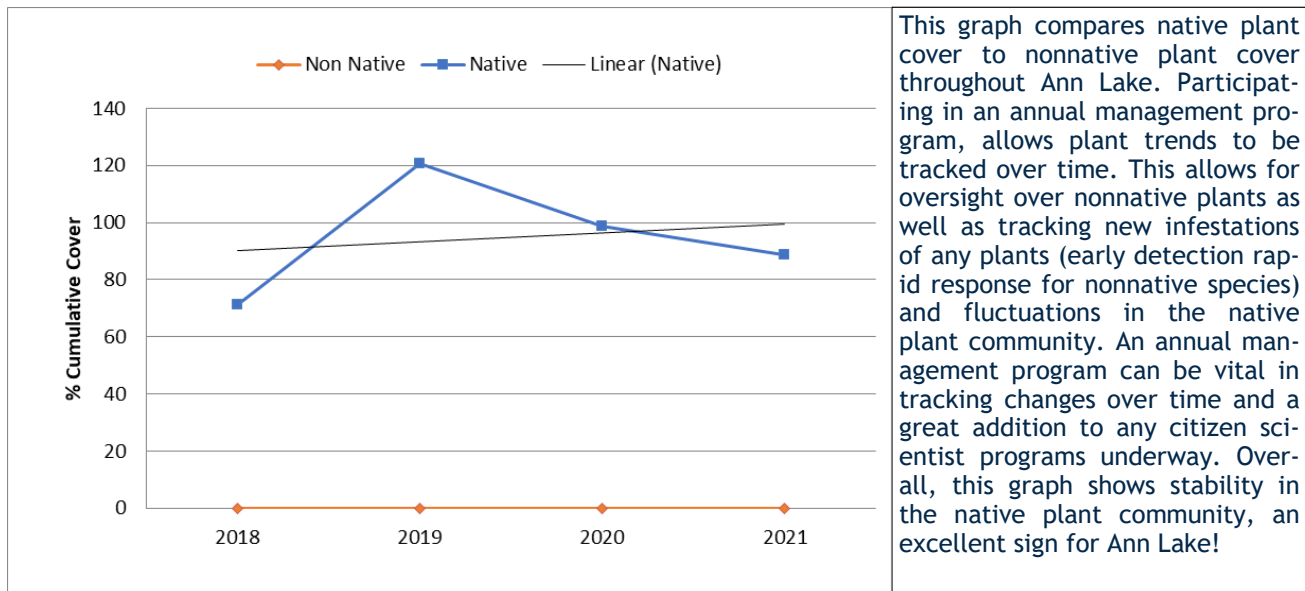
Purpose of evaluation: AVAS Survey



Ann Lake was surveyed on August 5th, by experienced PLM scientists. The goal of this survey was to identify any exotic species and document native plant diversity. An AVAS Survey was performed, using EGLE approved survey techniques which broke the lake down into 82 segments to document all vegetation present by species and density. July through September are ideal months for finding peak biomass in this geographical area. Out of the 82 sites surveyed, 17 native (submersed) species were found and no nonnative species were identified. Overall, the growth in Ann Lake was moderate and Chara, Naiad, Water lilies, Northern milfoil and various pondweeds were the most prevalent species found. Chara is a vital part of the lake ecosystem, providing sediment control and is a natural filter for the lake, while providing habitat for fish. Over the past few years, Ann Lake is showing strong trend lines with a healthy native plant community and no immediate concerns regarding invasive or exotic plants exist. It is not uncommon to have native biomass at the levels in some areas on Ann Lake receive recreational concern due to density. It is recommended to rake/remove biomass from beach areas whenever possible to improve swimming areas. Additional management options are available if needed but currently, no concerns have been made.



Exotic Plants—Exotic plant species cause most of the serious weed problems in Michigan's lakes. Exotic plants (or nonnative) are plants that are not native to this geographical area, which have been brought to the region inadvertently. Because they often have few natural enemies (their pests, pathogens, etc. may not have come over with them) therefore, they grow out of control. When exotic aquatic plants such as Eurasian watermilfoil, Starry stonewort and Curlyleaf pondweed invade a lake, they often form extensive dense populations, crowd out native species, negatively impact fisheries, reducing the quality of habitat for other organisms and impacting the entire lake ecosystem. Management efforts are underway across Michigan to reduce the spread of nonnative aquatic plants, yet typically property owners and local municipalities are left to oversee and pay for management efforts.



Ann Lake's Recommended Management Program:

- Survey Program including:
Annual AVAS Survey
- Water quality evaluation (optional)



PLM
LAKE & LAND
MANAGEMENT CORP

PO Box 424 Evart, MI 49634 800-382-4434 www.plmcorp.net

Greenbelt of the Year Award

The Annual ALPOA Greenbelt Award will be given at the Annual Meeting. Each year the ALPOA Board of Directors chooses a single Riparian property having the best Greenbelt. We select this property based on appearance, foliage indigenous to Northern Michigan inland lakes and true greenbelt function. We encourage all Ann Lake property owners to landscape their lakeshore areas with these characteristics in mind.

Congratulations, again, to the 2021 Greenbelt of the Year winner, **David DeVries**.



Membership

by Dave Maxson

NEVER ALPOA!!

I trust that got your attention. Never ALPOA?!? Yes, we've heard that from time to time over the years, and we understand. While ALPOA has no regulatory authority, neither to make nor to enforce any rules, we do advocate for what we deem to be the best interest for the health of our lake. Our only tool is persuasion. We understand that sometimes our position is nevertheless not shared by all. Thus some say, "Never ALPOA!"

For instance, a few years ago there was some interest in introducing walleye to our fishery. Some fishermen thought it was a great idea; some thought otherwise. While that idea did not come from ALPOA, nor did ALPOA take a position, some assumed we did. It's an example of issues that aren't unanimously popular with all property owners. Currently, ALPOA encourages a greenbelt of vegetation, preferably native, rather than a fertilized and mowed lawn, at the water's edge. The purpose and benefit is to preclude leaching of phosphorus into the water, which is detrimental to the health of the lake. We understand that some are disinclined to give up their manicured lawn and/or beach.

However, ALPOA currently has another very important objective, on which everyone should agree. That is to monitor for eurasian watermilfoil (EWM). When introduced, EWM can proliferate to such mass that fish cannot survive and boating is impossible. Consider what your property would be worth in that event. While EWM is found to varying degree in nearly every lake in our surrounding area, it's not yet detected in ours.

ALPOA is the **only** organization positioned to lead that effort. If we don't, nobody else will. The DEQ doesn't do it. While the township collaborates with us, they couldn't do it without ALPOA's volunteers. And when EWM is detected, there will need to be a plan for treatment. If you share our passion to protect the water that we all enjoy, and want to have a voice in the planning for remediation when that becomes necessary, please join the 64 owners who've already returned their membership dues for 2022, and become an active member. A form is included at the end of this newsletter.

P.S. Our thanks to the 81 owners who were dues-paid members in 2021.

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.

2022 Yearly Membership Dues \$_____ \$30.00 ___New ___Renewal

2023 Yearly Membership Dues \$_____ \$30.00

2024 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 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 with ALPOA: Yes ___ Committee: _____

Comments: _____

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

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