



Ann Lake Water Log

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2023

President's Letter

by Kathy Garmes-Taylor

As the ALPOA President for 2023 I would like to express my appreciation 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/eradication. We continue to seek new members to become involved with the board. One of my personal goals will be to increase our outreach for new members to the board. In particular, I will be asking each committee chair to establish succession plans for their committees. As with any organization, it is important that we continue to attract new members and new ideas to our board. I welcome any comments and input from any member of the association. To facilitate, I've asked that a new email account be created, president@annlake.org. Any email sent to this address I will read and act upon or forward, as appropriate.

ALPOA was founded in 1998 and since then, has continued to work towards its main mission to "protect and preserve Ann Lake". As we've repeatedly stated in these letters, there is a misconception that this responsibility also includes 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. As a 501c4, we cannot and will not lobby for a particular person; we will lobby for any policy that will help with our mission. As such, we continue to work with the Benzie Conservation District as well as Almira Township on programs such as those to educate all users of Ann Lake on aquatic invasive plants.

I look forward this year in continuing ALPOA's 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 2023 BOARD:

Kathy Garmes -Taylor

President

Kent Taylor, Vice

President

Dave Maxson

Treasurer

Maggie Sowers,

Secretary

AT-LARGE

BOARD MEMBERS:

Terry Sowers

Sven Anderson

Jeff Dahlberg

Val Dahlberg

ALPOA ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY JUNE 17, 2023 10AM-12PM

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN
THE ALMIRA TOWNSHIP HALL
IN LAKE ANN

**Notification: ByLaw
revisions vote to be
taken**

ANNUAL BOAT PARADE

TUESDAY, JULY 4,
2023

1PM

LINE UP ON
NORTHWEST SAND
BAR IN ANN LAKE

THEME:
"AMERICANA"

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

2023 Loon Report

by Kathy Garmes Taylor

It is now April 15th, and the ice is out on the lake and loons have been showing up on the lake. The loon committee will be a little late getting the nest out this year but should have it out by the end of April. The biggest problem we have getting the nest out in April is finding ways to "landscape" when there is nothing growing along the shoreline yet. We will try to find mint plants to add to the nest; the smell will help keep the flies away. We will also purchase some fake grasses to put on the nest to provide some protective coverage. We added pine boughs last year and may repeat this again.



These are pictures from last year, but the nest and buoys will be in the same location this year, the southwest end of the lake. Last year, the loons nested within 3 weeks of the nest being launched. If the loons follow the same schedule as last year, they should be nesting by the by mid-May and have their chicks by mid-June. That means the loons will be on their nest during the busy Memorial Day weekend. Please remind your guests to avoid the nest and give the loons a wide space. As you recall, last year the loons initially abandoned the nest which stretched their mating season by 3 weeks. **P.S.** As of April 27, the nest has been launched by the Taylors and Sowers, with Maxsons adding more greenery. The 2 loons stayed with us, the whole time we were there. The loons have been around the nest, fishing and then returning. Two of the buoys have been placed and the 3rd one had an attachment line issue so that will be placed at a later date. Let's hope for a successful loon chick hatch.

Keep watching the website for updates on the loon activity.

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 **2022** Greenbelt of the Year winner, **Richard and Diane Legeret**.



2023 Events Committee

by Maggie Sowers and Sven Anderson

Annual Meeting for ALPOA

Saturday June 17, 2023

10 AM-12PM Almira Township Hall (big white building on Maple St, across from Burnett Park)

The 2023 Ann Lake Property Owners Association Annual Meeting will be held June 17 at 10:00am. Officers from the DNR will be doing a presentation and there will be a Q&A session after their presentation. Coffee and baked goods will be served. It is very important that you attend. Members will be voting on new bylaws this year. There are several proposed revisions to the bylaws. You may review the proposed changes on our website, annlake.org.

Reminder: Each membership represents a property. There is one vote for each membership. For example: A family living in a single household has one vote. Annual dues must be paid to the Treasurer by the Annual Meeting to be considered a member and non-members may not vote. Hope to see you there!

Annual Boat Parade

Tuesday, July 4, 2023

1 PM

The Annual Boat Parade and Decorating Contest will be on Tuesday, July 4th, starting at 1pm at the sandbar in the middle of the lake. The lead boat will have an ALPOA sign on the side. We circumnavigate the lake and show all the landlubbers how much pride we take in the USA on this holiday.

