



ANN LAKE

November 2000

WATER LOG

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – Lee Muehlmann

Let's start this column by congratulating all of the members who were elected to serve you as Association Officers and Board Members. We thank you for your help, and look forward to working with you.

OFFICERS

President	Lee Muehlmann	275-5511
Vice President	Joni Keskey	275-3040
Treasurer	Ron Brown	275-5101
Secretary	Dianne Minicucci	275-7275

BOARD MEMBERS

Jane Bluhm	275-7776	Dick Unger	275-5673
Jim Supina	275-7971	Judy Conant	275-3072

Our general meeting, held in August at the Township Park, should have been called "Frost Bite Meeting"! Nevertheless, it was well attended, and informative. Tom Fountain of the Benzie/Leelanau Health Department talked about the county's role in maintaining quality water in Benzie County. Among other things he stated that the ten-year moratorium on septic systems has expired, and that the county has begun testing older systems located near lakes to insure compliance. He urged residents to have their septic system inspected (and repaired if necessary) if they suspect that their system may need attention.

Steve Puchovan, Township Supervisor, brought us up to date on Township matters, especially the status of the new master plan and zoning ordinances. Al and Becky Gray of Great Lakes Water Quality Testing Lab spoke about residential well water quality and the need to have you well water tested, especially if you are a part time or seasonal resident. They offered a limited time 50% discount for the cost of having members well water tested.

Elsewhere in this issue is a list of volunteers that are needed to further the work of your Association. None of these positions will require a great deal of time, and if filled will go a long way towards completing the Association's mission. Also, included is a dues notice. If you have not paid your dues for this fiscal year (September 2000 to August 2001) now is the time! The bottom of that

notice includes a space for comments and suggestions, and we welcome your input! Of course, you can call any of the Officer's or Board Members with your concerns. We will publish (anonymously) the answers to as many questions as space will allow.

OUR MEMBERS SAY—

Many of our members have asked about the foam that appears on the shoreline from time to time. They wonder if it is caused by a bad septic system. The answer is, possibly—but probably not. Read the following article from the New Hampshire DEQ for more information.

LAKE FOAM

Lakeshore property owners sometimes complain about lake foaming. However, most foam observed in lakes and streams is a product of nature: foam is not necessarily an indicator of pollution. Small trout streams, for example, often have naturally occurring pools of foam where fish will hide.

What causes it?

Foam is created when the surface tension of water (attraction of surface molecules for each other) is reduced and air is mixed in, forming bubbles. Surface tension can be reduced by both natural organic compounds and by man-made soaps and detergents.

Natural organic compounds are released by decomposing aquatic organisms (such as algae or fish) or leached from the soil. Native Americans were known to have used various natural materials, such as bark and plant roots, to cleanse items. In a lake, wind, currents, and boats mix air with the organic compounds present to produce foam.

In the late 1950's and early 1960's many communities experienced tremendous foam problems in lakes, rivers, sewage treatment plants and even drinking water from contaminated wells. This foam was caused by the use of synthetic compounds, which came on the market after WW II. These detergents were only slowly degradable (broken down by bacteria). By law, the sudsing agent of all detergents now on the market must be biodegradable. This means that they quickly lose their ability to cause foaming and are unable to produce the long-lasting foam found along many shores.

Where is it found and what is it like?

The foam will frequently form parallel streaks in the open water, caused by wind-induced surface currents. It will also collect in large quantities on windward shores, coves or in eddies. Natural foam has a somewhat earthy fishy aroma. Detergent foam in contrast will have a noticeable perfumery smell.

BOARD MEETINGS

Some members have asked when the Board of Directors meet. The Board meets the second Tuesday of each month during the spring summer and fall. You are welcome to attend, but please call Lee Muehlmann prior to the meeting so that space can be arranged.

HEALTH & SAFETY – Lee Muehlmann

The Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality is preparing to build a facility to further treat the ground water contamination from the gas spill in the village. In addition to pumping contaminated water to this facility where it will be stripped of benzines, they will be "planting" microbes in the soil near the water that actually "eat" the contamination. This phase of the clean up effort is expected to last five to seven years.

The Benzie County ten-year moratorium on older septic systems has expired, and the Health Department is now testing systems throughout the county, especially those near water. A surprising number of systems around Crystal Lake proved faulty during a recent inspection. If your system is over ten years old, and you suspect that it may be faulty, have it inspected before the County does. That way you not only avoid a "panic" replacement, but also help yourself and the environment at the same time.

On a final note, the latest boating regulations for the lake are available to you by calling any Board Member or Officer. We would encourage you to read them, and give them to guests and renters.

