

# ◆ ANN LAKE WATER LOG ◆

September 17, 2002

## **ALPOA BOARD MEMBERS**

### **2002-2003**

#### **PRESIDENT:**

**JONI KELSKEY**

**231 275 3040**

#### **VICE-PRESIDENT:**

**JUDY CONANT**

**231 275 3072 OR**

**231 941 0055**

#### **SECRETARY:**

**PHYLLIS ROELOFS**

**231 275 5523**

#### **TREASURER:**

**SHIRLEY DREWS**

**231 275 5270**

#### **PAST PRESIDENT:**

**LEE MUEHLMAN**

**231 275 5511**

#### **MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:**

**JANE BLUHM**

**231 275 7776**

**DIANNE MINICUCCI**

**231 275 7275**

**STAN SPRAGUE**

**231 275 6754**

**DICK UNGER**

**231 275 5673**

## ***PRESIDENTS CORNER - Joni Keskey***

Hi everyone! I'd like to introduce myself as your new president of the association for this year. My name is Joni Kelskey. My husband Ted and I live on Birch Glen on "Croakey Point" at the south end of Ann Lake. We've owned the property since 1997 and moved here permanently in January, 1999.

I've been on the board since its inception in 1997 and Ted and I have been doing the water testing for 4 years now. We care deeply about the environment and this beautiful piece of "God's Country" and so are very happy to see such an active group of lake owners.



***Our new President  
Joni Keskey***

We have a wonderful group of volunteers on the board this year and hope to accomplish some goals this year. We are hoping to establish an alliance amongst the other lakes in Almira Township to expand our base of influence: to work towards further protection of the fragile nesting areas in the south end of the lake; to expand our water testing efforts with the help of the Michigan Lake and Streams Association's Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program and broaden our membership around the lake. It's important that you keep us advised of what is important to you as lake owners, so call a board member. Volunteer to help

with some of the projects. Talk to your neighbors and get them to join. This is your association and we're only as strong as our membership's interest and support. Joni Kelskey

## ***THANK YOU PAST BOARD MEMBERS***

A special thank you to Lee Muehlmann, our outgoing president. Lee has been the real founding father of this association as well as its charter president. Lucky for all of us, he's staying on the board this year as Past President. Thanks, Lee, for all your hard work over the years.

Thanks to Ron Brown who was a charter board member and quickly filled in as Treasurer. Ron has kept us organized and in the black all these years. Thanks, Ron, and don't be surprised if we call on you for help every now and then.

Thanks to Jim Supina, our former membership person. Jim has been a great board member, helping out wherever needed and keeping track of memberships for the past 2 years. His common sense approach to problems was always welcome at the board meetings. Thanks, Jim, and keep in touch.



## *REPORT on the COMMON LOON of LAKE ANN*

### *Cecilia Droz -Ann Lake Loon Ranger*

Rejoice! As of this writing, the Ann Lake loon chicks have survived the Majority of the summer season! After talking with numerous neighbors and lake residents, this may be the first time in 30 or 40 years we have seen Loon chicks survive! Whether this is fact or not, it is a fact the Common Loon is a threatened species here in Michigan and faces an uncertain future. It is also a fact if we play poor hosts and hostesses, they will not return and could become extinct within the state. We have much to be proud of as we have been responsible - giving the Loons the space, habitat and freedom they need to enjoy life here on Ann Lake.

I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you while out on the lake this summer and am reassured to know so many of us share in the wonder and excitement of the Common Loon.. (Are Looniacs or Loonatics?) While most lake residents are relatively Knowledgeable about the bird, many if not most visitors are not. One person from Indiana I talked to thought they were a myth! If we want to continue enjoying the Common Loon's presence for years to come, we must be diligent in our shared responsibility to assure their habitat.

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birds!***

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Please don't be afraid to speak up when others are too close to a Loon. I know some of you have done so - thank you -, we really need to get the word out. The recommended distance to keep is a minimum of 100 feet, or about 5 boat lengths. Loons may swim away from you, lower their posture, look rapidly about, dip their bill, dive or give a distress call. A distress call kind sounds like Woody Woodpecker! If you hear this, you or someone is WAY too close! Loons need privacy and space. You Probably wouldn't like people trespassing on your front lawn either, and given this intrusion once too often, you may very well pack up and move!

The Michigan Loon Preservation Association ( of which Loon Rangers are a part) reports that Michigan Loons have been attempting to breed on the larger lakes, but are not returning to them mainly due to the high volume of boat traffic. While there are many threats the birds face (raccoons, turtles, eagles, gulls, lead sinkers) it appears boat traffic is high on the list. The MLPA also reports that it is just within the past 2-3 years many Loons are returning to the smaller lake (of which Ann Lake is one) in hopes of raising a successful brood. We have every reason to be honored to be sharing the lake with these amazing birds!

Soon we will be seeing additional Loons gathering and socializing on the lake. This is a ritual of the Common Loon prior to their fall migration, where they most likely head to the Gulf of Mexico. There they will face many threats and hazards as well - mercury, food shortages, lead, pollution. severe weather. etc.

