

◀ ANN LAKE WATER LOG ▶

November 30, 2004

ANN LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT
JANE BLUHM
275-7776

VICE PRESIDENT
STAN SPRAGUE
275-6754

SECRETARY
BECKY MACGIRR
275-6297

TREASURER
SHIRLEY DREWS
275-5270

PAST PRESIDENT
JUDY CONANT
275-5511

DIRECTORS

GARRY PIERCE
275-7070

JOHN NUSKE
275-7241

ELLIOTT CALDWELL
275-6759

KIM BECKER
275-5823

Published and
distributed twice a year
to property owners and
residences of Ann
Lake.

Message from the President,

Jane Bluhm

There was a time that I would not have felt it necessary to introduce myself to the property owners around Ann Lake. But as all of you know, there have been many changes of property ownership in the last few years. My husband Allen, our three small children and I moved into the Village of Lake Ann from Livonia, MI in 1966. We were fortunate to have an opportunity to move "up North" when Allen was able to transfer from his teaching position at Northville State Hospital to Traverse City State Hospital. Through all of the years that we have lived in the community, we have been involved in most activities in the Village and Township. This involvement has given us an opportunity to meet and work with many of the local residents. Through working as President of Ann Lake Property Owners' Association this year, I hope to meet each and every one of you. Let's all work together to make this Association strong. If you have any concerns that you would like the Board to address, please contact any Board Member.

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 which concern the welfare of Ann Lake.
- Promote the best interests of the membership in fiscal and civic matters.

Thank you Past Board Members

Jane Bluhm

This past year we have had a wonderful group of volunteers serving you and the Board. Joni Keskey, a charter Member, served as past president. Thanks for her many years of service to ALPOA. Judy Conant, another Charter Member and outgoing president, is presently serving on the board as past president. She was also responsible for publishing the *Water Log* in the past. Board Member Stan Sprague, recently resigned because he and his wife Nancy moved into Traverse City. Thank you Stan for your service and publishing the *Water Log* for the last couple of years. Thank you Phyllis Roelofs for a wonderful job of serving as Secretary the past two years. Shirley Drews has served for two years Treasurer and consented to serve for another two years. Thanks Shirley! We are happy to have you continue to serve on the Board. Shirley is also the Membership Chairman. A special Thanks to Marianne Caldwell, Garry Pierce and John Nuske for serving on the Board. Marianne was actively involved in researching "no wake" areas on the lake. Gary has worked directly with the Benzie Sheriff's Dept. in lake ordinance monitoring. Gary, Stan, and John also served on the Nominating Committee. A 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.

Ann Lake Water Testing Program

Dianne Minicucci

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 our members to see. Ann Lake has been highlighted in the DEQ reports as an example of a good quality mesotrophic lake.

It is extremely important that all property owners help to maintain our lake in this good condition for all of us to enjoy. Having a good quality lake will keep our property values higher and ensure that the future of Ann Lake will remain high.

This program is sponsored by the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, of which we are members. In order for this program to continue, we need some volunteers to help us out. **Early this spring, 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

Jane Bluhm

Your Lake Association sponsored the Annual 4th of July Boat Parade. Twenty five boats joined in for this patriotic event. Prizes were awarded for; Best Patriotic Decorated Boat - Keskeys; Best Patriotic Dressed Person - Lisa Bluhm (Statute of Liberty); Best Patriotic Dressed Animal - Drogon's Dog. Prizes were donated by **Lake Ann Grocery, Bertrams Pizza, B & M Party Store, and The LA Café**. Thank you for your generosity. We hope to see you and more participants out there again next year.

Government Report

Elliott Caldwell

Almira Township has been busy this past year. The passage of a county millage and the erection of a new fire station and building renovations have kept everyone busy. Here is some of the progress.

Ambulance Service Benzie County will be purchasing five new ambulances, one of which will be titled to Almira Township and housed in the new fire station in April, 2005. This was made possible as part of an additional millage request which voters passed in August. Voters also approved Benzie County's advanced life support services which will support Almira Township Ambulance services. Critical cases will have more interventions available.

New Fire Station Almira Township has a new fire station located on Ole' White Drive next to the Township Offices. One half of the old fire station has been offered to Lake Ann Village Government and the other half to the library. The Village has made a decision not to exercise their option. The Library is moving ahead to secure financing for the space. Friends of Almira Township Library are presently working to raise \$30,000, the projected cost for supplies and renovation of the facility.