Feedback from several of our members indicates the preferred theme relates to the holiday and celebrating our great country. So this year the theme is, "Americana". There are so many wonderful possibilities. Here are just a few ideas:

- ◆ Symbols of America..like the Statue of Liberty or Apple Pie.
- ◆ Famous American People..like Betsy Ross or Theodore Roosevelt.
- ◆ American Heros..like Daniel Boone.
- ◆ Events in American History..too many to count.

We believe this will allow participants a wide range of choices. Each participant will be judged on creativity, craftsmanship and originality. We want to keep the contest on a positive note. Politically biased or contentious messages will not be eligible for prizes. Please bear this in mind when you choose your decorations. Prizes will be awarded for the three best boats. Be sure to involve the children, this has always been a favorite Ann Lake activity.

Congratulations to the **2022** Boat Parade winners: 1st prize went to the Davis family, 2nd prize went to the Anderson family, and 3rd prize went to the Wolfe family. Our special thanks goes out to Lake Ann Brewery, The Bread Lady, Papa J's, the Red Door and the Corner Cone for their gift contributions. Please frequent these businesses and say thank you for helping out the ALPOA organization.

2023 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 2022 summer season. Here is an excerpt of the summary conclusions from the report issued by the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP).

“Long term monitoring shows slight upward slopes on all the parameters and an increase in average TSI score in 2022 compared to historic averages. Together, these results indicate a slow movement toward higher nutrient levels in the lake over time.”

While not alarming, it is worth noting that this is the first time that “slight upward slope” and “higher nutrient levels” have ever been mentioned in the annual report for our lake. Those comments are due primarily to recent trends in our measurements of phosphorus and clarity.

Phosphorus is one of several essential nutrients that algae require to grow and reproduce. More phosphorus equals more algae. Humans use and dispose of phosphorus in common items such as fertilizers, foods, and cleaning agents. Lakes receive a portion of this human-generated phosphorus through run-off and septic leachate. Another primary source is the fecal droppings from pets, other animals, and geese that frequent or cross our lawns. Heavy rains then wash the nutrients into the lake; i.e., run-off.

Clarity is just what it sounds like: a measure of the degree of clarity versus cloudiness of the water. If you appreciate being able to see the bottom at 12-15 feet, we’re trending in the wrong direction. Why? It’s not rocket science! More phosphorus equals more algae that clouds the water.

What to do? While phosphorus levels may vary naturally as plants and animals live, die, and decompose in the lake, we humans can reduce the nutrient level by minimizing the run-off from our shoreline into the lake. The most effective way to do that is to allow (yea, promote!) a greenbelt of natural vegetation at the water’s edge. Not only will that keep the nutrients from running into the water, it will keep the geese from coming onto your lawn. Doubtful? Try it!! For those who are interested in more details, the full CLMP report (19 pages!) as well as others from past years, can be found on the ALPOA website, annlake.org.

2023 Treasurer Report

by Dave Maxson

In the interest of condensing space for this newsletter, here are just the highlights of the financial activity for the calendar year ending 12/31/22.

- * Total income was \$3,336.32.
- * Total expenses (including transfers to reserves) were \$2,809.61.
- * The net result was a surplus of \$526.71 for the year.
- * The balance of the Operating Fund was \$5,409.84, to begin 2023.
- * The reserve to deal with discovery of an Invasive Species is \$10,966.97.
- * The sum of all funds, including all reserves, was \$20,923.57.

If you are interested in all the details, please email me at dcmason@msn.com, and I will attach the full report to a reply.



2023 Invasive Species Report

by Kent Taylor

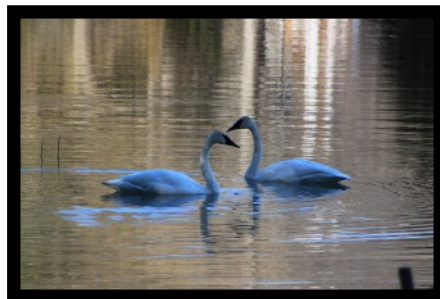
Our lake continues to enjoy the enviable status of having no known aquatic invasive plants present. Our last mid-summer [survey](#) done by our professional lake management firm, PLM, confirmed this status once again last year. Go to our annlake.org website, Committees, Invasive Species, 2022 PLM report if you can't access the survey link. This year we will be surveyed again as we stay ever vigilant. Members of our committee do two annual surveys in addition to the one by PLM. Members surveyed for Starry Stonewort last fall and Curley Leaf Pondweed earlier last spring. Both surveys were negative.

Other nearby lakes are not as lucky. Our best prevention measure is launching only "clean" boats; ones that have no weeds or plant life on the trailer or the boat. Please be careful every time you launch that there are no plant "hitchhikers" on your boat.