In closing, a Loon trivia question! If you're driving down the freeway speeding (snowbirds heading south), can a Loon pass you? Surprise, they can - Loons travel about 90 mph and have been clocked at over 100 mph. Let's hope that in spring 2003, they'll be in just as big a hurry to head north again to Ann Lake! May we never take their presence for granted.

Ann Lake Loon Ranger - Cecilia Droz 275-7938, MLPA at [www.MichiganLoons.org](http://www.MichiganLoons.org)



## LOOKING FOR EURASIAN MILFOIL- WEED MAPPING EXCURSION

*Dianne Minicucci*

On July 24 Th., a warm sunny morning, Pam Smith, a biologist with the Benzie Conservation District, spent several hours with board members, examining the weed beds in Ann Lake. We are happy to report there is no evidence of Eurasian Milfoil anywhere in the lake. There are numerous native milfoils that can easily be mistaken for the invasive noxious alien species, but, again, no evidence anywhere for Eurasian Milfoil. In fact, our weed beds looked viable with a balanced mixture of common native weeds, the type that contribute to good fishing conditions and the overall health of the lake.

***We are happy to report there is no evidence of Eurasian Milfoil anywhere in Ann Lake***

Association members who helped were Dick Unger, Dianne Minicucci, Ted and Joni Kelskey. Thanks to Dianne for setting up Pam's visit and Ted for the use of his pontoon boat.

If you're wondering what the green scum is on the lake this summer, it's a harmless organism called spirogyra. Pam said she's seen it on a number of lakes this summer and thinks its presence is a result of the overly warm temperatures.

## WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

*Joni Keskey*

***Wanted: Water Testers If you would like to help with water testing for temperature and dissolved oxygen, please phone Minicucci at 275-7275 or Dick Unger at 275-5673. ALPOA desperately needs volunteers for this activity or the oxygen testing will be dropped.***

Water testing for Ann Lake has been completed as of the second week of September. All reports have been sent to the Michigan Lake and Stream Association and the Michigan DEQ. We will receive a compilation of these results in a handbook sent out by MLSA in January, where we will have the opportunity to compare our results with other lakes of similar size and structure. You can see this handbook at the June Annual Membership Meeting.

On a related note, we need volunteer eers to continue some of the water testing procedures. Al and Dianne Minicucci and Dick Unger have been doing the dissolved Oxygen testing for the past two years, but will be unable to continue. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Dianne Minicucci at 275-7275 or [aldimn@aol.com](mailto:aldimn@aol.com) or Joni Keskey at 275-3040 or [tjkeskey@chartermi.net](mailto:tjkeskey@chartermi.net). The oxygen testing is

a very important part of our total view of the health of Ann Lake so we really need someone to step forward and help us continue the testing.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

*Lee Muehlman*

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) recently published a new regulation that will become effective in Jan. 2003 on all Federally controlled waters, and on state waters where states do not have a life jacket regulation. Basically, the regulation requires all children under the age of 13 to wear a life jacket when on a boat. How this impacts Michigan waters remains to be seen. More on that in the next issue. In view of this new regulation, it seemed like a good time to talk about life jackets, so here goes.

Life jackets come in a variety of shapes, colors, sizes, and materials. Some are made to be more rugged and last longer while others are made to protect you from cold water or an impact water. There are stylish ones, and plain ones, and then there are different ones.

No matter which life jacket you choose be sure to get the one that is right for you. Select one based on your planned activities, and the water conditions you expect to encounter. Remember, spending a little now can save your life later. USCG approval means that the life jacket has passed rigorous testing, and is the only one approved for your use by the Coast Guard, most marine patrols, etc. So always look for the USCG approval number on any life jacket you buy. Be sure to read the manufacturer's label and the "Think Safe" pamphlet that is attached to the jacket. You will find valuable information there. You may have heard of the inflatable life jackets. They are available in adult sizes only, and are comfortable for continuous wear in hot weather and provide high flotation when inflated.

***Go get one,  
your life  
may depend  
on it!***

Because inflatables have limited buoyancy without being inflated, they are not considered appropriate for use by non-swimmers or weak swimmers, unless worn inflated. They are not for use by children younger than 16 years of age or by persons weighing less than 80 pounds.

Inflatable life jackets use a replaceable CO2 gas cylinder as the primary means for inflation. They can also be inflated by blowing into a tube attached to the jacket. There are two types of inflation systems being offered: manual inflation which requires the user to jerk on a pull-tab (lanyard) to inflate, and a manual-auto inflation type. This type includes a back-up system designed to automatically inflate when it is submerged. The manual-auto type can also be inflated in the same manner as the manual.

The CO2 cylinder is good for only one inflation. To keep this type of jacket in serviceable condition, the CO2 cylinder must be replaced after each inflation, and the status must be checked before each use. These types of jackets are not to be worn under clothing because automatic or accidental inflation could restrict breathing and cause injury. They are not suitable for use with personal watercraft or while water skiing.

Now, there is no reason to complain about the bulk or how hot it is to wear a life jacket! Go get one, your life may depend on it.