Ransom Lake Natural Area The Township is in the process of working toward a five year plan to secure grant money. The Ransom Lake Proposal had to be included in a \$850,000 recreation plan for the state. Securing the grant will allow the Township to build handicap accessible pathways and observation platforms around the Lake. Parking areas will also be provided in the funding Proposal. This area is being used extensively by residents and schools.

Other Items of Interest The Township will be upgrading their voting machines. Thank you for the great voter turnout at this years General Election. A Veterans Memorial has been approved and will be built in Almira Township Park. Funding will be acquired through donations.

Mark Your Calendar

Ann Lake Property Owners Association

Annual Meeting, June 25, 2005, Almira Township Park, The Large Pavilion
9:30 AM Coffee, Meeting at 10:00. Potluck Picnic to Follow

Websites Following are some websites of importance. Check them out for great 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.mlsa.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.

Annual Dues

Annual Dues of **Just \$20.00** support the following programs:

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

Please Join the ALPOA by completing this membership form and mailing it in with your dues.

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

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

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

Name _____ Your comments are appreciated.

Permanent Mailing Address _____

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

"A Lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is earth's eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature."

Henry David
Thoreau



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

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

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

Ten Ways to Save Your Lake

1. Do not use lawn fertilizer that contains phosphorus
2. Use a minimum amount of fertilizer, do not fertilize directly next to the waterline
3. Water the lawn sparingly to avoid washing nutrients and sediments into the lake
4. Don't feed the ducks and geese near the lake
5. Don't burn leaves, grass, and other yard waste near the shoreline
6. Plant shrubs or ground cover to prevent nutrients from entering the lake
7. Repair eroded areas on your yard or along the shoreline
8. Don't place fill in the area wetlands.
9. Don't be complacent -- Don't assume someone else will solve the Problem
10. Read the Michigan Riparian, www.mi-riparian.org

Officers and Board Members Needed

Ann Lake Property Owners will have several board positions available at our Annual Meeting in June. If you would like to volunteer to fill these positions, or if you know of someone that would like to step up and volunteer, please contact any board member. The Board meets once a month, except when the snow birds fly South, usually on a directors deck or patio next to the water, and conducts business for a couple of hours. Not too tough and very rewarding. So throw your hat into the ring. **Volunteer for the Board.**

Lake Ann Remediation Fuel Spill Clean-up

Kim Becker

Ann Lake was directly affected by a petroleum spill from properties in the Village. A remediation project, lead by the Dept. of Environmental Quality has been in place for several years. This project includes several technologies and the DEQ is aggressive in solving the problem. A remediation facility located behind the Township Hall in the Village is still operational. Here is a progress report.

BTEX, (Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, and Xylenes) are the main contaminants that reside in Gasoline Contaminated Areas. The contaminate is measured in ppm (parts per million)

As of June 2004, 138 million gallons of ground water have been pumped from the ground in and around the contaminated area. The water is filtered and discharged into Ann Lake. 8715 gallons of gasoline and associated contaminants have been extracted using several processes in the LA Facility.

Prior to the startup of the facility, the Free Product Plume (the contaminate in its underground state) measured 500' long and 100' wide and was up to 2' thick. It is lighter than water and floats on the water table. Today the Free Product Plume is not detectable.

There was, at its worst time, approx. 24,000 ppb of BTEX present in the ground water. This ground water was migrating towards Ann Lake as was the Free Product Plume. Evidence of contamination into Ann Lake was present both with water samples and visual inspection of the sediment along the shore. At the time the facility started up there were 2848 ppb of BTEX present in the ground water. Today it is measured at 49 ppb.

Through the use of the many technologies available, this clean-up effort is proving to be successful. The Michigan DEQ is pleased with the results. Comprehensive monitoring of the ground water will dictate what clean-up methods will be used in the future and how long this clean-up effort will continue. The cost of the facility, including some operational expenses, have approached \$2 Million. Annual costs for operations can be as high as \$400,000. Funding for this project comes from the State Environmental, Clean-up and Re-development Fund.

Further information can be obtained from reports filed at the Almira Township Offices or from Ms. Ann Emington, Project Manager, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Cadillac, MI, Ph. 231-775-3960 ext. 6436, fax 231-775-1511.