

◆ ANN LAKE WATER LOG ◆

MAY 10, 2003

ALPOA BOARD MEMBERS 2002-2003

PRESIDENT:
JONI KESKEY
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 MUEHLMANN
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:

Well, spring is finally here and that means our annual general membership meeting is coming up soon. Set aside June 21 at 10 AM in the shelter at Almira Township Park for our get together. Bring a dish to pass and plan on meeting new and old friends. As always, the association will provide hamburgers and brats to go with all the delicious goodies.

We will have some interesting speakers addressing issues that are important to all lake property owners. Ron Harrison from the Betsie Soil Conservation District will be on hand to talk about the Platte River Watershed project. A Ransom Lake representative will give us an update on what is happening. There's plenty to learn and share. Come join us!

Another project we are working on is a canvass of lake owners to update our mailing lists and hopefully add to our membership. The best recommendation is word of mouth so if you believe in what our lake association is doing, spread the word to your neighbors.

"we've had a pair of sandhill cranes nesting in Mud Bay"

We have some interesting new neighbors this spring. Along with the return of the geese, the mute swans, the loons, the herons, and all the various ducks, we've had a pair of sandhill cranes nesting in Mud Bay. It's rare to see them here, as this is the southernmost part of their normal area. Raucous as they are, it's been a real pleasure to watch them.

With the June meeting, we will once again have a change on our board. We will be electing a new Vice President and 3 new board members at large. Dick Unger and Diane Minicucci, who have been on the board since the beginning have graciously agreed to forego their last year remaining so that we will finally be in accordance with the bylaws for alternating election years. Dick has helped in so many ways. He's been involved with dissolved oxygen testing, been our representative with the Lion's Club and has helped whenever and wherever he was needed. We

all owe him a great big thanks. Diane has served as secretary and membership person and has been the dissolved oxygen monitor along with Dick and her husband Al. Don't know how we will do without you, Diane. Thanks so much.

Lee Muehlmann, our founding president, and currently past president, is going to take a well-deserved rest from the Lake Association matters. With all his expertise and commitment, I hope we'll be able to convince him to rejoin us in the future.

Judy Conant will be taking over as president this year. She's been on the board forever and has roped her husband Dennis into many of our activities. Judy started our newsletter and has served as editor until last year so she's up to date on everything the association is involved with. When you need something done, ask a busy person. That's Judy in a nutshell.

I'm finishing up as president this year and will move to the past president position. I've had a wonderful and enthusiastic board to work with and have enjoyed them all immensely. I know they will give Judy Conant, our incoming president the same great support that I've felt. Thank you everyone for a great year.

BOATING REGULATIONS - LEE MUEHLMANN

Every year we are reminded of the boating laws on our lake. Some residents love rules, some hate them, most think that your Association wrote and enforces them. This is simply not the case.

High speed boating has been restricted by the DNR between the hours of 7:30 p.m. and 11:00 a.m. since the 1950's. The only change to this law has been the addition of restricting water skiing to the same hours. This restriction WAS suggested to the Township by your Association. The Township passed a resolution requesting the DNR to investigate and rule on the request.

"These hours are identical to the high speed boating hours in place since the 1950's"

The DNR held a Public Hearing on the subject, encouraged letters from interested parties both for and against, and thoroughly investigated the matter. The results of this investigation by the DNR, was that "Significant conditions presently exist which necessitate the establishment of controls more restrictive than those currently within the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act." As a result, water skiing hours were ADDED to the existing law. Those hours are identical to the high speed boating hours in place since the 1950's

It should be noted that your association does not enforce the law, anymore than it enforces Zoning laws, etc. We have, in the past requested and paid for additional law enforcement on the water , both during and after the restricted hours. This request was made not only to insure compliance with the high speed boating/water skiing hours, but also to help us have a safe, enjoyable lake 24 hours a day.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT -

LEE MUEHLMANN

Wow! It's that time of year again when birds of all feathers return to Lake Ann. Mallards, Swans, Loons and even Snowbirds have been sighted on and around the lake. All of these birds are busy building (or in the case of Snowbirds, opening), their nests.

Most of the fowl build nests immediately adjacent to the water. While this practice allows them to quickly escape from predators, it make them very susceptible to wave action. Their natural instinct is to build the nest in such a fashion that *normal* wave action will not destroy the nest. They do not, however, build the nest to protect it from the wakes thrown by watercraft. Every year, nests are destroyed by the careless use of watercraft. operating too close to shore where their wakes wash out the nests and the eggs in them.

Be smart..... be careful with your wake.

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Joni Keskey

The testing season for our lake has begun. This year we were able to take the Spring Phosphorus readings in 60 degree weather. Usually it's about 40 and sleeting. Lets hope the rest of the year is equally pleasant!

We will have a compilation of our test results from last year as well as a summary of all the testing lakes in Michigan available for view at our annual meeting. For the 2nd year in a row, Lake Ann was used as an example for the Dissolved Oxygen monitoring project. A big thanks goes to Al and Diane Minicucci and Dick Unger for their work in this area

I'd also like to welcome Becky Gray-MacGirr to our water quality team. Becky expressed an interest last fall in our program and has since attended CLMP volunteer training at the annual conference. It will be a big help to have a qualified back up available for all aspects of the program. If anyone else is interested, there's always room for more volunteers.

LAKE HABITAT JONI KESKY

There are a number of important areas of the lake that all of us should be aware of and sensitive to. Mud Bay, at the southern end of the lake is one of them. Because of the large area of State property there, this area is a prime-breeding place for many species of wildlife. Mute swans, blue and green herons, sandhill cranes, loons, mallards and goldeneyes are just some of the many birds that use the bay for feeding and nesting. River otter, beaver, and muskrats are seen constantly; eagles fly through the area and scoop up fish. During the winter, we've seen coyotes trotting across the ice and of course, our ubiquitous white tail deer are seen foraging there year round.

We are extremely lucky to have such a unique and varied ecosystem available and as such have a responsibility to protect this habitat. Please, please be aware of this when boating. Wakes from boats and PWC can destroy nesting areas in minutes. Coming too close to an obvious nest even in a canoe or kayak can disturb the parents and cause them to abandon the nest too soon. The Audubon Society recommends keeping 5 boat lengths distance from nests and waterfowl and state law requires a minim distance of 100 feet from any shore, dock or structure when driving a boat or PWC at high speeds. If we treat this area and all such similar places on our lake with gentleness and care, we will have a legacy that we can be proud of to hand down to future generations.

RANSOM LAKE PROGRESS - JANE BLUHM

There was good reason to celebrate! May 10th was the official dedication of the Ransom Lake Natural Area. Almira Township is so fortunate to have obtained this beautiful piece of property. The survey of the land is in progress and boundary posts have been purchased and will be put in place when the survey is complete.

The Township Board has formed a 7 member committee which is known as the Recreational Resources Committee. The committee has drawn up a Recreation Management Plan and has presented it to the board for their approval. Copies of the plan are available from the Township Supervisor. The committee meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Township Office on Ole White Drive. The meetings are open to the public and public input is welcome.

This property is for all of us and future generations to enjoy. Because of the large volume of water that flows into Ann Lake from Ransom Lake through Ransom