



ANN LAKE WATER LOG



May 23, 2006

**ANN LAKE
PROPERTY
OWNERS
ASSOCIATION**

BOARD MEMBERS

**PRESIDENT
KIM BECKER
275-5823**

**VICE PRESIDENT
(TO BE ELECTED)**

**SECRETARY
BECKY MACGIRR
275-6297**

**TREASURER
SHIRLEY DREWS
275-5270**

**PAST PRESIDENT
JANE BLUHM
275-7776**

DIRECTORS

**DENNIS CONANT
275-5511**

**ELLIOTT CALDWELL
275-6759**

**COLLEEN WRIGHT
275-5299**

Published and
distributed to property
owners and residences
of Ann Lake.

Message from the President,

Kim Becker

The water is getting its light blue color back, the loons are back and making their presence known. This is a great way of life. Living on the water most of my adult life, I take great pleasure in this lifestyle. That is what it is, a lifestyle. You enjoy it, your neighbors enjoy it, and the community benefits by the existence of our lifestyle. We live in homes, visit our cottages, and have yards and gardens, and we share Ann Lake. The key word here is share. Everyone that lives, visits, or owns property here shares everything we do on and in Ann Lake. This lifestyle comes with a great responsibility. We respect everyone's rights on our shared paradise. I wish to thank my fellow property owners for giving me the opportunity to share in this resource and community. I am confident that this will be a long lasting lifestyle. I am also grateful for a pro-active Property Owners Association to preserve and protect this lifestyle.

Purpose of the Ann Lake Property Owners' Association

- Preserve Ann Lake as a Natural Resource and Recreational Area.
- Promote the education of all Ann Lake users about water quality, water safety on Ann Lake, and emphasize the importance of the Platte River Watershed.
- Support issues that concern the welfare of Ann Lake.
- Promote the best interests of the membership in fiscal and civic matters.

Membership and Board Members

Kim Becker

This past year we have had a wonderful group of volunteers serving you and the Board. Jane Bluhm, is presently serving on the board as past president. Shirley Drews has served as Treasurer and has served on this board for several years. Thanks Shirley! We are happy to have you continue to serve on the Board. Shirley is also the Membership Chairman. Director Elliott Caldwell is very active with the board. Dennis Conant, husband of Charter Member and Past President Judy, is keeping with the family tradition of volunteering his time for this great cause. Special thanks to the Keskeys, Minicuccis, Dick Unger, and Doc Dannecker for continuing to monitor the water quality of the lake through the water testing program. If you see any of these fine volunteers, be sure to thank them for their time and effort.

This association, its members, officers, and director's work collectively on maintaining a high quality lifestyle as waterfront owners. Only **30%** of the property owners are members. **We are in need of volunteers to serve on the board.** It takes so little time and the rewards are measured by the positive preservation of our lifestyle on Ann Lake.

Issues that plague other local lakes include Crystal Lake with a public boat dock controversy, Torch Lake with property owners rights regarding seasonal rentals, Houghton Lake with weed control, Platt Lake with phosphorus pollution from the Hatchery. A pro-active property owners association is important to prevent issues that are detrimental to our lifestyle on Ann Lake. If you are not a member, join. If your neighbor is not a member, ask them to **join**. Talk with an officer or director anytime for more information.

Mark Your Calendar

Ann Lake Property Owners Association

Annual Meeting, June 24, 2006 Almira Township Park, The large pavilion
9:30 AM Coffee, Meeting at 10:00. Potluck Picnic to Follow - Bratwurst and burgers provided, Bring a dish to pass as well as your own beverage choice.

Annual Dues

Annual Dues of **just \$20.00** support the following programs. Please Join the ALPOA by sending us your dues. A membership form is included in this Newsletter.

- Water Quality Monitoring Program as mentioned earlier in the *Water Log*.
- Membership in the Michigan Lakes and Streams
- Postage and Costs for the publishing and distribution of the *Water Log*.
- Annual Meeting and Picnic
- Other costs that may arise to benefit the Property Owners of Ann Lake

Save the above information for your reference, cut and send the bottom portion in with your dues.

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Membership Form, Membership is for the Calendar Year, January 2005 through December 2005

Membership Fee is \$20, Additional Donations are appreciated. Your Association, it's Board Members and Directors are a Non-Profit, Volunteer Staffed, Organization to serve the Property Owners of Ann Lake.

Name _____ Please make any comments below.

Permanent Mailing Address _____ (Is the address on the mailing label correct?)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Ann Lake Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

Mailing and E-Mail Addresses will not be distributed and used only by ALPOA. (Privacy Notice)

Mail To: **Ann Lake Property Owners Association**
PO Box 184, Lake Ann, MI 49650



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

Zebra Mussels, Hydrilla, Whirling Disease, Spiny Water Fleas, Round Gobies, Water Hyacinth Purple Loosestrife and a new, fast growing plant, the European Frogbit.

