



ANN LAKE

MAY 2002

WATER LOG

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – Lee Muehlmann

Thanks to the late snows and a lot of rain, our lake seems to be full (for the moment anyway). Migratory birds are now returning, and spring is in the air!

Among the migratory birds returning to our lake are the Loons. We hear their mournful call at night, and on quiet mornings. Loons, as you know, nest along the shoreline and are easily spooked. Their nest and eggs are prey to coyotes, fox, cats, raccoons etc. however, it seems that mankind is their worst enemy. As the boating season approaches, the nests are subjected to the wakes of passing boats, and the loud noises created by fast watercraft. Personal Watercraft (PWC) seems to be particularly troublesome to the Loon. PWC have a tendency to operate at high speed close to shore, and the wakes will wash away a nest, while the noise frightens and eventually drives off the parents. PLEASE, be mindful of all of the "critters" while boating and enjoying our wonderful lake.

As most of you know, our June meeting will signal a change of watch for your Association. Your Officers and Board have worked hard over the years to maintain, improve, and protect the quality of our beautiful lake. If you see them, please take a moment to thank them for their efforts. They are: Joni Keskey, Vice President and Water Quality Chair; Ron Brown, Treasurer; Dianne Minicucci, Secretary, and Water Testing; Judy Conant, Newsletter; Jane Bluhm, Almira Citizens for Preservation; Jim Supina, Membership; and Dick Unger, Water Testing. Many other members (especially spouses) devoted their time and effort and we are all in their debt.

A Ballot is included in this Newsletter with the names of candidates selected by the Nominating Committee. If you would like to run for a position, let us know before the June 22 meeting, and we can add your name to the ballot. You can vote by proxy of course, simply choose your candidates, sign the ballot and mail it to us. The best way, of course is to attend the meeting and vote in person. That way you can join in the fellowship and delicious burgers and brats after the meeting. Your guests are welcome.

HEALTH AND SAFETY – Lee Muehlmann

You may have read that the Federal Government no longer requires that children wear Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's or Life Jackets). Michigan, however, does require that children 5 years and under wear them while on or in a boat. In addition, each person on board a Personal Watercraft (PWC) is required to wear a non-inflatable type I, II or III PFD. Anyone under 12 years of age is restricted to wearing a type I or II. Actually, we all should wear them. A Life Jacket is worthless if you are in the water and the device is trapped in the stowage compartment of an over turned boat! Scattered through this newsletter are other tips for boaters and PWC operators. Take a moment to read these and share them with others. Have a safe, fun summer!

WATER QUALITY – Joni Keskey

Water testing has begun for Ann Lake this season. We are continuing to test the water clarity, for chlorophyll and phosphorus levels and the amount of dissolved oxygen.

Last year's results will be available at the annual meeting. Our lake was chosen as an example of dissolved oxygen results. This is due to the fine efforts of Dianne and Al Minicucci and Dick Unger.

In general, our lake is maintaining a good level of water quality. We need to safeguard the lake by providing buffer zones of vegetation to filter run off and to be proactive when it comes to septic systems and other pollutants. It is everyone's responsibility to maintain our entire watershed's quality. Please come to the annual meeting where we can discuss this matter and any other concerns further.

MEMBERSHIP - Jim Supina

We currently have 76 paid members in our Association out of a possible 189 property owners. Obviously, the more members we have the stronger the Association will be. If you are a current member and know a friend or neighbor who has not joined at this time, you might talk to them about signing up. We would be happy to send them an application if they are interested. You can contact Jim Supina at 275-7971 or Cell #620-8608. Thank You.

RANSOM LAKE – Jane Bluhm

During the past several months, I have had the opportunity of representing the Ann Lake Property Owners Association Board of Directors on the Almira Citizens For Preservation Committee. I don't believe that I have ever seen a more dedicated group of people working for such a worthwhile cause, the preservation of the 220 acres of wildlife habitat, forest, wetlands, 3,500 feet of Ransom Creek frontage and the entire 18 acres of Ransom Lake.

They have held several fundraisers during the fall and winter, a golf tournament, an auction, and a spaghetti dinner. There are raffle tickets being sold on building lot #71 in Beechridge Estates. Several other prizes will also be raffled at that time. Contact Kent Gray at 947-6450 if you are interested in buying a raffle ticket.

Local financial support that needs to be raised is \$225,000. It is hoped that the total amount will have been raised by July 6, 2002. Almira Historical Homecoming, with the winner of the building lot to be drawn at that event.

So far the committee has raised over \$140,000 through private donations and fundraisers. The Michigan Resources Trust Fund awarded a grant toward the purchase of this property in the amount of \$359,917. This project was named as top priority of all non-State

projects. A large "thermometer" has been placed in the Lake Ann Village Park tracking the progress of the funds received.

Almira Township will be given the sole ownership of this beautiful area. It will be preserved for generations to come to enjoy hiking, hunting, fishing, bird watching and nature studies. Please do whatever you can to support this worthwhile project.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Ron Brown

Balance on hand \$3,921.79 as of April 30, 2002

BALLOT

The slate of Officer's and Board Members to be elected at the meeting is outlined below. You must be a paid up member to be eligible to vote. If you cannot attend the meeting, you may give your proxy to another member by signing the sheet below. Remember... only one vote per household (or in the case of shared access) one vote per lot.

OFFICER'S

President	Joni Keskey	_____
Vice President	Judy Conant	_____
Treasurer	Shirley Drew	_____
Secretary	Phyllis Roehloff	_____

BOARD MEMBER'S

Dianne Minicucci	_____
Stan Sprague	_____

I cannot attend the annual meeting, am a member in good standing, and hereby give my proxy to _____ who will cast my ballot for me. My name is _____, and my lake address is _____.

Signature _____

TIPS

PWC

A USCG approved fire extinguisher must be carried aboard all PWC. It should be stowed in a waterproof compartment and checked frequently, because of the jarring motion of passing over waves.

A whistle must be carried aboard all PWC. Be sure to have one that will operate when wet. Attach it to the operators PFD.

A distress flag (black disc or black square on an orange background) or a mirror can be used as emergency signals. These can be seen from a distance, they can't cause fires, aren't hazardous, and they work when wet.

Maintaining a proper lookout is a particular challenge on a PWC. Operators tend to focus on the waves immediately ahead, and disregard what's to either side and off in the distance. This "tunnel vision" prevents operators from seeing swimmers, boats, obstructions and other objects. Operators must train themselves to swivel their heads and look around.

GENERAL BOATING

The vessel registration as well as proof of successful completion of a boating class (for those required to have complete one) must be carried in the vessel at all times.

The Michigan Legislature recently passed tougher penalties for those convicted of operating a boat while under the influence of alcohol.

Now that Zebra Mussels have infected our waters, be especially watchful of your water-cooling intakes. They tend to accumulate around the intake, and will eventually clog the intake, preventing water from entering and cooling your engine.

**ANNUAL
MEETING/PICNIC**
Date: June 22, 2002
Time: 9:30 Coffee
10:00 Meeting

SPEAKERS FROM-
Benzie County Conservation District
Landscape/Shoreline
Maintenance

Place- Almira Township
Park Pavilion

PICNIC FOLLOWS THE MEETING
Please bring dish to pass & beverage
Brats, Burgers & table service provided

RSVP Diane Minicucci- 275-7275

