



# ANN LAKE

January 2000

## WATER LOG

### **PRESIDENT'S CORNER – Lee Muehlmann**

As I look at the lake in the new century, I wonder what it was like at the turn of the last century. The village was certainly a busy place. It rivaled Traverse City in size, and had many hotels and industries, all related to logging. From the photos I've seen, I don't think it was as pretty as it is today. Most of the forests had been logged off, roads were not paved, and everything was done with wood! From cooking and heating with a wood stove to operating the steam saw mill, it was done by burning wood. Think of the smoke, pollution, and the effects on the water and streams.

This century our lake faces new and different man made challenges. Pollution from gasoline engines, toxic releases, excess nutrient runoff from lawns, roads, septic systems, and increasing boating pressure, all threaten our wonderful resource. Perhaps the biggest threat we face is apathy on behalf of the people most affected by these things. Don't be one of the people who wonder what's going on, GET INFORMED, GET INVOLVED.

This issue of the Water Log has a lot of interesting information in it. News of some of the things your Association accomplished in 1999, things we are working on, and some of the items on the agenda for 2000 are presented here. Look elsewhere in this letter for more information.

### **CYGNETS KILLED BY FERTILIZER PELLETS – Joni Keskey**

In late October, it was reported to the DNR that three mute swan cygnets were found dead at the south end of Ann Lake. Local DNR officer Duane Painter retrieved one of the bodies and sent it to the DNR biologists for analysis.

I called Officer Painter after hunting season. Biologists found 3-4 pellets of time release fertilizer containing diazinon in the cygnet's stomach. According to the Complete Gardener's Library, diazinon is a synthetic pesticide that is highly toxic to fish, bees and birds. A broad-spectrum insecticide that kills pests on contact, including ants, aphids, beetles, caterpillars, fleas, ticks, white grubs and other insects. Toxicity rating: Caution. Their definition of the term "Caution" for toxicity rating is slightly toxic for human use.

I am going to speculate that sometime in October, a time release fertilizer/pesticide containing diazinon was applied to a lawn. It takes a few rains to dissolve the pellets so because of the dry weather, the pellets remained on the surface. The feeding cygnets picked up a few and were poisoned. This could have occurred immediately after application, so dry weather is not necessarily the culprit in this poisoning.



Diazinon and products containing diazinon can be purchased at most any store selling garden products. It is important that when using any product we are aware of its impact on the environment. This is a strong example supporting the argument that no fertilizer is safe near lakes.

If you have any questions regarding pesticides, call the local office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at 800-882-9278 or the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network, a 24 hour telephone hotline: 800-858-PEST.

## **WATER QUALITY CONFERENCE**

The Michigan Lake and Stream Association, of which we are a member, is hosting a conference on water quality on April 28, 29 and 30, 2000 in Gaylord. Further information will be sent to our Association at the end of January. If anyone is interested in attending this conference, please call Joni Keskey at 231-275-3040.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE - Lee Muehlmann -**

In November the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recommended restricting high speed boating hours on the lake, supporting the resolution passed at the general membership meeting in August. About the time the DNR information was received, and before the ordinance was enacted, the Township received several Xeroxed letters protesting the new regulation. This placed a lot of pressure on the Township Board, to reexamine the issue. Your Association Board found out about this just four days before the Township Board was scheduled to vote on the issue at a regular meeting. Thanks to fast action by many people we were able to generate numerous faxes and E-mails to the Township, as well as have a strong show of support at the meeting. Because of YOUR input and our Association's strength the Township Board voted unanimously to enact the ordinance. This ordinance restricts high speed boating to the same hours as those for water skiing (see the ordinance printed in this newsletter), and would never have been enacted without YOUR involvement.

On another front, letters were written by your Board to the Township Planning Commission regarding the "Greenbelt Issue", and the new zoning ordinances. One letter requested clarification of several definitions in the proposed greenbelt ordinance including "grandfathering", another asked that the Planning Commission delay any public hearings on the new zoning ordinances until late spring when all of the snow birds are back and have an opportunity to review and voice opinions on it. The Master Plan and new zoning ordinances have been a long time in the making and certainly needs as much public review as possible.

We still need YOUR input on this proposed "Greenbelt Ordinance". How do YOU feel about it? There is no doubt that we need to protect the lake,