WATER QUALITY – Joni Keskey

Water testing on Ann Lake was completed for the year 2000 on September 9th. The results were forwarded to Ralph Bednarz at the DEQ in Lansing. We'll share the results with you when we receive them next Spring. Our clarity readings

ranged from 9 feet (probably taken during a spring algae bloom) to 19 feet this fall.

ZEBRA MUSSELS FOUND IN ANN LAKE

According to the "Aquatic Nuisance Species Handbook" prepared by the Office of Great Lakes, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) was discovered in Lake St. Clair in the spring of 1988. It had been transported to North America in the ballast water of a transatlantic freighter that previously visited a port in Eastern Europe where this mollusk is common. Zebra mussels have now spread to all 5 Great Lakes, many inland lakes and the Mississippi, Tennessee, Hudson and Ohio River basins.

Zebra mussels readily attach to most hard-submerged surfaces, including boats, rocks, docks, and indigenous species such as clams. They affix themselves to shells of their own species and are able to form dense layered colonies of over one million per square meter.

When boats docked only on Lake Ann were removed this fall, zebra mussels were found on the keels. This was discovered in all areas of the lake. Please take the following precautions when using your watercraft. It won't help Lake Ann with zebra mussel infestation, but it may prevent their spread and the spread of other serious nuisance species.

Remove any visible plants and animals from your boat, trailer, truck and other boating equipment, (anchors, centerboards, rollers, axles, propellers, etc.) before leaving any water body.

Empty your bait bucket on land before leaving any water body. Never release live bait into a water body, or release aquatic animals from one water body into another.

Wash/dry your boat and other boating equipment to kill harmful exotic animal species that were not visible at the boat launch.

Before transporting to another water body, use one cap of liquid laundry detergent in bilge compartments and live wells:

- Rinse your boat and boating equipment that normally get wet with hot (at least 40C or 140F) tap water, or
- spray your boat and trailer with high-pressure water at a car wash, or
- dry your boat and equipment for at least 3 days, if boat is docked at the lake, increase drying time to 10 days. (If

boat is needed right away, rinse with hot water instead of tap water. It requires a temperature of 110F to kill veligers and 140F to kill adults. Flush outboard with hot water.)

Flush most outboards using muffs, which can be purchased at any marine store. When necessary, use a tank to flush the motor. Hook it up to a cold or hot water tap depending on the length of time before the outboard is going to be used again.

BY-LAWS

Now that the Association has been in existence for the past two years, it's time to look at our by-laws and see if they still serve us well as an organization. If you have any ideas in that regard or would be interested in serving on a committee to review the by-laws, please call Joni Keskey at 275-3040. Our by-laws are short and simple so this will not be a time consuming project. It's a good way to get involved!

TREASURER'S REPORT - Ron Brown

Checking account	\$1,000.44
Savings	2,518.93
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$3,519.37 as of October 31, 2000

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MEETINGS CHAIRPERSON:

Requirements: Responsible for arranging a meeting hall for the annual membership meeting and coordinating refreshments, speakers, etc. Responsible for coordinating other activities i.e.: Association picnic, special membership meetings etc.

Report to: President

REPRESENTATIVE FOR ALMIRA CITIZENS FOR PRESERVATION:

Requirements: Represent the Association at monthly meetings (usually during the week). Assist the ACP with ideas, and informing and implementing land preservation within the Township.

Report to: President

REPRESENTATIVE FOR PLATTE RIVER WATERSHED STUDY:

Requirements: Represent the Association at bi-monthly meetings (usually during the week) of the steering committee for the watershed study.

Report to: President

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON:

Requirements: Along with a Board Member and a member at large, select and interview potential candidates to run for officers and board members every two years.

Report to: President

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

Serve as a back-up water tester (2 persons needed). Attend training session in April for 1 day. During summer, run water test if primary testers are unavailable.

EXOTIC SPECIES STUDY: Attend available training sessions in area and over-see exotic species alerts and studies in Lake Ann.

If you are interested in helping in any of these areas

contact: Lee Muehlmann at 275-5511

Joni Keskey at 275-3040

NEWSLETTER – JUDY CONANT

We would appreciate your comments and suggestions for additional newsletter items. If you have something to share with other Association members, please contact:

Lee Muehlmann at 275-5511

Judy Conant at 275-3072

Web sites to check out:

www.miswa.org Michigan Lake & Stream Ass. Home page

www.mi-riparian.org Michigan Riparian Magazine

www.miwi.org Michigan Waterfront Alliance