Several members of the committee went out again last fall to first identify and then remove all the shoreline's invasive Purple Loosestrife while keeping an eye out for other shoreline plants like phragmites which can be invasive. Many of our residents did their own removal once they were informed of the presence of Purple Loosestrife, for which we are grateful. Other owners gave us permission to remove these plants which we did. We have been staying on top of this shoreline threat and had another successful year doing so, with the cooperation of our Riparians. Removing the invasive plant is the responsibility of the property owner. We will make every effort to notify the owner of their lakeshore problem. We will be happy to assist when possible.

This year we will be discussing implementing plans discussed last summer for lake biology education and preparation plans if we do find an invasive plant. We will consider the usefulness of participating in Lake Ann Days, as we have in the past. One new task we will consider follows up on Dave's solid work in water quality. It seems our phosphorous readings are trending up which can be a result of nearby farming practices or leaking septic systems on the lake itself. There is a particular form of algae (bright green, filament-type called Cladophora) that sticks to hard surfaces and is often found near such defective systems. We will consider for the first time, doing a total lake survey by kayak in search of such algae in an effort to identify faulty septic systems, if there are any.

We are actively requesting new members to join as many of us have been serving on this committee for over 10 years. We need new blood and new ideas. We need to ensure that we are doing what the membership and all Riparians want us to do without spreading ourselves too thin. This is a very active committee, getting outside and making a difference. If you are interested, please write to: invasives@annlake.org



2023 ByLaw Committee Report

by Valerie Dahlberg

The ByLaw Committee met in the Fall of 2022 to begin the process of revising current bylaws of June 27, 2015. You can see a copy of the current bylaws and the newly revised ones on the annlake.org website. Changes were made to many of the current Articles.

Highlights of the changes include:

- ★ Aligned and organized Articles to reflect current practices of ALPOA.
- ★ Purposes reviewed and aligned with the current 2018 filed Articles of Incorporation.
- ★ Created a new tier of non-voting Associate membership.
- ★ Clarified/enhanced duties, terms of service, and rotations for all board members.

We encourage all voting members of ALPOA to review the changes online and all recipients of this newsletter to check out if ALPOA could be an organization you could support in the future.

2023 Membership Report

by Jeff Dahlberg

Thanks for your service, Dave Maxson!! Dave has transitioned over to the Treasurer for ALPOA in 2023. I became a member of the ALPOA board in 2021 and I was asked to become the Chair for the membership committee in 2023. I thought it would be a good idea to introduce myself to the membership, since I've not met all of you yet. I was born and raised in CA. I'm a former Peace Corp Volunteer who served as an Ag Extension Agent in the country of Niger. I met my future wife, Val, another ALPOA Board Member, while traveling around Niger for work. I have an MS in Plant Breeding and Genetics from the University of Arizona and a Ph.D. from Texas A&M and spent the last 30+ years working on a cereal crop called sorghum. The last 10 years of my career were spent as the Director of the University of California's largest Ag Research Center in the Central Valley of California. I have a strong science background, especially around drought tolerance in plants and for germplasm diversity. We decided to retire in 2021 to Val's home state of Michigan and we've settled down here in Lake Ann.

So, what is membership? According to Webster's dictionary, membership is: "1: the state or status of being a member 2: the body of members." Wow sounds pretty boring. I was hoping that Webster might at least make it a bit more glamorous. I've served on many Boards and been a member of several organizations and I don't ever remember my "membership" status being so mundane. Membership was always driven by my desire to be around people with the same interests and who believed their active membership would have an impact within their respective communities. This is why Val, and I became Members of ALPOA. To me, this is what membership means, not the stodgy definition provided by Webster. Let's be active within ALPOA, keep an eye out for invasive species, keep the lake clean for everyone to enjoy, and have some fun. We currently have 63 ALPOA members, but we have approximately 201 names and addresses of folks that live around the lake or river. I am going to try to reach out to those non-members to let them know who we are and what we represent. I would like to strengthen our representation around Lake Ann and get more people actively involved. Let me know if you would like to become a "recruiter" for our organization and build a stronger base of members.

Thanks to all the current members of ALPOA. I hope to see you around the lake and enjoy 2023.

P.S. Our thanks to the 80 owners who were dues-paid members in 2022.

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.

2023 Yearly Membership Dues \$_____ \$30.00 ___New ___Renewal

2024 Yearly Membership Dues \$_____ \$30.00

2025 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.