Learn more about these Nuisance Hitchhikers at www.protectyourwaters.net

Manage your shoreline and lawn

1. Don't use lawn fertilizer that contains phosphorus
2. Use a minimum amount of fertilizer, don't fertilize directly next to the waterline
3. Water the lawn sparingly to avoid washing nutrients and sediments into the lake
4. Set your lawn mower to cut grass two to three inches high.
5. Plant steep banks with native vegetation that binds the soil and traps water.
6. Terrace steep bands when possible to further slow water and sediments.
7. Repair eroded areas on your yard or along the shoreline
8. Use less fertilizers and pesticides on property near lakes, rivers, and streams.
9. Keep grass clippings out of the lake, they are rich in nutrients, promoting aquatic vegetation.
10. Maintain your septic system, avoid using a garbage disposal, and limit the use of toxic chemicals in the home.

Good Reading

Learn more about your lake and how to care for it.

The Lake in your Community, by Lowel L. Klissig et. al.
\$4.00 to Cooperative Extension Publications
45 N Charter St.
Madison, WI 53715
Or call toll free 877-947-7827

Order this publication #G3216 by sending

The Lake Book: Actions You Can Take to Protect Your Lake by Maine Congress of Lake Associations.
Order by sending \$5.00 to
COLA
PO Box 38
Readfield, ME 04355
www.mainecola.org or call 978-469-8291

A Citizen's Guide to Lake Protection

Available online at www.pca.state.mn.us/water/lakeprotection.html

Life on the Edge: Owning Waterfront Property by Michael D. Dresden et. al.

Order by sending \$3.00 plus \$1.50 S & H to
UW-Extension Lakes Program
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin
1900 Franklin St.
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Ann Lake Water Testing Program

Kim Becker

For the past six years volunteers have been testing the water of Ann Lake. Joni and Ted Keskey have been testing for water clarity, phosphorous, and chlorophyll content. Dick Unger, Dianne and Al Minicucci, with some help from Doc Danneker and Bob Vogt have been testing for water temperature and dissolved oxygen.

The testing tells us about the overall condition of the lake. The results are sent to the Michigan DEQ each fall for inclusion in the annual reports of Michigan Lakes. Each year at our ALPOA annual meeting, the DEQ report and all the testing graphs are available for out members to see. Ann Lake has been highlighted in the DEQ reports as an example of a good quality mesotrophic lake.

This year we are adding a program of **Aquatic Plant Mapping**. Thought plants are important to the lake, overabundant plants can negatively effect fish populations, fishing and recreational activities of property owners. More about this program will be discussed at the annual meeting.

This program is sponsored by the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, in which we are members. In order for this program to continue, we need some volunteers to help us out. **Beginning this year**, we are in need of your help. **If you, or someone you know, want a rewarding reason to take a little cruise around Ann Lake on a regular basis, take some samples, record some data, and maybe drop a fishing line in after the job is done, give one of the Board Members a call.** It's not complicated and it's a great opportunity to give Mother Nature a helping hand.

4th of July Ann Lake Boat Parade

Your Lake Association is sponsoring the Annual 4th of July Boat Parade. Del Roelofs is working on the organization. Mill around at the Sand Bar before 1:00 PM to get things started. Let's spruce up that boat and celebrate our independence the way we know how. See you there.

Government Report

Ransom Lake A handicap accessible trail from Lake Ann Road along the creek until it joins Ransom Lake is being engineered and designed. Construction will start soon. You can see an aerial view of the planned development at the Township Offices.

Swimmers Itch

Garry Pierce

With summer here, cases of swimmer's itch will be appearing on our shores. SI, as it is called, is a fairly common occurrence on many of the area lakes. Myth: It is not a result of dirty or polluted water. SI is caused by larvae from a small flatworm called Schistosoma. This flatworm is a parasite on snails and warm-blooded waterfowl and rodents. SI is caused by the body's allergic reaction to the dead larvae, which burrow under the skin. There are at least nine different flatworms that produce itch causing larvae. A natural way to control SI is to stop feeding the waterfowl. Other remedies are towel off vigorously. Avoid swimming in shallow areas; The colder the water, the less larvae. Although no research has proven this, a sunscreen with bug repellent is thought to help. Enjoy your summer, be safe, be respectful to all others on the water.

Websites Following are some websites of importance. Check them out for a bunch of info. We are attempting to find a home for ALPOA's Home Page. Stay tuned.

www.almiratwp.org	Almira Township's Government Site
www.benzie.org	Benzie County Chamber of Commerce
www.lakeann.com	Lake Ann Community Website
www.nalms.org	North American Lakes Management Society (educational site, recommended)
www.mlswa.org	Michigan Lake and Stream Associations (we are members, educational, recommended)
www.deq.state.mi.us	Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
www.mi-riparian.org	The Michigan Riparian, dedicated to the wise use of Michigan's Water Resources.