



ANN LAKE

WATER LOG

October 1999

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – LEE MUEHLMANN

The wonderful days of summer have passed and autumn is now upon us. I hope everyone enjoyed summer on the lake as much as I did! It is hard to believe that an entire year has passed since we started the Association.

At our next annual membership meeting (the third Saturday in August) we will be electing new officers. Begin thinking now of whom you would like to see at the helm of your Association. If you would like to serve on the nominating committee please let us know.

While your Association continues the work on 1999 projects, it is time to plan for the year 2000, renew dues, and give us your input. You will note that a comment section has been added to the dues notice. The Board of Directors needs your comments on the proposed Township "buffer" ordinance as well as what issues you would like to see us tackle next year. Please take the time to write your comments down and mail that with your all important check to renew your dues, or if you haven't joined our Association, to join now.

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE – Joni Keskey

A year end summary of water clarity testing shows readings ranging from 11 feet 8 inches to 15 feet 9 inches deep. These readings were taken once a week beginning July 30th and ending September 17th. All readings were taken by Secchi disk in an area 65 feet or more in depth at approximately 10:30 a.m.

A classification of lakes according to the Secchi disc measurements used by the Michigan DEQ is as follows:

Oligotrophic	▪ greater than 16 feet
Mesotrophic	- 6.5 to 16 feet
Eutrophic	- Less than 6.5 feet

Oligotrophic lakes are generally deep and clear with little aquatic plant growth. These lakes maintain sufficient dissolved oxygen in the cool deep bottom waters during late summer to support cold water fish such as trout and whitefish. By contrast, eutrophic lakes are generally shallow, turbid, and support abundant aquatic plant growth. In deep eutrophic lakes, the cool bottom waters usually contain little or no dissolved oxygen. Therefore, these lakes can only support warm water fish such as bass and pike. Lakes that fall between these two extremes are called mesotrophic lakes.

What does all this mean for our lake? Right now, all we have is really only a base measurement. We need at least another season's readings to begin comparisons. This will help us determine if the water clarity is increasing or decreasing. We can then begin to learn what may be causing any differences. Next year we will enroll in Chlorophyll and Phosphorous testing as well to further determine the health and safety of our water.

Again, if you have any questions or concerns or if you would be interested in helping the water quality committee in any way, please call me at 275-3040.

HEALTH AND SAFETY – Lee Muehlmann

The DNR public hearing regarding boating regulations on Ann Lake, held August 24, was well attended by both members and non-members alike. The district DNR will review the information and opinions expressed at the hearing and will make a recommendation to the DNR headquarters in Lansing, which will make the final determination. No specific deadline has been set for that decision. During the discussion of the issues, it became obvious that people using our lake are not aware of the regulations specific to our lake, and a few choose to ignore all boating regulations. One project this committee will undertake for next year will be to develop a method to educate people about the regulations.

As for the few ignoring the law, we need your help. The Sheriff's Department has logged very few complaints about Ann Lake. Law enforcement efforts are allocated by, among other things, the number of complaints they have for a specific lake. When you observe someone breaking the law it is critical to call the Sheriff's Department at 941-7940 or 882-4484 to report the violation. Any information you can give the deputy about the boat or people in it is helpful to the deputies. They may not be able to respond in time to ticket the individual, but the complaint and description are logged for future reference.

Several of our members have asked us to investigate the possibility of regulating the lake level. Stan Sprague has volunteered to help in that regard, and if you are interested in this please call me at 275-5511 to volunteer.

The project manager appointed by the DEQ on the gasoline release on the East side of the lake has decided not to mail updates to each riparian owner as they had first indicated. They will, however, put you on their mailing list to receive updates if you call Mr. Jeffrey Binkley, Senior Project Manager at 906-482-7207. Some remediation has started. Free product was pumped out of the ground in early September, and plans for further action are being developed. For more information, visit the Township offices and ask for the information packet that was sent to them.

GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE – Michael Khouri

The most important issue effecting Ann Lake Property Owners continues to be the creation of a "Greenbelt" section under the revision of the Almira Township Zoning Ordinance. The Planning Commission hopes to complete this process by the end of the year. Again, for those who have not yet given their feedback to the Association on this revision, below is the first draft of that section:

Section 4.10 "Greenbelt". To preserve natural resources, water quality and community scenic and recreational values, a greenbelt shall be established and maintained on all waterfront property. The greenbelt shall include all the land area located within thirty five (35) feet of the ordinary high water mark of a lake or a stream abutting or traversing the property in question. Within the greenbelt, the following development or use restrictions shall apply:

1. No structures shall be allowed except for sheds, boathouses, launching ramps and docking facilities shall meet the side yard setback for the district in which they are located. No boathouse shall exceed twelve (12) feet in height above the ordinary high water.
2. No dredging or filling shall be allowed except for reasonable sanding of beaches where permitted by state or federal law.
3. The use of asphalt, concrete, wood or other similar surfaces shall be limited to walkways or stairs necessary for water access or boat launch ramps.

4. The use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers is strongly discouraged within the shoreline greenbelt areas.
5. Leaves, grass clippings and similar yard and garden wastes may not be burned or stored.
6. Neither septic tanks nor septic system filtration fields may be located within the greenbelt.
7. Natural vegetation cover, including trees, shrubs or herbaceous plants shall be maintained in their state. Trees and shrubs may be pruned to afford a view of the water. Beach sand, gravel, cobblestone or rock may be substituted for vegetated areas where these materials naturally exist.
8. The greenbelt shall be shown on any plot plan or site plan submitted for approval during the process of developing a water frontage parcel.

As a matter of convenience, you can send your comments with your membership dues for the year 1999/2000.

ATTENTION

During the weekend of October 9th - 10th, the bodies of 3 mute swans were found at the South end of the lake. Dwayne Painter of the DNR was notified and has turned the bodies over to the DNR biologist for testing. Results are expected in a few weeks. At this point, there is no determination of cause of death. If anyone has any information that may help in this matter, please call Joni Keskey at 275-3040. We will keep you informed as we receive updates.