



ANN LAKE WATER LOG



June 6, 2005

ANN LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT
JANE BLUHM
275-7776

VICE PRESIDENT
(TO BE ELECTED)

SECRETARY
BECKY MACGIRR
275-6297

TREASURER
SHIRLEY DREWS
275-5270

PAST PRESIDENT
JUDY CONANT
275-5511

DIRECTORS

ELLIOTT CALDWELL
275-6759

KIM BECKER
275-5823

Message from the President,

Jane Bluhm

After a wonderful winter in sunny Florida, we are very glad to get back to our beautiful Ann Lake. A family celebration kept us in Florida longer than we usually stay, so it was especially good to get back home. I hope that all of you had a good winter and are looking forward to a safe, fun-filled summer on Ann Lake. I am hoping to see all of you at the annual meeting of the ALPOA on Saturday, June 25, 2005. We have a good program planned with an informative speaker. Also, there will be an election of officers for the 2005-06 year. You will have an opportunity to visit with your neighbors at the potluck lunch that follows the program. I also hope that you will participate in the Association Sponsored 4th of July boat parade. Have a great summer.

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

Membership and Board Members

Kim Becker

This past year we have had a wonderful group of volunteers serving you and the Board. 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. Gary Pierce and John Nuske both resigned this year for personal reasons. Shirley Drews has served for two years as 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. Director Elliott Caldwell is very active with the ALPOA and I do my best to bang out this newsletter a couple of times a year. 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.

A special note: this association, its members, officers, and director's work collectively on maintaining a high quality of life as waterfront owners. Only 30% of the property owners are members of this association. Furthermore, we are in need of volunteers to serve on the board. It takes so little time and the rewards that will be measured in the future are too important to overlook.

We are lucky that critical issues have not plagued Ann Lake like other inland lakes in the Midwest. A pro-active property owners association is important to prevent environmental and political issues that are detrimental to our quality of life on Ann Lake. If you are not a member, **join**. If your neighbor is not a member, ask them to **join**. If you would like to volunteer a little bit of your time for the future of our paradise, that would be a bonus. Talk with an officer or director anytime for more information.

Ann Lake Water Testing Program

Kim Becker

For the past six years volunteers have been testing the water of Ann Lake. Ioni 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.

This year we are adding a program of **Aquatic Plant Mapping**. Thought plants are important to the lake, overabundant plants can negatively effect fish populations, fishing and recreational activities of property owners. More about this program will be discussed at the annual meeting.

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

Your Lake Association is sponsoring the Annual 4th of July Boat Parade. Del Roelofs is working on the organization. Mill around at the Sand Bar before 1:00 PM to get things started. **Lake Ann Grocery, Bertrams Pizza, B & M Party Store, and The LA Café** donated prizes last year. Thank you for your generosity. Stop in and pick up some supplies for this year's parade at these fine businesses. Let's spruce up that boat and celebrate our independence the way we know how. See you there.

Government Report

Jane Bluhm

Ransom Lake The Almira Township board has applied for a State of Michigan Grant for Ransom Lake in the amount of \$110,000. The grant will be awarded sometime toward the end of December. If the Township is awarded the Grant, it will be used only for the development of a handicap accessible trail from Lake Ann Road along the creek until it joins Ransom Lake. It will include handicap accessible restrooms and at least one observation area. You can see an aerial view of the planned development at the Township Offices.

Greenbriar Cemetery The Township has received a gift of \$40,000 to be used for making improvements at the Greenbriar Cemetery. The money is being used to improve the road on the north side of the Cemetery, repairing the fences and installing a well. Using Township money, a well is being installed at the West Almira Cemetery. Next year, the Township will install a well at the Lake Ann Cemetery.

Found Adrift: A paddleboat, lost last fall, September or October. Are you missing this craft? Call Del Roelofs at 275-5523.

Swimmers Itch

Darry Pierce

With summer here, cases of swimmer's itch will be appearing on our shores. SI, as it is called, is a fairly common occurrence on many of the area lakes. Myth: It is not a result of dirty or polluted water. SI is caused by larvae from a small flatworm called Schistosoma. This flatworm is a parasite on snails and warm-blooded waterfowl and rodents. SI is caused by the body's allergic reaction to the dead larvae, which burrow under the skin. There are at least nine different flatworms that produce itch causing larvae. A natural way to control SI is to stop feeding the waterfowl. Other remedies are towel off vigorously. Avoid swimming in shallow areas. The colder the water, the less larvae. Although no research has proven this, a sunscreen with bug repellent is thought to help. Enjoy your summer, be safe, be respectful to all others on the water.



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

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

Manage your shoreline and lawn

1. Don't use lawn fertilizer that contains phosphorus
2. Use a minimum amount of fertilizer, don't fertilize directly next to the waterline
3. Water the lawn sparingly to avoid washing nutrients and sediments into the lake
4. Set your lawn mower to cut grass two to three inches high.
5. Plant steep banks with native vegetation that binds the soil and traps water.
6. Terrace steep banks when possible to further slow water and sediments.
7. Repair eroded areas on your yard or along the shoreline
8. Use less fertilizers and pesticides on property near lakes, rivers, and streams.
9. Keep grass clippings out of the lake, they are rich in nutrients, promoting aquatic vegetation.
10. Maintain your septic system, avoid using a garbage disposal, and limit the use of toxic chemicals in the home.

Good Reading

Learn more about your lake and how to care for it.

The Lake in your Community, by Lowel L. Klissig et. al. Order this publication #G3216 by sending \$4.00 to Cooperative Extension Publications
45 N Charter St.
Madison, WI 53715
Or call toll free 877-947-7827

The Lake Book: Actions You Can Take to Protect Your Lake by Maine Congress of Lake Associations.
Order by sending \$5.00 to
COLA
PO Box 38
Readfield, ME 04355
www.mainecola.org or call 978-469-8291

A Citizen's Guide to Lake Protection
Available online at www.pca.state.mn.us/water/lakeprotection.html

Life on the Edge: Owning Waterfront Property by Michael D. Dresden et. al.
Order by sending \$3.00 plus \$1.50 S & H to
UW-Extension Lakes Program
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin
1900 Franklin St.
Stevens Point, WI 54481

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 - Bratwurst and burgers provided, Bring a dish to pass as well as your own beverage choice.

Websites Following are some websites of importance. Check them out for a bunch of 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.mlswa.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. Please Join the ALPOA by sending us your dues. A membership form is included in this Newsletter.

- Water Quality Monitoring Program as mentioned 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

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, it's Board Members and Directors are a Non-Profit, Volunteer Staffed, Organization to serve the Property Owners of Ann Lake.

Name _____ Please make any comments below.

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

Platte River Watershed Update

Jenee Rowe

The Platte River Watershed extends westward from Long Lake in Grand Traverse County to Lake Michigan. It reaches north into Leelanau County and southward covering most of the northern half of Benzie County. The total drainage area is approximately 193 square miles and the Platte River Valley is about 14 miles in length. The largest land coverage, at 82%, is forested, open lands and wetlands. Second in land area is agriculture at 12%, followed by urban use at 7%. Approximately 76% of the watershed is publicly owned as National Park Service and State of Michigan holdings. Many sections of the watershed are considered sensitive, such as areas of groundwater recharge, headwater lakes or streams, steep slopes and water courses have little if any protection from non-point source pollution. Goals have been to preserve and protect the current good quality of water resources with a greater purpose, exceed minimum acceptable surface and groundwater quality standards, and preserve the resource for future generations. This project implemented numerous activities to meet those goals.

Implementation Activities:

- Developed and calibrated EPA BASINS Watershed Model
- Implemented 5 year watershed sampling program
- Enrolled land owners in land protection programs with our partner the Grand Traverse Land Conservancy
- Assisted Planning and Zoning officials with technical advice for the drafting of riparian development setbacks.
- Corrected many road-stream crossings with partner Benzie County Road Commission

Information & Education Activities

- Installed 11 Watershed road signs
- Assisted Lake Association with landowner handbook
- Lead "Leave No Trace in your Waterway" Canoe trips – reached 1,000 people last yr.
- Installed a Greenbelt Demonstration Project on Platte Lake
- Developed hands-on watershed curriculum to build a watershed model.

Outreach and Volunteer Restoration

Through our "Leave No Trace in Your Waterway" program, facilitated with several watershed partners, we have reached 1,000 citizens, teachers, and students in one year. Participants assist in stabilizing and re-vegetating stream banks and old shoreline home sites along the Lower Platte River.

Roadside Watershed Signs

Prevention of further Non-Point Source Pollution was a major goal of our Outreach Strategy. Installing these watershed signs in partnership with the Platte Lake Improvement Association and the Benzie County Road Commission made a lasting impression with watershed residents and visitors.

Road-stream crossings

Our road-stream crossing survey showed many sites needing work. Though grant funds could not cover the improvement costs, our partner, the Benzie County Road Commission, began to repair prioritized sites. There are many sites listed within the Watershed Management Plan that still need correction either through searching for future grants or by encouraging the Road Commission to continue fixing prioritized sites.

Editors Note

We are looking forward to working with the Benzie Conservation District's Platte River Watershed Council in the future. Further information may be requested by contacting Jenee Rowe directly via e-mail at jeneerowe@charterinternet.com or calling 231-882-4391. Thank you for this information.